

EYE CENTER

The Gavin Herbert Eye Institute Irvine, Calif.

Submitted by: DES Architects + Engineers Redwood City, Calif.



Project category: New construction
Chief administrator: Dr. Roger Steinert, director, The Gavin Herbert Eye Institute
Firm: DES Architects + Engineers, www.des-ae.com
Design team: Architect and interior designer (DES Architects + Engineers); general contractor (Hathaway Dinwiddie); medical planner (The Estimate Group); structural engineer (BFL Owen & Associates); mechanical and plumbing engineer (Alvine Engineering); electrical engineer (tk1sc); landscape architect (Lynn Capouya Landscape Architects)
Photography: © Lawrence Anderson Photography Inc.
Total building area (sq. ft.): 69,214
Construction cost/sq. ft.: \$458
Total construction cost (excluding land): \$31.7 million
Completion: July 2013



DES Architects + Engineers designed the landmark University of California (UC) Irvine Gavin Herbert Eye Institute from the inside out, letting the institute's needs drive the final product. Driven by the university's desire for a patient-focused experience and a flexible facility, the design team utilized opportunities presented by the sloped site while also developing modular-based floor plans to provide long-term adaptability.

Responding to the differential in site contour, the building's form is split to match the two distinct functions of the facility: surgical and clinical services. Strategically programming the surgery department on the lower level provided the opportunity for a dedicated entrance to the surgery center, improving patient accessibility. On the upper area of the site, the transparent main entry opens to a three-story atrium connect-

ing visitors to clinical and retail spaces. A hanging dichroic glass display in the atrium creates colorful changing reflections that playfully express the building's optical nature. Supported by a column grid system, the facility's open floor plans—with 40-foot-wide structural bays—enables the facility to adapt to the institute's evolving needs. The rectilinear ceiling panel system complements the floor plan's flexibility and provides easy access to the necessary infrastructure.

With ambulatory surgery space, clinical patient rooms, and an optical shop, the new eye institute provides a one-stop solution for patients to fulfill their eye care needs. Representing a significant milestone for the university, the new building doubles the patient capacity of the eye institute and adds the first outpatient operating rooms to the UC Irvine campus.