GLASS & METAL ALLIANCE

REILLY CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL: PERRUCCI CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND WELLBEING

ALLENTOWN, PA

Teamwork produces a creative and fast-track installation.

By: Amanda Gibney Weko

CASE STUDY

Glazing Team

Hutt's Glass Co., Inc.
Bechtelsville, PA
Eastern Solar Glass, LLC
West Berlin, NJ

Team

CM/Design: **North Star Construction Managers, Inc.**
Owner: **Lehigh Valley Health Network**

Scope

Decorative glass wall panels with rainbow-colored films

Project Size

Approx. 4,000 square feet

Completion

August 2022

Photo above courtesy North Star Construction Managers, Inc.

INTRODUCTION

Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) held a ribbon-cutting for the Michael and Christine Perrucci Center for Children's Health and Wellbeing on August 11, 2022. The project involved fit-out of a full 20,000-square-foot floor of the One City Center office complex – also home to the PPL Center. LVHN will use the health center to combat child and adolescent health concerns including infant mortality and premature births, suicide, child abuse, and neglect, and to support school readiness.

RAINBOW VISION

To welcome its young patients and their families, LVHN and its design and construction team envisioned a bright, colorful environment. Design-build construction manager North Star Construction Managers, Inc. oversaw interior design and fit-out. "We wanted the space to be colorful, playful, and fun," explained North Star Interior Designer Angel Rooney, who came up with a concept for colored decorative glass panels and a rainbow-hued corridor installation – with only a month remaining before opening day. Rooney and North Star Project Manager Sonya Glatz knew that executing the idea on such a tight timeline would require a trusted vendor and creative resourcing. They called upon longtime subconsultant and GMA member, Hutt's Glass Co., Inc. and shared the vision with Hutt's Estimator Christopher Mitchell. "Chris puts together great teams and is a single source point of contact with full accountability," said Glatz.

GMA TEAMMATES

Mitchell and Hutt's Project Manager Ryan Hummel turned to Eastern Solar Glass, LLC and its owner Brian Ashcraft and Project Manager Matt Apostolopoulos to collaborate on the fast-track project. While Hutt's is a full-service glazing subcontractor, Eastern Solar is a leading supplier of window films and architectural finishes.

"It started with a phone call about a 'cool job'," remembered Mitchell. "North Star had a concept, but we had to figure out

how to execute in one month." Ashcraft added with a laugh that it's always interesting when Mitchell calls. Together, their teams mobilized quickly to understand the scope, identify glass and films available with little or no lead times, and perform the work.

TRIPLE SCOPE

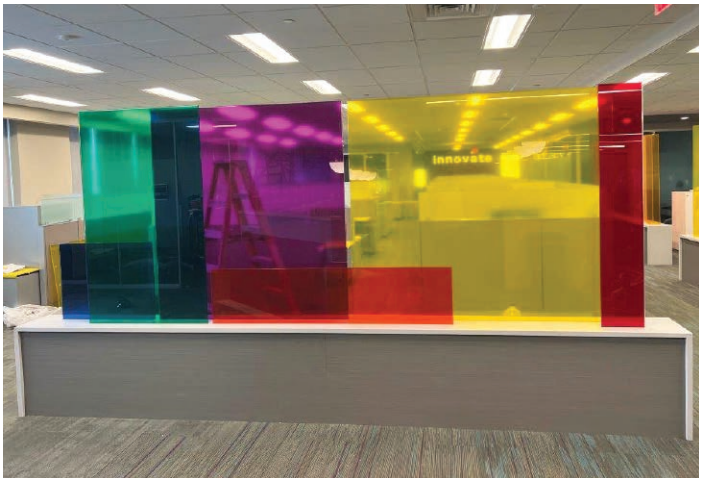
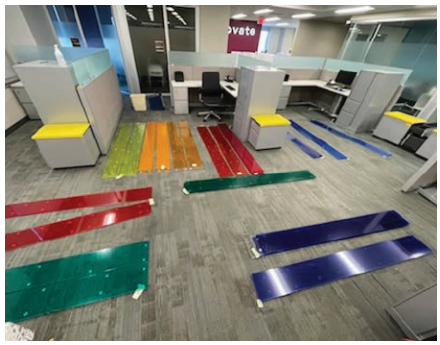
The decorative glass scope included three different areas – two wall installations of colored panels float-mounted side-by-side in front of the finished drywall; a freestanding installation of overlapping colored panels mounted atop millwork counters; and a rainbow fin corridor installation comprised of a series of 31 glass panels arrayed in an angled configuration atop additional millwork counters. Each glass fin measures 9 inches wide by nearly 5 feet high. The team chose Oldcastle Starfire ½-inch, ultra-clear tempered glass. The film they selected was Solyx by Decorative Films because the translucent films offered a range of readily available colors to create the rainbow effect for the fin wall. Daily phone calls ensured the products and colors met with LVHN and North Star approval.

After identifying appropriate materials, the glazing team next had to figure out how to install, mount, and film the glass. Because of the nature of the installations – floating in front of the drywall or inserted into slots in the countertops for stability – the glass needed to be filmed ahead of time. Filming in place might have put pressure on the pieces and cracked them.

PUZZLE PIECES

Installation within an occupied building compounded the time constraint. The Hutt's team carefully coordinated bringing glass to the fifth-floor project site without impacting building elevator usage. The Eastern Solar team faced another challenge. The 31 glass panels on the fin wall feature 16 different film colors, some of which appear on the other installations. With such small quantities of each colored film, the distributor did not ship the films on separate rolls, as is typical with larger jobs. Instead, all of the films were shipped to the site on two large, unmarked rolls. "We had to unroll the rolls and lay out all the colors," explained Ashcraft. "It was like putting a puzzle together." Eastern Solar's foreman and crew worked late into the night to get all of the filming – with necessary dry time – accomplished in a single day.

SATISFIED CLIENTS

From the first phone call to Hutt's on July 12 to ribbon cutting on August 11, the GMA partners collaborated, communicated, and flexed their creative problem-solving to ensure the client's design vision and timeline were met. "Chris and the team were awesome," said Glatz. "They jumped through hoops and pointed us in the right direction."

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