The architects of the Donald W. Reynolds Center were challenged to combine the functions of patient services, clinical research, basic research and education in an environment that promotes information exchange between researchers and patients.

The canopy of the entrance court features exposed structural steel tree-like supports and a transparent glass roof, bringing the outdoors right up to the edge of the lobby. In the lobby itself, an exposed roof deck and exposed structure play an integral role in allowing the lobby to feel spacious, blurring the distinction between inside and outside. Exterior steel and glass frames continue the look and feel of the entry canopy while shading large areas of glass curtain walls. The atrium space incorporates a 200’-long south-facing clerestory window to connect the space to the outdoors. Ornamental steel handrails and small balconies provide a series of dramatic focal points.

This project has received design awards from both the Arkansas State AIA in 2001 as well as the Gulf States Region AIA in 2002.
Elegant and refined use of steel to create transparent pavilions which engage, rather than oppose, the surrounding masonry structures. The steel detailing is unstudied and clear yet it maintains a complexity that comes from incredible attention to detail.

JURORS’ COMMENTS

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