



With the south half well underway, construction is now beginning on the north side of Tampa General's new building.

Second Half Of New Building Now Rising From Ground

The south half of Tampa General's new building is well underway. Its foundation has been laid, its framework erected, and the concrete floors built on each of its six stories.

That, however, is only half the project.

Now workers are turning their attention to the building's north half.

Over the next few months, they'll begin constructing the second half of the building in the location that, until recently, was where they parked their heavy equipment.

Blame the construction site's tight quarters for the unusual building schedule. Bounded on one side by the hospital and on the other

by Seddon Channel, the site leaves very little space for much more than the building and a road going behind it, says Oslec Fernandez, TGH's director of facilities management.

"There's very little room to maneuver large equipment on the ground," he says. "By delaying the north half's construction, we were able to have more equipment on the site, which was much less disruptive to the campus. With the north half now going up, we have to increase the construction equipment coordination.."

Circling The Campus

In the early morning hours, up to 50 large concrete trucks circle the hospital campus, delivering concrete to pump trucks parked at the construction site and then moving on.

The pump trucks create the huge concrete slabs that make up each story's floor.

They begin with the first floor, working on one story at a time. As each story is

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completed, it's used as a platform to construct the next one.

“They go up like a stack of pancakes,” Fernandez says.

Ultimately, the building will have six stories plus a partial floor on top for the mechanical penthouse, where electrical and air conditioning equipment will be located.

Still On The South

As the north half goes up, work is still occurring on the already-erected south half.

Workers are now focusing on that section's interior as well as preparing the structure for installation of its exterior walls.

Over the next few months, they'll install electrical conduits, air conditioning ductwork, and piping. The actual sheetrock walls that define the rooms, however, won't be put up until the entire building is enclosed and the air conditioning is turned on.

“It's because of infection control issues,” Oslec explains. “Ten years ago, the wallboard would go up before the building was enclosed. Due to increased awareness of mold and mildew issues, that practice has ceased. We don't put any finished material in until the climate control system is operating.”

Shaping The Outside

One of the more dramatic activities will begin in November, when workers begin affixing the south side's exterior walls.

Enormous concrete panels, each weighing 16,000 pounds, will be shipped here on flatbed trailer-trucks from a casting yard in Sarasota. As each slab arrives, it will immediately be picked up by a tower crane and moved into its position on the



A view from the north end of the unfinished building. The open area will ultimately become a serene courtyard on the fourth floor with landscaping and comfortable benches. Windows on higher floors will look down upon it.





building. There, workers will weld the panel connections to steel brackets affixed in the building's floor slabs.

The panels will add depth and color to the building as they define its pleasing curved shape. Each has grooved patterns and comes in either tan, light brown, or burnt brown, depending on where it's located on the building. The colors are compatible with the West Pavilion's exterior brick blend.

By March, both the north and south sides will have their exterior walls, and

then the windows will be installed. Once that's done, the air conditioning will be turned on, and the building's inside will start taking shape.

The building is slated for completion in spring 2007. The work is going well, Fernandez says.

"Right now, we're on schedule. Even with threats of hurricanes and of fuel shortages, which never happened, things are going pretty well," he says.



Workers prepare the shaft for the visitors' elevators on the building's south side. Staff elevators will be located on the building's north side.



A construction worker sorts metal rods used to reinforce the building's concrete floors.



Two giant tower cranes, each over 10 stories tall, are used to lift heavy equipment and materials. The cranes will be especially useful when it's time to erect hundreds of concrete panels – each weighing 16,000 pounds – to form the building's exterior walls.

Getting Closer To The Goal

A major grant from the Kresge Foundation has taken the Tampa General Hospital Foundation closer to its \$10 million fundraising goal, as it continues its Building on Excellence capital campaign.

The \$300,000 grant was obtained after a grueling application process that included a presentation by TGH Foundation and hospital leaders at Kresge's headquarters in Troy, Michigan.

“It is an honor to receive an award of this size from Kresge,” says Brett Breen, the Foundation's director of development. “They accept a very small percentage of applications. But Tampa General Hospital and the Tampa General Hospital Foundation were able to demonstrate that TGH meets their strict criteria and deserves their support.”

The Foundation has raised over \$9 million so far from individual and corporate donors, employees, hospital volunteers, physicians, grateful patients, and every member of Tampa General's and the Foundation's boards of directors.

Its annual Employee Campaign is now getting underway. Employees in the past have been very generous, and they're anticipated to once again show their enthusiasm for TGH and the Building on Excellence campaign.

For more information on the Building on Excellence Campaign, please contact Brett Breen, (813) 844-7560.

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