UP Health Systems
Marquette General Hospital

2020 Architecture for Health
Showcase Gallery
In 2014, Marquette General Hospital was purchased by Duke LifePoint, a joint venture between LifePoint Health and Duke University’s Health System. It decided to commission a new facility to replace the aged hospital. The new UP Health System- Marquette consists of a 229 bed tower, clinical services building, interventional platform and three-story garage.
Nestled in a small town, UP Health System – Marquette, a Duke LifePoint Hospital, resides at the intersection of its built and natural contexts.
Locating the new hospital in the middle of downtown Marquette proved to be a challenge. The size of the available site required a compact and vertical design, while the brownfield site required remediation. The payoff, however, was a $300M investment in the center of the small community.
Context + Identity

In addition to serving the immediate community, the hospital is a preeminent healthcare provider for the Upper Peninsula. For this reason, the size of the structure is significantly larger than any other building in the town of 20k residents. Sensitively placing this building in its context required a close attention to scale, an examination of context and a public conversation about identity.
Evidence-based design reveals the important role that daylight and natural vistas have in a healing environment. The floor plate allows for maximal daylight and the building orientation reinforces a sense of place by choreographing views of city landmarks. A partnership with the Michigan Audubon resulted in an exterior skin that adheres to bird safe design guidelines.
“Through the process of designing a brand new facility, we thoroughly evaluated the hospital’s care delivery methods and overall operations to see where we could create greater efficiencies. Gresham Smith partnered with us to create a beautiful facility that our employees are not only proud to work in, but it will also help ensure that we are better able to meet the healthcare needs of the community for generations to come.”

Victor Giovanetti, FACHE, Executive Vice President, Hospital Operations at LifePoint Health