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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **RTA Architects Receives Two International Interior Design Association 2016 BESTawards**

#### ***The IIDA Rocky Mountain Chapter Recognizes RTA's Projects for Craig Hospital and Ignacio High School for Achievement in Interior Design***

**Colorado Springs, Colo. (October 24, 2016)** – The International Interior Design Association (IIDA) Rocky Mountain Chapter (RMC) presented RTA Architects with two 2016 BESTawards for Craig Hospital and Ignacio High School during the 2016 IIDA RMC Design Awards Gala in Denver, Colo. A total of 22 BESTawards were presented this year to deserving members of the Rocky Mountain interior design community, each recognizing Brilliantly Executed Spaces and Thinking.

#### **Craig Hospital – Winner, GIVE Category**

Craig Hospital, a World Class Rehabilitation Center of Excellence, specializes in the treatment and rehabilitation of patients with spinal cord injury and traumatic brain injuries. The facility, built in 1969 and last renovated in 1982, was showing its age and dated design. The primary project goals were to optimize efficiency and effectiveness by connecting the campus (adjoining two separate building with a central courtyard and arrival), re-organization and enhancement of program, a building addition including expansion and addition of services, and the conversion of shared patient rooms into private suites.

The interior was designed to express the organic local landscape. Use of natural tones, rich textiles and regionally-inspired artwork provides a balanced palette, while textured stone and colorful landscapes highlight key areas and wayfinding. Several jurors commented on the relaxed, easy to navigate environment which was necessary to ensure the patients are comfortable and not over-stimulated.

The other aspect of the project that garnered significant recognition was the project's creative and meticulous phasing. Craig was able to continue operations while the facility renovations took place, with 100% bed capacity and continued inpatient and outpatient treatment services, while minimizing noise and disruption for Craig's critically injured patients.

"We had a collaborative design partner in SmithgroupJJR. Interior Designer Scott Steffes and the whole project team did amazing work on this transformative project," stated Paul Reu, Associate, RTA Architects. "Craig Hospital is the type of project that exemplifies why I enjoy healthcare architecture; designing spaces that enhance the healing environment for staff, community members, and especially the patients and family members that Craig serves so well."

Craig Hospital project team: Craig Hospital (owner); Hammes Company (owner's representative), RTA Architects (Architect of Record), SmithgroupJJR (Partner Architect), Shaffer Baucom Engineering & Consulting (MEP engineer), MGA Structural Engineers, Inc. (structural engineer), Anderson & Hastings (civil engineer), Ground Logic, Inc. (landscape architecture), Ricca Newmark Design (kitchen design), Encore Electric, (IT), GE Johnson Construction Company (general contractor)

#### **Ignacio High School – Merit Award Winner, LEARN Category**

Ignacio High School aspired to renew community pride and reflect the region's multi-cultural heritage through the renovation of the existing junior high and high school buildings. Through meetings with the District, the Southern Ute Tribal Board, and the community, key program areas were identified as opportunities to strengthen the high school's connection between the school and community:

- Multiple community access points to the school;
- Exterior gathering areas at the entry to the building and commons;
- Space on school property for the local agricultural program; and
- Design sensibilities that respond to the town's multi-cultural heritage.

Jurors noted RTA's use of large scale graphics of ceremonial costumes, Southwest color, pattern, and sacred geometries are incorporated into the materials and architecture of the building, all of which reflect the multi-cultural heritage of the Ignacio community. Even the location of the entrance on the East side of the building is in keeping with Southern Ute tradition. A new office

addition creates a controlled building entry, serves to unite and organize the plan, and offers sweeping views out to parent drop-off, bus stop, and an engaging courtyard.

“We were excited to work with the Ignacio community and see the transformation of disparate campus into a unified whole,” said Brian Calhoun, Principal, RTA Architects. Greg Johnson, RTA Architects Interior Designer commented, “This was a great opportunity to marry culture and art of the region with the architecture, providing students and staff with a facility they can relate to and be proud of.”

Ignacio High School Project Team: Ignacio School District (Owner), Plant Engineering Consultants (MEP engineering), HCDA (structural engineering), Goff Engineering & Surveying, Inc. (civil engineering), DHM Design (landscape architecture) Webb Food Service Design Consultants (kitchen design), FCI Constructors, (general contractor)

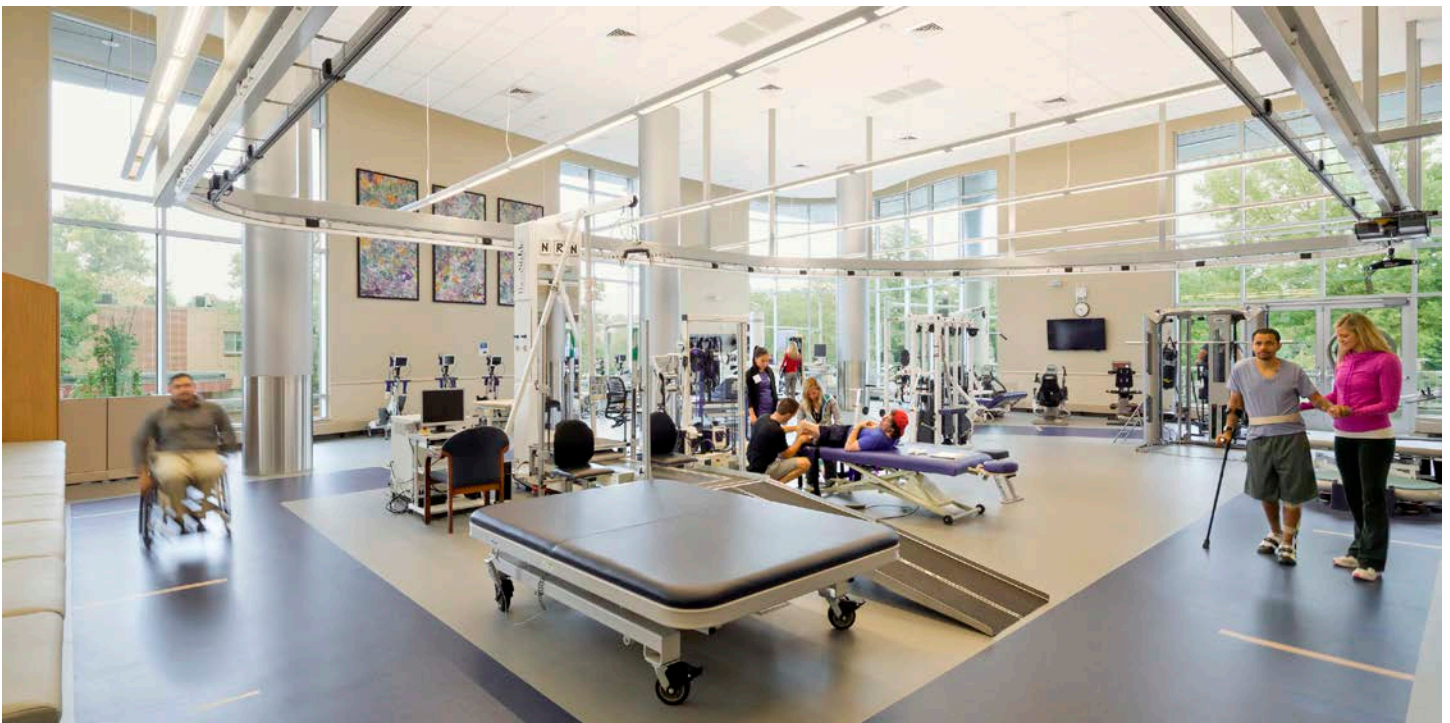
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### **About RTA Architects**

RTA Architects has created award winning architectural and interior designs for the Colorado built environment since 1975. RTA specializes in education, healthcare, retail, and commercial properties, delivering beautiful buildings that serve the unique needs of their owners and occupants. In addition to our core strength of architecture and design for new construction, renovation, and adaptive re-use projects, RTA provides technical expertise in a broad range of related services including: feasibility studies; site selection and comparative analysis; master planning; site planning; facility programming; interior design; and environmental graphics, signage and way-finding. RTA’s website is located at [www.rtaarchitects.com](http://www.rtaarchitects.com).

### **About IIDA RMC**

The International Interior Design Association (IIDA) works to enhance quality of life through excellence in interior design and to advance interior design through knowledge, value and community. IIDA is a professional networking and educational association of 13,000 members in 29 Chapters and 58 countries around the world. IIDA RMC’s website can be located at <https://www.iidarmc.org>.



Caption: The redesign of Craig Hospital’s PEAK gym by RTA and SmithgroupJJR provides expanded services for both patients and for community members



Caption: The use of natural tones, rich textiles and regionally-inspired artwork by RTA and SmithgroupJJR at Craig Hospital provides a balanced palette, while textured stone and colorful landscapes highlight key areas and wayfinding.



Caption: RTA's use of large scale graphics of ceremonial costumes, Southwest color, pattern, and sacred geometries respect and honor Ignacio's multi-cultural heritage



Caption: RTA's design of Ignacio High School features bright open spaces and regionally-inspired materials and forms.