



Memorial Hospital Garage Colorado Springs, Colorado

The landlocked site presented special challenges to provide additional parking for patients, staff, and visitors. This project involved constructing a 7-story 1,500 car garage, elevator tower, and new hospital entrance. Due to the adjacent 400-bed critical care hospital, the site was limited in size and time for construction. The hospital goal was to build a garage that did not look like the stereotypical horizontal parking structure seen throughout the city. The garage has a distinctive “vertical feel” with a 2-story colonnade to accommodate ambulances and over the road trucks.

The garage has 1½ levels below grade, penetrating the water table. The challenge was to dewater the site, orchestrate a winter construction project. The innovative look was carried through the project by utilizing brick inserts in the precast concrete panels. The bricks relate to existing building materials used throughout the complex, retaining the unifying look of the campus. For security and safety, the interior of all levels of the facility are painted white for brightness, and a snow-melt system is provided at the entrance and on the ramp to the upper level.



Photos by J.E. Dunn, used with permission



Footprint	Spaces	SF/space	Superstructure		
240' x 340'	1,500	354	Precast	7-Levels	4-Bays

“Designing and constructing a 1,500 car parking garage on a constrained site at Memorial Hospital took a lot of cooperation from design team members, contractors, and the hospital staff. Precast concrete was used for the superstructure because of its speed of erecting, its minimal requirements for product delivery on site, quality, and excellent opportunities for architectural expression. During early phases of the design, Paul Mack consulted with the architect and structural engineer on durability issues including slopes for drainage, concrete mix designs with low water/cement ratios, corrosion protection and waterproofing. His 25-years experience in precast concrete design and parking consulting were very helpful in the team delivering an award winning project.”

Charles LT Smith, AIA
Principal
Charles LT Smith & Assoc.
12 E. Boulder
Colorado Springs, CO 80903
719-475-9111

Founder Paul Mack, P.E. had significant involvement in phases of this project while at another firm