SLAM has played a leading role in implementing Planetree principles that have helped to shape the development of patient-focused care at hospitals throughout the United States. Through our long-standing involvement at Griffin Hospital in Derby, CT (the “Planetree Pioneer” hospital), active participation on the Planetree Design Advisory Committee, commitment to research and development as it relates to evidence-based design, and as on-going Planetree consulting & design practitioners, SLAM is at the forefront of being able to provide special insight into the holistic nature of Planetree transformation.

We understand the challenges, as well as the opportunities, inherent in change and how a multiplicity of organizational, operational, and philosophical factors can enhance the shaping and design of physical space.

Patient-Centered Care

As a pioneer and thought leader related to the implementation of patient-centered principals we do not believe that there is one approach that fits all institutions. Rather, we seek the need for common dialogue and recognition of the interrelatedness between the architectural team and the institution’s leadership during the design process.

Applying these principals begins with recognition of the impact that architectural planning can have on organizational behavior changes. This can be reinforced only when designers gain a command and understanding of the issues, and translate and integrate them into the physical environment. Key aspects include, gaining an understanding of the mission, recognizing the role of the physical environment in healing, and focusing on elements that best fit your institution, community and resources.

Patient-Centered care should empower the patient, through:

- Decentralized or accessible nurse stations
- Providing access to information, open medical records and resource centers
- Encouraging communication between caregivers and patients

As well as empowering the staff, by:

- Engaging employees and aligning goals and incentives in creating a fantastic organizational culture
- Employees developing a common vision
- Adopting patients perspective
- Eliminate fear, encouraging risk taking
- Differentiating the institution for strategic/financial reasons
- Communicating

Planetree Affiliated Clients include:

- Griffin Hospital
- UMASS Memorial Hospital
- Northern Westchester Hospital
- Lakeland Regional Health System: Niles Facility, St. Joseph, MI
- Stamford Hospital

SLAM authored Chapter 9 in the book “Elements of Planetree Design, 2002”

SLAM is a founding firm of the Planetree Visionary Design Network (PVDN)

SLAM awarded inaugural ACHA Legacy Award for enduring project value at Griffin Hospital.