

CATEGORY 6:

BEST BUILDING PROJECT – SPECIALTY CONTRACTOR (\$6 - \$10 MILLION)

SPECIALTY CONTRACTOR: Intermountain Electric, Inc.

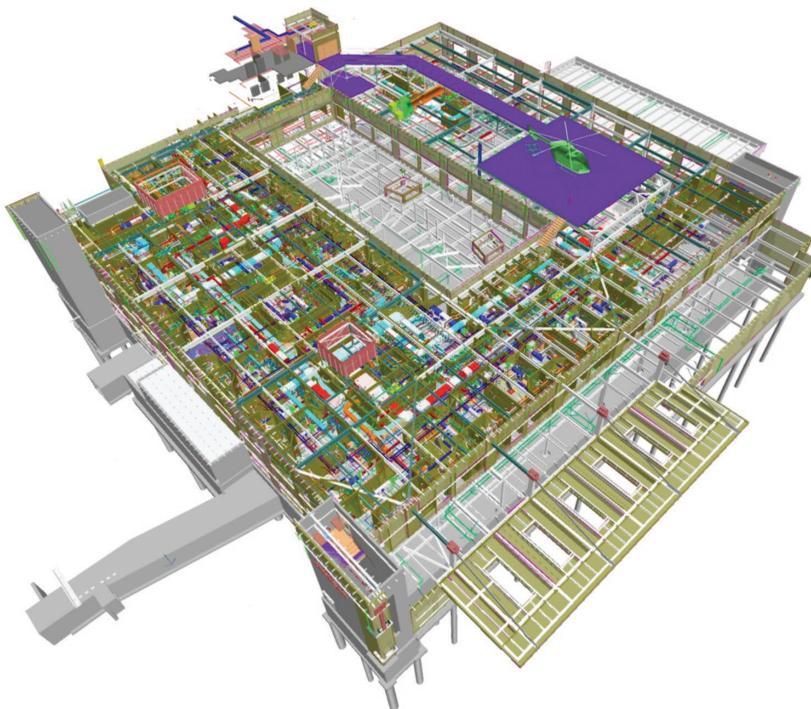
PROJECT NAME: Poudre Valley Hospital Building A, University of Colorado Health

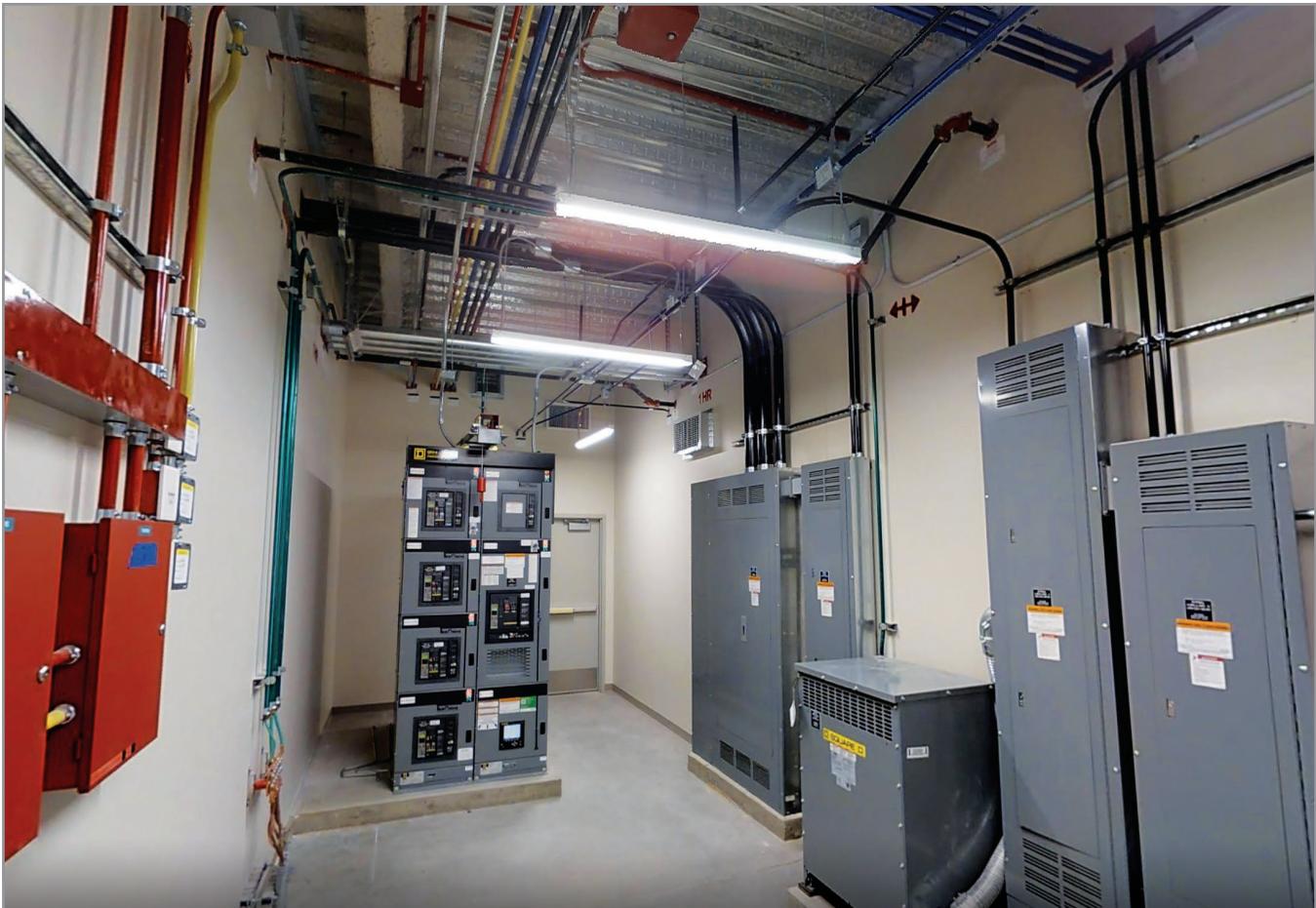


REVITALIZING THE HEART OF A FRONT RANGE COMMUNITY'S HEALTHCARE

Quality healthcare facilities, promoting and uplifting the wellbeing of residents, are the mark of truly thriving cities. Intermountain Electric, Inc. (IME) is fiercely committed to building long lasting connections with partners and supporting strong communities. Deeply embedded in the Fort Collins community and long time partners with University of Colorado Health (UCHealth), IME was awarded the technical and invigorating task of breathing new life into an aging pillar of the Northern Colorado town, Poudre Valley Hospital. In just eighteen short months, the new facility would be renovated from the original hospital structure, built in 1925, and allow for the state of the art services that Fort Collins residents had previously traveled to other towns to access.

IME is no stranger to tackling large-scale projects in the medical industry, under demanding time constraints. Our innovative fabrication and imaging techniques layered with the trusting relationships we develop with our clients and partners, make for efficient, safe, and impeccably executed work. Partnering with general contractor Hensel Phelps, IME was entrusted with this project by UCHealth thanks to our successful track record on previous projects such as 2015 AGC award winner Poudre Valley Hospital Building E.







With a renovation and expansion project of this magnitude, IME knew we'd have to leverage our highly refined processes, innovative use of technology, and skilled team in order to execute by the deadline. Using the latest building information modeling (BIM) techniques, IME first built the new Poudre Valley Hospital Building A entirely in computers. We could fly through the digital model with our team, or members of the other trades, before ever stepping foot on the job site. We put to use our large-scale project BIM experience in order to expertly execute this project and the value that this 3-D imaging added to the efficiencies of the project was priceless. Fully coordinating the installation process with BIM allowed our team to find issues in advance and fix instances where mechanical, fire suppression, plumbing, and other trades might clash. With kiosks deployed in the field on each floor of the building, our teams could access the BIM model for the exact system(s) and location(s) they were working on to ensure a coordinated installation. Hand held tablets enabled teams to share and track information regarding progress of the systems already installed and those yet to be installed, in real time.

In conjunction with the latest technology, IME used best in class processes to meet and exceed the contractual requirements of the project with our quality work and attention to detail. Implementing weekly coordination meetings with all trades supported smooth daily operations and prevented collisions on the job site. This project had the full support of our BIM department, and our procurement and prefabrication teams. IME has developed incredible relationships with vendors over the years, which allows our procurement team to acquire the specified materials quickly and cost-effectively before fabricating assemblies and shipping them to the site. Our BIM technician on the job site allowed all trades to track each aspect of their system installation and upgrades, down to the smallest detail, while our prefab team put everything together in our controlled warehouse



(Freeman White/David Anderson)

environment. Fabricating offsite helped keep costs low, minimized impact to the timeline, and ensured quality and consistency in every element we built. IME insisted on the complete integration of BIM at the site as a coordination tool to prevent the need for rework, which saved time and materials for all trades.

Ever at the center of all IME projects, our team implemented the most stringent safety standards for this build. From the onset of the kickoff meeting, IME partnered with Hensel Phelps and other trades to make sure every member of every crew was onboard with maintaining a safe environment for our teams, the staff and personnel still at work in the facility, and the public. Morning toolbox talks and hazard analyses on a weekly basis along with Safety Observation Cards (SOC) kept our teams focused on the proper procedures to execute tasks safely, and ensure the correct use of tools, materials and equipment. In an active facility, it was paramount that our teams controlled the silica dust, stayed vigilant for fall protection, and maintained clean construction conditions to help sustain the sterile, working hospital environment. IME adheres to strict control standards when entering and working on active systems and areas of the job site. From the first year apprentices to the leadership of each crew, members of the trades were communicating throughout the project and holding each other accountable in order to promote trust and create a culture of safety. As a result, there were zero accidents over the course of the project.



(Freeman White/David Anderson)

As this project involved multi-trade fabrication, an extreme amount of collaboration was required among participating trades. IME maintained a high level of cleanliness for the active hospital environment while closely partnering to execute work. We moved as one extension of the same mind, building headwalls together, fabricating as a team, and setting walls with each system already inside them in one fluid install. For any new electrical or facility access our teams placed permits with UHealth so that all partners had a voice in how to best maintain services without creating downtime that would inconvenience or negatively impact doctors, nurses, or patients. Our teams planned and prepped in order to tie into the fire alarm and chiller plant for the operating rooms and brought our own generator as extra protection for the hospital when we tied into the back up generator and installed the new emergency system.

Our partnerships extended beyond our work with Hensel Phelps, the other trades, and UHealth itself, to the doctors and nurses who work in Building A. IME collaborated with the employees and personnel to make sure that everyone's needs would be met by the new building's design and functionality. By staging other parts of the building with new design, fixtures, and other electrical aspects, we were able to get valuable feedback from nurses, doctors, and administrative staff and could make changes to our plans in order to create the best work environment for their everyday job functions.



Many of the employees at Poudre Valley Hospital were themselves born and cared for in this building. Back when the original hospital was built, it was the only healthcare facility in the region and served families and individuals across the Front Range. IME led the charge to update this beloved facility and provide locals with the variety of services and quality of care that other state-of-the-art facilities in the region offer. With a central location in the heart of town that provides easy access for senior citizens and patients with limited mobility, restoring this aging building means locals would no longer have to drive to Greeley or Loveland for specialized services. Poudre Valley Hospital Building A would become a one-stop-shop for incredible care. More space for the neonatal intensive care unit, additional parking, a helicopter-landing pad, and brand new X-ray rooms and MRI machines are just a few of the upgrades that this building would offer patients.

In December of 2016, Poudre Valley Hospital Building A was turned over to UCHHealth and the community of Fort Collins. Throughout the project, hospital staff and personnel continued to provide care for patients without any interruption due to construction. IME seamlessly tied all new systems into outdated ones, completely undetected by doctors, nurses and patients. The project required an incredible input of manpower; IME averaged 24 craft personnel on the project and supplemented the crew when necessary in order to keep the schedule from slipping. Despite a difficult timeframe, design changes and weather impacts, the project was completed on time. IME was proud to pump new electrical lifeblood into this renowned staple of the community. All it took was the heart, mind, and hands of our incredible IME team, collaborating and innovating every day.