



AT A GLANCE :

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# Perspectives

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## KESSLER INSTITUTE PROJECT

**K**essler Institute for Rehabilitation, the largest rehabilitation hospital network in New Jersey, provides comprehensive physical medicine and rehabilitation programs to individuals with stroke, spinal cord injuries, brain injuries, amputation, neuromuscular disorders and musculoskeletal conditions. Over 55 years ago, they started with a 16-bed hospital in West Orange, NJ, and now have four inpatient facilities and fifty-six outpatient centers throughout the state.

Andersen Interior Contracting (AIC), working with The Gale Construction Company, helped complete a major expansion of the West Orange facility.

foot space has been added to the existing facility. AIC's responsibilities include exterior framing, interior framing, ceilings, GFRC (glass fiber reinforced concrete) columns, GRG (fiber glass reinforced gypsum) columns, and the installation of specialty items.

Steve Andersen, AIC's project manager, said, "We maintained a very aggressive schedule. We started our work this past February and finished up in late November." Work areas included patient rooms, nurses' stations, therapy rooms, dining rooms, and renovations to the existing kitchen. Steve added, "We were dealing with special lay-outs in the patient rooms and had to be careful to avoid all of the medical lines in the walls. Our work had to be coordinated with the electricians, plumbers, and others. And there were many specialty items – wall protection, corner guards and hand rails."

Corporate Woodworking (CWI) also helped out on the project. The architect designed special cloud-shaped recessed lighting. CWI cut the radius parts for the ceiling so they could be assembled on-site. CWI was also responsible for the Corian® portal at the Gift Shop.

AIC has also done work at Kessler facilities in Cedar Grove and Saddle Brook. ■

## Spotlight on...

### CARL KOCH

Carl Koch is known as AIC's "retail man" because of his extensive experience with construction work at retail stores. He has been involved with retail work for over twenty years. Carl originally got into the construction business working for his dad, who was a general contractor. He came to AIC as part of the Morlot acquisition in April 2005. Carl is currently project manager for a variety of retail renovations, including Bloomingdale's (Hackensack, NJ) and Linens -N- Things (Riverdale, NJ), and several non-retail projects, including a new Student Recreation Center at Montclair State University (Montclair, NJ).

Carl lives in Long Valley, NJ with his wife and two children. When Carl's not busy working, he enjoys fly-fishing, traveling as far as Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho. Here at home, he fishes in the streams in the Catskills.

Carl enjoys working at AIC. He said, "It's an excellent company, very professional and very competitive. I'm given some latitude and allowed to do what I think is best. I couldn't ask for anything better."



This contemporary 80-bed facility, set on a sprawling campus in suburban Essex County, is home to Kessler's internationally recognized spinal cord injury program and its highly specialized ventilator management. A three-story, 100,000-square

## AIC AND CWI ARE IN THE BANKING BUSINESS

**I**F you think banks are popping up like weeds, it's not your imagination. Both AIC and CWI have been very busy recently with bank projects. While some of the jobs are for new facilities, the renovation jobs present the greatest challenge. Bob Brennan, CWI Vice President, explained, "By law, banks must open on schedule, so we can only work at night and on weekends. Everything has to be carefully measured and planned because there is no fall-back time — come morning the bank has to open." Greg Young, project manager for AIC, agrees, "Every night the job has to be done 100 percent, and completely cleaned up, so that the customers can come in the next morning. And these are major revamp jobs involving the whole bank."

AIC's scope of work entails drywall, taping and spackling, acoustical ceilings and carpentry work including bulletproof panels at the teller's areas. Recent projects include various branches for Washington Mutual, Bank of America, PNC Bank, HSBC, and Hudson City Savings Bank. AIC is also currently performing some high-end renovation work at Hudson City Savings Bank's executive offices in Paramus, NJ.

Teller counters and check desks are among the many custom millwork items that CWI fabricates for their bank projects. Recent projects include multiple branches for Washington Mutual, North Fork Bank, and TD BankNorth.



## J.C. PENNEY RENOVATIONS

**AIC** took to the road for some recent projects, working on renovations to three J.C. Penney stores in Florida — Citrus Park Mall, Tampa; Seminole Towne Center, Sanford; and West Oaks Mall, Ocoee. Project manager Carl Koch is no stranger to the retail construction world — it was his past work with the general con-

tractor (F&F Construction) that helped get AIC these jobs, plus AIC's ability to meet the tight six-month schedule. AIC sent a foreman down to each site and then hired workers out of the local union halls to make up the crew. Many of AIC's suppliers have offices in Florida, which helped with procuring supplies. Carl flew down to visit the sites three times while maintaining contact with his foremen via telephone the rest of the time. Paychecks were sent

weekly via FedEx.

Working in department stores provides interesting challenges. The majority of these projects are renovations to occupied stores that remain open for business while the work takes place. The wall and ceiling designs can vary greatly in each department, making coordination with other trades a necessity for proper layout and quick turnaround time. And as time is money, deadlines must be met.



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