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Richard Kirkland, Structor Group

FEATURED PRODUCT



ARCHITECT

HKS Atlanta

**GENERAL CONTRACTOR
INTERIOR**

Structor Group

**GENERAL CONTRACTOR
CORE & SHELL**

Brassfield & Gorie

ARTWORK CONSULTANTS

KMA Design Group

GLAZING CONTRACTOR

G & S Glass Atlanta

Emory Musculoskeletal Institute Atlanta, GA

The Emory Musculoskeletal Institute is in the business of achieving what seems impossible, if not incredibly ambitious. It is a place of both healing and research, where people can seek out services that diagnose, treat, and repair bones, joints, and connective tissue—some of the most crucial elements that keep us in motion. The design needed to be equally ambitious. Iconic, even, promoting innovation and excellence alike. A space that instilled confidence in the Institute’s mission and expertise while also illustrating the journey patients undertake in reclaiming their fluidity of motion.

Designed by HKS Atlanta and brought to life by contractors Structor Group and Brasfield Gorrie, the building is a testament to sustainable building design. The designers took inspiration from structural components of the human body and the path to restorative function. Part of that aesthetic was large format photography—and part of the challenge came in finding a glass fabricator who had the experience and capability to produce those images on glass in the required resolution. There were huge backgrounds that consisted of images of human cells, with smaller images inset with what appears to be a picture frame. To do this design justice, the range of colors, the clarity, and detail had to be exact. For some fabricators, this challenge might have been unsurmountable—but not for GGI, who pioneered the Dip-Tech ceramic printing on glass technology in the US more than a decade ago.

“GGI’s experience with complex images and product assemblies was obvious,” said Richard Kirkland, Senior Project Manager of Structor Group, who worked closely with the glazing contractor and the GGI team to bring this unique component of the interior to fruition. “Their expertise revealed itself from the start, both in their familiarity with the typical issues that arise with projects of this magnitude and in how they addressed these issues. Their proficiency enabled us to bring the client’s vision to life without sacrificing quality or compromising on the sort of images that could be fully realized on glass.”

GGI furnished the Alice® glass wall cladding on floors 2, 3, 4 and 5 that are in full view as soon as the elevator doors open. Glass was not the obvious choice at first, reflected Maya Macesich Jensen, Project Architect for HKS Atlanta. “A variety of ideas were explored, including fabric-covered panels, traditional wall coverings, and even stone. The decision to go with glass came down to the material’s durability and GGI’s ability to capture the unique imagery on display on each floor, imagery that speaks to the specialized care provided.”

The custom fabricated glass wall cladding is 10mm ultra-clear low-iron glass with custom artwork applied using the company’s Alice® direct-to-glass ceramic printing process combined with an opaque back-paint.



GGI also produced the Alice® glass partitions in the patient check-in area. To enhance the daylighting throughout the spaces, the upper section of each glass partition is fully transparent—except for the skeletal design digitally applied using Alice®. The lower section of the partitions has a continuation of the skeletal design plus a translucent-opaque blue fade in lower section to allow privacy as patients are registering.

“HKS proposed a concept for the elevator lobbies that would provide a unique and impressive first impression for patients as they exited the elevators on each floor,” said Dr. Scott Boden, Chair of Orthopedics at Emory University School of Medicine and Vice President of Business Innovation, Emory Healthcare. “The actual execution of the concept turned out to be challenging because of the extensive magnification required of micrographic images. The final version necessitated thorough searching for images along the required theme for each floor (bone, cartilage, muscle, nerve) and then a series of test prints on paper, and ultimately glass, until the required resolution at full magnification was acceptable. Throughout the process, GGI’s expertise was nothing short of invaluable.”

In addition to the design aesthetics offered, the glass partitions and wall cladding provide solid material surfaces that are durable to cleaning and disinfecting without concern of degradation; and while not anti-microbial, glass surfaces will not collect bacteria, dust, or dirt as it may occur with textured wallcoverings. “Glass is a go-to product for me because of its durability, cleanability and design flexibility. Having worked with GGI on Emory MSK, they have earned the rank of becoming my go-to fabricator for decorative architectural glass,” said Maya Macesich Jensen, Project Architect, HKS Atlanta.