

**Kettering Medical Center**  
**Benjamin and Marian Schuster Heart Hospital**  
**Kettering, Ohio**

The concept “whole-person health” recognizes the relationship between physical health and emotional and spiritual well-being and is the inspiration for the five-story, 142,000 SF Benjamin and Marian Schuster Heart Hospital at Kettering Medical Center.

The facility also serves as the main entrance to the hospital and offers the “Shops of Kettering,” amenities for patients and families including a bakery and coffee shop, gift shop, grocery and a pharmacy.

The design theme, “The art of healing through nature’s elements,” is rooted from a universally accepted concept that looks at five elements of nature (Earth, Wood, Fire, Water, and Metal) and their relationship to human beings.

One element was selected for each of the five floors as the primary design component. These elements of nature are used to provide an environment for patient-centered care, a place of serenity to reduce stress, lift spirits, and encourage healing to take place.

Transitional corridors on each of the upper three inpatient floors, connecting the waiting rooms with the nursing units, provide family and visitors a place to pause before continuing on to see a patient.

It is widely recognized that the physical environment can affect the physiological and emotional well-being of an individual. It becomes important that design elements traditionally reserved for the lobby and other public spaces, are also included in the clinical areas to create an environment that enhances the healing process for patients.

The design of the facility has resulted in high satisfaction levels from patients and their families. Surveys indicate that patient satisfaction is in the 90th percentile with frequent comments about the peaceful, attractive and healing environment.