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For information, please contact Jeff Wilde, partner, at Shen Milsom & Wilke (212) 725-6800, jwilde@smwinc.com, or Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center Public Affairs office at publicaffairs@mskcc.org.

Photos available

New High-Tech Surgical Center improves quality of patient care

Shen Milsom & Wilke consults on design of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center's multimedia system, including the innovative "Wall of Knowledge"

Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center Surgical Center, New York
Architects: [KMD Architects](#), New York; [Perkins Eastman](#), New York
Project Management: [Granary Associates](#), New York City
Multimedia, telecommunications, acoustics: Shen Milsom & Wilke, New York City
Size: 72,000 square feet
Completion: May 2006

A product of ten years of research and collaboration among nurses, physicians, anesthesiologists, and information technologists, Memorial Sloan-Kettering's new Surgical Center features 21 innovative, high-technology operating rooms that reflect the needs of staff and improve treatment for patients. The center is located on the sixth floor of Memorial Sloan-Kettering's urban campus.

Working with direction from the hospital's information technology staff, Shen Milsom & Wilke helped design the center's complex multimedia system and information technology infrastructure, including the Wall of Knowledge. This innovative feature consists of four large, wall-mounted, high-definition displays that include complete, real-time patient information.

The "knowledge" displayed on the wall is generated by diverse information systems, physiological monitors, and medical devices. It also includes video of the ongoing surgery, and radiology images. Surgeons and nurses gain a visual image of the operation, as well as constantly updated information on a patient's status.

Ease of operation was a priority in the design of the new ORs. The design process began with two pilot rooms, where Shen Milsom & Wilke worked with physicians, technicians, and nurses to create easy to use control

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systems. These are practically identical in each of the ORs so that staff can move from one to the other without hesitation.

Additionally, a centralized control space allows IT operators to remotely control all of the OR multimedia technology, or broadcast, record, and archive various procedures. Procedures may be broadcast via Internet for educational purposes.

Physicians can also confer, via real-time audio and video cameras, with specialists in the pathology laboratory.

Cameras, lights, and microphones are on booms wherever possible to provide flexibility and keep the ORs simple and open.

The center's intraoperative radiation therapy rooms, among only a handful in the world, allow patients with certain cancers to be treated with a full course of radiation immediately upon having a tumor removed. Seventeen of the rooms offer minimally invasive surgery capabilities.

Shen Milsom & Wilke worked on the acoustic design as well. Efforts focused on keeping each of the ORs quiet—a challenge in rooms with so many hard and metallic surfaces. Also, isolating each of the rooms was important, as was quieting pre- and post-surgery areas for added privacy.

[Shen Milsom & Wilke](#) is an international technology consulting practice founded in 1986. The company offers comprehensive services in the areas of multimedia, information technology, building security, and acoustics. The firm has a staff of more than 150 professionals and 11 offices worldwide.