

# Case Study



## Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children

WILMINGTON, DE

### Owner

Nemours Foundation  
Jacksonville, FL

### Architect/Designers

FKP Architects  
Houston, TX

### Vitro Products

Solarban® 70 glass  
Azuria® glass

### Glazing/Curtain Wall Fabricator

Cristacurva  
Houston, TX

Oldcastle BuildingEnvelope®  
Terrell, TX

### Coatings Applicator

Spectrum Metal Finishing

### Glazing Contractor

R. A. Kennedy & Sons  
Aston, PA

## PROJECT BACKGROUND

When Paul Asteris of FKP Architects first conceived the signature façade of the newly expanded Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children, his vision was to have the glass and metal framing mimic the protective framework of an arbor. A random discovery of Azuria® glass by Vitro coupled with the use of DURANAR® SUNSTORM® coatings by Vitro Alliance Partner, PPG Industrial Coatings, helped make that idea a reality.

Located in Wilmington, Del., Nemours/duPont hospital has undergone a series of expansions since its founding in the 1940s. The latest, a 450,000 square-foot addition, was designed to maintain the facility's legacy of world-class treatment by drawing on the latest principles in health care design, including cozy, child-friendly patient rooms;



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A combination of products from Vitro Architectural Glass and Vitro Alliance Partner, PPG Industrial Coatings, helps to create this bright curtain wall for the exterior façade of the Nemours/duPont hospital, which has achieved LEED Silver certification.

## Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children | Wilmington, DE

welcoming, amenity-filled spaces for families and caregivers; healing gardens and large, open areas filled with abundant natural light.

As lead architect for the project, Asteris sought to appropriate the “playful elegance” of the gardens surrounding the neighboring duPont family mansion by placing a vast atrium at the center of the hospital and designing a bright arbor-patterned curtain wall for the exterior façade.

A combination of glass and metal coatings products, including *Solarban*® 70 (formerly *Solarban*® 70XL) glass by Vitro and *DURANAR*® XL and *DURANAR*® *SUNSTORM*® coatings by PPG, together with a timely recommendation for tinted *Azuria*® glass by Vitro, not only helped him achieve those aims, but enabled the project to stay on schedule too.

“The glass we were originally looking at [for the façade] had a blue/gray tint and was coming off a bit flat,” Asteris said. “By chance, a [Vitro] representative visiting our office saw the renderings and offered to help with some samples. He came back using *Azuria*® [glass] with some spandrel tones and it had the color punch we were looking for. That really helped us get the project back on track, as we were in danger of disrupting the schedule.”

The aqua-blue appearance of *Azuria*® glass is complemented throughout the hospital by tall panels of clear *Solarban*® 70 glass and in the skylights that top the soaring central atrium. The goal with both products was to bring as much daylight as possible into occupied spaces.

“We believe this is a critical mission for the hospitals we design,” Asteris said. “Numerous studies confirm that natural light is conducive to creating learning and healing environments. To us, this just seems like common sense.”



Architects envisioned the signature façade of the hospital to mimic the protective framework of an arbor. The aqua-blue appearance of *Azuria*® glass is further enhanced by the application of *DURANAR*® and *DURANAR*® *SUNSTORM*® coatings by PPG.

The jewel-like glitter of the hospital exterior is further enhanced by the application of *DURANAR*® XL and *DURANAR*® *SUNSTORM*® coatings by PPG. As two-component fluoropolymer coatings flecked with mica, *DURANAR*® *SUNSTORM*® coatings bring understated brilliance and exceptional durability to the metal framing on the main curtain wall. Three-component *DURANAR*® XL coatings in a custom “Seafoam Green” finish the metal panels that surround the emergency room entrance.

The curtain wall also is integral to the energy management system, which was designed to help the hospital achieve LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver certification. “We chose glass products that would meet the current energy code then improve it by 10 percent,” Asteris explained.

*Solarban*® 70 glass, which features Vitro’s proprietary triple-silver coating technology, has a visible light transmittance (VLT) of 64 percent and a solar heat gain coefficient (SHGC) of 0.27 when combined with clear glass in a standard 1-inch insulating glass unit (IGU). The resulting 2.37 light-to-solar gain (LSG) ratio makes it one of the highest-performing products in the industry.

Even with its rich aqua-blue color, *Azuria*® glass has a similar VLT of 61 percent in the same configuration, along with a SHGC of 0.39. Together, they yield an LSG ratio of 1.56, which is extraordinary for a tinted glass.

Solar tubes and the strategic placement of fritting on the glass façade alleviate the heat and glare of direct sunlight during the summer and channel light deeply into patient rooms to make them feel more spacious. Other green-related components in the hospital include water retention systems, roof gardens and enhanced mechanical systems.

To date, the feedback Asteris has received on the hospital’s design and performance has been universally positive. “The intent was to create a facility that would set Nemours apart from other children’s hospitals. The administration wanted this to be a place where families could bring their kids to get the best care available, so we needed to create spaces that would foster a family-friendly healing environment. Anyone who visits the hospital will sense that truly is the case.”

To learn more about *Solarban*® 70 glass, *Azuria*® glass and other high-performance glass products by Vitro Glass, visit [vitroglazings.com](http://vitroglazings.com) or call 1-855-VTRO-GLS (887-6457).