

Adding Safety to Natural Light

Center for Care & Discovery – 7th Floor Chapel

Location: University of Chicago Medical Center
5700 South Maryland Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60637

Architect: Craig Bacheller
Rafael Viñoly Architects, PC

Product: Aluflam CW-EI60 Standard
Depth One (1) Hour Exterior Curtainwall

Applications: Center for Care & Discovery –
7th Floor Chapel

**Installation and
Glazing Contractor:** Jim Koch/Klein Dickert

Photo Credit: Tom Rossiter



Project Story



It is called the “hospital for the future.” The Center for Care and Discovery stands 10-stories tall and encompasses 1.2 million square feet on the campus of the University of Chicago Medicine. It occupies the north end of two city blocks changing the skyline of the South Side of Chicago. Designed by Rafael Viñoly Architects, this state-of-the-art facility is one of the most advanced clinical and surgical centers in the country dedicated to specialty care, including cancer, gastrointestinal disease, neuroscience, advanced surgery and high-tech medical imaging.

Tucked away on the 7th Floor of this impressive structure is an intimate, non-denominational 600 square foot Chapel that serves as a peaceful space where patients and their families can go for solace or prayer. The windows are very unique, and form a clerestory band of windows 12'-6" above the finished floor that extends up to the finished ceiling at 15'-0" in the shape of an oval providing abundant natural light conducive to contemplation, which is important in an advanced care hospital.

Also important is the safety aspect of the windows in which Aluflam played an important part in providing. “Due to the proximity of an adjacent existing hospital building, a 2-hour separation at the facade needed to be provided within our new project,” stated Joseph Cliggott of Rafael

Viñoly Architects, PC. “We requested that the contractor, Jim Koch of Klein Dickert develop and UL approve a custom pressure plate approach to simulate structural glazed installation.”

An Aluflam CW-E160 curtainwall system was specified and it effectively satisfied the fire rating separation requirements as well as minimized the profile for the span of clerestory, allowing the most abundant natural light to wash horizontally across the plaster ceiling.



The 7th Floor Chapel is small in square footage compared to the rest of the Medical Center, but its importance to the patients, families and staff could not be more significant. As a successful, fire-rated window solution, the Aluflam curtainwall provides an abundance of light and safety requirements that is an essential element of the Chapel experience.

To learn more about Aluflam CW-E160 System and the entire line of Aluflam fire-rated aluminum glazing systems, contact Aluflam North America at 714.899.3990 or email info@aluflam-usa.com. Or visit www.aluflam-usa.com.