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## News

### Garden a foundation for beauty

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#### *Benesse awarded for concrete work*

##### Staff report

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The Healing Garden at the Benesse Oncology Center received an award this month for 2009 Outstanding Concrete Achievement.

The 2009 concrete awards for projects in Indiana were presented on by Indiana Ready Mixed Concrete Association at the Indianapolis Marriott North at Keystone at the Crossing in Indianapolis

The project team for the Benesse garden is the Major Hospital Foundation, Ratio, Becker Landscape, Smock Fansler Construction, Jobsite Supply and the ready-mix producer was Shelby Materials, 157 E. Rampart Road.

The Healing Garden — located at the oncology center, a Major Health Partner — is an almost one-acre garden/park with four water features, several seating areas, walkways and a wide variety of lush plantings. The garden is a component of the mind-body-soul treatment philosophy at Benesse and was constructed for patients, family members, caregivers and members of the community, and the entire garden is ADA accessible.

Angela Gill, executive director of the Major Hospital Foundation, helped to guide the Healing Garden project from the start to the finish, and when she heard about the amount of concrete that was planned for the garden, she wasn't sure how it would look.

"All I could think about were sidewalks and swimming pools," Gill said. "I had no idea that so many different textures and colors could be created. It has turned out beautifully, people love it, and it's incredibly durable. I don't think we could have made a better choice in materials."

The concrete designs were chosen in a collaborative manner with input from management and the construction team. The project members designed and placed a labyrinth with a sand matrix finish, saw cut by hand and stained in contrasting colors. A plaza was designed with a leaf pattern drawn freehand in the wet concrete, then hand-stained in a variety of colors to create a random pattern. The obelisk water feature was made from a recycled concrete urn, slumped glass and stainless steel, and the spirit garden includes a seating area modeled after a native American kiva pit.

IRMCA presents these awards to recognize extensive application or imaginative use of concrete, and to honor the accomplishments of project owners, architects, engineers, contractors, owners and ready-mixed concrete producers.



Angela Gill (right), executive director of the Major Hospital Foundation, shares the Indiana Ready Mixed Concrete Association award for concrete work in the Healing Garden at Benesse Oncology Center with concrete contractors (from left) Jeremy Ross, Shelby Materials, and Tom Fansler III, president and chief operating officer of Smock-Fansler. Submitted photo

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