

kitchenette, an entertainment area, an aquarium, an interior garden, and a kiosk where patients and families can obtain health information

6. Corridors separating patient rooms from the core of each floor are wide and curved, with ambient lighting and flowing ceiling designs to communicate a sense of serenity and security. These curving walls also draw the eyes away from patient rooms, providing additional privacy

Interior finishes were carefully chosen to enhance the unit's healing environment and support the design concept. As much as possible, hospital standard materials were used. A reception desk in the elevator lobbies, for example, was created in metal and wood to illustrate the combination of the two. Other examples of



Fig. 9. MRI unit with a sky window.

interior design choices including the following.:

1. Ambient lighting minimizes institutional fluorescence.
2. All areas are decorated with a full spectrum of color, especially plum, red, green, gold, and earth tones. The walls of patient rooms are painted plum to communicate a lively, upbeat feeling.
3. Finishes were chosen to help control noise. Vinyl flooring was used on patient room floors. Carpeting was installed in unit corridors.
4. Commissioned artwork is displayed in public spaces. Each patient room contains a different art print.
5. The artwork, fabrics, and doors use a soothing natured theme of leaves, clouds, plants, shells, and woods. In the family center, iron patio furniture and plants create an interior garden seating area, and an aquarium filled with tropical fish adds to the soothing environment.
6. Wherever possible, detailing was softened. The edges of laminated countertops were rounded. Hardware was eliminated from the doors of headwall cabinets. Curves of the ceiling bulkheads were echoed in designs cut into the carpeting. Floors were built up so that rolling wheelchairs or beds do not hit a bump when moving between the carpeted hallway and the vinyl-covered patient rooms.

### Cases in Women's Services

The 4 basic tenets of patient-centered care in hospitals are moving as many services as possible closer to the patient, simplifying the care process and streamlining paperwork, grouping similar patient populations, and broadening staffing skills and responsibilities.<sup>6</sup> Using women's services as an example, to achieve the goals of patient-centered care, many hospitals have renovated their facilities and established women's health centers. Most newly established women's health centers offer labor delivery recovery suites (LDRs) or labor delivery recovery and postpartum suites (LDRPs) (Figs. 10-12).

### Decentralized Nurse Stations

Decentralized nurse stations are directly located