FACTS AND FIGURES of the Drs. Rouben and Violet Jiji Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at the University of Maryland Children’s Hospital

Just one of two Level IV NICUs in the state, providing the most intense level of care to the most critically ill babies

37,000 square feet of completely-renovated space, triple the size of the old NICU

$30 million to create the new NICU, including $10 million from private donors

Made up of 52 single rooms, including twin suites, as well as one negative pressure isolation room

Emphasis on family-centered care with sleeping couches in every room and four “respite” areas for parents to be able to leave the patient room but remain very close

Each room can precisely control the light depending on the needs of the infant, including the ability to automatically cycle programming up and down during the day to promote the natural circadian rhythms of the body and sleep cycle

Infants are highly sensitive to noise, so special attention was paid to acoustical control and sound transmission in every room, including the addition of sound-proof walls and windows as well as ceiling tiles with the highest sound-absorption properties available

Parents of former NICU babies were involved, offering thoughts on the design, architecture and color palette

Emphasis on leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) including reducing everyday exposure to toxins

Open space that is visually appealing with color themes and artwork inspired by Maryland’s outdoors since views of nature have been shown to reduce stress in both families and staff

Imaging storage room for ease in providing timely diagnostic testing

Room dedicated for freezer storage of breast milk, with the goal of increasing the number of babies fed with breast milk

Contractor: Barton Malow
Mechanical Contractor: Emjay
Electrical Contractor: BoMark
Engineer: Kovacs Whitney & Associates, Inc.

Took 11 subcontractors and 106,000 man hours to build

462,000 feet of electrical wire and 4.75 miles of mechanical pipe

10 months to complete, having opened to patients and families the summer of 2015

umm.edu/pediatrics