



Case study

# UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTER







## SAFETY FIRST FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

The University of Washington Behavioral Health Center is a fully integrated healing environment designed for individuals struggling with serious physical and behavioral health problems. The Center offers these individuals clinical services such as medication management, psychotherapy, state-of-the-art neuromodulation treatments, and medical and surgical care. It also hosts an interdisciplinary training and workforce development program focused on preparing and supporting a new generation of behavioral health providers.

With a mission to heal and uplift, the university sought to imbue its Behavioral Health Center with a pleasing aesthetic that fits within its campus context and pays special attention to safety and patient wellbeing.

### **Transparent and Safe**

Architecture firm SRG Partnership took on the project, focused on the owner's goal to maximize inpatient safety and minimize the chances of self-inflicted injury. The firm had used GKD metal mesh on previous projects and saw a strong potential application for the material to support beautification and wellbeing.





## PROJECT DETAILS

### Owner

UWMC Seattle WA

### Architect

SRG Partnership

### Mesh Type

Lago



With minimal open space, GKD's Lago weave was employed to achieve biophilic security screening for patients in a courtyard terrace. Lago features a cluster of four cable wires woven onto a round weft rod. The product provides a blend of transparency and density while eliminating gaps or voids between the mesh material and the structure. This reduces the risk of stuck fingers, ligature, material sabotage, and damage related to human interaction with the screens. At the same time, Lago is 46% transparent, meaning ventilation and much-needed views to the surrounding trees and greenery are uninhibited. Patients can benefit from fresh air and sunlight and can connect to nature while also being safe and secure – without feeling imprisoned.

### Team Effort

Several players came together to ensure the success of the project. Thornton Tomasetti provided engineering services, and Schuff Steel of Portland, OR, coordinated with SRG and GKD to simplify project details and execute the installation of the mesh.

**“Developing relationships with the design and construction teams is extremely beneficial when solving complex project objectives,” says Andy Franks, Regional Sales Manager for GKD. “Working with behavioral health facilities presents complex challenges not experienced with other work. It’s extremely rewarding once completed.”**

Completed in summer of 2023, the facility has lived up to its high expectations to enhance the patient experience.

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