



CANCER CENTER

**Altus Architectural Studios, Inc.** OMAHA, NE  
**Midwest Cancer Center** OMAHA, NE



The Midwest Cancer Center provides comprehensive patient care while creating soothing, therapeutic spaces for interaction among patients, families, physicians, and staff.

Set on a sloped wooded lot, the two-story design separates diagnostic services from clinical services to accommodate patients who require different levels of care. The facility's upper level hosts infusion services, diagnostic consultations, and patient education, while the lower level houses state-of-the-art diagnostic imaging and radiation therapy services. Meanwhile, a two-story water feature connects the two floors with its elemental sounds resonating throughout the building.

Full-height glazing showcases the natural landscape, drawing in the tranquility of the outdoors to both patients and staff. At the client's request, the open infusion area enables social interaction among patients while still providing private treatment areas. Mobile infusion chairs give patients the option of sitting closer to the windows



to capture warmth, sunlight, and the view. Patients can even receive treatment on the open-air patio or spend time in the outdoor healing garden.

The interior design features natural materials and tones, combining wood panels in the ceiling and walls with carpets and tile on the floor to create an organic, nonclinical ambience. Fiber-optic lighting in the linear accelerator, layered with different lighting types, help relax the patient during treatment. Skylights illuminate interior hallways, enhanced by transom windows that stream natural light into exam rooms. Multiple layers of indirect lighting supplement the natural light, giving the building a warm inviting glow at night.



**Project category:** New construction (completed October 2007)  
**Chief administrator:** Linda Hamilton, Practice Administrator, (402) 334-4773  
**Firm:** Altus Architectural Studios, Inc., (866) 334-2422  
**Design team:** Loren Lamprecht, AIA, NCARB, Project Principal; Scott Kirchner, AIA, NCARB, Project Designer/Project Manager; Rick Kehres, Project Coordinator; Jessica Doolittle, IIDA, Interior Design  
**Photography:** Assassi  
**Total building area (sq. ft.):** 55,000  
**Construction cost/sq. ft.:** \$218  
**Total construction cost (excluding land):** \$12,000,000