



SageGlass®



## BUTLER COUNTY HEALTH CARE CENTER

David City, Nebraska, USA

### CASE STUDY

#### CHALLENGE

In designing a new wellness center addition, Butler County Health Care Center sought to build a comfortable healing environment with a clear and rejuvenating connection to the outdoors. Project leaders also wanted to create a showcase building for which the community could be proud.

The addition was to be constructed on the south-facing end of the hospital to take full advantage of outdoor views and the therapeutic benefits of natural light. Numerous studies prove that patients exposed to abundant daylight experience less stress, require less pain medication, have fewer complications and recover faster.

This approach presented a significant glare and heat problem, particularly in the winter months when the sun is at a low angle in the sky. The use of mechanical shades was ruled out early in the project — not merely due to view obstruction, but because of a complex curtain wall design that flares out at a seven-degree angle in curved pie-shaped forms. Mechanical shades would have also presented issues with dust and germ accumulation.

*“They wanted to keep the design bright and open so that people could see inside the facility. Electrochromic glass made the most sense for controlling the sun and heat gain without cutting off the wellness center from the community.”*

**Daniel Sutton**

President, City Glass Company



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## SOLUTION

The project team ultimately specified SageGlass® glazing for the wellness center's curved, 22-foot-tall glass curtain wall totaling more than 3,000 square-feet of surface area. The dynamic curtain wall is digitally programmed to "follow the sun," as SageGlass automatically tints in vertical sections based on time of day and sun angle.

"The architect and building owners didn't want to create a closed-off mirrored box with reflective glass, but wanted to keep the design bright and open so that people could see inside the facility," said Daniel Sutton, president of City Glass Company. "Electrochromic glass made the most sense for controlling the sun and heat gain without cutting off the wellness center from the community."

## BENEFITS

Today, the new wellness center bustles with activity as both an advanced therapeutic facility and modern health club. With clear views to the park and golf course nearby, the facility serves local residents with private therapy rooms, cardiovascular equipment and a weight training room, as well as an indoor walking track that circles it all.

SageGlass has been instrumental in helping the center achieve its design goals of creating openness and a strong connection with the community, which was an important objective for this high-profile project.

The center also benefits from improved energy-efficiency through reduced HVAC requirements. "We were able to reduce the heating and air conditioning unit requirements by one size," said Douglas Elting of Visions in Architecture (VIA), the project's lead architect.



SageGlass makes it possible for patients, staff and members to enjoy unobstructed outdoor views from a comfortable environment, while taking full advantage of the proven restorative effects of natural daylight.

**ARCHITECT:** Visions in Architecture (VIA)

**GLAZING CONTRACTOR:** City Glass Company

## WHY SAGEGLASS?

The pioneer of the world's smartest electrochromic glass, SageGlass® is the ultimate connector between the built and natural environments. SageGlass tints on demand to optimize daylight, reduce glare and manage heat – all while maintaining unobstructed views of the outdoors. With SageGlass, architects and building owners can improve occupant comfort and reduce energy demand in buildings. As a wholly owned subsidiary of Saint-Gobain, SageGlass is backed by more than 350 years of building science expertise. Learn more at [www.SageGlass.com](http://www.SageGlass.com) or join SageGlass on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.

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