

## Braconier Sees 50-Percent Labor Savings With Jay R. Smith Mfg. Co. Quarterback Water Closet Support

Minimizing installation time was an especially high priority for Braconier Mechanical & Plumbing Services' work on a children's hospital, so they used Jay R. Smith Mfg. Co.'s new Quarterback Water Closet Support for the project. Tom Stone, president of Braconier, said the Quarterback provided a 50-percent labor savings because it's quicker to build and assemble and more adjustable, offering more flexibility when compared with the older Linebacker model.

The Children's Hospital Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus, in Aurora, CO, had been open less than 5 years when their reputation as one of the nation's leading hospitals led them to expand the still-new facility. In February of 2011, the hospital embarked on a \$230 million renovation and construction project, which included a three-story addition and renovation of 89,985 square feet of the existing structure. The renovations took place in active areas of the hospital that administered critical care to

patients. Throughout the project, all of the contractors were challenged to think outside the box to minimize the impact of the work on patients and caregivers.

### *New and Improved Design*

As any plumbing contractor who has worked on a health care facility knows, off-the-floor mounted fixtures are the standard, because infection control is paramount. Off-the-floor water closets make cleaning floors and walls efficient and thorough. Concealed water closet supports are essential to provide the proper structural support while relieving any loading from the wall structure.

The Quarterback Water Closet Support's new leg design provides easy front access to the securing bolts, allowing easy height adjustments even with adjacent wall framing. Four securing slots per leg allow for the securing of attachments and accessories. This design provides versatility in the prefabrication of water closet batteries while allowing the required

slope in the horizontal waste line. The redesigned legs also provide a better fit against the angle iron often used for prefabrication. When working inside a shallow chase, an offset in the faceplate moves the legs back, providing a rough in depth that is 3/4" shallower for singles and 1-1/2" shallower for doubles.

Another significant improvement is the new vent placement. Vent placement 2 3/8" from the centerline of the waste outlet eliminates interference with the water supply to the flush valve, especially in back-to-back applications.

### *Prefab Speeds Installation Time*

Most of Braconier's work on the hospital project took place in individual patient rooms, rather than public restrooms with multiple fixture installations. The project involved a mix of newly constructed patient rooms and, on some floors, rooms that had been shelled out during the original construction.

When working in the individual patient rooms, Braconier found it beneficial to start the water closet support setup in their fabrication lab. They unboxed and assembled the faceplate to the fittings, adjusted them to the correct fixture outlet roughing height, and sent them to the jobsite.

The labor savings that resulted from using the Quarterback Water Closet Support and assembling it offsite reduced Braconier's costs and added convenience. For the hospital project, however, Braconier found themselves in a situation where speed was especially important.

In the hospitals' Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), for example, the project called for converting a one-room unit, where patient beds were separated by curtain dividers, into individual rooms to give the families of these vulnerable patients privacy during a very stressful time in their

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The new design of Jay R. Smith Mfg. Co.'s Quarterback Water Closet Support provides versatility in prefabricating water closet batteries. Because they could assemble the units offsite, Braconier reduced costs and saved time while renovating Children's Hospital Colorado.

## BMWC Safely Executes a Heavy Lift, Thanks to Lifting Gear Hire

### Cooperation and Planning Help BMWC Move Quickly, Save Costs

For a challenging project with a short timeline, **BMW Constructors, Inc.** (BMWC), partnered with **Lifting Gear Hire** (LGH), who not only supplied the appropriately sized, tested, and certified lift equipment but also expertise in developing a lift plan. As a result, BMWC set two 15' x 52' cooling tower unit sections inside an active, working refinery without disrupting day-to-day operations, completing the project on schedule and under budget. In addition to coordinating placement and use of a 550-ton crane, submitting an engineer lift plan for approval, and preparing the site to meet the project soil compaction requirements, BMWC was also responsible for removing the HVAC/scrubber units.

#### The Lifting Solution

Lifting Gear Hire provided the correct design configuration of the rigging and modular spreader beams to the structural engineer to create the critical lift plan. The quoting process used by LGH assisted the structural engineers in easily identifying equipment weight and capacities needed for calculations, as well as providing all of the safety certifications needed. "The involvement of LGH's team really built a high level of confidence with our client," states Dan Stegvilas, BMWC purchasing manager.

Stegvilas added, "LGH has also been proactive instead of reactive, and they are always available with the right tools and expertise when needed."

The lift design configuration was planned so that the same rigging equipment could be used for both critical lifts in different configurations as needed, further enhancing BMWC's cost- and time-savings. Modular spreader beams played a key role, allowing the project's structural engineer to adjust the equipment according to each lift quickly—within

the two-day time frame allotted for both lifts.

#### Ideal Outcome

The entire scope of work was completed in one week, with the critical lift taking place over a weekend. The project was completed without injury or incident, on schedule, and under budget as well. John Manta, BMWC vice president of marketing & sales, said, "Working with LGH is always a positive experience. From top to bottom within their organization, every individual that I've worked with or come across nationally has been 100-percent supportive of our company's efforts in all areas."

For more information, visit [www.lgh-usa.com](http://www.lgh-usa.com).



To set two 15' x 52' cooling tower unit sections inside an active, working refinery without disrupting day-to-day operations, BMWC worked with LGH to create a lift plan that maximized use of the heavy equipment, saving BMWC time and money.

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lives. The NICU was to remain operational while the work was taking place. The last thing Braconier wanted to do was increase the stress on the patients and families there. Stone said the Quarterback helped Braconier workers get in and out of the area with as little disruption as possible.

In total, 50 water closet carriers were installed. The entire project is expected to be completed in April 2014.

Stone said of Jay R. Smith Mfg. Co., "The products are good or we wouldn't buy them. They listen to the feedback they get from contractors and use that feedback to review and innovate their product lines, helping customers meet demands of ever

tightening schedules in today's marketplace. They have a good inventory, so we're able to get what we need when we need it. Their customer service is second to none."

For more information, visit [www.jrsmith.com](http://www.jrsmith.com).

**MCAA thanks Jay R. Smith Mfg. Co. for being a supporter of MCAA 2014.**