

Cascade Eye & Skin Relies on Rush Companies for Quality Build-out in Gig Harbor Relocation

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South Sound residents are already familiar with Cascade Eye & Skin Center, which has operations in multiple locations throughout the area – Puyallup, University Place, Auburn, Bonney Lake and Gig Harbor. Now they’re relocating to Point Fosdick Square, in the growing area of Uptown Gig Harbor. Rush Companies, who has worked with the group on numerous projects since 2005, is handling the

3900 square foot build-out.

“Having worked with Cascade on several projects from smaller clinics to larger buildings and clinical facilities, in both new construction and remodels, we feel a great partnership has developed,” says Michael Desmarteau, Principal Architect with Rush Companies. “Because we’ve learned their program, we’re able to efficiently design to their particular requirements.” Cascade Eye & Skin Centers focus on quality and value in design, color and finishes, so each Center has a unique feel, yet enough commonalities that patients identify the look with the entity.

Wanda Davis, Cascade Eye & Skin Centers Administrator, corroborates. “We like to see comfortable spaces and create a welcoming atmosphere in our clinics and retail areas. Rush gets that. Because they understand our business model, the process flows smoothly.” Cascade Eye & Skin focuses on the expectations of the people who trust their care, whether for ophthalmology

visits, checking out a suspicious mole, Lasik surgery or anti-aging treatments.

Desmarteau says that the partnership of working with Cascade Eye & Skin is grounded in a history of successful endeavors. Consider that repeat business is always a good sign, then add in the ability to eliminate a lot of the headaches and decision-making that comes with new projects, and it’s clear the two organizations are walking in step. He explains, “We’ve learned what their procedure rooms need to look like, how to dial-in their power and lighting requirements – all crucial for the types of medical services they provide.”

At the new Gig Harbor build-out, the locale is part of Cascade’s goal to gain more visibility, as well as add capacity to serve the growing area. “The standalone medical and retail space mixed into a retail environment should be interesting. We’re really excited about the opportunity to be part of the Square,” says Davis. The mega-complex includes

large anchor stores as well as office tenants. It's quite a switch from the smaller building in a residential area where Cascade Eye & Skin has made its home in Gig Harbor for the past few years, and brings a few changes. For instance, the practice is taking the opportunity to move the Gig Harbor refractive surgery procedure to the Puyallup office. "Our Puyallup Center has the right humidity, temperatures and overall environment to promote optimal outcomes for our patients," explains Davis. "Plus, the surgical technology requires a large space and specific power demands, so while we can handle pre- and post-operative visits at the new Gig Harbor locale, the procedure itself will take place in Puyallup."

Patients will enjoy the Point Fosdick Square location's retail environment, which includes not only the full cosmetic center but also will carry skin care lines of physi-

cian grade products. Another convenience factor includes on-site availability of certain prescribed products not usually covered by insurance. Typically, Cascade Eye & Skin can fill the prescription at an equal or better price than a chain pharmacy, and provide a highly knowledgeable staff to answer any questions. The ophthalmology side of the location will have a full optical center for all patients' eye needs, including contacts, reading glasses, regular sunglasses, or prescription wear.

The retail center environment calls for a slightly different look, but the palette remains true to Cascade's preference for calming, warm beige tones on the walls and Northwest greens in flooring and carpet materials. "Rush helped us decide on our palette in 2008, and since then, we've carried it through in all our offices, branding the look and feel for the clinics," says Davis. The lobby

area's 16-foot ceilings compliment the commercial grade finishes, and the cosmetic counter subtly separates the retail from the medical side reception area where patients check in for appointments.

The concept and commitment to quality that Cascade Eye & Skin Centers carries throughout their practices is fully visible in the design for the build-out. Davis credits the full-spectrum services that Rush provides as the differentiator in many of their projects. "We've worked with other contractors, but Rush seems to be our common denominator in so many successes. They work with us on both large and small projects. Michael Desmarteau has such vision that we tend to go through projects with little or no change orders. It's a true pleasure to see a project come alive with them."

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