

Still Hopes

Columbia, South Carolina



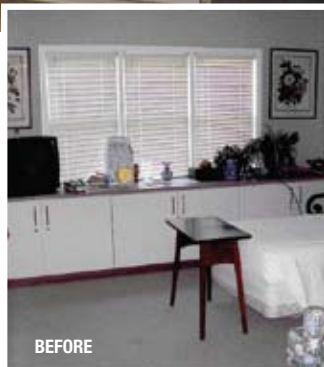
©2011 LowryMcKee Photography

Interior Design: GMK Interiors; **Contractor:** GMK Associates; **Flooring:** Toli; **Lighting:** Progress Lighting; **Paint:** Benjamin Moore, Rose Talbert, Sherwin-Williams; **Solid Surface:** LG; **Wall Base:** Johnsonite

Occupancy in the Rosalie Bomar Assisted Living Dementia Unit at Still Hopes Retirement Community was quickly sliding downhill despite high marketing traffic. The unit's more traditional community areas and resident rooms, offering minimal storage and space, needed modernization. Prospective residents and their families sought comfort, convenience, and an environment where they could age in style—part of a new resident population whose expectation is high-end comfort, convenience, and the latest in technology. Knowing design, which addresses this new culture and its inherent lifestyle trends head on, will own the future in terms of viability and potential profitability,

GMK Interiors worked with Still Hopes on extensive renovations to 24 resident rooms and its public healthcare areas. The design team created custom storage spaces, along with new finishes and fixtures for each resident room, as well as renovated bathing spaces. Working to “open up each room” and create more usable space, the designers reprogrammed existing areas and added fresh design materials. The result: personal, residential rooms easier to navigate and more accommodating from a storage standpoint.

The traditional healthcare unit was transformed into a residential-inspired space offering comfort, activity and, above all, choices that meet the residents' needs and exceed their expect-



tations. The renovation proved a huge success, most readily seen through a 33 percent increase in occupancy.

Jury comments

- *This is the most storage (and nice looking storage) I've ever seen in a resident room.*
- *Nice flooring change, good storage.*

Reader comments

- *Great use of storage space.*
- *More inviting.*