The University of San Francisco’s Mission Bay Medical Center is a state-of-the-art 878,000 square foot medical complex which integrates green roofs into several levels of its terraced design. As one of only 15 hospitals worldwide with LEED certification, this building was built from the ground up to reduce its overall environmental footprint, and also includes solar panels, energy efficient design and low water use fixtures. In addition, the 1.1 acres of accessible green roof and 3.2 acres of other green space are partially irrigated with re-used cooling tower water and collected rainwater, saving approximately 4 million gallons of potable water each year.

The terraced design of the four story building affords views of the outdoors and the green roof to many of the patient rooms and offices. This view and access to the natural vegetation on the green roof may have a calming and therapeutic effect on patients, contributing to better health outcomes.