



**Spectra Laboratories** is leading the dialysis industry as the primary provider of renal-specific laboratory services. Its clinical laboratory scientists and technicians conduct complex, time-sensitive laboratory testing, with potential impact on the lives of kidney disease patients. With growing demand for its lab services, company management sought to move its West Coast Operations into a larger facility that could accommodate additional staff, as well as the latest analytic, robotics and IT equipment. It selected design and construction partners that could support these goals including Hillhouse Construction as the design-assist general contractor.



*“We needed to expand and integrate operations to solidify our place in the industry and attract new business as we address the current and imminent dialysis testing needs of renal patients,”*

**Nicholas R. Brownlee, President,  
Spectra Laboratories.**

Construction of a bioscience laboratory test and demonstration center such as that envisioned by Spectra Laboratories presents unique building requirements. To ensure accurate clinical data, all aspects of the testing platform must be stable and state-of-the-art, including the lab building itself. Delivery of water, power and temperature to individual rooms containing lab stations needs to be highly controlled and reliable.

Once it identified a larger facility for lease, Spectra Laboratories sought out architectural firm Reel Grobman & Associates to complete the space plan. Spectra Laboratories was committed to completing the expansion and relocation without any disruption to its clients. In choosing its design and construction team, Spectra Laboratories was looking for technical know-how and solid working relationships with city officials to get the job done.

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*“The objective was to design a facility that delivers both work flow efficiency and fosters a positive work environment for an operation that works 24/7. The added challenge was to complete the project on a fast-track timeline. The team worked well together, making timely design and cost decisions so as not to slow the demanding construction schedule”*

**Nima Gujar, Principal,  
Reel Grobman & Associates**

The Hillhouse project team was led by Kevin Huesby as Project Executive, Mark Repanich as Project Manager and John Kellerby as Project Superintendent.

*“I highly recommend Hillhouse Construction Company...I am most satisfied with the leadership, work quality and costs controls on this project. We were able to go from initial design to completion within 6.5 months”*

**Curtis Johnson, VP Operation and General Manager,  
Spectra Laboratories.**

The new 94,000-square-foot space plan called for 33,000sf of clinical laboratory. The project required the removal of the original building’s entire mechanical and electrical infrastructure and subsequent replacement with lab-quality systems. The extensive mechanical system required that the roof system of the one-story building undergo significant structural modifications. The 24/7 operation schedule for the facility required an immediate back-up power system. The new infrastructure supports an ultra-pure deionized water system, walk-in specimen storage refrigeration units, extensive laboratory furnishing and cutting-edge analytical and testing equipment.

There were also major improvements to the interior design. The administration and executive office area is an artful blend of color, modern lighting, millwork, flooring and interior glass walls.

*“It was a pleasure working with Spectra Laboratories, Reel Grobman and the entire project team including the dedicated subcontractors and City of Milpitas building officials. We appreciate Spectra Laboratories valuing our expertise in technical and laboratory construction and recognizing our commitment and passion for delivering a job well done”.*

**Kevin Huesby, EVP & Project Executive,  
Hillhouse Construction Company, Inc**

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## ABOUT HILLHOUSE:

For over 20 years, Hillhouse Construction has been the general contractor of choice for some of the Bay Area’s most demanding construction projects, consistently delivering services of unsurpassed quality on-time and within budget.

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