

KENDAL AT OBERLIN

Oberlin, Ohio



Herman Gibans Fodor, Inc. was retained by Kendal at Oberlin to prepare a master plan for the expansion of the existing continuing care retirement community. The existing campus is located adjacent to Oberlin College on a ninety-three acre site, with twenty-two acres of designated wetlands. The community consists of 192 residential living units, skilled nursing care, assisted living, and a community center.

Throughout the master planning process, HGF worked closely with a committee comprised of Kendal residents, board members, and staff. In addition, HGF conducted 'design charrettes' open to all of the residents of the retirement community to develop a consensus for the planning goals and to ensure that voices were heard during the process. This included the addition of thirty-six independent living cottages, an eight bed assisted living expansion, a marketing admissions and meeting addition, a spa and quiet room addition, a new therapy garden, renovation of the existing dining room and kitchen, a staff training addition, and renovations to the existing resident care clinic. The first phase of the project included the construction of twelve new independent living unit cottages.



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The new independent living cottages are constructed in a meadow between an existing lake and silver maple woodland. The design of the new cottages takes advantage of the marvelous views with an angled wall of glass in each living room that is oriented toward the scenic vistas. Another angled wall provides access to a covered porch that residents are permitted to enclose to create a three-season room. The living rooms also feature a fourteen-foot high cathedral ceiling that further enhances the openness of the cottages.

All of the cottages are fully wheelchair accessible to permit a resident to remain in their unit as long as possible. Other elements, such as pull-out shelving in the kitchen base cabinets, increased lighting levels, step-in shower units, slip resistant flooring and emergency pull chords, enhance the safety and function of the new cottages. The cottages were also designed to have larger room sizes to permit greater flexibility in furniture layout along with plenty of storage space for residents' belongings.

