

Public Healthcare... but Private Sector Standards

Readers may be saying to themselves, 'OK, this is great design and very interesting lighting, but that's because US healthcare is privatised and they have bags of money to spend'. So over the next two pages, we showcase three US lighting schemes in healthcare facilities funded directly by local city authorities – or by non-profit making organisations

1. Clinic of Calm

At the STD Clinic of the Central Harlem Health Center in New York, lighting designers Cline Bettridge Bernstein, created a calm, reassuring lighting scheme which helped to negate the institutional associations of the Clinic

The Central Harlem Health Center is located in a landmarked building whose interiors were so outdated that the community was not taking advantage of the services offered. The design challenge for its interior renovation was to produce a tranquil and welcoming spa-like environment for a state-of-the-art STD facility, instead of a coldly clinical space. Lighting design played an important role in the transformation by creating a bright and reassuring atmosphere. Simple fixtures were installed in innovative architectural features to stretch the project's modest budget. To minimise maintenance requirements, the lighting fixtures use only four lamp types and were designed for high energy-efficiency. The project is the winner of a 2010 IES Illumination Award of Merit.

Diffuse light sources were used throughout to create a soothing ambient light without harsh shadows. As one steps through the door into the main lobby, the lighting offers relief from a low ceiling by evoking a skylight effect (*photo 1*) and accentuates the warm tones of the natural and sustainable materials introduced in the lobby and used throughout the space.

At the reception desk, the bamboo and porcelain tile walls are illuminated by compact fluorescent wallwashers. In front of the exterior punched windows, an interior diffusing screen of translucent resin camouflages the views, and also serves to obscure street-level vision, providing the required privacy for patients. Behind the screens, a pocket conceals simple T5 strips which are easily accessible for



In the main lobby an extensive backlit ceiling evokes a cool skylight

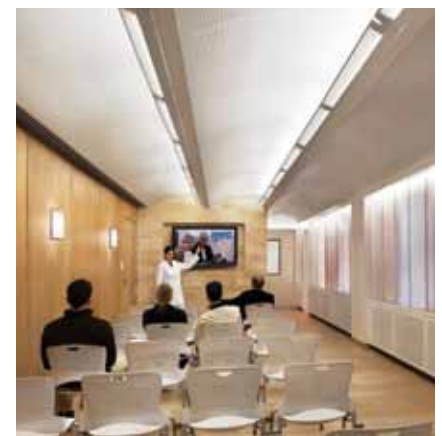
maintenance. The effect transforms the series of deep windows into a continuous glowing wall (*photo 2*). The resin screen material is made by African women whose lives have been touched by HIV/AIDS, and provides these women with an income source. Its illumination becomes a metaphor for shining a light on the worldwide HIV/AIDS problem.

In the waiting area, the shaped ceiling recalls the vaults of the corridors. A combination of lighting techniques brings an upbeat, optimistic aspect to this important space: the back-lit window screen enhances privacy while creating the illusion of a large expanse of window; the sculpting of ceilings with uplighting maximises their height; and sconces add scale and glow on the bamboo wall. Light that begins at the screen walls flows over the ceilings, enveloping patients in a safe and calm cocoon. The lighting achieves the desired tranquil and healing ambience within the clinic – and creates a strong psychological effect, bringing serenity to a demographic in need of comfort and reassurance.

For more information contact Marty Salzberg on 001 212-741-3280.

Credits:

Lighting Designers: Cline Bettridge Bernstein Lighting Design, Inc., New York
Architect: Stephen Yablon Architect
Photography: Michael Moran Photography



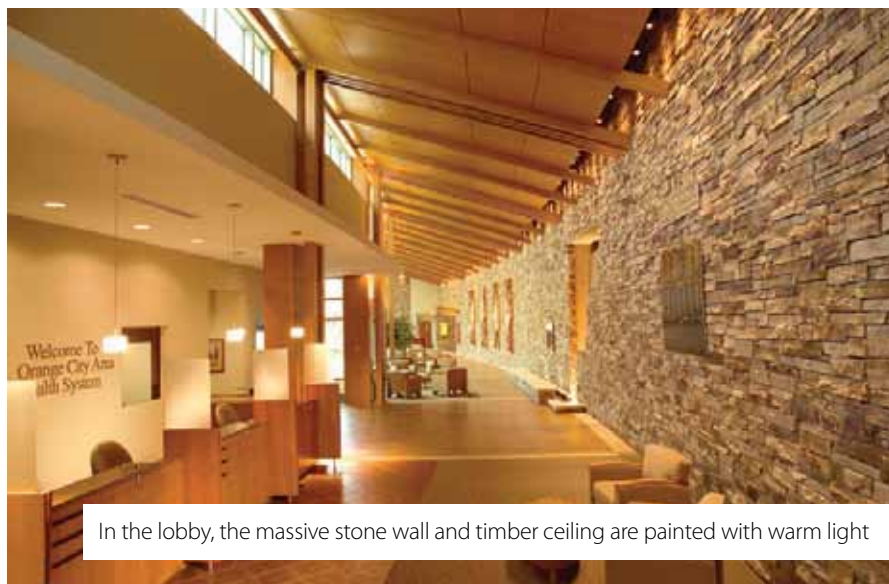
The waiting area with softly uplit vaulted ceiling and backlit window screen

2. Reassuring Reception

At the Orange City Health System facility in Iowa, HGA Lighting Design, used lighting in conjunction with warm, natural finishes to create an atmosphere of warmth and calm

Iowa's Orange City Health System serves the local community as a rural regional health service provider. The 11,000 sq m replacement hospital, with an integrated clinic, was totally designed by HGA Architects and Engineers – including the lighting. It has 25 patient beds, an Outpatient Procedural Services centre and a Diagnostics and Emergency department. The hospital maximises the use of natural light and materials such as wood and stone, creating a message of warmth and healing – HGA integrated much of the lighting into architectural details, to reveal material textures and colours, using energy-efficient light sources throughout.

A prime example of this approach is the lobby where the massive stone wall and the warm wood ceiling are painted with warm light. Light reflections add to the calming, almost spiritual experience of



In the lobby, the massive stone wall and timber ceiling are painted with warm light

the water feature. Grazing downlights and uplights enhance the rough stone wall and the finely textured water feature. Patient corridor lighting features the most energy-efficient light sources, while creating a non-institutional experience – and providing different light levels for day and night via a control system. In order to present a home-like setting, the patient rooms are softened with wood finishes and wall sconces. The lighting design provides comfort and warmth to patients and their families, as

the building projects a beautiful nightglow on the prairie.

For more information contact 001 612.758.4433 or email Tham@hga.com

Credits:

Architecture, engineering and lighting design: HGA Architects and Engineers, Minneapolis
Photography: Dana Wheelock Photography

3. Cheap and (very) Cheerful

Low cost, energy-efficient, yet patient-friendly lighting was the brief for Oregon-based lighting designers, Candela, at the Shriners' hospital in Portland

Shriners' is a unique not-for-profit organisation attempting to fill the healthcare

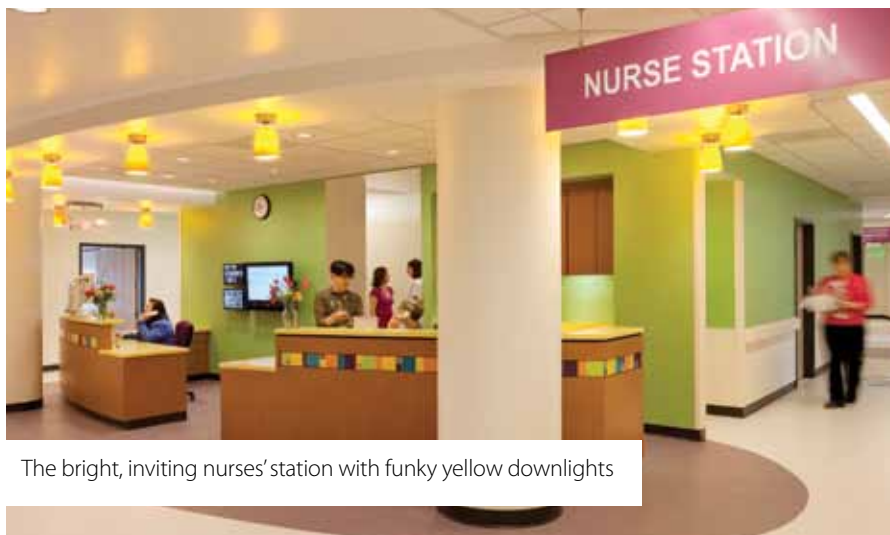
gap for people who can't pay for treatment. All capital funding is from the generous donations of their members and their fund-raising activities so every penny must be wisely spent. The funds raised enables Shriners' to operate several hospitals that serve children with primarily orthopedic needs. Some of their hospitals also treat burn victims and children with cleft lips or palates.

This project is an addition to an existing Shriners' Hospital on a narrow steep site

in Portland Oregon. The design is carefully conceived to address the unique needs of the hospital's patients and their families. Due to the nature of the services, some patients are there for long stays so the rooms must be especially comfortable and welcoming to families and patients. Maintenance costs had to be minimised, so care was taken to design and select energy-efficient lighting systems as well as systems that are easy to maintain. To this end, all lighting is fluorescent or LEDs with a limited number of lamp types to simplify maintenance. Standard catalogue lighting fixtures are paired with colourful murals and arranged in ways that create visual interest. Colour-change LEDs in decorative pendant fixtures support the high level of activity in the play area. A dot-dash pattern of lights in the corridor ceilings, using 32W cfls, breaks up the long runs and helps with orientation. For more information contact 0011 206 667 0518 or email dfong@candela.com

Credits:

Architecture: SRG Architects, Portland Oregon
Lighting Design: Candela, Seattle, Washington
Photography: Lara Swimmer Photography



The bright, inviting nurses' station with funky yellow downlights