2027

STUDENT DESIGN COMPETITION

Clarifying Questions







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Thank you for reading our 2027 IIDA Student Design Competition Questions and Answers document.

In addition to providing answers to the questions below, we also wanted to remind students to visit last year's 2026 IIDA Student Design Competition winners to help better understand what a jury is looking for when selecting winners.

Some of these include: clarity in design solutions, innovation, and designing with dignity. Jurors also appreciate and heavily consider the written statement provided in the design submission.

If you have any additional questions, please reach out to students@IIDA.org.

For questions regarding the elevator bank, please reference the updated floor plan, linked here.

BRIEF QUESTIONS

1. **How is the 50% furniture rule for OFS, Carolina, and ROOM calculated? Is it based on total item count, or total surface area of specified furniture blocks?**
   The 50% requirement is calculated based on estimated total item count.

2. **Are AI features inside rendering software, AI-generated textures or people cutouts, and Photoshop generative fill allowed for renderings?**
   No, AI usage is not permitted at any stage for the renderings.

3. **Is ⅛" scale required on the 24x36 board, or may plans be smaller? Which items make up the 10–12 JPGs, and can schedules or diagrams count?**
   a. Yes, the floor plan that is required on your digital presentation board needs to be drawn to a ⅛ scale.
   b. For questions regarding the 10–12 images you are submitting, please reference Item 2 on the submission requirements listed on the design brief.

4. **Is there a software preference or required for this project?**
   There is no preference. Please use what you are most comfortable with.

5. **If the optional areas are not included in a submission will that submission be less considered compared to other submissions?**
   No, optional areas are not required, and a lack of optional areas will not affect final scores.

FLOORPLAN QUESTIONS

1. **For the single doors on the exterior walls, are we allowed to close them permanently, or add doors to the external walls?**
   No, we do not permit any structural changes, changes to the doors, or to the windows.

2. **How many floors are in the multi-tenant building?**
   There are 4 floors in the building.

3. **Can the vestibules be removed altogether?**
   No, the vestibules must remain intact.

4. **Can the vestibule doors be relocated (e.g., to a side wall), or must they remain in their existing locations?**
   The vestibule itself cannot be moved, but the internal vestibule doors can be relocated to another wall at the designer's discretion.

FLOORPLAN QUESTIONS (CONTINUED)

5. **If only one vestibule is used as the main entrance, can the second vestibule be removed altogether?**
   No, all vestibules must remain intact.

6. **Can the interior vestibule walls be changed from glass to solid walls?**
   No, they must remain the same.

7. **According to the brief, the space is located on the first floor of the building. Can we propose relocating the project to the top floor to allow for ceiling modifications, such as skylights or open-air spaces?**
   No, the project must exist on the first floor of the building.

8. **Must access to the exit stairs be maintained through an unspecified space (e.g., a hallway), or can the stair entrances be incorporated into a designated program space with restricted access from the general area?**
   Staircase access cannot be restricted from the general area or public access (i.e. behind keycard access, etc.).

9. **Which direction is North on the floor plan?**
   True North is at the designer's discretion.

10. **Do we know what is outside of the building on each side? For instance, a parking lot? Another building? Trees and a view of the ocean? Grassy area with seating? Water feature?**
    This is open to the designer's discretion. You are welcome to design with consideration for the surrounding Miami environment of your choice.

11. **Do the staff lockers have to be within the staff lounge area, or can they be accessed in a different location?**
    Yes, staff lockers need to be located within the staff lounge.

12. **Are there any restrictions on where additional plumbing fixtures may be placed?**
    No, this is at the designer's discretion. You cannot make structural changes or move the existing restrooms, but you may create additional ones.

13. **Should there be a dedicated check-in space for sports medicine and another check-in space for orthopedics at the reception?**
    We are only requiring one designated check-in area, but additional check-in points are at the designer's discretion.

14. **Which exterior door or vestibule is the intended main patient entry? Can the other exterior doors be designated staff or service only, since the exterior can't be altered?**
    The main patient entrances are the two sets of center doors on Plan North and Plan South. Patients should be able to access both entrances for parking and transit around the building, but this is up to the designer's discretion.

15. **Are the designers responsible for estimating the room sizes?**
    Yes, please review all requirements and space plan accordingly.

16. **Can the physical therapy department utilize exterior areas and paths for mobility and gait testing or do all the walking tracks and tests have to be confined indoors within the clinic?**
    There is no exterior space available for the project. All walking tracks and tests need to be hosted internally.

17. **Must the individual therapy area(s) be enclosed or separated from the open rehabilitation activities?**
    The physical therapy space should support both individual therapy and open rehabilitation activities. The designer has discretion on how to align these aspects in the space.

RESTROOM QUESTIONS

1. **Are we allowed to have additional bathrooms?**
   Yes, you are able to add additional restrooms as you see fit.

2. **According to the brief, the restrooms must remain in their existing locations. Is there any flexibility to relocate them within the building?**
   Restrooms need to remain where they are in the existing floor plan.

3. **If relocation is not permitted, can the existing plumbing and perimeter walls remain in place while modifying the restroom entrances, including door locations and swing orientations?**
   Yes, this is up to the designer's discretion as long as there are no structural changes.

4. **Can the existing restroom and vestibule walls be modified to incorporate curved walls?**
   Yes, as long as you are not making structural changes, this is up to the designer's discretion.

5. **Do restrooms need to be modified or designed to comply with current Florida accessibility standards, including the potential addition of an ADA-compliant restroom or stall?**
   Yes, all restrooms need to meet ADA-compliance nationally and for the state of Florida.

6. **Can the existing restrooms be modified to be gender-inclusive?**
   Yes, this is up to the designer's discretion.

WINDOWS QUESTIONS

1. **What type of windows are used in the floor plan? (casing, etc) If there is a certain type, are we allowed to change it?**
   All exterior windows are floor-to-ceiling and cannot be changed.

2. **Can existing windows be converted into doors and vice versa?**
   All exterior windows are floor-to-ceiling and cannot be changed.

3. **Could you please clarify whether there are windows along the left side of the building, or if that area is simply a setback/recess with no windows?**
   This area is a recess with no windows.

THEORETICAL + HEALTHCARE QUESTIONS

1. **How many people will be working in this facility?**
   40

2. **How many simultaneous patients and therapists should we plan for?**
   6 providers seeing patients simultaneously.

3. **What kind of procedures will be done in the procedure suite?**
   This office handles minor procedures and minimally-invasive procedures, while maintaining flexibility for treatments.

THEORETICAL + HEALTHCARE QUESTIONS (CONTINUED)

4. **Is there a color scheme associated with the business brand?**
   This is up to the designer's discretion.

5. **For "emerging technologies" in the check-in area, is this referring to self-service kiosks and similar advancements that speed up registration? Can you provide any additional examples?**
   We encourage all applicants to research technologies that streamline registration and reduce the need for a traditional reception desk while maintaining opportunities for personalized patient interaction.

6. **Is this new construction or is the facility in an existing building?**
   This MOB is inside of an existing building.

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