

# IIDA

## STUDENT DESIGN COMPETITION <sup>20</sup>/<sub>22</sub> Project Showcase

A guide to inform and inspire student design projects and participation in future IIDA competitions.

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# IIDA

## STUDENT DESIGN COMPETITION

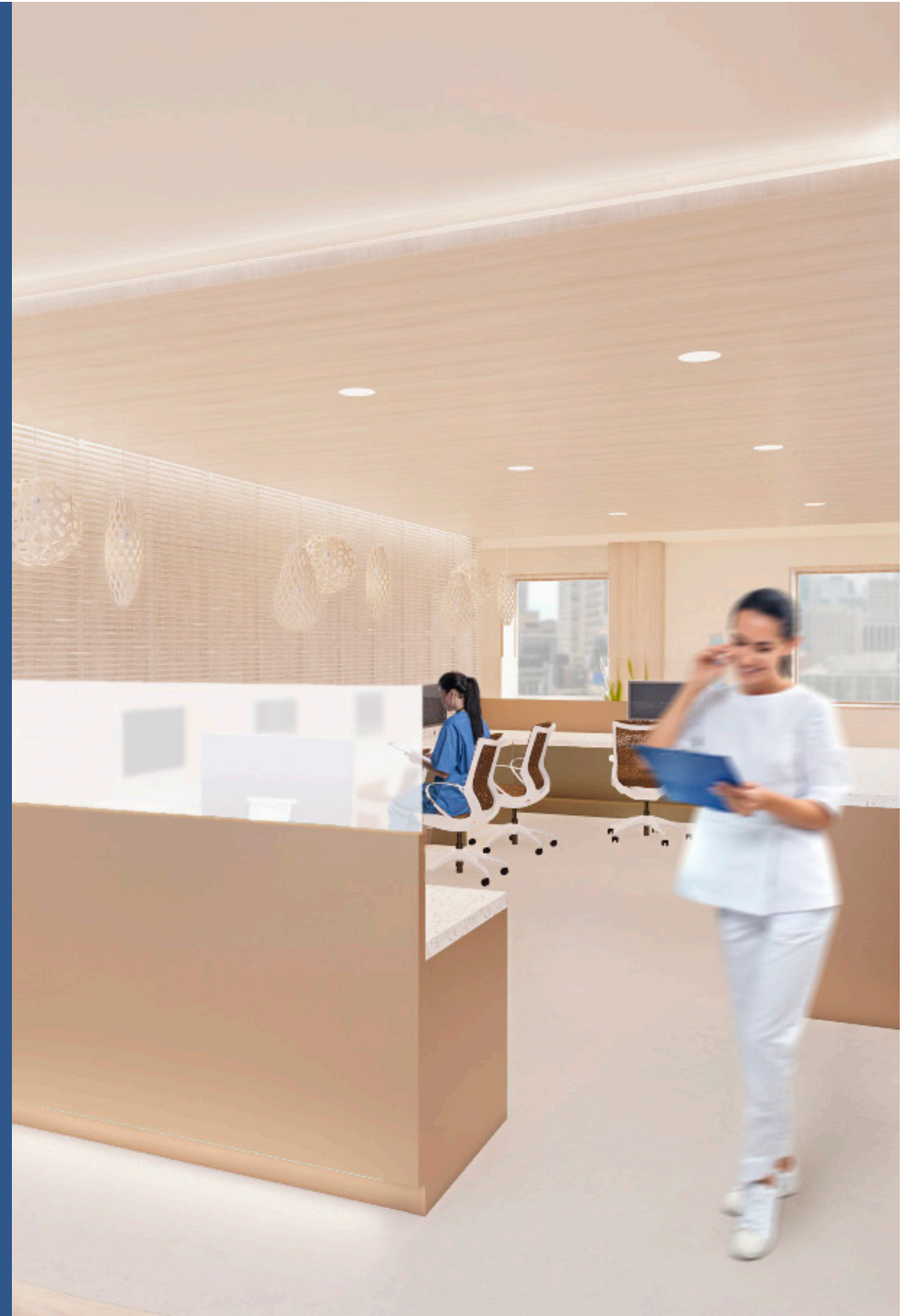
SDC celebrates the talent and fresh design ideas of interior design students throughout the world who are currently enrolled in an interior design or interior architecture program or institution by providing them the opportunity to showcase their work and gain exposure in the design industry.



# DESIGN PROBLEM

The 2021 design problem invited participants to space plan and design a primary care clinic within an existing hospital building located on the 14th floor of a Chicago building. Our jurors closely reviewed and scored the student projects submitted from across the globe and convened virtually to discuss and select the winners. Projects were judged on:

- Innovation and creativity
- Coherence and functionality
- Human and environmental impact
- Presentation
- Fulfillment of the project requirements and if applicable, any work above and beyond the stated requirements



# OUR GOAL

In the pages that follow, you'll find comments and ideas taken directly from the esteemed jurors who reviewed this year's competition submissions, as well as the student-written project descriptions. In addition to the three winning projects, four other submissions are here for your review.

Our goal is for students to take this information and push the boundaries of design. Be daring enough to capture your audience's attention and imagination, while demonstrating your thoughtfulness, intentionality and discipline. The IIDA Student Design Competition is an opportunity not to "play it safe," but rather to aim for the aspirational. We wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors.



# 2021 JURORS



**Edwin A. Beltran, FIIDA, Assoc. AIA**  
Principal | Designer  
NBBJ



**Amy Mays, IIDA, EDAC**  
Associate Vice President  
HDR



**Natalie Thomas**  
National Accounts Director | Healthcare  
OFS

# FIRST PLACE

## PROJECT

Skyline Internal Medicine Primary Care

## STUDENT

Nicolas Swaner

## SCHOOL

Marymount University

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Through restorative design and biophilic elements, patients and providers will continuously experience a spa-like health clinic that addresses the needs of holistic health and relaxation. Inspired by Chicago's nickname, "the Windy City," the design uses curved forms and glazed glass to create a sense of openness while adhering to HIPPA considerations.





When looking to renovate their downtown Chicago medical office, Skyline Health Systems wanted a clinical space that felt more akin to a spa than a healthcare setting. As an internal medicine practice, the interior concept needed to visually appeal to younger demographics, while supporting the functional needs of providers and staff.

Inspired by Chicago's nickname, "the Windy City," the design for the newly renovated space is supported by biophilic elements associated with the concept of wind, both aesthetically and functionally. Openness and transparency, curved forms and light, and efficiency were main design tenants inspired by wind when creating solutions for the space.

Openness and transparency were utilized to evoke a sense of trust between patients and providers. When patients are at ease and trusting they are more likely to communicate their health needs with professionals. To accomplish this the interior concept reduces the amount of partitions needed within the waiting area and places emphasis on corridor circulation. In doing so, patients and staff experience a sense of openness in an otherwise small footprint. Additionally, many of the partitions used within the space are glazed glass demountable walls. These partitions allow for patients to partially see into the provider workspace, demystifying the vagueness of provider workflow. A glazed film is used to account for HIPPA considerations.

The curved forms within the space are illustrated through curved corners and dropped ceilings. These forms not only help to indicate space, but also allow light to bend around corners, penetrating deeper into the clinic's core. Additionally, the curved forms also give the space a gentle sense of movement. To support the design element of movement, a watercolor ombre effect was applied to Acrovyn wall panels that border the grouped exam rooms and other accent walls throughout the clinic. As mentioned previously, light was also a major consideration when designing the space. Due to the limited quantity of natural light, glass partitions and curved corners allow natural light to reach farther into the interior. Cove lighting was also installed around the exam room pods, giving a gentle spa-like glow to the space and providing wayfinding for patients.

Lastly, efficiency was a major concern for providers. To address these concerns strategic space planning allowed for the creation of three exam room pods. These pods are associated with the patient care teams within the clinic: the blue team, the orange team, and the grey team. The creation of these pods allows for efficiencies in clinical practices, workflow, and champions the concept of teamwork within the employees. Efficiency was also realized using technology integration. Each exam room features a large screen for patient communication. Providers are equipped with tablets that implement screen sharing, allowing providers to cast the patient's information on the screen for better communication. In addition, these screens are also used for telehealth appointments and supporting additional care models for patients.

Through restorative design and biophilic elements, patients and providers will continuously experience a spa-like health clinic that addresses the needs of holistic health and relaxation.



CHECK IN & WAITING AREA

**“A well-conceived and comprehensively thought through planning strategy sets a great foundation for this winning submission. Its programmatic organization is clear. The spatial and operational sequence is viable and logical. The expressive and experiential resolution of the entire space is cohesively choreographed through a design language supportive of an intuitive, discernable, and welcoming experience. The clever balance of efficiency and empathy is what differentiated this entry as a mature, comprehensive, and thoughtful solution.”**

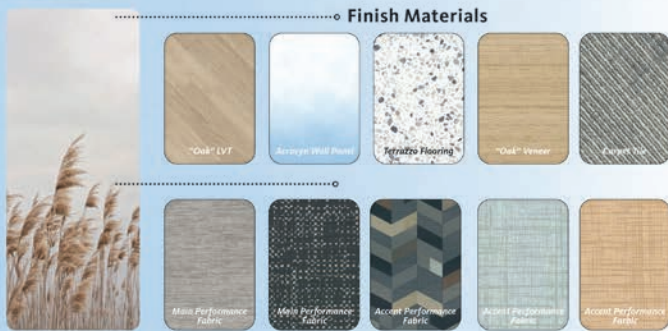
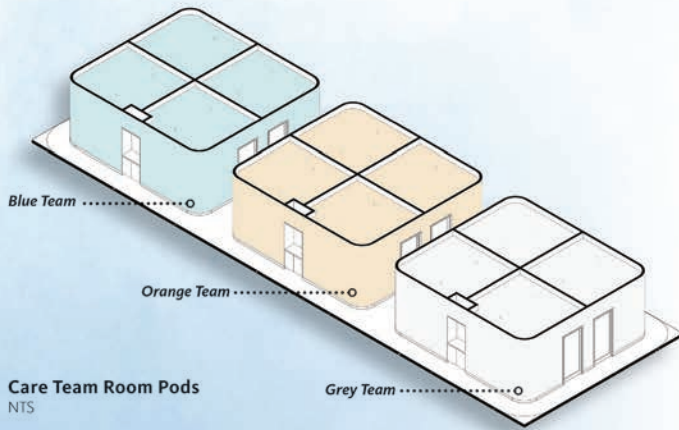
-Edwin A. Beltran, Juror



EXAM ROOM

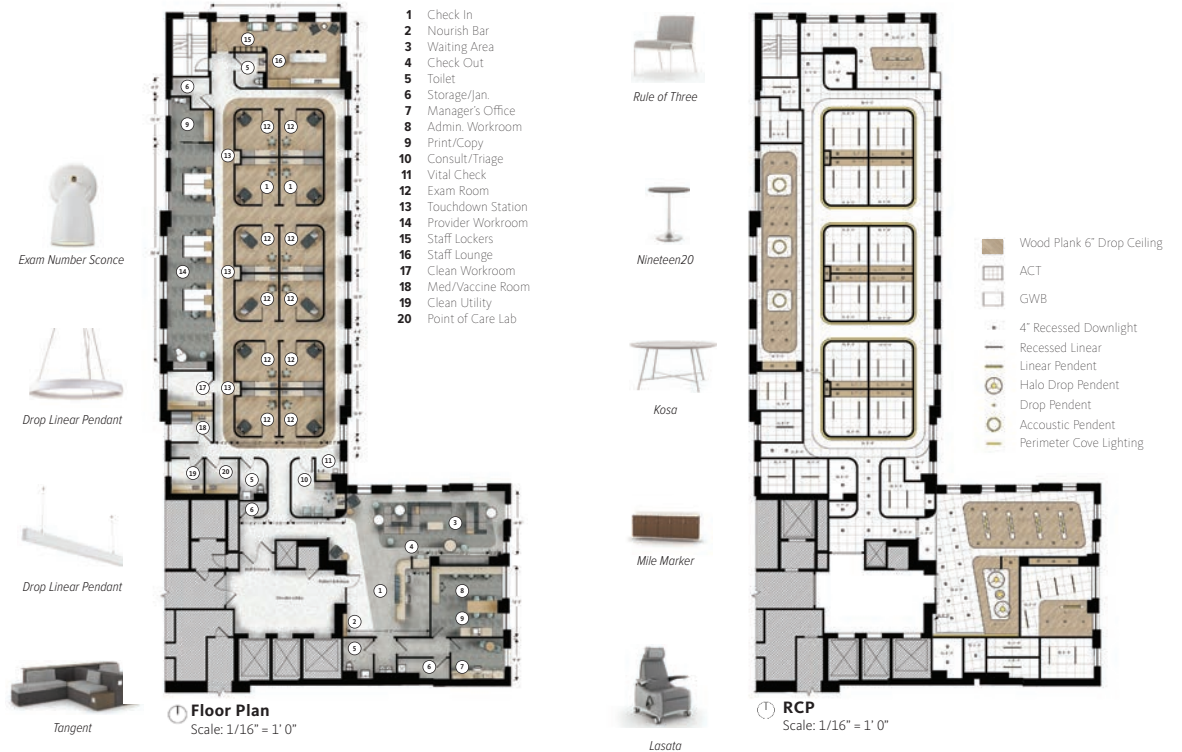
“A very creative planning approach was one of the drivers of success on this project. The soft lines and the materials used created balance resulting in an airy, light feel. The thoughtfulness around the lighting, ADA counters, and the functional elements of the exam room, signage, and materials proved that all aspects of the design were well thought out.”

-Amy Mays, Juror



“The full renovation created a more functional flow for both the patients and staff. The color palette was inviting and the furnishings were inviting.”

-Natalie Thomas, Juror





# SECOND PLACE

## PROJECT

AURA Primary Care Clinic

## STUDENTS

Soyeon Kwon, Student IIDA  
and Yi-Ting Hsieh

## SCHOOL

Pratt Institute

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

With a focus on creating a relaxing medical experience, AURA provides holistic preventative care so staff may manage all aspects of a patient's wellness. The design showcases high-end, soft-toned materials that create a hospitable atmosphere and a warm and affectionate medical environment to ease patients' discomfort, while also utilizing technology to create efficiency for physicians.



# AURA PRIMARY CARE CLINIC

AURA Primary Care Clinic is located in Chicago, Illinois. It focuses on creating a relaxing medical experience, holistic preventative care, and is available to patients by appointment only. The caregivers know the patient's family histories and manage all aspects of their wellness. The aim—to provide the client a comprehensive medical experience whilst enjoying the pleasant aura of the clinic.

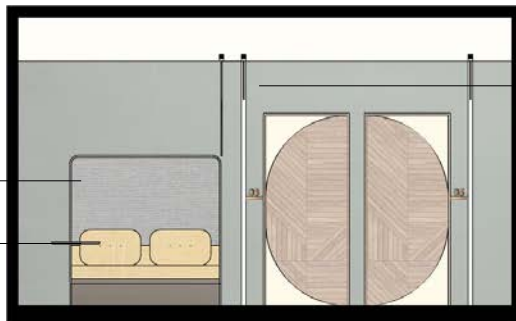
The Aura concept is oriented to create a delicate yet full-scale experience that allows clients to immerse themselves in a comfortable and relaxed environment. To encounter amenities with a near spa-like feel seen in hospitality, which are instrumental in creating a sense of “homefulness” and well-being. The design showcases high-end, soft-toned materials to correspond to the clinic’s high-end yet hospitable atmosphere. The aim is to build a warm and affectionate medical environment to ease patients’ discomfort while also utilizing technology to assist physicians in working efficiently.

A clean and straightforward route separates the client and staff entrances to create a seamless flow so clients can easily find and relax in the waiting area. From there, the tech-enabled guiding light fixture will guide patients to their rooms. The curved counter made from wood and frosted glass welcomes clients with a silky greeting; at which point clients can decide to check-in by themselves from a digital kiosk or ask the staff—allowing the clinic to cater to various client needs. The manager’s office is located close to the waiting area for immediate servicing of clients and enables the manager to keep a pulse on the clinic’s cadence and needs. The wooden bookcase/seating system in the waiting area, in addition to the use of the modular sofa, is designed for flexibility that allows the clinic to decide how many seats are provided and allow for social distancing as needed. The modular sofa is especially convenient for the clinic to convert the waiting area for special occasions or special needs. Living plants bring an energetic vibe into the clinic; the plants’ variety will also provide the space with novelty.



**“This submission illustrates that the designers understood space in 3D, not just the two dimensional plan. Very successful with scale and balance of materials within each of the areas to make the project feel very current and approachable.”**

-Amy Mays, Juror



Alcove seating for patients and their company

Work tablet for clients who bring a book, newspaper, laptop, or tablet with them

HALLWAY SECTION



“Editorial discipline, purposeful intentionality, and focused experimentation sum up a proposal that, through the development of a visual identity and experience “tool kit” that worked across both project scenarios, created a flexible, cohesive, and consistent solution. The experimentation with different organizational concepts allowed the designers to responsibly address the specific challenges of the varying “clean slate” or “selective strategic intervention” scenarios outlined by the project problem statement.”

-Edwin A. Beltran, Juror



**SECOND PLACE**

PRACTITIONER'S WORKROOM



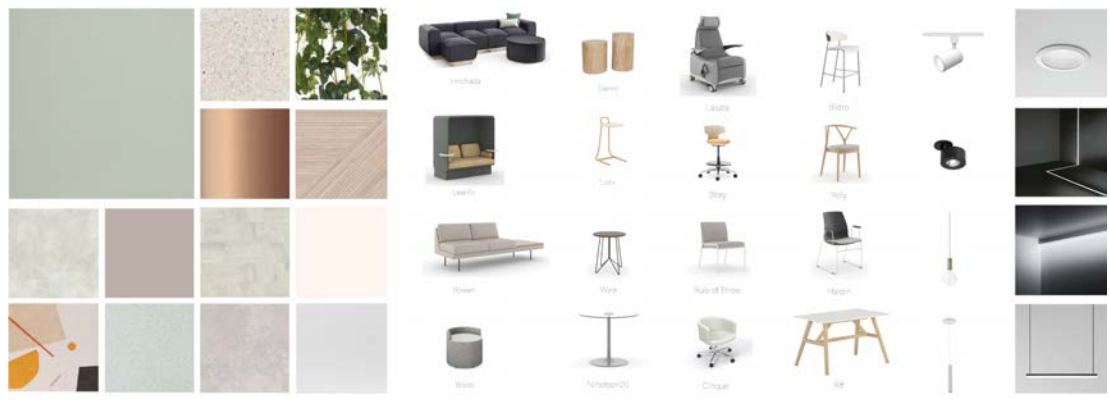
EXAM ROOM

“The introduction of curves within the full renovation was creative and inviting. It was a complete proposal that addressed all of the requirements and provided a balanced solution for the various spaces.”

-Natalie Thomas, Juror



MATERIAL / FURNITURE / LIGHTING



# THIRD PLACE

## PROJECT

DÉJÀ Healthcare Clinic

## STUDENT

Farzaneh Akhavan Tabatabaei

## SCHOOL

Woodbury University

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

DÉJÀ Healthcare Clinic's design is simply about the patients, their loved ones, and their caregiver's well-being within the space. The design appeals to multiple generations without gender limitations to ensure visitors feel welcome and comfortable—resulting in return visits or the feeling they have been here before (Déjà vu).



# DÉJÀ CLINIC

The DÉJÀ healthcare clinic's design is simply about the patients, their loved ones, and the caregiver's well-being within the space. The aim is a space where a feeling of home-fullness can be reached through the understanding of an individual, appealing to multiple generations without any gender limitation to ensure visitors feel welcomed and comfortable. This satisfaction results in returning patients or the feeling they have been there before (Déjà vu). Secondly, it provides an environment that creates a lasting impact by involving the user's emotion by engaging them unconsciously into space. The HIPPA, WELL, ADA standards, etc. are considered to create a better overall design as well.

The "nature" concept is followed to create a sense of home-fullness. Every human being is connected to nature, that is why it calms our mind and body. This idea has influenced the choices in color, material, pattern, greenery usage, and more importantly, the overall impact of the designed space on each individual. This concept has also led to a more consistent space plan.

The space division, based on the workers/patients/families' utilization within each space, resulted in better circulation. Increased accessibility has been considered for people with disabilities, the bariatric population, and parents with small children. Users, including the caregivers, can comfortably move around increasing efficiency. Moreover, the plan design lets natural light in wherever necessary. Everyone can enjoy their stay in the waiting area to release fatigue and boost their energy before their appointment without confusion in the space. These elements also satisfy the "movement" and "mind" categories in WELL building standards.

Nature is represented by the simplified leaf shape repeated within the plan, ceiling plan, and walls. The variety of leaves is depicted by different sizes, colors, and volumes. Déjà vu clinic's color palette is also inspired by nature, combined with gray as a complementary color. In the partial-renovation, a neutral palette of green gives the feeling of calmness, which is the reason why it is used in surgery rooms. Likewise, the full renovation colors are inspired by nature; sky (blue), soil (cream), stone(turquoise).

Furniture is varied in color but still consistent with the design. The "materials" are environmentally friendly to meet WELL building standards. For balancing, in case the floors have a bright color, an accent of a darker color will be added or vice versa. The laminate floorings have a neutral color with gray colored veins. Besides, the tiles are bright for better natural light reflection and to make each room look bigger. The chosen carpet with turquoise color is to add some excitement and has soft bumps to provide the feeling of softness while walking.



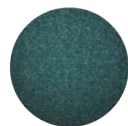
Public Spaces Flooring



Exam Room Flooring



Caregiver Area's Flooring



Waiting Area's Carpets



**“This was a bold and out of the box submission with a lot of creativity and thought—the two palettes were completely different and worked well together.”**

-Natalie Thomas, Juror



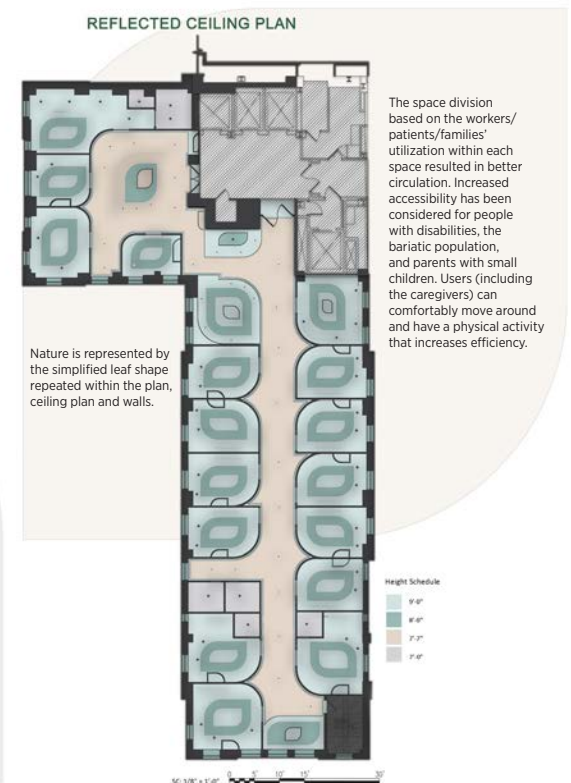
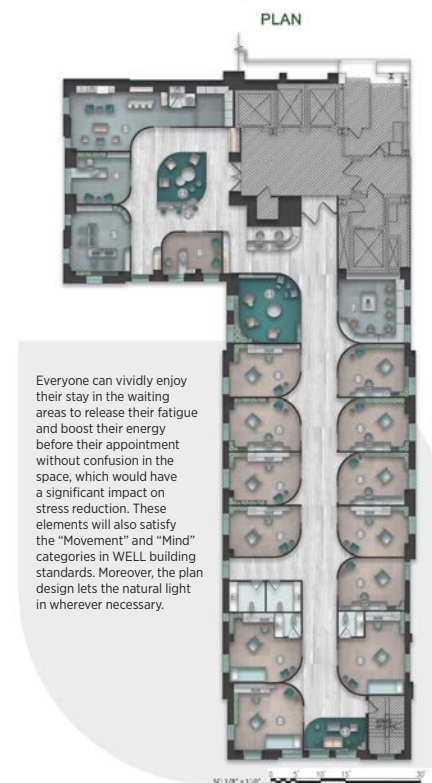
“The competitive edge of this submission was the focus on smaller details and consistency of motifs as a way to generate two distinct, cohesive, and branded visual design languages that experimented with two different spectrums: one was bold, abstract, and graphic, and the other one was subtle, familiar, and nuanced.”

-Edwin A. Beltran, Juror



“The integrated lighting as a design element and refreshing, crisp, bright palette were successful in this project.”

-Amy Mays, Juror



# HONORABLE MENTION

## PROJECT

Meditrust Primary Care Clinic

## STUDENT

Mei Han Khor, Student IIDA

## SCHOOL

California State University, Long Beach

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Meditrust aims to be a state-of-the-art medical resource to the city, with a design inspired by the Chicago River and the bascule bridges. Clinical experiences bring anxiety to most, but Meditrust establishes trustworthy relationships and introduces a quality of homefulness into the clinical design approach through the use of a color palette of warm neutrals and sage green to reflect a feeling of serenity to help mitigate patients' stress and promote faster healing.



# WT MEDITRUST PRIMARY CARE CLINIC

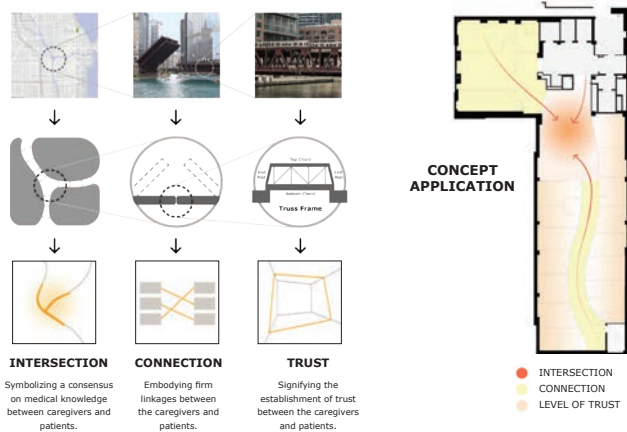
Situated in Chicago, Meditrust aims to become a state-of-the-art medical resource to the city. The design of Meditrust takes inspiration from the Chicago River and the bascule bridges. As a notable feature of the 156 mile long Chicago River, the bascule bridges have been integral in connectivity and accessibility through periods of industry, transportation, revitalization, and recreation. Consequently, these bridges are widely recognized symbols of Chicago's prosperity, and the city is now a pioneering leader in many industries. In the medical field, Meditrust finds a strong connection between its core values and Chicago's innovation and resourcefulness as a global leader. Therefore, the Chicago River and bascule bridges are inspirations to the design of Meditrust. Moreover, the dialogue between the bridges 'truss' and 'trust' holds a parallel meaning of support and reliability.

Acknowledging that clinical experiences bring anxiety to most, Meditrust establishes trustworthy relationships and introduces a quality of homefulness into the clinical design approach while maintaining hygienic standards and inclusive caregiving designs. These initiatives converge and intersect in the reception area which serves as a hub for patients and caregivers. Innovative designs include virtual doctor meetings, touchless technology, and self check-in kiosks with temperature checks. A color palette of warm neutrals and sage green reflects a feeling of serenity and helps to mitigate the patients' stress from illness while promoting faster healing. Bridge motifs are implemented in the interior lighting schemes and the trapezoidal truss shape is found in various rooms. Allusions to the Chicago River have been designed into lyrical patterns on the ceiling, floor, and walls. With these initiatives and design decisions in place, Meditrust is well-prepared to serve, connect and build trust with the local community.



“This was a creative design solution for the exam area with staff support areas that were well-thought out both functionally and creatively.”

-Amy Mays, Juror







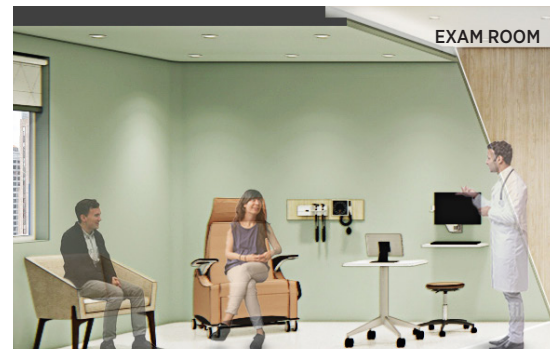
“The curves break up the space and create a journey for the patients as seen in the renderings that show a high level attention to detail.”

-Natalie Thomas, Juror

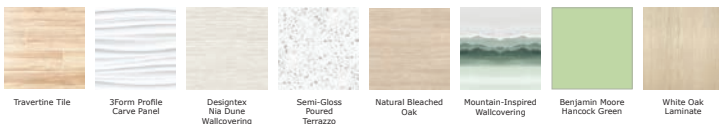


“The conceptual underpinnings of this submission were clearly articulated and illustrated. A highlight was how the designer provided detailed experiential vignettes throughout the space that were beautifully developed and compellingly visualized.”

-Edwin A. Beltran, Juror



**MATERIAL PALETTE**



# HONORABLE MENTION

## PROJECT

Ava Primary Health Clinic

## STUDENT

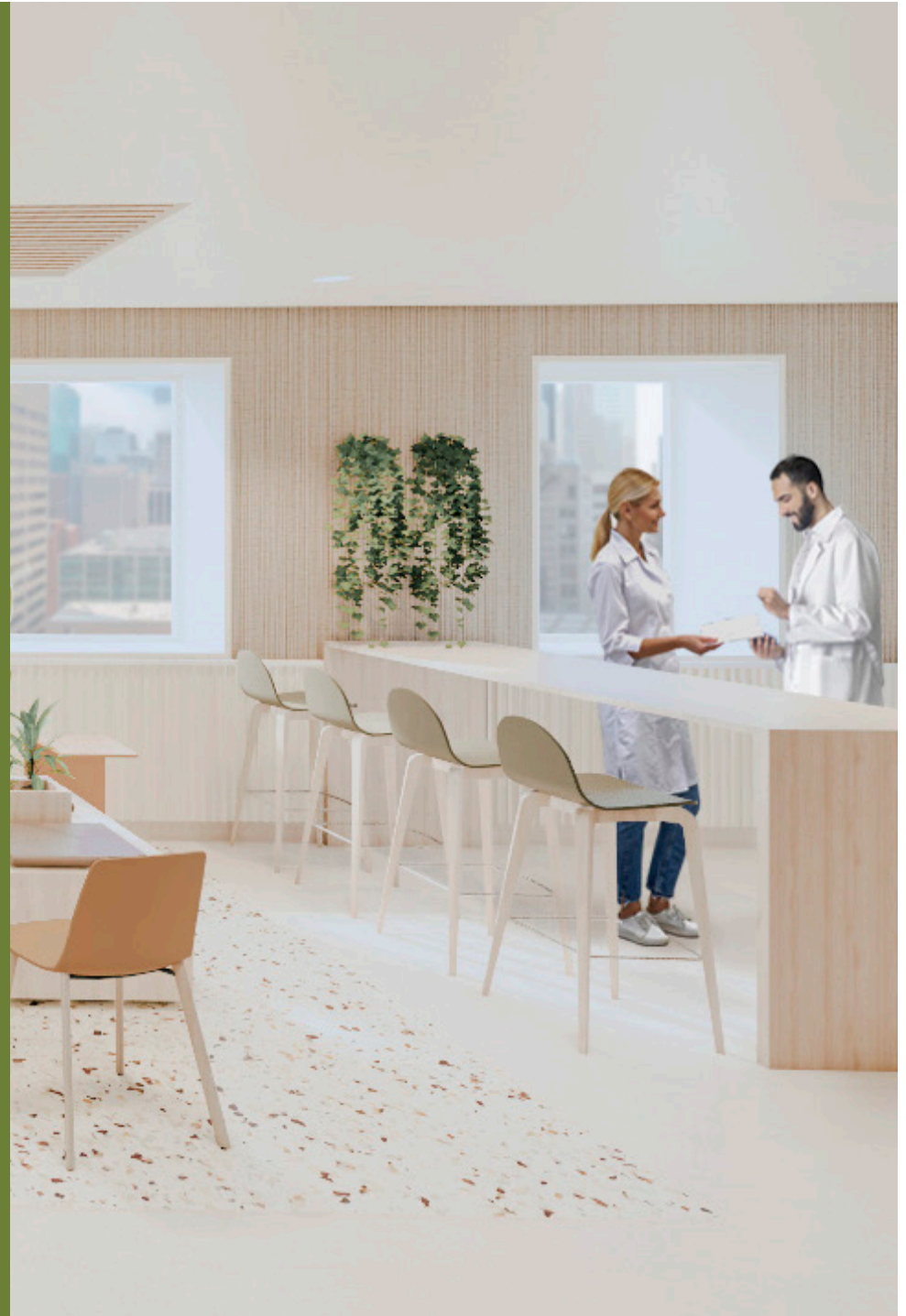
Hannah Hancock

## SCHOOL

Mississippi State University

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Soft organic finishes and an earth toned color palette allow Ava Primary Health Clinic to embody a spa-like feel, creating a sense of “home-fullness.” The design integrates new technology to allow a seamless patient experience, while the floorplan highlights perimeter circulation with an emphasis on natural daylight through the use of clerestory windows along the exam room corridors, allowing light to reach the entire space. Thoughtful architecture and evidence-based design provide patients with the most positive and ideal medical experience.





Inspired by apothecaries and the benefits of earth's natural elements, Ava is a primary health care clinic that blends modern scientific knowledge with traditional and natural forms of medicine. Being proactive and aiding in the patient's overall wellness, Ava recognizes research that patients want greater control of their healthcare process and encourages the option of incorporating natural alternatives. Extensive research shows there are mental and physical healing abilities from earth's elements that offer us overall wellness with a long-term solution. These benefits allow natural based medicine to be an effective, ideal alternative for preventive healthcare and maintaining overall wellness. The essential factors of patient choice, positive distractions, and a connection to nature are used to create a holistic and harmonious environment for both patients and employees.

**PATIENT CHOICE:** The ability to have control in certain aspects of one's experience within a healthcare environment is desired among most patients. Options of privacy, communication, and choice of treatment is incorporated throughout the clinic.

**POSITIVE DISTRACTIONS:** Environmental distractions for the patient are important in providing a positive experience by relieving patients' minds of medical treatment. Inside patient rooms, all medical and clinical equipment is concealed inside wooden cabinetry while maintaining full function. The environment throughout the clinic embodies a spa and home-like feel, straying away from the traditional medical interior environment.

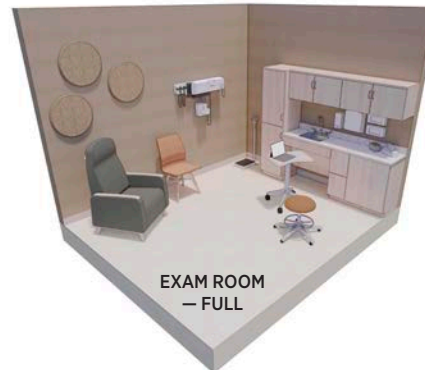
**CONNECTION TO NATURE:** The design integrates a soft, nature filled environment in the urban setting of Chicago, and is influenced by the natural elements of the earth. Organic finishes, biophilic elements, and an ample amount of daylight connects patients to the natural environment throughout their entire clinic experience.

Ava is derived from the Hebrew origin name Eve. The primary care clinic captures "the mother of all living" ambiance through appreciation of benefits humans receive through coexisting and utilizing resources of the natural earth. The concept appreciates the history of natural medicine and finds inspiration in herbal apothecaries. Soft organic finishes, and an earth toned color palette allows the clinic to embody a spa-like feel to create a sense of "home-fullness." The design efficiently integrates new technology to allow a seamless patient experience, while the floorplan highlights perimeter circulation with an emphasis on natural daylight. The exam rooms are placed centrally in the plan, integrating natural daylight through patient corridors while exam rooms are lined with clerestory windows, allowing daylight to reach the entire space. Thoughtful architecture and evidence-based design provide patients with the most positive and ideal medical experience.



**HONORABLE MENTION**

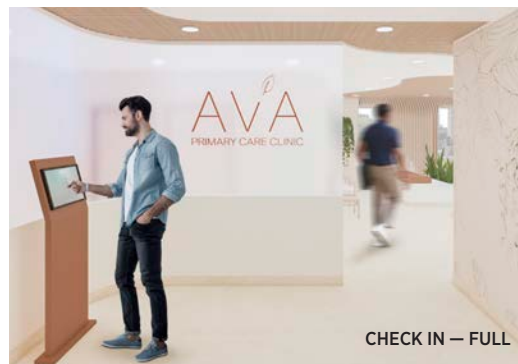
WAITING AREA — FULL



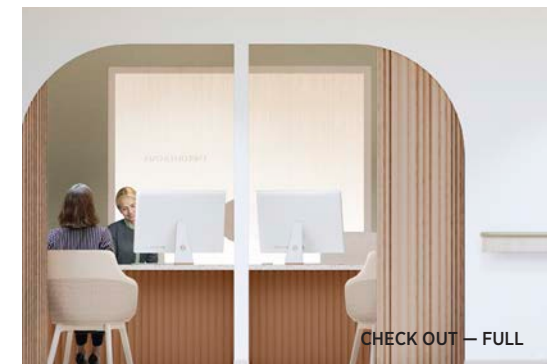
EXAM ROOM — FULL

**“A very competent submission with beautifully illustrated boards. The attention to detail, composition, and color consistency across all the visual assets was noteworthy.”**

-Edwin A. Beltran, Juror

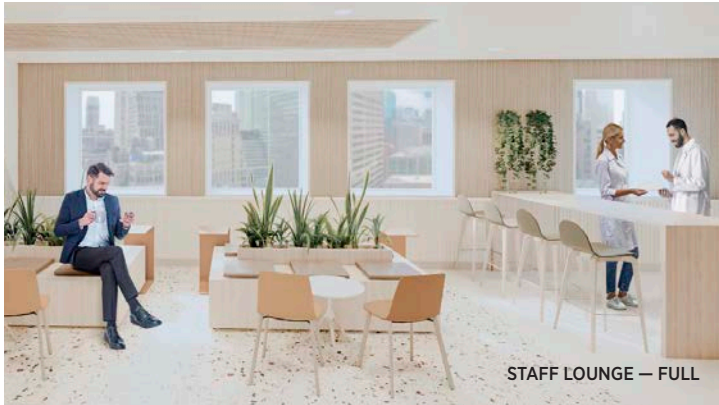


CHECK IN — FULL



CHECK OUT — FULL

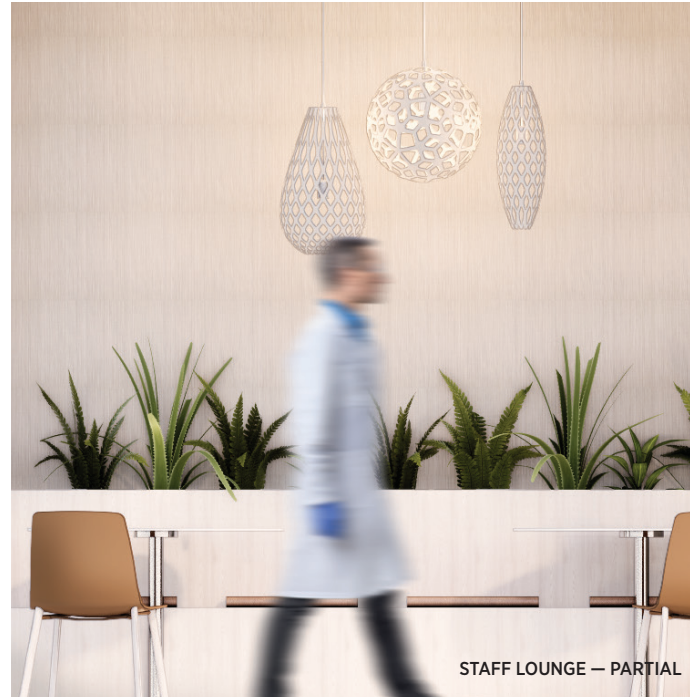




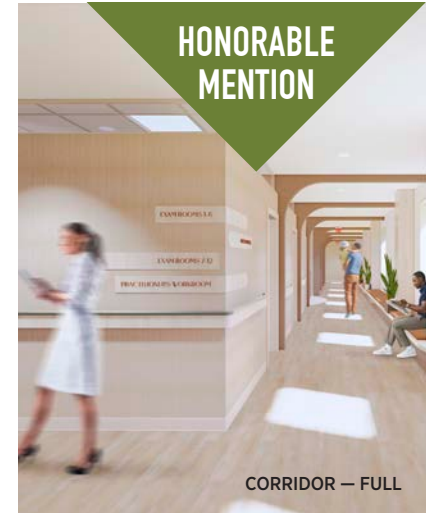
STAFF LOUNGE — FULL

“The full renovation provided a fresh and great use of the space, with the color palettes and furnishings offering calm and creating a sense of warmth.”

-Natalie Thomas, Juror



STAFF LOUNGE — PARTIAL



CORRIDOR — FULL

“Nice evolution from partial to full renovation.”

-Amy Mays, Juror



CHECK IN — PARTIAL

# HONORABLE MENTION

## PROJECT

“Respire” Primary Care Clinic

## STUDENT

Wenhan Zhang, Student IIDA

## SCHOOL

School of the Art Institute of Chicago

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The idea of “Respire” demonstrates the human aspiration to a healthy life and well-being through value-based care and a design focused on creating an environment that mitigates negative connotations and uneasy feelings about going to a health clinic. An atmosphere of flexibility, comfort, and freshness is created through the use of geometry, circulation, and colors, while the rounded corners of reception and lighting providing fluidity to the interior circulation.



# “Respire” Primary Care Clinic

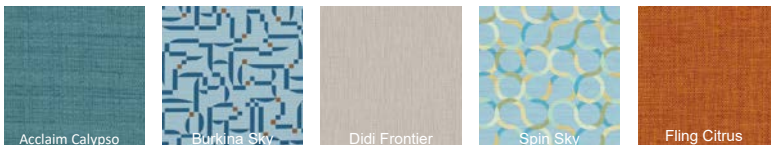
Healthcare is constantly evolving and changing at a rapid pace as healthcare organizations, patients, and families seek improved experiences, safety, outcomes, and satisfaction. Now, it is time to rethink how the spaces affect people’s relationships, perceptions, and behaviors. The idea of “Respire” demonstrates human aspiration to healthy life and well-being through value-based care. The design is focused on creating an environment that mitigates negative connotations and uneasy feelings about going to a health clinic.

The concept of partial renovation of the primary clinic is conceived by notions of lightness and calm. Inspired by natural aesthetics and meditation, the space uses a light palette and wood finishes to create a sense of “homefulness” and well-being. The design takes advantage of ample natural light and the use of wood to reduce patient’s stress and give the space a sense of calm. The ash wood finishes begin at the entrance and are present throughout the entire project. Additional glowing patterns along the hallway create the feeling of walking on a rural road. The patterns continue to extend into the exam room that contributes to the sense of integrity in design. Using brown, which is often associated with the natural world, the exam rooms bring patients feelings of warmth and comfort.

The aim of the new renovation of the primary clinic is to improve an atmosphere of flexibility, comfort, and freshness through the use of geometry, circulation and colors. The round corner of the reception and lighting provide fluidity to the interior circulation. The design improves efficiency of physicians and fosters a seamless patient experience by creating an open floor plan with a bright atmosphere. The use of white and blue convey a sense of cleanliness, freshness, and simplicity. The corridor offers plenty of natural light because of the transparent glass doors. Semicircular openings allow different sections to relate to one another from near and far view. The opening in the exam rooms allows light to come through from other rooms, eliminating the feeling of being in a white box.

Integrating technology can optimize healthcare experiences. Advanced technology such as a touch screen for self check-ins and information guide can reduce waiting time and provide assistance to the patients. Also, monitors in exam rooms provide equal visibility of information or data from a clinician’s device, such as X-ray results, and allow video conferencing. Environmentally-friendly materials are another important aspect that contribute to a successful healthcare design, and all of the OFS and Carolina products have achieved SCS Indoor Advantage Gold Certification from SCS Global Services.

## TEXTILES



“The color palette was fresh and bright, with an interesting use of materials.”

-Natalie Thomas, Juror





“Thoughtful details within the exam rooms.”

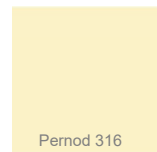
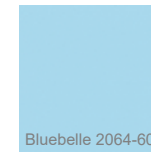
-Amy Mays, Juror

FURNITURE



HONORABLE MENTION

WALL PAINT



FLOORING



“This proposal was intriguing to the jury because its aesthetic expression was different from all other submissions. Its confident simplicity in expression along with its very compositional approach to color counterpoints was simultaneously fresh and unpretentious, and strongly confident yet frugal.”

-Edwin A. Beltran, Juror





# IIDA

IIDA is the commercial interior design association with global reach. We support design professionals, industry affiliates, educators, students, firms, and their clients through our network of 15,000+ members across 58 countries. We advocate for advancements in education, design excellence, legislation, leadership, accreditation, and community outreach to increase the value and understanding of interior design as a profession that enhances business value and positively impacts the health and well-being of people's lives every day. [www.iida.org](http://www.iida.org)

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