

SNAP

ARCHITECTURAL NEWS + PRODUCTS

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FOCUS ON
HEALTHCARE
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KIDS' CLINIC
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CLINICALLY SPEAKING

CELLIANT BY DESIGNTEX
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CARE GIVERS

More than ever,
waiting area
furnishings are
patient-centered
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SOUTHERN LULL

Manufacturing
activity is spotty,
but improving for
Mid-Southern states
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bnp
media



Rebecca Donner

Principal, Inner Design Studio
Nashville, Tennessee

WAITING AREAS SEEM TO BE CHANGING THE MOST.

REBECCA: Agreed. Our main priority is for the facility to be a welcoming environment—from the artwork to the VOCs in the paint to waiting room chairs.

AND WHAT ABOUT PEDIATRIC PATIENTS? IS THERE A SINGLE BIG IDEA FOR IMPROVING THEIR EXPERIENCES?

REBECCA: Interactivity is key. The space should be a positive distraction. Something that captures the imagination and makes them curious. Interactive art and play areas with a lot of natural light help keep stress levels down. Acoustics can also affect stress levels, so some of my favorite products are from BuzziSpace. They absorb sound and still look nice.

Dr. Andrew Ibrahim

Chief Medical Officer-Healthcare, HOK
Ann Arbor, Michigan

AS HOK'S FIRST CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER, WHAT'S YOUR ROLE?

ANDREW: Initially, to help make research a standard part of client relationships. Evidence-based design is an important trend toward improving healthcare facilities. My vision is for HOK to focus on solutions that can improve outcomes for patients and hospitals, in addition to addressing areas architects already focus on, such as better aesthetics. We're launching a three-year plan to do so.

WHEN YOU STUDIED AT LONDON'S BARTLETT SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING, YOU FOUND PROBLEMS WITH OPERATING ROOMS.

ANDREW: Yes. Mainly that the design has not advanced in decades. As a surgeon, I worked in three different ORs built five, 10, and 30 years ago. All look the same, and complaints from staff who work in them have been consistent: size constraints, given newer equipment; safety hazards; and poor communication among staff.



Brandon Haw

Principal, Brandon Haw Architecture
New York City

ARE ANY MATERIAL SOLUTIONS TRENDING?

BRANDON: In areas outside of treatment rooms, we see a greater demand for natural materials. Wood and stone, good natural light, and access to fresh air are all known to lift the spirit and improve recovery periods. There's a greater appreciation for psychological benefits, which good design can deliver.

HOW DO YOU LET PATIENT NEEDS DRIVE A DESIGN?

BRANDON: Apart from specifying products that are aesthetically pleasing, we look at functionality and longevity. Products must be robust and appropriate to the tasks they perform.



Interviews by Julian Lim