



Public spaces in Healthcare Facilities ;More than a lobby

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ABSTRACT

More than a lobby is a concept that shows the relevance of a public space. In addition to their aesthetics and function, public spaces in hospitals play a critical role in patient happiness and experience. The journal focuses on how spatial characteristics like accessibility, visibility, proximity, and points of egress influence people's behavior and interactions in hospital public spaces. The detailed analysis of three hospitals as well as criteria supporting the design of circulation areas, arrival and entrance has been carried out. Others are the first point of welcome, reception and the hospital interaction. More than a lobby; emphasizes on the quality of space as experienced by the end user as well as the aesthetics comfort it provides.

Key words; Healthcare facilities,Environment,public ,spaces

INTRODUCTION

Public areas in healthcare facilities are equally as important to the facility's mission just as it is with private patient and the clinical spaces within the faculty. According to an article in Health Facilities Management, rather than being planned as afterthoughts, public spaces should be identified and designed to function according to their specific typology.

Individuals are shopping more carefully for health care providers in today's market, according to designers and manufacturers, rather than relying nearly entirely on their insurance carrier's recommendations when selecting doctors and hospitals. [1]

Health facility public spaces are being built to encourage healthy behaviors and offer a more comfortable environment for patients, visitors, and employees in response to consumer demands.



Fig 1. "Public space is more than the front lobby"

It contributes to the whole healthcare experience, which is an important aspect in today's customer-focused healthcare environment. Places to arrive and get oriented, spaces for solitude and contemplation, spaces defined by constant activity, wayfinding spaces, and service-based spaces are the five types of healthcare public spaces.

In this journal, each typology's meaning and requirements in a hospital context must be evaluated. It's critical, for example, to understand that people in these areas may be emotionally fragile. Designers should "go beyond merely physical measures like the square footage of the area and consider the emotional content of place."

Some companies are beginning to separate public space throughout the design process, with "public amenities space" listed as a line item in the space program. public space makes up around 2% of total space, yet focusing on that small amount can have a tremendous influence.

DEFINITION OF PUBLIC SPACES (Background of Study)

Public space is an area that exists outside of individual or small-group control and is used for a range of practical and symbolic functions that often overlap. As a result, people have access to locations, activities, information, and resources.

Public spaces in hospitals Are considered **Circulation zones**

To belong to hospitals' public spaces, those spaces that the public who use the hospital can reach independently, including such as the area in front of the entrance, the entrance hall, reception areas, corridors, vertical connections, and waiting rooms (Setola & Borgianni, 2016) .

AIM OF STUDY

The aim of this study includes:

1. To develop an evidence-based methodology that would assist designers in incorporating public areas into their designs as a source of comfort for their consumers.
2. To learn about the different and most effective ways to harness the effect of a well-designed public space in a healthcare facility.
3. To encouraging Designers and healthcare facilities towards a well Thought out design of public spaces
4. To create a, user-friendly and all-inclusive healthy environment which is encouraged by efficient use and design of public spaces.
5. To encourage the integration and user effectiveness of public spaces in the healthcare system.
6. To assist customers in feeling more at ease and confident without going overboard with design.

PROJECT GOAL

There are numerous variables that contribute to the success of a public place in a healthcare facility, including the following:

The space's accessibility.

This includes things like how friendly the area is and if individuals can use it in the way that makes them feel most at ease. This involves providing access to people with disabilities and creating public spaces that allow everyone, regardless of their circumstances, to participate in society.

The space's convenience

This refers to people's ability to be themselves in public.

when visiting the hospital it is always an important moment ;
Be it an unforeseen Accident, Emergency, Childbirth, healthcare or visiting family and friends who is under going a moment in their life. While in a hospital public space participating in activities in the space, or interacting with the built environment is a way to relax an ease tension if there be.

Creating effective staff and clients interaction within public spaces

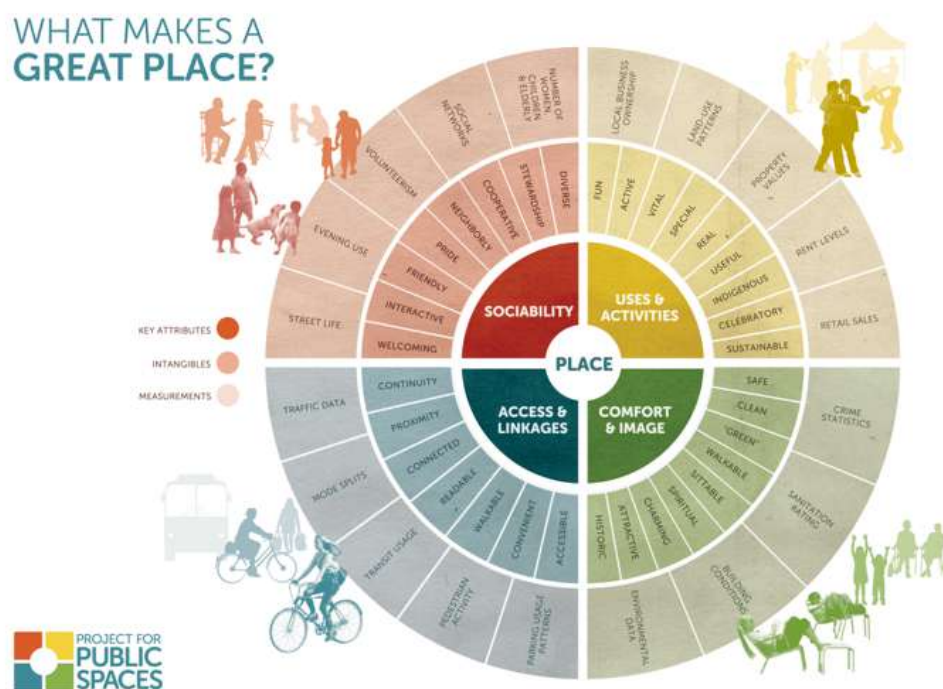


Fig 2. What Makes a Great Public space

In a healthcare facility, it is important to know where to be and how to get there In good time .The understandability of a public space within a healthcare environment reduces the Anxiety, impatience and general error of location,This creates an intricate connection between the space and the people in it. This indicates that when urban planners and architects construct public spaces, they should keep the above factors in mind in order to make it successful.

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

When building a healthcare institution, public spaces such as the entrance, the entrance hall, reception areas, corridors, vertical linkages, and waiting rooms have been overlooked, making it appear as if it were an afterthought. This public area should be constructed according to its intended use, resulting in a more comprehensive experience of the environment.

The lack of effort put into the design of public areas in the hospital environment has given these circulation spaces an unsettling appearance, making visitors, patients, and their loved ones feel uneasy anytime they have to utilize them.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Hospitals and health systems can also use public space design to encourage healthy behavior. Installing hand-washing stations in public places encourages people to utilize them and helps them understand how essential infection prevention is to a health-care facility.

Hand hygiene among health care employees has been researched for years, but visitors can also be a source of germ transmission. To establish a safer environment for their patients, health care environments are increasingly attempting to make their commitment to hand hygiene obvious and engage the public in hand hygiene.



Fig 3. Hand Hygiene

By placing dispensers at the facility's entrance, in waiting areas and lobbies, near elevators, and in cafeterias, hospitals are sending a message to all visitors, families, and patients: 'Hand hygiene is important not only to us, but it is important for you to practice to help keep your loved ones safe while they're in a health care facility.

When a loved one is having medical testing or has been admitted to the hospital, many people feel helpless. Hand hygiene is one simple thing they can do to assist the patient get better.

As a result, Ecolab has created a cough station with slots for facial tissues and disposable gloves.

Ecolab Healthcare North America, also offers a full range of hand-hygiene solutions for health facilities. as well as a sanitizer stand that can be utilized in open locations like lobbies and waiting rooms. These items include inserts with

bespoke graphics that can be customized for a certain hospital or health system. "They might include very precise messaging about their hand hygiene goals or how important it is to them that guests at their facility follow proper hand hygiene procedures.

Additional signage, such as table tents designed to be put throughout a facility's public spaces to remind visitors of the significance of washing or sanitizing their hands, is included in the Ecolab hand-hygiene system. "It makes the patients or visitors to that institution feel a little more at ease knowing that they're in a location that's looking at all of the many approaches to encourage healthy outcomes,"

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted as a cross-sectional descriptive study, which aimed to learn about the practices, perspectives, and knowledge of children, parents, and caregivers in various hospitals around the country. The data on knowledge, current trends, and practices was collected using two methodologies (primary and secondary). To learn more about hospitals and the impressions of children in such a facility, direct interactions with health specialists and key informant interviews were done. The study was conducted with the use of two main approaches and instruments: primary and secondary. The primary method involved site visits and talks, as well as measured drawings, photographic records, site analysis, and the use of relevant case studies, while the secondary method involved the use of search engines, books, and CDs.

A particular research of a Treating garden (with an emphasis on children) was also carried out in response to the current interest in alternative and complementary therapies that focus on healing the full person – body, mind, and spirit – rather than merely easing the symptoms. The standards for the creation, types, and treatment of spaces in a Pediatric center in terms of texture, color, finishing materials, anthropometrics, and more were derived from these examples seen in various parts of the world, and this served as the foundation for determining the types of spaces to be created for the research's intended design. Some pediatric health professionals who have worked at the Federal Medical Centre in Port Harcourt's Children's Department for a long period.

The broad brief collected from case studies and the internet was used to create a detailed brief of child health care centers. The measured drawings were utilized as the foundation for the various spaces' spatial requirements. To create an accommodation plan, we employed furniture sizes, door spacing, various medical equipment, a proper hallway, and bed arrangement with other allowances for circulation. Data gathered from the various interviews was also used to create a practical brief (not included in the general brief derived from the internet and case studies) that would ensure a comfortable environment for sick children and

their families, as well as the welfare of the health specialists (workforce), ensuring maximum efficiency on their part.

NEW EXPECTATIONS (Discussion)

Consumers shop for health care like they shop for anything else, hospitals and health systems may find it challenging to differentiate themselves competitively from those providing similar health care services.

"It all boils down to how that service is offered,".

"Making the experience better by making it shorter" isn't actually an option in many health-care scenarios. "Providing accessible access to power outlets is one way providers can improve the experience of waiting in health facilities." Personal electronic gadgets have drastically altered the environment, and they are having a huge impact on health care.

Furthermore, furniture design, space planning, and programming are combining to create public spaces that can accommodate a wide range of demands, from individuals seeking privacy and quiet to families wanting to sit together in larger groups. The most recent furnishing systems are more varied than prior systems and can be configured in a variety of ways.

Hospitals have traditionally discouraged people from rearranging furniture in public areas; it's also an approach that would be better suited to sections like surgery rather than the emergency department. Public spaces should reflect a health care organization's basic principles and should convey that visitors are welcome and will be made comfortable, even if they will be staying for a long period.

Food service environments can function as profit centers, well-designed eating halls are particularly vital to health care organizations. Offering a range of seating alternatives, such as booths, individual bar-height sitting, and tables where groups can dine together, helps to separate a huge open area into smaller, calmer zones, which can help people relax. Hospitals and health systems might pick modular furnishings to keep interiors fresh over time, even when facility demands or consumer tastes change.

While this is mostly focused on the learning and social patterns of millennials, they have been embraced across generations.

Conclusion

While functional factors are driven by the precise functionality of the building to perform properly, environmental factors deal with the additional qualities needed for creating an optimal atmosphere, Therefore raising the need to pay attention to the spaces in direct contact with the natural environment.

The Ultimate key to hospital planning is to separate all departments yet keep them all close together; to separate types of traffic yet to save steps for everybody. Creating a seamless flow within the activities carried out in the space and the Users

Productivity and focus is compromised when staff travels from one structure or wing to another, where the different professions tend to spend time in different places, at a time. The service rendered might deteriorate and therefore become a hostile Environment. In creating Spatial Accessibility we encourage orientation, Easy flow, and increase in usability of space.

We should never lose sight of the little things as they also play a role.



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