

IARC 4/584 Interior Design Studio: Designing for Kids: A Pediatric Medical Clinic

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Studio will meet at the conventional 1:00-5:50 MWF slot in the assigned studio space in Lawrence Hall

Student must be eligible for mid-level 4/584 studios

This Studio is worth 6 credits

As with any studio this course is offered on a P/NP basis only



In this studio we will be designing a small pediatric clinic serving a low-income population that may include migrant workers and/or other families for whom english is a second language. The clinic will act primarily to provide well-child care and standard office visits but may also include additional spaces that house family and child services or health education.

Medical spaces aimed at kids and families offer rich design opportunities to explore organizational clarity and wayfinding, imagability, natural lighting, innovative use of color and materials, and response to kid scale(s) and kid sensibilities. However, the design of most pediatric clinics is uninspired. At best, the typical clinic is an inoffensive “scaled-down” adult space or a highly functional space plan with trite “themed” elements pasted over the institutional architecture. At worst, the spaces are ineffective for the staff and confusing for the kids and parents. A key goal of the studio will be to provide a place that assists the physicians and staff to create a reassuring and positive patient experience for kids from birth through the teen years and for their parents.

We will be approaching this project from a variety of perspectives. Students will use evidence from design research, physician and staff experience, site visits and design theory to generate design proposals and to recycle/refine these proposals. Students are expected to engage this relatively small project through detailed development of key spaces such as waiting areas and exam rooms and selection and design of furnishings, finishes and equipment. Particular attention will be given to life-cycle, health and sustainability in FF&E and in rehabilitation of the existing building structure and systems for this use or other future uses of the building.

Special Objectives

- To use design to respond to varied kid scale(s), cognitive development and special circumstances of a doctor’s visit.
- to explore design strategies for making a space imagable and legible for a population that may not be able to read or understand english
- to develop strategies for integrating natural light, color and materials in innovative ways.
- to develop the design so that design intentions are carried through the project from overall spatial layout through the smallest construction details

Methods of Working

- a program provided by the client, site visits to similar facilities, and readings will form a basis for understanding of this project type. Students will build upon this by doing additional research reports in teams
- An iterative process will be stressed in this studio -- students will be expected to generate multiple options for each level of design development from organizational structure to individual elements.
- Special emphasis will be placed on developing a unified visual vocabulary for your project. We will examine theories projects and strategies that lead to highly legible and imagable interiors

"If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with the instructor in the first week of the term. Please request that the Counselor for Students with Disabilities send a letter verifying your disability."