



Healthcare Design Trends

FOR TODAY AND BEYOND



Wilsonart® Healthcare

TREND REPORT



Healthcare Design Trends for Today and Beyond.

The primary purpose of a healthcare facility is to effectively deliver medical care in a clean, comfortable, and functional environment. From a patient perspective, a space should always be safe and supportive of healing, helping to alleviate any feelings of vulnerability or anxiety.



AKRON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL



While the main drivers for architects and designers when selecting materials for Healthcare spaces often begin with cleanability, durability, and disinfection, materials should also achieve a holistic, total-wellness approach to healing.

How do you create a calming and soothing environment that can also stand up to the rigors of high-traffic spaces and stringent healthcare cleaning protocols? This is the challenge that designers work tirelessly to solve every day.

As a world-leading manufacturer of engineered surfaces, we strive to provide accurate product information, best practices for installation and maintenance, and current trends that can help architects and designers take their practice to new heights.

EXPLORE THIS TREND REPORT

A Holistic Approach to Healing

Total Wellness

Biophilic Design

Safe and Caring Environments

Residential for Healthcare

Science-Backed Design



A Holistic Approach to Healing — Total Wellness.

This is the consideration of the mind, body, and soul — physical, mental, emotional, and even financial well-being that are essential elements of a person's overall health. Total wellness is about more than managing high blood pressure; it's about maintaining a well-rounded diet while balancing stress factors induced by work or home. Today, total wellness means learning how to connect every element that contributes to our overall health.



Total Wellness

More Western medicine studies reveal, the coming wave of societal changes may include a larger embracement of Ancient Eastern medicine. Historically, we have already seen this happen through functional medicine practices, that combine Western medicine and nutrition with Eastern practices such as acupuncture and Chinese herbs. Even technology will play a more significant role as more apps are being created to support other areas of health, including mental wellness, or financial wellness. All of these harmonious methods, medicines and technological innovations will continue to integrate and, ultimately, support a holistic approach to wellbeing. What could all of this mean for the future design of healthcare spaces?

Maximize Every Square Inch

Today, and in the future, every person will be challenged to do more with less. This reality is especially true in the healthcare industry, where a shortage of supplies and space have created challenges that have been, and must be, quickly met with solutions. With a shift towards healthcare services offering more telemedicine meetings and new cleaning procedures that require a space to be used less often between patient visits,

healthcare environments in the future may be designed smaller and more intentionally with a focus on maximizing every square inch. New healthcare facilities may also adapt spaces that can accommodate a holistic, well-rounded approach to care—for example, offering yoga classes or informational classes on wellness topics. And in these new spaces, surfaces must be able to adapt to the multi-functional, visual, and performance standards required by those spaces. When designing or updating your next healthcare space, consider these questions: Do the design choices provide flexibility? Is this space set up for technology? And, does everything in this space serve a purpose?



FOUNDRY RIDGE MEADOWS
PHOTO CREDIT:
UPPER LEFT PHOTOGRAPHY



TELEMEDICINE CONSULTATION



How does
this translate
to the future
of healthcare
design?

Biophilic Design.

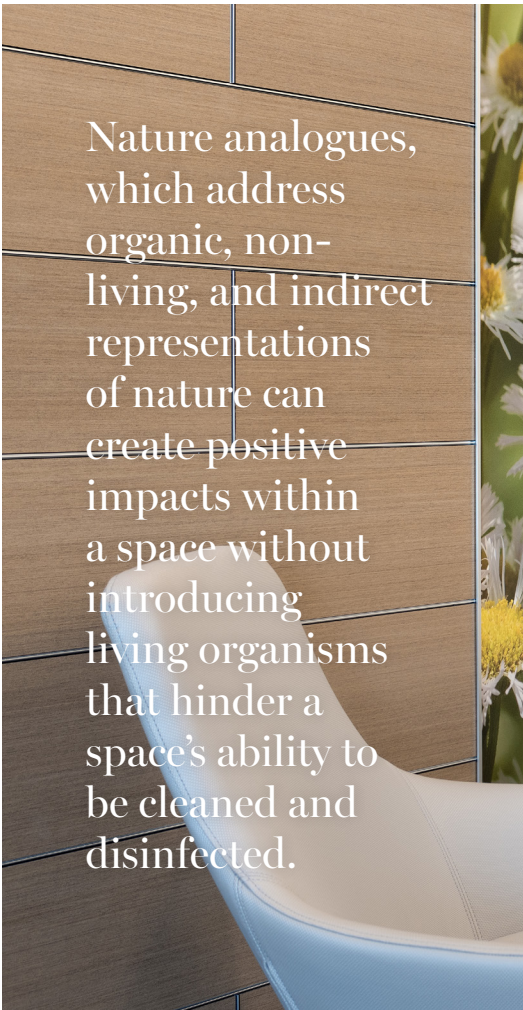
Considering the human-nature connection when designing a building or interior space can offer a calming effect and help promote healing. Biophilic design, which incorporates nature and nature-inspired elements into spaces, can promote well-being and healing. It is a long-valued technique used in a holistic healing approach.



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OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY WAITING AREA



JEFFERSON HEALTH NAVY YARD



Nature-derived Colors, Patterns, and Textures

Realistic visuals and interpretations of nature rather than abstract patterns, such as harsh lines or graphics devoid of life, can offer a pleasing, calming effect. Natural fiber looks, woodgrains, and stones, paired with natural patinas and authentic visual textures have countless benefits. Advanced engineered surfaces that have been technologically innovated to resemble natural woodgrains and stones offer an elevated, high-performing solution to a healthcare space that requires stringent cleaning procedures.

Access to Natural Light

Access to the outdoors and spaces that offer greater opportunity for natural light are essential for improving overall wellbeing. An effective natural light and lighting strategy, along with materials that complement every stage of the day and night, can significantly improve internal circadian rhythms and overall health performance. Consider incorporating high-performing materials that can help reduce glare or stand up to UV light, whether it's from the sun's natural rays of light or the intentional use of sterilization.



Safe and Caring Environments — Resimercial for Healthcare.

For any healthcare space to be considered safe and welcoming for patients, visitors, and staff, it should include familiar comforts from home, as well as offer a welcoming sense of hospitality. Furthermore, successfully designed healthcare spaces must balance these Resimercial efforts, supporting the comfort of each patient and facilitating the productivity of those who work within the space, while also addressing stringent cleaning protocols.



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TREND REPORT

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A Feeling of Familiarity

Utilizing materials such as engineered woodgrains, quartz, or stone-inspired solid surfaces (void of cold or sterile characteristics) can help to soothe nerves and support health, while meeting the functional requirements for proper cleaning protocols. Control over the lighting and thermostat as well as shelving for personal belongings can all offer a sense of control over one's environment

that aids in the healing process. Incorporating warm décor with a hint of spa-like hospitality, or privacy walls featuring locale-inspired imagery, may also help to add a sense of familiarity within an otherwise foreign space. Another way of promoting care for patients and others is through the use of materials that can protect against infection and disease. With the right combination of materials, architects and designers can help promote safe, comfortable experiences.



HIGH PRESSURE LAMINATE
 PHANTOM ECRU 8212K-28



Science-Backed Design.

Interior design and material selections based in scientific research remain critical to ensuring that a space is safe and caring, while offering the best scenario for a positive outcome. Due to an increase in healthcare-associated infections within our healthcare spaces, feeling safer today means knowing that the surfaces we come into contact with can be easily disinfected while standing up to newer and more stringent cleaning, disinfecting, and sterilizing protocols required by healthcare facilities.



MCLANE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
SOLID SURFACE IN DESIGNER WHITE



SOLID SURFACE
GREY LACE 9224SS



SILVER CROSS HOSPITAL
COMPACT LAMINATE



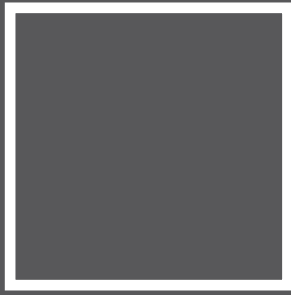
Leverage Materials that Protect

To provide a safer, more caring healthcare environment, architects and designers should look to materials they can depend on to perform. Utilizing fact-based, science-backed materials that protect, as proven through rigorous testing and third party certifications, can make all the difference in creating a safe and caring environment for all. Recognizing the unpredictable challenges to come, manufacturers

of interior products and surfaces should hold a higher standard of transparency, accessibility, and performance results when it comes to materials. Using verified surfaces and materials provided by manufacturers with accurate care and maintenance data – showing clear visibility into testing procedures – can also help ensure necessary safeguards for all stakeholders involved in the creation or renovation of a healthcare facility.



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