BIOPHILIC VETERANS REHAB CENTER
A PLACE FOR HEALING
How can Nature and architecture help the healing process for disable veterans?
RESEARCH

• Qualitative
• Holistic Case Studies

THROUGH

• Literature review
• Personal interviews
• Logical iterations

Philo/Phenomenology: The emphasis of the design is on the experience of not only the building, but its surroundings as well.
Eco-Social Design: This theory is heavily focused on sustainability, which isn't a priority, but more the emphasis on the connection between humans, plants, and animals.
“Does this attraction, this seeming instance of biophilia, indicate that we are enjoying our control over, i.e., our dominion over and thus our secure disttianation from the prickle of nature; or do we imagine that we are truly bonding with or engaging the world outside? Glass is of considerable utilitarian value, but has its ubiquitous and commanding presence in the walls of today’s architecture really brought us closer to cherishing the complexity, unpredictability, dangers, and grandeur of the natural world?” (p. 254)

“We know that from a significant body of existing research that particular elements are important, namely water, large trees, flowers, and rich vegetation (Orians and Heerwagen 1992; Heerwagen and Orian 1993; Ulrich 1993). We also know that certain spatial characteristics have strong appeal, such as views to the horizon (Appleton 1975), provision of refuge and protection (Appleton 1975), and a sense of enticement that provokes exploration (Hilderbrand 2000). (p. 228)
SUSTAINABLE HEALTHCARE ARCHITECTURE

- “The entomologist E.O. Wilson coined the term biophilia to describe humans’ inherent inclination to affiliate with nature, most particularly with life and ecosystem features of the natural environment.” (p. 85)

- “In 1993, the nonprofit Center for Health Design began advocating for a critical reexamination of the hospital building. Recognizing that the built environment impacts both the patient experience and the medical outcomes.” (p. 84)

- “The 20th century hospital, in its quest to accommodate rapid and chaotic changes in urbanization and suburbanization, medical care delivery, and medical construction technologies, relegated a vision of healing, wholeness, and connection to nature to the past.” (p. 320)
14 PATTERNS OF BIOPHILIC DESIGN

• Main focus was on 6 design considerations.
  • Visual connection to nature
  • Non-visual connection to nature
  • Non-rhythmic sensory stimuli
  • Presence of water
  • Connection with natural systems
  • Material connection with nature
Personal Interviews

Richard Moorhead, Architect; Image Group, Moorhead, MN

• Very industrial facility incorporates garden for patients.
• VA very conscientious about care for veterans.
• VA aims for individuality rather than institutional care.
• Leave room for expansion and improvement.
• Program
• Connection between patients, family, and public
• Natural setting
• Views
RELEVANCE

• Gardening opportunities
• Use of natural materials
• Natural daylighting
• Wooden details and structure
RELEVANCE

• Layout of spaces
• Program of spaces associated with fitness
• Natural lighting and materiality
RELEVANCE

- Relationships between uses
- Staff to inpatient ratio
- Spatial organization and proximities
- Poor daylighting qualities