Viscera(l):
Catharsis and the Treatment of Chronic Illness
Chron.ic Dis.ease:

n. (kron‘ik di-zēz’)

Disease of long duration. Cannot be cured by medication, nor disappear.
The ‘Invisible Disease’
IBD PATIENTS IN THE WORLD
5,000,000

IBD PATIENTS IN AMERICA
1,600,000

IBD PATIENTS IN IL & IN
60,000

REGISTERED HOSPITALS IN AMERICA
5,627

HOSPITALS IN CHICAGO
36

IBD PROGRAMS AT CHICAGO HOSPITALS
4

IBD TREATMENT CENTERS IN THE WORLD
0
These patients need a multidisciplinary approach taking lessons from the Greek theater and the catharsis evoked by tragedies. The Edgewater IBD Treatment Center will evoke a deeply corporal experience attuning inner and outer worlds in the patient’s progression towards health.
The center will place the body and its emotions back into the environments that are designed for them and treat the individual patient’s path back to healing because for IBD patients the fight is in knowing that, “I have Crohn’s disease but it doesn’t have me.”
how can the physical environment aid discovering the equilibrium of health for those suffering from chronic illness?
'fundamental bias to treat everything as though it were an object-in-general – as though it meant nothing to us and yet was predestined for our own use.'

– Merleau Ponty, *The Primacy of Perception*
“The life of the body always seems to me to be something which is experienced as a constant movement between the loss of equilibrium and the search for a new point of stability. What a remarkable thing it is that a slight pitch in balance counts as nothing, that we can tilt almost until falling and then swing back into equilibrium.”

- Gadamer, *The Enigma of Health*
Only then by compensating for the lack of a part of the soul or body can one become good or beautiful.
Plato introduces the term *chora* to understand human affairs. *Chora* is the "stuff" of the world, the humans and nature. It reveals the limits and purpose of human life in the same way the Greek theater does to the spectator.
Temple of Asclepius

290 BC
Within the walls of the city, students could peer down to the surreptitiously obtained human corpse readied for an anatomy lesson placed on a slab amidst the amphitheater. This design led to the detailed discovery of the interior of the body and simultaneously changed the focus of modern medicine on a solid basis of exploration and observation and away from the visceral feelings of the patient.
By enhancing the mood of the environment, we can “find ourselves in the world.”
Treatment, or “treating people and handling them with care,” pulls apart the routine by listening and being sensitive to the place within us.
Owen Barfield wrote that repeatedly interpreting the same type of poetry causes an over-saturation of our aesthetic imagination and thus results in a loss of our appreciation. When pleasure is completely lost, it is time for an overhaul of change. The traditional oppressive approach to health care design placed emphasis on functional efficiency and the pathogenic conception of disease which has often produced facilities with starkly, institutional, and stressful environments. It is time for an overhaul in the healthcare architecture by allowing the dualities of interior and exterior, public and private, and comfort and discomfort to aid in patients reaching equilibrium with a conducive environment; especially for the chronically ill.
La Tourette
1956
The Garden of Exile

2001
Home Within Home Within Home Within Home

2013
The Fetal Position
Edgewater Neighborhood, Chicago, IL
North – St. Andrews Greek Orthodox Church
Lot 5625
Current Lot 5627
Public Space

- Space for Learning
- Space for Gathering
- Space for Normalizing
- Space for Relaxing
- Space for Rushing

Semi-Private Space

- Space for Supporting
- Space for Connecting
  - Space for Moving
- Space for Discovering
- Space for Assisting

Private Space

- Space for Controlling
- Space for Transitioning
- Space for Researching
Public Space

10 Emergency Patient Rooms
Large Gathering Space
Archives
Lobby & Break-out Space
Cafeteria, Coffee Shop & General Store
Pharmacy
Diagnostics & Imaging

Semi-Private Space

5 Employee Offices & 2 Meeting Rooms
Nurse Stations for Each Department
4 Family Rooms

Private Space

24 Patient Rooms
2 Procedure Rooms
2 Operating Rooms
Clinical Level 3/Entry
Circulation

3 Elevators
2 Stair Towers
Exposing Views to Interconnect Patients & Healers
Clinical Level 2

- 10 Emergency Rooms
- Ambulance Bay
- Nurse/Doctor Stations
- Waiting Areas
- Emergency Reception
- Diagnostics
- Pharmacy
Patient Levels 2-4
Patient Levels 2-4

- 24 Patient Rooms
- Floor Nurse Station
- Floor Family Room
Patient Level 1

- Large Gathering Room
- Lounge
- Archives
Clinical Level 4
Clinical Level 4

- 2 Procedure Rooms
- 2 Operating Rooms
- Surgery Reception
- Surgery Waiting Area
Exposing Views to Interconnect Patients & Healers
Edgewater IBD Treatment Center
Additional Drawings

Technical
- Circulation
- Structure

Architecture
- Latitudinal Section Facing East
- Latitudinal Section Facing West
- Enlarged Floor Plans

Artefact
- Gallery Images
- Process Images
- Additional Views
Circulation
Latitudinal Section Facing East
Clinical Level 1

Lab
Research Laboratory
Staff Break Room
Staff Lockers
Mechanical
Patient Level 2

- 8 Patient Rooms
- Family Room
- Nurse Station
Clinical Level 2

10 Emergency Rooms
Ambulance Bay
Nurse/Doctor Stations
Waiting Areas
Emergency Reception
Diagnostics
Pharmacy
Patient Level 3

8 Patient Rooms
Family Room
Nurse Station
Clinical Level 3

- Employee Offices
- Conference Rooms
- Cafeteria
- General Store
- Lobby
- Reception
Patient Level 4
8 Patient Rooms
Family Room
Nurse Station
Clinical Level 4

- 2 Procedure Rooms
- 2 Operating Rooms
- Surgery Reception
- Surgery Waiting Area
Artefact