

Cincinnati Children's Family Pet Center

Cincinnati, OH



SQ FT
3,950 BGSF



OWNER/AFFILIATION
Cincinnati Children's



ARCHITECT(S)
GBBN



COMPLETION DATE
2013



EXTERIOR VIEW



INTERIOR



PRINT ON THE CONCRETE

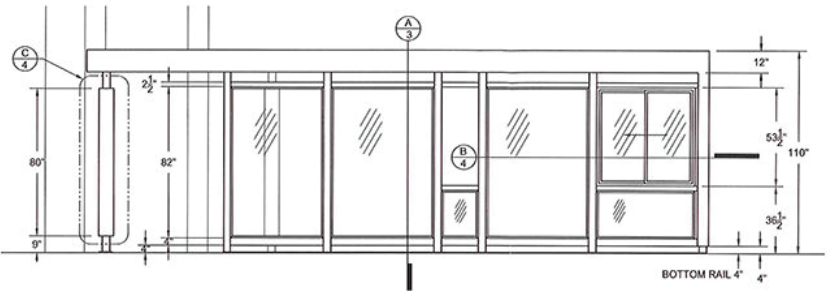
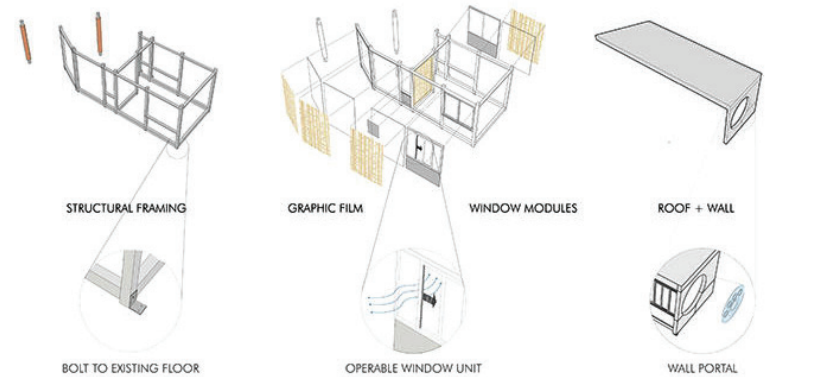
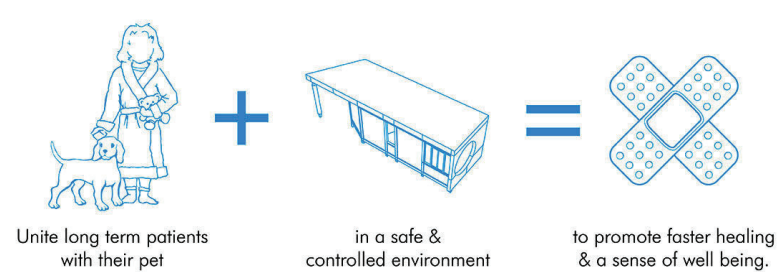


SITE MAP

ABOUT | DESIGN INTENTIONS

Patients experiencing long-term hospitalization often feel stressed, isolated, and depressed, which can slow recovery. **The Family Pet Center at Cincinnati Children's takes the benefits of animal assisted therapy one step further by providing a safe, controlled, park-like setting for children to interact with their own beloved pet.**

GBBN collaborated with a bus shelter manufacturer to design the modular structure, which required no major foundation work and can easily be moved. Inside, a random pattern LED lighting system creates a starry night effect.



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DESIGN STRATEGIES

Meeting with the pet

Patients who stay five days or more may be able to have their pet visit, if medical staff approves.

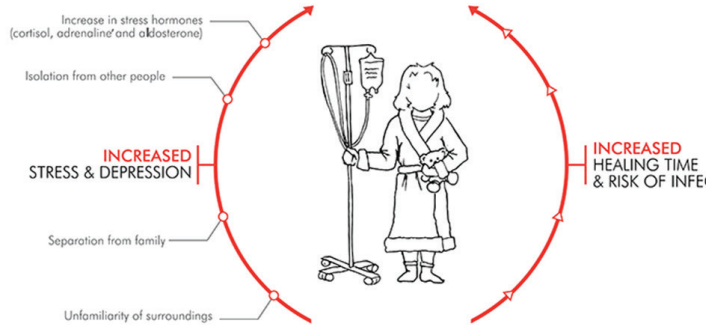
On the day of the visit, a Child Life specialist will bring the child to the Family Pet Center, and a volunteer will meet the family as they arrive with the pet to escort you to the center. Visiting families will be allowed to park in a designated spot by the Emergency Department entrance.

Cincinnati Children's research pointed to a cascading emotional boost for patients as they anticipated the arrival of their furry friend, experienced the interaction, and relived the visit in the following days.



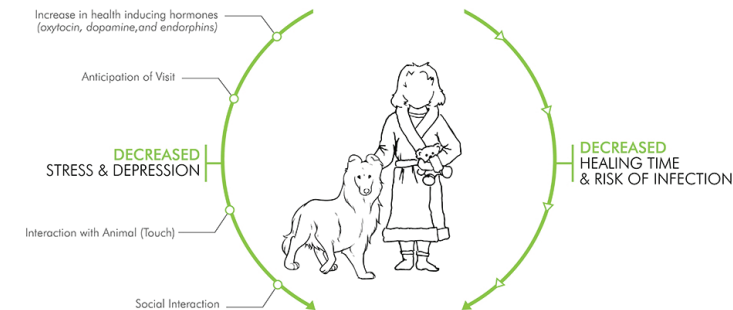
Pets are really important in people's lives, especially children. The interaction between patient and pet can be very therapeutic by bringing joy, comfort, and a positive mindset to those suffering especially from cancer.
- Dr. John Perentesis, Co-Director, Cincinnati Children's Cancer and Blood Diseases Institute

Negative Healing Factors

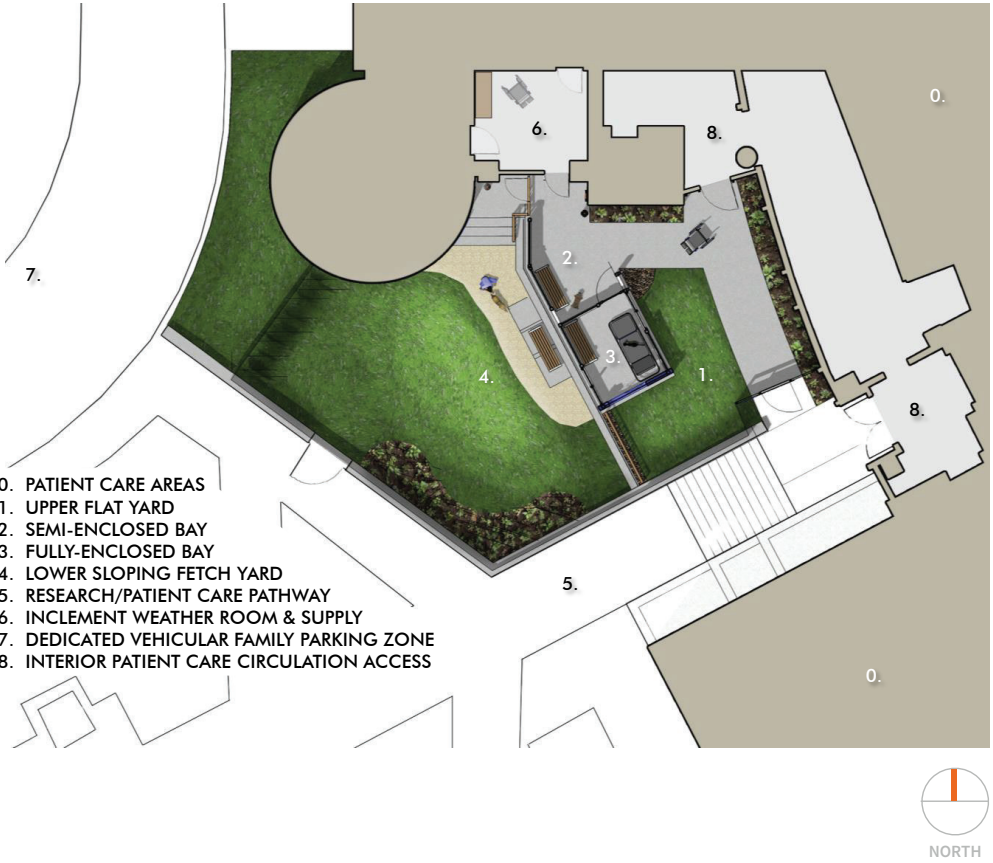


Positive Healing Factors

Animal-Assisted Therapy (AAT) has been shown to help children who have experienced abuse or neglect, patients undergoing chemotherapy or other difficult medical treatments, and veterans and their families who are struggling to cope with the effects of wartime military service.



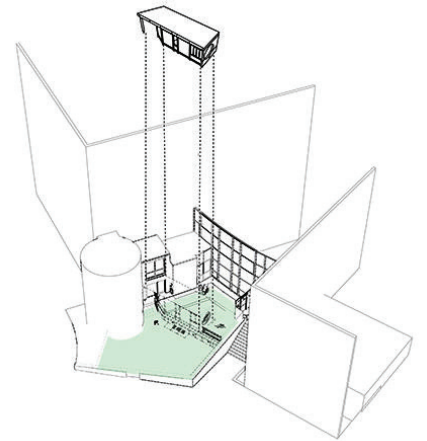
SITE PLAN



DESIGN STRATEGIES

Use of leftover space

Located outside of the hospital in an underused courtyard, the Family Pet Center is a small project that promotes healing by giving patients and families a moment of normalcy amidst a prolonged hospital stay.



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DESIGN STRATEGIES

Integrate Pet Center into the hospital

As the first pediatric hospital-based facility in the U.S. to reunite patients with their own pets, we wanted to evoke a distinct feeling of being at the park or in your own backyard. In order to keep pets in a more controlled setting and outside of the hospital itself, the project was conceived of as a simple shelter with a prefab system for quality control, schedule, and cost.

Its location was determined by site constraints: a compact site of leftover space close to an existing door at the core of the hospital campus with close vehicular access. **A major design challenge was integrating the external Pet Center into the hospital surroundings without creating any life-safety issues that would impede code approval.**

PROJECT SUMMARY:

Project: Cincinnati Children's Family Pet Center
Project location: Cincinnati, OH
Owner/Client: Cincinnati Children's
Architect: GBBN
General contractor: TriVersity Construction
Construction cost: \$107,500
Building area BGSF: 3950SF
Cost per square foot: 27.2\$/SF
Substantial completion date: August, 2013



AIA/AAH DESIGN AWARD WINNER

Category D: Innovations in Planning and Design Research (Built and Unbuilt)

JURY COMMENT

- It is rare to find a project of this scale that is so carefully considered and crafted with such optimism. The purpose of the project is itself innovative and the design team responded with a bit of whimsy and a lot of skill to activate a dreary outdoor space for an important patient experience.
- This diminutive, but important, intervention brings joy and hope to hospital patrons and their four legged companions. Every children's hospital, and many adult facilities can take a lesson about the need for patients to heal by connecting with their pets in this little gem of a design solution. Outstanding concept and very well executed!
- This insightful solution solves myriad challenges – accessibility, weather protection, cost effectiveness, site constraints – elegantly and seemingly effortlessly.

