

Light Well
591 Main Street, Waltham, MA



SQ FT
3,565 BGSF



OWNER/AFFILIATION
Greater Boston
Orthodontics



ARCHITECT(S)
Merge Architects Inc.



COMPLETION DATE
September 2012



SITE MAP

ABOUT | DESIGN INTENTIONS

The client for this family-run orthodontics practice wanted an **open, airy space** to **maximize patient comfort** and **staff efficiency** on a minimal budget. A hundredyear-old storefront and warehouse on Main Street in Waltham was gutted, creating open plan reception and treatment areas flanked by semi-private offices, toothbrushing stations, exam rooms, and a staff coffee area.

Facade Wrapper

An awkward entry was reconfigured to accommodate a more comfortable clinical flow. A new fiber-cement-clad box with bright green wood wrapper frames storefront windows looking into the reception and waiting areas.



Facade wrapper

Light Well

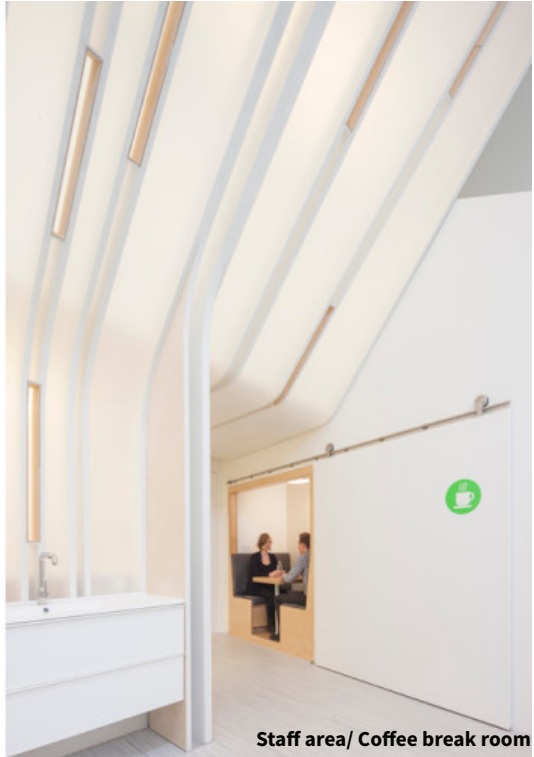
591 Main Street, Waltham, MA

PROJECT SUMMARY:

Project: Light Well
Project Type: Orthodontist Office
Project location: 591 Main Street, Waltham, MA
Owner/Client: Greater Boston Orthodontics
Architect: Merge Architects Inc.
Construction cost: \$390,000
Building area GSF: 3,565 S.F.
Lot area: 2,942 S.F.
Cost per square foot: \$109/S.F.
Substantial completion date: September 2012



Staff area/ Coffee break room



Staff area/ Coffee break room



Dumpling Pendant



Felt Surfaces



Iconographic

Design Considerations

The double-height treatment space is framed by an 18-foot-tall backlit translucent wall curving down in section to frame and light the open treatment area. CNC-cut plywood ribs skinned with thin polycarbonate panels funnel light from skylights into the ortho bay. Built-in sinks and storage at the base of the wall serve the treatment area and the semi-enclosed lab and sterilization areas behind.

In the front of the space, a wraparound seating area and digital media bar provide comfortable and engaging waiting spaces for teenage patients and their families. Natural wool felt applied to walls, millwork, and a custom-constructed lighting pendant warm the space, and bright green custom wall graphics provide friendly wayfinding throughout.

Felt surfaces
Filzfelt design wool felt was applied to wall, millwork, and floor surfaces in the waiting and reception areas to provide warmth and color.

Iconography
Custom iconography on bright green vinyl signage provides wayfinding for patients and staff at exam / treatment areas, toothbrushing stations, water fountains, lab / sterilization zones, and break rooms.

Dumpling Pendant
The pendant light above the reception desk was custom designed and fabricated by the architect, with a hand-sewn felt skin wrapping CNC-cut plywood ribs.

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AIA/AAH DESIGN AWARD WINNER

Category: A

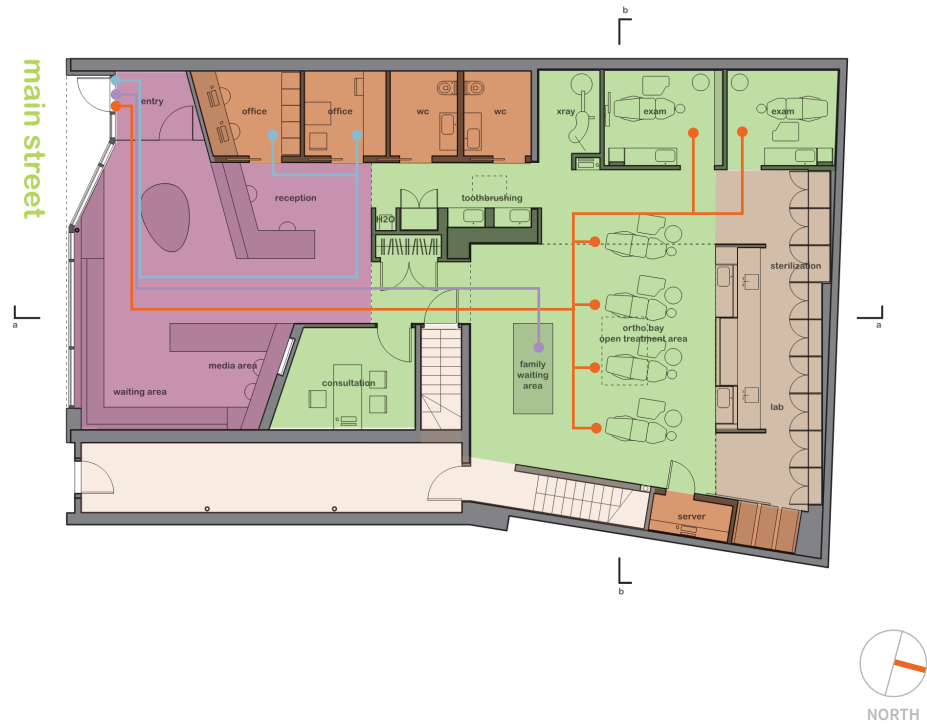
JURY COMMENT

- Materials, graphics, color palette, lighting, and form combine with an elegant use of space to energize this gem of a small office fit-out.
- It is both creative and restrained in a pleasing way.
- It is appropriately named as the design uses light to define the form in a way that is specifically relevant from the patient's perspective.
- The translucent wall is a very dramatic backdrop for a very simply organized plan.
- This is an impressive example of what can be achieved on a very limited budget within the restrictive framework of an existing building.
- The design demonstrates an exemplary commitment to implementing a strong concept within tight constraints.

KEY

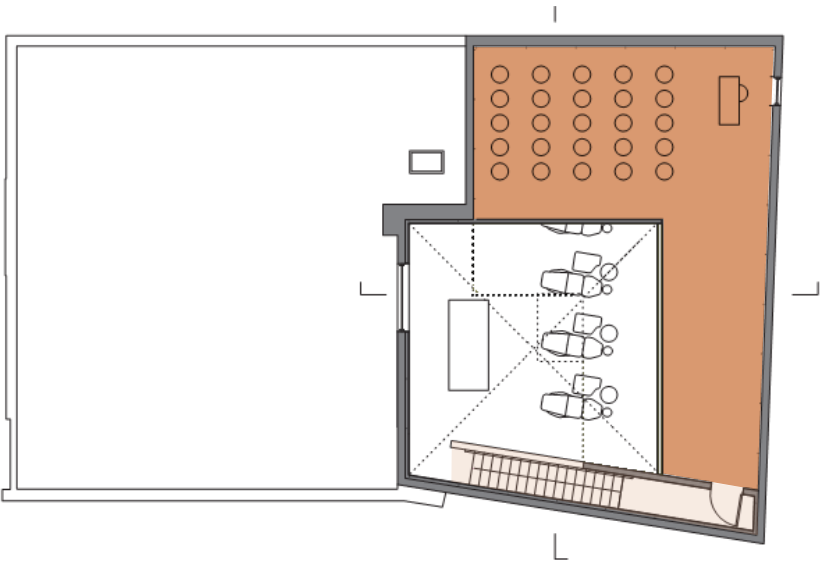
- Patient Care
- Registration/Waiting
- Lab
- Patient support
- Circulation

GROUND LEVEL:



Note: "Departmental Square footages take-off based on 'Analysis of Departmental Area in Contemporary Hospitals calculation methodologies & Design Factors Report, 2014

MEZZANINE LEVEL:



KEY SPACES:

- Exam Rooms (82-89sf)
- X-Ray Room (42sf)
- Consult Rooms (103 sf)

DEPARTMENTAL GROSS SQUARE FOOT TAKE-OFFS

	Net	Gross
Patient Care	968 SF	1,107 SF
Registration/Waiting	591 SF	618 SF
Lab	270 SF	309 SF
Patient Support	822 SF	893 SF

TRAVEL DISTANCE ANALYSIS

- Patient 60ft - 87.5ft
- Family 55ft - 67ft
- Staff 50ft - 136ft

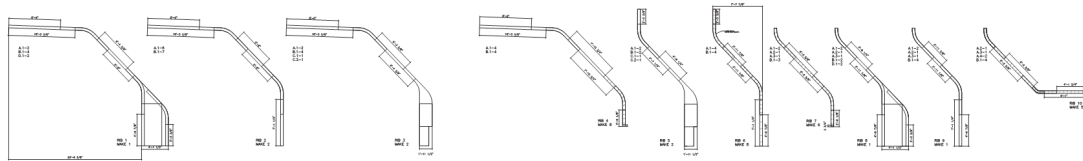
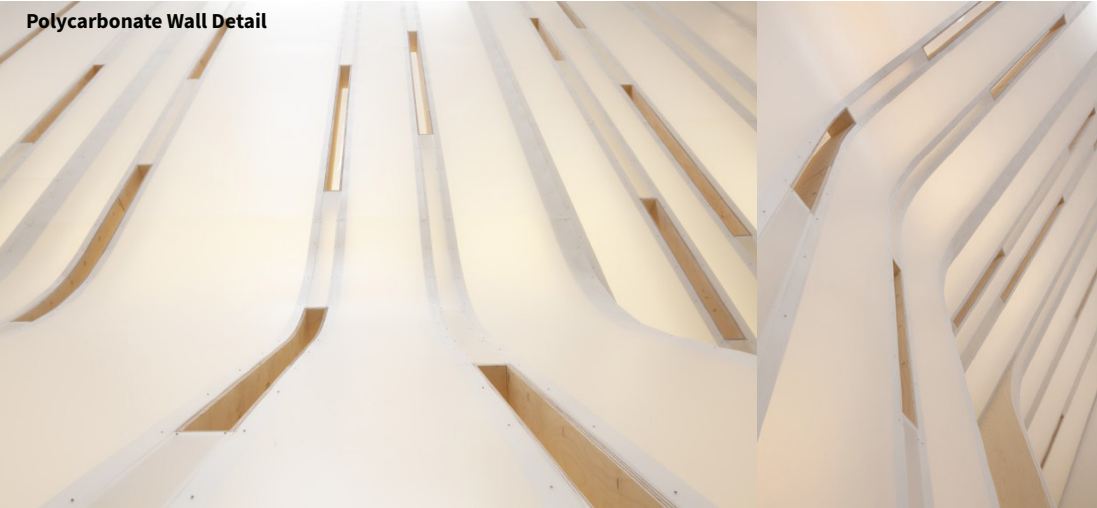
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CNC Fabrication

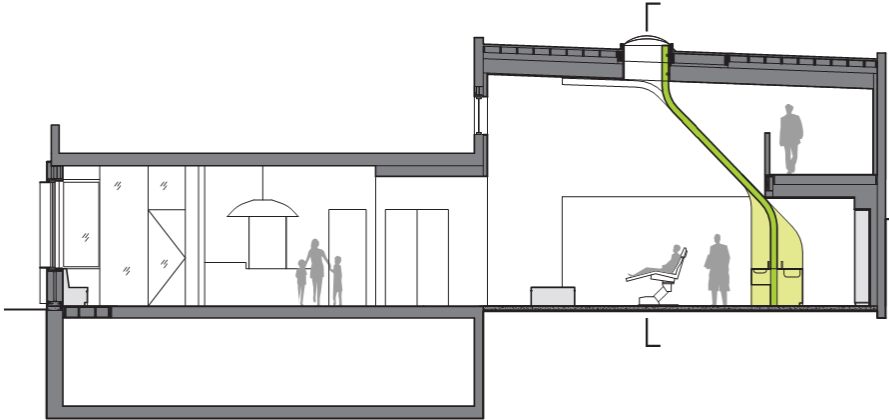
CNC-fabricated backlit translucent wall

The double-height treatment space is framed by an 18-foottall backlit translucent wall. The wall curves down in section, drawing natural light from two skylights into the open treatment area below.

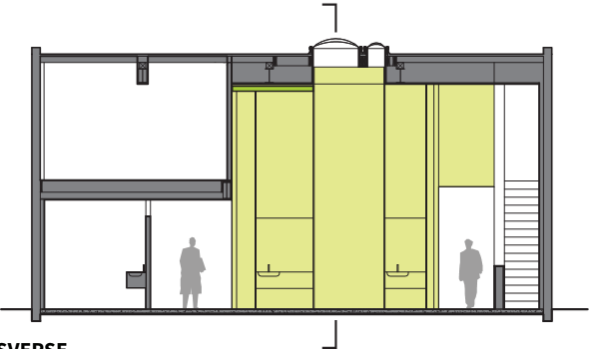


CNC Fabrication

Section



SECTION / ELEVATION A - LONGITUDINAL



SECTION / ELEVATION B - TRANSVERSE

Polycarbonate wall

CNC-cut plywood ribs skinned with thin polycarbonate panels funnel light from skylights into the ortho bay. Built-in sinks and storage at the base of the wall serve the treatment area and the semi-enclosed lab and sterilization areas behind.

- KEY
- Double-height translucent screen wall