New York Hospital Queens Astoria Primary Care Clinic

ABOUT | DESIGN INTENTIONS
The 5,000-square-foot facility is a satellite primary care clinic. This off-site primary care clinic—built between October 2013 and October 2014, located in Astoria, on a corner site along the busy thoroughfare of 30th Avenue, the distinctive design is intended to give this satellite facility a powerful presence in the neighborhood.
Neighborhood Presence

Located in Astoria, on a corner site along the busy thoroughfare of 30th Avenue, the distinctive design is intended to give this satellite facility a powerful presence in the neighborhood. A new entrance canopy was added to provide shelter and act as an entrance for the facility. The canopy leads into a ceiling plane within the waiting room; visible from the exterior it creates a strong form along the street.

Visibility

With the interior highly visible from the outside, the client wanted a bright and inviting space. Michielli + Wyetzner incorporated Sierra Shadowstone on the entry wall as part of the hospital’s “brand.” In addition, the firm used an illuminated polycarbonate ceiling that calls attention to the building in the neighborhood. And a bold color palette was chosen to give the clinic’s interior a strong identity. Distinct geometric volumes interact with each other at the reception desk and a new boldly colored enclosed stair volume provides a dramatic transition between floors and is visible from the street. In particular, Wyetzner said, he wanted to call attention to the new stairs, so they were painted blue on the outside and the inside.

Daylight

A perforated metal screen was used to mask the irregular pattern of existing windows on the ground floor. The screen allows daylight to enter during the day and artificial light to emit a mysterious glow on the exterior in the evening. Flooding above the newly clad ground floor, the second story brick box is unchanged save for the front elevation where the two existing windows were combined into one new horizontal opening increasing the natural light in the upper waiting room and forming a distinct composition in harmony with the glass and steel elevation below.

Neighborhood Presence

Located in Astoria, on a corner site along the busy thoroughfare of 30th Avenue, the distinctive design is intended to give this satellite facility a powerful presence in the neighborhood. A new entrance canopy was added to provide shelter and act as an entrance for the facility. The canopy leads into a ceiling plane within the waiting room; visible from the exterior it creates a strong form along the street.
Function & Circulation

The two-story brick building was completely gutted to accommodate new exam and consultation rooms. The main circulating corridor on both floors is located along the perimeter of the cross-street to allow natural light to enter into the patient area. Waiting rooms on the first and second floor will allow ample amounts of controlled natural light into the space.
New York Hospital Queens Astoria Primary Care Clinic
Astoria, NY

DESIGN STRATEGIES

Volume, Color & Material

The clinic’s two floors consist of exam rooms, consultation rooms, waiting and reception, and support spaces. The exterior is painted exposed steel, perforated corrugated metal, glass, and<br>brick. It was originally an existing one-story brick building to which the landlord added a second<br>floor several years ago.

Distinct geometric volumes interact with each other at the reception desk and a new boldly-colored enclosed stair volume provides a dramatic transition between floors and is also visible from the street. In addition, an illuminated ceiling spills light onto the sidewalk through the floor to ceiling glass contributing to the unique presence of NYHQ in the surrounding area.

PROJECT SUMMARY:

Within an urban neighborhood setting, this adaptive re-use manages to stand out while fitting in.

It is a subtle yet highly effective transformation of an ordinary building into a welcoming and attractive community clinic.

AIA/AAH DESIGN AWARD WINNER

Category: Innovations in Planning and Design Research, Built and Unbuilt

JURY COMMENT

> Within an urban neighborhood setting, this adaptive re-use manages to stand out while fitting in.

> It is a subtle yet highly effective transformation of an ordinary building into a welcoming and attractive community clinic.