

Perceived Importance of Wellness Features at the Upstate Cancer Center from Patient and Staff Perspectives

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ABSTRACT

There is an increasing awareness of the relationship between the built environment and occupant wellbeing as well as a push from the green building industry to recognize the importance of specific architectural features that promote wellness. Examples of building features that promote health, wellness, and productivity such as day-lighting, biophilia, positive distraction, and noise control vary in importance to occupants depending on their physical and mental health. This presentation will provide an understanding of the value various individual wellness features have to both patients and staff at newly built Upstate Cancer Center in the framework of the whole building design and identify an order of importance that will guide design professionals in future implementations of such features. Features investigated as part of this MS Thesis project are natural lighting, lack of visible medical equipment, views of nature, artwork representative of nature, acoustic tranquility, as well as access to privacy and access to social space.

The results shared in the presentation will be useful in the development of standards like the WELL Building Standard and LEED for Healthcare as well as provide relevance in the broader context of Evidence-Based Design (EBD) which is defined as the process of basing design decisions related to the built environment, specifically healthcare facilities, on sound evidence and peer-reviewed research (EDAC).

BIOGRAPHY

Michelle, CLEAResult Senior Technical Support Analyst, kicked-off her building science career as a home performance contractor for NYSERDA's EmPower New York Program, an energy reduction service for low-income families. Embracing a whole system's approach to building, she became a HERS Rater, Certified Passive House Consultant, and a BPI certified Building Analyst, Envelope, Heating, as well as AC/Heat Pump professional.

With a commitment to professionalism and education she's currently seeking her MS in Sustainable Construction Management at SUNY ESF to bind innovation and sustainability with affordability.