

Book Reviews

Book Review Editor is Anne Sweaney

A Book Review:

HOSPITABLE DESIGN FOR HEALTHCARE AND SENIOR COMMUNITIES
by Albert Bush-Brown and Dianne Davis. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold,
1992, 249 pages.

Margaret A. Boschetti

As defined by the authors, hospitable design addresses two principal needs of medical settings: client privacy and belongingness. This theme, and the concern for a holistic approach to the design of physical facilities, are common threads running through more than ninety essays written by architects, interior designers, healthcare facility managers, medical communication consultants, and federal agency executives.

The purpose of the book is to challenge traditional forms and inspire new models that break with forlorn institutional images associated with illness and aging. To achieve this end, the book is organized around topics rather than specific types of settings. Unfortunately, this creative approach to content organization falls short of its intended purpose and the book lacks a clear conceptual framework, making it awkward to use as a reference.

The essays are grouped into nine parts, with somewhat arbitrary headings: Advocacy for Hospitable Design; Activity and Membership; Membership and Communal Spaces; Architectural Design; Architectural Planning; Hospitable Models; Special Design Features; Nurturing the Caring Environment; and Windows to the Future. The titles of some essays, while intriguing (for example: "Intimacy, Nooks, and Cues," and "Rhythms, Melodies, Poems, and Palettes"), do not clearly identify the content. Some topics, such as circulation, re-appear throughout the book.

The essays are brief--one consists of two paragraphs; another is only three sentences long! Some essays are descriptive of specific settings; others are strong on content and design strategies. In keeping with the authors' philosophy that hospitable design be approached holistically, topics such as trustees' and administrators' roles, guest services, training in healthcare, and financing hospital healthcare are included in the collection.

The introduction lists twenty-seven "provocative propositions" which suggest the chief themes in the book. Unfortunately, these statements are too general to be useful to the serious designer or design educator who is seeking depth and insight into an emerging and very important design speciality. With a few exceptions, the generalist approach to the topic undermines the authors' intention of stimulating new directions and new models in healthcare design. Perhaps the book's most important contribution is as a stimulus to idea generation; a multitude of places are described and illustrated in brief essays that can be read at random.

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A Book Review:

HOSPITAL INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE by Jain Malkin. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1992, 478 pages.

Margaret A. Boschetti

Jain Malkin has scored again in the field of health care design literature with the introduction of her second book, this time a comprehensive informative and beautiful volume on hospital design. (Her first book, *Medical and Dental Space Planning for the 1990s*, was published in 1990, and was devoted to medical offices). Included in the new book are many examples of health care design for diverse populations, with selections from military installations, teaching hospitals, venerable institutions, community hospitals, low income and federally funded facilities, for-profit hospitals, and several international projects. Projects were selected from many thousands the author received when she surveyed architects/interior designers for examples showing excellence in the integration of architecture and interior design. The results are a compilation of state-of-the-art health care facilities.

The book is not a picture book, however. The introductory chapters thoroughly cover the current status on research in health care design; indeed the need for research in the field is referred to throughout the book. Other chapters cover the relationship between environmental stress and healing, the therapeutic potential of the built environment, and the role of nature in the healing process. In Chapter Three, "Creating a Healing Environment," Malkin identifies the basic components of a healing environment as: "indoor air quality, thermal comfort, noise control, privacy, light, views of nature, visual serenity for those who are very ill, and visual stimulation for those who are recuperating." Each of these topics is thoroughly discussed, carefully referenced, and colorfully illustrated.

Succeeding chapters treat specific medical specialties in the same careful, yet readable manner. These chapters follow a basic format that covers psychological factors, activities, and issues of concern, as well as divergent topics pertinent to each speciality. Chapters Four through Sixteen are devoted to specialized information on diagnostic imaging centers, children's hospitals, cancer centers, rehabilitation, critical care, chemical dependency recovery hospitals, birth centers, psychiatric facilities, ambulatory care, teaching and research facilities, long-term care, congregate care, and wayfinding design. At the conclusion of the book are two indices that facilitate the location of specific topics, and the site locations of all facilities illustrated or referred to in the text. Malkin's book is a must for anyone who is interested in the growing field of health care design, either as a generalist or a specialist. It is too comprehensive to be useful as a text book for classroom use; however, it is an excellent reference for the practicing designer, design educator, or design researcher.

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A Book Review:

***THE COMPANY TOWN: ARCHITECTURE AND SOCIETY IN THE EARLY INDUSTRIAL AGE* by J. Garner (Ed.). New York: Oxford, 1992, 232 pages.**

Rhonda Moore

The Company Town: Architecture and Society in the Early Industrial Age, edited by John S. Garner, is a compilation of seven essays on company towns in Europe, Scandinavia, and North and South America. Specifically, the essays describe company towns in South Wales, France, Scandinavia, the Piscataqua River Valley of New England, Southern United States, Western United States, Chile, and Argentina. Garner claims that while the perspective is "broad in scope, it is by no means comprehensive." In the introduction, Garner gives a brief definition of company towns and an overview of their history and development. In the essays, the authors give a general description of the framework of several towns and then describe, in detail, at least one town. The architecture of the company towns is emphasized in this book.

In Chapter 1, Bruce Thomas discusses Merthyr Tydfil, an ironwork village that developed in South Wales. Chapter 2, by John Garner, is about the company towns that developed around the mills in France, as well as the towns that came about as a result of the chocolate industry. In Chapter 3, Mats Ahnlund and Lasse Brunstrom relate the history of Scandinavian company towns.

Chapter 4, written by Richard McCandee, deals with the development of mill villages of the textile industry in New England. Specifically, McCandee describes four towns in the Piscataqua River Valley in New Hampshire. In Chapter 5, Margaret Crawford discusses company towns in the Southern Piedmont. She particularly deals with the work of Earle S. Draper, a landscape architect and planner and designer of company towns. Leland M. Roth writes about the company towns of the Western United States in Chapter 6, and Olga Paterlini de Koch writes about the development of these towns in Chile and Argentina.

The book contains drawings, photographs, and floor plans of buildings, houses, and maps that are associated with company towns. These visuals complement the essays. Also, a bibliography of related sources is included at the end of the book for students and scholars who are interested in further study of company towns.

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