

Abstract

Existing healthcare facilities are typically designed for operational efficiency, often overlooking the quality of the patient and staff experience. Despite the opportunity to employ biophilic design, its implementation has not been utilized consistently within the healthcare industry. The colors and materials of nature, along with the effects of daylight, can significantly influence mood, stress, and energy levels. These nature-based factors, when used in harmony, can enhance patient healing rates, operational staff performance, and more general occupant comfort. As a model of this practice, an outpatient cancer center located on the near-north side of Chicago, Illinois; was designed to mindfully incorporating nature-based strategies. This facility aims to be a haven of nature, welcoming individuals with natural light and greenery from the moment they step onto the site, to entering the facility, and as they migrate into the intended spaces. With the implementation of nature-based design strategies, patients' minds and bodies will receive support as they endure the challenges that come with cancer, aiding in the healing process simultaneously. This cancer center thereby provides a unique experience that is set apart from other facilities in the Chicagoland area, serving as a precedent for future healthcare facility design.