

Constructive Ideas

modular Caseworks



Modular/Flexible/Durable





The seemingly simple and straightforward configurations created to populate the 297 resident and 180 exam rooms of Manhattan’s Gouverneur Healthcare Services renovation were actually the result of a thoughtful refinement process. After initial contact with the architect was established by Jack Wiesel, Bill Maguire and Bob Medwin of Modern Office Systems meticulously considered every aspect of the furniture design and manufacture. Each stakeholder, from the architect to the hospital COO to the head of facilities, received an invitation to offer input on the initial plans.

As in any health facility, infection control was a major concern. To eliminate space for mold and dust to accumulate, headboards in resident rooms were built to lie flush against sometimes irregular existing walls and floors. As a further precaution, all exposed and unexposed surfaces were sealed to eliminate wicking, a standard feature of Hamilton Sorter casework. A unique concept was developed to anchor the resident desk to the headboard wall. By removing any visible means of support, legs that would require cleaning and obstruct floor mopping and wheelchair access were eliminated. Efficient wardrobes in each resident room housed a standard set of linens and sheets for housekeeping in a base drawer as well as a the patient’s personal belongings above. A flexible sconce could be moved to illuminate the bed or the desk. Elliptical handles were exchanged for the easier accessibility of bar handles. In exam rooms, pear-shaped writing areas with 36” wide locked cabinets were designed to be just the right size to hold a sports jacket, providing a highly functional personal work space for the physician, that maximized a small area.



“The casework is standardized and interchangeable,” says Bob. “Unlike millwork, if a piece needs to be replaced or repaired 6 months or 6 years from now, it will match. And it is backed by a lifetime guarantee.” Each exam room in a particular department utilized the same furniture, so staff could effortlessly locate supplies time after time as they moved from room to room. “Integral to the system is its modularity,” says Bill. “It can easily adapt to incremental change. Our clients appreciate that this green product is not contributing to landfills in any way.”

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