

Project Case Study:

Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services



Project Name
Project Location
Project Size
Building Type
Project Team

Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services
Grand Rapids, MI
11140 s.f. renovation
Behavioral Healthcare Services Facility
Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services

Lake Effect Art Gallery

Norix Group, Inc.

Product List

Attenda® Series Patient Room Furniture

ComfortShield® Mattresses

Forté™ Series Seating and Tables



CASE STUDY

WWW.NORIX.COM

DESCRIPTION:

Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services is a full-service behavioral healthcare facility located in Grand Rapids, MI that offers addiction treatment services, community outreach programs, forensic psychiatric and psychological services and other mental health assistance. The mission of the facility is to “express the healing ministry of Jesus Christ by providing behavioral health services with professional excellence, Christian integrity, and compassion,” according to its website.

The roots of Pine Rest go back to 1910, when a group of pastors and laity created an organization that focused on the emotional, physical and spiritual well-being of individuals. The facility integrates its faith-based heritage into all of its services and calls upon their staff to attend to each patient with compassionate care.



OVERALL PROJECT GOAL / PHILOSOPHY

Pine Rest decided to completely renovate one of its inpatient units for acute patients and implement a purposeful design that was evidence-based.

“Historically, behavioral healthcare units that are attached to medical centers get leftover space which generally wasn’t designed for their needs,” Heather Treib, Director of Operations of Hospital Based Services, said. “At Pine Rest, we were able to design floor plans around the needs of our patients and staff.”

Aesthetic goal: The renovation needed to be aesthetically pleasing, create a feeling of calm and promote the healing process of the patients. The facility wanted furniture that came in a variety of colors to coordinate with the different hues in each room.

Safety/Security Goal: Pine Rest needed furniture that could be floor-anchored or weighted so the pieces could not be used as a weapon or a barricade. The facility also needed furniture with no ligature points.

Functional Goal: Pine Rest needed furnishings that were comfortable and created a residential feel in their facility. They also needed furniture that was easy to sanitize and that could fit cohesively into a variety of room types.

CHOOSING NORIX

Doug Brower, Norix consultative sales specialist, contacted Pine Rest and learned that the facility was planning to renovate one of its inpatient units. Brower presented samples of the Forté™ Series Seating, which the facility felt could help them create a safe and therapeutic environment.

"They wanted furniture that was going to be safe for the patients and staff and that wasn't institutional in appearance," Brower said. "Forté™ was attractive to them because the colors are inspired by nature and are designed to contribute to a healing environment. It's an aesthetically pleasing product that is highly durable, even with the upholstery option."

The Forté™ Series offers designers the option of steel, wood or molded bases; an upholstery option for chairs; plus the extreme durability needed in critical environments.

The product colors are part of the Norix Naturals Collection color palette, which was custom-designed by Tara Hill of LittleFISH Think Tank, a creative solutions company specializing in architectural design for healing environments.

"Color is intrinsic in our everyday lives," said Hill, a design consultant recognized for her work in the use of color to create normalized environments that support positive outcomes. "We intuitively perceive color's presence in our natural environment, and respond positively. Color is a very cost effective design tool to dramatically improve the environment at nominal cost."



"We intuitively perceive color's presence in our natural environment, and respond positively. Color is a very cost effective design tool to dramatically improve the environment at nominal cost."

ADDITION OF ART

To ensure that the space was aesthetically pleasing and therapeutic, Pine Rest met with an interior designer who made color recommendations for the walls, floors and furniture. As an addition to the renovation, Pine Rest also decided to purchase artwork that fit in with the aesthetics of the rooms and coordinated with the Norix furniture.

"With this renovation, we wanted to create a healing and therapeutic environment," Treib said. "This can be a challenge because furniture typically found in facilities like ours is often very institutional looking and not welcoming at all. We really liked the Norix color options and we thought we could find artwork that would match up well with it."

Pine Rest contacted Carrie Rodgers-O'Neal, a professional health care art consultant and owner of Lake Effect Gallery in Holland, MI for recommendations on art selection, acquisition and installation. In particular, Rodgers-O'Neal and the Pine Rest project team desired artwork that was appropriate for the acute behavioral healthcare setting.

"We were careful to select art that didn't include imagery that might trigger negative responses in their patients," Rodgers-O'Neal said. "Along with many other criteria, the guidelines included avoiding abstract imagery as well as people, wildlife, empty buildings and strong, hot colors such as orange and red."

Rodgers-O'Neal worked with the selected color palette of the Norix products to select pieces that complemented the furniture. Works by photographer John Dykstra were selected which featured nature scenes from west Michigan.

To ensure that the art was durable enough for a behavioral health care facility, Rodgers-O'Neal printed the large images using archival inks and canvas and then fused them to a rigid, lightweight backer. This process ensures lightfast, non-fading, non-rotting and non-yellowing art work.

Pieces were sealed for ease of cleaning and to protect them from fading. They were framed in wood frames selected to complement both the individual art pieces and the interior elements of the facility. All pieces were installed with Rodgers-O'Neal's supervision, using a security hanging system.

"While the pieces are made of durable materials, they don't look institutional, which is one of our goals," stated Rodgers-O'Neal. "I think the art and the furnishings will lead to positive outcomes with patients. Art encourages meditation on beauty and creativity and helps viewers to shed negative thoughts. A quality environment, including well-designed furnishings and art selected for its healing abilities, will help to foster a patient's self-worth and will impact their ability to participate in the healing process."

Art, Treib said, can be an essential part of the healing process, and patients very rarely bother pieces in behavioral healthcare facilities. "The patients never touch our artwork," she said. "Give them a dump space they will treat it that way. Give them a nice space they will treat it nicely."



THE RESULTS:

The furniture was installed in January 2014 and the renovated unit was occupied soon after. The Norix furniture that was chosen includes Attenda® beds, nightstands and wardrobes for patient rooms, and Forté™ Lounge Chairs, Guest Chairs, Café Tables and Occasional Tables which were installed in the facility's dining rooms, interviews rooms, quiet rooms and an operations room.

The facility immediately received compliments regarding the renovation and the furniture.

"We are constantly getting compliments on the redesign of the facility. There is cohesiveness to the space, and the versatility of the Norix Forté line helped us achieve that," Treib said. "Additionally, the staff really likes that the furniture is weighted and can't be tossed. However, it can still be moved by the staff when needed."

ABOUT NORIX:

For more than 30 years Norix has provided secure furnishings and fixtures for every application. The product line has expanded to include industries and environments such as behavioral healthcare, public safety, transportation, educational institutions, commercial facilities and military installations. We surpass common durability by engineering for the most challenging environments to create robust furniture for every application. The privately held company is headquartered in West Chicago, IL with sales representatives and dealers throughout the U.S. In 2012, Norix launched Safe Environments, a news and information blog serving architects, designers, administrators, and facility managers involved in the design, construction, and operation of challenging environments. For more information, call 800-234-4900 or visit: <http://www.norix.com>.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:



Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services - <http://www.pinerest.org>

Lake Effect Gallery - <http://www.lakeeffectgallery.com>

Norix Naturals Color Palette - <http://www.norix.com/dtools.asp>

Whitepaper: Top 5 Furniture Considerations for Patient Safety in Behavioral Healthcare Settings -
<http://www.norix.com/download-whitepaper-patient-safety.asp>

White Paper: The Planning and Design of Behavioral Healthcare Facilities White Paper -
<http://www.norix.com/download-whitepaper-behavioral-healthcare.asp>