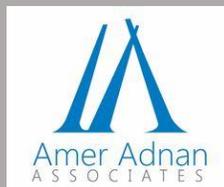


How to Design Patient-Centered Healthcare Facilities?



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White Paper

How to Design Patient-Centered Healthcare Facilities?



When it comes to architecture design, efforts to transform healthcare centers in Pakistan have seen little support and momentum from both the public and private sectors. As a result, people rarely get to see hospitals that have patient-centered design.

To address healthcare facility issues, it is essential that fundamental changes in culture, healthcare processes and physical environment should be made. So caregivers and resources supporting them can deliver safe care and improve the outcomes.

The fact is, patient-centric design has become more important than ever as patients have started measuring quality of care from their surroundings. Thus, it's inevitable for caregivers to compromise on design quality.

So how public and private sector can design a healthcare facility to attain these desired outcomes? What design elements should they incorporate to build a successful patient-centered space?

The policy paper by HOK (New York) and McGraw Hill Research Foundation has resolved this problem by revealing the impact of design on healthcare goals and presenting what should be considered when designing hospitals to build a modern care facility.

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Keeping the findings of this paper, here we have outlined what architects and caregivers should mull over before designing modern hospital inpatient units.

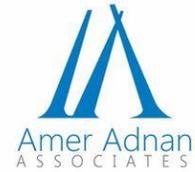
- **Create Optimal Environment**

When considering various approaches—from compact triangle to race track configuration—**architecture companies in Pakistan** must gauge which model offers optimal environment both to patient and staff. For instance, how it can reduce travel distances for staff, improve patients' safety, visibility and communication with caregiver team.

Also, how it should bring patients' rooms close to nurses' stations, maintain standards for same-handed configurations and use on and off-stage areas by keeping pros and cons of various approaches.

- **Decentralize Nursing Stations**

Traditionally a centralized model has remained the first choice of designers and healthcare givers, but McGraw Hill Research Foundation and HOK's research supports decentralized stations. Because it



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improves staff efficiency by reducing walking distances and increasing the time nurses can spend with the sick.

The HOK (New York) and McGraw Hill Research Foundation study also reminds that health information technology should be integrated in workspaces. However, the downside to the model is staff may sense isolation.

- **Family-Friendly Centers**

Patients' health is often allied to their families' health therefore, creating facilities where family members can sense empowerment and self-efficacy has become an important component of patient friendly design. According to the policy paper there are four key concepts to designing family-centered hospital:

- Active participation of families and patients in healthcare decision making process.
- Provision of relevant information to patients and their families to make such decisions.
- Choice offered on what level of participation is desired in decision making process.
- As well as on institutional issues, including delivery and design of care.



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