

Excerpts from interview from a Toronto Canada media outlet.

RE: Impact on art and color within a Healthcare Facility

EXPERT: Scott Grove, artist and creative director at Smith+Associates Architects

TOPIC: Color, form and art have an impact on a person's general wellbeing, particularly in a healthcare facility. Scott can also share tips on how to apply these concepts at home and work.

Traditionally, healthcare facilities have been sterile environments both physically and aesthetically. Patients and visitors alike enter these institutions, typically in a vulnerable and sensitive state, in which they are typically experiencing an intimate human condition. Patients are easily affected by a hospital's ambiance and these antiseptic surroundings can add psychological and physiological stress.

The impact of color and art intervention can be powerful during this time. Art can help reduce anxiety and improve healthfulness.

Studies have shown artistically enhanced positive environments have a direct impact on the stress, anxiety and pain perception in both patients and healthcare providers. Implementing art in architecture through a variety of means as fundamental as color and form to displays of fine art such as paintings and sculpture as well as entire environments, can improve the health and wellbeing of patients, family members and staff.

Overall positive experience and treatment is rated significantly higher in such environments. For example, simple application of specific colors can relax and ease one's mind in a patient's room or stimulate and energize in a work station. Although these perceptions are amplified in the healthcare environment, they can be easily applied to the home or office.

Creative Director Scott Grove of Smith+Associates Architects (S+A) in Rochester, New York and a nationally renowned artist in his own right, has been working as an environmental designer for thirty years. (His degree is in environmental design from the Rochester Institute of Technology.)

S+A is the primary architectural firm for the current renovation of Buffalo General Hospital (BGH), a part of the Kalieda Health system in Buffalo New York. BGH is committed to improving healthcare service with the addition of art in architecture throughout its one million plus square foot facility.

Grove oversees the aesthetic direction, artistic vernacular and implementation of art into the hospital's ongoing renovation projects. S+A's team carefully selects and locates the artistic elements throughout each unit. "The emitting light wavelengths that are generated through color can have a powerful effect on the human condition," notes Grove. "It can improve the experience and impact results on so many levels within any environment, especially a hospital."