EXERCISE 4: DESIGN ANALYSIS

Waiting Rooms, not all bad.

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WAITING ROOMS: NEUROSURGEON'S OFFICE, FUNCTIONAL MEDICINE OFFICE, AND A SALON.

(Fig. 1)

(Fig. 2)

(Fig. 3)

(THE NEUROSURGERY OFFICE, FIG. 1)

- Three rows of around seven/nine chairs.
- The crown moulding and other detail work around the walls was very “high end”, but the chairs were a fake-leather/ leatherette material. The flooring was nice, but the wall colour was much too cool of a yellow for the warm, red stain on the flooring and other woodwork.
- A wall mounted TV took up much of the main wall, while there were posters and other adverts on the entrance wall. Not very elegant, to say the least. The TV played more adverts for medicines and procedures for the patients to inquire about with their physician.
- A windowed desk area for check in/ check out.
- Entrance, office door, and restroom are the areas of egress/ingress.
- During my time, there were only ever three people waiting in the space. I’ve never seen it more busy than this. (Curious as to why the space needs 20+ chairs.)
- There is not really any spacing between the chairs, so due to the personal comfort level of the other patients, we all sat in different rows, in different sections of each row. This definitely felt as though we were all in a combative, defensive state. (Kopec, 2006.)
- Overall, I feel that this room could use half as many chairs and twice as much attention to the patients’ comfort. A few tables, a couple of couches, low, warm lighting, some aromatherapy or low-playing music might have made the space feel a bit less clinical and more comfortable. (I don’t doubt that the office cares about aesthetics, given their outfitting the space with moulding and the ceiling light fixture. I just question their ability to note the difference between the typical hospital experience and a more personal feel of the space they seem to have begun laying out.)

(THE FUNCTIONAL MEDICINE OFFICE, FIG 2)

- This space was personally much more warm and inviting.
- There are seats for 8, 9 if two people occupy the couch. The spacing between the chairs, with small tables, allows personal space so that people don't feel clustered together. The tables are functional as well as a space-maker between the armchairs.
- The flooring and wooden furniture is warm, and instead of a cool yellow, a warm cream has been chosen. The crown moulding, baseboard, and window coping are bright white and add contrast to the other two colours. The grey rug adds texture and warmth to the space.
- I have noticed several times people standing when there were still seating options available. It may have been a personal preference, however it seemed a bit clunky and awkward.
- The one thing I may change is the large dresser/drawer-storage unit may be better suited elsewhere in the office, and another couch or set of chairs could be placed in that space to offer the appearance of more seating options for new patients.
- Things not shown, a soft, lavender smell adds to the ambiance and low-volume classical music makes the space much more calming.

(THE SALON, FIG. 3)

- This space, although it has seating for 4 in this particular room, has auxiliary seating to the left of this image. The appointments typically move fairly quickly, so that I've only ever noticed someone standing once or twice before, and they occupied themselves in the shopping area surrounding this main seating space.
- The warm floors (again) offer visual contrast to the warm, blue walls and the cool turquoise seating. The deep teal table has brochures and other reading materials, however given the low seats and the way they face one another, I often find myself chatting with the other people, very comfortably and not combative or defensive at all. There is ample space between the seats, so one is instantly relaxed. Finally, the rug adds visual and literal texture for the space.
- The lighting is rarely used during the day, due to the large windows that allow sunlight to flood the space. I've never been in the evening/night.
- Not pictured is the aromatherapy and soft music playing.
- I doubt I would make any changes. The space is very well thought out.

WORKS CITED

Kopec, D. (2006). Environmental Psychology for Design.

(Fig. 1 & 2, taken courtesy of the doctors' offices. All other information withheld at their request.)

(Fig. 3: Wax and Wane Salon, Savannah, Georgia)