

## HOK's Harlem Hospital Modernization Project

By Peter Carey



Attendees at the New York Design Center experienced a rewarding journey last Wednesday. The New York office of HOK arrived with five senior participants to talk about their soon-to-be-completed Patient Pavilion for the Harlem Hospital. HOK's patient-centered care design integrates inpatient, emergency room, and outpatient services under one roof. The new Patient Pavilion uses art, light, and color in a therapeutic manner that engages the greater community as well as the patients.



After an introduction of the third installment of NYDC's Design 4 Healthcare series by Chris Korsch, Regional Leader of Healthcare for HOK, Mr. Korsch presented Henry Chao, a Principal at HOK. Mr. Chao offered examples of how the mind-body connection for healing and cultural expression by using space also had a connection with public art. He showed the integration of art with architecture and the importance of intertwining interior and exterior themes, especially as it pertained to the subject at hand - activating public space by using artistic form. Mr. Chao then compared the previous creative examples to a typical example of an American hospital. "For a long time, large hospitals in this country focused on research for medicine and technology. Each building appears to be interchangeable." Indeed, many of the hospital project examples he showed were not site specific. They could have been located anywhere. He then compared that to a more European model which has a "strong connection with community; people go there not because they are sick, but to stay healthy."



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