

Constructive Ideas

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Modular/Flexible/Durable





Andrew Rakowsky of Inner Space Systems, Inc. and his client, St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital in Newburgh, engaged a 21st Century approach when planning the new pharmacy environment upstairs. All of the external and internal stakeholders, including Andrew as the pharmacy design professional, the architect, pharmacy staff, infection control personnel, HR and security, partnered as a team of experts to arrive at the best solution for the space.

For the staff pharmacists' area where patient-specific hourly rounds are filled, the architect specified a large waist-high work island lined by a wall of computer stations. Pharmacists can easily turn from their computers and walk a few steps to access most of the supplies they need in this island. Andrew designed the piece with long flat soft-close drawers featuring flexible dividers that may be customized as supplies change. The top of the island provides an ideal worksurface to display the ever-changing prescription orders optimizing work flow. Since some of them prefer to stand and others sit while they make phone calls and work at their computer, the pharmacists requested a high counter with stools. Even the IT contractor contributed to efficiency of this space suggesting cutouts for the wiring sealed with molding at the foot of the workstations.



Walls of upper and lower storage with counters were developed for the technicians' space where Pyxis MedStation orders for the floors are completed. With space at a premium in the ante room, Andrew created a narrow locker with upper and lower shelves surrounding a sink to maximize the space. The architect designed a U-shaped compounding station which takes advantage of a commanding view of the Hudson River. Personnel from the hospital's Infection Control department were also consulted when developing these areas. "Unbeknownst to us and before we had even moved into the space, someone from Infection Control decided to run her own durability test on our worksurface," says Pharmacy Director Kristi Tudor. "She applied a thick paste of water and Crystal Light Fruit Punch to our counter overnight, actively trying to stain it. She happily reported the next day that our worksurface looked as good as new despite her best efforts."

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