



AMBIENCE PRESS RELEASE

HEALTHCARE: VILLA COLOMBO



SUSTAINABLE



WELLNESS



MULTI-USE



BRANDING



ACCESSIBLE



CUSTOM



REVITALIZING A SPACE FOR THE AGING

"Revamping the existing space will respond to the basic needs of today's elderly allowing them to experience a fresh and stimulating atmosphere at the same time, the comforts of a home-like environment." –Josie Abate, Principal, Ambience Design Group

WHO, WHAT AND WHERE?

VILLA COLOMBO is a Long Term Care facility in Toronto, ON which serves as a home for the elderly who are no longer able to physically take care of themselves in their own homes. Long term care homes are designed for people who require the availability of 24-hour nursing care and supervision within a secure setting.



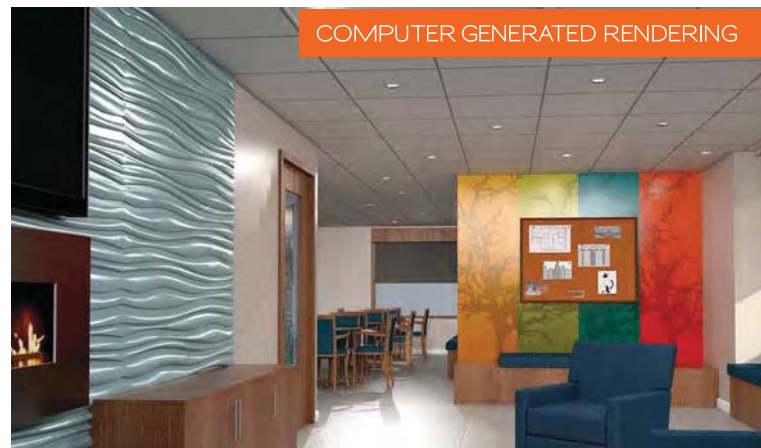
WHAT WAS THE SCOPE OF THIS CUSTOM PROJECT?

The scope of this project is to provide the re-design of the sunroom on the fifth floor of Villa Colombo. The goal is to provide a multi-functional environment, which may easily be converted into a unique space for stimulating activities. The ultimate goal of the project is to provide an environment which is safe and healthy, while giving residents a sense of space where they can interact or relax and thrive at the same time. Ambience designers created a custom space that would provide that and more.



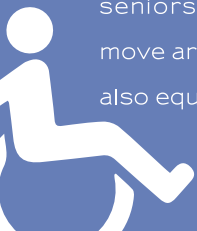
WHAT WAS THE DESIGN CONCEPT?

The proposed space encompasses functionality and therapeutic elements, through the use of colours, textures, sound and visuals. Blending contemporary and traditional elements, the lounge area was defined as a space that is reminiscent of home, by incorporating comfortable seating, a TV and fireplace. The Arts and Crafts area features a custom build-in unit that provides plenty of storage.



HOW IS THE SPACE ACCESSIBLE?


Minimalist in design, the Sunroom accommodates space restrictions, safety and flow of movement. The entire space was created with wider walkways to allow for seniors in wheelchairs and those using walkers to move around the move unobstructed. All doors were also equipped with automatic openers for easy and barrier-free access.



HOW WAS AMBIENCE CREATED?

The 5th floor Sunroom of Villa Colombo emulates a comfortable atmosphere for Alzheimer residents. We intended to create a space that enhances the level of comfort for the residents while treating their mind, body and soul. The space layout allowed for interaction with each other and with family and friends. The TV, fireplace, aquarium, graphics and furniture selection all worked together to create harmony and interest.

WHAT ELEMENTS OF WELLNESS ARE PRESENT?



Our objective was to create a space that would be conducive to relaxation and to reduce agitation in Alzheimer patients. A form of visual therapy starts by introducing a custom glass wall dividing the hospital hallway and Sunroom creating visual interest as well as allowing the natural light into the hallway. In the arts and crafts space, the designers introduced a large scale built-in aquarium as a different approach to audio-visual therapy. The use of a nature theme featured in vibrant colours offers further visual therapy.





HOW IS THE SPACE MULTI-USE?

The space was divided for two distinct uses: lounging, and arts and crafts. The concept was to give patients a relaxing space where they could meet with family and friends as well as having a space where the patients can do activities. Storage was maximized by having all the benches also be usable storage space.



HOW ARE BRANDING + GRAPHICS USED?

The Sunroom features nature inspired graphic elements such as trees and birds with stimulating colours, often used in the treatment of Alzheimer patients. The 3D wall further enhances the nature concept using a wave pattern and colour which ties in nicely with the aquarium. The space was carefully divided not to over stimulate the patients, and create more confusion, therefore, the graphic elements were limited to the lounge area, but with maximum impact.



What materials were used?

The quality of materials and finishes inside a building are crucial as the indoor air quality can be greatly improved by choosing non-polluting materials combined with an effective ventilation system. All selected materials conformed to the demands of senior care facilities. Finishes and furnishings selected needed to be durable and aesthetically pleasing to allow for both comfort and functionality. The Sunroom's materials also needed to be fire rated, anti-bacterial and easy to clean.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GENNIFER BUSCEMI

ABOUT AMBIENCE DESIGN GROUP

Ambience Design Group creates spaces that evoke atmosphere and improve living. We have been transforming the look and experience of residential and commercial spaces for over 20 years. We consider sustainability, wellness and adaptability in all our designs through our proprietary design approach called Ambience Living Spaces. Our multidisciplinary team prides itself on original, elegant and thoughtful designs.