

Perception of Healthcare Facility Garden and Impressions of Interactive Elements

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Abstract

This research presents the effects of indoor healing gardens and interactive elements (technology) on people in medical facilities: patients, visitors, and staff. Previous studies showed that medical facilities generally received a negative perception by people who visited or worked there; yet the effect of indoor greenery seemed to improve the perceptions of those who were surveyed. In this study, the potential of added technology to a garden brought a new aspect to be explored. The participants were shown a video of four simulations of indoor gardens with added interactive elements (e.g., lights, sounds, music, images, interactive floor tiles); afterwards, the participants completed a short survey. The results of the research corroborated the literature regarding the benefits of indoor gardens on the study participants' enhanced mood when in a medical setting with the added appreciation for interactive elements. Of the interactive elements provided, the wall projections of flying birds had a positive feedback of 91.3 %. Interactive floor tiles had a high likability rate as well (85.1%). While many appreciated the garden-only option, participants favored the playful components as entertaining for the brief time they would be in the space awaiting for an appointment or on a staff break. Enhancing all medical spaces with natural and interactive elements should be a design goal for future new builds and renovation projects in healthcare or other commercial buildings.

Key-words:

indoor garden healthcare, interactive elements (lights, audio-visual images, of birds and animals, sound, color), healthcare facility.