

Catching rays

The design of a new site for Austin Regional Clinic relies on solutions to answer the building's solar orientation in its Cedar Park, Texas, location

By Jennifer Kovacs Silvis

To meet the primary care needs of growing Austin, Texas, suburb Cedar Park, Austin Regional Clinic is building a \$5 million, 20,287-square foot facility. The two-story building will house primary and specialty care practices for adult and pediatric patients.

Housing 52 exam rooms, two procedure rooms, as well as offices, labs, and staff support spaces, the building design is steeped in solutions to answer the locale's bright sunshine. Designed by Office of Architecture (Wimberley, Texas), the project is being constructed by general contractor Austin Canyon Corp. (Austin).

The exterior uses a building shell constructed of insulated concrete forms (ICF) made of recycled content, spray-foam insulation, and a highly reflective roof, with a building cladding of stone and stucco. The stucco, along with an interior plaster finish, will be applied directly to the ICF to achieve greater efficiency and create a sound building envelope.

The building's second floor uses a larger footprint than that of the first to accommodate the majority of exam rooms, and it cantilevers over the first floor to provide that additional square footage as well as offer shading to the first floor and pervious coverage to the ground level.

The interiors do their part in answering the building's solar orientation, too. For example, doctors' and nurses' work areas are sited along the north and south sides of the two floors, where generous glazing allows daylighting. Public areas, including patient self-check-in kiosks, are located on the south and east sides, where daylighting is provided but motorized shades and overhangs help combat the path of the sun and maintain a comfortable environment.

Aesthetically, natural materials, such as the exterior's wood and stucco, are continued on the interior, where neutral earth tones meet the natural light to achieve warmth throughout.

The project is scheduled to open this fall. **HCD**



MORE ONLINE To view additional images of the Austin Regional Clinic Cedar Park location, visit healthcaredesignmagazine.com/first-look-austin-regional.



Top: A large canopy extends over full-height glazing to signal the main entry to the building while also providing protection and shading. On the second floor, the building's design creates a transparent box that becomes a glowing lantern at night. **Above:** The main lobby of the clinic is warmed by the use of neutral earth tones and generous amounts of natural light. Walnut-clad kiosks for patient self-check-in are designed to stand out as prominent features that encourage patients to use them upon entering the space.

Do you have a new project to share? Email Jennifer Kovacs Silvis at jennifer.silvis@emeraldexpo.com for details on how to contribute a First Look.