The recovery center is a place of spiritual and physical healing for patients suffering from substance abuse. Through medical treatment, education and encouragement, the center will strive to mitigate the discomforts associated with detoxification and rehabilitation.

Moving patients from Chicago, a dense urban city, to Utica, a green open space near Illinois’ State Park offers a more therapeutic environment.

Guiding Principle: Nature promotes healing
According to data from the 2006 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), about 20 million Americans were considered to be dependent on or abusing drugs. However, only about 4 million of those people received treatment for their problem. These numbers prove that many millions of people still need help.

Also, current programs, often located in prison-like hospitals, are not very effective. A SAMSHA SROS study reveals that 80% of addicts who attended programs in the United States return to their bad habits within 5 years.

By creating a welcoming, helping and healing environment, this hospital will encourage many more people to seek treatment. A more effective program is created by the therapeutic properties of nature. After discovering the beauty of sober living, former addicts will sustain life-long abstinence from drug abuse.
Center for Chemical Dependency Recovery

The hospital offers a therapeutic environment for patients undergoing rehabilitation.

The program consists of detoxification services (3-5 day inpatient stay in the acute unit) and residential treatment (4-6 week inpatient stay in the subacute unit).

The building’s natural environment promotes faith and healing.

Nature has been proven to: help hospital patients heal faster, reduce stress and improve mood. Therefore, the building’s wonderful views, vast amounts of daylight, green gardens, use of natural materials, and easy access to a large park, where all design schemes to create the most therapeutic environment.

Through medication and social skills training, the staff of the hospital treat both the physical and the emotional struggles of addiction.

The center encourages a re-discovering of sober living and sense-of-self in patients.

The ultimate goal is life-long wellness for former addicts.

Starved Rock State Park - field trips to the park support stress-relief, life-inspiration and team-building

Utica, IL - 1.5 hrs southwest of Chicago

Region - 5 min. north of Starved Rock State Park

Site - waterfront, many trees, spacious
Units
Three buildings providing maximum views, privacy, security and staff efficiency, loosely fall on the site, connecting at the stems.

Hospital Classifications

Subacute
Adult
rehabilitation
psychiatric
nursing

Acute Adult and Acute Adolescent
small inpatient primary care, psychiatric, general hospital

Subacute Adolescent
rehabilitation, psychiatric, nursing

Logistics

Organizations

Hospital Floor Plan
1/128" = 1'-0"
Site Plan - Circulation of Patients, Staff, Visitors and Materials
Scale 1/128" = 1'-0"

North

Existing Road

New Road

New Pedestrian Walk

New Plantings to soften lot and collect rainwater run-off

A Patient and visitor entrance

B Staff entrance

C Loading dock

1 Slope Lot (to reduce pollutants running toward small pond)

2 Block barrier instead of solid curb

3 Abandon existing road

4 Patient and Visitor Parking

5 Staff Parking

6 Staff and H.C.

7 Visual buffer between residents and trucks

8 Area to be landscaped and maintained by residents
   a: Fruits and vegetables
   b: Native plants
   c: Japanese garden

9 Tall native vegetation to serve as visual buffer between staff and vehicles
Highly Monitored Building

Zones Defined by Types of Patients - Diagram

Acute-Adult Unit

Acute-Adolescent Unit

Sub-Acute Adolescent Unit

Within Each Patient Zone:

Open-Air Courtyard
This positive distraction provides fresh air, visual pleasure, and natural light while maintaining a safe and secure environment.

Detoxification Units

Goal: To make extremely uncomfortable detoxification a little more comfortable.

- Detox is an early step in the long-term treatment process.
- If not supervised by medical staff, detox may be fatal, therefore this unit is extremely important for recovery.
- During the 3-5 day inpatient stay, the addictive and toxic substances leave the body, resulting in physical pain such as vomiting, rapid heart rate, headaches, sweats, and chills. Emotional side-effects include: depression and anxiety.
- In the unit, patients receive medications to lessen the physical effects of detox, while staff mitigate the emotional effects.

- Inpatients are not allowed to leave the unit
- 2 patients per nurse
- Clear view off all patient rooms from the nurse’s desk
- No phones or tvs in patient rooms to promote social interaction in the designated group areas
- Dining occurs in the patient room only if the patient is too sick to leave his/her room
- Private rooms support stress reduction because they are quieter and safer
- A safe and secure environment is created by two sets of doors leading to public areas as well as areas where medications are stored. The two sets of doors require a staff-keycard for access.
- Also, in the courtyard patients have access to fresh air, but the building acts as a barrier between the patients and the outside world.

Acute Patient Room
1/8” = 1'-0”
Highly Monitored Building
Zones Defined by Mood and Social Interaction

The hospital promotes a re-discovering of sense-of-self as well as social skills training.

Acute-Adult Unit
Acute-Adolescent Unit
Sub-Acute Adolescent Unit

(Logistics)

Scales:
Highly Monitored Building

Circulation

Views of vegetation and sunlight from the corridor and into the garden create a positive distraction in this building – offering a more pleasing environment than the prison-like psychiatric hospitals of the past several hundred years.
This circulation path is just one example of one patient’s day. Paths vary and cross each other, promoting interaction with neighbors.

(Second Floor: Same, but Computer Lab, Kitchenette, Yoga Room and Meditation Room replace Music Therapy, Art Studios, and Fitness Room)

The meditation areas are spaces for users to forget about their worries and to focus on hope, faith, and love.

The private areas are to find their sense-of-self.

The social areas are created to pull them from isolation and to redevelop their social skills.
View from Atrium

Section
“Living Room”

A building doesn’t have to look like a home in order to behave like a home.

Four patient rooms are connected to each living room. There are a total of six living rooms in the Subacute Adult Unit.

Creating Spaces and Experiences

Bedroom / Self Reflection / Most Calm
Display Area / Semi-private / Buffer / Less Calm
Living Room / Creating a Family / Informal Interaction / Less Social
Recreation Rooms / Shared by the Community / Formal Interaction / Most Social
Public - to create a welcoming and safe environment

Patient - to support daily residential activities

Staff - to increase job efficiency but also reduce job stress

Atrium - to act as the spine of the building by connecting all people and spaces through informal interaction

Glass - views
Solid wall - privacy

Diagram of Residential-Support Spaces

Counseling services are removed from the social-spine to offer a greater feeling of privacy and tranquility.
New Acute Adult Patient
(over age 18 and needs detoxification)

Before being admitted, the patient experiences a quick intake procedure. Questions, concerns and paperwork of the patient, family, staff or legal officers are executed in the Consultation Room.

The patient then visits the Bin Room where personal belongings are inspected for contraband by staff. The patient also undergoes a sanitation inspection; for example, to prevent the spread of lice infestations on the campus.

New Subacute Adult Patient
(over age 18 and experienced detoxification in jail or other hosp.)

(over age 18 and experienced detoxification in jail or other hosp.)

To Subacute (Adult)

Subacute Adult Patient - Daily Activities
(inpatient for four to six weeks)

The large sliding screen between the residential unit and the logistics building opens during scheduled hours to offer: dining, counseling, chapel and salon services. Also, inpatients visit the logistics building to receive mail, daily medicines and drug testing.
Staff

The staff entrance is separate from main entrance to reduce daily job-stress. It is quieter than the other, and it reduces the amount of time wasted on giving way-finding directions to visitors. (Way-finding questions should be answered by signage and dedicated staff.) The staff-only corridor is accessed by key-card. There are two sets of doors for added security.

Materials

Since some patients in the hospital are recovering from prescription medication addiction, the handling of materials by staff must be performed in a secure and sensitive manner.

Most of the materials arriving at the loading dock are for functions in the Logistics Building. However, supplies such as art paper and new bed linens to the inpatient units can be delivered through the spine during off-peak hours.

Prepared breakfast, lunch and dinner are pushed on a small cart by a staff member to the six acute adult patients and the two acute adolescent patients.

Visitors

Family and friends are encouraged to visit their loved ones staying in the hospital in order to: engage recovery, provide encouragement and educate themselves about rehabilitation. A beautiful and comfortable environment will promote visits.

To prevent contraband from entering the patient areas, visitors are required to leave their personal belongings in lockers in the Visitor Bin Room.
Drug Testing Room and Pharmacy

1/32" = 1'-0"

Drug Testing Room
1. base cabinet
2. wall cabinet
3. sink
4. refrigerator
5. staff access only
6. technician's desk & computer
7. patient chair w/ armrest
8. w.c. and sink
9. base cabinet

Pharmacy for Daily Medicine Dispensing
10. overhead door to close pharmacy at night (two for added security)
11. waiting area
12. pharmacist counter and computers
13. shelves to store common daily medicines
14. staff-only access to main storage area
Front Elevation Details
Front Elevation
Creating a Welcoming Environment