

Sanctuary Body Spa of St. Dominic's

Jackson, Mississippi

→ Certainly, guests at Sanctuary Body Spa of St. Dominic's can indulge in a citrus-sea salt scrub or an aromatherapy soak, but the reason for their visit may be more medically inclined, for a phenol peel, say, or a dose of laser skin therapy. "The integration between day and medical spa is so effective that patients and spa goers do not discern the distinction," says Sanctuary's designer, Nicole Migeon. Here, doctors' offices and a laboratory are well concealed, and lighting in treatment rooms is dimmed and relaxing—easily turned up when a medical exam beckons.

"Bringing hospitality features into a medical environment makes patients feel more comfortable while taking care of their health issues. Patients want to be cared for in settings that are clean yet warmer and more inviting than what may typically come to mind when you think of medical treatment areas," says Migeon, principal of New York-based Nicole Migeon Architect. "Spa owners, developers, and designers alike realize that good design—especially reminiscent of the natural environment—can relieve stress. They also are becoming aware



Photography by Chad Chenier

that details such as the spa's art collection are important for creating a relaxing atmosphere."

For Sanctuary, Migeon ensured these details included a calming visual effect: a long central walkway finished with teak planks; warm orange recycled acrylic surfaces; and Panelite drop ceilings that resemble dewdrops in the hallways. Treatment rooms are decked out with pearlescent wallcoverings, white Caesarstone countertops, and orange glass backsplashes, and in the Green Room lounge, custom millwork banquette seating is set on a floating platform backed by planters.

Photos of neighboring landscapes by local artists hang on the walls of Sanctuary, reinforcing the importance of Mississippi's surroundings to Migeon, whose design narrative paid homage to native orange Coreopsis wild flowers and the Pearl River.

"In the nineteenth century, this historic basin had natural springs that were used for medicinal purposes," she points out. Consider the custom fountain, hydrotherapy tub, and Vichy showers a modern-day recreation.

Waterstone at Wellesley

Wellesley, Massachusetts

→ "In reality, the terms hospital and hospitality share the same Latin root—*hospitale*—which means guest house, inn," says David Manfredi, founding principal of Elkus Manfredi Architects. "Improving senior living environments by combining the best features of both hospitality and healthcare design is an opportunity to support new and positive ways of aging."

The Boston-based firm had an opportunity to do just that with Waterstone at Wellesley, a senior living community in Wellesley's Lower Falls area from entrepreneur Ted Tye, who has a number of senior living and luxury multi-family housing and hotel projects already under his belt.

"Simple considerations include thinking through the arrival sequence: How do I find the entrance? Can I easily find parking? How can we protect the transition from outside to inside from inclement weather? Who and what is there to greet and orient me when I arrive?" notes Elkus Manfredi principal John Martin. "Sourcing engaging but durable materials and finishes is another important factor. All these elements relate back to fundamental issues that inform our hospitality design."

Here, residents relax in one of eight dining venues, in a plush armchair by the fireplace in one of two libraries, or on the rooftop or pool terrace that connects to a putting green. Even artificial lighting has been considered; to minimize glare and high contrast, it is indirect and often concealed.



Photography by Peter Vanderwerker

Working closely with Tye, Manfredi and Martin implemented a palette revolving around organic, sustainable, and tactile materials indigenous to New England and inspired by Wellesley's renovated mills and local fieldstone homes. A turn-of-the-century sawmill led to the choice of using clapboards on the body of the building, accented by champagne-bronze metal shingles and large double-hung windows that suffuse the space with light. The building's two wings, enfolding a courtyard, create a natural boon: framed views of the woods and river.