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HEALTHworks

Can you tell the difference between a hospital and a hotel?

By Rose Egge | Published: Sep 23, 2013 at 11:05 AM PDT





The medical spa green room in this Jackson, Miss., hospital designed by Nicole Migeon Architect. (Chad Chenier for Nicole Migeon Architect) Some hospitals around the country seem to be looking more like four-star accommodations than traditional treatment centers.

Don't believe me? Just check out the article 'Is This a Hospital or a Hotel?' from the New York Times. Writer Elisabeth Rosenthal describes the trend of hospitals offering swanky perks like private rooms, flat-screen TVs, fireplaces, waterfalls, room service, nail salons and more. She writes:

While no one is getting nostalgic for traditional hospital food, open wards or revealing gowns, some worry that hospitals are going too far with the creature comforts. They are particularly concerned since most hospitals are nonprofit, so construction — directly or indirectly — is subsidized with public money.

The article goes on to offer a mix of photos from luxurious hospitals and hotels, and you get to guess which is which. The answers may surprise you.