

THE STAINED GLASS WINDOW IN MAIN LOBBY

A description and analysis

The problem here is basically a two-fold one. On the one hand, there exists the physical fact of the architecture itself with its many challenges: factors of visibility, scale, material, and that intangible one of rightness. On the other hand, the very fact of the building being a hospital requires prime attention to the psychological and therapeutic qualities that have to be inherent in any incorporated art form.

The visibility factor requires proper viewing both during the day and at night; proper viewing both at short distances and angles, and at a great distance as one approaches the glass-enclosed lobby which is an extension of the exterior into the building. Scale had to be taken into account in the lobby interior because of its great height and the extremely powerful vertical thrust of the mullions. From the exterior view, there exists the great mass of the building and the attendant strong supporting columns. Material is extremely important - material that would require no upkeep and that would be permanent in quality. The need to achieve maximum lightness and color within the lobby, without adding additional structural members is equally important.

Finally, "rightness", that quality that defies analysis, but fundamentally is the result of proper attention to all of the above with that extra catalyst called "art", has to be achieved. The therapeutic needs in a hospital, of course, are of prime concern; the necessity of creating an atmosphere conducive to peace of mind, of lightness of heart. Art forms here are vital, and when properly conceived, are unique in their ability to relieve tension and anxiety by supplying a quality above and beyond the physical plant and its necessary functions.

The solution I arrived at is a curvilinear one; one that achieves integration by apposition: one that, I believe, meets the problems of scale, visibility, material and psychological needs. The great curves inherent in the design, act as a foil against the rectilinear thrust of the building, augment the function of the lobby, and is open enough plastically to supply the necessary airiness and lightness to the area. The subject matter is based on life forces manifest in the outer universe as well as the inner universe - in the micro-organism and the macro-organisms - and is an attempt to represent, plastically, the vital generative energy that exists in life and growth.

I propose to laminate stained glass sections on panels of glass of equal dimensions to those existing in the glass curtain wall, and, in turn, to secure them together by the use of epoxy resin. Since the mullions are deep enough for this purpose, the net result will be a glass wall of more than double its present thickness, creating a structure of great strength. Since the individual panels are only two and a half feet wide, it is self-evident the wall will have great durability.

I believe the color of the stained glass area, with its two-dimensional base will enliven the lobby and function three-dimensionally in a manner unique to colored glass and make a place of beauty, ease, peace, and interest.

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