Healthcare

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Imagination and Ingenuity Give Pharmacy a Homey, Mountain Feel

CHALLENGE

Residents of an underserved county in North Carolina had to travel 30 minutes to the nearest pharmacy. Recognizing a very real need, an area hospital system decided to bring a solution closer to the people it already served at its multiple hospitals in the area. The system purchased an old house that had actually been a pharmacy some years before, but had since closed. At just 1,300 square feet, the building was in need of repair.

Located in an upscale resort area, the space offered ample opportunity, both in terms of design and mission. Still, the awkward interior layout presented an array of challenges. An uneven floor, multiple protruding window sills and a small second-floor mezzanine were seen initially as obstacles to refitting the small structure into a workable retail pharmacy that reflected the character of the building and the surrounding community.

SOLUTION

"Often times, a client will go with steel shelving in a retail pharmacy, but not in this case," said Patterson Pope Sales Representative Michael Garrett, who worked on the project. *"They wanted everything to have that built-in, wooden look so that it felt comfortable and homey."*

Working in concert with an area architect and the client, Patterson Pope helped design a space that reflected the upscale area's mountain aesthetic. Hamilton Casework Solutions (HCS) provided the bulk of the material – and Patterson Pope's ingenuity helped outfit the space with attractive and workable products. HCS products included:

- Modular drawers
- Cabinets
- Solid surface curved worktops
- Shelving for medication storage

A second-floor mezzanine houses a sink and additional overhead cabinets, as well. In addition, a local vendor outfitted the space with glass half windows to separate the pharmacists from the public. A "pre-existing condition" – a stone fireplace –adds a warm touch to the new, cabin-like feel of the retail pharmacy.

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ACHIEVEMENT

The new pharmacy serves thousands of people in the southwest portion of the state. Those who live in the area's resort community now have access to their prescriptions, advice about current medications – all in a space that's remarkably modern yet rustic at the same time. It amply reflects the "feel" of the area and exudes Southern hospitality.

"The new space looks sharp, professional, and functional," said a the hospital system's director of retail pharmacy. *"Having a functional space that also looks great is the ideal, but bringing it all together isn't easy. Here, we did that. With Patterson Pope, we were able to achieve that perfect marriage of form and function."*

"It looks really great, and serves a real need in the community," said Garrett. *"That's truly a win-win."*

"There are certain vendors you work with along the way that you would not hesitate to recommend. Patterson Pope is absolutely one of those," added the director of retail pharmacy. *"For anyone who's putting a pharmacy together, I would absolutely recommend that they talk with Patterson Pope before they finalize what they're going to do with their cabinets, shelves and casework."*