

## Architectural Design Narrative



### Introduction

The design concept for the new Santa Rosa Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic is about making a facility that resonates a warm, peaceful and professional healing environment providing the VA with a modern up to date and cost-effective facility, and improving the staff experience.

Our design concept is reflected in the site design, the architectural language of the building and throughout the design of the interior of the facility, creating an inspired healing-atmosphere that will provide patients with a peaceful environment both at the exterior and interior of the building.

### Site Design

Four entrances to the site are provided. A main access drive and traffic circle is for visitors and staff. The traffic circle contains flag poles and is the obvious main entrance for the facility. We are proposing a second access for the additional convenience of staff parking. Delivery, police and ambulance vehicles are separated from all other vehicles. This is a safer design for patients and staff. The delivery area has been designed to accommodate large tractor trailer trucks, even though they are not anticipated by the VA. The delivery trucks pull through the extra-wide delivery area, then back up to the loading area. Ambulances enter the back of the site and use their own small one-way drive to ambulance pick-up doors. We propose ample signage to direct vehicles as needed.

City of Santa Rosa  
MAR 04 2020  
Planning & Economic  
Development Department



## Exterior Building Design

The architectural design reflects a balanced, modern composition with an architectural language of sleek clean lines, a result of incorporating an evidence-based design approach with industry best architectural practices. The appearance lends itself to the healing environment with warm hues, peaceful earth tones and crisp textures. This matches the aesthetic of Sonoma County and the North Bay. Architectural massing is at a human scale, which is modulated with modern energy-efficient curtain wall and matching windows to create a contrasting and layered composition, both appropriate for the Santa Rosa site and an iconic architectural expression for a Veteran Affairs Outpatient Clinic.

The architectural design concept of the VA Outpatient Clinic in Santa Rosa is to create a warm and welcoming architectural language that evokes a sense of well-being which is representative of a healing-environment, as well as, providing the patient with a facility that is easy to navigate. Our concept incorporates evidence-based design and way finding practices. We have selected materials and forms that relate to the local environment of Sonoma County.

Various elements have been incorporated to improve the patient experience by creating a warm, friendly and inviting facility. This is accomplished by a modern building finished in warm earth tones and textures. Further, the facility has been patterned with human scale fenestrations to provide a link between the exterior and interior, both which aid in way finding. Patient navigation is enhanced by providing a reference point at the center of the building, which appropriately becomes the central entry and reception point of the building or central lobby. This area is also the drop off point for arriving patients, accented by a covered drop off point and an entry point defined by matching metal panels and clear curtain wall glazing systems, suggestive of a warm and inviting atmosphere.

A composition of layered architectural elements delineates the front of the building, which is composed of traditional cement stucco, wood-grain looking aluminum panels, and masonry veneer walls. The materials along the façades combine to create an earth tone palate synonymous with a modern healing type environment. This façade is the 'face' of the facility, which greets patients as they enter the site, therefore careful thought, consideration and effort has been incorporated into the architectural elements. Architectural design aesthetics have been concentrated at the front of the building to enhance the entry façade and patient arrival experience. The primary entrance of the building is protected by sleek covered drop off area that projects from the main entrance of the building to lead to the front of the building. This drop off is accented with wood and steel frame to resonate the architectural language of the main facility and signify an entry point to the user or patient, as well as providing an area for unloading that is protected from the weather. The entrance canopy has a clearance height that is capable of accommodating buses and public transit. The exterior facade design, while being defined as modern, is based on a traditional approach and design methods. Special consideration has been put into the height and proportions of elements at the exterior. Windows located at the exterior have been located to create a connection to the exterior and allow lots of natural light to fill the interior spaces.

The single ply membrane roofs are low-maintenance and low slope, to reduce the massing of the building and reduce the amount of visible roof, which allows for the roof eave design to become an expressive component of the exterior design itself. It is our opinion that this enhances the image of the facility as a healthcare provider. The low slope roofs at the front of the building have



been designed in a tiered effect, with the tallest element located in the center to emphasize the centrally located drop off and entry point, as well as, strategically screen roof top mounted equipment from the front entry perspective of the exterior of the building.

Roof top mounted equipment will be screened by a mechanical screen located centrally on the roof and strategically behind the tallest element of the tiered roof elements. This mechanical screen will be composed of aluminum perforated slats affixed to a structural steel support system and designed to accommodate the wind speeds associated with the North Bay area.

These combined building elements provide the users of the new Santa Rosa Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic with a state-of-the-art healthcare facility. This new facility is a result of an evidence-based design approach paired with industry best architectural practice, enhanced by a desire to improve the experience for the veterans who will become patients of this facility. These veterans will be greeted with a warm, friendly and inviting building that reflects a peaceful healing environment, is easy to navigate and allows for connection to nature as part of the healing process.

Along with the aesthetics of the building, energy efficiency is a key component of the project. The design and construction team has taken an integrated approach to sustainability by having a sustainability expert as part of the development team. This way energy and sustainability measures are incorporated into the design early on in the process.