

P E O P L E

ARCHITECTURE

FAMILY DESIGNS

Health care architect Lloyd Landow can't decide which has been more enjoyable: working for his dad or having his three kids work for him.

Landow was fresh out of school in 1960 when he joined the architecture firm that his father, Abraham, started in 1922. Landow's ideas and youthful creativity were tempered by his father's experience—the most ideal collaboration, he says. The two worked together until Abe Landow died in 1975.

"We had a lot of good years together, but now I'm on the other end," says Landow, whose firm in Lake Success, NY, now includes his two sons, Marc and Glen, and daughter Robin. The three began pitching in when they were still in high school. Between them they have two master's in architecture, as well as degrees in environmental design and environmental psychology.

"They keep me vital and on my toes," says Landow of his third-generation colleagues. "They keep me

from becoming complacent and relying on standard, canned solutions. Our strengths, and those of the other architects and technical people here, help each other."

The balance between youth and experience is one way his firm, Landow and Landow, seeks to meet the needs of residents, staff and visitors when it designs a nursing facility, diagnostic and treatment center, or assisted-living residence. "We want to break down the barriers that make people uncomfortable with the traditional medical environment," he says, "and there are many ways to do that using proportion and color."

To make a facility more cost-efficient, the firm will typically move the housekeeping department out of its usual basement location, which saves staff time. The architects also like to place lounges and supply, bathing and soiled utility rooms at the midpoint of hallways, not at the ends, which also saves time.

Patient rooms are designed to

give roommates equal access to the window and heater. To ease the often-depressing effect of long halls in many nursing homes, Landow has begun designing small, angled alcoves where room entrances are located. The result is like a front porch, where patients and visitors can sit and watch what's going on without being lined up along a sterile corridor.

With these "porches," the hall is like a street, a technique he calls "neighborhooding." "This allows residents to feel more like they're a part of the life going on in their facility."

Ideas like these have evolved over the years as Landow's young and old have worked together. Even Landow's 96-year-old mother, Rose, herself a nursing home resident, has provided input on some of the firm's projects. Landow has also consulted with Rose's fellow residents and staffers during visits.

"Nursing home residents may not be able to communicate sometimes," he says, "but they can still think and feel. Creating a good environment that makes them and the staff feel better is really accomplishing something."—*Jim Montague* ■



Peter Mooss/Esso

One of the Landow's latest projects: the Shorefront Jewish Geriatric Center in Coney Island, NY