

Health care designs for the next century

Americans have clearly voiced their preference at the polls for a return to conservative values. With a strong state and federal dictum to cut costs and curtail government spending, especially for Medicaid, will it still be possible to design and construct state-of-the-art health-care facilities that do not look dismally institutional?

The answer is yes, according to Lloyd J. Landow, president of Lake Success-based architectural firm Landow and Landow. As specialists in the design of healthcare facilities, the firm's clients include diagnostic and treatment centers, nursing homes, hospitals, daycare centers, medical offices and residences for the elderly. Landow and Landow have recognized that the way to cut healthcare costs is to make facilities more efficient. However, being cost-effective does not mean cutting back on aesthetics. On the contrary, facilities are designed to be extremely beautiful to patients, residents, staff and families and enhance the ability of the institution to attract donors and raise funds.

Driven by a keen interest in solving complex challenges, the firm takes nothing for granted and spends hours researching the needs of each client and project. In the pre-construction phase, they talk to the users - the CEO, CFO, department heads, facility managers, nurses, doctors, technicians, patients, and families - everyone who uses the facility, in order to understand how space design impacts their efficiency and comfort levels. They conduct computer studies,

literally charting the movement patterns of healthcare staff and patients, to discover ways of helping them administer their services more efficiently.

"We want to know as much about our clients' operations as they do. We take great care to understand our clients' particular cultures in order to satisfy their requirements."

Materials are carefully specified. Landow and Landow has just completed designing five diagnostic and treatment centers for the developmentally disabled and mentally retarded. Because they were designing for a population which, given their disabilities, sometimes displays destructive behaviors, it was necessary to specify materials that would resist abuse. Special wallboard systems were used instead of ordinary sheetrock, covered with mar-resistant finishes. Floors were covered either in cushioned sheet vinyl or with solution dyed carpeting.

Landow and Landow is currently involved in over \$150 million worth of healthcare projects located throughout the greater New York metropolitan area. Dominating all their project work is a focus on cost containment, without sacrificing aesthetic appeal. The firm has recently completed the Shorefront Jewish Geriatric center, a 360-bed \$48 million

Profile of the Week Landow and Landow Architects, P.C.

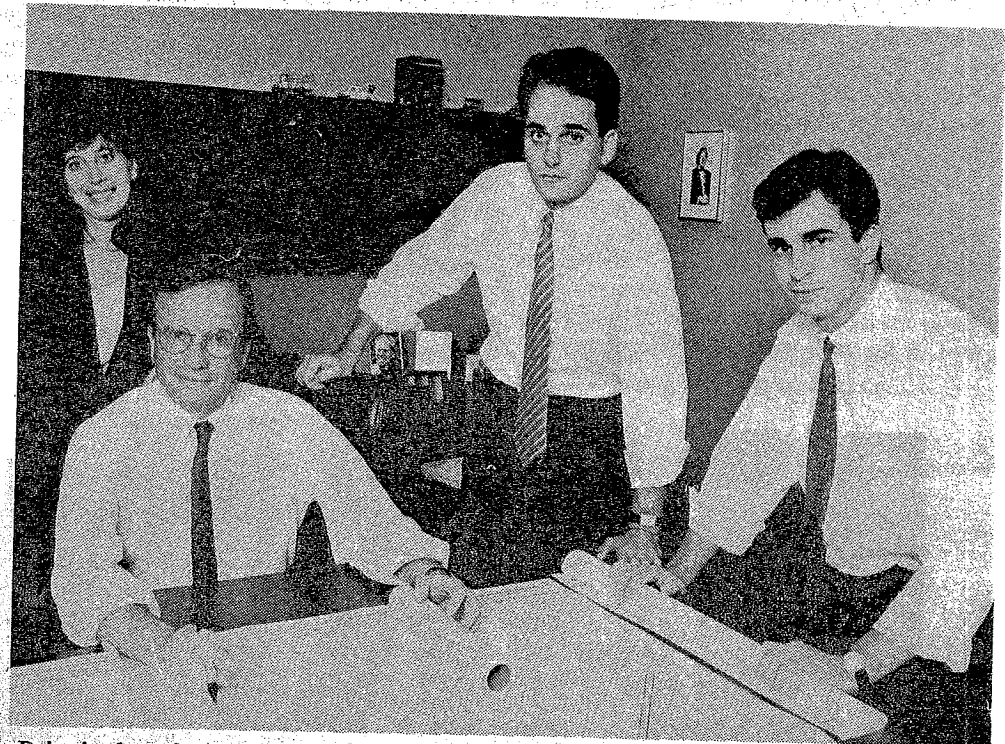
nursing home in Coney Island, Brooklyn, and are designing a \$12 million housing project on the same campus. Also, on behalf of the Developmental Disabilities Institute (DDI), they have just completed five clinics to serve Long Island's population of approximately 27,000 mentally retarded and developmentally disabled individuals. Beginning early next year, DDI has contracted with Landow and

Landow to design a sixth facility in Westbury, Long Island.

Currently underway is a major expansion of the Gurwin Jewish Geriatric Center in Commack, NY, a 300-bed nursing home completed by Landow and Landow in 1988.

The Dumont Masonic Nursing Home in New Rochelle, NY, built 25 years ago, is

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Principals of the family-owned architectural firm of Landow and Landow Architects P.C. are (L to R): Robin, Lloyd, Marc and Glen Landow.