



The Santa Fe Rape Crisis Center (SFRCC) began with one phone line and a kitchen table in 1973. Now the center serves almost 10,000 survivors of sexual assault and trauma in Santa Fe, New Mexico, each year.

In March 2004, SFRCC opened a \$1.75 million, 11,600-square-foot building designed by Spears Architects of Santa Fe, which received an American Institute of Architects Citation Award

**SANTA FE RAPE
CRISIS CENTER**
Santa Fe,
New Mexico

for the design. The firm has been contracted to design SFRCC's adjacent trauma treatment center (Construction is scheduled to begin next year).

Located in Santa Fe's Tierra Contenta development, which includes a library and youth center, SFRCC chose the site because it allows for expansion and is near public transportation, notes James Horn, AIA, senior associate and project architect for Spears Architects.

The earthy orange-red and beige exterior of the building blends in with the region's Southwestern style, and the landscaping helps shield the building from the hot Southwestern sun. Underground cisterns collect roof runoff to irrigate the drought-tolerant trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers, Horn explains.

A path around the edge of the front courtyard leads

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visitors to the main entrance, located in the middle of the H-shaped building. The reception area/waiting room features a rounded front desk and curved walls with bold hues, including vivid blue and bright red.

The building's interior features design elements such as exposed but brightly colored metal ceilings, wooden grilles suspended from ceilings, and store-front-size windows. Color-coded walls in the building facilitate wayfinding and separate departments. Artists in the community donated artwork displayed in every room and corridor. "It's all inspiring and unique, and our multitude of clients are moved by the fact that there is such beauty to comfort and provide help, hope, and healing," says Barbara Goldman, SFRCC's executive director.

The hallway behind the reception area leads to separate wings. One wing features administrative offices, the outreach unit, a family advocacy department, a medical unit, and law enforcement offices. The medical unit has a fully equipped hospital room where a victim can be cared for with greater confidentiality than in a hospital, and the law enforcement offices can be accessed through a separate entry to ensure client privacy.

The other wing houses the counseling and therapy offices, and staff members selected the colors of their own spaces. This wing has a private entry for staff and clients as well. A meeting

room in this wing also serves as a community room for public gatherings.

The SFRCC has a private, serene outdoor garden with aspen trees, a rock fountain, plantings, and art where clients can relax and

enjoy the open air in a more intimate setting. ■

—Shandi Matambanadzo

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More Online

To view additional photos of SFRCC, visit www.behavioral.net/design1208.

