

A view to the future of healthcare – natural healing environments



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The international link to the TESS website, www.TESSUSAINC.com, translated into Italian, French, Spanish, German and Portuguese, it explains all TESS programmes and products in great detail

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It is a fact that there is a necessity for hospitals to place more emphasis on environmental quality. Based on this idea, scenes of nature are helping transform sterile environments into healing facilities that promote wellbeing and provide for a better patient experience. So...set your eyes on images of colourful gardens, blue skies, majestic mountain vistas or sweeping sandy beaches. TESS USA Inc (Therapeutic Environmental SolutionS) uses backlit Views to Nature™ to create beautiful and soothing patient-friendly environments.

As attention towards revitalising the healthcare industry grows, hospitals throughout the world are addressing evidence-based design as an adjunct to healing. Administrators, doctors, staff, political and environmental policy makers, investors, architects, designers and equipment manufacturers are all motivated to find patient-focused solutions.

Well-known names in the area of healthcare and healthcare design, such as Ulrich, Huelat, Malkin, Eltinge, Lunden and Hamilton, to name just a few, have supportive research that notes views to nature promote comfort and dignity as an indisputable part of the patient's healing process. Case studies indicate, where a patient can view pleasing nature scenes, significant restorative results from stress, depression and anxiety are produced within a matter of minutes. Nature design supports healing by easing fears of the unknown, empowering the mind to relax and therefore the body to heal.

For the past 14 years, TESS USA Inc, an American based company, has provided hospitals a time-tested means of integrating backlit Views to Nature into their facilities. They offer a complete line of custom-made, high definition backlit Virtual Windows, Skylight Ceiling Systems and non-backlit Wall Murals directed at soothing patients, uplifting the clinical settings and meeting administrative budgetary concerns.

TESS president and CEO, Ernesto Machado says: "Nature is universally understood. As hospital administrators realise that customer satisfaction with the "overall hospital experience" includes addressing the environment in conjunction with physicians' skills, new technology and advanced procedures, they are looking for outlets that shift hospital design from something that was once intended only for medical treatment, to the totality of what brings a patient to health. These TESS programmes are an effective, cost-efficient means of meeting everyone's needs".

Design that introduces the spirit of nature into the healthcare model not only empowers the patient in their healing process, but supplies a pleasurable treatment setting for family and friends who often feel unable to provide greater support. Says Dr Livia Ruffini, director of nuclear medicine at the state-of-the-art Nuclear Medicine Department at G Brotzu Hospital in Cagliari, Italy: "The TESS panels were used to create a warm and welcoming environment for patients and family members who came to support them through their procedures. Everyone feels less stressed, and the environment is more efficient for wellness." Gianluca Borelli, chief engineer and head of facility operations for G Brotzu, adds: "Everyone has been amazed at the transformation these nature views provide to the environment. Now all the divisions want them."

Another often unrecognised benefit of these programmes is the positive effect they have on the dedicated staff entrusted to do this difficult work on a daily basis. With a happier staff, productivity remains high and staff turnover is at a minimum. Connie Felton, manager of the Center for Advanced Imaging at West Virginia University Medical Center, says her facility has received an overwhelming response to



their multiple installations throughout their radiology department. “We have hospital employees stop and ask if they can have a peek at our sunshine and lovely views. They have definitely brought happiness to patients and employees alike.”

TESS products have proven to be an important value-added supplement not only to facilities, but also to their leading equipment manufacturers. Vendors such as GE, Varian, Philips, Toshiba and Siemens Medical Systems have endorsed these programmes as complementing their equipment. For patients who are alarmed by what these vital medical procedures may find, backlit nature scenes can provide an entirely different experience.

Anticipating the growing importance of the MRI market worldwide, TESS has developed two revolutionary and patent pending MRI product lines for wall or ceiling applications. The TESS MRI-EL art and light panel system, time-tested for over five years, is a flexible one-inch complete system that allows for any geometric shape and size. TESS has collaborated with Armstrong Ceiling Systems to guarantee an off-the-shelf, perfect fit for framing these designer ceiling systems.

The TESS MRI LED System is unique to the market because it offers a one-inch profile guaranteed for three years. All other competing LED systems have light boxes five to nine inches thick, often making it impossible to install because of ceiling space, the need to penetrate the shield, or LED bulbs that often won't last past a year of installation.

Both systems respond to the patients' needs for a positive distraction and to the sensitivity of the advanced technology of the magnets. Installed properly, these systems will not cause artefacts.

Now in their third generation, the TESS programmes have proven to cross the boundaries of both language and creed, making them a holistic “touchstone” for people anywhere. Installed in all 50 US states and internationally, these expansive, backlit nature scenes accomplish the goal of administrators, staff, families and most importantly patients—promoting tranquility and a spiritual measure amidst stressful emotional situations.

Creating a “healing environment” implies the environment is therapeutic and therefore a part of patients' inclusive healing process. By bringing the world of nature inside, utilising the TESS programmes, the patients' desire for comprehensive satisfaction is met and the hospital's shifting need to address facility design while maintaining their intrinsically important medical model is accomplished. The TESS programmes offer hospitals the perfect means to integrate 21st century therapeutic environmental solutions into the expanding global medical market.

Mr Machado's vision and tenacity has moved TESS USA Inc from an initial personal passion into a global reality. Visit their website: www.TESSUSAINC.com. ●

Further reading

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