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## Archway gets a makeover by Ontario interior designers

**CAMH satellite facility important in creating a healing space for patients**

*Parkdale Villager*

When The Archway Outpatient Clinic gets a makeover, courtesy of the Association of Registered Interior Designers of Ontario (ARIDO), it will be about more than new paint and flooring.

It will be creating a healing space that reminds the clients they are important, said Joan Loughran, a recreation therapist at the clinic.

“It is about having hope and pursuing dreams,” Loughran said. “But the space wasn’t very hopeful. It was dark, dreary and grey.”

Archway, at 1451 Queen St. W. in Parkdale, is an outpatient clinic of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH). The about 20 staff and doctors there serve people with complex mental illness who would have at one time been treated as an inpatient. Archway helps to give these patients the skills to live happy, healthy lives in the community.

The clients are taught to cook healthy meals, do their own laundry, meal plan and other skills.

Michael Torres, senior media relations specialist at CAMH, said part of CAMH’s mission is to give clients freedom, dignity and independence, and give them spaces that are conducive to healing and recovery.

But that wasn’t necessarily the case at the Archway, which had mint green tile floors and loud yellow walls.

“The way a community treats its clients speaks to the value it places on people,” Torres said, adding that is the idea behind the enormous redevelopment of CAMH’s Queen Street campus that began in 2008 as it is with special projects such as this.

CAMH has embarked on a multi-phase Redevelopment Project to build a new kind of hospital, advancing treatment, revitalizing its community and changing attitudes toward those with mental illness and addictions. It is partway through converting the 27-acre site, formerly known as 1001 Queen St. W., into a welcoming, integrated community, weaving together new cutting-edge CAMH facilities with shops, residences, businesses, parks and through-streets, creating an inclusive, healing neighbourhood.

However, Archway is one of a number of CAMH’s satellite facilities that won’t be moving to the new hub on Queen Street West.

“We like to have clinics in different parts of the city,” Torres said. “While we wanted inpatient services and most of the ambulatory services together, it is still important for us to maintain services that are in the community, where our clients live and it is close for them to come.”

Archway has been at its current location near Jameson Avenue for about 25 years, but the last renovation was only done about seven years ago.

“Although it looks extremely dated,” Loughran said.

When ARIDO approached CAMH with the idea of doing a project together, they toured Archway and decided to help.

“When Sharon (Portelli from ARIDO) came to the Archway clinic (she) saw how desperate it needed to be transformed,” said Jim Davey, corporate volunteer coordinator at CAMH. Davey’s job is to connect corporate volunteers with opportunities to engage CAMH clients in a meaningful way. “The clinic itself isn’t reflective of what is happening there, it was not conducive to people’s recovery, it was not indicative of the clients and the people who work there.”

Davey said as soon as Portelli walked into the dated Archway space, it was clear how a team of volunteer designers could make a difference there. Portelli engaged her membership and they in turn inspired contractors to get involved. As a result, all of the work is being done at no cost to CAMH.

“They saw the importance of doing a makeover to promote health and recovery,” Davey said. “It is peaceful and calming now and that is what you need for someone who is trying to maintain or attain recovery goals.”

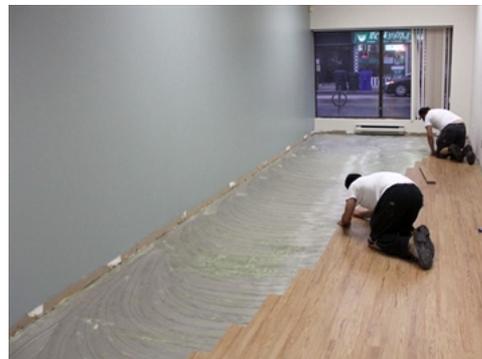
Archway consists of staff offices, a group room, a client and staff kitchen and common area with computers and a piano. Each of the areas were drab, Loughran said.

There was a series of meetings, which began in March, to discuss with staff what the designers could and couldn’t do, and then the designers met with the clients to see what they wanted from the space.

“They (clients) wanted to bring the outdoors in and you can see that in the colours that were chosen, and the materials,” Loughran said.

Work began about a month ago and some of the spaces are already complete.

“It is a nicer place to be in, a more calming place to be in,” Loughran said. “There is a sense of home. It feels homier.”



The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health’s satellite location, Archway Outpatient Clinic, gets a makeover thanks courtesy of the Association of Registered Interior Designers of Ontario.

Now the space has attractive looking and durable vinyl floors that look like hard wood.

Designers chose colours, materials and textures that would make people feel comfortable and hopeful, Loughran said.

This redevelopment is conceived and funded by ARIDO designer. All of the work has been done with almost no disruption to the clients with most of it being done on the weekend.

A launch party for the newly renovated space will be held for clients, staff and the designers in the fall.