













VAMA

Adaptive- Reuse for a Women Wellness Centre

Client: Dr Rupal Shah

Site Location: 1st Floor, Golden Square, Parle Point, Surat-395007

Construction Area: 3370 sq ft / 313 sq m

Cost of Project: Confidential

Year of Completion: 2017

Services: Interior Design, MEP Integration, Artworks

Firms Involved: EssTeam, Oblique









THE PROJECT:

VAMA- A Wellness Centre for Women, is verifying the concept of reuse, reduction in utilization of new resources and these challenges brought out the best creative results. The client being a young and dynamic lady doctor showed us her endless enthusiasm and sense of purpose. The centre she conceptualized was a place where a woman's health and physical issues right from adolescence to menopausal age would be addressed in the best possible way through a young team of women doctors. There were two major aspects that led us forward with the project, a clue and an opportunity. With a clarity that this women's clinic deserved an out-of-the-box idea to justify the programmatic intent, we arrived at an idea to celebrate Feminism and Indian-ness, and in the process questioning and thrashing the paradigms of a typical clinic aesthetics.

THE SITE:

The site is 3370 sq ft in area which was formerly an ophthalmology clinic on the first floor in a commercial building on a busy road, in the city of Surat.



A dynamic young lady doctor with a rare combination of entrepreneurship and social concern laid the seed of this wonderful dream. In the first meeting, as she described the programme at length, what appealed to us the most was her endless enthusiasm and sense of purpose. The centre she had conceptualised was a place where a woman's mental and physical health issues right from adolescence to menopausal age would be addressed in the best possible way through a young and dynamic team of women doctors including gynaecologists, radiologists, psychotherapists, dieticians, physiotherapists, cancer specialists, ophthalmologists, menopausal practitioners.

- 01. Reception/ Waiting Area
- 02. Optometry Room
- 03. Perimetry/Pachymetry Room
- 04. Counselling Room
- 05. Waiting Area
- 06. Store Room
- 07. Pantry
- 08. Store Room
- 09. Accounts & Administration
- 10. Operation Theatre
- 11. Store Room
- 12. CCSD Room
- 13. Pre Operation Room
- 14. Recovery Room
- 15. Lounge
- 16. Counsellor Room







- 01. Reception/ Waiting Area
- 02. Physiotherapist
- 03. Dietician Room
- 04. Waiting Area
- 05. Optical Store
- 06. AR/NCT Room
- 07. Wash Room
- 08. Blood Collection Room
- 09. Visitor Counselling Room
- 10. Dr. Counselling Room
- 11. Dr. Consulting Room
- 12. Workstations
- 13. Sonography
- 14. Visitor Counselling Room













MICRO-CONCRETE TOPPING



CEMENT TILES



INDIAN PATENT STONE



CANVAS



WOODWOOL BOARD



The project is about demonstrating the harm done to the environment that can be minimized. The core idea therefore was-Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Refuse which was taken as a base for the concept of the entire project. As an interior designer, it's usually very easy to start with the clean slate at site and conceptualize the project in totality. However, with a clear mandate of doing our bit as a designer, we decided to set an example for us, of genuine sustainable resource utilization. Therefore, three ways of resource conservation was taken as the base for the entire project.





	01. RETAINING EXISTING SITE	
	02. REUSING FURNITURE SALVAGED FROM OLD BUILDING	
	03. ART INTEGRATION	
OPPORTUNITIES		☑ ess team

The first clue for space planning naturally came from the given situation that the ophthalmic clinic already had lot of defined rooms for various procedures and then an Operation Theatre block. We decided to retain most of the existing wooden partitions and clear up the OT block in totality leaving the flooring intact. All we did was to cover these partitions with new laminates so as to gel with the overall aesthetics of the centre. We also decide to leave the gypsum suspended ceiling in almost 60 percent of the project area. All we did was to replace the existing CFL lamp fixtures with far more energy efficient LED luminaries.













The second opportunity for resources conservation was offered by the existing set of furniture like the reception table, about 50 seater waiting sofa, and some other loose furniture. Now, the challenge was to reuse this very typical commercial waiting lounge sofa and make them enhance the feminine character of the place. All the chrome metal parts of the sofa were painted in matt finished enamel paint, and in came a gust of traditional Indian fabrics to upholster them, replacing the odd black leatherette.















Having reused all that was possible to reuse of what was existing, now the focus was on the new furniture. All we did was to regularly visit and hunt the go -downs of the katpitias (the agencies that dismantle old houses that are taken down), till we found almost all the remaining consultation tables, all kinds of chairs for the doctors and patients and some end tables and coffee tables that we could use. When all of these were restored and polished in similar tone, they just started to belong at the clinic. To enhance the indoor air quality, care was taken that each and every paint and wood polish specifications were with low VOC products and some oxygen enhancing plants have also been used.

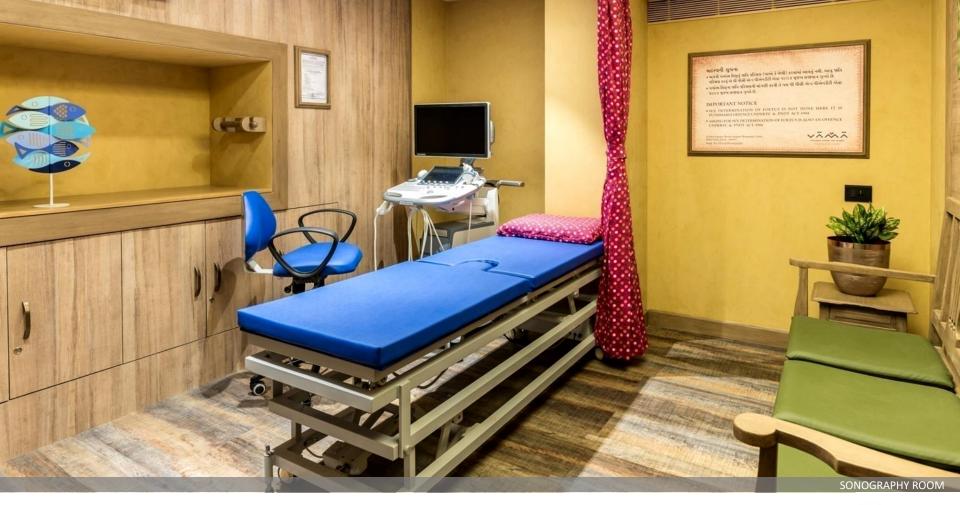


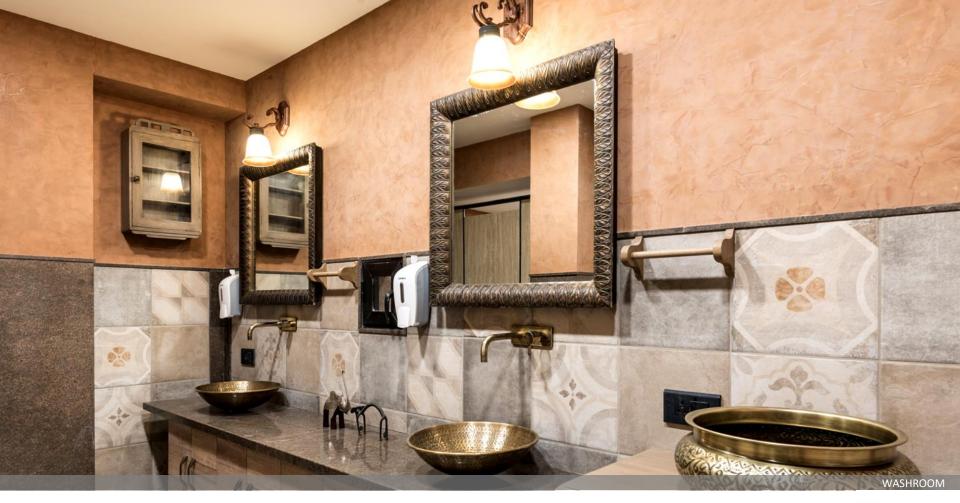










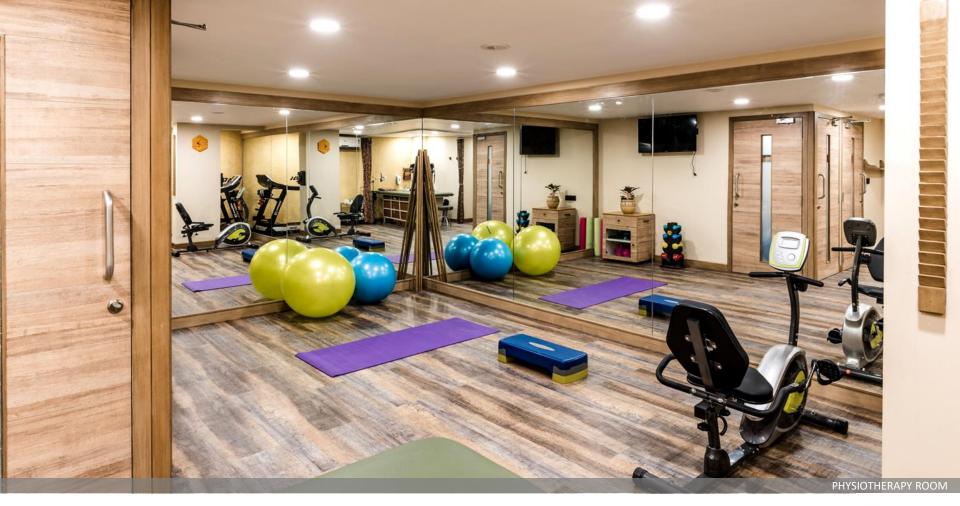






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02. REUSING FURNITURE SALVAGED FROM OLD BUILDING

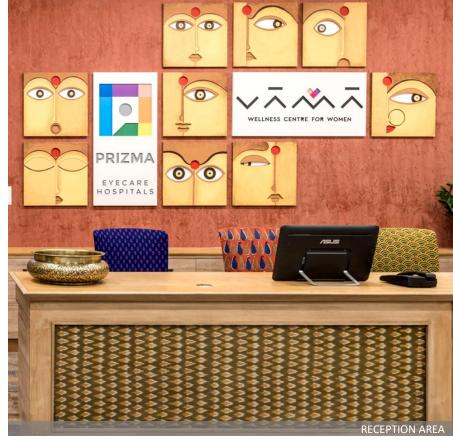


Art became an interesting opportunity to celebrate womanhood in the overall scheme of things. A conscious decision to combine pop art, traditional Indian textiles, crafts like Ikat, Appliqué and Embroidery, and varied womanness related themes became an integral part of the ambience.

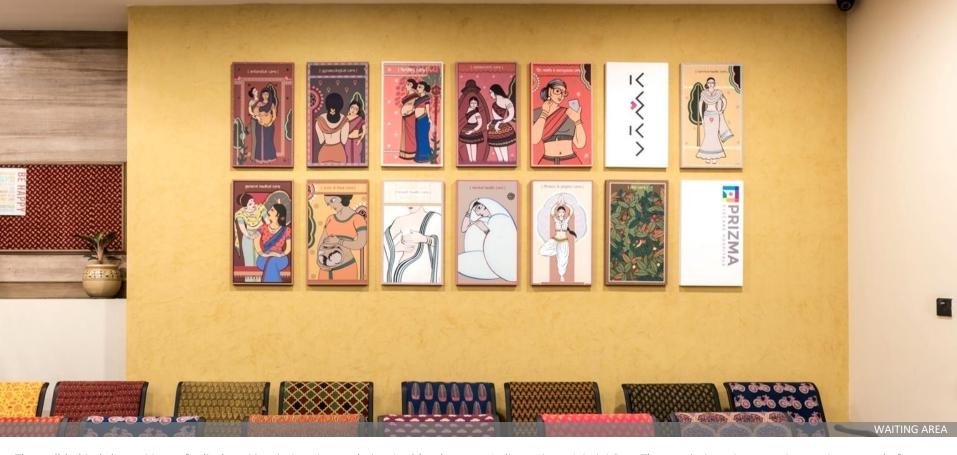








As one enters the large background wall behind the reception table showcases the 'Navrasas' - a composition of abstract murals depicting the nine rasas or the nine emotions of a woman used in traditional Indian dance form.



The wall behind the waiting sofa displays 12 paintings in a style inspired by the great Indian painter Jaimini Roy. These paintings, in a very interesting never-before-way illustrate the various services offered by the wellness centre.











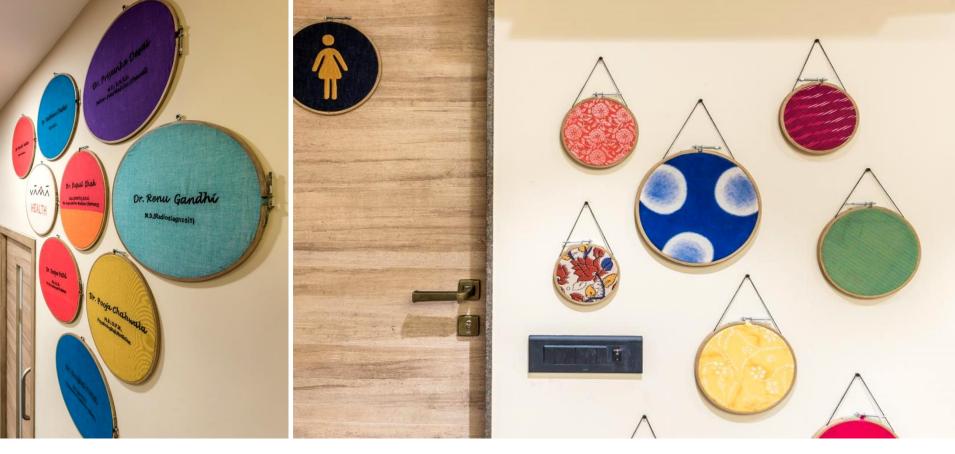
As one turns right into the diagnostic clinic area, one cannot miss the tribute to the famous painting by the great Renaissance painter Leonardo da Vinci, the 'Monalisa'. This work titled 'Saundarya' epitomizes beauty of an Indian woman using Monalisa. Unrestricted usage of Indian textiles, Appliqué and Indian ornamentation forms creates a centre piece of the space which Is difficult not to notice.





The wall behind the lounge seating in the same space proudly displays a collage of various traditional Indian ornaments used by an Indian woman. This creation called 'Aabhushan' was done with the help of an artisan who specializes in painting ornaments in gold for the images of Hindu Gods.





Yet another art installation in the same space consists of a bunch of various a traditional Indian textiles fixed in embroidery rings of varied sizes and composed on the wall to bring out the 'Vaividhya' or the diversity in the Indian textiles.





In the waiting area near the ophthalmology, fitness and diet sections, a large 6ft installation of a pair of spectacles named 'Drashti' flaunts on the wall. It is created using the technique of nails and dyed threads..



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