

Last fall, we invited *Esopus* subscribers to send us descriptions of their ideal waiting room, which we then asked interior designer Thomas Juncher Jensen to visualize in a series of renderings. Not surprisingly, our always creative readers hit a collective home run, offering a range of clever, incisive—and, at times, amusing—recommendations. Subscribers happened to have quite a few great ideas in common, such as separate areas for those with communicable illnesses, a dedicated children’s space, comfortable seating, bountiful natural light, a food-and-beverage station, up-to-date periodicals—even an aquarium. Check out the full renderings in *Esopus 22: Medicine*.



The waiting room at NYU Langone women's center on Lex was amazing. 33rd Street. Nice colors and materials, a snack bar with one of those fancy coffee machines that makes coffee and hot chocolate and tea etc.. Also they had good recent magazines. And a TV with shows like Today and then Bravo. Not so many chairs in a row, more like little groups of seatings if there is a large waiting room.—*Felicitas Oefelein*

I would say a nice fish tank is a must for a waiting room. Big goldfish, like the Oranda, are wonderful to watch.—*David Kramer*

- Separate rooms for the 'sick' (colds, flu, etc) and the 'well' (i.e. check-ups, injuries)
 - Groups of chairs (2-4 each) spaced well apart so you don't have to sit too close to someone who is sick
 - Office staff in a separate/soundproof room so that patients can have privacy in their discussions with them.
 - Chairs which are comfortable and made of material that is easy to wipe clean
 - As much natural light as possible
 - Soothing bright paint colors and décor
 - Water/coffee/tea station, TV's, Laptop stations ("active waiting")
 - Convenient restrooms
- Jennifer Schultz and T. Edward Lippy*

Small one-person cubicles so that those with communicable diseases don't infect others.—*anonymous*





I have always loved the lounge at la costa spa in Carlsbad, CA. The furnishings are commercial but feel personal and residential. The color palette is calming yet radiates the frequency of good health and life vitality and I think that makes people hopeful. Tech (distraction) needs to be incorporated into the experience. tech pods are a great way for individuals or small family/friend groups to gather more intimately. For areas of a hospital where loved ones have extended waiting times I love these nap pods. See attachment.— *Kim Eastburn*

Please include a couple Mies van der Rohe Barcelona day beds! — *Pierluigi Johnson*

I'd like a real-life sized "Operation" game board that patients could play in. Also iPads with Wi-Fi so patients can google all the scary medical conditions they might have. Maybe some free weights to work on getting into shape, an inversion table to straighten out your back while waiting. A voodoo doll of a doctor.— *Katherine Lenard*

The ideal waiting room would have humor in it...like a waiting room with a painting of a waiting room in it...It would have a lot of phone chargers and plants, and an aquarium. The chairs would be comfortable and the lights would be comfortable, not florecent.— *Barbara Bitondo*

Ideally, of course, there would be no waiting, and no waiting room—I am old enough to remember house calls. Assuming, however, that we are stuck with the concept of waiting my beau idéal of a waiting room would be a part-replica of the amber room at Tsarskoe Selo outside St. Petersburg, but conceived as a very large double cube, the amber panels mounted on gilt mirrors. From the ceiling are suspended three Louis XV gilt bronze eight-arm chandeliers, roughly approximating to three spacious arrangements below of fauteuils cabriolet, bergères, fauteuils à la reine, and duchesses brisées set upon very large silk Tabriz carpets. Splendid Louis XV commodes with royal provenance are spaced around the walls, on which Sèvres garnitures alternate with big Meissen and/or Capodimonte parrots. One commode doubles as a very well-stocked drinks cabinet, and a splendid Ming-dynasty folding screen effectively conceals the nursing and specialist medical staff from view—they are, after all, servants. On the mantelpiece stands a fine clock by Renacle-Nicolas Sotiau (1749–1791) with figures after Simon-Louis Boizot (1743–1809) representing the Victory of Pleasure over Sickness and Death. Small gold and enamel boxes contain a generous supply of harmless recreational drugs, while the complimentary cigars are the finest Cohiba Robustos. It is not necessary for the pages and footmen to wear livery as such, merely a smart uniform.—*Angus Trumble*

Thank you - a fun safe sound proof play area for small children!!!
—*Sophia Hughes*

Dazzle. All surfaces covered with a confounding but pleasing pattern: floor, walls, ceiling, chairs, tables. Let's face it, your soothing colors & anodyne art are my anxiety-inducing visuals. No informational literature . . . plenty of time for that past the waiting area. If there must be a screen, please no news, no raucous voices, just changing light & colors.—*Karen Holtzman*

Definitely a subscription to Esopus!—*Jen Bervin*

