DESIGN ELEMENTS + GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR RESTORE OAKLAND

Restore Oakland is a 20,000 SF space extending over three floors of a reclaimed building that once contained a music store at the corner of 34th Avenue and International Boulevard in Oakland’s Fruitvale neighborhood. Restore Oakland’s highlights include:

The Ground Floor

Guiding Principle:
The ground floor is inviting to a wide range of uses from public to private with 3 distinct and separate entrances/lobbies; 1-the quiet entry for the restorative justice and peacemaking zones, 2-the public lobby for community organizing and direct services and 3-the COLORS Restaurant. The lobbies combine vibrant color, artwork, sculptural light features and signage to welcome visitors and help them find their way.

Design Elements:
Recognizing the rich diversity of the people it serves, imagery, texture, and natural materials are used in this space to subtly celebrate the food, the people, the menu, and the community it serves.

The 4700 sq. ft.COLORS Restaurant features an open commercial kitchen to expose its mission of learning to the public while contributing to an exciting and dynamic dining experience. The space utilizes earthy colors and a range of fabrics ranging from textured wall partitions to a display of culinary tools and instruments that contrast well with bright colors from the seating and tableware and steel, wood, and stone fixtures.
**The Basement (“The Den”)**
Provides shared meeting room space for all tenancies on the first and second floors and the larger community. The wide corridors are activated with colorful movable furniture for small casual gatherings.

Guiding Principle:
Basements have a long history of being a place where activists gather to facilitate change. The Restore basement serves as the area with the largest meeting spaces and presents an important opportunity to celebrate and re-imagine basement activism and how change agents use these types of spaces to impact their communities.

**Design Elements:**
The Den utilizes a fun and colorful approach. Meeting rooms are designed as playful “boxes” and the corridor serves as a relaxed den. Specifically, it features a mix of soft colorful furnishings, wood accents, exposed raw material finishes, bold graphics and vibrant feature walls.

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**The second floor**
Home of the Ella Baker Center office and shared spaces for all tenants

Guiding Principle:
The second floor is the nexus of integration amongst several organizations with a central kitchen for breaking bread and meetings rooms, some that are shared and others dedicated for restorative justice and peacebuilding.
Design Elements:
When people enter the Ella Baker Center they can be inspired by her spirit. The organization’s powerful logo, text, and images create a gateway to her legacy and brand the space with meaning. The Ella Baker Center takes advantage of its open plan by celebrating the height of the ceiling and light pouring in with large scale graphics and banners. Colored, textured, and natural finishes come together to create a comfortable and warm space. The floor’s shared spaces including the conference room and kitchen feature sliding or folding doors and surfaces where you can draw and create flexible work and play spaces for gatherings and meetings. Gender neutral bathrooms are designed with full-height partitions for privacy while thoughtful fixtures, colors, and lighting create a comfortable space.

The main restorative justice room is flanked by 2 support spaces for peacemaking and conversations and lined with expression walls that can be utilized for messages, art, and flexible walls for creating privacy and refuge. Rooms feature multiple large windows that make the space more welcoming and nurturing versus traditional courthouses and prisons which have no windows and are dark and oppressive. They also include elements of nature, vibrant colors, fuzzy carpet, and bean bags that provide comfort and relaxation after or during intense restorative conferences.
ABOUT DESIGNING JUSTICE + DESIGNING SPACES

Designing Justice + Designing Spaces is an Oakland-based architecture and real estate development non-profit working to end mass incarceration by building infrastructure that addresses its root causes: poverty, racism, unequal access to resources, and the criminal justice system itself. The work of DJDS counters the traditional adversarial and punitive architecture of justice—courthouses, prisons, and jails—by creating spaces and buildings for restorative justice, rehabilitation and community building; examples include peacemaking centers, mobile resource centers, and housing for people coming out of incarceration.

ABOUT DEANNA VAN BUREN

Deanna Van Buren is the design director and co-founder of Designing Justice + Designing Spaces (DJDS). A pioneering activist, Van Buren has been recognized internationally for her leadership in using architecture, design, and real estate innovations to address the social inequities behind the mass incarceration crisis. Her TED Talk on what a world without prisons could look like has been viewed more than one million times, and she is the only architect to have been awarded the Rauschenberg Artist as Activist fellowship. Van Buren’s most notable projects include: the Near Westside Peacemaking Center in Syracuse, New York; Pop-Up Village, a mobile event that brings a constellation of resources to under-resourced communities; and The Women’s Mobile Refuge Center, a mobile overnight space for women who have recently been released from incarceration or are seeking refuge from human trafficking.

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