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Planning Modern Hospitals

Being of the opinion that plans for the design and construction of modern small animal hospitals are practically unavailable to most practitioners, The Veterinary Student has sponsored a contest for the design of such a building. Prizes were offered for the three best drawings and the junior and senior Architectural Engineering students of Iowa State College were the contestants. The judges were Leonard Wolf, Assistant Professor of Architectural Engineering, Iowa State College, Dr. C. H. Covault, Director of Clinics, Veterinary Division, Iowa State College, and Drs. Wayne Riser and Robert Wall, small animal practitioners of Des Moines.

Specifications

The contestants were told that building should cost between eight and ten thousand dollars, that it should have a 20-25 dog capacity, and that it must be constructed so as to be practical and sanitary. References were furnished to the contestants concerning publications containing articles dealing with hospital planning and construction. The necessity for meeting the practical needs of the small animal practitioner was constantly stressed.

Winners

A total of 26 plans was submitted from which the jury has selected for prizes the three reproduced here. First and second prizes were divided between Charles E. Mauser and Carlyle Peterson. Third place was awarded to Warren Kroeger. Those whose plans were given honorable mention were: Calvin Knight, E. D. Witte, Grant W. Voorhees, H. P. Blean, Walter Neumann, James Walsh and Howard Carter.

The plan submitted by Charles Mauser presents many desirable features. The exterior is simple, neat and is of a style which will fit in most any mid-western locality. The arrangement of the various rooms makes for efficiency and convenience. The side entrance makes it possible to dismiss patients without having to lead them back through the reception room and the central hall lends a more complete separation of the various wards and guards against intrusion by inquisitive clients.

Construction Outline

The designer has submitted the following outline as to materials to be used and general construction.

Walls

Interior walls will be faced with smooth, light buff brick and variegated in slightly different shades. This brick has high light and heat reflective properties, thereby tending to keep the building cooler in summer. The exterior and interior surfaces should be spaced about an inch apart. The exterior wall will be backed by five-inch zinc flash tile. This tile is relatively inexpensive and yet provides a very neat and clean appearing surface. There will be no mouldings or other trim that will catch dirt. The smooth tile and flat surfaces will be easily kept clean. The interior walls will be constructed of the same zinc flash tile used in the backing of the exterior walls.

Ceiling

The ceiling will be of a hard surfaced plaster, painted to match wall surface. The paint will be washable. Metal lath will be used.

Floors

The base of the reception and office floors will be concrete and covered with inlaid linoleum. A lively color effect to match the walls will add more color to both rooms. The corridor will be marbleized tile in dark sienna.

All the other rooms will have a con-
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crete surfaced floor smooth enough to permit thorough cleaning.

**Doors**

A slab door veneered with birch, lightly stained, and then varnished.

**Windows**

All windows will be steel sash. Clear glass will be used with the exception of opaque glass in the windows of the lavatories.

The reception and office windows will have light buff venetian blinds.

**Kennels**

They will be constructed of concrete, surface to be non-absorbent. The front of the kennels will be one steel grilled unit, bolted to concrete. The doors will open separately for each kennel.

**Heating and Ventilation**

A combination oil burner and air conditioning unit will be installed. This, of course, will be automatically controlled. Included in the heating room will be an incinerator.

**Plumbing**

All kennel wards will be provided with hose connections. Steam will be available from the heating unit for sterilization purposes. Drains will be properly located in the wards, examination, surgery, and bath and clipping room—thus permitting proper drainage.

**Lighting**

Indirect lighting in the office and reception rooms. Lights will be provided to eliminate shadows in the examination and surgery rooms. The other rooms will have ordinary overhead lighting.

**Peterson Plan**

Sharing honors with the Mauser plan, the drawing by Carlyle Peterson presents many features which will appeal to prospective builders of hospitals. The exterior is pleasing in appearance, simple and of modern design. The office, reception and examining rooms communicate with each other, thus making for convenience. It is also possible to discharge patients through the side entrance, and avoid bringing them back into the reception room. The placing of the laboratory and pharmacy with the direct communications into both the examining room and surgery also adds to the efficiency and ease of operation. The surgery is located at the back, so as to be least accessible to the laity, and the two outside walls make possible adequate windows for lighting purposes. The boarders, which are most liable to be the noisy inmates, are placed at the back.

**Construction Outline**

The following outline, it will be noticed, provides for an effective and economical air conditioning unit.

**Foundations**

Concrete footings and wall to grade line. Waterproofing—membrane around basement walls. Basement floor—4 inch concrete slab.

**Structure**

Exterior walls—4 inch face brick, 1 inch air space, with 5 inch glazed tile backup. Interior partitions—4 inch glazed tile. Floor construction—reinforced concrete. Roof construction—open web steel joists, 2 inch concrete slab, 5-ply tar and gravel roof covering.

**Ceilings**

Plaster on metal lath.

**Windows**

Projected steel.

**Interior Doors**

Slab veneer except French doors from hall to examination and surgery rooms.

**Heating and Air Conditioning**

Oil burning boiler. Air heated by hot water coils adjacent to fan. Cold well water used for cooling in warm weather. Forced air circulated to rooms by duct from fan in furnace room up through the corner of laboratory to plenum chamber over corridor from which most rooms receive air. Office and basement rooms
A SMALL ANIMAL HOSPITAL

MAIN FLOOR

- Reception 9'6" x 10'6"
- Office 10'6" x 10'6"
- Equipment 7'6" x 10'6"
- Laboratory 10'6" x 10'6"
- X-Ray 9'6" x 8'6"
- Examining 10'6" x 10'6"
- Bath 5'6" x 6'6"
- Maternity 7'6" x 14'6"
- Nursery 7'6" x 10'6"
A SMALL-ANIMAL HOSPITAL
receive air through ducts in basement. Cold air is withdrawn from rooms through baseboard registers.

Kroeger Plan

Presenting a somewhat different style of exterior planning, the drawing submitted by Warren Kroeger provides for a utilization of considerably less frontage which would no doubt be of advantage in case the building was to be located in a business district. A note-worthy feature of this plan is the provision for light in the reception room, office and kennel rooms. Separate doors are provided from each ward to the outside runs, and the window space provided for is an attractive feature.

As in the others, this provides for the discharge of patients through a hall and side entrance rather than back through the reception room. Adequate isolation wards and storage space are provided in the basement.

Construction Outline

The following outline has been submitted by the designer.

Exterior Walls

To be of 10 inch tile; exterior finish, 1½ inch stucco; interior, zinc-flashed tile, which gives good appearance, and an impermeable surface. All interior trim to be omitted.

Floors

To be of rib tile slab construction, with 2 inch finish slab of concrete, troweled smooth in kennels and working space. For reception room, office and lavatory, slab to be covered with patterned, colored asphalt tile or linoleum to form suitable color scheme with walls and finish.

Interior Partitions

To be of 5 inch zinc-flashed tile. Surgery walls faced with glazed ceramic tile of desirable color, if budget permits. In event of too extreme cost, a good zinc-flashed tile will give a very satisfactory and inexpensive finish. All cabinets to be of non-corrosive metal.

Roof

To be durable and attractive in appearance. This can be obtained by any of the following materials: Asphalt or asbestos shingles, mingled-toned slate, or copper roof with raised seam.

Ceilings

To be of hard plaster throughout for purpose of ready cleaning.

Doors

To be slab type, finished with stain and varnish.

Windows

To be of steel or wood sash, giving maximum light, sanitation and durability.

Copies Available

The plans submitted which were not reproduced here are in the possession of the Veterinary Student, and should veterinarians be interested in procuring copies of any of the others the staff has provided for photostatic copies to be made. These will be one-half size of the original drawings.

Address all enquiries to the Editor, The Veterinary Student, Ames, Iowa.