Design Matters, Matters of Design

2015 SHNNY Conference

SALLY BERNSTEIN
SERVICES FOR THE UNDERSERVED
Thoughtful design in your existing portfolio
Design challenges in your existing portfolio

- Building is old or worn
- Problems with original design
- Change in resident population
- Residents’ needs have changed
- Damage (e.g., flooding)
- Clutter
Is your multi-purpose room too multi-purpose?
What works? What doesn’t? Ask!

- Residents
- Property mgrs
- Social service staff
- Capital development
- Maintenance
- Sister agencies
Jerome Motel – Public Nuisance

Motel, neighborhood get another chance

BY RAFael A. OLmeda

Long before the city shut it down three years ago, Rodney was a frequent customer there, using it as a place to sleep, drink and have sex with other men.

Yesterday the 31-year-old resident of a drug treatment program was outside helping clean graffiti off the building.

"Yesterday we had about 100 clients of the drug treatment programs run by Project Return get the motel for its next incarnation — a haven for former substance abusers with HIV/AIDS."

"I was there helping to get that thing clean," Rodney said, who changed his last name used. "I can believe I'm actually cleaning it up instead of renting a room and getting high with some guy in a drug treatment, not having protected sex and endangering my life."

Project Return, a nonprofit group working with the state Department of Health and Human Services, the County Council 5 and the Housing Enterprise, are running a program for drug overcoming. In its next form, the motel will serve as an HIV home within a year.

The group will provide residential drug treatment and on-site staff for the tenants, said Dave Velez, an aide to the Housing Enterprise.

"The Mount Hope Organization is fighting to shut the motel three years ago, but we were able to save it and turn it into an HIV home, said Velez.

The motel opened in 1990, and within a year there were a bunch of half-naked girls flagging down cars and selling their bodies on Peppi," said Jeann Dery, a member of the Mount Hope Organization's board of trustees.

"The mothers in the neighborhood began to complain because we have drug dealers and vice in the neighborhood, and we all knew what was going on around the motel," Dery said.

"We're not just focusing on the building," said Maribel Rodriguez, district manager of Project Return.

"We have a program to bring in people to work on the surrounding areas as well."

The Department of Transportation has agreed to come.

"We are a row of stores. At least one of these is a row of stores."

"I am so happy," said Malet Alvarado, resident of the African Hair Braiding and Beauty Salon. "I opened this shop three years ago, and now we are going to be able to open another shop on the block."

Inspector Terence Montana, commanding officer of the 4th Precinct, said the oth-

ers had more questions but not necessarily objections.

"We aren't going to prevent it from turning back into a drug haven."

by Rafael A. Olmeda
Jerome Court Garden: great, but not enough
Jerome Court Tenant Lounge
The Alpha Workshops’ proposed redesign
Oh no, a water main break
The creation of decorative elements
Almost ready...
Transform a dull wall
Add some vibrant color
Bring the garden inside
A unifying floor covering
No shortage of visual interest
Warm, welcoming and playful
Benefits? Not just for residents.

“We realized that a lot of us were coming to the space after dealing with tough client issues. It’s really cheerful here. It energizes you when you’re having a tough day.”