

PROJECT RENEWAL THE NEW STANFORD HOSPITAL

Interview with **Courtney Lodato**, Senior Manager of Public Relations,
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Images courtesy of Stanford Hospital Public Relations

Q: The new Stanford Hospital has the design of the “human factor.” Could you explain what that means?

A: The Stanford Health Care Board and hospital leadership have created a platform that supports the architecture of the building and allows the building to remain open and accessible to people. When you arrive at the new hospital, you won’t see a traditional hospital design. We hired consultants who design hotels, asking them to give us ideas for the fabrics, curtains and couches, so the hospital looks more inviting.

We’ve introduced a garden floor on Level 3 of the new building. When families visit their loved ones at Stanford Health Care, being in a garden setting can provide people

with a sense of peace and tranquility. Having nature in the middle of the building gives a get away from the clinical environment.

We minimize the clinical aspect of the hospital in simple ways too. The design is kept very clean and streamlined, and we also try to hide away equipment so they are not placed along the public areas.

Our current hospital doesn’t have a lot of space for family and visitors, but the new hospital will have spaces for visitors inside and outside. The new design has created open spaces and garden areas for our staff and faculty as well. Everyone that supports patient care will be able to enjoy some time away from work during breaks.

No matter where you are in the new hospital, you are visually oriented to what is going on outside. Many of our patients and doctors spend hours indoors, so having that access to the outside environment – such as trees and flowers, will provide balance to support wellness.

Q: Why is there a need for a new hospital building right now?

A: There are two reasons. First, it’s a matter of seismic safety. There has been new legislation for earthquake safety since the old hospital was built based on the old requirements, our existing facilities don’t meet the mandates anymore. The new hospital is base isolated on each of the 206 columns that support the structure of the hospital which allows the

building to move up to six feet during an earthquake.

Secondly, we wanted to expand the number of private rooms. The new hospital has 368 beds that are all private rooms. The new national model for hospitals is not to have a horizontal hospital design, in which, after patients have procedures, they are wheeled through the hospital to their rooms.

In this type of horizontal building layout, patients are then seen by visitors, other patients and people in the hospital, which can cause distress and embarrassment. The vertical design of the new hospital allows the operating rooms and treatment

facilities to be located on the lower levels. After treatment procedures, patients will go from the bottom floor to their rooms via elevators. This way, there is more privacy.

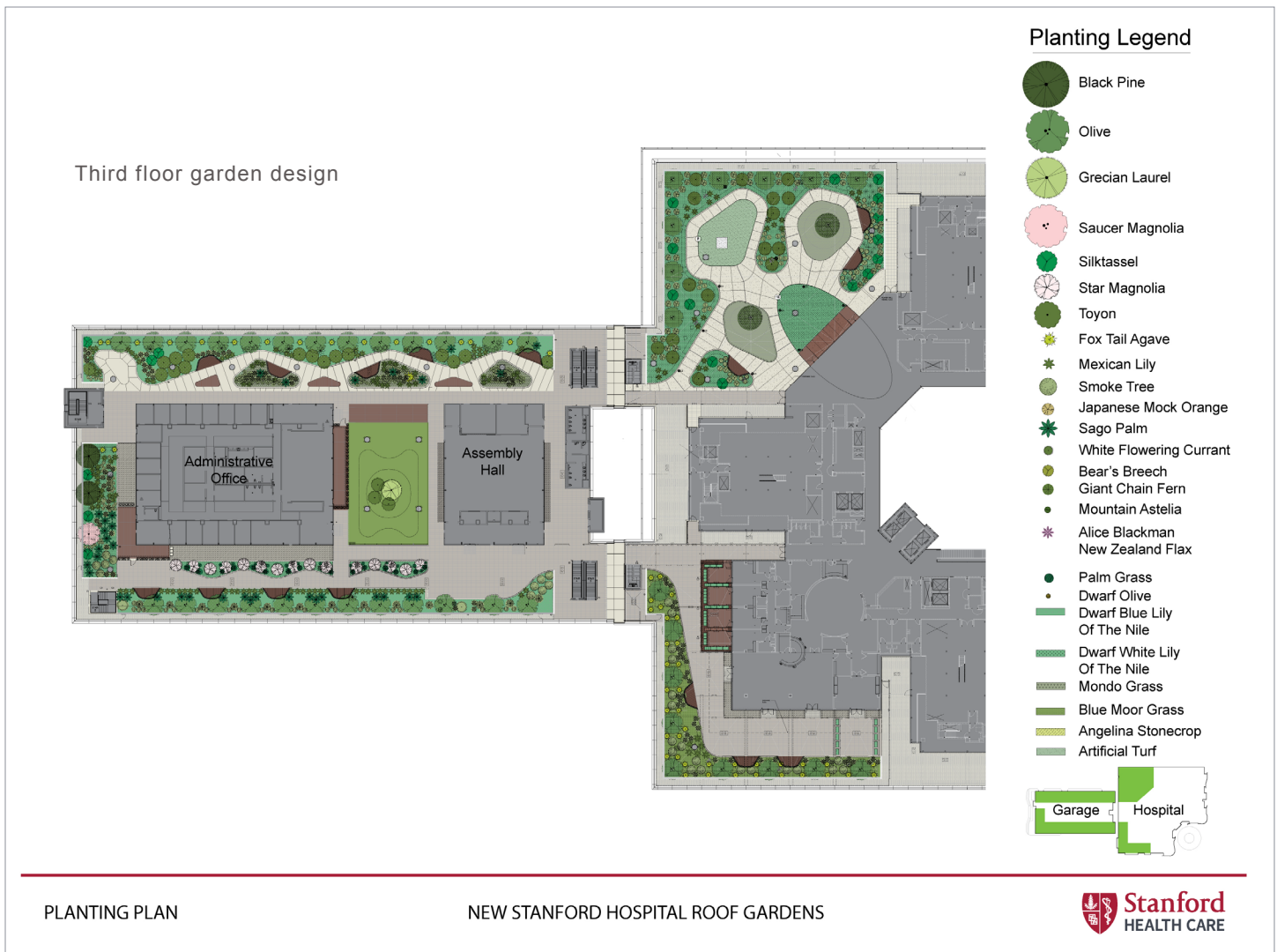
Q: How did you select Rafael Viñoly for the job?

A: Rafael is very passionate about both people and buildings. He likes to create environments that improve people’s lives. He listens to us, he understands us, and he is not afraid to suggest ideas.

All great architects will not only think of how to design a building, but also take into consideration its context and try to envision what else can be done.

He has been a wonderful collaborator. He propelled us, not only to put up a building, but to think through the entire process and consider how our building relates to our surrounding architecture.

Rafael has incorporated many design elements from the original Stanford University campus architecture. However, he does it on his own terms, taking motifs from the campus, filtering them through his bold, iconic approach, tailored to context. Earthquake safety was always a top priority, as well as showcasing innovative technology, which will be installed on Levels 1 and 2 of the new hospital. ■



RAFAEL VINOLY DISCUSSES NEW STANFORD HOSPITAL



Silicon Valley Impressions:

How did you start to work in the Bay Area?

Rafael Viñoly: I started working in the Bay Area with the new Stanford Hospital. Our firm was approached by Stanford University. Usually, for these types of buildings, the focus is very technical, but we feel that hospitals need a humanistic approach because that's what hospitals are for, treating humans. We were successful in the competition because of that.

In our design, we integrated many healing elements, such as a garden on the third floor. It "splits" the hospital in the middle, bringing in lots of nature.

SVI: You have worked in many parts of the world; what is unique about working in Silicon Valley?

Rafael: I always wanted to get to know the Valley for myself because when I came as a tourist, I didn't really know this place. Since I started working here, I am completely surprised by the level

of sophistication of the place and the way people progress with a futuristic view. It's not about just making progress, but also about being daring, about taking risks beyond what is normal. The kind of ideas that are being discussed and implemented here are well beyond the rest of the world.

From working in Manhattan we have learned a lot about the transformation of the city of New York into a tech hub. At a fundamental level, we are connected to the people who invent things every day.

SVI: Why do you think the Valley possess such characteristics?

Rafael: The tech-initiated wave of immigration caused many communities to come here with their identity and creating a new one at the same time. These hubs of people want to maintain their cultural roots as well as integrating in to an open society that is willing to accept all communities.

To design buildings for this community, one must contemplate common factors: the beauty of nature, and the reference to geography.

SVI: what is unique about the new Stanford Hospital?

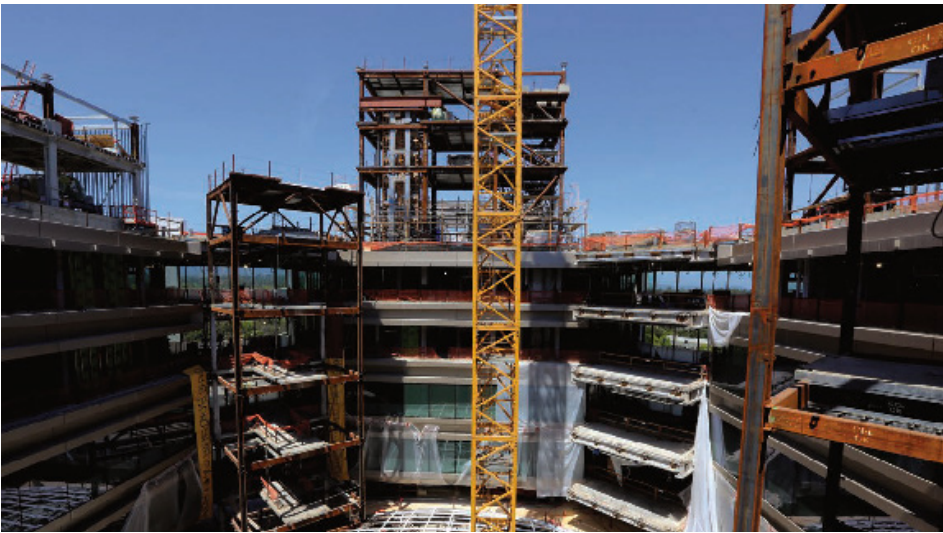
Rafael: The process of healing requires a highly technical environment, but at the same time, Stanford Hospital is not just a hospital that treats the patients. The staff are teachers

in the University's medical school, teaching the art of healing and the science of medicine. The researchers, who are doctors too, and medical students all participate in the care and treatment of patients.

So, in such an environment, there are soft boundaries between patients, teachers, students and researchers. There is the juxtaposition of education, healing, learning and research. It's a translational field, not the typical 19th century organizational structure where people who learn and teach are completely independent from those who are practicing. In Stanford Hospital all the human elements are interdependent and interrelated, and even patients will have a participatory role, which was ignored in the past.

To make it work, the building must be integrated at all levels with people who learn being close to people who teach; people who teach must be close to people who research; people who research must be close to people who are curing. Finally, the patient will have an important dimension that was postponed in the past.

The new hospital has an abundance of openness, access to nature, and many floating layers hanging over the landscapes and over the views of the hills. There will be waiting areas for families, and cafeterias with views of gardens, as well as being surrounded by traditional healing plants. ■



The new Stanford Hospital under construction.



Rendering of new Stanford Hospital entrance.



Rendering of new Stanford Hospital operating room.

The new Stanford Hospital will have:

- 368 private rooms, for a total of 600 patient beds on-site
- Expanded Emergency Department with twice the floor space and the ability to function smoothly in the event of a large-scale disaster
- Private rooms to increase privacy, reduce stress and accommodate more patients and visitors
- State-of-the-art operating rooms that can be adapted to accommodate new technologies and innovations
- 17 operating rooms, 11 interventional/radiology image-guided rooms and additional imaging technologies
- Drought-tolerant gardens and landscaping
- Natural lighting and universal floor plans
- Welcoming amenities for patients, families and visitors
- Parking structure for 900 vehicles

Images courtesy of Stanford Hospital Public Relations