

ADVERTISEMENT

09-30-20

In San Antonio, a building designed to heal abused children

This 2020 Innovation by Design honoree embraced nature as part of the healing process.



UPDATES

COVID-19

CO.DESIGN

TECH

WORK LIFE

NEWS

IMPACT

PODCASTS

VIDEO

RECOMMENDER

SUBSCRIBE

FASTCO WORKS

INNOVATION BY DESIGN

CHILDSAFE HARVEY E. NAJIM

ChildSafe is a nonprofit that's dedicated to preventing abuse and helping abused children. So when it set out to build a new facility, it wanted to make sure the space supported parents, counselors, and kids who were navigating complex legal protocols and starting the healing process.

The center, designed by San-Antonio-based Overland Partners, has different walkways, entrances, and exits to allow children, perpetrators, and law enforcement to navigate the complex while maintaining security measures. Though environments like this can typically be sterile and strict—there's a county police precinct in the building—Overland Partners worked to make the space peaceful and welcoming. It's why ChildSafe's Harvey E. Najim Children and Family Center is the winner of our 2020 Innovation by Design awards in the Wellness category.



[Photo: courtesy Overland Partners]

Overland Partners made sure that there was plenty of natural light and space to walk outside—the San Antonio center is one of very few in the country with an outdoor therapy component and even has a healing garden. “Connecting to nature to help with healing was one of the guiding principles of this project, along with safety,” says Michael Rey, senior principal and vice president of operations at Overland Partners. “We wanted to make sure it was restorative. A lot of facilities like this end up looking like jail and we didn’t want it to be like that.” Rey added that Overland Partners didn’t want the building to look like a home either, as that setting can be triggering for some people.

UPDATES

COVID-19 CO.DESIGN TECH WORK LIFE NEWS IMPACT PODCASTS VIDEO RECOMMENDER SUBSCRIBE FASTCO WORKS

The center is an important national model: Overland Partners hopes that other similar facilities that emphasize healing and connect to nature can be built throughout the country. Eventually, the county and Overland Partners would like crime to get so low that the building can be turned into a community center for all residents of the area.

See more honorees from the 2020 Innovation by Design Awards [here](#).

You Might Also Like:

[The most innovative wellness projects of 2020](#)

[These online college courses can save students thousands of dollars](#)

SPONSORED CONTENT

FROM OUR PARTNERS dianomi



EMPIRE FINANCIAL RESEARCH
Investor Who Called March 2020 Market Bottom Says Buy TaaS Now



SMARTASSET
7 Mistakes You'll Make When Hiring a Financial Advisor



THE ASCENT
The highest cash back card on the market is here



GEORGE GILDER WIFI 6
George Gilder Presents Tiny Little Device Set To Boom in 2021

IMPACT

IMPACT

This new delivery service cuts down on takeout waste by sending your food in reusable packaging

IMPACT

Dove's new deodorant comes in a refillable stainless steel case

IMPACT

This new plant-based shrimp expands the fake meat menu

NEWS

NEWS

Extra unemployment benefits update: Here's the latest on which states are paying and what to expect

NEWS

If we can normalize even Trump's coup, America is lost forever

NEWS

Democracy is burning, but stock markets are on fire. Here's why

CO.DESIGN

CO.DESIGN

Washington D.C. wasn't designed for an insurrection