

# SPOTlight

June 5th

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### 1. Was your pursuit of an A&D degree and career the result of an aha moment or a gradual discovery? How did you decide to pursue a career in design?

*This might be cliché, but I really don't remember wanting to do/be anything else. My parents would tell you my passion for the built environment started as early as age 5. What has been a discovery or rather journey for me, was the process of learning what type of designer I wanted to be, and how that would translate into practice – which presently is rooted in finding ways to advance the human condition through design.*

### 2. What passions or hobbies keep you going outside of work?

*Probably my number one passion (lately) has to be plants – indoors and outdoors. I never really engaged with plants all that much in my adult life until about 2 years ago. I think a lot has to do with the fact that I grew up in a pretty rural area, surrounded by trees, fields, etc. I think the longer I live in the city I crave greenery. WFH has also led to a much greater appreciation for the plants in my life, and great success at keeping them alive!*

### 3. How do you think healthcare design considerations will converge with commercial and government post covid-19? What crossover do you see occurring?

*I think there are a few opportunities ahead for which healthcare design will undoubtedly influence commercial built environments; the first being indoor air quality, healthcare has much more rigorous guidelines around air circulation, ventilation, and intake requirements. Conversations around IAQ have been on the rise in corporate – thanks to Harvard's CogFX study – which before COVID, a boost in productivity wasn't yet enough to move the needle for big system overhauls in much of our office buildings. The second, materiality; vinyls, solid surface, plastic wall protection – which can now be digitally printed on and comes in all sorts of patterns to look like a decorative paper wallcovering. This is one I'm actually excited about, because as a healthcare designer the pickings are slim when it comes to vinyl upholstery, and the great the demand, the greater the choices! And third, increased hand hygiene with gesture-based technologies. I 100% think we're going to start seeing hand washing stations in conference rooms and corridors. And card readers will likely get paired with a "wave to open" door actuator.*

### 4. We have seen several articles in the last few weeks talking about the future of the healthcare post Covid-19. They seem to focus on more "elbow room" and less density in waiting areas, and increased use of telemedicine. What is your opinion about some of the solutions companies and design firms are exploring?

*I think a great way to approach a lot of what we are all reading, writing, and trying to understand is saying "Yes, and..." Yes, to more "elbow room", choice in physical distance, and yes, to increased use of telemedicine. All of which help and protect people in the here-and-now. And... then let us also ask, 1) how we got here? and 2) where are we going? If we don't do that we haven't gotten to the root cause of why these temporary measures were even necessary. I think some of the most provocative information I've read recently is regarding sunlight and fresh air. And this can apply to spaces beyond healthcare, but we've seen, a person's risk is lower when outdoors. Sunlight is inherently germicidal. Don't get me wrong, we haven't gotten where we are today from a health/longevity perspective without the advancements in both building and health sciences, but it does make me ask the question, what are we missing in our built environments that we can only get from being outdoors?*

### 5. What was one of the most memorable projects you have worked on in your career?

*I'd easily have to say getting to take part in the full renovation/restoration of a historic 1930's tuberculosis ward into a Pediatric Outpatient Primary Care Clinic.*

### 6. Favorite drink for virtual Happy Hour or food to cook while staying in on the weekend?

*Everyone that knows me, knows I'm a bit of a health nut and I don't do a whole lot of cooking, but I'm a sucker for baking and eating baked goods. Mainly because I tell myself if I made-it, it must be "better for me", right?! The best thing I've baked during WFH were cinnamon rolls with chai frosting.*

You can reach Clairanne on LinkedIn at:

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*A delicious photo of one of Clairanne's baked goodies - yum!*

