



Harbor House Youth Shelter serves diverse individuals ages 10-17. The goals of the shelter are to encourage growth, healing, education, establish a sense of community, and provide a stable living environment for youths in crisis. This requires a design that supports relationship building and opportunity for self-expression. Modern forms of communication, such as chatting on-line and networking web sites – the idea of instantaneous connections through technology allow the end-user to create a personal profile and identity, interact with an on-line community, and encourage relationship building. Twitter, one of many on-line sites that are based around up to the minute simple status updates, is the concept behind the design for Harbor House. Face-to-face tweeting and socializing space have been incorporated into the design along with the latest technology and sustainable design practices.

The first floor of Harbor House is designed primarily for the business functions that support the youth shelter. This area consists of multiple spaces for typical office work and the "Tweet Spot" sandwich shop. The reception, the group meeting room, and the sandwich shop each have their own entry and exit. The reception entry is designed to provide residents and Harbor House staff with a direct route to the second floor residences and first floor offices. This also allows the reception desk staff to monitor building activity. The sandwich shop entry is primarily for public use. The third entry was an existing door to be used as an exit for the group meeting room because after talking with multiple homeless youth shelters it made sense to provide a door for youths to exit quickly in a heated situation to save face.

Harbor House was not only designed as a multi-functional youth shelter and revenue generating sandwich shop, but the space was created with sustainability in mind. All materials chosen for Harbor House are sustainable selections that can contribute to LEED certification of the project. Day lighting was used to illuminate the space where possible and occupancy sensors were added to mentoring rooms, offices, and resident rooms so that lights would remain off when spaces are not in use. Furthermore, Harbor House plans to use eco-friendly cleaners to maintain their new home.

The second and third floors dedicated to residences are designed using similar, yet softer materials and finishes to make the space feel more homey and each resident room will have a digital status board on the inside of their room facing the hallway to post up to the minute simple status updates, giving residents the sense that they are always connected. The common areas on both of the second and third floors do, like the sandwich shop, feel hi-tech and space age. The furniture chosen for this space is modern, comfortable, and constructed of materials that have proven the test of time as items that are sustainable in the sense that they are extremely durable and timeless.