



## HUNTINGTON PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

HUNTINGTON, WV

**SCOPE**  
10,300 SF  
New Construction

**COST**  
\$2.4 million

**STATUS**  
Completed in 2011

Architecture often aspires to address the most complex of human conditions – culturally, intellectually, and spiritually. Essentially, this project sought to overcome the most formidable sociologic challenge ever presented to our firm. That is, an architecture that makes kids want to go to the dentist. The resulting project is one, hopefully, requiring little explanatory narrative and simply invites children, parents, and staff to have fun and enjoy their dental experience in every way.

From the moment visitors enter the site, they are greeted by an enormous elephant and his animal companions to join them in a West Virginian white water rafting adventure, where youngsters can climb aboard for a special photo opportunity from dad's iPhone. A tiny parrot welcomes them at the front canopy at the center of the large curved façade responding to the medical park site, and children are invited through their own miniature vestibule to pop into the lobby through the base of a grand Oak tree. The playful gathering space is anchored around a dynamic, sinuous wall bulging just appropriately for the crashing of another pint-sized pachyderm host.

The South facing lobby, shaded slightly by the fenestration systems, allows natural light to dance across a field of vivid finishes and materials, and is equipped with engaging seating, indoor playground equipment, and a bevy of video gaming system stations. Private consultation rooms allow doctors to discuss with each child, prior to treatment, just what kind of care they can expect, and private procedure rooms provide a good opportunity to work with those little ones who might prefer to be more alone with just the folks. Special opportunities like these are all well organized and very intentionally designed in the simple and effective plan that allows for intuitive patient circulation and efficient workflow from the medical staff.







