New York University, Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, Department of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology • New York, New York

Before

N Y U Steinhardt’s Department of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology occupies a full floor of a 19th-century landmark building near Washington Square Park. The renovated area houses a supervised clinic, research labs, seminar rooms and departmental administrative facilities in a compact, 9,000-square-foot footprint. The design successfully addresses and integrates the needs of three unique population groups: faculty and administrators; student clinicians; and patients, who range in age from infants to senior adults.

The state-of-the-art speech-language hearing clinic provides supervised training for students. The use of advanced audiovisual systems, such as videotaping patient sessions, plays an important role in diagnostic and therapeutic services. The architect worked closely with a lighting designer and acoustic consultant to develop a design that integrates audiovisual technology seamlessly into the space—using it strategically to bridge between physically unconnected labs and learning rooms. This allows for increased flexibility and capacity.

Outdated facilities and limited technology curtailed the breadth of the department’s curriculum. The new design not only advances possible services and allows for enrollment growth, but also im-

proves the quality of the learning and clinic experience.

Large, open areas at either end of the space benefit users with natural light and sweeping city views. The east reception area looks out on the buzz of Lower Broadway, and a student study area and pantry on the west side looks out over a vast green space. Finishes were selected to appeal to a broad age group and to entice the senses. At the main entry, the clinic observation room is clad in sculptural plaster panels that evoke sound waves. Similarly, the audiology observation and testing room, situated near the student entrance lobby, is flanked by red and white graphic wave patterns. The color and texture of architectural elements, graphics and furnishings energize the space and the senses.

“I am looking forward to increasing the number of patients and types of services that the clinic treats each year. Last year, graduate students logged more than 2,500 hours treating patients. Now, with more therapy rooms, they will be able to assess and treat even more people.”

—Celia Stewart, Department Chair and Professor

Firm: Gensler

Associated firms: Plaza Construction Corporation, Contractor; WM Group, MEP Engineer; SBLD Studio, Lighting Designer; Cerami & Associates, Acoustic and Audiovisual Consultants

Client: New York University; Joseph Giovannelli, Associate Dean for Administration and Finance

Area of project entry category: 8,240 sq. ft.

Cost of project entry category: $2,670,000

Cost/square foot of project entry category: $324

Completion: February 2007

Photographer: Adrian Wilson