



WHITEHORSE, YUKON

HEALING ROOM

YUKON CORRECTIONS INSTITUTE

Intended to be the focal point of a new \$70 million correctional facility in Whitehorse, the new healing room was designed by Kobayashi + Zedda Architects (for prime consultant DGBK Architects) as a secure room for exploring the spiritual side of healing. The client requested that the room be secular in concept and form yet provide some elements of all faiths. The room takes on both an axial and circular relationship to the vertical slivers of light that penetrate the room.

The Architect based the design on one of the most endearing Yukon flowers, the Prairie Crocus. The crocus is one of the first signs of spring following the darkness of winter. It is a perennial symbol of renewal. It is a hardy flower that stays close to the ground, its petals follow the path of the sun throughout the day. A warm micro-climate thrives inside the semi-closed petals, creating a warm and supportive habitat for other living things that allow the flower itself to prosper.

The structure of the healing room is concrete block with the majority of the natural light being brought in through secure clerestory glazing. Unique and curved glulam beams create a reference to a canoe form floating on the ceiling above.

