



## DALSETH FAMILY DENTAL CLINIC

Design: ALTUS Architecture + Design  
 Construction: Karkela Construction  
 Landscape Architecture: Coen + Partners  
 Photography: Peter Bastianelli-Kerse

A dynamic new facility for a generation-long local family dental practice becomes a bold destination within the fabric of a suburban community. A building that expresses a new environment through the exploration of light, form, color and sustainability. Reinventing the experience and memory of going to the dentist - creating a sense of welcome and joy. The ephemeral qualities of light, shade and shadow are captured through transparency, screens and window patterns, creating an array of experiences. The surfaces of the building evoke movement and depth through tactile material and color shifts in collage to convey literal and phenomenal transparencies. Sited close to a busy intersection, the building sits within a field of tall grass prairie. This creates a spiral arrival sequence, allowing one to experience the perimeter of the building before reaching the glass room entry. The client's focus on a "green environment" is realized through both sustainable energy and landscape systems. Prairie grasses surround three sides of the building, creating a low-maintenance, drought resistant identity to the landscape. The grasses and an infiltration pond receive runoff and filter the water from the site before it reaches the water table. Green technology is incorporated through a geothermal well system, below the prairie grasses, to heat and cool the building. The hierarchy of glazing establishes daylighting that provides a sustainable environment and creates a restorative place for patients and staff.