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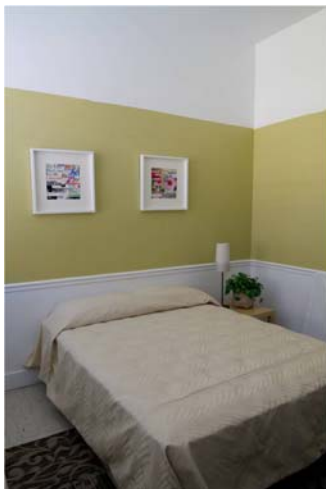
IIDA Georgia – Zaban Community Outreach Project

ATLANTA - This past month, in partnership with students from the *Savannah College of Art and Design* Atlanta Campus (SCAD Atlanta), the Georgia Chapter of the *International Interior Design Association* (IIDA Georgia) completed the first face-lift in more than 20 years for the *Zaban Couples Center* (Zaban) in Atlanta, Georgia. A grand opening was held on October 6, 2011 to showcase the completion of Phase 1 of Zaban's redesign.



Since opening in 1984, Zaban – the only shelter for homeless couples in Atlanta, has helped couples stay together as they end the cycle of homelessness and regain their independence. In addition to substance and alcohol abuse counseling, the residents also receive training in financial literacy, relationship counseling and anger management. According to the center's Executive Director, Patricia Smith, the center's goal is to get clients back into permanent housing.

This past summer volunteers renovated the facility's 22 bedrooms based on designs drafted by five SCAD Atlanta students and IIDA Georgia served as project managers for the guest rooms renovation. Through this project, IIDA Georgia facilitated community involvement and reached out and worked with design/build related professional organizations, firms, businesses, and individuals to donate funding and materials to ensure the project's success.



Hundreds of volunteers, both students and professionals, donated their time and talents to the project. *Allsteel* and *Gunlocke*, along with *Indiana Furniture*, were the only commercial furniture manufacturers to become involved with the project. For a complete list of sponsors of the center check the IIDA Georgia site. <http://www.iidageorgia.org/>

The final guest room design involved green and white paint tones on the walls, a queen-size bed and a wall unit and under-bed storage containers (residents can also keep belongings in private lockers in a separate room). As a result, the rooms, which vary in size depending on their location, look more spacious. Art on the walls was created by volunteers and staff. The room renovations, valued at \$90,000 excluding labor, are the first phase of the redesign. Common areas of the center are to be completed next summer.

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