The situation
Persons that are homeless can suffer from a sense of placelessness and dislocation that is disorienting. This can occur in emergency or transitional shelters or in permanent supportive housing. This unanchored feeling can contribute to a sense of loss or detachment, which can add to stress levels.

Potential solution
Art can be a humanizing, connection-building element within an interior. Sculpture, paintings, graphics or other forms, if presented in a positive, non-provocative way can help lend a positive reinforcement of the neighborhood or city to persons who may feel cautious about their surroundings. Art that references the facility’s early history or the culture of the neighborhood are but two options for relevance and connection.

Location: Third Avenue Apartments, New York City
Managing organization: Services for the Underserved (SUS)
Interior Designer: John Shuman, Services for the Underserved
Architect: James McCullar Architecture, PC

Key words
Permanent supportive housing
Transitional shelters
Emergency shelters
Stress management
Community
Dignity and Self-Esteem
Beauty and Meaning

A graphic poster of Mondrian artwork with a protective Plexiglas face reinforces both the eclectic, urban neighborhood of the Bronx, and also the cubist references of the residence’s architecture.