Martha L. Hanlon, AIA / M.Arch, 1986

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Project scope was to design a 3,500 SF office/efficiency apartment for a physical therapy practice in North Pole, Alaska. The rural, 1-acre site is on the edge of a small town, populated by indistinguishable strip malls, fast-food establishments and log cabins. Design goal was for the building to create a strong, contemporary business image in a bland, built landscape. The interior spaces needed to have an open, light feeling, and maintain a connection to the exterior while maximizing comfort for staff and clients. The building is composed of three simple sloping volumes that define the entry, physical therapy gym and efficiency apartment zones. Strategically placed windows define the corners of the large volumes and frame views to outdoors spaces that are protected from the surrounding development. Color and pattern choices for the exterior skin distinguish the volumes and create a pleasing contrast to the 8-month white, winter landscape.