

SITUATING VALIDATION

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Harlem Hospital Modernization, 2012



Historical Restoration

RADICATE

From Latin radicatus, past participle of radicare (“to take root”), from radix (“root”)

1. to cause to take root : plant deeply and firmly.
2. to fix or establish firmly.

Who validates who? For whom?

Which histories do we chose to hang on the wall?

Where is Harlem’s history/soul held?

WHERE DO WE RADICATE?

How does one create large scale infrastructural buildings without being “soulless”, are these buildings useful/necessary?

“Art and graffiti fuse to create a strong cultural message on the facade, paying homage to the historical WPA murals completed by African American artists found on site and preserved within the new structure”.

- Jack Travis, FAIA NOMAC

The facade, a high-performance curtain wall, replicates 3 panels from a Works Progress Administration mural that depicts scenes from the African diaspora story. Other restored original WPA murals are visible from the street in the hospital’s new public gallery.

- HOK