Humanising Healthcare by BDP
Healthcare buildings are the places where many of us will experience life’s most profound events and yet they are also complex technological facilities which have to operate efficiently.

Our designs pay close attention to clinical effectiveness and efficiency but they always prioritise people - patients, their visitors and the staff who care for them.

BDP designs and creates inspiring places for people. With international teams of architects, engineers, designers, and urbanists, we work from studios throughout the UK, and in Ireland, the Netherlands, the UAE, India, and China, on projects around the world.

Founded in 1961, BDP is now the largest interdisciplinary design-led firm in Europe and has won over 750 awards for design quality from international and national bodies.

Our designers focus on designing buildings and environments for the future to confront the reality of a finite planet. We challenge ourselves to create better environments for everybody using five goals as our starting point for the design process:

- to act as climate shapers to create protective and positive environments for people to enjoy
- to take a creative approach to energy, with natural and technological methods for the use and reuse of energy and resources
- to design in a user-inclusive style, engaging in a learning centred approach with the occupiers of our buildings and places
- to cross-fertilise our knowledge from different cultures, maximising the advantages of being international, interdisciplinary and multi-sector
- to promote and create liberating buildings, places and communities for people to use and adapt over time.

Humanising Healthcare.

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IRRESPECTIVE OF SIZE, OUR PROJECTS ARE ALWAYS DESIGNED AROUND THE NEEDS OF THE INDIVIDUAL. THEY CREATE A CARING ENVIRONMENT WHICH PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOCIAL CONTACT AND WHICH MEET PEOPLE’S PSYCHOLOGICAL NEEDS AT A TIME OF DIFFICULTY.
In a world which is becoming increasingly generic we design projects which are specific and which create a real sense of place, firmly rooted in their time and their surroundings.
Charitable Foundation Children’s Hospital of the Future, Kiev, Ukraine

Responsive to global priorities - to inclusiveness, to future clinical practice and to low energy/carbon.
Local

Bespoke to a place - its climate, community and culture.
Embodying the ethos of our clients and their dialogue with the design team.

Personal
Our designs provide equality of access for everyone and ease of use for all.
Legible

We achieve intuitive wayfinding through simple visual clues in site layouts, building forms and understandable hierarchies of circulation space.
Comfortable

We promote patient wellbeing with internal environments which are light, fresh, calm and quiet all year round, whilst being cozy in winter and cool in summer.

We create benign external microclimates around entrances and key spaces through carefully designed building form and orientation.
WHilst some aspects of healthcare design are matters of life and death, every aspect of a healthcare building needs to work well and promote wellbeing.
Clinical

Our designs support patient privacy, dignity and security through separation of flows, creating separate primary circulation systems for the public, for patients and for logistics. This principle, along with a study of clinical adjacencies and workflows, invariably generates a concept for the internal organisation of a project which is sufficiently robust and flexible to accommodate radical changes in requirements over the life of the building.
Safe
We strive for the provision of healthcare buildings which facilitate safe clinical practice, with excellent patient observation and proximity of time sensitive activities in a clean and hygienic facility. A high level of room standardisation also assists in staff training and the reduction of clinical errors.

Protection from fire is a key consideration in all healthcare building design and is regulated as such. We work closely with fire engineers to create a non-institutional, patient friendly feel in our healthcare building designs which address these regulations with imaginative and compliant solutions. Our designs also address the need for resilience in IT, electrical power, heating and cooling.
Flexible

Our designs help maximise day to day operational flexibility with strategies to achieve higher activity levels for any given floor area. They are also adaptable to changing clinical requirements, with a high degree of room standardisation allowing changes of function and equipment without the need for building work.

Where layout changes are necessary, our designs support cost effective re-provision through reuse and recycling. Plant rooms and services routes are also organised to support future changes.
Flexible

Our healthcare masterplans and building designs are configured from the start to allow expansion. This strategic approach also allows us to find imaginative solutions to difficult site phasing problems, reducing or eliminating the need for expensive decant or shell space provision.
WE DEVELOP DESIGNS WHICH NOT ONLY WORK BUT WHICH WORK EFFICIENTLY.
Economical

We seek to minimise walking distance for patients, visitors and staff and provide the required clinical accommodation in a compact overall area.

We develop designs with excellent clinical observation allowing optimum levels of clinical personnel to operate safely. Inpatient areas are generally designed in compact, self sufficient clusters providing support spaces close to their respective beds, reducing staff walking distances for the most frequent activities.

Logistics are generally designed on the basis of using automatically guided vehicles for repetitive, low value activities. We seek to minimise energy consumption and cost. We also promote forms of construction which are quicker, safer and more cost efficient.
Sustainable

Sustainability is a multifaceted issue. Not only do we develop designs which minimise energy consumption, waste and the use of water, we also design healthcare buildings that bring value when considered from a whole life costing perspective to foster economically sustainable facilities that are flexible over time.
CONTACT
andrew.smith@bdp.com

PHOTOGRAPHERS
David Barbour
BDP Groupe 6
Sanna Fisher-Payne
Martine Hamilton Knight
Keith Hunter
Tim Soar
Nyus | Dreamstime.com