

Design Intelligence Document
Nepean Hospital - Integrated Mental
Health Unit

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Nepean Hospital - Integrated Mental Health Unit

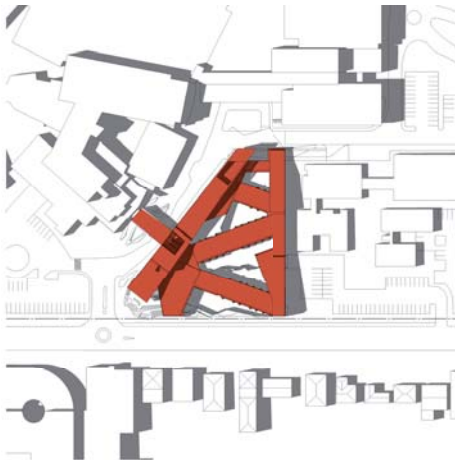


Design Intelligence Document

Nepean Hospital - Integrated Metal Health Unit

00

Specifications



Location

Penrith, NSW, Australia

Area

6000 sq m.

Budget

\$40 million

Client

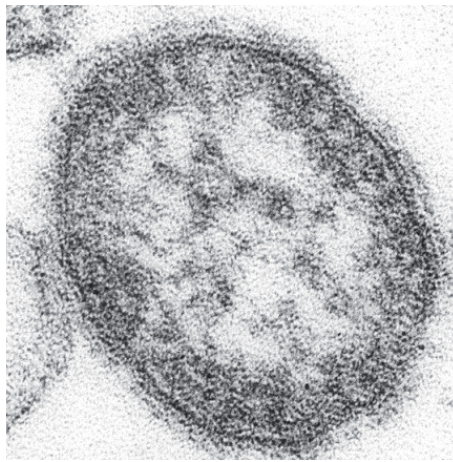
NSW Health
Infrastructure

Project Team

Henry Ahn, Dominic Alvaro,
Tershia Habbitts, Greg Harper,
Dung Le, Howard Liu, Tracy
Lord, Alan McMahan,
Mukesh Mavji, Tommy O Daly,
Stephen Taskin

01

Healing Environment



- The essence of the project lies in creating an architecture that embodies a regenerative environment, stimulating the healing process

02

Context



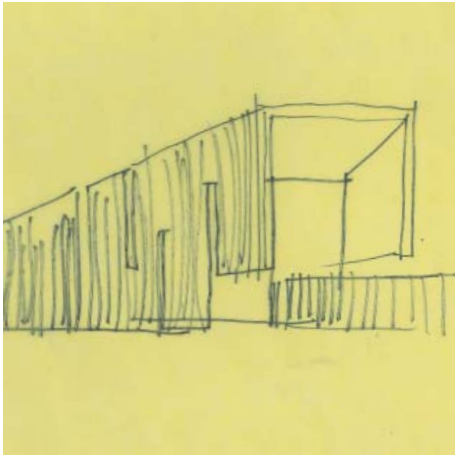
- A new insertion into an existing hospital complex. The scheme simultaneously maintains its own identity while plugging into vital internal connection points.

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03

Design Process



- The design is formulated as a retaining wall for landscaped courtyards within. The form, materials and spaces have been shaped through by design, site and clinical intents

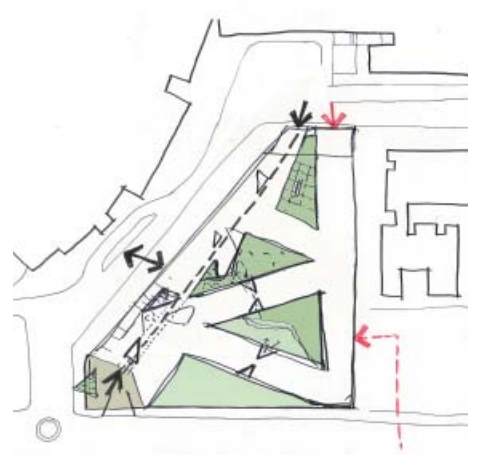
04

Clinical Philosophy



05

Planning and Spatiality



- Framed courtyards form the heart of the scheme
- Clearly zoned public use edges link with private interior patient zones
- Clear, defined circulation
- Visual connectivity between spaces

06

Landscaping Concepts



- Healing and regenerative outdoor courtyards
- Flexible and fluid spaces
- Landscaping that changes with the passage of time
- Familiar organic tapestry of planting and paths that vary in accordance with the level of treatment in the respective courtyard.

07

Architectural Expression



- As the brain is encapsulated by the skull, the scheme is proposed with a hard civic exterior shell addressing the public domain
- In contrast, the interior architecture is soft and interconnected, engaging with the users and landscape. A familiar “Home” environment is created by modulating courtyard facades and presenting “the garden”, expressing growth and regeneration.

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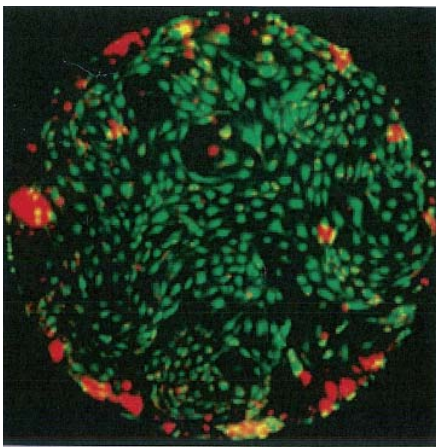
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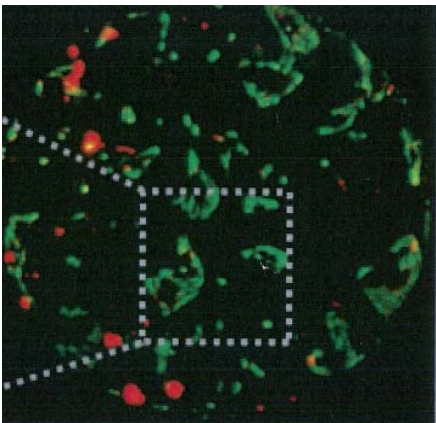
Nepean Hospital -Integrated Mental Health Unit Healing Environment

Well-designed hospital gardens not only provide calming and pleasant nature views, but can also reduce stress and improve clinical outcomes through other mechanisms, for instance, fostering access to social support and privacy, and providing opportunities for escape from stressful clinical settings (R.Ulrich, PH.D,1999; Cooper-Marcus and Barnes, 1995).

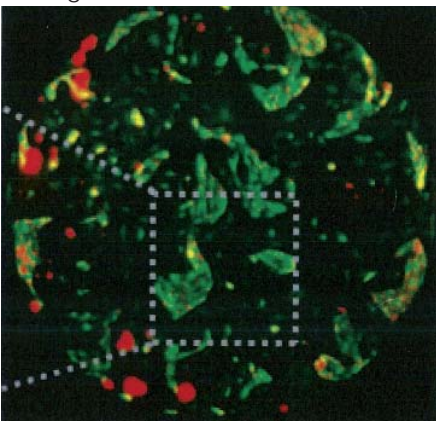
The brain regenerative process:



normal state



damaged state



regenerated state

A 'living architecture' designed to create a regenerative environment, stimulating the healing process.

The mind and the body respond to their direct environment, perceiving and reacting to both their physical and emotional surroundings. This inherent impact can be translated into a regenerative tool, stimulating the healing process:

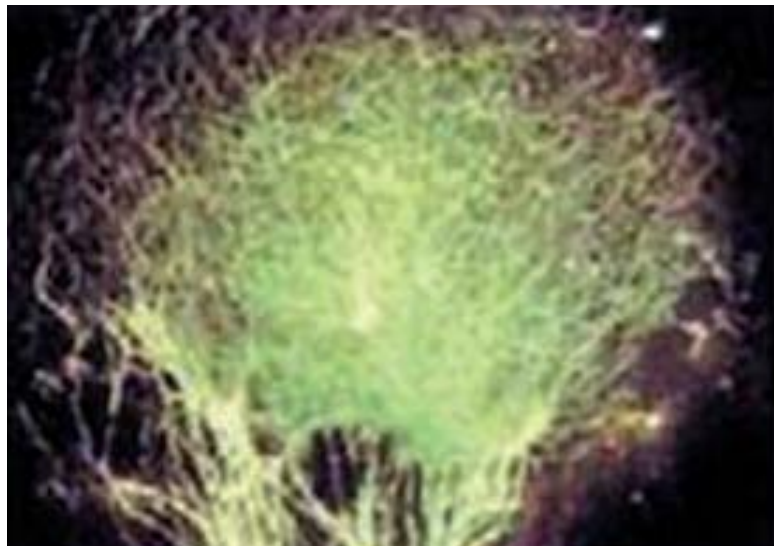
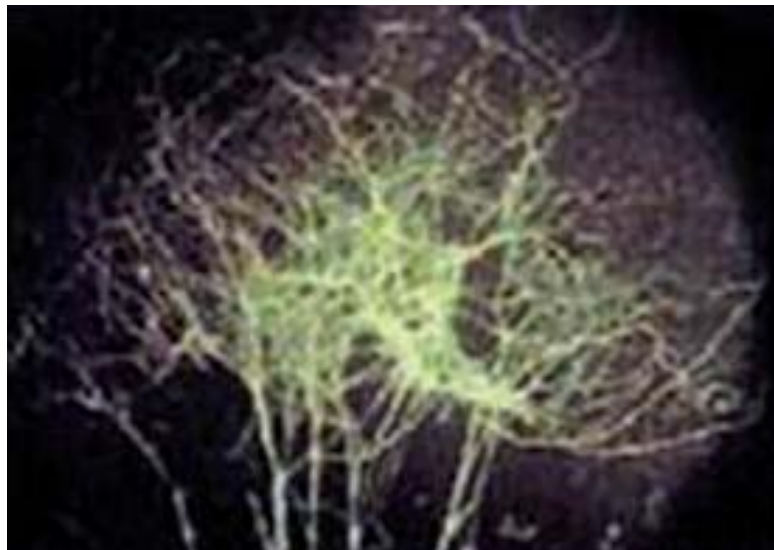
Landscaped, tranquil courtyards that change with the passage of time, growth and regeneration become visibly tangible.

Generous solar access.

Protective interior spaces : sanctuaries.

Visual connectivity between interior and exterior.

To become a catalyst for the healing process architecture needs to embody the calming and reflective nature of regeneration.



Nepean Hospital -Integrated Mental Health Unit

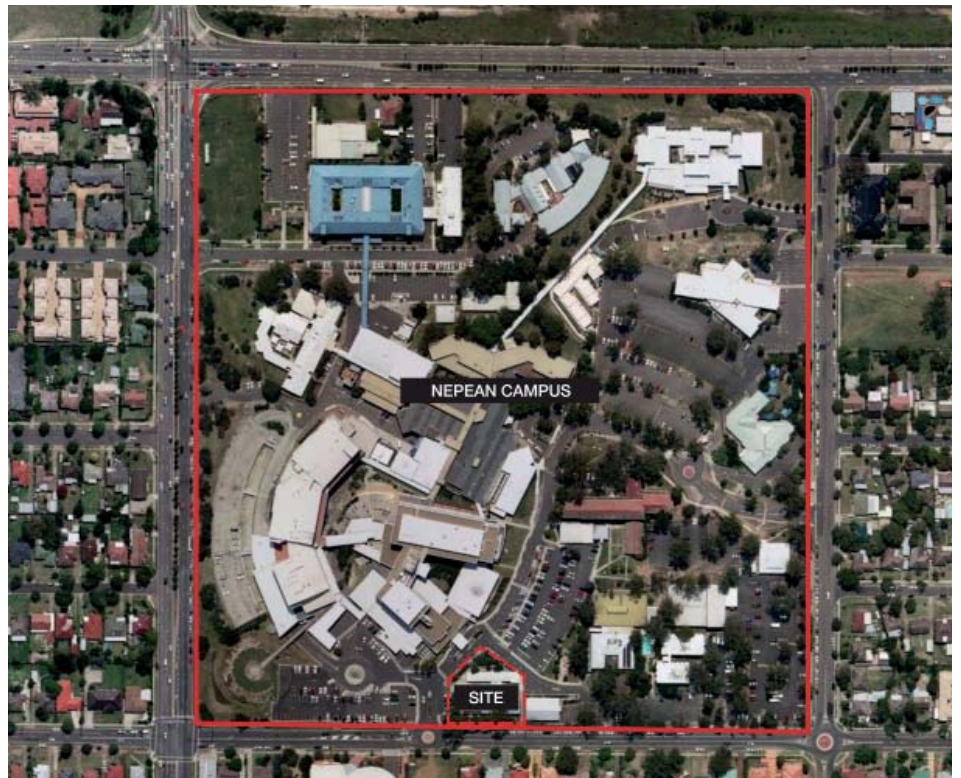
Context

As a new insertion into an existing hospital complex, the scheme creates its own architectural identity while simultaneously plugging into vital contextual connection points.

Context

Located in Penrith, NSW, the Integrated Mental Health Unit is proposed as a new programmatic addition to the existing Nepean Hospital complex. The Nepean Hospital campus is in the process of substantial redevelopment involving the expansion of new facilities and the amalgamation and consolidation of existing facilities. the proposal forms part of this multi-stage development.

The site presents a public face on the southern side adjacent to Derby street, and institutional faces on the East and Northern edges. The Proposal's north, east and west facades are designed to respond to the civic scale of the adjacent hospital buildings, forming a protective outer shell. The south facade by contrast, diminishes in scale addressing the existing residential streetscape along the property boundary.



Nepean Hospital -Integrated Mental Health Unit

Design Process

Massing Evolution

Formulated as a stepped courtyard typology, the principle design concept sought to utilise the existing slope to create internalised green outdoor spaces. The programmatic and functional evolution swelled around these central cores retaining them as protected inner sanctuaries. Essential spaces for healing, reflection and connection to nature.



courtyard typology



programmatic swell



visibility and functionality rationalised



plant room absorption : steel roof landscape

03

Nepean Hospital -Integrated Mental Health Unit Design Process

Evolution of Architectural Expression



Architecture as landscape retaining wall : Hard exterior shell
Corner opened to address Mental Health Unit entry plaza



Steel Roof Landscape Introduced
Link Across to existing Hospital : New Campus Entry Gateway

Steel Roof becomes hard exterior shell
Architectural materials reduced to minimal expression

Nepean Hospital -Integrated Mental Health Unit Clinical Philosophy

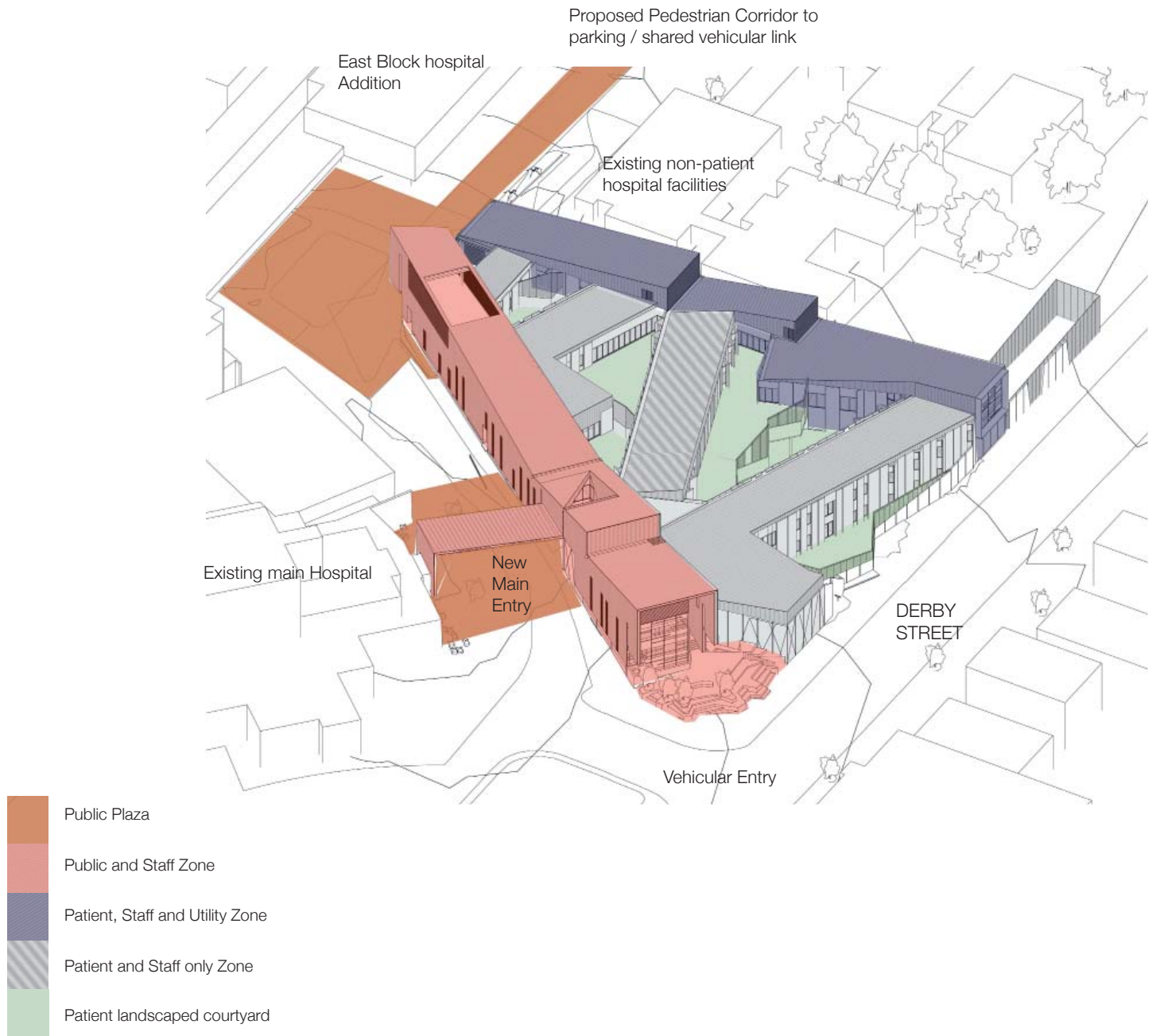
Text

Text

Nepean Hospital -Integrated Mental Health Unit Planning and Spatiality

Site Connectivity

As a freestanding entity located within an existing hospital campus, the IMHU proposal latches onto a new proposed pedestrian thoroughfare at the North of the site, the existing hospital's main entry to the west, and a vehicular entry point to the South. Three separate addresses and entries are created, clearly linked by an internal public circulation spine. Landscaped public plazas adjacent to the entry links emphasize the contextual connectivity of the scheme, enhancing the public domain.



Nepean Hospital -Integrated Mental Health Unit

Planning and Spatiality

Spatial Clarity

Spatial clarity forms the core basis for the planning layout. Clearly zoned public and staff facility programmatic edges are linked with separate private living patient areas. Circulation is clearly separated into public / private and semi-private. Visual connectivity between spaces as well as solar and visual access to corridors has been carefully considered.

Internal planning is separated into three distinct clinical units, each with its own patient requirements and spatial demands. Individual patient wings are orientated on a 'V' planning typology, with a staff station at the base of the 'V'. This allows optimum surveillance and visibility and allows bedroom wings to be spatially severed from public areas

	Level 1	Level 2
MHU		
SMHSOP DP		
SMHSOP		
SERVICE		
AAT		
ACUTE / HDU		
HDU		
ACUTE / SMHSOP		
C & L		
MHMT		
ACUTE		
	Level 3	Roof

Nepean Hospital -Integrated Mental Health Unit

Landscaping

The Healing Environment

The key principle in the scheme is to create a healing environment through the provision of generous solar access and landscaped, therapeutic outdoor courtyards. The courtyards fulfil the dual purpose of providing open outdoor recreational spaces, as well as outlook and solar access for the bedrooms and common areas. The landscaping within the courtyards have a familiar, organic character with a tapestry of planting and varying degrees of meandering paths, in accordance with the level of treatment for the respective courtyards.

Landscaping Principles:

Flexible fluid spaces which encourage both privacy and social interaction.

The idea of regeneration is made visually present through landscaping which changes and transforms with the seasons.

Colour and scent stimulates the healing process.

Courtyards have a familiar organic character with a tapestry of planting and paths which vary in accordance with the level of treatment for the respective courtyard.



Nepean Hospital -Integrated Mental Health Unit

Architectural Expression

Two Faces: Civic and Private

Soft Interior Skin / Architecture

Soft landscaped interior spaces and architecture are proposed on the interior patient courtyard areas. Green pigmented precast panels with images of planting created with form liners allows the building to reflect and engage with the landscaping. In essence a calming protective sanctuary is created within the scheme, which responds to the human scale.

Hard Civic Exterior Shell

Metal sheeting on the exterior facades is proposed to address the harsher environment of the exterior public domain. This forms a protective exterior shell for the scheme, contrasting the softer interior heart.

Nepean Hospital -Integrated Mental Health Unit

Architectural Expression

Residential Scale and Internal Spaces

“Home ought to be our clearinghouse, the place from which we go forth lessened and disciplined, and ready for life.” Kathleen Norris

Representing the ‘home’

Extensive consideration is given to the idea of bringing the ‘home’ into the scheme. Familiarity with ones surroundings is viewed as essential when creating an environment which is non-confrontational and unthreatening. Design of scale, materials and solar access within the scheme’s interior culminate to reflect this notion. Recreational spaces and outdoor areas are seen as inherent in the patients experience of the facility, as is in the home environment. A strong fluid connectivity between generous landscaped courtyards and interior spaces is established in the scheme. Internal courtyard facades are broken down in scale, expressing individuality rather than institutional values.



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