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EDWARD WILLIAMS ARCHITECTS

The pandemic has focused everyone's minds on **healthcare**. Our November newsletter updates you on our current hospital projects, our work to help the national PPE crisis, and Laura's published view on the future of healthcare. Edward has been busy advising on various aspects of Birmingham and London's healthcare provision alongside Laura with both the US and European ULI Healthcare and Life Science Product Councils.

NHS London's first major Proton Beam Therapy Unit nears completion



Detail of the new UCLH Hospital facade

When complete next year (2021), the 34,500 Sq.M building, designed by Edward Williams

Architects in association with Scott Tallon Walker, will become UCLH's flagship cancer and surgery hospital. With nine clinical floors, it is home to one of Europe's largest centres for the treatment of blood disorders. It has a hyper-modern surgical service, with eight theatres and a surgical ward and advanced cancer services in The Proton Beam Therapy Centre in basements 3 and 4 (one of only 2 such NHS centres in England) while providing up to 120 patient beds on the floors above.

Our design uses shading and screening elements to create an elegant and sophisticated composition for the main perimeter building, and when the hoardings are down a glazed and colonnaded ground floor will be revealed that encourages physical and visual connections to the street. The building is arranged around a full height atrium that brings daylight into the heart of the unit while at the same time completing the broken urban block that has blighted this site since the 1960's.

We have been observing the construction of the building with interest and despite some considerable contractor-led design changes we are pleased to report that the integrity of the design as a whole is still coming through.

The project has achieved a BREEAM commendation last year which is always a challenge with highly serviced healthcare buildings.

"10 hospital projects nearing completion" Construction News



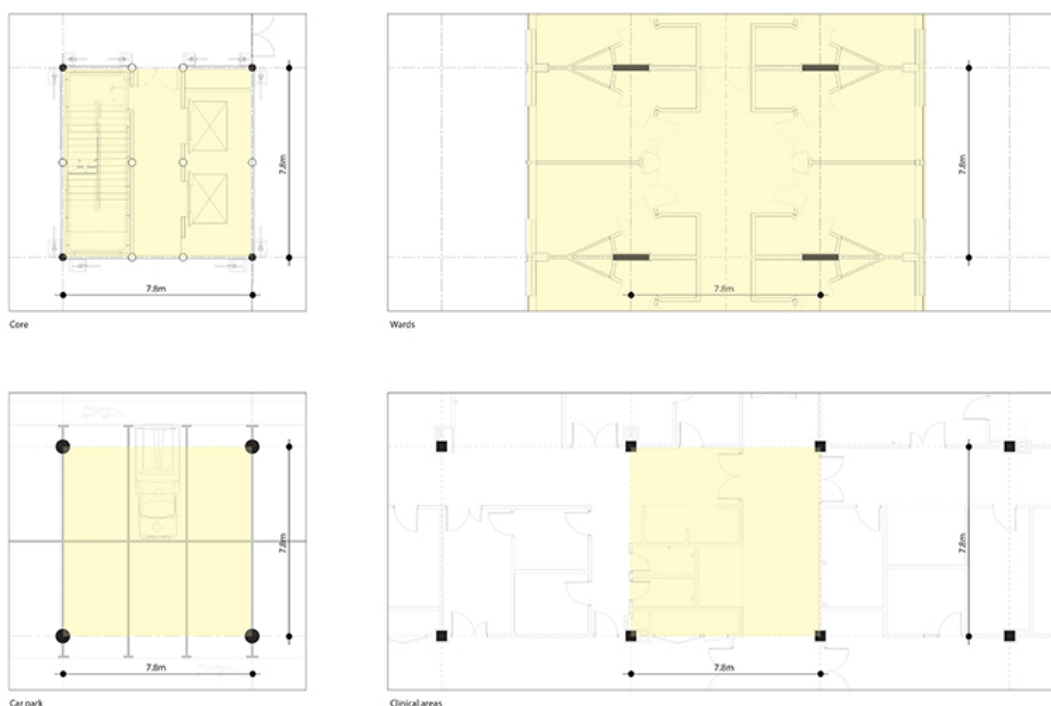
The Midland Metropolitan University Hospital's winter garden

The Construction News article features two of our hospital projects under construction, the Midland Metropolitan University Hospital in Sandwell, Birmingham, UK, and the UCLH Proton beam Therapy Hospital in London, UK.

It has been a long journey but we very much look forward to seeing these important healthcare infrastructures completed. We are confident that they will be much more than hospitals!

Read the article [here](#).

The Architect's Journal interviews Laura on the future of healthcare



Within hospitals, the use of the same structural grid in hospitals provides flexibility for future uses, for healthcare or otherwise

Below we quote from the article where Laura talks about this highly topical subject.

"... Laura Carrara-Cagni, director at Edward Williams Architects, architectural design lead for the Midland Metropolitan University Hospital in Birmingham, said automated delivery and collection of materials and drugs would be a key workstream for the future.

This could mean 'larger decentralised storage of materials to increase resilience', alongside a requirement for greater stocks of personal protective equipment. New material science is

required to push this along faster and allow quick implementation.

Architects should also focus on materials that don't allow viruses to live on them for long periods, she said. Automatic doors and other systems to reduce hand contact will also be in demand. Other possible trends could include the use of flexible spaces that can be easily adapted during a crisis; greater use of air filtration systems; and a reduction in multi-bed wards.

Facilities for crisis-simulation training could be in demand, while administrative space is likely to be reduced as more people work from home across this part of the health service, according to Carrara-Cagni. She said architects had a key role to play in adapting the healthcare estate post-pandemic: 'Architects are uniquely trained and able to see the big picture and help hospitals take a balanced view of the multiple competing issues that confront them.'

Flexibility of space will be the key to a positive change, she added. 'For years we have been advocating for the design of flexible space generally, and especially in healthcare, as this area is an ever-evolving field as the last year has demonstrated and accelerated. Flexibility is key not only in case of a pandemic emergency but also more generally, functionally and commercially.

'It creates the best use of space at all times and from a sustainability point of view, and allows spaces to be used and repurposed over time.'..."

Read the article [here](#).

Midland Metropolitan University Hospital contributes to the pandemic effort two years before it opens



Temporary tents were used at the Midland Metropolitan University Hospital for key worker testing in Birmingham, UK

Earlier in the year the Birmingham Mail reported that the Midland Metropolitan University Hospital was being put to good use as a drive-through coronavirus testing centre.

[...] The Midland Metropolitan University Hospital, in Smethwick, is not due to open its doors until 2022. But it has been pressed into service early, as part of the Government's UK-wide drive to increase testing for thousands more NHS and other key workers.

It's offering PCR swab tests - which are used to identify if you currently have the virus - for critical key workers, starting with NHS front line staff. [...]"

Read the article [here](#) .

COVID-19: 3D Printed visors for the NHS



The 3D printed visors ready to be assembled

During the first lockdown we 3D printed over 400 visor head bands and delivered them to be assembled by FAC Technology and donated to the NHS while they were sorting supply via their own channels to protect their staff. We also sent out completed protective visors for use in a NHS COVID-19 ward in Lincolnshire.

The headbands were 3D printed in our Studio and cleaned manually by filing to take off rough edges and imperfections. For the completed visors, the 300mg acetate was delivered with the headband to be installed before use. This was the heaviest material that we could find, allowing it to be disinfected every evening and re-used the next day.

We didn't install them in the frames as we were worried they would be damaged during transport, only one was installed as an example. To assemble the piece, it just needs to be introduced by the corner of the acetate into the small gap between the two layers of the 3D printed headband until the acetate comes out from the other side.

The external ring of the headband was designed to be flexible in order to slide the acetate smoothly between the two layers. The elastic band was 2" wide in order to be comfortable on the head over prolonged use. We have secured it on both sides with simple knots so that each individual can adjust it to suit.

When tested, we found this to be critical to comfort; if fastened too tight it hurts, if fastened too loose it is not secure, so its flexibility is imperative. This has been our little contribution to show our appreciation to the NHS operatives working in these difficult times and conditions.

The remainder of the assembled visors were personally distributed under request to the members of the Resident's Association of which Laura is the Planning Committee Member.

Follow the stars online this Christmas



A chorister at Christ Church Cathedral in Oxford

Edward Williams Architects proudly supports the magically festive Follow the Stars, Macmillan Cancer Support's much-loved 'Celebration of Christmas' concert which this year goes online for the first time. There are Christmas readings from some of our best-loved actors and poets including Joanna Lumley, Stephen Fry, Jeremy Irons, Sinead Cusack, Max Irons, Toby Jones and Greg Wise.

From the magnificent setting of Christ Church Cathedral come glorious music and carols from world-renowned musician and performers. All of the celebrities generously donated their time to help Macmillan Cancer Support offer vital support at a time when funds are perilously low and their services are needed more than ever.

The concert will premiere on Friday 11th December at 8pm and will remain online, free to stream, until 31st December. It is a wonderful start to Christmas. If you want to watch live online visit [Macmillan.org.uk/followthestars](https://www.macmillan.org.uk/followthestars) to pre-register and receive an invitation.



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