

The Brief (Extracts)

Healing is a natural process. The task of the healer is to facilitate this process.

Glasgow's new Homoeopathic Hospital will serve as a focus of care which will draw upon modern and traditional approaches to create good medicine. This will be an important building.

This new hospital will signal its healing purpose to viewers from the outside. It will also create an harmonious interior environment which will help in the process of healing.

Healing and this building both:

- take the materials of the natural world and draw them together in a form which is greater than the sum of their parts,
- have ancient roots but look to the future,
- are positive agents of change.

The people of Glasgow, in common with many communities worldwide, are increasingly demanding whole person forms of care. For over one and a half centuries the Glasgow Homoeopathic Hospital has pioneered an approach to healing separate to mainstream medicine as that has developed and changed.

In its relationship to Gartnavel Hospital this new building will signal the current, mutually supportive relationship between complementary and orthodox forms of care. As a separate building of distinctive character the new Homoeopathic Hospital will also emphasise its role in helping people to self-heal and in disseminating information on that process.

Glasgow's new Homoeopathic Hospital will be among the first significant buildings to be created in the period leading to Glasgow's celebration of its role as UK City of Architecture & Design 1999. This is an important project for the City.

Background

The practice of homoeopathic medicine in Glasgow goes back to the 1840's. Glasgow Homoeopathic Hospital has been based at its present location since the early part of this century. In common with the rest of the UK, demand for complementary medicine in west-central Scotland has steadily increased over recent years. The demand for out-patient services has increased by 30% since 1987 with referrals exceeding available appointments by 30% each month.

The need for improved homoeopathic facilities in Glasgow is exacerbated by a substantial demand for teaching and research in the field. The Homoeopathic Hospital's academic departments organise multi-disciplinary modular courses which are the most popular of any post graduate medical course offered in the UK. Over 100 students a year undertake the one year introductory course and around fifty go on

to the second and third years. A total of 20% of Scottish general practitioners have completed the introductory course.

Location and Site Information

The site is situated within the grounds of Gartnavel General Hospital and extends to approximately one half acre.

Visual and Urban Design Objectives/ Materials

The new Homoeopathic Hospital will meet unique and special demands. It should be a building of the highest quality which signals its special function. As a significant new building designed at the outset of Glasgow's reign as UK City of Architecture and Design 1999, the new Homoeopathic Hospital will be a focus of considerable attention and should serve as a model to which similar facilities should aspire.

New Accommodation

Phase I

In addition to conventional medical practice Glasgow Homoeopathic Hospital offers a range of therapies including homoeopathy, acupuncture, neuro-therapy, relaxation therapy and hypnosis. The bulk of this treatment is conducted in out-patient clinics but the Hospital also has occupational therapy and physiotherapy departments on site. The new facility should be designed for future functional flexibility as clinical practice may change.

The Glasgow Homoeopathic Hospital cares for over 600 in-patients and day-cases a year. These patients require a range of services from 24 hour assessment to palliative care in the atmosphere of a therapeutic community. The new Hospital will have 15 beds which will be able to be used flexibly by in-patients, day cases or by patients only requiring overnight accommodation prior to their treatment.

It is intended that other patient accommodation will be used flexibly by different members of the multidisciplinary team working with individual, or groups of, patients. Staff and patients should be able to move easily between different parts of the Hospital. 15,000 out-patients attend each year, are seen by medical and nursing staff and their prescriptions are dispensed on site. Although every area of the hospital is busy, it is important that the general environment preserves patients' privacy and generates a peaceful and healing atmosphere.

Careful attention should be paid to providing barrier free access to people with mobility problems. Although only a few people with disabilities have to use a wheelchair all the time, they should be able to use the new hospital or visit friends and relatives with the minimum of inconvenience. The need for hospital visits

for people with temporary mobility constraints (through illness, accident or even just being accompanied by a small child) should also be accommodated. Both phases of the new hospital should be designed with these considerations in mind.

Phase II

As, in effect, the national centre for the development of complementary medicine and its holistic integration with orthodox care and a centre for scientific research, the second phase of the new facility must also integrate a library, academic research and teaching facilities. Enhancement of treatment and rehabilitation facilities will include a hydrotherapy pool, amongst other features.

Landscape/Trees/Planting

Homoeopathic medicine draws extensively upon natural resources. It is, therefore, appropriate that the new building sits comfortably within its 'natural' setting. The possible importance of plants and trees to patients' feelings of comfort and security should be acknowledged and the planting of the areas associated with the new Hospital might acknowledge the special properties of medical plants. The new building should integrate with its immediate environment.

Building and Engineering Services

The new building will be largely self sufficient. While it will draw upon the specialist medical resources of Gartnavel General Hospital and share laundry facilities, in-patient catering will be on site. Delivery and waste disposal should be planned to be as discreet as possible and away from in-patient accommodation.

Both building and engineering services should be designed to take account of best codes of practice with consideration of experience gained from successful contemporary hospital buildings. Suggestions of innovative means of reducing energy consumption would be welcomed by the Client.

The quality of lighting to both the exterior and interior of the building is a further consideration in ensuring patient comfort. While the necessity of adequate lighting for elderly patients and those with poor sight is acknowledged, care should be taken to avoid glare and the sterility of fluorescent 'wash' lighting. Ease of control of lighting and energy saving measures should be considered. Lighting should, in general, be designed for low energy consumption. Office lighting should take account of the widespread use of VDU terminals and the relevant European regulations.