

Mansfield transform patient experience

Designed as a landmark building for Mansfield, the redevelopment of Mansfield Community Hospital was an integral part of the overall strategy of transforming the health delivery system for Mansfield District Primary Care and Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Trust



At the forefront of the design was the patient experience and sustainability. The brief was to develop a community based rehabilitation hospital incorporating an in-patient rehabilitation facility with out-patient facilities. The concept was to provide a new Community Resource Centre to enable the hospital to be a focal point for community health rather than just a medical facility.

Designed by Swanke

Hayden Connell Architects, the new entrance to the Mansfield Community Hospital is probably the most striking element in the redesign of this facility.

In conjunction with the elliptical landscaped car park and the continuing retaining wall along the main road, the new entrance building defines the character of the hospital.

A new main entrance acts as the centre for the whole facility containing a patient information centre, rehabilitation centre, physical therapy department and an

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out-patient services centre. In addition, all other wards within the hospital were extensively renovated to fully integrate the interior environment.

Only two storeys tall, the hospital second storey cantilevers dramatically beyond the face of the building. The first floor is clad in lighter materials (metal and glass) while the ground floor base is materialised in render and brick. On the east side, a distinctive ledge frames the cantilevered part of the building, and is filled in with large glass panels protected





by a series of metal vertical fins, giving solar protection, rhythm and colour to the façade. The glass curtain wall incorporates windows which can be opened for natural ventilation while the ledge allows access for window cleaning and maintenance. The west side is a curtain wall with coloured spandrel panels.

One of the main issues which had to be dealt with was the fire prevention on the curtain walling/compartment floor. This detail was the topic of much conversation at the design stage and on site fixing. Specialist fire prevention companies had to be involved and each detail onsite had to be carefully scrutinised.

The spandrel panels came with insulation fixed to the rear, and caused a number of problems due to the dew point position changing. Additional insulation had to be

incorporated to negate interstitial condensation and meet the Robust Detail Requirements.

LANDSCAPE

The building makes a significant contribution to the character of the neighbourhood and the landscape design enhances this while providing an attractive working environment for the staff. The frontage to Mansfield Road is characterised by the suspended mass of the new administration building projecting forward and out over the public plaza.

A dramatic and welcoming space is created by opening up views to the hospital between the curving retaining wall to the car park and the new modulated façade.

The cantilevered building acts as a focal point and marks the pedestrian entrance

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to the plaza and hospital.

Approaching up the hill from the east, a bold elliptical retaining wall wraps around the front of the car park tapering to ground level at either end with trees emphasising the broad sweep of the visitor car park entrance road. Flush pavement up-lighting is located at frequent centres around the base of the retaining wall, progressing up the sloping plaza to the Main Entrance.

Mansfield District Council Building Control Department worked closely with the developer and the architects having pre-application meetings to enable the project to run smoothly from start to finish.

The main constraints involved were mainly fire protection related in the form of preventing fire and smoke from passing from one compartment to another through Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems using fire/smoke resisting dampers.

The general negligence with site operatives when installing fire/smoke resisting dampers is to ignore the manufacturer installation guidance with the product and in doing so installing the fire/smoke dampers incorrectly.

Another item of concern was also raised when the fire alarm testing was initiated which identified that not all the rooms met the required sound rating. The outcome of this was to install additional fire sound detectors to increase the decibel figure in certain areas.

