

Springfield University Hospital

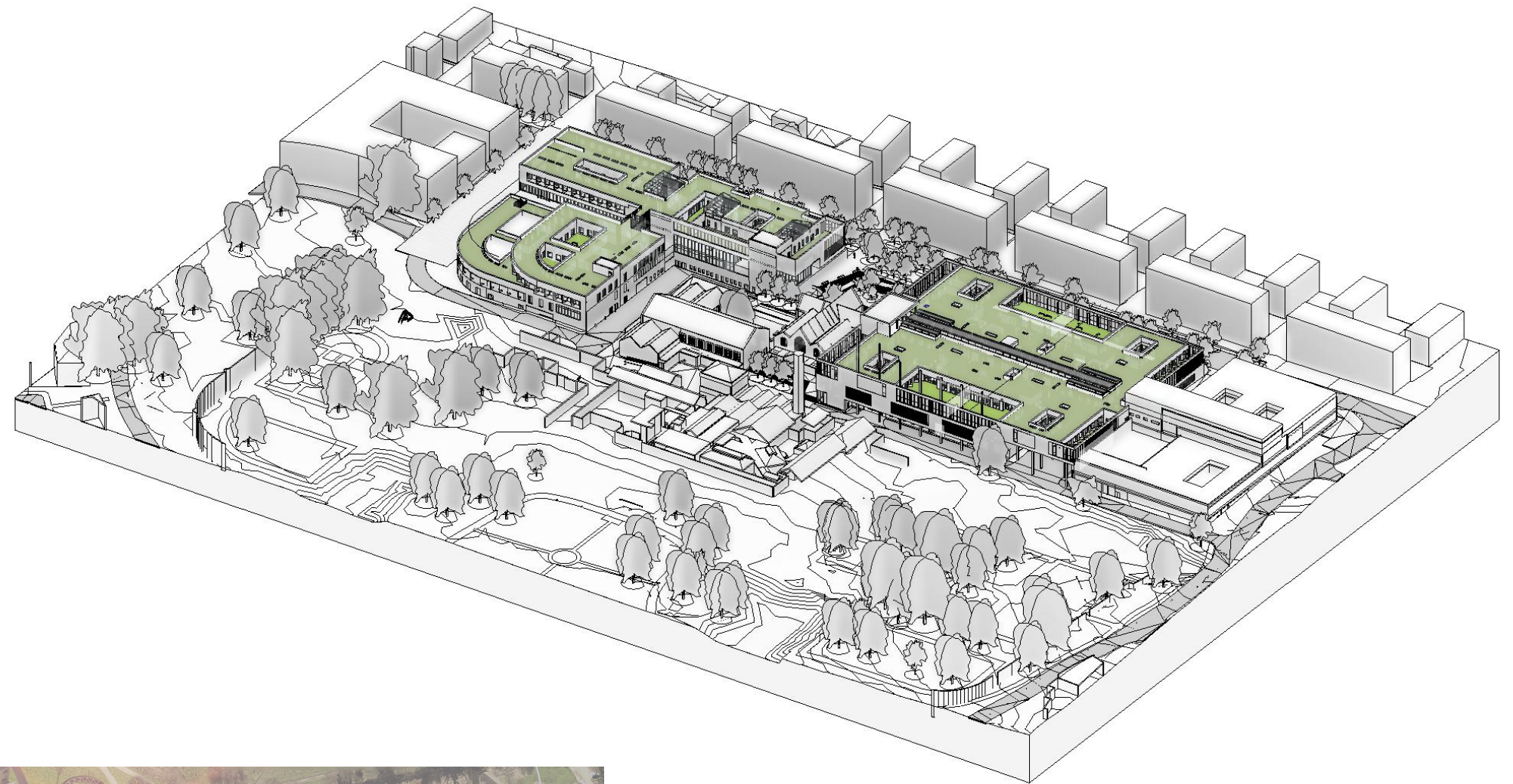
MENTAL HEALTH



CF MØLLER
ARCHITECTS

Modernisation of the psychiatric facility at Springfield University Hospital

The Springfield University Hospital is a pillar for mental health care, it is central to the redevelopment of a 33-acre site and is located in London's Tooting district. In 2012, C.F. Møller Architects participated and won the three-stage RIBA-funded competition and subsequently designed two adjacent new buildings for South West London and St George's NHS Mental Health Trust, complementing the existing hospital buildings.



The two separate new buildings; “Shaftesbury and Trinity”, include a psychiatric centre, a range of adult inpatient facilities, the Recovery College, adult and children’s outpatient facilities and teaching facilities. The hospital buildings also house retail outlets and a multi-story car park, which will be available to both the hospital and the residential properties being built around it.

C.F. Møller Architects and the NHS Trust have also jointly planned and coordinated the new infrastructure around the hospital, including the construction of over 800 new residential units and the transformation of the former golf course into a new public park around the hospital.

The planning process

Close cooperation between clinicians, nursing staff, patients, patient associations and planners was the main focus of more than 600 meetings and workshops. In separate user meetings with the clinical departments, workflows were recorded, and spatial requirements were identified. Involving the users in the early planning stages ensured that clinical factors and workflows are integrated right from the start. C.F. Møller Architects carried out the functional planning throughout the process and used capacity and activity analyses to compile the main functional programme for the entire hospital.

As part of the planning process, the interfaces between the hospital's inpatient activities and the community psychiatric services were clarified and the future organisation of the hospital's supply logistics was thoroughly reviewed, discussed and optimized.

One of the major challenges in the construction of psychiatric facilities is to cater for the different types of illness and corresponding requirements while creating a pleasant and safe environment for both staff and patients.

In this process, C.F. Møller's design team studied over 20,000 incidents that occurred on psychiatric wards in South London between 2009 and 2013. The result of this study is that incidents, especially violence and self-harm, can be greatly reduced through strategic design. This confirmed the need for good architecture and an attractive environment to improve patient outcomes.

The design for the redesign of Springfield University Hospital addresses this and is guided by the modern Recovery approach. Recovery works with the latest research and means that facilities support patients' coping skills and promote factors that optimize recovery.

Aspects such as creating non-institutional environments with good acoustics, daylight, natural ventilation and access to gardens and outdoor areas, as well as the design of individual and group spaces support this and are therefore important design requirements.

PROJECT TEAM
Client: South West London and St George's Mental Health Trust
Architect and Lead Design: C.F. Møller Architects
Landscape Architects: C.F. Møller Architects
Landscape and Horticultural Advisor: Farrer Huxley
Structural Engineer: Walsh
MEP Engineer: Arup
Contractor: Sir Robert McAlpine
Landscape Contractor: Willerby Landscapes Ltd
Development Partner: STEP Springfield & Tolworth Estates Partnership
<i>Planning period 2012-2019</i>





“This is the biggest landmark yet in our Estate Modernisation Programme and we are extremely proud of getting permission to go ahead and being able to start work on these brand-new, first class inpatient facilities. This new environment will make a huge difference to our patients and the way we provide the best quality care towards their recovery. Furthermore, this work will ensure that the Springfield University Hospital site is regenerated in a way which reduces the stigma of mental health conditions by integrating our organisation with our community.”

Ann Beasley CBE, Chairman of South West London and St. George’s Mental Health NHS Trust

Results from the workshops

Free access to green and outdoor spaces was named by users as an elementary goal and was therefore firmly anchored in the design. Closely related to this is also the desire for natural ventilation and daylight within the wards. Creating a diverse environment and avoiding monotony is essential for both patients and staff. The corridor and room design should be as clear as possible while providing good sound insulation. For the staff a calming, high-quality and safe environment as well as optimal working conditions are crucial. This includes preventive maintenance options, a high degree of flexibility, good sightlines, the use of the latest technology and the flexibility to adapt it later.

For patients in particular, the design of the rooms is fundamental. Interiors should provide positive distractions while being as bright and inviting as possible. With the help of the recovery approach, the findings from workshops and user meetings, the latest research and close cooperation, fundamental insights were gained for further planning.

Construction period

The construction period lasted from 2019-2022.



Link to existing environment

The façades and exterior elements are made of robust and high-quality materials, chosen for their compatibility and for their longevity and sustainability. The main material of the buildings is two-tone brickwork, which fits into the context of the adjacent listed Victorian buildings.



Atmosphere, orientation and identity

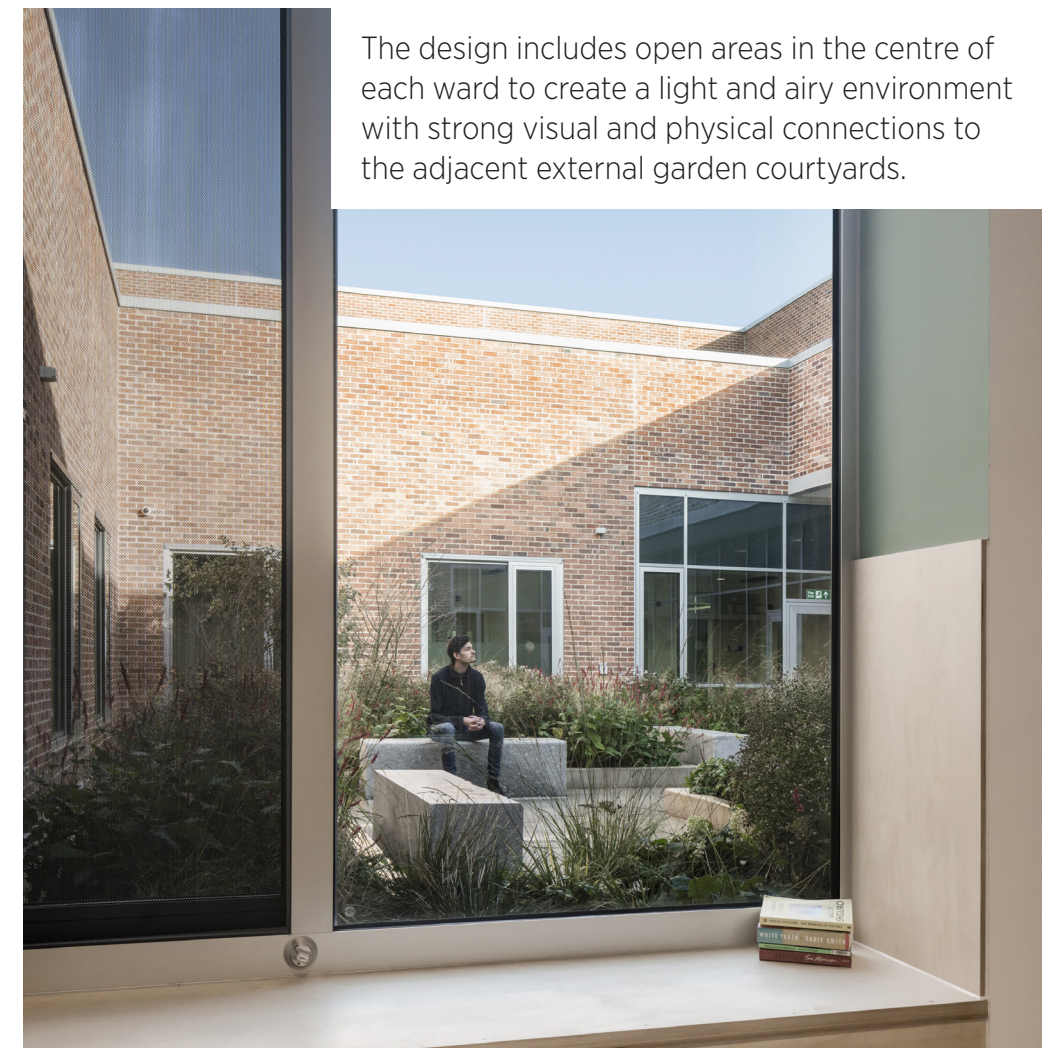
The atrium creates an open and friendly atmosphere and ensures that daylight enters. The display of art in different parts of the hospital is designed to support this.



For the interiors, non-institutional spaces with easy wayfinding, good acoustics, daylight and natural ventilation were created.



The design includes open areas in the centre of each ward to create a light and airy environment with strong visual and physical connections to the adjacent external garden courtyards.



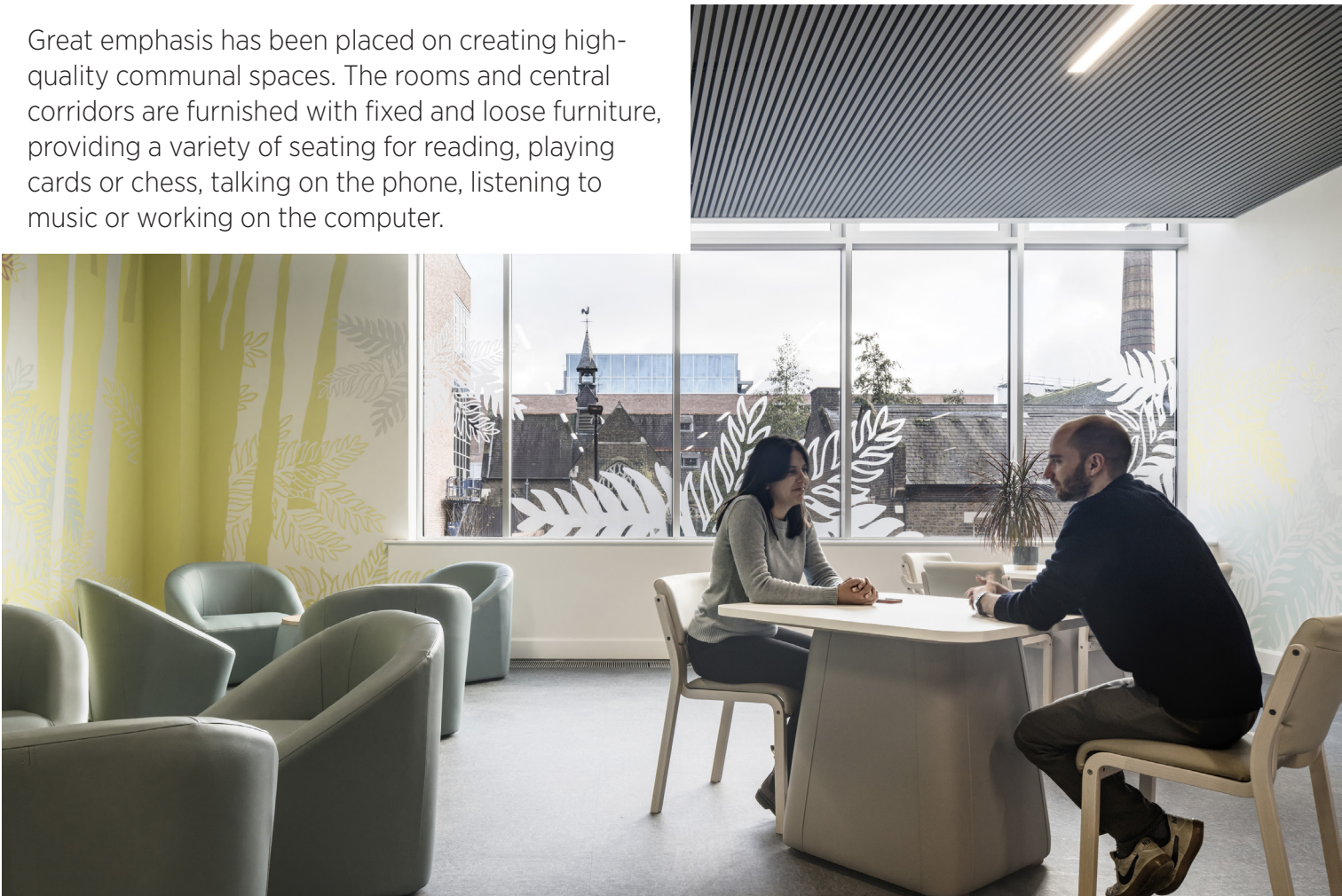
High-quality common areas



The TV/sitting area is enclosed by partially glazed walls to reduce the ambient noise levels on the ward.



Great emphasis has been placed on creating high-quality communal spaces. The rooms and central corridors are furnished with fixed and loose furniture, providing a variety of seating for reading, playing cards or chess, talking on the phone, listening to music or working on the computer.



High-quality common areas

Game and computer pods were built for community and individual activities.



Therapy rooms

Each ward has its own ADL therapy kitchen and a flexible occupational therapy room which can accommodate a great variety of activities or therapy sessions.



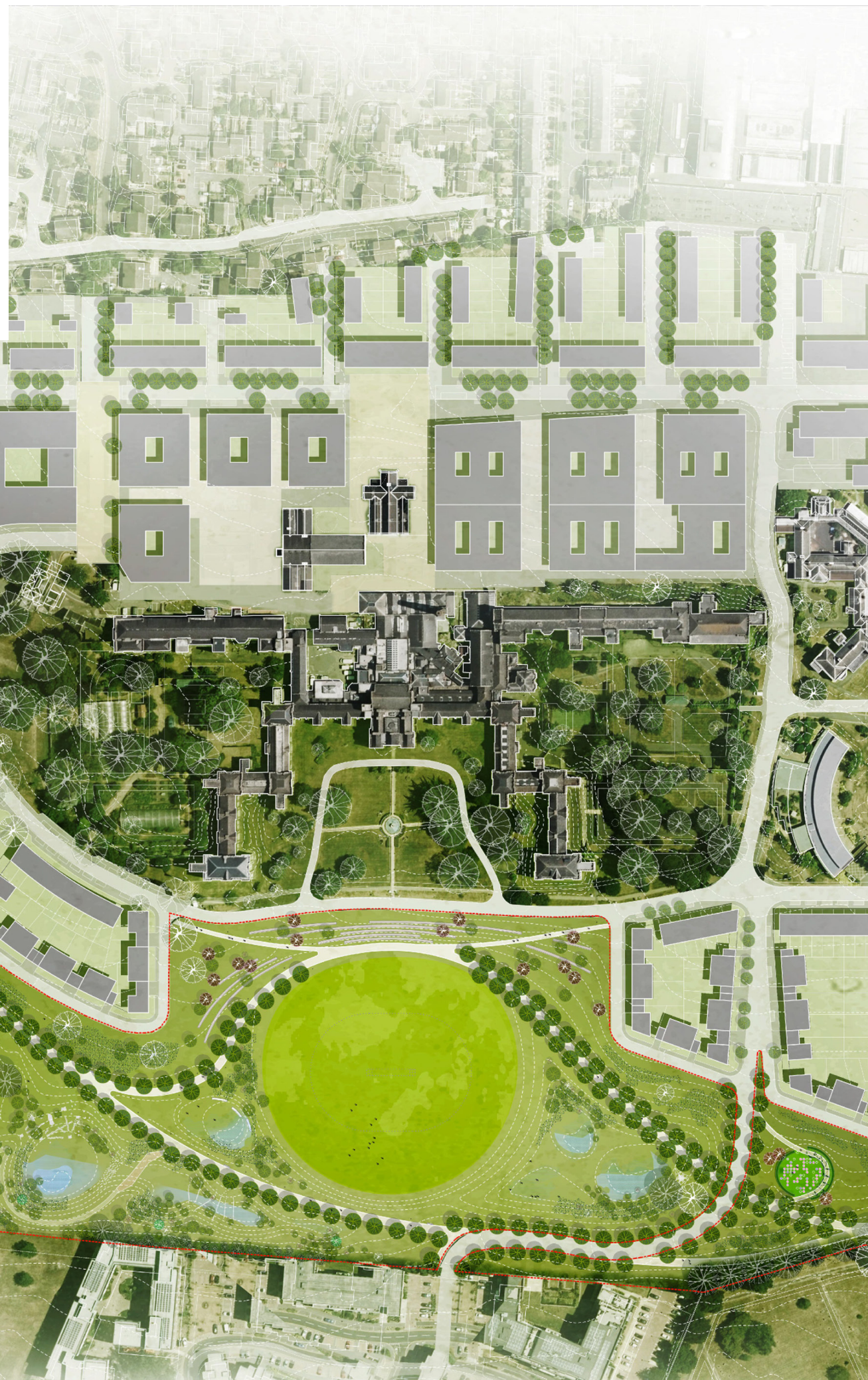
Patient rooms

All patient rooms are equipped with window niches and offer a view to the outside. The rooms are bright, well laid out and offer sufficient space for retreat.



“The wards will revolutionise the way we deliver care for generations to come and ensure we can provide high quality and safe services. The new facilities have been carefully designed alongside our clinicians and service users to provide the most supportive environment and innovative facilities for the delivery of mental health care. As well as good news for patients, the new hospital facilities will be positive for the environment with much more efficient use of energy and working towards a carbon neutral footprint.”

Vanessa Ford, Acting Chief Executive des South West London and St George’s Mental Health NHS Trust



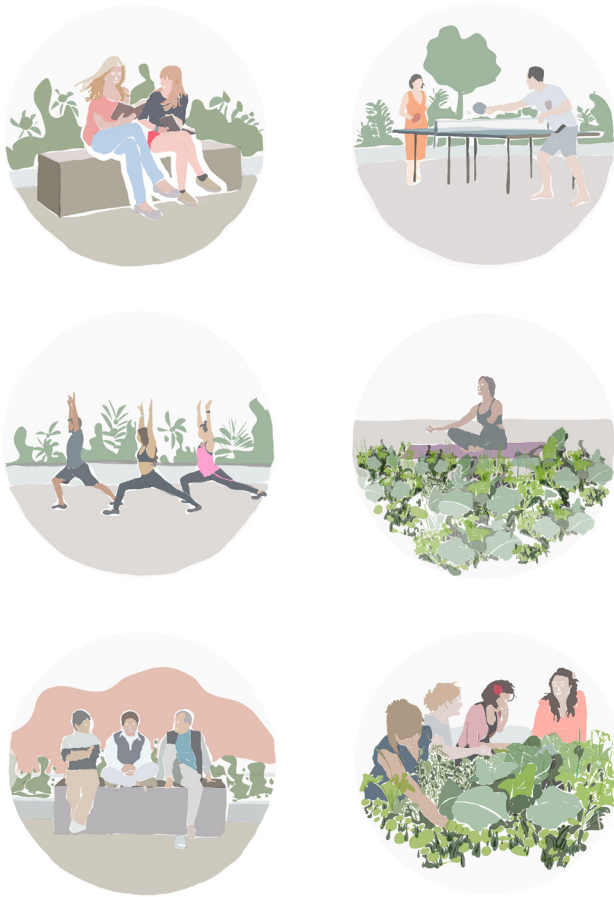
Sustainability

The guiding principle in the design was to create therapeutic and biophilic environments that help users recover and provide staff with a high-quality and safe environment. The high proportion of green spaces in and around the hospital grounds make a significant contribution to the sustainability of the surrounding area. The 13-hectare public Springfield Park, whose strategy was also designed by C.F. Møller and surrounds the hospital grounds, promotes biodiversity on the site. Flooding is prevented by water retention basins in the park and rainwater is also collected and stored in the gardens within the hospital.

In addition, the hospital is at the centre of a highly efficient district heating network that supplies heat and electricity to both the hospital and the surrounding residential properties with more than 800 flats. The facades are well insulated and airtight to prevent heat loss. Brick façades were chosen for their durability.

Many areas of the building are naturally ventilated to reduce reliance on mechanical systems. This is also the case in the common areas, where windows can be opened to allow a greater influx of fresh air.

The Trinity building has achieved BREEAM Excellent.



Ward Gardens

Different gardens can be reached from all wards and the following design principles have been established:

- Each ward has at least one large outdoor garden with trees and plant beds of different vegetation types.
- A second ward garden is located next to the therapy/group counselling rooms and is intended for quiet contemplation and conversation.
- The gardens offer a variety of uses and are designed to promote healthy activity, movement and social interaction.
- Seasonal planting: each outdoor space has a different character, to create a variety of smells, textures and visual appearances throughout the seasons.





Trinity Gardens

- Ⓐ Activity Garden
- Ⓑ Quiet Garden
- Ⓒ Therapy garden
- Ⓓ Hospital Street
- Ⓔ Wild Garden



Shaftesbury Forensic Ward Garden

- (A) Activity Garden
- (B) Quiet Garden
- (C) Therapy Garden
- (D) Hospital Street
- (E) Wild Garden



FACTS

Year: 2012-2022
Client: South West London and St. George’s Mental Health NHS Trust
Size: 34,300 m² including car parks, 133 adult beds
Address: London, England
Architect: C.F. Møller Architects
Landscape: C.F. Møller Architects
Contractor: Sir Robert McAlpine
Engineer: MEP Engineering: Arup
Structural Engineering: Walsh
Fire Engineering: Trenton Fire
Collaborators: Cost management services: Gardiner Theobald
Planning Consultant: Montagu Evans
Catering Consultant: Sterling Foodservice Consultancy