

# Healthcare design & build

including mental health & care homes

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Cover image:  
Hopewood Park  
© Jennie Webb  
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# Editor's letter

Welcome to the latest ADF supplement, focusing on innovative architectural and interior design in the healthcare sector.

Over the past decade, the approach to creating buildings in this challenging arena has changed immensely, with a far greater emphasis on designing spaces appropriate for those actually using healthcare services.



More than ever, end-users are being placed at the heart of the design process rather than the requirements of the companies, organisations and people that run such facilities.

In mental welfare, environments are being designed to meet the specific and often challenging needs of those being treated. Residential care for older people, too, is taking a more intuitive and human direction, moving away from the institutionalised approaches of the past.

In this supplement we look at the difference good design makes to healthcare buildings, ranging from conventional medical facilities like hospitals to highly specialised care centres for the elderly and the growing army of people with dementia.

An in-depth feature on Hopewood Park looks at the way a new state-of-the-art centre for acute and emergency psychiatric care in Sunderland embraces art – combined with creative use of light and open space – to provide a healing, restful environment with a Scandinavian touch.

Journalist Jess Unwin takes a close look at a project that demonstrates how architects have designed an attractive medical facility with a fresh appearance in his article on the rebuilding of Bucklands Hospital in Kent.

Moving to rural Essex, we put the spotlight on Mistley Manor, a groundbreaking concept in residential care home design for older people which aims to provide the ambience, comfort and facilities of a hotel for those who can no longer live on their own.

Elsewhere inside, our experts offer guidance on selecting appropriate furniture, flooring and smart washroom technology, and options for safe window fastenings and door-closing products.

We think you'll find it an inspiring read.

Ray Philpott

# Architects have family lives too



To remain successful, architectural practices need to be able to retain their talent. That means keeping on top of new employment legislation and thinking harder about how they can support hard-working staff who are also carers and busy parents outside work, argues Ben Black, Director with employee benefits specialists My Family Care

Architecture is often perceived as an industry that demands long hours and utter dedication to ensure a project is finished on time and clients are happy.

Historically, the industry was largely male dominated and little thought was put into the concept of helping staff achieve a healthy work-life balance.

Today, thankfully, the situation is different. Last year, flexible working was introduced which, while it challenged a number of firms, also opened the door to a range of opportunities and in many cases improved employee engagement. We've also seen the emergence of the so-called 'sandwich generation' – workers who are carers to both their children and their ageing parents. They have more responsibilities than ever before, and it's a challenge to maintain a happy medium that ensures goals are achieved at work and everybody is happy at home.

## Sharing the caring

Clearly, times have changed and as a result, some architectural firms are evolving with them too.

Take Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners (RSHP). They're already leading the way with a superb employee benefits package, which includes a generous maternity package of a whole year on full pay.

Most recently, they've taken a leap of faith to invest in further help for their caring workforce.

RSHP employees now have free access to a bespoke online portal with a number of helpful features, including a database of childcare providers searchable by area, a zone dedicated to helping dads in the workplace, and regular webinars enabling employees to ask questions and get tips on balancing work and family care.

The portal also provides information on clubs and activities to fill childcare gaps during the school holidays.

Amanda Darbon, HR Manager at RSHP explains why the practice has gone down this route: "We have the best employee benefits package in the industry but we became aware that we could improve on policies for our caring workforce. Rather than just looking at our working mums, we're providing more support for our working dads and those members of staff who are carers for elderly relatives – or who are both and part of the sandwich generation.

"We based these implementations on focus groups we ran across the organisation to gauge what our staff think and feel.

"Architecture is a profession dominated by passionate people who have invested a great deal into their careers, so it's only right

that they should be able to come and talk to us openly about creating a manageable balance between work and family life.

"My advice to other architecture practices is to listen to your staff, look at each case individually and be flexible enough to provide tailored solutions."

Amanda says that, after introducing such measures, she's seen a huge improvement in employee engagement and staff retention: "We, and all architectural firms, invest a lot of time and money in recruiting top talent and we don't want to lose those people through lack of flexibility."

## Sharing the caring

But how does an architectural firm go about introducing family-friendly working practices? There are three parts to the mix:

- Concentrate on culture. You need your chief executive on-message and then concentrate on the management level. Make sure you showcase a couple of senior men who are happy to hold up their hands as dads – it will work wonders. Organise a lunchtime seminar from a work-life balance expert and get everyone who it's relevant for involved.
- Look at the maternity transition and see what support you can provide – emotionally and developmentally – to make that transition successful. Remember, coming back to work after a lengthy maternity leave is never going to be easy, so support staff as best you can – and that counts for fathers too!
- Consider practical support. There are many different services you can take advantage of. The most stressful time for families is when childcare breaks down, luckily there are fantastic emergency childcare schemes out there. Employers could pick up the cost if there was an important work deadline that would get hit as a result.

You can also invest in regular webinars for staff, and provide access to a bespoke work and family portal where they can log in and get advice when they need it.

Ensure you facilitate flexible working because it's not all about putting in 'face-time' in the office. If someone can go home, look after their child and get the job done remotely in time for the deadline, everybody's happy.

With big changes ahead in parental leave legislation and extra caring demands placed on today's employees, it pays architectural firms to be ready to meet the evolving needs of their workforce.

*'We have the best employee benefits package in the industry but we became aware that we could improve on policies for our caring workforce'*

Amanda Darbon, HR Manager at RSHP



## NEW MENTAL HEALTH HOSPITAL

# LSHP and Mersey Care unveil £25 million state of the art new mental health hospital at Clock View, Liverpool



The new £25m mental health hospital will set new standards for mental health care in the UK and was officially opened by Mersey Care.

The hospital, built over 18 months, was led by developer Liverpool & Sefton Health Partnership (LSHP) Ltd.

LSHP was set up under the NHS Local Improvement Finance Trust (LIFT) programme for the Liverpool and Sefton areas, to deliver new health facilities through a public private partnership.

On the site of the former Walton Hospital, Clock View was opened at a ceremony hosted by Mersey Care's Chairman Beatrice Fraenkel and Chief Executive Joe Rafferty. It was attended by board members of LSHP, MPs, the Lord Mayor of Liverpool and Mayors of Sefton and Knowsley, ward councillors, health partners, patients' representatives and staff.

Clock View – named after the famous local landmark clock tower which overlooks the site – is a new generation of mental health hospitals providing therapeutic environments and approaches to care designed to improve recovery, wellbeing and reduce lengths of stay.

It will provide short-stay treatment for local people with a range of mental health issues including depression, anxiety and dementia, offering 85 individual bedrooms all with en-suite. It will also provide the city's new psychiatric intensive care unit for those most in distress in need of urgent inpatient care.

It will also be the base for a new local assessment and immediate care service that provides emergency, urgent and routine assessment, enabling better support for people between inpatient and community services.

Humphrey Claxton, chairman of LSHP said: "Since we started LSHP a little over ten years ago we have managed more than £120 million of investment and developed 15 new health facilities in Liverpool and Sefton, of which Clock View is largest. The hospital sets a new standard for mental health care, designed to promote wellbeing, from the use of natural light, to the high standards of accommodation and secure outdoor areas.

"It has been a pleasure to work in close collaboration with Mersey Care to develop such a leading new facility, a facility which has given the local economy a huge boost, creating hundreds of jobs for local people, and acting as a catalyst for growth in North Liverpool.

"Across our entire property portfolio of 15 new health facilities we have completed projects with delays of no more than a few days, with no cost overruns. I think this reflects great credit on the way we work with our health partners, to deliver these buildings on time and to budget."

Mersey Care's chief executive Joe Rafferty said:

"People in Merseyside deserve the very best mental health services in the country and we are proud that Clock View makes a bold statement that second rate facilities are simply just not good enough.

"Clock View is a beacon that will help tackle the stigma associated with mental ill-health because it is a hospital where every patient has their own room with en-suite bathroom and it will provide the highest standards of care within a therapeutic environment – all designed to promote recovery."

Clock View will become fully operational by early March this year and replaces an existing adult mental health inpatient unit called Stoddart House, which will be handed back to Aintree University Hospital as part of the agreement to purchase the Walton site.

The new hospital has been designed to provide light and airy spaces, individual bedrooms of the highest standards for privacy and dignity, in addition to communal activity areas and safe inner courtyard gardens to aid people's recovery.

There is also learning and education spaces; a café; a range of individual and group therapy and activity spaces, space for self-help, advocacy and voluntary organisations; spiritual space; family visiting rooms and meeting rooms, all contained in attractive low level buildings surrounded by landscaping.

Farrans Heron Joint Venture (FHJV) was the construction company who worked with LSHP on the build, employing a total of 1,500 tradesmen during the build, with 100 local people employed for an average of six months.

# Designing homes for mental disability



When it comes to creating residences for people with dementia it helps to look at things through the eyes of those with the condition, says Dominic Waters, Development Director at Waters Homes

Open the property pages in any national newspaper and chances are there'll be a comment piece about building care homes.

The UK has an ageing population so it's high up on the political agenda to cater to this increasing demographic – and rightly so.

What you don't see, however, is a balanced approach to consider designing for every single age-related disability. The UK's construction and design industries are very good at incorporating features to ease physical ills, be it wheelchair suitable door frames, hand rails, or ramps. But, building for mental disability is nowhere near as widely covered in the media.

In 2014, the BBC reported that in just seven years, the number of people in England diagnosed with dementia has rocketed by 62 per cent. So there's a demand – and arguably, a responsibility – for appropriate residential schemes. The health problems of those with dementia might be less immediately obvious, but have a huge impact on their quality of life

As a small, family run firm of developers, we have to look for new opportunities to get involved in. We first started in 1997 with small residential schemes in the heart of Leicester, but today we work with housing associations on much bigger projects across the Midlands.

Most recently, we worked with a borough council in Nottinghamshire to build a pioneering scheme of specially adapted bungalows for residents with dementia. The scheme taught us a lot about what worked well when building for this very specific client group.

The market has changed. We've taken a step away from the impersonal, functional, practicalities of the residential tower blocks, and we've seen the need for smaller communities, with personality and character. This makes it more interesting from a design perspective – no standard boilerplate here – but of course, trickier too.

In some cases, building residential schemes for people with mental health problems is really no different. In any project, it's down to the involved parties to understand the end-user's needs completely.

For the architects involved in the Nottinghamshire adapted bungalows project, it was crucial to get under the skin of the real, day-to-day obstacles that made residents' lives that little bit trickier. It's not just forgetting where you've put your keys – it can be incredibly isolating, disorienting and confusing.

A house is where you should feel safe, and when building schemes for those with mental disabilities, this should be the first thing to think about. Mental health problems don't exist in isolation. So, carefully looking at access, floor plans and elevation is crucial, particularly as the majority of residents dealing with dementia tend to be older, and therefore more likely to be susceptible to other age-related conditions which have a knock-on physical impact.

Structure aside, architects need to carefully consider interior design. The doors, light fittings and toilet seats in the adapted bungalows are a dark finish, so they contrast significantly with their surroundings and are easy to distinguish. Inside, rooms are painted in different pastel colours, to make them easily identifiable to the residents, even if they are confused or disorientated. Interior textures and patterns are also given careful consideration, as people with dementia can struggle with depth perception and any patterning can cause confusion. Take something as innocuous as a doormat, for example.

To most people, a dark doormat isn't worth noticing, but for someone with dementia, it could look like a hole in the ground, and an obstacle between getting in and out of their safe place. Building residential schemes with healthcare considerations don't just involve the live-in residents either. Creating a sense of security with natural surveillance (access points overlooked by neighbours, for example) is important peace of mind for families and health care professionals, who are usually heavily involved in the care of residents with mental health problems.

Demand for considerate design for residents struggling with mental health issues is growing. It will require close partnership with public and private sector organisations to get it right, but looking at what is needed through the eyes of those actually living with the condition is the first step in recognising what is needed.

**'Dementia has rocketed by 62 per cent. So there's a demand – and arguably, a responsibility – for appropriate residential schemes'**

Dominic Waters,  
Development Director at  
Waters Homes



*'We are very much looking forward to beginning on this important project, which will contribute to health and wellbeing in Sheffield and beyond'*

BAM Senior Design Manager  
Noel Banfield

## BAM chosen by Sheffield City Council for enhancing health and leisure facilities

Bam Construction is to transform Graves Leisure Centre in Sheffield under a £16 million contract with Sheffield City Council.

The Leeds-based contractor will build a range of swimming, fitness and medical facilities to complement the existing tennis centre.

New amenities will include a 25m swimming pool, a smaller training pool, a gym and fitness suite, trampoline space, dance studios and X-ray and clinical examination rooms.

BAM is finishing off a major new leisure centre in nearby Huddersfield – and an estimated 80 per cent of the supply chain by project value will come across to the Sheffield scheme.

The Graves Leisure Centre project broke ground last week, with completion scheduled for summer 2016. Photovoltaic cells and other renewable energy will be used to help the project meet sustainability aims.

BAM will also work with local suppliers, workers and the community on the project as part of the YORbuild framework.

BAM Senior Design Manager Noel Banfield said: "We are very much looking forward to beginning on this important project, which will contribute to health and wellbeing in Sheffield and beyond."

"Building and testing swimming pools in particular is very technical and complex, so we are delighted to be bringing across much of the management and wider team from the Huddersfield scheme. This will bring huge efficiency benefits to the project to extend these facilities."

"We have strong credentials in the health and leisure sectors and this depth of experience will ensure that people in Sheffield get excellent new facilities."



Councillor Isobel Bowler, cabinet member for culture, sport and leisure at Sheffield City Council, said:

"Here in Sheffield we have a proud sporting heritage and it is important that we build upon that to create the right environment in which the sportsmen and women of the future can train, develop and thrive."

"But it isn't just about the elite, it is about every man, woman and child in our city being fitter, healthier and enjoying physical activity."

"This completely revamped leisure centre at Graves will be a top-class venue at which people from all walks of life can swim, take part in team sports and join in fitness sessions to make them happier and healthier."

BAM's construction projects in Yorkshire include the Leeds Arena. Its property company is behind the Leeds Latitude buildings, and its FM company manages facilities for Wharfedale Hospital.

## Planning application approved for new Spire Healthcare Hospital, Didsbury

Planning consultancy Turley, acting on behalf of Siemens PLC and Spire Healthcare, has today (Thursday 19 February) secured planning permission for a new hospital and conferencing facility in Didsbury, Manchester.

The proposed hospital will be developed and operated by Spire Healthcare, the UK's second largest private healthcare provider. It will deliver a leading edge private hospital to replace Spire's existing facility in

Whalley Range, and will be a flagship hospital within Spire's portfolio, incorporating the most up-to-date facilities and configuration concepts to make it a 'centre for excellence'.

The new development will be a modern facility which will create an attractive first impression for visitors to Manchester and set a new benchmark for healthcare in the north of England. The hospital will provide a comprehensive range of healthcare

accommodation including consulting rooms and operating theatres, as well as a conference suite which will be used by both Spire staff and as an external resource for training and networking events for the wider healthcare sector.

Construction is set to start in Summer 2015, with the new hospital due to open in early 2017. The development has been designed by Halliday Meecham Architects.



## NEW CARE HOME

## Conlon Underway with private hospital in Kent



Conlon Construction has commenced work on a state of the art private hospital in Ashford, Kent.

The £30 million facility will comprise of 10 consulting rooms, four theatres, four treatment rooms, an endoscopy suite, 20 en-suite rooms, 10 ambulatory care beds and an MRI & imaging suite.

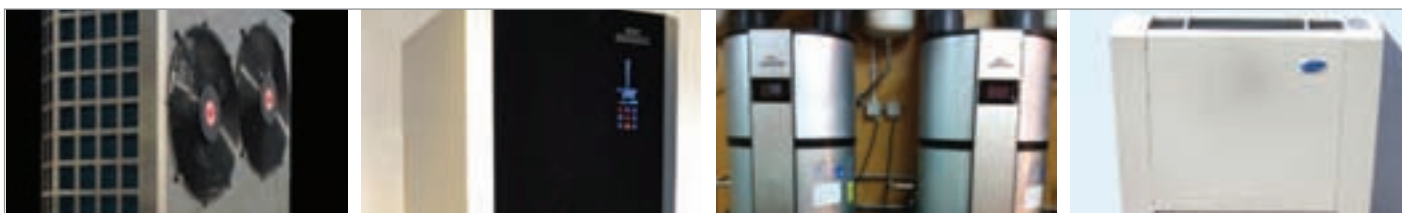
Situated adjacent to the local NHS hospital and with ample parking, the two-storey hospital will provide a level of healthcare unrivalled locally.

Funded by Octopus Healthcare, a leading developer of innovative and purpose-designed healthcare premises, One Ashford Hospital will be managed by a team which over the

years has funded, developed and operated more than 50 private hospital units (15 per cent of the entire UK private hospitals), boasting in excess of 50 years' experience.

Adrian Stevenson, chief executive of One Healthcare, said: "Our clear objective is to provide the very best level of care, delivered by leading consultants, within purpose-built and strategically-located hospital facilities across the UK.

"One Ashford Hospital has been modelled on innovative surgery and diagnostic centres in America and Australasia and will incorporate technology and design features aimed specifically at enhancing the patients' experience.



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## AWARDS

## KIMS Hospital shortlisted for 'property oscar'

KIMS Hospital Maidstone has been shortlisted for a prestigious Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Award in the South East's Community Benefit category.

The Community Benefit category showcases the most inspirational regional initiatives and developments that add benefit to the community.

KIMS was designed to provide a space for clinical education and best practice and promotes health and wellbeing through the use of natural materials, maximum daylight and attractive landscaping. The £120 million 15,000m<sup>2</sup> building has 72 inpatient beds, plus 20-day care beds, seven intensive therapy unit beds and high dependency facilities.

The hospital, which opened in April 2014, has already been awarded "Best Acute Hospital" development at the Building Better Healthcare Awards in December 2014 and was also shortlisted for the Kent Design and Development Awards.

Dawn Cremin, Sales and Marketing Director at KIMS Hospital commented:



"This is a fantastic achievement and we are delighted to have been shortlisted for an award which not only recognises the brilliant design of KIMS but also the long term benefits we can bring to the community."

The winners of the South East's RICS Awards will be announced on Thursday 14 May, with the winner from the Community Benefit category automatically entered into the national RICS Awards Grand Final to be held in October 2015.

## NEW HOSPITAL COMPLEX

## New deal promises a warmer welcome at Southampton hospital

Work is due to start on the multimillion pound redevelopment of the main entrance and retail area of the University Hospital Southampton (UHS), thanks to an innovative deal from the hospital's Commercial Estates Development Partnership (CEDP) – a joint venture between UHS and Interserve Prime. The partnership, which is for up to 25 years and worth in the region of £150 million in total, involves UHS working with Interserve, the international support services and construction group and health and social care property company Prime to secure funding for new development projects. The partnership is responsible for the design, building and financing of new facilities for UHS, while also providing the Trust with a range of estates and support services.

The public-private deal – one of the first of its kind in an acute environment – will deliver a new welcome centre at the hospital and a varied range of new retail and food and beverage outlets. The busy location has attracted interest from some of the most popular names in retail, with tenancies confirmed for M&S Simply Food; M&S Café; Subway; Costa; WH Smith and The Stock Shop. The new retail area is expected to be complete and fully operational by January 2016.

Nick Johnson, Development Projects Director at UHS, said: "Ensuring a positive experience for our patients, visitors and staff is paramount. By working with Interserve Prime to secure funding, private investment can now be quickly channelled into facilities such as the main entrance and retail area – and this is where our public-private partnership really pays dividends."

Leighton Chumbley, Director at Interserve Prime, said: "We've created a solution that not only improves quality and choice by offering an enhanced range of outlets but provides a vital revenue source for the Trust and a brand new Welcome Centre fitting of the hospital's reputation for excellence."

The Welcome Centre redevelopment is the first of several projects planned for the hospital that will generate additional capital and revenue for the Trust, which can be invested back into improvements to patient services and care. This innovative approach to use commercial developments to improve NHS acute care facilities is an example of how the public and private sectors can successfully work together.

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## NEW CARE HOME

## Midas Southern develops new care home in Bournemouth



Work has started on a 50-bed new state-of-the-art care home facility being created in Bournemouth which will offer elderly, specialist dementia and nursing care for residents.

Midas Southern, a division of The Midas Group – one of the largest independent construction companies in the UK – won the contract to develop the new home for Poole-based care provider Care South. The former Wickmeads care

home based in the Southbourne area of Bournemouth is being completely redeveloped to create a modern new facility as part of a project to rebuild the current premises and provide up to date accommodation.

Construction work began in mid-January and the 2,735 sq m development is due to complete in spring 2015.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held on site with guests from Care South, Midas Southern and Bournemouth Council attending to celebrate the project getting underway.

Midas Southern won the contract to develop the home as the division enjoys growing success in the South East region, having recently expanded its management team in the area as it continues to secure new work. Midas Southern is also

in the process of developing a £13 million retirement and care complex in the centre of Poole.

Paul Strachan, Divisional Director for Midas Southern, said: "We are proud to be working closely with Care South to create a truly first-class new care home in Bournemouth to benefit residents for many years to come, and further improve the provision of residential care for elderly people in the wider Dorset area.

"It follows Midas Southern starting work on a major retirement and care home complex for the Methodist Homes Association (MHA) in Poole, and is further recognition of our talented team's knowledge and experience in working in partnership with the country's leading care providers to produce fantastic new facilities."

*'The former care home is being completely redeveloped to create a modern new facility as part of a project to rebuild the current premises'*

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## EVENT



## Health, Social Care & Housing 2015 conference

Running on 24-25 June, and aimed at professionals from social care, local authorities, extra care and housing, this event will be focusing on solutions around the integration of health and housing

### Day 1

09:15: Registration

09:45: *Homes, health and health inequalities*

- Dr Ann Marie Connolly, Director Health Equity and Impact, Public Health England
- Dame Clare Tickell, Chief Executive, Hanover Housing
- Dr Jessica Allen, Deputy Director, Institute of Health Equity
- Chair: Domini Gunn, Director, Health and Wellbeing, Chartered Institute of Housing

10:45: Refreshment break

11:15: Interview: *Good homes, good health*

12:00: *Breaking the link between poor housing standards and ill health*

- Neil Reveley, Executive Director, Health, Housing and

Adult Services; Chair, Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, Housing Policy Network

- Sandra Whiles, Chief Executive, Place, Blaby District Council
- Sue Adams, Chief Executive, Care and Repair England
- Chair: Graham Jukes, Chief Executive, Chartered Institute of Environmental Health

12:45: Lunch

14:00: *Tackling fuel poverty: creating warm, healthy homes*

- Paul Burns, Green Futures Manager, Gentoo Living
- David Smith, Customer First Director, First Choice Homes Oldham
- Nigel Banks, Group Sustainability Director, Keepmoat Housing
- Mark Henderson, Chief Executive, Home Group
- Chair: Jenny Saunders, Chief Executive, National Energy Action

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**14:45:** Refreshment Break**15:15:** *Laying the foundations for a healthy later life*

- Joy Hollister, Group Director, Children, Adults and Housing, London Borough of Havering
- Mark Henderson, Chief Executive, Home Group
- George McNamara, Head of Policy and Public Affairs, Alzheimers Society

**16:15:** Close

## Day 2

**09:15:** Registration**10:00:** Keynote: *Integrating health, housing and wellbeing*

- Jon Rouse, Director General, Social Care, Local Government and Care Partnerships, Department of Health
- Richard Humphries, Assistant Director, Policy, The King's Fund
- Debi Marriott-Lavery, Managing Director, Individual Support, Places for People
- Chair: Domini Gunn, Director, Health and Wellbeing, Chartered Institute of Housing

**10:45:** Refreshment break**11:15:** *Working in partnership to improve health and wellbeing through housing*

- Peter Hay, Strategic Director, Adults and Communities, Birmingham City Council

- Mark Gardner, Chief Executive, Melin Homes
- Jeremy Porteus, Director, Housinglin
- Chair: Luke Cross, Editor, Social Housing

**12:00:** *Does extra care approach give positive outcomes for healthy ageing which result in measurable care cost savings?*

- Angela Bradford, Commissioning and Healthy Lifestyle Director, ExtraCare Charitable Trust
- Léann Hearne, Executive Director Care and Support, Riverside

**12:45 :** Lunch**14:00 :** *Improving mental wellbeing through housing*

- Lisa Philliskirk, Service Director, Social Care and Independent Living, Gateshead Council
- Michelle Couch, Head of Mental Health, One Housing Group
- Chair: Andy Bell, Deputy Chief Executive, Centre for Mental Health

**14:45 :** Refreshment break**15:15 :** *Increasing positive health outcomes for the homeless*

- Dr Al Story, London TB Find & Treat Clinical Lead, UCLH
- Councillor John Cotton, Cabinet Member, Health and Wellbeing and Chair, Birmingham Health and Wellbeing Board
- Chair: Martin Hilditch, Deputy Editor, Inside Housing

**16:00:** Close

You can book your place at the Health, Social Care & Housing 2015 conference by visiting [www.cihhousing.com](http://www.cihhousing.com)

## MAJOR DEAL AGREEMENT

# Deal to develop first Dementia Centres of Excellence agreed

*'The projects will create a home-like environment where residents have access to communal areas and facilities such as a cafe'*

Proposals to create the first state of the art Dementia Centres of Excellence in Staffordshire reached a major milestone as plans to develop them were formally agreed.

The multi-million pound flagship centres will be developed by partner Symphony – a consortium made up of the Accord Group, Keepmoat and Quattro Architects, in Lichfield and Burton and promise to transform care and support for residents and their families throughout their condition.

The projects will create a home-like environment where residents will be able to hold family gatherings, keep pets and have access to communal areas and facilities such as a cafe. Support, including nursing care, will be provided as and when residents require additional care as their condition changes.

Staffordshire County Council and the Symphony consortium signed a contract to develop the centres, which are expected to open in 2017 – with overall places increasing from 109 in the three residential homes currently run by the council to 135 in the centres of excellence.

Cllr Alan White, Staffordshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing, said: "These dementia centres of excellence will absolutely transform the way people receive care and support and I am delighted that we have finalised these exciting plans with Symphony.

"The two flagship centres will create a real home-like environment and offer a support network which will make a huge difference to residents with dementia."

Staffordshire County Council and Symphony will continue to work closely with residents, families and staff to allow the smooth transfer from Bracken House, in Burntwood, Meadwyrthe in Tamworth and Hillfield House in Stretton in 2017. Locations for the new



centres have still to be finalised.

Lakbhir Jaspal, Deputy Group Chief Executive of the Accord Group, on behalf of the Symphony consortium, said: "This is a really exciting partnership deal with Staffordshire County Council and we are delighted to be delivering two new dementia centres of excellence. The new centres will bring innovative

thinking to the design of homes for people with dementia coupled with first-rate care.

"The Accord Group is a leader in dementia excellence and have a successful track record of running services for those with dementia around a care model called the 'Eden Alternative' which the new centres will be based on."







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# Prognosis is good for new community hospital

A site hemmed in by houses, a road and a hill, plus instructions that health services must continue uninterrupted during construction – Jess Unwin discovers there were many challenges for the designers of a new hospital in Dover

A series of tough challenges lay ahead when it was decided to build £23 million health facilities on the car park of Dover's Buckland Hospital.

The site in question is sandwiched between a steep wooded bank, residential properties and a road boundary, plus it was expected that health services should continue to be provided uninterrupted by construction work.

And then there was an unexpected extra hurdle to leap when a huge Second World War bunker was unearthed by contractors working on the site!

The new two-storey development, covering 6,500m<sup>2</sup>, will eventually replace the current facilities of Buckland Hospital, situated in the Coombe Valley area of Dover.

Local GPs, Eastern and Coastal Kent Primary Care Trust and East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust (EKHUFT) worked together to come up with a plan for the new community hospital.

The aim is to provide around 85 per cent of all outpatient services for the Dover district from healthcare facilities located in the Kent town. The future facilities are to include a wide

*Continued overleaf...*

*‘Over the past 20 years, Buckland Hospital has been slowly decommissioned, with services being closed and downgraded. This has left a building that is expensive to heat and maintain, and is vastly oversized’*



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range of co-located diagnostic services as well as renal dialysis services, child health ambulatory services and minor injuries services.

Design of the new Buckland Hospital was put in the hands of architects IBI Group. Martin Wickes, IBI Studio Director, explains: “Over the past 20 years, Buckland Hospital has been slowly decommissioned, with services being closed and downgraded. This has left a building that is expensive to heat and maintain, and is vastly oversized.”

He says the smaller new building will be easy to maintain and cost-effective to run, allowing EKHUFT to meet its

financial targets: “The design of the facility responds to a restricted site to provide a community hospital that is smaller but much more efficient to manage. From a care perspective, a robust clinical plan, developed in close consultation with the trust, concentrates on a rational patient journey considerate to privacy, dignity and comfort.”

Meetings with user groups helped IBI Group work out the best arrangement of multiple clinical departments, within a limited footprint, to provide the best possible quality of care and operational efficiency.

Overall, says Wickes, the hospital had to be “sympathetic to

There was an unexpected extra hurdle to leap when a huge Second World War bunker was unearthed by contractors working on the site.



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*'The external walls use a range of materials. Black brick and through-coloured render serves as a background for two types of cladding panels: white fibre cement panels and timber laminated panels'*

its locality and the environment". Residential neighbours will benefit from the reduced scale achieved by dividing the building into three blocks. Those blocks are separated by vertical glazing, which means patients and staff inside will enjoy lots of natural light and views towards nearby trees. One of the two zones of vertical glazing forms the entrance atrium.

The external walls use a range of materials. Black brick and through-coloured render serves as a background for two types of cladding panels: white fibre cement panels and timber laminated panels. Wickes adds: "The dark colour of the brick

is used to enhance the crisp lines of the bright cladding as well as the shape and colours of the wooded bank."

Of course, one of the biggest headaches the scheme faced was the fact that most of the existing services at Buckland Hospital have remained in use throughout the construction. This has chiefly been achieved by the simple decision to erect the new building on the old staff car park to the east of the existing Buckland Hospital.

Besides the constricted site, another issue was overshadowing and rights of light issues along the east boundary. The roof

*Continued overleaf...*



A four-bay ward

© East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust



**BUILDING  
PROJECTS**

*'The design of the facility responds to a restricted site to provide a community hospital that is smaller but much more efficient to manage'*



line of the hospital was therefore stepped at the east end of the building to reduce mass and shadow. The east boundary also caused concern with regard to overlooking. Windows were carefully placed in the design to retain the privacy of both the hospital and local residents.

Although several buildings have been demolished to make way for the new hospital and to provide space for new car parking and a service yard, the scheme acquired another dimension when the decision was made by the trust to retain an existing single-storey pitched roof building that previously housed the physiotherapy department. It is to be converted into the estates services and energy centre building.

Buckland Hospital is designed to achieve a BREEAM Excellent target. To realise this goal, sustainability measures include the use of natural ventilation in as many areas as

possible, with the atrium entrance in particular being used to drive a 'stack effect'.

A photovoltaic array – a linked collection of solar panels – will be mounted on the roof, while the hospital will also boast a combined heat and power (CHP) unit to generate electricity and reclaim useful heat. Care has been taken to insulate the building envelope to an air-leakage (also known as air tightness, air permeability or air pressure testing) rate of 5.

A brise soleil architectural feature is employed to prevent summer solar gain and glazing on the east and west façade is minimised. Inside, LED lighting is used throughout.

Demolition work began in 2013 but by August works had hit a snag: a Second World War bunker. Finbarr Murray, EKHUFT's Deputy Director of Estates and Facilities, was reported as admitting that it was known a bunker existed but



Elevation A:  
North West Elevation –  
Coombe Valley Road



Elevation B:  
South East Elevation

For a specification of the  
Materials Key please visit  
[www.architectsdatafile.co.uk](http://www.architectsdatafile.co.uk)  
and enter reference number  
70780

that “the sheer size of the bunker was a surprise”.

Removing the wartime structure required a significant excavation operation across an area of 50 metres by 24 metres and four metres deep. Further time was given over to archaeologists, who took the opportunity to examine the ground but found nothing of any real interest.

Contractors also found asbestos under the concrete foundations of the old mortuary and pathology buildings. This material was safely removed.

The site was originally home to the Dover Union Workhouse, opening in 1836 and accommodating 500 people. Further buildings, plus many modifications and extensions, were added throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. The last major addition was the physiotherapy building in the 1980s.

Clinical services to be provided in the new Buckland

Hospital include physiotherapy, radiology, pathology, renal dialysis, ante-natal and postnatal care, pharmacy and various other walk-in procedures not requiring an overnight stay.

Outpatient services are extensive. Among them are cardiology, dermatology, endocrinology, orthotics, gastroenterology, breast clinic, ophthalmology, respiratory, rheumatology, trauma and orthopaedics.

Despite all the challenges, IBI Group is confident it is delivering a “compact but highly efficient hospital”. The Second World War bunker did contribute a two-month delay but completion is now expected in April. The old Buckland Hospital buildings will eventually close, but no decision has been made yet about the future of the remaining land.

Nicholas Wells, EKHUFT chairman, is clearly delighted the new hospital has so nearly arrived. He says: “The new  
*Continued overleaf...*

*'It will provide state-of-the-art facilities, offering a wide range of services, supported by a comprehensive set of diagnostic equipment'*

Nicholas Wells,  
EKHUFT chairman



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hospital is an integral part of the improvements we are making to outpatient services for our patients in the Dover area. It will provide state-of-the-art facilities, offering a wide range of services, supported by a comprehensive set of diagnostic equipment. It will provide patients with a one-stop approach enabling them to see their consultant, undertake tests, receive

their results and agree their care plan – all on the same day.”

You can take a virtual tour of the new Buckland Hospital at: [www.ekhuft.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/buckland-hospital/new-dover-hospital/a-typical-patient-journey](http://www.ekhuft.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/buckland-hospital/new-dover-hospital/a-typical-patient-journey).

Pictured top:  
Sustainability measures include natural ventilation with the atrium entrance in particular being used to drive a 'stack effect'

Pictured bottom:  
Waiting room



© East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust

## Project details

**Main contractor:** Interserve  
**Architect:** IBI Group  
**Structural engineer:** Capita Symonds  
**Mechanical engineer:** Arup  
**CDM co-ordinator:** GPM Partnership  
**QS:** Client – GPM Partnership,  
 Contractor – Summers Inman  
**Acoustics:** Alan Saunders Associates  
**Fire engineer:** Arup  
**Interior design:** IBI Nightingale  
**Planning consultant:** Lee Evans Planning  
**Ecologist:** Thomson Ecology  
**Highways consultant:** Monson Engineering  
**BREEAM assessor:** GPM Partnership



# Breathing new life into flooring

Virginia Harris from Gerflor explains why contemporary linoleum and loosefit planking systems are good flooring solutions for meeting the diverse needs of the UK healthcare sector

**T**he healthcare sector today demands innovative, decorative, durable, hygienic and environmentally responsible flooring and flooring-related solutions.

What our hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation facilities, mental health and care and support centres want is a comprehensive range of integrated solutions, requiring a holistic approach.

Understandably, many clients in the health sector are looking for a single-solution supplier, who can offer the combination of proven products for flooring, wall, corner, and door protection, handrails and wall covering.

They want seamless surface protection offering great safety. At the same, time designers and specifiers in the sector are looking for perfect colour combinations for floors and walls, as well as specific systems for shower and other wet floor applications.

## Practical and eye-catching

Clearly, products in this area need to be especially durable, come with enhanced hygiene and infection control technologies, offer easy cleaning and reduced maintenance costs.

Research has shown that 75-90 per cent of all hospital acquired infections are passed on by hand-borne transmission. Floor coverings and wall protection panels that are welded together provide perfect air tightness for greater hygiene.

This in itself can be a great boon to the end-user in terms of downtime for cleaning and the overall effectiveness of the products used.

The healthcare sector has always had a 'weather eye' on the cost of maintenance and ease of use. Products that help alleviate any unnecessary on-cost will always prove to be popular.

This is now possible thanks to the new generation of surface treatments which have breathed new life into some traditional products, like linoleum

Despite being invented in the nineteenth century, modern linoleum has great appeal for 21st century designers, coming in a range of eye-catching colours and choice of surface treatments that reduce cleaning and virtually eliminate polishing.

Frequently specified in the health sector, Linoleum is coated in a choice of protective layers to create a permanently durable, abrasion-resistant surface with enhanced resistance to chemicals



and staining. It is often used in areas where cleaning is frequent and aggressive.

When architects at Armitage Associates were asked to mastermind the £16 million refurbishment of the Glasgow Royal Infirmary University Tower, they preferred to specify linoleum wherever possible to create visual appeal and identification.

In fact 4,000 sq m of high quality Linoleum went into the building, with its mix of laboratories, offices and medical teaching facilities for the hospital and Glasgow University.

Jeremy Armitage, partner in the Glasgow-based architectural and interior design practice, says: "We wanted to use linoleum. The reasons were simple: it's available in good colours, it's a 'green' material and is naturally biocidal."

The best linoleum products boast fantastic environmental credentials, because they're made of natural, mostly renewable, raw materials such as cork, jute and linseed oil, have anti-bacterial properties and a long lifespan.

Linoleum is available in varying thicknesses ranging from as little as 2mm and up to more than 3mm and offers myriad choices in its colour palette.

*Continued overleaf..*

Wood-effect flooring is an aesthetically pleasing material for use in public areas

**'We wanted to use linoleum. The reasons were simple: it's available in good colours, it's a 'green' material and is naturally biocidal'**

Jeremy Armitage, architect



Linoleum comes in a wide range of colours



Loose-fit wood-effect planking can add a softer look to care homes



The anti-bacterial and hard-wearing nature of linoleum makes it ideal for healthcare applications

As well as being slip, flame and heat resistant, some high-quality ranges also have acoustic damping options available too.

Linoleum has a lot to offer without compromising durability. Within healthcare maintenance this is hugely important where products on the whole need to be less labour intensive with no polishing required.

The building also required low maintenance, hygienic, slip-resistant safety flooring for toilet and changing areas, and 200m<sup>2</sup> of studded slip resistant safety flooring for barefoot wet areas.

## Boutique hotel feel

When a new-build care home near Edinburgh wanted a 'boutique hotel' feel to the public areas a waterproof interlocking, loose-fit, wood-effect plank system was specified.

For architect Kirsty Henderson it was the ideal flooring solution for the cafe, dining room, hairdressers and multi-purpose rooms, as well as the first floor sun room, at the 32-flat complex in Penicuik, Midlothian.

The client had considered a timber floor, but was keen for a softer finish and it had to be fully waterproof for the cafe area and, of course, have durability.

Henderson says: "We didn't want it to feel like a care home as we were aiming for the quality and appearance of a boutique hotel, so it had to be convincing.

"Architects and designers want to offer their clients aesthetically pleasing designs with a good colour bank of flooring with coordinating handrails and wall protection.

Beyond the general wards and corridors, there are additional rooms such as physio rooms, hairdressers and nurseries where a performance floor is required.

That means, good companies need to offer solutions with different designs with the same high standard throughout the ranges".

In this case, Kirsty, of Edinburgh practice Hackland + Dore chose loose-fit interlocking wood-effect plank system with a 'Wear Group T' rating.

These systems offer ease of cutting and handling, so flooring can be laid swiftly into corners and against edges, while planks can be replaced individually if necessary.

Some of the best can be easily laid and require no adhesive, grouting or welding. It can also be installed over existing sub-floors with minimal disruption and no need for businesses to close for refurbishment.

The polyurethane treatment provides excellent resistance to scratching and chemicals and it can be cleaned easily and hygienically.

The architects also specified round, 40mm section timber effect handrails for the corridors, supplied with bactericidal joints optimising hygiene for end users.

As Henderson points out: "It's a great idea to have handrails that match and compliment the flooring. It makes the building look a lot less institutional."



© Stour Valley Care Group

# A warm welcome at the care hotel

Deep in the heart of rural Essex, a building that heralds a new approach to high-quality residential care for older people has opened its doors. Ray Philpott discovers what makes it different

With an ageing population that's growing year by year in the UK, it's never been more important to ensure those who are no longer able to live in their own homes are cared for in a decent environment.

On top of this, more and more older people in care have dementia, a disease that places extra demands on the running of residential homes, many of which are simply not designed or equipped to deliver the kind of support required.

With these demands firmly in mind, forward-thinking husband and wife team Mike and Jacqueline Volf worked closely with Tim Snow Architects to develop a concept that takes residential care to a new level – the care hotel.

Arguably the first establishment of its kind in England, Mistley Manor has been deliberately named to sound traditional and old fashioned, yet it's underlying ethos is anything but that.

Put simply, the idea is to provide a high-quality, up-market residential care facility that looks and feels more like a comfortable hotel than a residential home. Many people who need care today have had comfortable lifestyles and want that to continue for as long as possible.

The Volfs own the Stour Valley Care Group of private care homes. As experienced operators they've endeavoured to create something that's very different to formulaic, anodyne

*Continued overleaf...*

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**'Mistley Manor has been deliberately named to sound traditional and old fashioned'**

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Pictured right:  
The second floor benefits from the building's typically wide corridors and natural light flooding through the roof

Pictured below:  
The restaurant, bar and coffee lounge area is designed to appeal to visitors as well as residents



© Stour Valley Care Group



© Stour Valley Care Group

modern care home chains or 'old-school' independent and local authority establishments.

Nestling on the outskirts of the pleasant Essex town of Manningtree, Mistley Manor boasts hairdressing and beauty/therapy salons, a cinema room, licensed bar-café, library area and restaurant with carefully installed, high quality elements as part of the interior design. There are also rooms and spaces where residents, their friends and families can enjoy fully-catered gatherings to celebrate special events and lounges in private if they wish.

In keeping with the hotel-based concept, it has a large, airy reception area and a number of comfortably appointed lounges where residents can take in view over the gardens. The landscaped grounds contain one and two-bedroom assisted-living bungalows where, rather surprisingly, couples can live together and enjoy their own personal outside space on patios and garden areas. There are even luxury penthouse suites on the top floor.

High-speed broadband and wi-fi is available across the site, enabling increasingly IT-literate residents – or at least those with good mental capacity – to keep in touch with friends and family in the outside world through Skype, email and social media.

## Retro for a reason

The care hotel been designed from the ground up as a spacious, pleasant, brightly lit building that is an enjoyable place to be for all residents, whether they have dementia or not and, crucially, a pleasant place for visiting relatives and friends, too.

Architect Tim Snow explains: “Mike and Jacqueline wanted to deliver a step change to the way residential care for the elderly is delivered. Part of that concept is that it should be a place visitors actually want to spend time with their loved one or friend, in a way that simply isn’t possible in more conventional homes.”

At first glance the 5,100m<sup>2</sup>, three-storey, 60-room main building with its clay-tiled pitched roof and brickwork looks rather like a large 1920s country house hotel. Built on the site of the Volf’s former residential home, Little Manor, its retro-style is a carefully considered design choice.

“Dementia sufferers have better long-term memory than short-term, so they struggle with new things and are more comfortable with the familiar. Inside and out the building should not feel new and unsettling. We were also keen to provide demedicalised, more human environment. We considered a contemporary look initially, but took inspiration from early 20th century country houses. It can be filled with familiar décor and features that are reassuring and suggest comfort to the target age group.”

Building work began in March 2013 and was completed by December 2014, with the official opening held in January this year.

Snow adds: “The building’s traditional brick construction is actually a very cost-effective and fast way to build because, as Mike Volf points out, there’s no shortage of bricklayers in this part of Essex and it’s very much the standard way to build. Compared to modular or prefabricated construction, it offers greater opportunities for making ongoing design changes or minor improvements to the building – and we had quite a few.”

Inside, each floor has a single long, 3m-wide corridor running along its length like a spine, with facilities and accommodation on either side and light coming in from fenestration along the length.

Snow points out these unusually wide corridors are an important, practical feature in a healthcare environment. “Many institutions have corridors that are simply too narrow and not really suitable for people with mobility issues let alone those who may also be confused or have poor vision. We created very wide corridors on each floor of Mistley Manor, having identified the need for plenty of space in corridors as a crucial feature. They enable people to manoeuvre wheelchairs, walking frames and other support aids and to keep the general traffic flow of

*Continued overleaf...*



Bungalows in the grounds enable more independent couples to live together with professional care close to hand  
© Stour Valley Care Group



One of the amply appointed penthouse suites  
© Stour Valley Care Group





*‘Simple, things like door handles, bathroom fittings, curtains, fittings and soft furnishings have to be considered carefully’*

people moving smoothly. We’ve also included wider doors for the same reason.”

On the ground floor are offices and all the shared communal and family facilities, along with a few residential room with patios. At its heart is a virtually open-plan area consisting of a formal restaurant-dining area flowing into a bar-café surrounded by casual seating extending into the conservatory and overlooking the grounds. This area has been carefully designed to actively encourage social interaction between the residents, and between residents and visitors.

In contrast, the first floor consists primarily of standard rooms and is the area most focused on residents with dementia. It has two communal lounges where people can meet or sit to

view the grounds and enjoy daylight, a great benefit for dementia sufferers. However, these areas are enclosed and safe. “With dementia there is always a conflict between the need for residents to experience freedom and normality while keeping them safe and secure at the same time,” says Snow.

The third floor hosts the top-of-the-range Penthouse suites which have their own luxuriously appointed lounge areas and separate bedrooms. It is the airiest and brightest area of the building having glass panels running along the length of the roof apex flooding the corridor below with daylight.

“In many ways it functions like a street,” adds Snow. “There are seats along the way where people can stop and talk and rest, once again encouraging interaction.





© Stour Valley Care Group

“Throughout the building, wherever we could we’ve tried to let in as much natural light as possible through large areas of glass. We’ve provided good ventilation and generous room heights with large bright and airy communal areas to create solid standard for the future.”

The four assisted-living bungalows reflect same style. With their own private grounds and living space, they offer a rare opportunity for couples to live together and are ideal where one is a carer but also needs a little support to do the job. Here, residents enjoy greater independence but have all the facilities and benefits of the main home available to them. Should the time come when the bungalows are no longer suitable they can migrate to the main home.

## Interior design

The interior design detail is in line with the recommendations of the internationally renowned University of Sterling Dementia Services Development Centre (DSDC), experts in designing buildings for dementia.

“We worked with Hertfordshire-based interior designer Tina Davies Childs who has experience in designing for care homes and is very tuned into the DSDC way of doing things,” adds Snow.

Simple, things like door handles, bathroom fittings, curtains, fittings and soft furnishings have to be considered carefully to avoid confusing or alarming residents with dementia. For

*Continued overleaf...*

Mistley Manor's reception (pictured above) is consciously reminiscent of a luxury hotel

*‘Colour contrast between various surfaces – such as doors and door frames – helps dementia sufferers avoid situational confusion when moving around’*

With its comforting country house hotel style, Mistley Manor is raising the bar for residential care



© Stour Valley Care Group

example, mirrors should not be sited anywhere outside bathrooms and toilets because dementia sufferer could become distressed if they unexpectedly come across their own reflection and don't understand what it is.

Likewise, old fashioned bath and sink taps are better than clever modern ones because they are familiar to older people who can more easily remember how to use them. Colour contrast between various surfaces – such as doors and door frames – helps dementia sufferers avoid situational confusion when moving around. Inconsistent light intensity and highly reflective surfaces are also to be avoided.

Mistley Manor has strong green credentials too. It's completely LED-lit and with every single light switched on it uses a tiny 4kw an hour, while thirteen solar roof panels preheat the hot water system up to 50 degrees.

## Immensely proud

Proprietor Mike Volf is happy with what's been achieved by the £7 million project. "I'm immensely proud that we were able to build it within the timescale we did and to an impressive quality and standard."

Volf says: "I think we're achieving that. People who see it are impressed and can scarcely believe it's a residential care facility because, thanks to the way it's been planned, built and designed, it really does look and feel like a high-quality hotel.

"It's the culmination of years of being asked 'where would

you put your mum and dad?' Ultimately though, the big question is: would we want to live there ourselves? I can honestly say the answer is yes."

Mistley Manor may be not be a typical home, but it's certainly blazing a trail for the future of high-quality residential care.

## Project details

**Architect:** Tim Snow Architects

**Client:** Stour Valley Care Group

**Main contractor:** Stour Valley Construction & Groundworks

**Surveyors:** David Jackaman

**Planning consultants:** Tim Snow Architects

**Interior design:** Tina Davies Childs

**Lifts:** Stannah

**Bathroom fixtures:** Triton

**Bathing solutions:** Access, Abacus Healthcare, Gainsborough

**Paint:** Dulux

**Carpets:** Danfloor Equinox Tones

**Hardflooring:** Polyfloor Expona Commercial

**Roof tiles:** Sandtoft

**adf** architects  
datafile

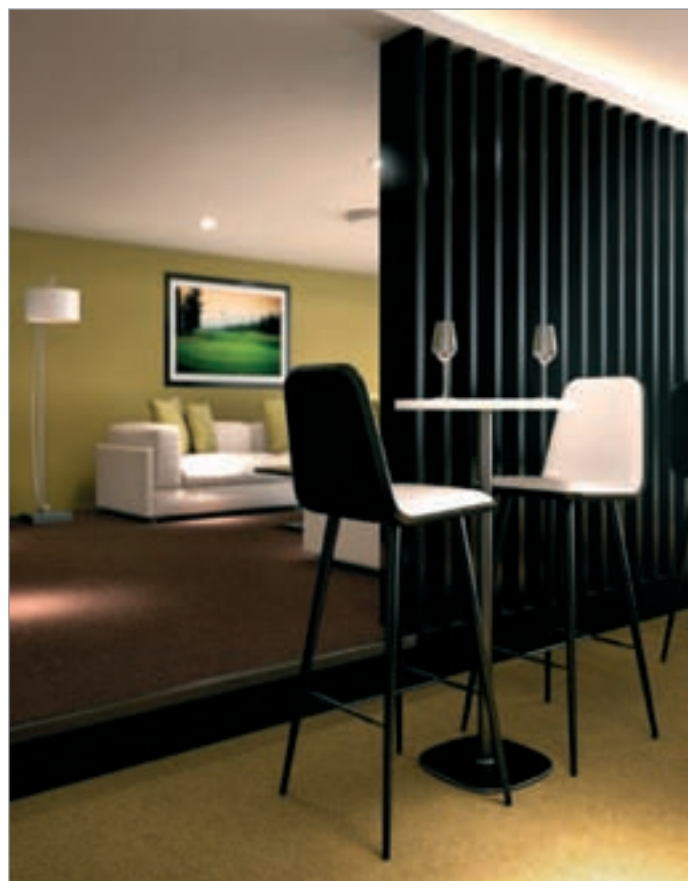


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invaluable feedback of our loyal customers. The Touchsafe Pro has been designed specifically for the hospital market and has HTM compliance at its heart. New touchscreen capabilities heighten manoeuvrability with embedded antimicrobial additives to protect against the spread of infection.

## Leading the Green Revolution in the NHS



Crosshouse Hospital is leading the Green Revolution within the NHS. As part of the drive to lower the carbon footprint, improve working conditions and reduce costs, the Crosshouse Hospital canteen has been equipped with The EcoCent® hot water production unit that is manufactured by Earth Save Products. Four EcoCent units have been installed to serve the Hospital canteen. Thanks to EcoCent technology, the excessive heat can be harvested and the hot water for the pot washers and kitchen sinks

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# Windows that need to be safe in every respect

Specifying windows in the mental healthcare sector is challenging. Mark Clemson, sales and marketing director of architectural glazing systems manufacturer Kawneer UK, explains how developments in fenestration techniques are addressing the most exacting demands of health authorities



*'The healthcare sector is a uniquely challenging field, especially considering the sheer breadth of patient needs'*

Secure recovery units for mental health patients present unique challenges to architects and healthcare organisations. While the security and safety of the patients is critical to the design of these facilities, specifiers have to consider the need for natural light and ventilation.

From a security point of view, the best window is one that cannot be opened. However, this is rarely a practical option. A sealed building, reliant on an expensive and wasteful air conditioning system for ventilation, is not a healthy or normal environment for any patient.

The key challenge is to design a window which is secure, safe and capable of delivering natural daylight and ventilation to meet the needs of the occupants.

Working in partnership with several healthcare trusts across the UK, horizontal sliding windows with anti-ligature features have been developed to be eminently suitable for use within the mental healthcare sector. The result is a window that is simple to use, cost effective and flexible with patients' needs, simultaneously assuring their safety and well-being.

Offering excellent weather performance, these windows do not open into the room to give patients greater opportunity to self-harm and they do not contain a glazing bead that can be removed and used as a weapon or for self-harm. They are easily and economically installed, factory-made, modular units designed to withstand severe and sustained attack from both inside and out.

*Continued overleaf..*

*‘Experience gained on projects has frequently led to the identification of desired additional features and the introduction of innovative bespoke solutions’*



Safe and secure locking is achieved by means of a concealed system with a 125mm opening (locking at 100mm to be compliant with Health Building Note 00-10 Part D and BS 8213 is also a popular option). In addition, the use of a perforated stainless steel mesh affords ventilation, visibility and security. This also stops the potential flow of contraband material in or out of the window. The mesh can be safely opened to allow the windows to be cleaned. They are available in a wide range of guaranteed colours for optimum design flexibility.

Rather than being manufactured to a rigid product specification, healthcare-specific windows are purpose-built to the requirements of each installation. A broad array of systems with different security levels are offered, all tailor-made to the requirements of the NHS on a job-by-job basis.

Because of the specialist nature of this type of window, training and certification is available to fabricators specialising in the mental healthcare sector, ensuring that window integrity is maintained throughout the installation phase and ultimately providing the specifier with peace of mind on the risk management front.

The healthcare sector is a uniquely challenging field, especially considering the sheer breadth of patient needs. Fabricators are constantly working in conjunction with manufacturers to fine tune product capabilities to match architects' and clients' specific requirements.

NHS trusts have been instrumental in progressively identifying what they need windows to achieve in this application. Experience gained on projects has frequently led to the identification of desired additional features and introduction of innovative bespoke solutions.

Each trust has its own testing criteria, depending on patients' needs. A wide range of practical tests have therefore been developed to accurately assess the security performance of each prototype bespoke design. The tests exceed any perceived patient attack level and test every physical aspect of the window, including frame, mesh and glass.

For example, window panels must remain intact when subject to an initial fire extinguisher attack. Multiple strikes using a snooker ball in a sock are also applied which must result in limited sash and frame damage, with no damage to the toughened glass.

Following these attacks, glazing has to stay intact while subject to blows from various items of room furniture and attire. Knives, forks or spoons are then used in an attempt to remove window parts. This test is only deemed successful if nothing is removed.

Test personnel then stand on furniture at window level, kicking the window and frame. The window, sashes and toughened glazing must all remain in-situ. Keys, pens, belt buckles or human fingers are subsequently used to try and remove gaskets and seals – only small sections of gasket less than 10mm long may be withdrawn at any one time.

Repeated pushing, pulling, deflecting and distorting of window restrictors is carried out, demanding that everything, including fittings, remains intact and firmly fixed. Further attacks to window fittings and attempts to lift sashes out of frames must result in zero removals. Finally, ligatures should not be formed following attempts to create a ligature point using various tools.

The end result of these developments in fenestration techniques is a versatile and wide range of anti-ligature, horizontal-sliding windows fully capable of meeting any likely current or future challenge in this most exacting healthcare sector.







# An enlightened approach to mental healthcare

Hopewood Park is one of the UK's newest psychiatric hospitals and designed to provide a supportive, uplifting environment light years away from the dark and foreboding institutions of the past. Ray Philpott reports

**C**ast your eye over serene Hopewood Park with its spectacular hillside location offering views over the North Sea and you could easily imagine you are somewhere in Scandinavia.

Featuring minimalist but attractive low-rise buildings with subtle white, grey and natural wood finishes, it has more the look of a contemporary coastal development in Sweden or Norway than an NHS hospital in England's North East.

Running through the middle of Hopewood Park is an 'ecological corridor' featuring buildings covered by 'living' flat roofs with plants growing on them and a wetland area to create a habitat for bats and birds.

Whichever way you look at it, Hopewood Park is certainly not most people's idea of a psychiatric hospital.

It stands in stark contrast to the demolished Ryhope Hospital it is built on, a dour institution that began as a temporary facility during the Second World War. The former hospital utilised some of the psychiatric facilities at the

adjacent Cherry Knowle Hospital, built in the 19th century as a 'lunatic asylum', pulled down in 2011.

Hopewood Park, in contrast, is a comfortable, purpose-built 122-bed psychiatric hospital with calm and comfortable surroundings. It includes in-patient wards for acute patients, a 14-bed psychiatric intensive care unit (PICU), and retains a recently built 15-bed unit from the old site. It provides urgent care and assessment, rehabilitation for patients and support for older people with mental health illnesses.

The £50 million facility was designed by Medical Architecture working for client Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust. It is part of the Trust's ProCure 21 project that includes the Rowker and Mowbray Dementia Care Centre at Sunderland's Monkwearmouth Hospital. Working in conjunction with this and other NHS facilities, the new hospital in Ryhope is now the Trust's main mental health hub South of the River Tyne.

*Continued overleaf...*

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***'Hopewood Park is a comfortable, purpose-built 122-bed psychiatric hospital with calm and comfortable surroundings'***

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*'In terms of layout and design Hopewood Park encapsulates the latest thinking and approaches to mental healthcare'*



## Contemporary approach

In terms of layout and design Hopewood Park encapsulates the latest thinking and approaches to mental healthcare, creating a sympathetic and soothing recovery-centred environment both inside and out, with plenty of exposure to daylight. The hospital's 18-bed ward buildings and PICU are surrounded by safe, enclosed gardens. They share common therapy, amenity and support in a large, well equipped central facility – the Barton Centre – at the development's heart. The multi-level terrain the site is built on makes it difficult to link the building by internal corridors, so covered walkways have been used, helping to give people the experience of being outside.

The six wards and PICU are laid out on one side of single-loaded corridors, on the other side are white-walled courtyards with lots of planting that bounce daylight back into them.

Medical Architecture Director, Paul Yeomans, explains: "As a patient coming out of your bedroom you immediately get a view of a courtyard, which is unusual in mental institutions."

"The courtyards are really important spaces. To all intents and purposes they're 'outside' rooms where a lot of therapy takes place and tension can be defused and released in a safe and secure environment. They're a highly beneficial feature and one of Hopewood's most successful."

The wayfinding through each of the core buildings in the centre has been carefully thought out. "The general principle



© Jennie Webb

Subtle design and calm colour palettes give Hopewood Park something of a Scandinavian feel

is that as you enter the site or a building you first go into a public area, then a semi-private area such as the accommodation followed by a private area where you get treatment and help.”

A calming range of textures and finishes in a restrained palette of white, wood, grey and slate have been used both internally and externally, creating an ‘outside is inside’ feeling to the buildings.

Yeomans says: “The robust render we used enabled us to create a wall that appears to be coming out of the ground. Elsewhere, composite material provides a pretty authentic wood-effect cladding but offers greater longevity, while plenty of real wood is featured internally – in corridors for example – to add warmth.”

## Talking point

A surefire talking point is the beautiful artwork by artist Dan Savage of Artstop Studios, appearing throughout the hospital and its grounds. His work echoes and references the area’s industrial heritage and history – particularly the nearby listed Victorian water pumping station, shipbuilding and Ryhope colliery – but also reflects the local scenery of Ryhope Dene and the Tunstall Hills.

A specially written poem provides the starting point for range of bespoke patterns that are laser-engraved into oak cladding, etched into tiles, silkscreen-printed on to glass panels and inlaid into decorative paving.

*Continued overleaf...*



A calming range of textures and finishes in a restrained pallet have been used inside and out



© Jennie Webb

“Dan’s art and patterns are carefully woven and integrated into the design – a great way to use them,” says Yeomans.

Another unusual feature is the site’s ‘ecological corridor’, a wildlife-friendly pathway which came into being in response to the discovery that bats were roosted in the surrounding area. “We had to take advice from Natural England about how to demolish the old buildings. Bat roosts have been provided but additionally, flat roofs along the pathway have been planted with sedum plants to attract the insects they feed on,” Yeomans points out.

At the top of the pathway is a wooded area and at the bottom end is what is known as a dry lake – a wetland area planted with reeds and other moisture loving plants created by capturing water drainage from the site instead of using an attenuation tank. It’s hoped the feature will eventually become a fully-fledged new habitat, attracting various forms of wildlife such as frogs, insects and birds.

## Open location

Unlike many older psychiatric health sites, the hospital has been specifically designed so that it doesn’t exist in splendid isolation.

Yeomans comments: “The site is very close to new and existing housing estates a nursery and a primary school. It also backs onto a newly built hospice, which has been taken into consideration in our landscaping as everyone wanted to encourage a cross-over between the two buildings.

“The trust believes it’s really important for the hospital to involve the local community where possible to reduce the stigma around mental health, so it’s a very open site. In fact, no fencing has been put up anywhere around it, leaving local people free to walk through it if they wish, although there’s no formal right of way.”

Open it may be, but it’s a technically challenging site to build on, due to the fact that the hospital sits on a slope that drops 19m across the hospital grounds and why the project took two years to build before coming into full operation late last year.

“The reward is that, wherever you are, you have fantastic views,” says Yeomans.

To help overcome the terrain challenges, every part of the development was captured in a 3d Building Information Model (BIM) to produce detailed drawings of landscaping,



*'The reward is that, wherever you are, you have fantastic views'*

Medical Architecture  
Director, Paul Yeomans

civil engineering, services and the architecture itself.

"Working with the main contractor, Laing O'Rourke, we modelled very early on, which enabled us to do a lot of mapping for stakeholders and user groups. We had a fly-through video made so we could show how the individual rooms would look and the kind of furniture inside them. That proved invaluable.

"From our perspective BIM really paid off, helping us to identify early on where problems might arise, how things work below ground and to locate the buildings accurately."

The three-storey central building is a mixture of precast concrete and steelwork. The predominately single-storey wards are built from a timber frame supporting a lightweight, highly insulated panel system. Timber frame was chosen because it's quick to erect and a renewable resource with a good carbon footprint providing good insulation.

Laing O'Rourke is a leader in off-site manufacturing to factory tolerances. The ward panels, bathroom pods and concrete superstructure were among the elements constructed this way. Insulated roof cassettes were pre-tiled offsite and craned onto the buildings – reducing scaffolding, waste and improving site safety.

*Continued overleaf...*



Clockwise, from top left:  
Artwork is carefully integrated into the design; open courtyards are a key feature; Hopewood Park is a very open site

Heavy glass has been used extensively for its strength and to prevent heat loss while photovoltaic cells, air-source heat pumps and mechanical heat recovery systems have been widely deployed to generate green energy.

## Rewarding

Yeomans and his design team are understandably pleased with what's been achieved at Hopewood Park.

"What makes Hopewood Park unique is its location on a difficult but ultimately very rewarding site. Visually it's very different to hospitals I've seen before because it can be viewed as a whole from any angle, yet there's no distinctive front or back to it.

"I think we've demonstrated a good understanding of how the buildings react to the location and need to contribute beyond their immediate function to help bring a sense of community to the site."

He concludes: "The UK has gained a good reputation in designing mental healthcare buildings, particularly since the NHS began putting serious money into this area around 15 years ago.

"Other countries are closely looking at what's going here and we expect Hopewood to attract attention."

There is no distinctive front or back to the site



## Project details

**Architect:** Medical Architecture

**Client:** Northumberland, Tyne & Wear  
NHS Foundation Trust

**Contractor:** Laing O'Rourke

**Services engineer:** CAD21

**Structure and civils:** WSP

**QS & CDM:** Turner & Townsend

**Landscape architect:** Tony Danford and  
Medical Architecture

**Artist:** Artstop Studios

**MEP sub-contractor:** Crown House Technologies

**Roofing and cladding sub-contractor:**  
Barclay Roofing

**Timber frame supplier:** Stewart Milne

**En-suite pod manufacture:** Bath Systems

**Wood-effect composite cladding:** Dura Composites  
**Render:** Sto

**Roof and cladding:** Monier Redland

**Flat roofs:** Polyroof; Fatra

**Cladding:** Marley Eternit

**Integrated Panel Systems:** Laminform with Formica

**Suspended Ceilings:** Armstrong

**Aluminium doors, windows and curtain walling:**  
Polar, Kawneer

**Ironmongery:** Laidlaw

**Internal doorsets:** TDSL

**Vision panels:** Kingsway

**Screed:** Flowcrete UK

**Internal tiling:** Royal Mosa

**Carpet:** Desso

**Vinyl flooring:** Altro; Forbo

**Furniture:** Naughtone

**Fabrics:** Panaz; Kvadrat

**Wallpaper:** Tektura

**Specialist & fixed joinery:** T. Manners & Sons

**Sanitaryware:** Dart Valley; VRSG; Armitage Shanks



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An HRB20 hand/crash rail was specified for the project, as its unique two part cover design allows for mixing of colours to create visual contrast. In the corridor leading to the ward, a wood effect finish of the handrail cover creates a warm and inviting feel, while the crashrail colour matches door frames and complements feature walls. Inside the ward, a Charcoal colour of the handrail makes it a stand out feature for patients.

Heavy duty crashrails, corner guards and Acrovyn Sheet complete the scheme, which helps to extend the lifecycle of interior surfaces and creates a welcoming, more hygienic and easy to maintain environment.



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# An open and shut case for specifying the right product

Door closers may not be the first items that come to mind when specifying products for a healthcare project, but making the right choice can make a huge difference to the safety and comfort of the facilities. Mark Stonelake, Technical Services Manager at Samuel Heath, highlights factors that need to be considered



**F**ew areas of the building industry are as demanding as healthcare projects. Whether new build or refurbishment, the development of healthcare facilities place varied and exacting demands on the design and specification team as well as suppliers and contractors.

In addition to a variety of product performance standards, building codes, departmental guidelines and government recommendations, the designers also need to consider the particular requirements of a variety of specialist departments and the differing needs of patients, staff and visitors.

Like any building product, door closers need to be selected with care and rigour. They play a critical role in assuring the efficiency and effectiveness of fire doors. However, properly selected, they can also make an enormous contribution towards reducing risk, improving hygiene and enhancing the safety, comfort and well-being of patients and staff alike.

## Performance

Naturally, door closer selection has to start with ensuring that the product satisfies relevant performance standards. In the case of door closers, these cover fire safety and accessibility.

For fire doors, the door closer must carry the CE mark, indicating compliance with BS EN 1154, or in the case of a free swing device, BS EN 1155.

Accessibility is governed by BS8300 and Approved Document M (Section 3 in Scotland, Part R in Northern Ireland), which stipulates maximum forces required to open a door. It should be noted that these requirements are applicable to the entire door assembly and, therefore, door closers and other hardware cannot claim compliance in themselves. However, the performance and efficiency of the door closer will have a direct effect on the door's ability to meet the requirements.

Finding door closers to meet these requirements should not be difficult, as most reputable manufacturers will offer products that meet the minimum requirements.

## Added benefits

More challenging is the need to meet the additional requirements that might be imposed by the nature and use of healthcare facilities. These can be as varied as the many departments that provide care within the healthcare system.

*Continued overleaf..*



Concealed door closers are a preferred option for many anti-ligature and anti-barricade systems and (pictured below) are usually easier to keep clean



*'Like any building product, door closers need to be selected with care and rigour. They play a critical role in assuring the efficiency and effectiveness of fire doors'*

### Institutionalisation

There is a growing desire to ensure that all healthcare interiors are less institutionalised in appearance, but the principle is particularly valued in psychiatric care where safety and security need to be assured while providing a supportive, therapeutic environment.

Materials and finishes redolent of a hard, uncaring, functional institution need to be avoided. Choosing a concealed door closer can make a real difference; they do not have the unsightly, mechanical boxes and control arms of surface mounted devices, helping to create a less institutionalised and more pleasant interior.

### Safety and security

Psychiatric care facilities also need to be safe and secure, presenting minimal risk to patients and staff. Here again, door closer selection can be critical, particularly where anti-ligature and/or anti-barricade measures need to be incorporated.

Surface-mounted devices are often unwelcome, for obvious reasons, but concealed door closers are ideal thanks to the many benefits that ensue from the fact that the door closer is totally concealed when the door is closed, as well as their ability to be mounted at a low level in the door. Concealed door closers are a preferred option for many anti-ligature and anti-barricade systems.



The risk of ligature attachment can exist with any door installation that is not constantly monitored. Total concealment of the door closer obviously means that, when the door is closed, the concealed door closer poses no temptation or risk to patients and other users. Installation towards the bottom of the door further reduces the likelihood of use as a ligature point.

The Department of Health Healthcare Technical Memorandum, HTM05-02 recommends the use of free-swing, self-closing devices on patient bedrooms provided specifically for those suffering from mental illness and for people with learning disabilities.

### Vandalism

Door controls that have been damaged through vandalism can prevent a fire door from performing correctly, which, in the case of fire, can have serious, potentially fatal consequences. Concealed door closers present very little opportunity for the would-be vandal to damage its mechanisms.

### Hygiene

Jamb-mounted concealed door closers can also contribute towards cleanliness and hygiene, paramount considerations in health and care facilities. The door closer's concealed mounting means that it offers minimal surfaces on which dust and other potentially harmful detritus can accumulate, whilst the fact that it is installed at a low position in the door facilitates quick and easy inspection and cleaning.

### Making the right choice

Simply selecting a door closer on performance criteria alone will be insufficient for many healthcare projects, especially in more specialised areas of application. Meeting particular requirements, adding value to a project and enhancing the day-to-day lives of patients and staff relies on considering additional factors that can enhance safety, comfort and well-being.

In such circumstances, concealed door closers can prove invaluable.

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# Selecting furniture that's fit for a demanding world

Steve Smith, Sales Office Manager of contract furniture manufacturer Will Beck, looks at the challenges of providing the best possible choices in the ever-changing mental health environment



Are more people being diagnosed with mental health disorders today or are the taboos that have for so long stopped us from properly addressing these issues finally fading?

Either way, over the past decade we've seen a large increase in demand for furniture that's suitable for mental health and challenging environments.

When selecting products for mental health placement there are some very important aspects to consider as this market has a diverse nature. Not every patient suffers mental health conditions of the same severity, so, a 'one size fits all' approach is not suitable and should be avoided. For instance, you probably wouldn't go for a fully weighted and bolted down sofa in a low-dependency unit where patients simply are not considered a high enough risk to warrant it.

With this in mind, manufacturers of such furniture tend to offer different options and configurations for their products to

meet the end users' requirements. This means many aspects of a product's design have been considered, such as stitching all the upholstery into one piece, and eliminating gaps around cushions so that hazardous objects cannot be hidden. The use of anti-tamper screws also enables manufacturers to add an extra level of security to their products. Products can also be bolted flush to the floors and walls – again, reducing the risk of concealment.

## Dramatic shift

Throughout the past few years we've also seen a dramatic shift in the upholstery market, as more and more suppliers are now incorporating antimicrobial qualities into their fabrics and vinyls, giving infection prevention and control a massive boost.

When supplying products for use in clinical environments it is now standard that they meet the strict standards set out by

*'End-users prefer products to feature soft, rounded 'bull nosed' corners. Reinforced drawers are also popular'*



the Care Quality Commission and infection control teams within the Department for Health and the NHS. In addition there are requirements for contract strength upholstery to be BS 7176 Crib 5 Compliant and to be a minimum of 75,000 Martindale Rubs – classed as Severe Contract Strength.

Some key features of mental health furniture include a requirement for products to be anti-ligature designs. Reducing ligature points means patients are less able to attach items to hang themselves from. End-users prefer products to feature soft, rounded 'bull nosed' corners and cut-outs in place of handles. Piano hinges are preferred to standard hinges on doors to reduce the risk of finger trap and make it harder to rip doors off. Reinforced drawers are also popular, and there is one manufacturer of drawer runners that certify them to 100kg!

Another innovation to reduce ligature points inside a wardrobe is replacing a rail with a groove located on the top edge of a shelf enabling coat hangers to sit securely. Sloping tops are also favoured on doors and the top of cabinets as it reduces the risk of harm by preventing climbing.

## Golden rule

The golden rule when considering furniture for extremely challenging environments is to remember the product either needs to be secure and so heavy that it cannot be easily moved or so light that it can be hurled around the room without breaking or causing damage to a person.

One health trust we previously worked with advised us that patients should be able to beat each other with the product all day long without any harm coming to both themselves and the product!

If the past decade is anything to go by it wouldn't surprise me if, at some stage, we find ourselves being asked to base all health-care furniture on these standards.



*'Not every patient suffers mental health conditions of the same severity, so, a 'one size fits all' approach is not suitable'*





# Make a clean start with hands-free washroom controls

David Meacock, Technical Director at Cistermiser, reveals how introducing 'no touch' technology to toilet cubicles and taps can maintain a hygienic environment within healthcare applications and lower water and energy use

*'Healthcare washroom fixtures also need to be relatively robust, given their high levels of daily use'*

Infection control remains one of the great challenges for healthcare providers and washrooms are a notable case in point, not least because of the number of surfaces and user 'touchpoints' across which bacteria can be transmitted on areas such as light switches, manually-operated taps and toilet-flushing handles.

Visitors to hospital washrooms of course vary enormously, from patients to visitors, infants to elderly, staff to trainees and not everyone can be relied upon to wash their hands meticulously, particularly those who struggle to manage traditional fixtures and fittings such as a flush lever.

Healthcare washroom fixtures also need to be relatively robust, given their high levels of daily use. Something as simple as a broken flush mechanism, or even vandalism, can put a washroom out of action for days.

## Infrared

Installing or upgrading washrooms to address these issues is easily done, at relatively little cost. For example, toilets with manual flush handles can be quickly upgraded with the

addition of infrared (IR) sensors and hydraulic flush valves which can be fixed simply onto a standard cistern. The IR sensors ensure contact between user and washroom is minimised, either by a simple 'wave action' to flush, or a 'walk-away' option when the toilet automatically flushes once the user stands up.

IR sensors can work with urinal flush controls and are also used on taps – IR taps can be installed or retro-fitted onto existing basins at relatively little cost. These relatively simple measures mean hospitals can create a cleaner, easy-to-use facility that immeasurably improves the visitor experience. Meanwhile, by introducing no-touch mechanisms, hand hygiene should vastly improve and the potential for cross-contamination can be reduced significantly.

Facilities managers in healthcare establishments also have a responsibility to minimise water and energy use in washrooms – not least because of the high cost of water wastage. Taps may be left running – or simply drip – lights may be left on, while cisterns may have an unnecessarily high water demand. The older the building, the higher the likely water consumption, with the worst culprits almost certainly being the older urinals.



With no fitted flush controls they run continuously, regardless of the number of visitors to the facilities.

Flush control products as well as IR technology – as outlined above – can both deliver significant water savings. An IR-controlled WC cistern flush valve can save some 403,000 litres of water per year, based on five users flushing five times per day,

260 working days of the year. The financial savings in this instance, on average, would be around £975 a year, per WC cistern.

## Complete solution

For those keen to introduce a more complete solution to manage both water and energy expenditure, there is the option of installing the latest generation of ceiling-mounted, sensor-controlled systems. Visitors to the washroom are detected by sensors which then automatically switch on the lights, ventilation and the water supply.

These systems can be smart, using ambient light sensors to turn on the lights only when natural light levels are too low, again to lower energy usage. Furthermore, if no one has been to the washroom for a period of time – usually 12 hours – a valve will automatically open for 30 minutes to fill the cistern and rinse the urinals and pipework to help keep the washroom hygienic and clean.

They are low-cost, low maintenance, and highly-effective pieces of kit that are easy to install, either retrospectively into an existing washroom or specified within a new facility.

They also allow managers of large buildings such as hospitals, with two to three washrooms on each floor (gents, ladies and disabled), to control individual washrooms across different floors, switching these facilities on and off remotely.

*'There is now the option of installing the latest generation of ceiling-mounted, sensor-controlled systems'*

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## Economix range from danfloor



The Economix range, recently launched by **danfloor UK**, a leading manufacturer and supplier of commercial carpets, is proving a hit with designers and specifiers working within the healthcare sector. Manufactured using the 100 per cent sustainable Econyl Nylon yarn,

Economix aims to offer a practical yet stylish flooring solution for a variety of environments including Care Homes and Mental Health facilities. It combines innovative performance features including an anti-microbial coating, an impervious membrane, outstanding wear resistance and sound absorption properties with the latest trend colours.

## Shatterproof all-in-one integrated basin



New high risk shatterproof all-in-one integrated basin and backplate with anti-ligature spouts have successfully been supplied by **Robert Pearson & Company Ltd** to some of The Priory Hospital Group's accommodation for high risk mental health patients. The integral spouts can be controlled by your choice of anti-ligature no-touch sensors or anti-ligature electronic

touchpad switches to provide safe and easy to use water supply on demand. An optional water "lock-out" facility is also available to prevent abuse or flooding by the end user. There is also a full range of high risk shatterproof sanitary to include WC pans and bath backplates, all of which are ligature resistant, along with anti-ligature basin spouts for your own basins if preferred.



## Opening the door to dementia care

A unique development in the historic location of Bletchley Park, Flowers House is a new scheme of 34 specially designed flats that provide assisted living for dementia sufferers. **Reynaers** window and door systems are used extensively throughout the development which was brought about by a ground-breaking partnership between Aragon Housing, a subsidiary of Grand Union Housing Group, and Milton Keynes Council assisted by a successful application for £2.3m grant funding from the Homes and Communities Agency. Large floor to ceiling windows are a feature on communal areas maximising unobstructed light penetration into the heart of the building adding to the bright, light interior design. All external doors on the building are Reynaers Vision 50 door systems in single and double door configurations. Suitable for high usage in busy areas they offer stylish design combined with excellent performance and low threshold solutions.

## Dualway – for any anti-barricade door



**DUALWAY** Anti-Barricade door system from **Cooke Brothers** has already generated a huge amount of interest from a number of industry leading names in the specialist Custodial, Secure Units, Mental Health and Hospital Healthcare sectors. Dualway Door System provides unrestricted and immediate access into a room in a situation where a patient has barricaded himself or herself in. In every-day use the standard inward opening doorset operates as a

normal door, providing full 90-degree access using a purpose designed full height anti-ligature continuous hinge. In an emergency or barricaded door situation the door and inner frame can be quickly released enabling the complete doorset to swing outwards allowing immediate entry into the room.

## Portakabin Hire cranes final modules



**Portakabin Hire**, one of the UK's leading supplier of interim building solutions, has completed the first phase of construction of a major project to expand ward and theatre accommodation for orthopaedic services at Royal Stoke University Hospital. The £13.5 million contract – the largest

in Portakabin Hire's 52-year history – is for the provision of a complex 4,200sqm, two-storey building. The scheme will be completed in less than four months to increase capacity at the hospital, to the benefit of patient care. 124 steel-framed modules have now been craned into position in a complex operation which involved a 350-tonne crane on a highly restricted site immediately adjacent to fully occupied wards and close to a busy road.

## Living walls are good for healthcare

**Scotscape Landscaping Ltd** say plants are good news for healthcare environments. The inclusion of living walls in hospital spaces where cleanliness and space saving is key – brings a myriad of benefits which offer economic and healthcare benefits. Research in the US, UK, Norway and Sweden has shown that plants: clean the air by absorbing toxins; reduce the physical symptoms of stress and engender feelings of well-being; reduce dust pollution. In the 1980s, Professor Roger Ulrich and his colleagues in the USA and Sweden showed that hospital patients recovering from major operations suffered fewer post-operative ill effects if they had a view of nature, as opposed to a view of buildings, through their window. Patients were discharged from hospital sooner, had fewer post-operative side effects, such as nausea and headaches, needed fewer and weaker painkillers and were less demanding of nursing staff. Living walls and landscaping provide ambient, reflective, peaceful and healthy spaces to patients, staff and visitors – offering a stress reduction and an aesthetic wow factor.



0208 254 5000 [www.scotscapelivingwalls.net](http://www.scotscapelivingwalls.net)

## Colourful hardware for Welsh care home



A newly refurbished care home near Abergavenny features nylon door hardware from **HOPPE UK** to great effect. Different coloured hardware has been used on each floor of the Glaslyn Retirement Home to help residents orientate themselves. The hardware schedule was put together in response to a tight brief to help keep

residents safe and secure. As part of the refurbishment of the home and the construction of a new extension, HOPPE nylon pull handles, kick and finger plates plus door stops and escutcheons were fitted on more than one hundred doors.

01902 484 400 [www.hoppe.co.uk](http://www.hoppe.co.uk)

## Winchcombe Place feels like home with Polyflor



**Polyflor** safety flooring was used to help create beautiful, homely interiors for the award-winning Winchcombe Place care home in Newbury, Berkshire. The European Oak 3347 shade was chosen to create a welcoming, inspirational and comfortable atmosphere which fitted in with the eclectic style of each of these communal areas. The

flooring's replication of natural materials and homely appearance helped to create a stylish environment that complements the use of historical artefacts on display. These vintage items are designed to reflect the local history of the site and community as well as offering visual cues to aid reminiscence for dementia residents.

0161 767 1111 [www.polyflor.com](http://www.polyflor.com)

## Partnering with world-class mental health unit



© David Churchill

Stylish, design-led and robust health-care furniture has been supplied by **Knightsbridge Furniture** to the new Kingfisher Court mental health unit in Radlett. Kingfisher Court day rooms have been populated with Hula dining tables from Knightsbridge Furniture's 'Challenging Behaviour Collection',

which combine contemporary styling with strength and stability. The tables are complemented by Harvey upright armchairs, with exposed wood in a Walnut finish and upholstery in waterproof faux hide.

01274 731442 [www.knightsbridge-furniture.co.uk](http://www.knightsbridge-furniture.co.uk)

## Yeoman Shield Leads the way



**Yeoman Shield** was proud to supply Guardian Handrail, incorporating signage, to a pioneering scheme by Bradford Teaching Hospitals to provide a dementia friendly environment in their hospitals. As part of the refurbishment, which involved the use of art, colour and signage to help dementia

patients to navigate their way round the hospital, Yeoman Shield were approached to supply a handrail that would also act as a directional guide. The Guardian Handrail to corridors on level 1 & 2 of The Horton Wing, was supplied in a Dusty Grey colour with contrasting accessories in Mid Grey to highlight the corridor openings to doorways and lifts.

0113 279 5854 [www.yeomanshield.com](http://www.yeomanshield.com)

## BHC Furniture has exclusive supply on a new generation of design led, patient seating



**BHC Furniture** has exclusivity to supply the design led range of Titan Healthcare patient chairs which are at the forefront of a new generation of antimicrobial chairs. Designed closely with healthcare professionals, the chairs are a unique range of easy clean, antimicrobial touch point products, with no split lines or cavities which trap dirt, making the quick and thorough removal of dirt and bacteria the priority. Each product has a unique, non-porous, one piece construction which is easy to wipe clean and also incorporates a patented silver antimicrobial additive which provides continual antimicrobial protection running to the product's core. Protecting the product and user between cleans, even if superficially damaged. The range is made up of an adult armchair, adult and paediatric side chair in a simple design and in a choice of easy colour and made of non-porous polypropylene, glass fibre mix, for maximum strength. All chairs conform to ergonomic standards to provide comfort and added support. Each chair is available in a choice of colours to suit the environment, with a large selection of colours available for the ward identification system. "Furniture plays a key role in the spread of infection in healthcare today. This unique range from Titan Healthcare is centrally focused on this issue," said Peter Bright, MD, BHC Furniture.

0207 264 1945 [www.bhcfurniture.co.uk](http://www.bhcfurniture.co.uk)

## NHS commissions low carbon biomass heating system with Rural Energy

Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust has chosen biomass technology supplied by **Rural Energy** to heat its new £40 million mental health facility 'The Harbour', in Blackpool. The new biomass boiler has helped The Harbour project meet the high standards set by BREEAM to deliver a sustainable and low carbon building with a long future lifespan. In addition, the Herz BioFire 600kW boiler will greatly reduce the facility's energy bills whilst also providing a significant income from the government's RHI scheme. In alignment with the Trust's commitment to using low carbon technologies, Rural Energy has worked closely with NG Bailey, the M&E contractor on this project, to understand the Trust's scope and expectations. Providing expert advice and guidance since the beginning of the project, Rural Energy specified a bespoke biomass solution that included a Herz BioFire 600kW biomass boiler and a giant underground fuel store for the state of the art facility. In partnership with NG Bailey and Glosfume, the installation began in February 2014 and incorporates the largest fuel feed and store that Rural Energy has ever installed. The massive 157m<sup>3</sup> fuel store was specified as part of a complicated design process and will reduce the number of fuel deliveries needed, but more importantly, will also reduce potential disruption to residents of the facility.

0203 189 0676 [www.ruralenergy.co.uk](http://www.ruralenergy.co.uk)



# PFI Extra Care scheme benefits from Schöck



**A** £14.4 million, three-storey PFI Extra Care complex at Knowsley, Merseyside, is benefiting from a speedier build time using off-site manufacturing that integrates

Isokorb structural thermal break units from Schöck with the Hollowcore system. Bluebell Park Extra Care Facility homes, being built for Knowsley Housing Trust, is a two block development with 122 two-bedroom apartments. Many of the apartments feature spacious balconies, so combatting thermal bridging is critical. Quite apart from heat loss, condensation can cause structural problems and worse, lead to mould growth, with possible implications for residents in the form of respiratory problems and dermatitis. One of the most effective countermeasures on the market is the Schöck Isokorb structural thermal break. Specifically the type KS14, for concrete-to-steel connectivity is installed at Bluebell Park, in conjunction with the Hollowcore floor system. The precasters broke out selected cores and cast reinforcement bars in their works and then fixed the KS14 units to a template which matched the broken out Hollowcore. The complete modules are then

supplied to site, dropped into position and the broken out Hollowcore filled with in situ concrete. The Hollowcore has full length voids, so there is a huge weight saving over floor slabs of equivalent thickness and strength, resulting in transportation and material cost efficiencies. With the slab sizes on the project being typically 1200mm wide x 4m long, they are faster to install and provide an immediate working platform for following trades. In addition to the Hollowcore benefits, the Isokorb type KS14 offers its own verifiable performance values as well. It provides BBA Certification, LABC Registration – and comfortably exceeds the requirements of BRE IP1/06 and Part L of the Building Regulations. Here the temperature factor used to indicate condensation risk (fRS1), must be greater than, or equal to, 0.75 for residential buildings, which is comfortably exceeded by incorporating the Schöck product into the design.

01865 290 890 [www.schoeck.co.uk](http://www.schoeck.co.uk)

## Changing places in the Healthcare Industry



Hospitals are failing to provide proper facilities for thousands of out-patients and visitors, yet that could be transformed simply by installing appropriate toilets. To help estates and facilities managers understand the need, the requirement and the criteria, **Clos-o-Mat** has published a

white paper: Provision of Changing Places Accessible Toilets in the Healthcare/Hospitals Industry. Available for download from the company's website [www.clos-o-mat.com](http://www.clos-o-mat.com), the white paper covers the rationale behind a Changing Places toilet, quantifies the need to provide such a facility in healthcare establishments, and covers legislative and 'good practice' guidelines.

0161 969 1199 [www.clos-o-mat.com](http://www.clos-o-mat.com)

## Crown Paints puts colour under the spotlight



Crown Paints has produced a comprehensive guide to help specifiers get the full picture on the role colour can play in healthcare environments. Balancing a highly visual focus with in-depth guidance, the 48 page 'Healthcare Colour Book' includes a range of useful features designed to bring shades to life in hospital and healthcare environments. The information includes a comprehensive overview of subjects including colour and dementia, the Equality Act – and details of how emotions can be affected by different shades. It also includes a comprehensive library, which showcases a variety of palettes in different areas. The guide is available for free download at Crown Paints' Specification website.

0845 034 1464 [www.crownpaintspec.co.uk/Literature](http://www.crownpaintspec.co.uk/Literature)

## Anti-climb downpipe covers

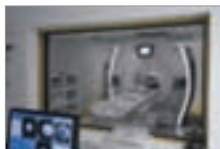


**Contour Casings** has introduced a comprehensive range of anti-climb downpipe covers. Precision engineered from 2mm aluminium, they can be powder coated to any colour to blend in with the building exterior or create a contrasting statement, and can be warranted for up to 25 years. The range included chamfered and bullnose designs and sizes

suit cast iron, plastic and aluminium rainwater and soil pipework. They are also available with access doors to enable rodding without having to remove the cover. The pipework protectors can be used in isolation to cover the lowest 2.5m or 3m of the downpipe, or as a whole system.

01952 290 498 [www.contourcasings.co.uk](http://www.contourcasings.co.uk)

## New shielding for MRI scanners



Radiation shielding manufacturer **Envirotect** has recently launched RF Shielding and Magnetic Interference Shielding for MRI Scanners to complement an already successful range of Radiation Shielding products. Envirotect's ISO9001 certification recognises its commitment to manufacturing

and installation of its Radiation and RF Shielding products to the highest possible standards. From its head office which is situated in the UK, Envirotect operates throughout Europe and internationally. With a flexible approach to manufacturing and a skilled workforce, Envirotect can tailor its expertise to create bespoke radiation shielding solutions to the highest possible standard.

01525 374 374 [www.envirotectltd.co.uk](http://www.envirotectltd.co.uk)



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