Healing environments and organization in three Healthcare Buildings

The Rikshospital
St. Olav
Nordland
Hospitals and town planning:

The design of a large hospital depends on principles of town planning as much as architecture.

Orientation and comprehension is dependent dividing the hospital into comprehensible building volumes, with a human scale and with identifiable functions.
The question is not what needs a central position, but what can be placed away from the centre.
We all agree that our environment influence us.

Research has already proven that daylight and sound has an impact on patient care.

This means that good architecture, through humane scale, variation in design, color, materials and integration of art and nature, is important assets in patient treatment.
At the Rikshospital glass covered streets, open arcades and bridges tie the different building volumes together climatically to one “hospital town”.

Glass covered streets in the Rikshospital
Within the “hospital town” architecture should:

- Induce feeling of safety through scale and ease of orientation
- Have equality in ownership to turf between patient and staff in patient and treatment areas
- Create a platform for dialogue between patient and staff
- Inspire the patient to wish to return to life

Glass covered streets in the Rikshospital
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Horizontal communication, technical floors and low buildings adapted to the site

The Rikshospital, sections
First floor at the Rikshospital
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Second floor at the Rikshospital
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Third floor at the Rikshospital
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- We trust more in what we can see than what we are told
- We remember pictures better than words and numbers
- Good architecture can tell us through uniqueness of spaces where we are and where to go

Unique space in the Rikshospital and Rome
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To feel safe in an environment we need to:

- Know where we are
- Understand where we are going
- Feel certain that we can find our way back out
- Experience belonging.

The Rikshospital, patient environments
An institution does not necessitate institutionalized architecture

- Institutionalized architecture is alienating
- Good architecture is not institutionalized
- Good architecture is including and open
- Good architecture visualizes more than function
- Good architecture visualizes architectural intentions

Central art, pool and bridges
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- Good architecture mirrors a creative process integrating building design, landscape and art
- Good architecture satisfied humane need for variation
- Good architecture reflects empathy for the humane function
- Good architecture is self explanatory
- Good architecture mirrors the time and age to which it belongs.
- Good architecture has geographical heritage

- Good architecture gives good hospitals

Tower room and children playground
Medplan believes that:

◆ Good hospitals should appear through architecture, design art and contact to nature as buildings built by people for people.

Because:

◆ The essence of the hospital is mutual space for people caring about people.
At St. Olav the hospital is divided into building volumes representing clinical centers in an urban town plan.
Six clinical centers spaced around a central town square. It provides a comprehensive building volumes. The challenge is to interconnect Functions as surgery and intensive care used by all.
Bridges interconnect surgical areas and main radiology

Patients are moved from their bed areas to treatment by one lift movement

St. Olav interconnected surgery on first floor
In this urban situation the internal courts becomes the soul of each clinical centre, the unique space to which patient and traffic areas relate.
General and intensive care beds are all in single bed patient rooms.

Groups of eight beds are placed around a central nursing station.
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The upper 3rd, 4th and 5th floors contain the bed areas.

Groups of 8 beds are centered around nursing Stations, ensuring patient - staff contact.

Color and art give Uniqueness to help orientation and identification.

The rooms are all single bed rooms with possibility for overnight stay for relatives.

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Women and Children Centre at St. Olav
In Bodø the existing hospital is to be rebuilt

The original beautiful hospital building with its park becomes the new entrance.

Almost like a heart transplant, a new modern treatment building is inserted centrally, between the original building and the existing bed tower which is to be modernized.
New and old are separated by a glass covered street giving easy access and orientation.

The treatment areas can be placed centrally in a new building.

Beds are placed in the existing high-rise.
A glass covered street and court separate the original building and the new treatment building.

Together with the new open vestibule and glass elevators facing the hospital garden it creates a unique space, gives identity and self explanatory traffic.
The clinical organization

From the open vestibule you reach treatment areas with their respective bed areas on the same floor.
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The existing bed tower will be expanded and completely reorganized, based on six groups of eight beds around open nursing stations on each floor.

New facades in glass and natural stone integrates the bed tower into the larger composition.
At Medplan we believe that the hospitals environment, through good architecture, design and art, can contribute significantly to the patients healing process as well as staff satisfaction.

Through our projects we believe to have proved that there are no functional reasons why hospitals cannot be good architecture.

Last, but not least, we do not accept that good architecture and design need to increase building costs.

In our experience from the Rikshospital, good architecture, only reduces maintenance costs.

To med there are no excuses for poor architecture in hospitals, only lack of architectural competence.
Thank you for your attention