

7 HEADS ARE BETTER THAN 1

WRITING GUIDANCE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF HEALTHCARE DESIGNERS

AVANTI ARCHITECTS CONTRIBUTES THE HOSPITAL CHAPTER OF THE METRIC HANDBOOK

The Metric Handbook is the go-to handbook of planning and design data for architects and architecture students. Covering basic design data for all the major building types, it is the ideal starting point for any project. For each building type, the book gives the basic design requirements and all the principal dimensional data, combined with succinct guidance on how to use the information and what regulations the designer needs to be aware of.



The day-to-day pressure of project delivery offers few opportunities to step back and review why we follow particular design approaches.

We used the unique opportunity of writing the Metric Handbook's chapter on hospital design as a catalyst for a series of discussions between six of our principal healthcare designers with collective experience spanning 25 years of transformational healthcare design, in order to bring clarity to our working methods, and identify the key strands that connect very different design challenges.

We then invited Christopher Shaw of Medical Architecture to draw upon his years of wisdom to define the principles of design for Mental Health.

Through a series of collaborative workshops we set out to:

- 1 Provide a systematic briefing for students and young architects getting involved in a healthcare project for the first time (assuming no prior knowledge of the reader);
- 2 Offer a concise yet comprehensive background for healthcare design;
- 3 Address political, demographic, practical, constructional, whole-life and qualitative aspects of hospital design through text diagrams and data;
- 4 Describe how resolving the functional needs of a hospital requires knowledge of procedure, clinical adjacencies and flows of people and goods;
- 5 Show that hospitals are complex technical facilities but are also public and civic buildings with a very human element at their heart;
- 6 Share that the secret to achieving a high quality facility is to balance the 'art of care' with the 'science of treatment';
- 7 Emphasise adaptability and sustainability as key in addressing the fast-changing nature of healthcare.

Avanti Contributors:



Christiane Anders



Claudia Bloom



Vicky Braouzu



Duncan Finch



Mary Reid



Mariangela Zanini

Other Contributors:



Christopher Shaw

of Medical Architecture
contributed the section on design
for Mental Health



AVANTI
ARCHITECTS