

# THE ART OF HEALING: The Evolving Role of the Hospital as a Community Anchor and Social Activator

PROJECT  
**Michael Garron Hospital Patient Care Tower**

ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATION  
**B+H Architects, in association with Diamond Schmitt Architects**

AUTHOR  
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LOCATION  
**Toronto, Canada**

SIZE  
**650,000 sq.ft (60,387 sqm)**

ANTICIPATED COMPLETION:  
**Fall 2023**

SUSTAINABILITY  
**Registered and targeting LEED v4 BD+C Silver certification**

DELIVERY  
**DBF (Design, Build, Finance)**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Michael Garron Hospital (MGH) Patient Care Tower is the first step in a physical, technological and operational transformation in which the activities of the hospital span beyond its role as a 'place' into one where it engages the community virtually and physically as a network of place and service. This major renovation and expansion will revitalize the former Toronto East General Hospital as a welcoming and inclusive community gathering place – engaging and shaping community wellness in a new way as its design moves from an 'inside out' to an 'outside in' approach.

## COMMUNITY CONTEXT

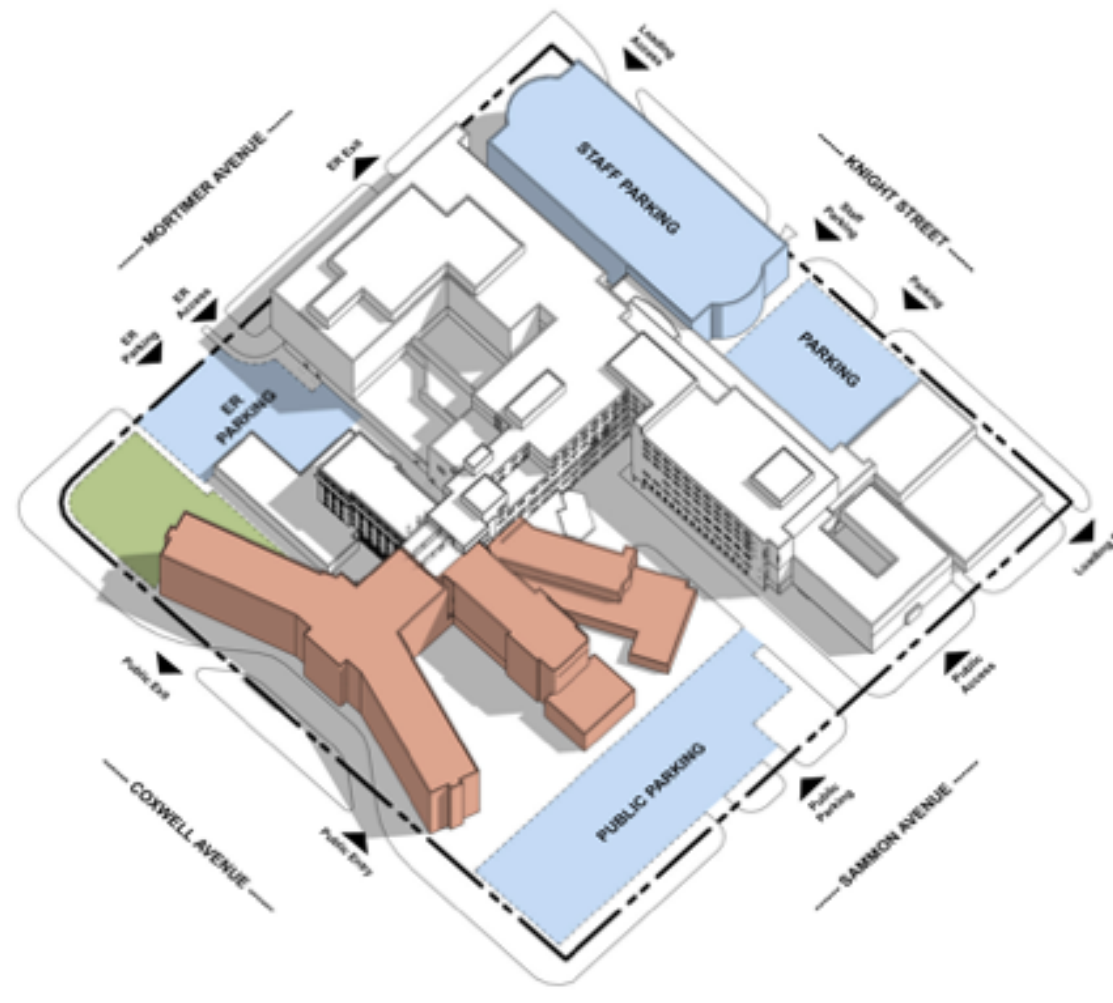
Located on a main thoroughfare in Toronto, Canada's East York region, Michael Garron Hospital has been a landmark in this ethnically diverse community for generations. As the community's sole acute-care hospital, it has maintained an equal prominence in residents' hearts and minds as the location of births, deaths, and other significant life events.

The hospital serves a low-income population, immigrants and visible minorities, a growing senior population and has higher than average numbers of children and youth. It is also home to many wealthy neighbourhoods. These profound differences can result in health needs that vary greatly.

Established in 1929, the hospital was intended to be a community amenity. Over time, as the surrounding population continued to densify and diversify, it expanded to meet more acute care needs and as a result lost its integral connection with the local community.

Now, with a new brand identity and strategic vision, Michael Garron Hospital is re-establishing itself as an anchor, poised to build a strong, healthy and thriving east Toronto community where people reach their full potential—physically, mentally, spiritually and socially. The Phase 1 New Patient Care Tower Project is the first phase in achieving this vision.

## SITE PLAN OVERVIEW CURRENT STATE

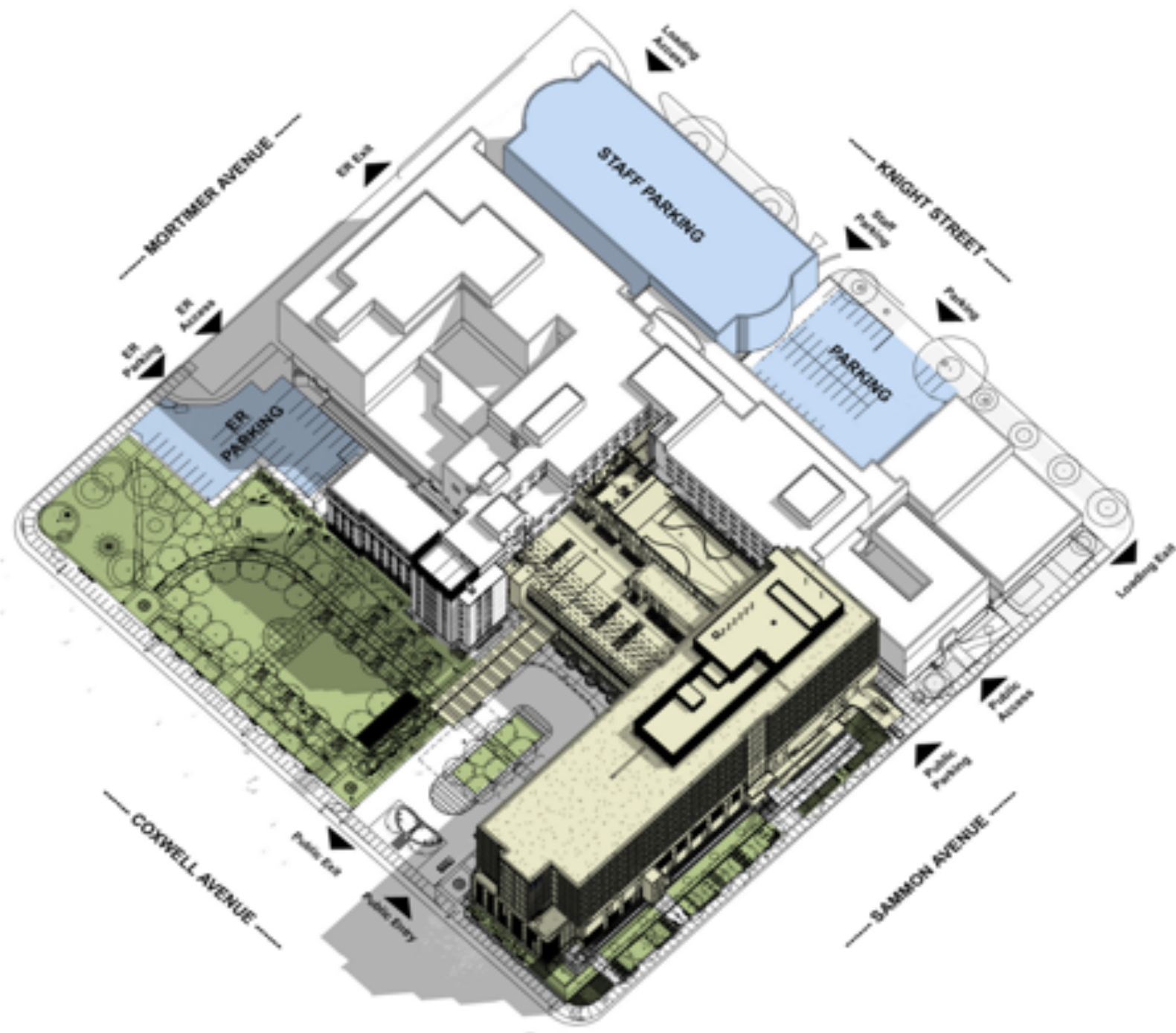


## STRATEGIC VISION: KEY PROJECT PRINCIPALS

The new Michael Garron Hospital (MGH) Patient Care Tower is guided by the following project principals in accordance with MGH's mission vision and values:

- Impart a **sense of healing** while conveying a welcoming **environment for patients, staff and visitors**
- Foster a positive environment and **play a significant role in the life of the community** surrounding it
- **Support leading practice in patient-centred healthcare delivery** while maintaining operational efficiencies from both a workflow and a facility perspective
- Become a place of **healing, learning and working**, to embrace many facets of life

## SITE PLAN OVERVIEW FUTURE STATE



## DESIGN STRATEGIES: COMMUNITY INTEGRATION + ENGAGING THE PUBLIC REALM

### CREATE A SENSE OF PLACE

- Exterior landscaped spaces
- Contextually sensitive massing that is visually integrated with the surrounding community
- Use of materials referencing the historical and existing architecture of the site, while clearly creating a renewed identity
- Series of interconnected outdoor and interior spaces to connect hospital with surrounding neighbourhood

### WELCOME THE COMMUNITY

- Reposition main entrance to be open, transparent and highly visible to community
- Use light and glass as universal elements to enhance the sense of open space and heighten connections to the public realm
- Use colours, textures and materials to establish a comfortable domestic environment
- Create opportunities for the community to connect and engage within the hospital
- Integrate heritage elements into the design to provide a tangible reminder of the history of the hospital

### DEFINE PUBLIC GREEN SPACES

- Leverage existing mature trees and shrubs to create a welcoming green oasis
- Landscape is arranged as a series of outdoor rooms, interconnected yet subtly demarcated by landscape features
- Creation of a central Great Lawn, an expansive formal lawn enclosed by white oak and tulip trees and an Event Lawn, a paved terrace with table seating and shade trellises. A circular pavilion for outdoor events separates and serves the two spaces.
- A tree-lined pedestrian promenade sweeps across the Great Lawn and Event Lawn, connecting the main arterial road and public transit access
- Retain the existing mature trees in The North Garden and circular Rose Garden planting area
- A children's play area is tucked into a sheltered corner of the Great Lawn



## GROUND FLOOR CLINICAL PLAN

- Major department locations maintained
- Strengthened front/ back of house separation
- Clear wayfinding and visual connections
- Reduced phasing complexity
- Community rooms, education area and meeting rooms located on public corridors



## BUILT FOR FUTURE FLEXIBILITY

Rather than betting on one future, the flexible, adaptable and modular design of the MGH structural, mechanical and electrical systems will readily accommodate future change. Building expansions and reconfigurations, changes in service delivery models and integration of new technologies can be facilitated through strategies such as:

- A large clear-span structure
- Centralized vertical service shafts
- Easily expandable soft support spaces
- Loose-fit clearances for mechanical and electrical systems.

Standardized room types that repeat throughout the facility with consistent furniture, equipment and supply locations will also help streamline facilities management, improve staff efficiency, reduce fatigue and reduce medical errors.



## SECOND FLOOR CLINICAL PLAN

- Major department locations maintained
  - Entrance and planning of APU reversed for wayfinding and efficiency
- Strengthened front/ back of house separation
- Clear wayfinding and visual connections