

## **THE LADY CILENTO CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL**

Conrad Gargett

Research, Consultation and a focus on the child in design

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### **Background and Introduction**

During the past 10 years Conrad Gargett has designed a number of hospitals of varying types and in a diversity of locations; the most recently completed of these is the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital (LCCH), in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, designed in collaboration with Lyons (Conrad Gargett Lyons).

LCCH

- Is a Queensland Health facility, a public hospital
- Provides principally tertiary, quaternary services
- Forms the hub of a state wide tertiary network of paediatric services
- Has 359 inpatient beds, provides for 80,000 presentations per annum in its Emergency Department and includes a mental health unit
- Has a project value \$A 1.5 billion, all in a single building on an inner urban site in Brisbane Queensland.

### **Purpose**

The expectations surrounding the realization of the project were based in concern for the well-being of patients, their families and the staff; the much vaunted, patient centred care, here given tangible expression. This paper provides insight into the values underpinning the project and how they translated into a design process to achieve an outcome which is already receiving acclaim. While the thrust of the paper deals with this major hospital designed to deliver high level or leading edge pediatric care, the design was informed by our other projects and in turn has informed our subsequent work. Aspects of these are woven into the narrative and serve to illustrate the interdependence of some of the major themes of the conference. Our work in regional hospitals informed the requirement for dealing with aboriginal communities; consideration of ethnic culture informed in part our working in China recently and the response to change and advancing technology has developed from initial work here.

### **Methods**

Briefing and planning for the hospital was supported by a process of applied research which expanded the conversation with stakeholders beyond their experience and this, together with a wide-ranging and sophisticated consultation process allowed the boundaries of health care design to be explored.

The inner urban context required considerations beyond the site, connection to adjacent parklands, master planning in the precinct to accommodate a research building and a centralized energy facility. The design harnesses the healing power of nature – light ventilation and connection to gardens and landscape all in a joyful and supportive environment. Intuitive wayfinding limits many everyday stresses and the vibrant arts program: visual and performance, provides welcome diversion.

### **Outcomes**

The outcome is a building, sustainable at all levels, environmentally, economically and socially. It includes energy efficiency measures and mechanical and passive; it provides a significant level of urban renewal and it connects with and is embraced by its community.

## Conclusion

From the outset there was an implicit understanding that this hospital would be a special place. An enlightened client team and engaged stakeholders allowed the design team to realise this objective. The building is a significant piece of architecture nestled into its context; delivering leading edge functionality.

It does this in a joyful but nonetheless sophisticated environment which communicates with its primary clients the children at a visceral level.

**Key words:** Values, research, consultation, healing, context

## Images

Some images of the project to provide an introduction are included below.



