

## Wider application

This new hospital provides a practical demonstration of the way that contact with nature can help people to recovery more quickly, regain balance, calmness and health. This has always made intuitive sense and now there is scientific evidence of the health benefits which accessible greenspace can bring. This project can serve as a model and an inspiration for future hospitals and health care centres and in addition, the grounds of many existing hospitals could also be greatly improved, to the benefit of patients, families and staff, by adopting a more green and leafy approach within and around the building.

Adoption of these principles is further advanced in the USA, where much of the pioneering research has been carried out.

## Further information

### National Urban Forestry Unit

This leaflet is one of a series produced by the National Urban Forestry Unit.. NUFU is a charitable trust and it provides a national focus for the exchange of information and good practice in urban forestry. If you would like further information on other case studies, or if you have examples of good practice to share, please contact:

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### Project Team

David Reilly is a doctor, teacher and scientist and also an artist. As Project Director at the Glasgow Homoeopathic Hospital, he championed the bridging of these worlds with those of architecture and design. Jane Kelly is Lead Artist on the Design Team of the Homoeopathic Hospital, where she designed and led the making of the garden. They can both be contacted through

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### Further reading

Anon (1993) *The Healing Windows Focus*, June, 36  
Jarman D (1995) *Derek Jarman's Garden* Thames and Hudson  
Laws B (1999) *Artists' Gardens* Ward Lock London  
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Ulrich R (1984) *Views through a window may influence recovery from surgery* Science 224:240-421  
Ulrich R (1997) *A theory of supportive design for healthcare facilities* Journal of Health Care Design, USA : Centre for Health Design

(Other references and images on [www.adhom.org](http://www.adhom.org) and [www.axisartists.org.uk/au/ref3010.htm](http://www.axisartists.org.uk/au/ref3010.htm))

Photographs: Jane Kelly, Glasgow Homoeopathic Hospital

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# Urban Forestry in Practice

## Hospital greenspace as an aid to healthcare



CASE STUDY 33

# Hospital greenspace as an aid to health care

## Introduction

There is growing evidence, thanks to authoritative research by the American landscape architect Professor Roger Ulrich, that access to natural greenspace can aid the healing process. Nevertheless, most hospital environments in the UK are still hostile, inorganic - dominated by cars and concrete. The building of a new homoeopathic hospital in Glasgow offered the opportunity to make green, leafy surroundings an integral part of the healing environment for patients, families and staff.

## Specific examples

### Project name and location

The **HOMOEOPATHIC HOSPITAL GARDEN, GLASGOW**, UK  
Grid reference NS 255 668

### Project partners

- Jane Kelly, Lead Artist & Building Team
- David Reilly, Project Director
- North Glasgow NHS Trust
- The Glasgow Homoeopathic Hospital
- Ad Hominum
- Macmon Architects
- The Friends of the Homoeopathic Hospital
- Scottish Homoeopathic Research & Education Trust
- Healthcare Arts, Dundee
- The Incorporation of Gardeners of Glasgow

### Project objectives

- To “create a place of beauty and healing” by providing the hospital with an inviting outdoor extension to the indoor healing environment.
- To create restorative views of nature through all ward and consulting room windows
- To complement the powerful architecture of the building with a changing seasonal landscape

*The principles of homoeopathy have inspired the design of the hospital landscape*



### Site description

The south facing site is triangular in shape, 2 000m<sup>2</sup> in area and lies between Gartnavel General Hospital and Hyndland Station in Glasgow. The land had previously been used as a railway siding and then as a waste dump. Preparation for hospital construction included site capping and removal of contaminated soil.

*The view from the ward into the surrounding landscape is considered to have a beneficial effect on patients, their families and the hospital staff*



### Design process and implementation

The vision of a new homoeopathic hospital always included the need for an associated green space. Early consultation with hospital users confirmed that this should be easily accessible, visible from within the building and provide a complementary organic contrast to the modern architecture.

The L-shaped building is very light and airy, with all wards and consulting rooms overlooking the south-facing garden. A wide white path (a metaphor for water) flows between the colourful plantings of trees, shrubs, flowers and grasses. It links all the patient spaces and helps to define distinct areas of the landscape. The colour scheme for the planting is inspired by the principles of homoeopathy: subtle dilutions of white, ochre, lavender and terracotta, with additions of yellows, reds and greens as the colours become more intense from north to south. The artist-designed project was implemented by a small, highly skilled professional team.

The landscape includes a 25m long living wall of willow, a water feature and curved raised plant beds built of blue glazed brick and seating.

### Results

Patients repeatedly describe how the garden-hospital complex has a calming, healing effect. Almost all of them refer directly to the garden and some of them attribute the main therapeutic benefit to the landscape. Especially important has been the beneficial effect on terminally ill patients and their families. Staff sing its praises, people even sit in the landscape in the rain, and a family of foxes has made its home in the garden.