



Harmony Hospital, Kaduna Perceptions for the Integration of Open Spaces in Maternity Hospital Designs

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Introduction

Hospital architecture has long recognised the therapeutic impacts of open spaces, whether indoor or outdoor, on patients' recovery processes. It has become critical to not only provide open areas with therapeutic effects for patients, but also to establish a link between the interior of health care facilities and landscape characteristics on the outside. A health facility, as a structure dedicated to man's well-being, should provide a peaceful environment for recovery, allowing patients and their families to regain their health.

Description

By there is an increasing focus in hospital architecture for a 'patient-centred' design that incorporates the physical environment (open spaces) in the form of courtyards, front porches, and vegetative land cover to improve patient perception and health expectancies within this context. Therapeutic open spaces exist to provide physical environments and organisational cultures that help patients and families cope with the stressors of disease, hospitalisation, medical visits, the healing process, mourning, and, in this case, health issues related to pregnancy. Hospitals have been chastised for their poor spatial characteristics and lack of care for the patient, who is meant to be at its heart. According to Dejana because a patient's perception while in a hospital is frequently distorted, limited, and influenced by various external factors, the patient requires more support than in everyday circumstances, which can be provided by providing open spaces for therapeutic purposes.

Maternity hospitals, often known as lying-in hospitals, are facilities dedicated to women throughout their pregnancy, childbirth, and recovery. Maternity hospitals care for mothers and their newborn babies in either a maternity section inside a general hospital or as a stand-alone facility (Health Information and Quality Authority). Maternity hospitals also provide clinical training in midwifery and obstetrics. Maternity hospitals began as urban-based charity shelters in the nineteenth century to assist the unfortunate, homeless, and working-class impoverished population, who had a high infant mortality rate. Improving maternity care for this population was one strategy for resolving the problem. Maternity hospitals have long been seen as an important element of the urban fabric. Maternity hospitals, like other public structures, have long been seen as an important element of the urban fabric that is available to the public. This new approach to planning and creating both interior and outdoor environments has resulted in a change in the public perception of hospitals, with patients no longer feeling isolated or separated from society [1-3].

Green space, which includes any vegetated ground, structure, water, road, or geological feature within buildings and on the boundaries of towns, is referred to as "open space" in civic space, which includes squares, market places, and other paved or hard landscaped areas with a civic role. Available spaces may also be described as land that has been dedicated for leisure, play, recreation, or sport and is open to the public. Open areas can be utilised for passive or active purposes. Passive open spaces are used for lounging and relaxation, whereas active open

spaces are utilised for sports, exercise, or active play. In this case, the use of passive areas is more beneficial. Buildings and structures with open spaces have a huge influence on the environment. Open spaces, according to Ulrich are vital components of structures, but bad design can result in abuse and underutilised regions, undesired behaviour, management strain, and other issues.

The awareness of the favourable influence of open spaces, natural surroundings on patients' healing process has been evident in hospital architecture, according to Dejana during an examination of the evolution of hospitals throughout history. The first evidence of strategic therapeutic/healing gardens may be found in European early monastery hospitals, where patients' cells were encircled by colonnaded courtyards and had unrestricted access to them.

Hospitals, like other public buildings, have grown to be viewed as crucial aspects of the urban landscape that are open to the public. This is a novel approach to internal and external space planning and design resulted in a shift in the hospital's public image. For both safety and medicinal reasons, open areas to be integrated into the hospital environment should be visible from patient wards, internal interaction spaces, and hallways [4-5].

Conclusion

Because it provides an unbroken engagement with the outside world, visibility out and through is also psychologically healing, as it reduces the sensation of solitude and claustrophobia. It may also excite a patient's interest in the surrounding surroundings, leading to one of two outcomes instantaneous use or a resolution to visit it later

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