



Alder Hey Children's Health Park

BDP together with Laing O'Rourke won the bid to design the New Alder Hey Hospital in June 2012.

Alder Hey was founded in 1914 and was a world pioneer of paediatric anaesthetics. It is currently one of the largest specialist children's hospitals in Europe providing care for over 200,000 children each year. The project involves building an entirely new 274 bed hospital on a park, before demolishing the existing hospital and recreating the park in its place.

The wonderful opportunity presented by the parkland site led to BDP's vision of a 'hill in the park' concept. This overwhelmingly responds to and embraces the trust's aspiration for the hospital and the park as an integrated whole for the therapeutic benefit of the children, as well as their families and staff.

The project has been designed to capture children's imagination, communicating fun and surprise, rather than follow a typical hospital form. On approach to the new Alder Hey, the first impression will be of a gentle grassy hill rising out of the park, a soft welcoming form, its scale no higher than the existing mature trees. Its undulating profile will be instantly recognisable, even from a

distance, creating a striking gateway for Liverpool. Integration with the park is reinforced by the building's plan. Three open fingers of clinical accommodation radiate out from an atrium concourse that forms the hospital's public hub alternate with gardens, intertwining the building and the landscape.

Project director Ged Couser said; "Our 'fingers follow function' strategy has demonstrated itself as a flexible and effective approach as the scheme has evolved through a significant number of user engagement meetings and allowed us to fine-tune the clinical layouts and optimise adjacencies to an unprecedented level whilst maintaining the original architectural concept."

Designed in consultation with patients and families, the Princes Foundation and national Arts for Health, the new hospital will open in Autumn 2015.

The project not only benefits the local community but the wider regional community as patients are brought in by helicopter in from Cheshire and North Wales. The difference the project will make is that we know from our extensive public consultation with patient and family groups that children are actually looking forward to the building's opening so that they will have a chance to visit it. Its 'curvy swervy' shape (their words not ours) and extensive wildflower meadow roof will make that first visit a unique experience.