

Healing architecture in medical education

Healing architecture is a movement at the interface of architecture and medicine that focuses on the health-promoting factors of architecture and interior design of health care facilities on patients.

Ulrich's (1984) paper, which is now a classic article, is frequently cited, in which he compared 23 patients after cystectomy whose rooms had a view on some trees, with 23 patients after the same operation, whose window went out onto a brick wall – the "tree patients" had shorter hospital stays and fewer postoperative complications.

Since Ulricht's article, the topic has increasingly gained attention and has been dealt with in a variety of ways (Adams 2017, Fricke et al. 2019). It has been described how architecture students come into contact with the topic (Schmitt-Sausen 2017), but good examples of how the topic can be treated in the field of medical education or interprofessionally are still a desideratum.

Key features of our concept

architects about good examples of contemporary hospital architecture

Elective seminar for undergraduate medical students (N=15)

During two onsite days the whole group visited three hospitals and engaged in discussion with architects.

Collaborative project of the Universities Basel (SWI) and Freiburg (GER) – in 2020 Karlsruhe (GER) will be joining with students of architecture

An online reader with introductory texts enabled students to build a knowledge base for reflecting their impressions and experiences during the visits.

Self-directed learning:
Students visited hospital
buildings in teams of two
and prepared respective online presentations.

An introductory lecture gave some orientation on the philosophical and aesthetic dimensions of the terms atmosphere, space, and felt body (Leib).

Further case studies



Basel (CH) University Hospital for Children

• The Children's Hospital Basel is a splash of colour in the middle of the city and it is a successful example of how users' interests in planning and construction can be taken into account.



Aachen (GER) University Hospital

The University Hospital Aachen was visited as an extreme example of modern hospital architecture – the students described their impression as a "repair shop" and "machine room".



Arlesheim (CH) Hospice

• It does not always have to be spectacular new buildings – some students were particularly interested in the atmosphere of this hospice near Basel, which is housed in an old private villa.

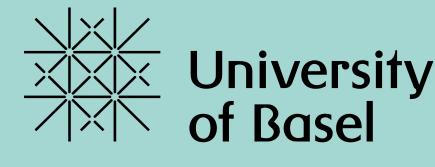
Student feedback

It was nice to break out of the monotony of studying and get the chance to capture spatial and sensory impressions in relation to my future work and to discover new ways of thinking and perspectives.

I found that a more conscious way of building hospitals is an important trend. Basically, I was wondering which environment has a more healing effect than another.

Important were the conversations with persons from the hospital management or technical staff.

This has highlighted complementary, important points of view.



of Basel
Faculty of
Medicine

- REI

Contact: Michael Wilde (Basel/CH) michael.wilde@unibas.ch

Götz Fabry (Freiburg/GER)
Steffen Kammler (Rostock/GER)

Rainer Schaefert (Basel/CH)
Wolf Langewitz (Basel/CH)



