

Future Visions for Healthcare, Housing & Work

HEALTHCARE ARCHITECTURE



**New Operation Building,
Östra sjukhuset, Göteborg**

Level: Advanced level, 22,5 credits
Semester: Oct 2015 — Jan 2016
5th yr fall: ARK261

Field / Department: 55 — Architecture
Grading: 3,4 or 5
Examiner: Professor Peter Fröst

CHALLENGING COMPLEXITY

Healthcare is a good example of a complex architectural commission. You are requested to create the highest architectural quality where you coordinate well-functioning layouts with a good patient and healing environment, efficient and good work-conditions and at the same time handle environmental sustainability and long-term usability. The speed of change in healthcare, combined with dialogue based planning traditions, creates challenges for architects to use dynamic briefing and design methods for yet unknown and variable planning objectives. Hospitals (as well as office buildings, universities etc.) have a demand for generality and flexibility, namely to be “future proofed” or adaptable to continuous change. Furthermore, in hospital design both the scale and the briefs are large.

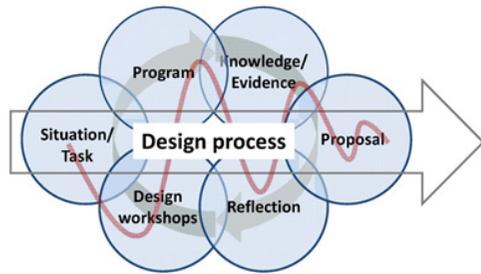
AIM

The students shall obtain general knowledge about and ability to design large scale, complex and sustainable buildings (healthcare) integrated into the surrounding environment and urban setting.

LEARNING GOALS

After completed course, the students shall understand and be able to:

- Critically reflect upon theories and history of healthcare architecture as a part of the professional, cultural and societal context.
- Design healthcare architecture that supports sustainable development from environmental, social and economic aspects.
- Work interactively with complex programming, combining spaces for care, patient experience, work environment, logistics and architectural systems thinking.
- Handle a design driven work method for complex commissions.
- Practically apply the concepts of evidence based design and healing architecture.
- Incorporate methods for user participation and involvement in the brief and design process.
- Apply concepts of “Future proofing”– generality, flexibility and adaptability.
- Integrate structural design and principal technical requirements that are essential to fulfill the goals of sustainability and future proofing.



Integrated model of teaching and learning in the Healthcare Studio

STUDIO CURRICULUM

The Healthcare Studio has a curriculum that is founded on a dedicated pedagogical vision. It combines explorative design exercises with analytical and systematic procedures, literature studies and organized reflection. The Studio works with context-rich “real” commissions.

PEDAGOGICAL PROCESS

The overall pedagogical approach in the Healthcare Studio is to see architectural design work and learning as model making and reflection in and on action. Emanating from this approach, three methodological strategies have been developed as a model of design learning in the Healthcare Studio:

1. Design learning as reflection in/on action
2. Collaborative design to support innovation and teamwork
3. Simplifying complexity by obstructing the perspective

The studio is organized in five phases with the purpose to put forward a clear and productive design process. It has a design driven approach for understanding and coordinating the complex assignment. Therefore three one-day design workshops are arranged. Interwoven with the design work runs studio themes established as study visits, lectures or literature seminars. Between themes are shorter events for reflections/evaluations/check points. The purposes of these are to ensure the input of other skills and issues such as critical reflection, theory and technology into the development of the design work. To stimulate the conceptual level it is important to work interactive and investigative with the program. Here we will lean on the parallel theme discussions and be inspired by different workshop methods.

THE COMMISSION

Each year a new application project is carefully selected. We work with commissions that are a part of actual “real” planning processes in one of the Swedish County Councils (landsting). A typical project is a new building or healthcare unit with a significant scale and level of complexity and therefore enough challenging. We enter in a phase where everything still is very open and we can nourish from the engagement and interests from the client and other stakeholders. The students projects will in this way have a chance to influence the client’s process and get opportunity to present their final proposals to a broad range of persons and actors.

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