

HEALING ARCHITECTURE

Margaret Metchev

At one time in our lives we will stay in a hospital. Whether it is in birth, death or sickness, hospital architecture will play a fundamental role in our lives. The costs of healthcare on society are huge and will rise as the world faces aging populations and an increased reliance on modern medicine. Architects will play a vital role in creating health care design that is sustainable, promotes healing, adapts to technological advances in medicine and places the patient at the forefront of their design.

My interest in the topic stems from a year working in hospital architecture. I realized that architects today are often assigned these type of projects under strict deadlines, tight budgets and from a very practical perspective. They often had very little knowledge of how the aesthetics and form of the buildings could impact the patient. The goal of my project is to question and understand how architecture can help someone heal.

The focus of my project is on Psychiatric Architecture. My project is the design of a specialized, non-acute, adult, inpatient and outpatient health facility. The facility is located in Montreal, Canada, on an empty plot, next to the General Hospital of Montreal. The facility is centrally located between the mountain, Mont-Royal and the city's Downtown, the two key points of the city. The building sits between the cross roads of the natural escapism of the mountain while looking on to a busy downtown, a reflection of the patients former lives. The building explores a new typology of Psychiatric Architecture, a community based care design that's main goal is relieve stress and promote a speedy recovery of the patients via the architecture, rather than the reliance of drugs. The building is an amalgamation of the home and the hospital.

