Health Care

- *Young Person's Mental Health Unit, NHS Trust, Colchester, Essex*
- *Grounds Renovation, St Nicholas Hospice, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk*
- *Sensory Garden for Children's Unit, Hinchingbrooke Hospital, Huntingdonshire*

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The Barn Cherry Tree Farm Mendlesham Green Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 5RQ
t: 01449 768828 e: team@e-l-d.co.uk www.e-l-d.co.uk ELD online photo library at www. elwoodlandscapedesign.smugmug.com

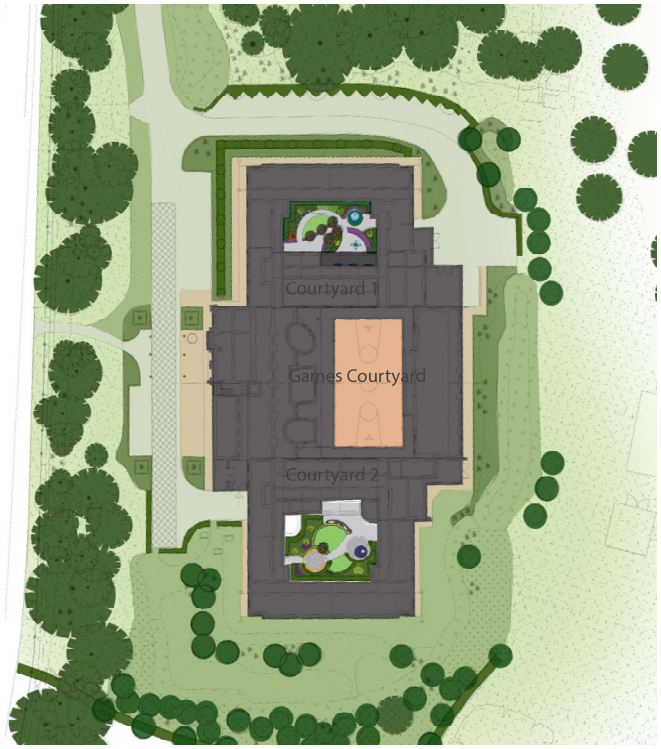
Medical ~ NHS, Young Person's Mental Health Unit

CAMHs Unit, Colchester, Essex

Completed Courtyard 1.

Main Entrance.

Entrance Photinia Tree.



Landscape Masterplan.

Photinia Avenue: Canopies above the Fenceline Offer Privacy to Bedroom Windows

Project Description

The site was developed to provide a secure unit for children & young adults who need mental health care. The new CAMHS (Children & Young Adult's Mental Health) Unit is set within the grounds of Severall's Hospital, which is a highly vegetated & tree covered former Victorian mental hospital.

Two separate wards, Intensive Care & Generic Care, wrap around three internal, secure courtyards. Two courtyards are designed as calming 'garden' spaces, allowing for contemplation & solitude, with planting, lighting, lawns, circular & meandering paths that provide for specific therapeutic, patient use; robust in style & free from danger, as there is a high risk of self harm by resident patients. A third courtyard provides an enclosed games court to encourage physical activities within a safe environment.

The aim was to create an innovative design across the internal & whole external environment, whilst integrating the building within the surrounding landscape; increasing permeability throughout the site when viewed from the building's interior and external public realm. The design intentionally avoids the traditional appearance associated with 'institutionalised' buildings, omitting the use of security fences & encouraging positive visual interaction with the local community.

A picnic area for use by staff is located outside the building with water attenuation swales surrounding the building; placed sympathetically to avoid impact on existing trees, to ensure a 'best fit' design within the site. The whole scheme has achieved a BREEAM 'excellent' rating.

Project Particulars

Client: North Essex Partnership ~ NHS Foundation Trust
Architect/Project Manager: KLH Architects
Main Contractor: ISG
Capital Value: £9 million

Completed Courtyard 2.

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Medical ~ St. Nicholas Hospice Grounds Renovation *Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk*

Volunteer Team, with Ruth Elwood, left of picture.

Plant Delivery.

Outdoor Dining Area.

Pergola Seating Area & Smoking Room to Accommodate Beds.

Completed Courtyard Water Feature & Raised Border.

Completed Woodland Paths with Access for Beds.

Project Description
St. Nicholas Hospice provides practical, medical and spiritual support to local people and their families living with life threatening illnesses. ELD was able to offer the Hospice a £1,000 charitable donation of 'free consultancy time', as part of their 10 year Anniversary Celebrations in 2009.

Following initial designs, ELD was later commissioned to develop detailed proposals, tender and contract management for improvements to their extensive grounds. The brief called for a renovation to paths; increased wheelchair and bed access through the woods and gardens; a new terrace, inclusion of a pergola and 'smoking room' for patients; a new water feature and raised border for vegetable growing to promote exercise and well being.

The Hospice benefited from ELD's supervising eye over a team of volunteers, who assisted with the final planting up of the scheme, which was completed in May 2011.

ELD Responsibilities
These include concept and detailed design; quantification & sourcing of materials; tender; contract administration and overseeing works on site, to include construction and planting.

Project Particulars
Client: St. Nicholas Hospice
Landscape Construction Value: £55,000

Garden Before Construction.

Garden After Construction with Raised Vegetable Growing Border for Wheelchair Access.

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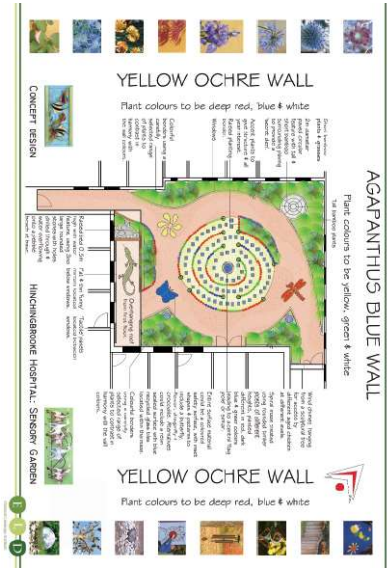
Medical ~ Sensory Garden for Children's Unit *Hinchingbrooke Hospital , Huntingdonshire*

"You have designed a dream garden for us, and we are absolutely delighted that you were able to see it again and how it is developing. We are all immensely proud of the Sensory Garden and are so grateful to you for producing such an imaginative design. You have managed to put so many features into a relatively small space and yet, somehow, the garden still feels very spacious and peaceful. I love being in it and I know that the patients, parents and staff on Holly Ward love it too."

Anne-Marie Hamilton (Chairman 'Dreamdrops' Fund-raising Committee



Colour Concept Presentation Board Illustrating The Courtyard Design.

Tactile Panel Image - Designed by Local School Children & ELD.

The finished Tactile Panel being unveiled by Christine Walkden.

Project Description

The site was developed to provide a sensory garden for a new Children's Unit at Hinchingbrooke Hospital, near Huntingdon. The sensory garden is low maintenance, centred around a spiral of coloured rounded timber posts of varying heights, leading to a centrally located flag pole, providing a vertical feature at the garden's centre.

The garden is designed to be visually engaging. The surface is formed from a colourful rubber safety surface with recycled glass stepping stones & animals, inset to add points of interest and stimulate the imagination. The central spiral feature is surrounded by borders of low maintenance, evergreen shrubs and herbaceous plants, which provide a contrast to the coloured walls that surround the garden.

A canopy overhangs from the first floor to one side, providing a covered, sheltered seating area. The Garden was opened by Sir John Major & a year later, children from a local school designed the tactile panel in a competition, which was erected under the canopy & opened in 2012 by the BBC One Show garden presenter, Christine Walkden. Across the courtyard, a stainless steel water feature has been located, which enables water to cascade over the surface into a base pool. This area has been designed as a calming 'garden' space, allowing for contemplation & solitude, fun & quiet adventure.

Lighting has been incorporated around the edges of the paths that demarcate the routes & uplight the planting within the surrounding borders.

Project Particulars

Client: The Rotary Club of St. Neots, St. Marys and the Huntingdonshire NHS Primary Care Trust
Funded by Charity donations

Courtyard Before Construction.

Courtyard After Construction.

Opening Ceremony.

Tactile Panel Designers at the Opening.

Courtyard Opening by Sir John Major.

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