

DALKEITH HEALTH CENTRE, DALKEITH



LOCATION: DALKEITH
CLIENT: NHS Lothian
VALUE: £3.2M
SIZE: 1750M ²
COMPLETION: SEPTEMBER 2011
SERVICE: ARCHITECTURE
SECTOR: HEALTHCARE
CONTRACTOR: INTERSERVE
STRUCTURES: CURTINS
SERVICES: HULLEY & KIRKWOOD
COST CONSULTANT: TURNER & TOWNSEND

The new Dalkeith Health Centre replaces the former Dalkeith Medical Practice which sat on the same site. The client, NHS Lothian, required a contemporary NHS facility providing the latest community facilities, including GP practice, podiatry, physiotherapy, midwifery and other specialties. An additional item to the original brief required the inclusion of an Old Persons Welfare Hall within the new building. The client also required a highly sustainable building to comply with standards for new health buildings in Scotland.

The site sits within Dalkeith town centre and is surrounded by residential properties to the North, North East and West, Lidl shopping centre car park to the South East and a public car park to the South West. The town centre is a designated conservation area. The site sits at the South Western end of St. Andrew Street on a bend in the street which gives a visual connection both North and South. The site is connected visually to the High Street via Tait Street.



The design philosophy is based on the desire to respond to the gables of the surrounding buildings within the conservation area. This is reinforced by creating a strong gable frontage to the 3 storey wing, which links with the High Street along Tait Street, giving a visual link back to the health centre.

The curve to the 2 storey clinical wing responds to the change in direction along St. Andrew street to give a strong street frontage. It also allows the building to be set back at the junction of the 2 and 3 storey wings to create a sheltered entrance which sits back from the road.

A number of glazed features punctuate the front elevation. The first is the window to the

welfare hall which allows a generous amount of daylight into the deep plan. This also projects beyond the line of the wall to give an identity to the hall. The second glazed element signifies the entrance to the health centre and allows daylight to flood the 2 storey entrance area. This sits back within the depth of the wall, re-enforcing the sense of separation from the road and enhancing privacy for users. All the windows to the clinical areas are set within deep openings to enhance the sense of privacy from the street.

A simple palette of 2 contrasting colour renders denoting the 2 storey and 3 storey wings has been utilized. This responds to the render on the majority of existing buildings along St. Andrew Street. White glazed brick is

used sparingly to re-enforce selected openings to the 3 storey wing, as well as the base course to the building. The roof is natural slate to respond to the existing buildings within the adjacent conservation area.

The client, design team and main contractor worked collaboratively to provide a sustainable building. The low energy design incorporates natural ventilation, a ground source heat pump providing heat to the underfloor heating system, and a highly insulated building envelope. In addition, the building incorporates a rainwater harvesting tank and solar thermal panels to provide hot water.