

Arras / 2008

# Arras General Hospital

Press Release



groupe-6

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Having won a public commission in 2002, Groupe-6 renovated and extended Arras General Hospital (CHA), completing the work in 2008. The first new generation institution to open as part of the French government's 2007 hospital modernisation plan, the CHA is emblematic of a new generation of healthcare facilities combining modernity and humanity.

## A hospital in the city

Located near the cities of Lille, Douai and Lens, Arras General Hospital is at the heart of an urban community comprising 21 towns and 80,000 residents, and provides health services to an area home to some 230,000 people. With nearly 2,000 care staff, Arras is the headquarters of the Pas de Calais department ambulance service, which is the fifth-largest service in France due to the density of its activities, its management of emergency services for the cross-border Eurostar connection and its heliport.

Redevelopment of the site began with the rebuilding of the psychiatric facility and the nursing school, but the project managed by Groupe-6 was the flagship project on the site. It involved the renovation of facilities totalling some 14,000 m<sup>2</sup> and the creation of 60,000 m<sup>2</sup> of new surface area, including 560 hospital beds.

At the time of the competition, the CHA project included keeping and renovating the existing low-rise building as a home for administrative activities. The two new buildings are simple, compact structures home to the accommodation blocks and the theatre and clinical support block. Their architectural styles stand out from and engage with the existing buildings, which are now the smallest element on the site. They rebalance the whole complex: by playing on the effects created by differences in thickness and reflections, the dual skin of the accommodation building « dematerialises » it ; in contrast, the smaller theatre and clinical support block, oriented north, is clad in black resin.

The lobby, a hub in the very heart of the complex, provides a link to the existing elements. The entrance to the hospital, moved to the south, reorients the whole of the site in the direction of the historic city.

In order to limit phasing for this complex construction project on the existing site, the new buildings were inserted in the spaces between the existing buildings, without hindering the hospital's activities. All medical activity was transferred in February 2007 once the new buildings had been completed and delivered, thereby freeing up the existing buildings for renovation and demolition, completed in 2008.

## A connected hospital, a light and airy hospital, a sustainable hospital

The «Connected hospital» concepts, embedded in large modular, upgradeable blocks, were arranged so as to meet the requirement to let natural light penetrate into the heart of the buildings. Large, fully-glazed arcades link directly with the gardens and serve as general thoroughfares. From the inside, views alternate between the gardens, patios and lakes.

As a result, the complex of buildings forms a whole which is integrated into the green spaces by the interplay of structures, transparencies and reflections.

To improve care, CHA offers patients high-quality accommodation services :

- An «inverted» bedroom layout: with a new shower room layout, set in the façade, the bedroom door is large enough for medical trolleys, which can also be prepared in the room with the door closed for greater privacy and a better patient/carer relationship,
- Spacious reception areas, «patient-family» meeting points and thoroughfares in public spaces, with a marked enlargement of corridors and accesses.

The main lobby is lit with thin strips of light, the intensity of which varies according to the time of day. The colours of the furniture in reception and the signage regularly reflect the palette of materials: these splashes of colour enhance the feeling of space in the interiors, areas of transition and interaction.

«Sustainable hospital»: the hospital's south-facing accommodation block benefits from passive solar energy thanks to its dual skin. In winter, the sun heats the red concrete/brick modules of the shower rooms adjoining the bedrooms, located behind the glass.

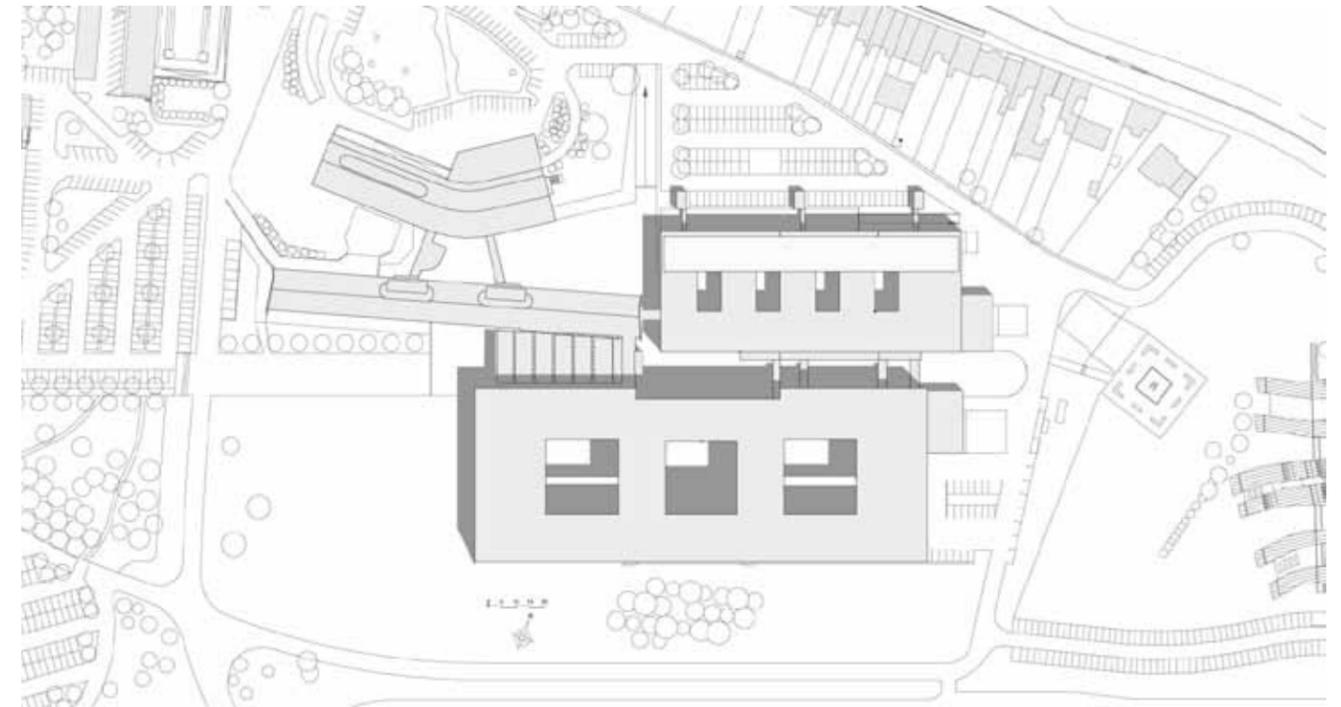
The energy stored up during the day is then distributed during the night. In summer, the air intake vents in the wall open. The building changes skins to breathe more easily.

## Innovative features

The objective for the redevelopment of the hospital was to improve the patient/caregiver relationship by rationalising logistics and using high-tech information and communication solutions, including:

- Arranging departments into hubs: construction of a single theatre and clinical support block concentrating a variety of surgical services in a single space; limiting transfers for staff and patients; facilitating access to accommodation; bringing treatment units and admissions closer together.
- Centralising and automating logistical functions: grouped together in a shared catering, pharmacy, linen and waste processing basement hub. Products are transported to the hubs using AGV (Automated Guided Vehicle)-aided logistics, considerably reducing the distances travelled by care staff.
- Spacious, comprehensible thoroughfares, facilitating the flows of patients, care staff and visitors.
- The creation of a smart network meshing the architecture with information and communication technologies (ICT). Communication is becoming essential to the continuity of care and the traceability of all medical interventions, administrative tasks and any other intervention linked to patient well-being. An IP address, a powerful WiFi network (500 routers, 1,500 PCs) and multimedia terminals in each bedroom guarantee the flow of information.
- Adaptation of treatment units to meet therapeutic needs: the geometry of the treatment units can vary thanks to the continuous design of the layout and «full IP» support. The units can thus be «re-programmed» to integrate nurse call systems, contact with administrative staff, etc.

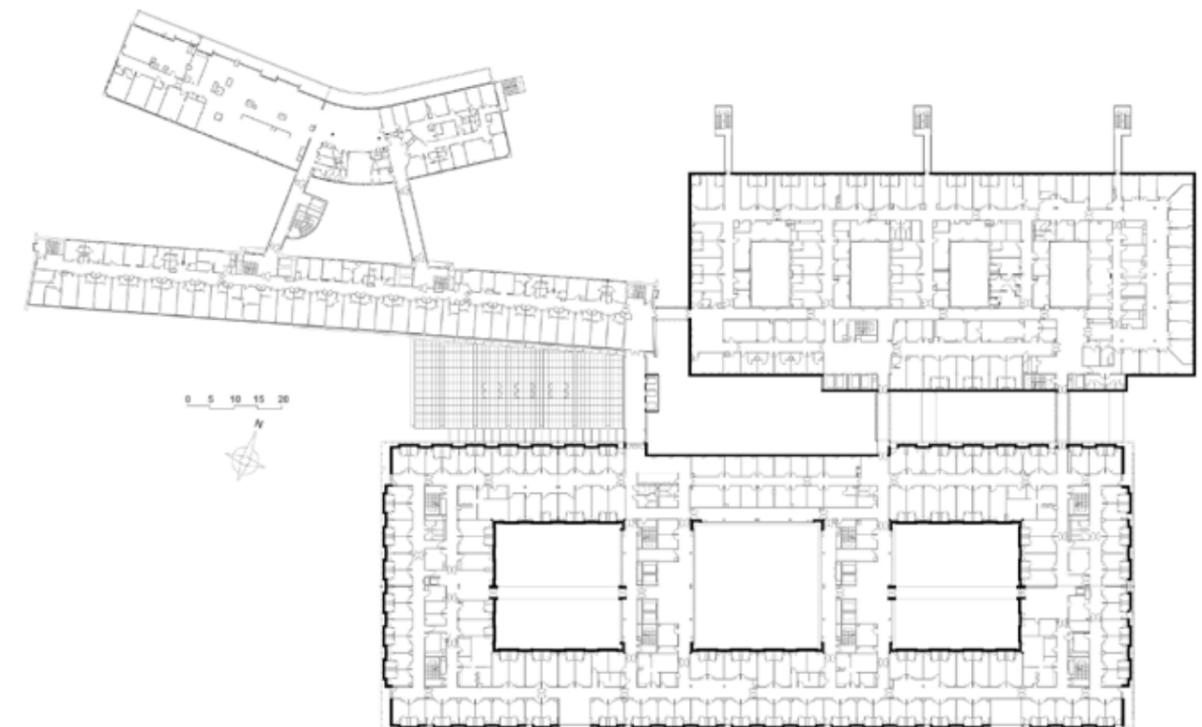
This full system earned CHA the 2008 Grand Prix in the Information Companies and Society Awards.



Site plan



South elevation



Second floor : Accomodation



The dual skin of the accommodation block is brought to life by reflections from the trees in the gardens. Thermal, climatic, but also architectural: it speaks a language which engages with the existing buildings and reshapes the whole site.



Spacious, contemporary interior spaces to improve reception conditions for patients and visitors.







## Informations

**Project :** Hospital: redevelopment of the site including construction of a new hospital and refurbishment of existing facilities.

**Site :** Arras

**Client :** Centre Hospitalier d'Arras

**Team :** Groupe-6 architectes, lead consultant (Denis Bouvier)

**Engineering TCE :** Jacobs France

**Quantity surveyor :** Groupe-6

**Landscaping :** Pierre-Yves Jorcin

**Net surface area :** 75,000 sq m net floor area, of which 61,000 sq m new build, 14,000 sq m renovation

**Number of beds :** 560

**Construction costs :** € 98,000 M (December 2003 value)

**Schedule:**

June 2002: wins public commission

End 2003: start of works

January 2007: delivery of new buildings

December 2008: delivery of renovated buildings

Photos : pages 8-9, 11-12-13, 14 © Renaud Araud; cover + pages 6-7, 10 © Meffre et Marchand

## Groupe-6, a team of architects covering a range of disciplines

France's 3rd leading architectural agency, with some 180 employees from 15 different nationalities, Groupe-6 is a multi-disciplinary structure made up of architects, urban planners, interior designers, landscape designers and economists.

For 30 years now, Groupe-6 has been designing complex, large-scale projects that fall in line with their flawless aesthetic approach and optimal functionality, keeping within the budget and deadlines given.

Groupe-6 is a flexible, multi-disciplinary architectural agency, which can adapt to the wide range of requests it receives from its clients and contractors. It has expertise in sectors of activity ranging from business-related urban planning, hospital design, new technologies, research and education, sport and leisure, culture, and finally, urban planning.

In the interests of its client and the end project, Groupe-6 ensures it works with the world's best specialists and opens its teams up to expertise from outside the agency, in the areas of engineering, landscaping, stage design, lighting, acoustics, and more. The agency's teams are run by experienced project leaders able to tackle complex and demanding programs.

Groupe-6 is committed to designing projects that respond to the issues of sustainable development and eco-responsibility. The agency pays particular attention to the quality and sustainability of its architecture and, with respect to its constructions, takes a preventive approach to the ecological and energy-related issues.

For over 10 years, Groupe-6 has been working overseas, accompanying its clients in their real estates ventures and exporting its savoir-faire. Already involved in projects in Europe, the Ukraine, the Middle-East and the Magreb, Groupe-6 competes in the most dynamic geographical areas.

Certified ISO 9001 in 2009, Groupe-6 aims for excellence in what it does, focusing in particular on four key values :

- Consider its clients as real partners, offering permanent, trusting and constructive dialogue about their projects. Respect, attentiveness and dedication are all highly valued by the agency.
- Invest in bold projects that push the agency to be creative, thorough and practical. Groupe-6 values its clients projects, giving them a privileged place among its concerns.
- Ensure a collective mode of operating, striking the right balance between innovation, consultation, methodology, and decision-making priorities.
- Provide clients with architectural solutions that offer the best compromise between functional requirements, flexibility and sustainability: essential conditions for the quality and durability of its projects.

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