

10 June 2011

CITY PLAN STRATEGY AND DEVELOPMENT
LEVEL 1, 364 KENT ST
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Attention: Chris Outtersides

Dear Chris

RE: Graythwaite Rehabilitation Centre

The new Graythwaite Rehabilitation Centre is located within the existing Ryde Hospital site. It has a main street access from Fourth Ave with a service connection via a link into the existing hospital infrastructure.

The new facility is contained within a subdivided lot, with Fourth Ave to the north and the Ryde Hospital site to the east, west and south.

The main entry lobby is fronting Fourth Ave. Here the identity and main public entry is formed.

The mass and scale of this entry element responds to the bulk and scale of the remainder of the street. The street frontage of the site is narrow at some 38m. The building has been set back further from the front boundary than the adjacent buildings. The awning projects out further to form a canopy. The entry canopy provides protection for pedestrians and vehicle drop off. This includes requirements for NSW Ambulance service drop off.

The building also remains within the same bulk and scale of the other buildings within the hospital site.

The site rises back from the street some 7-8m or 1 and 3/4 stories. The lowest of the floors, Ground Floor, is at street level. It contains the main entry reception, plant and parking. The accommodation is spread over 2 levels. The lowest of these levels, Level 1, remains recessed partially below the ground at the rear of the site.

CONTEXT AND ORIENTATION

The design has responded to a number of site conditions, physical restraints and orientation.

The building is divided in plan into 2 basic areas, a treatment/consultation area staffed predominately by therapy staff and a ward area staffed predominately by nursing staff.

The treatment and consultation area is located toward the street frontage and main entry of the building. The ward area is located behind this. The Bedrooms have been orientated to face north and south in the preferred orientation to maximise the solar aspect.

Day living and dining areas are located between the treatment and ward areas. The dining and terrace has a northerly aspect and on level 1 gains access to the terrace areas. This is an important social aspect of the inpatients treatment and care. It has been given pride of place in the fulcrum of the 'L' shape and is a pivotal point between ward and treatment areas.

The sleeping areas have been located well setback off the street front for the quiet aspect. The day living areas are also well set back from the street, sitting discreetly behind the treatment/therapy areas as well as the existing Mental

Health Building. This also helps to separate the inpatient functions and areas from the existing dwelling houses on Fourth Ave.

MATERIALS

The building materials have responded to the context of the site both physically and historically. The building design and materials also has some reference to the original Graythwaite site and building context.

The hospital site and surrounds contains numerous low rise brick structures ranging widely in age. Also within the context of the site there are 2 historical structures, namely Denistone House and The Stables. The south eastern portion of the Graythwaite Rehabilitation Centre sits adjacent The Stables.

The materials proposed for the Graythwaite Rehabilitation Centre have referenced both the brick and sandstone structures.

The facades and external treatments have been designed to respond to the 2 main functional areas of the building; consultation therapy areas and inpatient ward areas.

The entry, treatment and consultation areas consist of glazing and metal panels. The windows are predominately continuous here. This responds to the nature of the work space behind and the need of more natural light. There is also a combination of projections and shading to offer a better environmental performance to the building.

The ward areas have a combination of brickwork panels and smaller windows to the bedrooms. Across the 2 areas there are numerous colour panels use to add interest and texture to the building. The colours used respond to the warm colours of the brick and sandstone as well as the leafy green context of the site.

CONCLUSION

The design responds to the contextual issues of the site and surrounds and goes on to provide a best practice inpatient rehabilitation centre linked into the Ryde Hospital services.

Yours faithfully,
nettleontribe



Bernard Waller

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