

MAGGIE'S CENTRE BARTS

London, United Kingdom



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6534 BGSF



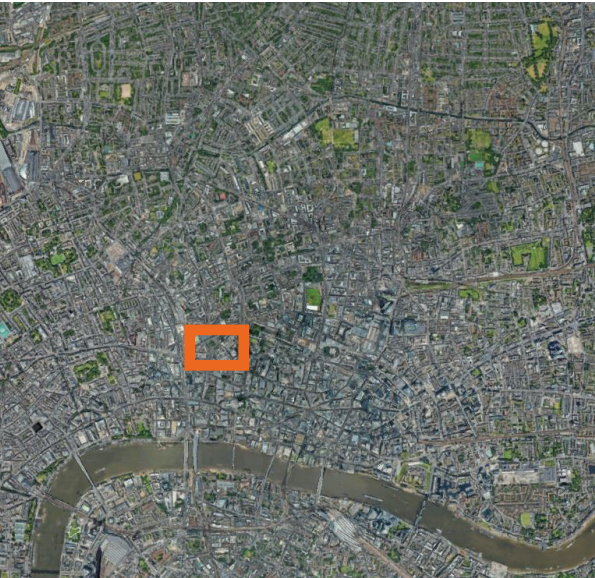
OWNER/AFFILIATION  
Maggie Keswick  
Jencks Cancer Caring  
Centres Trust



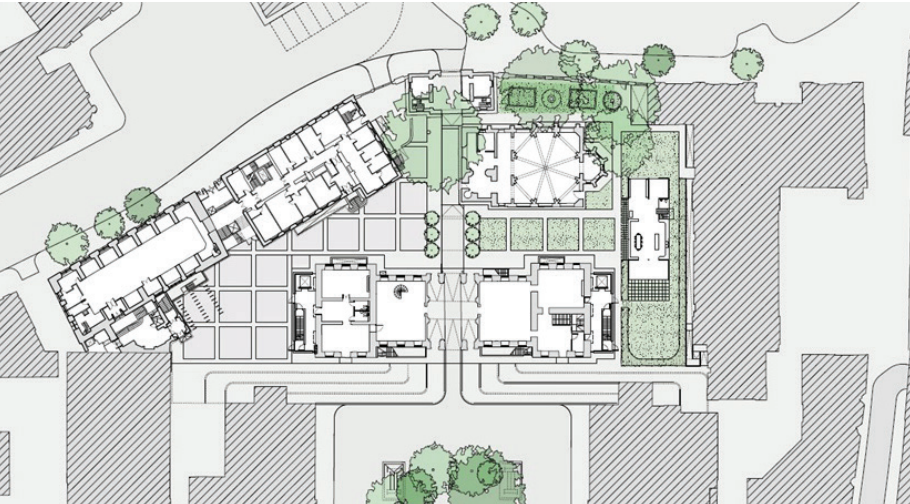
ARCHITECT(S)  
Steven Holl  
Architects



COMPLETION DATE  
2017



LOCATION



Site Plan



SITE MAP

ABOUT | DESIGN INTENTIONS

The site in the center of London is adjacent to the large courtyard of **St Bartholomew's Hospital**. Founded in Smithfield in the 12th century, the hospital is the oldest in London and was founded at the same time as the St Bartholomew the Great Church in 1123. Rahere founded the church and hospital "for the restoration of poor men." Layers of history characterize this unique site, connecting deeply to the **Medieval culture of London**.





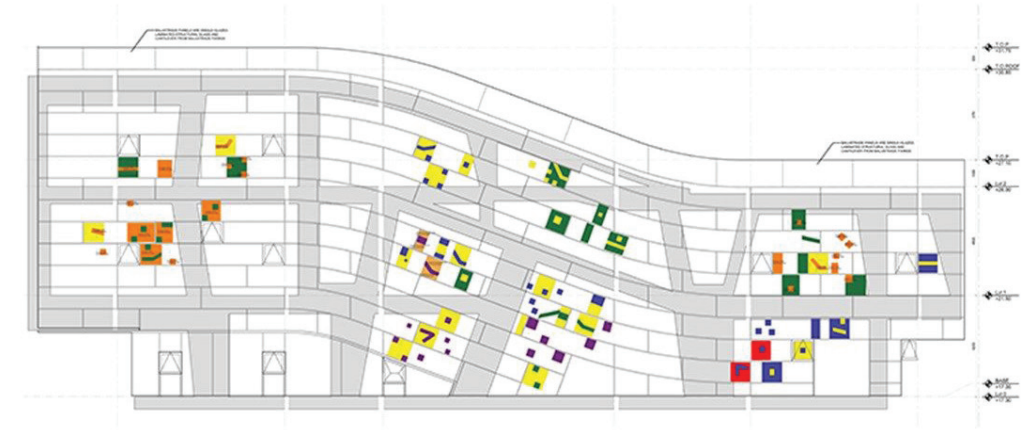
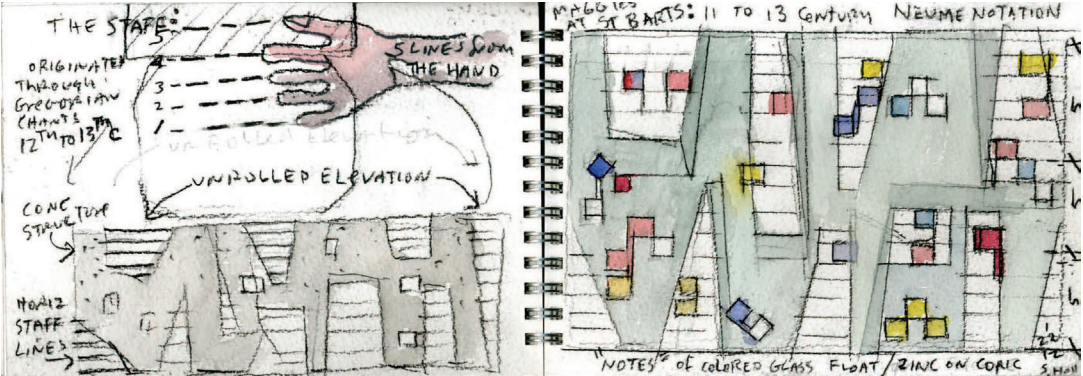
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citation from design concept

## VESSELS WITHIN VESSELS

The building was envisioned as a “vessel within a vessel within a vessel.” The structure is a branching concrete frame, the inner layer is perforated bamboo and the outer layer is matte white glass with colored glass fragments recalling “neume notation” of Medieval music of the 13th century. The word neume originates from the Greek pneuma, which means ‘vital force.’ It suggests a ‘breath of life’ that fills oneself with inspiration like a stream of air, the blowing of the wind. The outer glass layer is organized in horizontal bands like a musical staff while the concrete structure branches like the hand.



Elevation Study

## ABOUT MAGGIE'S CENTRE

Maggie's centres are a network of drop-in centres across the United Kingdom and Hong Kong, which aim to help anyone who has been affected by cancer. They are not intended as a replacement for conventional cancer therapy, but as a caring environment that can provide support, information and practical advice. They are located near, but are detached from, existing NHS hospitals.



New contrast to Old



Exposing Corner "Quoins"

## MERGING INTO HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Maggie's Centres offer free practical, social and emotional help to anyone effected by cancer. There are already a number of these centres around the UK, by architects including Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners, OMA and Snøhetta.

While most all of the realized Maggie's Centres have been horizontal buildings, the centre at St Bartholomew's is more vertical, sitting on the historically charged site. It replaces a pragmatic 1960s brick structure adjacent to a 17th century stone structure by James Gibbs, holding the “Great Hall” and the famous Hogarth staircase.

Holl's design pays tribute to the building's medieval heritage. The geometric facade is modelled on the medieval method of writing down music, called "neume notation". It features lines at 90-centimetre vertical intervals, interspersed with the colourful glass panels.



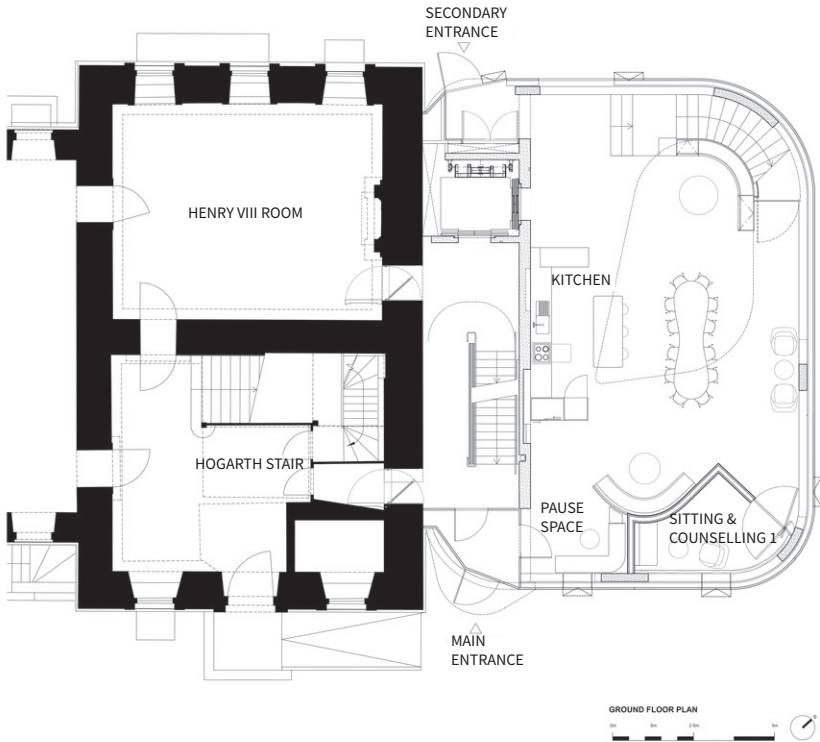
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## GROUND AND SECOND FLOOR PLANS

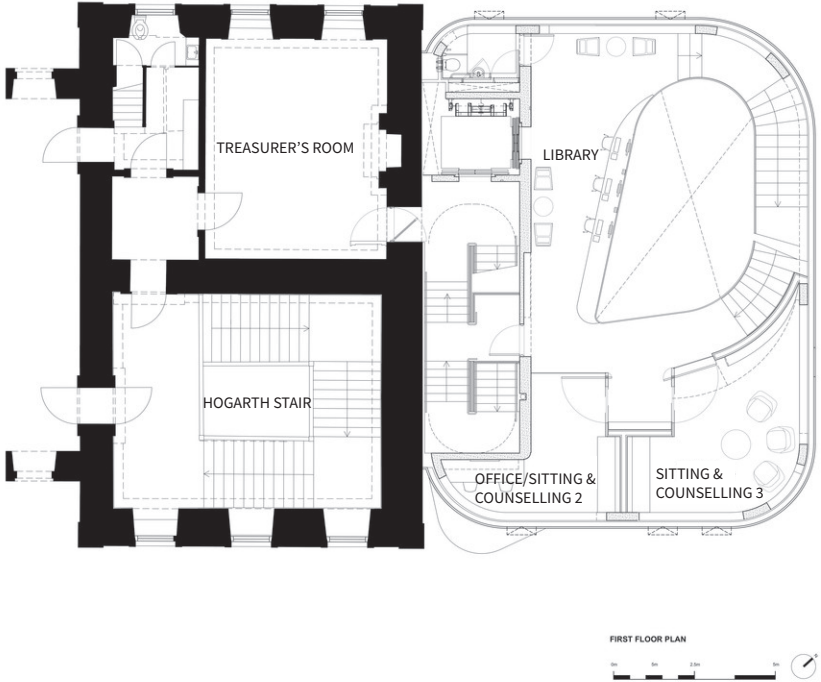


## GROUND LEVEL:



Note: "Departmental Square footages take-off based on 'Analysis of Departmental Area in Contemporary Hospitals calculation methodologies & Design Factors Report, 2014

## LEVEL 01:



## A VESSEL WITHIN A VESSEL WITHIN A VESSEL

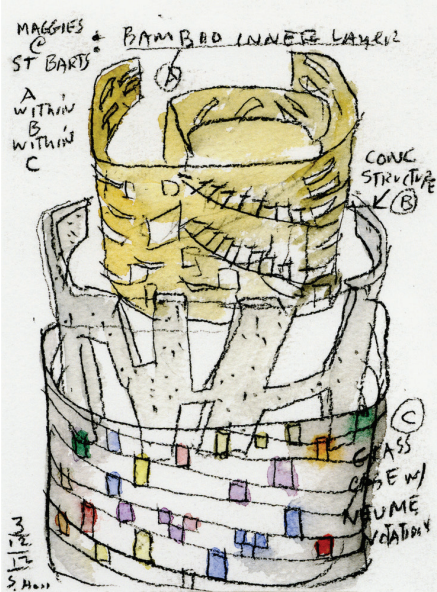


Image Sources: <https://>

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## THIRD FLOOR PLAN

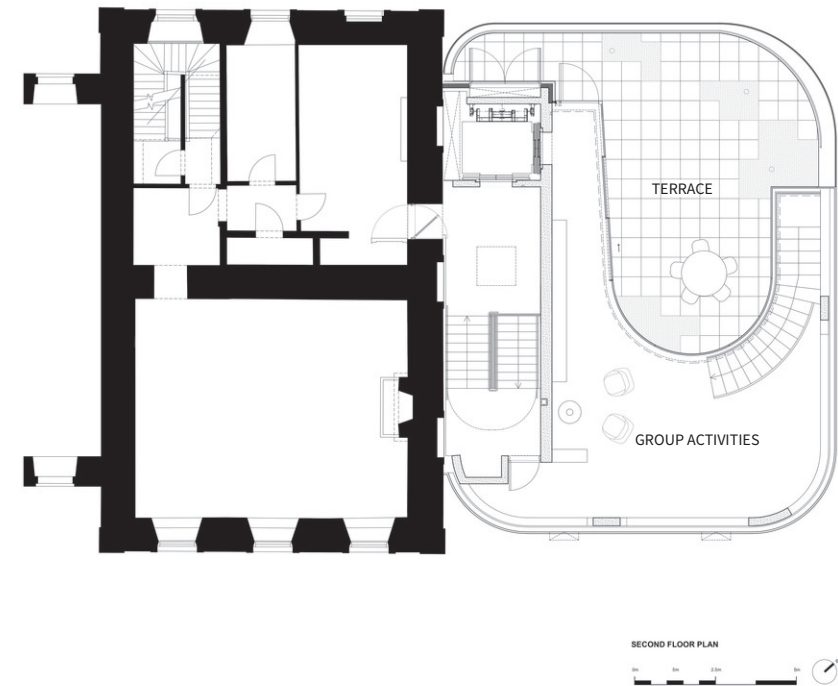
Maggie's Barts replaces a 1960s brick structure, abutting the last remaining wing of the hospital's 17th-century buildings.

This wing, called the Great Hall of St Bartholomew's, was designed by renowned British architect James Gibbs, who also built the dome of the Radcliffe Camera at Oxford. The hall contains the Hogarth Staircase, which is painted with murals by William Hogarth depicting Jesus Christ healing the sick.

The new centre's proximity to such a historic building, combined with its contemporary facade, caused controversy when the plans for first revealed. At one point critics even mooted a rival scheme they commissioned from British architect Michael Hopkins, but Holl's design prevailed.



## LEVEL 02:



Note: "Departmental Square footages take-off based on 'Analysis of Departmental Area in Contemporary Hospitals calculation methodologies & Design Factors Report, 2014



Building Section

## BUILDING SECTION

The three story centre has an open curved staircase integral to the concrete frame with open spaces vertically lined in perforated bamboo. The glass facade geometry, like a musical "staff" is in horizontal strips 90 cm wide, which follow the geometry of the main stair along the north facade, while lifting up with clear glass facing the main square, marking the main front entry. There is a second entry on the west opening to the extended garden of the adjacent church.





# MAGGIE'S CENTRE BARTS

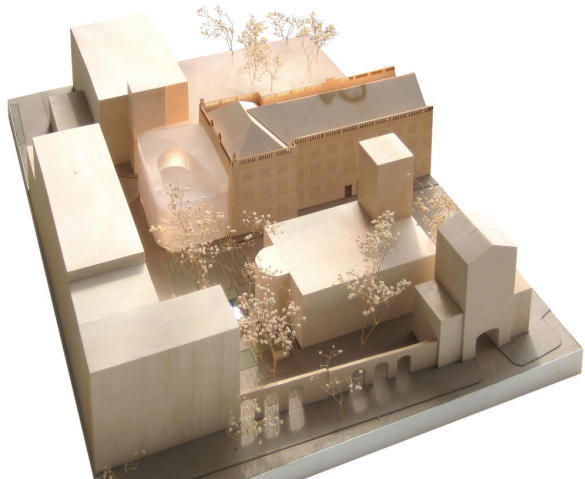
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## THIRD FLOOR PLAN

The building tops out in a public roof garden with flowering trees open to a large room for yoga, Tai Chi, meetings etc. The interior character of this building will be shaped by colored light washing the floors and walls, changing by the time of day and season. Interior lighting is organized to allow the colored lenses together with the translucent white glass of the facade to present a new, joyful, glowing presence on this corner of the great square of the Barts Hospital.

## JURY'S COMMENTS

- ▶ Maggie's Centre Barts – Steven Holl Architects A vertical Maggie's—small program of intimate spaces is give an inspirational, poetic, uplifting experience.
- ▶ A delightful piece of candy amongst serious buildings—poetry, art, delight inserted as therapeutic form and space.
- ▶ Interior has ethereal light, artful color based on musical notations layered with bamboo staircase of warmth and comfort—a healing environment.



## PROJECT SUMMARY:

**Project:** MAGGIE'S CENTRE BARTS  
**Project location:** London, United Kingdom  
**Owner/Client:** Maggie Keswick Jencks Cancer Caring Centres Trust (Maggie's)  
**Architect:** Steven Holl Architects  
Associate Architects: JM Architects  
Landscape Architect: Darren Hawkes Landscapes  
Construction manager: Sir Robert McAlpine  
Engineer: Arup  
Historic Building Advisor: Donald Insall Associates  
Lighting Consultant: L'Observatoire International  
Cdm Coordinator: Floor Projects LLP  
Code Consultant: Butler & Young  
Planning Advisor: DP9  
Cost Estimator: Gardiner & Theobald  
Archeology: MOLA  
Glass Consultant: Arup

**For Additional Project Information:**  
<https://vimeo.com/65395492>