Bridgepoint Active Healthcare
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

**About** | **Design Intentions**

Bridgepoint Active Healthcare is Canada’s leader in complex care and rehabilitation. The 10-story, 472-bed hospital is the largest healthcare facility of its kind in Canada and the only organization dedicated to people living with complex chronic disease and disability.

Using space already available, the adjacent 148-year-old Don Jail was readapted into the hospital’s administrative and education center. This transformation is emblematic of Bridgepoint’s commitment to transformative rehabilitation—giving new life to an important Toronto landmark.
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DESIGN CHALLENGES
Bridging To The Past

The architectural solution prioritizes de-institutionalization with spaces for socialization and spaces with direct access to the healing benefits of nature. A series of focal points were developed to promote the goals of wellness: a civic piazza, therapeutic gardens, a communal urban porch, green terraces and roof gardens, a therapy pool, and a meditative labyrinth.

The design evolved in parallel to North America’s largest post-occupancy study to assess the impact of design on health and well-being. Many design elements incorporated into Bridgepoint have been proven to provide enhanced healing outcomes.

One of the main challenges was to transform the dark history of the strong neo-classical architecture of the Don Jail into a penal institution into the administrative offices for this health center. This was achieved with a complete interior transformation: including a bridge connection to the new hospital’s clinical components. The design dramatically alters a site stigmatized by a history of isolation and penal reform, turning it into a connected campus of wellness.

Connections

Bridgepoint Active Healthcare is designed to maximize connections between this chronic care hospital and its community, the city and with surrounding nature to optimize a positive healing environment.

The Bridgepoint Hospital occupies the northeast corner of a nine square grid Campus of Wellness for which the hospital administration (formerly the Don Jail) occupies the central square. New parks, a main entrance from Broadview Avenue and future development sites complete the plan.

The former Don Jail (1864) has been restored and re-purposed as the hospital’s administrative building. A variety of jail cells, the gallows and the soaring rotunda have been preserved and are on view to the public for the first time. Heritage interpretative plaques throughout the building make connections between the hospital, rehabilitation, penal reform and the community.

The administrative building is connected to the main floor of the hospital by a pedestrian bridge.
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Urban Porch
Bridgepoint’s Main Floor plan is conceived as a large, public accessible ‘Urban Porch’ which allows patients to participate in community life and invites the community to engage with Bridgepoint patients and visitors. An abundance of natural light and clear wayfinding is supported by a calm color palette and finishes, such as wood ceilings, both indoors and on terraces.

Social Spaces
Socialization is an important part of therapy, and the building offers many gathering spaces for patients, staff, and the community. This abundance of natural light improves orientation and way-finding and is supported by a calm color palette and finishes, such as wood ceilings, both indoors and on terraces, to put patients at ease. There are quiet spaces for rest and therapy, including a large ground floor terrace adjacent to a café, which is accessible to the community, a green roof top terrace, and a wheelchair-accessible meditative labyrinth patterned on the one at Chartres Cathedral in France.

GROUN D LEVEL:

GROUND LEVEL: TRAVEL DISTANCE ANALYSIS

TRAVEL DISTANCE ANALYSIS

KEY SPACE:
- Renovation 8,033 SF
- Outdoor Area 339,426 SF
- Shared Activity 16,624 SF
- Registration/Waiting 131 SF
- Support 15,346 SF

Note: “Departmental Square Footage is take-off based on Analysis of Departmental Area in Contemporary Hospitals calculation methodologies & Design Factors Report, 2014

Sources: https://www.hdrinc.com/portfolio/bridgepoint-active-healthcare

Keywords:
- Retail (2,348sf)
- Servery (1,641sf)
- Cafe Seating (4,102sf)
- Library (1,926sf)
- Office (117sf)
- Auditorium (3,752sf)
- Labyrinth Courtyard (8,141sf)
- West Terrace (331,285sf)

*NEW - GROSS SQUARE FOOT TAKE-OFFS
Net Gross Staff Work Area Pub: 24,005 SF 24,005 SF 20,582 SF 20,582 SF

RENOVATION - GROSS SQUARE FOOT TAKE-OFFS
Net Gross Staff Work Area Pub: 1,440 SF 6,846 SF 1,440 SF 7,405 SF

TRAVEL DISTANCE ANALYSIS

Gross
6,846 SF
24,005 SF
20,582 SF
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**RECOVERY AND WELLNESS**

An abundance of natural light and clear wayfinding is supported by a calm color palette and finishes, such as wood entries, both indoors and on terraces.

Bridgepoint’s Main Floor plan is conceived as a large, public-accessible “Urban Porch” which allows patients to participate in community life and invites the community to engage with Bridgepoint patients and visitors.

**KEY SPACES:**

- Patient Rooms
- Nurse Stations
- Continuing Care Program
- Shared Activity
- Patient Lounge
- Vertical Circulation

**TYPICAL PATIENT FLOOR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patient Rooms</td>
<td>12,452 SF</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nurse Stations</td>
<td>1,086 SF</td>
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<tr>
<td>Continuing Care Program</td>
<td>3,069 SF</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shared Activity</td>
<td>1,122 SF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient Lounge</td>
<td>516 SF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support</td>
<td>2,494 SF</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**TRAVEL DISTANCE ANALYSIS**

- Patient Rooms: 12,452 SF
- Nurse Stations: 1,086 SF
- Continuing Care Program: 3,069 SF
- Shared Activity: 1,122 SF
- Patient Lounge: 516 SF
- Support: 2,494 SF

**TYPICAL PATIENT FLOOR PLAN**

- 1. Nurse Stations
- 2. Therapy Gym
- 3. Complex Continuing Care Core Program
- 4. Shared Dining and Activity Room
- 5. Patient Lounge

**NEIGHBORHOODS**

To mitigate the scale of this facility, a vertical campus concept was conceived to create a community of stacked neighborhoods of patient units. Each floor is clearly ordered and organized into neighborhoods of 32 beds each configured with single and double-bed patient rooms. Because the patients at Bridgepoint are not acute, double-bed rooms are actually preferred as they help with socialization - an important part of therapy. Shared therapy space is centralized on each floor at the cores with common spaces to the north and south. Nursing stations are in close proximity to their respective neighborhoods of care.

**KEY SPACES:**

- Patient Room (253sf)
- Therapy Gym (1,653sf)
- Patient Lounge (1,100sf)
- Complex Continuing Care Core Program (3,989sf)

**FLOOR GROSS SQUARE FOOT TAKE-OFFS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gross</th>
<th>Net</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>10,296 SF</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dining and Activity</td>
<td>3,141 SF</td>
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**TRAVEL DISTANCE ANALYSIS**

- Patient 36R: 120R
- Family 36R: 120R
- Staff 36R: 120R

**Source:** https://www.hdinc.com/portfolio/bridgepoint-active-healthcare
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**FIFTH LEVEL:**

- Visitor-friendly features, such as glass walls, food concessions, retail outlets, learning centers, an auditorium, and an outdoor terrace with steps to parkland draw the community to the building.

- Communal patient dining rooms, an internet cafe, a spiritual room, a rooftop garden, therapy and rehabilitation rooms, outside terraces and a labyrinth are all designed to get patients out of their rooms and motivated to manage their illnesses.

- From the patient rooms, patients can peer into the outside world through narrow floor-to-ceiling “pop-out” windows—a key exterior design element—interspersed with horizontal windows.

- In keeping with salutogenic principles that seek to address individuals’ psychosocial well-being, architectural details, textures, and finishes were chosen to signify comfort and community, counteracting the feeling of being in an institution.

**KEY SPACE:**

- Continuing Care Program 1,910 SF
- Shared Activity 2,248 SF
- Support 6,094 SF

**DESIGN STRATEGIES:**

1. Terrace
2. Quiet Room/ Spiritual Care
3. Meeting Room
4. Internet Cafe
5. Hair Salon
6. Mechanical/Electrical
7. In-house Pharmacy
8. Complex Continuing Care Core Program

**TRAVEL DISTANCE ANALYSIS**

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**KEY OUTDOOR SPACES:**

- Terraces (2,200 SF)
- Mechanical/Electrical (21,688 SF)

**FLOOR GROSS SQUARE FOOT TAKE-OFFS**

- Staff Work Area 7,019 SF
- Semi-Public Services 2,248 SF

**TRAVEL DISTANCE ANALYSIS**

- Patient 33 ft - 95 ft
- Family 54 ft - 190 ft
- Staff 50 ft - 203 ft

Sources: https://www.hdrinc.com/portfolio/bridgepoint-active-healthcare

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

Roof Garden + Therapy Space
A therapeutic green roof on the 10th Floor features a large, accessible terrace with access to a greenhouse and extends the therapeutic benefits of nature vertically throughout the building section. From this vantage point, patients and family members can enjoy expansive views of the surrounding community, Lake Ontario and Toronto’s downtown core to the west. Commanding views in almost every direction over the city remind patients of the ultimate goal of their stay: returning to their home and a new normal life.

Outdoor Spaces
- Rooftop Terrace - 10th Floor
- 5th Floor terraces - 5th Floor
- Tanenbaum Sculpture Garden - Main Floor
- Labyrinth Terrace - Main Floor

TRAVEL DISTANCE ANALYSIS

FLOOR GROSS SQUARE FOOT TAKE-OFFS

KEY ENCLOSED SPACES:
- Patient Room (362sf)
- Shared Dining (1,002sf)
- Patient Lounge (370sf)
- Complex Continuing Care Core Program (3,431sf)

KEY OUTDOOR SPACES:
- Green Roof (2,618 sf)
- Roof Terrace (6,000 sf)

Sources: https://www.hdrinc.com/portfolio/bridgepoint-active-healthcare

Note: “Departmental square footages take-off based on Analysis of Departmental Area in Contemporary Hospitals calculation methodologies & Design Factors Report, 2014”
At Bridgepoint Active Healthcare, there are 472 vertical windows—one for each patient. Hospital rooms were designed to give every patient—sitting or supine—an unobstructed view, horizontally and vertically. The design strategy was focused on enhancing the connection between patients and their community, the surrounding nature and the urban environment. It also included features that increase social interactions, inspiring physical activity to facilitate healing.

Patients Experience

Every patient has a floor-to-ceiling view of the city or park, generous room sizes, and a closet with a lockable drawer for valuables. A patient’s need for family presence and support does not end at a specific time of day. Visitors are welcome 24 hours a day. The hours of 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. are the designated Quiet Hours. Each patient can designate one to two people as their family caregivers. Family caregivers will receive a identification (ID) badge and may remain on the unit with the patient during Quiet Hours.

Image & Text Sources: https://www.hdrinc.com/portfolio/bridgepoint-active-healthcare
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**Design Process**

**Distinct Façade**

Bridgepoint’s distinctive building envelope contains a fenestration pattern of projecting ‘pop out’ vertical windows interspersed with the predominant horizontal fenestration as counterpoint. The placement of vertical windows, with their complex patterns and rhythms, play across the facade of the building in the same number - 472 - as there are patients. This makes for individual connection for patients and their caregivers as well as creates a distinct identity for the hospital.

**Project Summary: Project:** Bridgepoint Active Healthcare  
**Project Location:** Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
**Owner/Client:** Bridgepoint Health  
**Architect:** Diamond Schmitt Architects  
**Planning, Design and Compliance:** Stantec & KPMB  
**Design, Build, Finance & Maintain:** HDR & Diamond Schmitt Architects  
**Photographs/Illustrations:** Tom Arban, Nic Lehoux, Sam Javanrouche  
**Building Area GSF:** 680,000 SF  
**LEED Certified:** Silver  
**Substantial Completion Date:** June 2015

**AIA/AAH Design Award Winner**  
**Category B: Built (more than $25 million construction cost)**

**Jury Comment**

“...This building optimizes its expansive views and an abundance of natural light to create an uplifting and restorative environment for patients and staff. The plan is clearly laid out, with strategically placed lounges and common spaces. The exterior is well articulated with projecting fenestration which also serves to break down scale of the building. The roof top public garden and seating area is a great amenity for patients and staff which completes the facility’s strong connection to its natural setting. By renovating the site’s former jail into administrative offices, the design connects the facility to the history of the site and enriches the entire complex.”