



As part of the Trust's commitment to the Healing Arts programme the mural in the main entrance is designed to give a clean, colourful look to lift people's spirits.

University Hospital, Coventry

In an unparalleled investment, University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust commissioned Skanska to carry out one of the largest PFI hospital projects ever undertaken in the UK, which saw the consolidation of Walsgrave and Coventry and Warwickshire Hospitals into a single state of the art facility, the new University Hospital, which opened in July 2006. Modulux are proud to have been associated with this prestigious initiative, providing all exterior and interior signs for the complex.



Colour coding makes it easier for users to find their way around a complex environment.



Colour features and the wood effect are picked up in the signs, integrating them into the interior design.

Business challenges

The Trust made it clear that new standards would be set in order to achieve the ambitious aims of this project. Only the best would do, and it would have to be done quickly.

It was important for Modulex to establish effective working practices from the outset, to fit into the rapidly evolving process and deliver within the formidable constraints associated with the procurement of large public buildings by the PFI (Private Finance Initiative) model.

The Trust had clear design intentions, challenging accepted standards to achieve a more humane, comfortable and effective environment for all its users. Modulex was thus provided with an opportunity to support this vision through effective wayfinding and sign design, a vital influence on the outcome of the user's experience in what for many could be a difficult and unfamiliar environment.

Solutions

A key element in the creation of a user-friendly environment at University Hospital has been the introduction of materials not normally associated with hospital interiors, particularly the extensive use of wood finishes in the flooring and fittings in main circulation areas. The inherent flexibility incorporated into Modulex architectural sign systems has allowed the designers to

reiterate this motif on the signs themselves, thus reinforcing the sense of comfort and warmth.

This approach has in no way compromised the efficiency of the signs. Colour codes and the extensive use of icons help all user groups to make intuitive choices, irrespective of age, language or culture. Recognized as expert in the rapidly evolving and potentially confusing world of DDA (Disability Discrimination Act), Modulex has taken full account of the special needs of the visually impaired in the detailing of the system.

Benefits

A very large hospital (this one has over 1,200 beds) presents a unique challenge to the sign designer. Hundreds of destinations, unfamiliar terminology, and long travel distances confront the users who may often be unwell or worried. But by means of an effective wayfinding solution and simple, easy to read signs Modulex has made a notable contribution to the working of the University Hospital facility.

The Modulex consultants have listened to all the user groups, taken advice from the clinical experts and learned how this complex public facility works. Without that commitment it would have been impossible to create this sign solution which really works.

Building the new University Hospital in Coventry, which has over 1,200 beds and opened in July 2006, was an enormous challenge.

We looked to the experts in many fields to help us design the best facility that we could. And we found tremendous expertise in the designers from Modulex.

Paul Crofton

**New Hospital Project
Director, University Hospitals,
Coventry and Warwickshire.**