



The new building offers a fine sweeping perspective, following the line of the river which borders the site.

University Hospital Lewisham

In November of 2006 University Hospital Lewisham opened its new seven storey adult inpatient building known as the Riverside.

This followed a successful 123 week building programme in partnership with Carillion using the PFI procurement model, at a cost of £72M.

Designed to a high standard following extensive local consultation, the 22,000m² development was provided with a sign system designed, manufactured and installed by Modulex.



The main index board gives a colourful overview of the wayfinding solution, a decorative and effective combination of graphics and colour coding.



The colour code and graphic theme provide continuity and reassurance as the user's journey unfolds.

Business challenges

The team faced significant difficulties in organising the construction of a large new facility on a partial and congested site shared with a major urban hospital, the operation and security of which could not be compromised in any way during the course of the works.

In order to minimise disruption to patient care, a fast takeover programme was adopted, requiring careful co-ordination in the installation of the signs.

Fully committed to public consultation, the Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust, initiated a series of meetings with user groups, to ensure the involvement and support of local people. Consultation on the sign programme, managed by Modulex, proved particularly successful, ensuring the success of the chosen designs and their contribution to the visual amenity of the new facility.

For many users an unfamiliar hospital building can be a difficult environment. Good wayfinding and sign design, providing clear information when it is needed, can make a real difference to the user's experience. The Modulex team of dedicated healthcare consultants know this, and know how to do it. At Lewisham, the signs work and make a real contribution to the environment.

Solutions

The Riverside is dedicated entirely to adult inpatient care. With wards on almost every floor, the public spaces can seem to be the same on all levels, making it more difficult for users to find their way around. By carefully coordinating the signs with the interiors and making full use of graphics and colour coding, the design team have managed to differentiate the zones and make the destinations more memorable. As you travel up through the building the theme progresses from roots to sky and all the wards have the names of trees. Such an imaginative solution draws on many skills and would not have been possible without dedicated teamwork from the Trust, the PFI contractor, the architects, the commissioned artist Alma Tischler Wood and Modulex.

In Messenger, Modulex has provided a world-class architectural sign system. Simple, elegant and versatile with freely interchangeable components, it looks good and fits in with the Riverside architecture.

Benefits

A hospital facility like this one, with many destinations, unfamiliar terminology, and long travel distances presents a unique

challenge to the sign designer. 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 Riverside.

The graphic themes from the natural world, skillfully rendered by the artist, introduce a restful and charming element to the serious world of healthcare. They are quite beautiful, a welcome sight to all users, many of whom may be unwell or worried.

Modulex is a good company, strong on consultancy, and offering a quality product. I would work with them again.

Gerald Clemence
PFI Project Manager
The Lewisham Hospital
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