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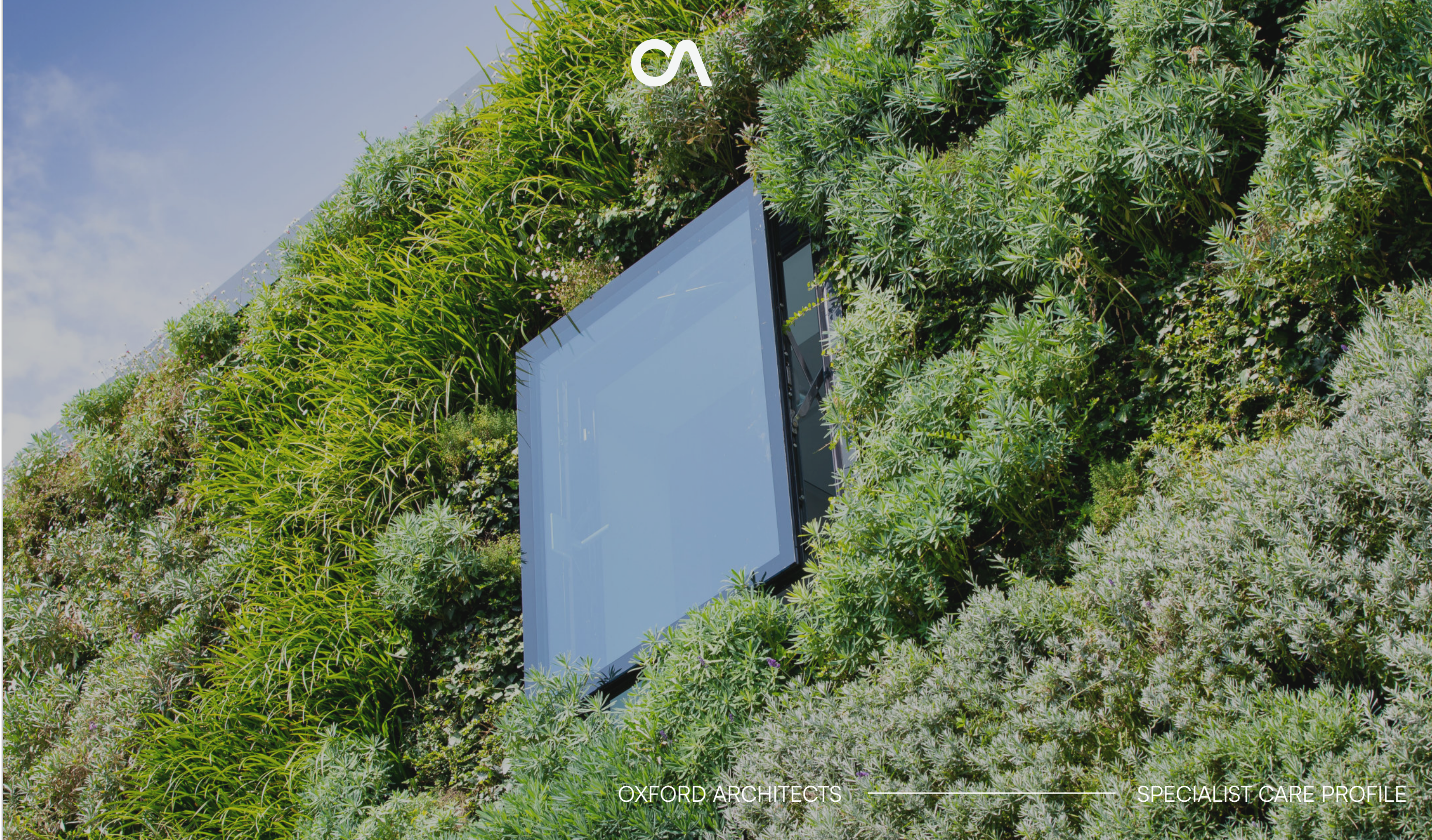
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OXFORD ARCHITECTS

SPECIALIST CARE PROFILE



Experience and Knowledge

Originally formed in 1962, Oxford Architects has developed into a substantial architectural practice working across all the major construction sectors, especially within the residential care and healthcare sectors, where we seek to create appropriate therapeutic and sustainable environments through innovation and continuous improvement.

Within this broad sector we have proven expertise in:

- Care homes for close-care, extra-care and dementia care
- Care facilities for adults & older persons with learning disabilities
- Care facilities catering for dual diagnosis, including mental health & physical disabilities
- Secure residential care facilities, including those detained under the Mental Health Act or with forensic backgrounds
- Acquired brain injury units
- Assisted living accommodation for people with Young Onset Dementia
- Palliative care

From our deep-rooted knowledge we are able to assist clients and service providers, seeking to achieve Care Quality Commission registration, through the maze of standards and ‘best practice’

At Oxford Architects we have a wealth of accumulated knowledge and a complete understanding of the key issues which occur in the design and delivery of residential and specialist care accommodation.

From specialised older person’s residential units through to secure residential mental health accommodation, we have developed a reputation for innovative, exciting, cost effective and appropriate design solutions which respond positively to our clients’ requirements and aspirations.



Residential Care

Working with leading residential care home providers, we have designed and delivered bespoke facilities, from concept and detailed design to completion and registration.

We have particular experience in the re-ordering, refurbishment and extension of existing properties, including Listed Buildings, bringing tired and unsuitable premises up to current standards, often working to limited budgets and timescales.

We have knowledge and experience in all levels of care home provision including supported living, assisted living, close-care, extra-care and dementia care. Alongside this, we have provided care facilities for adults & older persons with learning disabilities, and for those with a range of physical disabilities.

1 & 2. Fairfield Residential Care Home, Oxford



Specialist Residential Care

Complex care apartments - bespoke nurse-led residential facility

We designed and delivered a new-build complex care facility of six self-contained apartments for adults with learning disabilities and/ or autism who require high-intensity support in the community. The scheme provides a nurse-led model of care in a domestic-scale environment, acting as a step-down alternative to hospital or as a long-term supported home for people with complex needs.

Each apartment is configured to allow personalised care within an individual’s own front door, with private bedroom, ensuite and living/ dining space, supported by shared social areas, staff facilities and secure landscaped gardens. Robust detailing, controlled materials, and carefully selected fixtures support safety without an institutional feel, while access to both communal and individual outdoor spaces promotes therapeutic benefit and independence.

The design establishes a repeatable blueprint for similar developments nationwide, enabling people to live closer to families and reducing reliance on inpatient care. A fabric-first, all-electric strategy with high-performance envelope, heat pumps and low-energy services ensures strong sustainability and operational performance. The project was shortlisted at the Building Better Healthcare Awards in 2023, recognising its contribution to high-quality community-based care environments.

Client	Private Healthcare Provider
Value	£2.8m
Year	2023





Specialist Residential Care

Michael Sobell House — Mount Vernon Hospital

A unique partnership of Michael Sobell Hospice, Harlington Hospice and Hillingdon CCG, has allowed the Michael Sobell Hospice building to be reopened on 6th January 2020.

Hundreds of local people descended on Michael Sobell Hospice, Mount Vernon Hospital, in December, to attend the grand re-opening of the Hospice Inpatient Unit (IPU) after the completion of a three-month refurbishment and redevelopment project.

The Hospice IPU, which closed due to health and safety issues 18 months ago, is now fully refurbished.

With clear budget constraints Oxford Architects worked closely with the 8build (main contractor) and Natalie Parkins Design (Interior Designer) to totally transform the building.

“This is the start of a new journey for Michael Sobell Hospice Charity and the new team of trustees, and we hope the community will re-engage and support our efforts in fundraising, to keep this vital service available for everyone who may need it.” - Michael Breen, Deputy Chairman - Michael Sobell Hospice Charity

Client	Harlington Hospice
Value	£300k
Year	2020

Specialist Residential Care

Maternity Bereavement

Working with a hospital charity, Oxford Architects have incorporated a standalone maternity bereavement suite, adjacent to the existing delivery suite. Set within the hospital grounds, the new extension provides off-ward, discrete accommodation for women and their families to cope with their loss in private.

Large areas of glazing bring daylight into each room while views are contained within private gardens by vertical planting. Overhanging roofs give shelter to the external spaces so that families can use the garden at any time. The delivery rooms are sized and equipped to meet current NHS guidance. With both a delivery suite and lounge overlooking courtyard gardens, the scheme creates a private and peaceful setting away from the clinical wards.

The clinical feel is softened with warm, natural colours and finishes and subtle themed artwork on feature walls. The project was Highly Commended at the 2022 Building Better Healthcare Awards in recognition of its sensitive approach to bereavement care environments.

Client NHS Foundation Trust

Value £400k

Year 2022



Specialist Residential Care

New Specialist Residential Facility, Midhurst

We were appointed as architects for the conversion of a former convent in the south of England into a specialist facility for young adults with eating disorders. The project created a 12-bed residential hospital providing care and treatment for individuals aged 18 to 25 with anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, and related conditions.

Working closely with the client team and contractor, we transformed the existing building into a therapeutic environment that balances safety, comfort, and calm. The design prioritised light, uplifting spaces that support recovery and wellbeing, while respecting the building’s character and rural setting.

The facility provides ensuite bedrooms, therapy and activities rooms, a dining area, lounges, a therapy kitchen, and landscaped gardens. Soft finishes, natural colours, and domestic-scale details create a non-institutional feel, promoting connection, reflection, and a sense of home.

Through careful adaptation and attention to atmosphere, the project delivers a welcoming and dignified setting that supports a holistic model of care.

Client	Private Healthcare Provider
Value	£2.5m
Year	2024



Specialist Residential Care

Extension and Refurbishment - St Luke’s Hospital

Working within a live environment, Oxford Architect designed a new 2nd floor to be built over the existing building.

Utilising a new steel frame structure, the new second floor spans over the top of the existing care home. On a constrained site a living wall was incorporated into the main entrance to create a new focal point and enhance the greenery within the grounds. The existing entrance has also been upgraded and has been re-orientated to face the main road, enhancing its presence on the street scene. The new second floor elements wrap the original building and is clad in crisp metal panels with pop-out windows flush with the façade.

Spacious bedrooms have large windows with low cills providing excellent connectivity with the outside world. A garden room was provided on the second floor which opens to the outside providing access to fresh air for residents who might not otherwise be able to benefit from the existing garden. On the ground floor the new reception area has a bespoke desk that echoes the shapes of the new extension with a smaller version forming the new nurse base on the second floor.

The project was commended in multiple national and regional healthcare design awards, reflecting the quality of the adaptive design and its delivery on a complex, occupied site.

Client	St Luke’s Hospital
Value	£4.6m
Year	2019



Dementia Care & Brain Injury

Working closely with Young Dementia UK Homes and using the University of Stirling Dementia Design Audit Tool, we have designed a new residential care model to allow people dealing with Young Onset Dementia to lead a normal life within a safe environment. A social hub will be incorporated in the village of Charlbury to create a meeting place and promote social interaction. 12 bespoke apartments will also be incorporated into the scheme giving residents the freedom to move through the building and enjoy views of nature and the countryside.

Working alongside Oxford University NHS Foundation Trust, we have delivered the Dignity Plus dementia upgrade within 6 hospitals across Oxfordshire. Works included the upgrading of existing wards to be compliant with Dementia Care Standards, improved way finding, lighting, introducing wall art, interior design, incorporating ‘heal well rooms’ and external sensory gardens.

In our commitment to provide a well-designed and appropriate environment for the building users and residents, we not only pay close attention to the National Minimum Standards and Department of Health guidance but we also seek to design buildings that meet or exceed the industry norms



1. St Luke's Hospital, Oxford
2 & 3. Camino Healthcare, Oxfordshire
4. Kingfisher Court, North Baddesley



Dementia Care & Brain Injury

Ward Room Refurbishment - Oxfordshire NHS Dignity Plus

We were commissioned by Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust to enhance environments within dementia wards at several community hospitals across Oxfordshire. These hospitals serve a high proportion of elderly patients, many with dementia. The initiative aimed to improve the quality of hospital stays for older patients.

Using existing record drawings, we developed practical recommendations suitable for live ward environments, maximising patient benefit within tight budgets. To meet funding deadlines, three contractors were engaged to complete the works within the financial year.

Improvements included removing unnecessary noticeboards, replacing shiny flooring with matt wood-effect vinyl, concealing service doors, adding feature walls and wall art, and introducing calming colours with improved lighting in circulation areas. Therapeutic lighting was added to side rooms, and each ward received bespoke artwork to support memory and orientation—such as local scenes or familiar landmarks like Didcot’s cooling towers. One hospital created a nostalgic living area with a fireplace and local photographs for reminiscence sessions

Client	Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust
Value	£800k
Year	2020



Locked, Low & Medium Secure Wards

Working in the independent and public sectors requires a thorough knowledge base of not only Department of Health and Health Offender Partnership guidance, NHS standards in the form of current and emerging HBNs and HTMs, but also keeping abreast of new research and quality initiatives promoted by organisations such as the Royal College of Psychiatrists. Alongside this guidance runs the National Minimum Standards, which are often open to interpretation by individual CQC Commissioners.

Oxford Architects has particular expertise in the design of secure mental health facilities, from locked wards and low secure through to medium and high security. We have a clear and complete understanding of the key issues of privacy, dignity and security for residents, staff and visitors. Our knowledge of the standards, key design considerations and technical solutions allows the provision of a non-institutional ligature-free therapeutic environment which is clearly demonstrated by the number and diversity of successfully completed commissions.

Within the last decade we have designed and delivered a 44-bedspace adolescent services unit, a 45-bedspace women's services unit, and most recently a 132-bedspace men's service unit. We have also fully refurbished and reconfigured a 56-bedspace low secure service, 12-bed low secure brain injury unit, a 10-bedspace PICU, a 13-bed low secure ward and 10-bed locked ward.

Our unrivalled knowledge of the key standards, best practice, spatial requirements, technical solutions and proprietary products allows us to deliver a well-designed and appropriate built solution.



William Wake House, St Andrew's Healthcare, Northampton

Locked, Low & Medium Secure Wards

New Flagship Building - William Wake House, Northampton

As one of the UK’s leading independent healthcare providers, St Andrew’s Healthcare appointed Oxford Architects to design and deliver a flagship building on their historic Northampton campus, working alongside the façade architect.

Set in historic parkland, the 19,650sqm 4-storey building neo-classical building design responds to the client’s aspirations and its context within the campus. Accommodating up to 132 patients across 8 wards, all patients are provided with single bedrooms complete with en-suite facilities. The self-contained wards provide a mixture of dayrooms, a dining room, therapy rooms, seclusion/ de-escalation facilities, a nurse base along with ancillary accommodation and an external courtyard.

The central reception leads to child visits, tribunal and various support and therapy facilities that includes amongst others-workshops, library, swimming pool, multi-faith room, hairdresser, medical suite, property stores, and a caf  t  ria.

Client	St Andrew’s Healthcare
Value	�46m
Year	2010



High Security Buildings

Oxford Architects is unique as one of the special few practices with significant experience of designing buildings within a high security setting

As one of the foremost secure mental healthcare establishments, Broadmoor Hospital presents a unique set of challenges to architects. Working continuously with the West London NHS Trust (formerly West London Mental Health Trust) since 1995, Oxford Architects has delivered over 200 projects across the Broadmoor site — from small-scale refurbishments to major redevelopment schemes — effectively transforming much of the hospital’s building stock.

The most significant of these projects was the Broadmoor Hospital Redevelopment, a landmark scheme that reimagined the way high secure patients are accommodated. The design prioritises therapeutic environments, wellbeing, and safety for all who use the hospital. Wards are arranged around a central parkland and main building, each with its own identity and dedicated courtyard garden. The natural topography of the site allows the secure perimeter to remain unobtrusive, giving patients direct views of the surrounding countryside while maintaining the highest levels of security.

Completed in 2019, the redevelopment stands as a benchmark in modern secure healthcare design. Today, Oxford Architects continues to build on its extensive experience within high-security and mental healthcare environments, offering a rare depth of expertise in this highly specialised field.

1, 2, 3 & 4. Broadmoor Hospital Redevelopment



High Security Buildings

Broadmoor Hosptial Redevelopment

As Architects for the redevelopment of Broadmoor Hospital, we carried out briefing, consultation, planning, organisation and execution of the lead designer role from inception to completion. We were engaged following an OJEU notification and appointment process in 2009 by the West London Mental Health Trust and novated to the Design & Build contractor, Kier. Our brief was to design a new, highly secure, psychiatric hospital to replace an ageing Victorian facility and provide wards and support facilities for 234 beds.

Part of the new hospital is formed by the Paddock Centre, a 70 bed ward also designed by Oxford Architects and completed in 2005 at a cost of £25m. The client had developed an outline brief for the wards only and through extensive stakeholder design development meetings we generated a brief for the Entrance Building, Central Building, perimeter security and secure external spaces. The final concept for the design was based on buildings surrounding a garden which was an innovative step for the whole team.

Client	West London Mental Health NHS Trust
Value	£250m
Year	2019



Our Approach

At Oxford Architects, our approach to mental health and specialist residential design is centred on empathy, collaboration, and evidence-based innovation.

We work closely with clients, clinicians, and service users to create environments that promote dignity, safety, and wellbeing — spaces that feel restorative and non-institutional.

Drawing on our experience from initiatives such as the Better Bedroom, we seek to push design quality and therapeutic value beyond compliance — introducing solutions that are safe, cost-effective, and genuinely supportive of recovery. Each project begins with listening: understanding how staff deliver care, how residents experience space, and how architecture can best foster calm, connection, and independence.

Our designs aim to balance clinical functionality with warmth and humanity, recognising that the built environment plays a vital role in mental health outcomes. Through this collaborative and research-led process, we deliver environments that not only meet rigorous standards but enhance everyday life for the people who live and work within them.

Technical Capability

Current Capability & Training

All projects in Oxford Architects are currently operating within the BIM environment and delivering projects to a level that best suits the clients requirements for construction and post hand over. We are competent and experienced in delivering projects to ISO 19650 (BIM Level 2) standards with the ability to offer fully coordinated design and data enriched information via common data exchange platforms. We are actively working towards BSI ISO 19650 1-2 accreditation on the strength of our BIM experience on previous projects and the processes we have adopted.

We now aim to deliver all healthcare projects using Revit, allowing us to comply with the processes and standards set out in ISO 19650, even if this is not required by the client or design team as we feel this offers the best design service for our clients. From the inception of the project within Revit we have the ability to draw on large amounts of embedded information from within the 3D model to aid the clients and contractor, as well as utilising additional external software that plugs directly into Revit such as ADB (Activity Data Base) which is designed to be HBN and HTM compliant to deliver 3D room layouts, room data sheets and component scheduling.

Our models use rich embedded data developed over the course of the project with other design team disciplines modelled information from M&E engineers, Structural Engineers, Landscape Architects and Civil Engineers we can use their models to link into our own architectural model allowing us to run active model/construction coordination as the design matures. We have the ability to deliver scheduled COBie information linking specific manufacturer and maintenance attributes to objects and assemblies within the 3D model to the Level of Detail

identified in the Employer’s Information Requirements (EIRs). We have been operating an in-house BIM training programme since August 2013. Our third party BIM consultants ‘AIS’ have enhanced our embedded BIM and Revit knowledge with additional in-depth training sessions. We are actively developing and growing our in house digital design team to utilise computational design as part our design and delivery process.

CAD Software

Oxford Architects operate Autodesk Revit and Bentley AECOSim Building Designer, both supported by Bentley PowerDraft and Autodesk Autocad for 2D drafting. We use Solibri Model Checker software as a tool to review and run clash detection on federated BIM models. We also run ADB, Autodesk ‘Navisworks’ and Autodesk ‘Design Review’ as required by the client. We have experience using common data environments such as 4projects or A-site, as well as the ability to host and manage projects via SharePoint. Visualisations are exported to Lumion or Enscape for photorealistic renders, with additional Photoshop manipulation setting the models into context.

ISO 19650, EIR and BEP

We work to the latest standards set out in the UK BIM Framework ISO 19650 series of standards and our Digital Production manual, MPDT, TDIP, BEP and EIR documentation has been developed in accordance with these standards.

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