Mater Misericordiae University Hospital

It is one of the largest and most advanced healthcare projects ever undertaken in Ireland; and furthermore one that has taken place, not on a greenfield site, but on a constrained inner-city campus immediately adjacent to an important acute hospital and a renowned private hospital.

Now in its 27th month of construction, the extension to the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital designed by Scott Tallon Walker Architects in association with YRM Architects is over 80% complete, and is due for completion in the first quarter of 2012.

The nine-storey over double-basement extension is designed in accordance with best international practice, and comprises 67,800sqm of new accommodation. It has broken new ground in terms of hospital design in Ireland. Daylighting, ventilation and heating strategies have been carefully considered, and a high performance building envelope selected, in order to achieve the widely-recognized BREEAM ‘Excellent’ rating. The project is valued at approximately €158 million, making it the largest building project underway in Ireland today.

Internally, new inpatient wards have been designed with 100% single bedrooms, to reduce potential for the spread of hospital-acquired infections.

It is anticipated that the new Mater extension will allow the hospital to carry out its critical role in the delivery of healthcare in ‘state of the art’ clinical accommodation suitable for the 21st century, and in surroundings which will uplift and inspire staff and patients alike.
Clinical accommodation to be provided includes new Emergency Department, Outpatient Clinics, Radiology Department, 12 Operating Theatres, Intensive Care and High Dependency Units, and 120 Ensuite Single Inpatient Bedrooms. These are organised around a series of public spaces including a new double-height entrance foyer, a spectacular glazed atrium and hospital 'street'. Internal space for future expansion, link bridges to the existing hospital building, and a roof-top extension to the existing 1980’s ward block are also provided. Ancillary facilities include 450 car spaces on two basement levels, new energy centre, catering department and waste management area.

1 The Mater Hospital has commissioned two tapestries to be installed in the Atrium (shown right).

2 Celebrated artist Pat Scott is shown above visiting the workshop of Dixon’s who wove the tapestries.
The construction of this hospital has been the culmination of a long journey for client and design team. STW were appointed as Architects and Design Team Leaders in 1998, with YRM Architects as medical planning sub-consultants. Originally, it had been proposed to relocate Temple Street Children’s University Hospital to the site, so the new Mater Adult hospital was designed to share many important services and facilities with a co-located children’s hospital.

During the evolution of the project, the Mater campus was identified as the location for the new National Paediatric Hospital (NPH), a much larger entity than Temple Street Hospital. The scope of the adult hospital had to be substantially increased in order to release the lands required for the new NPH, including the addition of three extra floors for inpatient accommodation.

In 2006, it was announced that the preferred route of Dublin’s new Metro North would pass through the Mater site. This would necessitate the demolition and replacement of the hospital’s energy services, but without any impact upon hospital operations. Co-operating closely with the Railway Procurement Agency, the design was amended to provide a replacement energy centre, and to integrate the portal to the new Mater Metro Station into the entrance foyer of the hospital building. It has also been necessary to temporarily omit several bays of the hospital pending the completion of the Metro works.

While these design modifications were addressed, the site preparatory works proceeded under two separate contracts in order to expedite the project. This has allowed the Contractor for the main hospital construction project to commence work on a site already cleared of existing structures and services.

All demolition and construction works were complicated by the close proximity of two live hospitals; but were successfully carried out without interruption to the activities of either.

For further information on Scott Tallon Walker Architects or the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital project please visit: www.stwarchitects.com or email: mail@stwarchitects.com