

GHH Psychiatry Department

Consolidation of psychiatric services at the Flaubert site.

CLIENT

Le Havre Hospital Group

TEAM

Patriarche (Architecture, Interior Architecture, Signage, Landscape, Environmental Quality of Buildings – QEB, BIM)
Partners:
Kube Structure, Prisme Ingénierie, Apsis Santé, Acoustibel
Credits:
Photos: ©Nicolas Grosmond

KEYPOINTS

Rehabilitation.
Healthcare architecture.
Contemplative spaces.
Flow management.
Comfort and safety.

SUSTAINABILITY

HQE Label: E+C standard.

The rehabilitation of the Le Havre Hospital Group aims to consolidate adult and child psychiatry services in a single location on the Flaubert site.
With an exceptional location on the hillside and close to the city center, the site offers a panoramic view of the surrounding landscape, extending all the way to the sea.

This transformation project revolves around the restructuring of an existing building — the former Administration building, located in the upper part of the site, redesigned to host the Child Psychiatry outpatient consultations — and a new extension. The new building will accommodate day hospitals for both young children and adolescents on the upper floors, while the lower levels will house an adult psychiatry unit for patients with anxiety and depression, as well as an addiction treatment unit.



Typology	Construction Cost	Status
Healthcare	13.8 M€	Delivered in 2023
GFA	Location	Type of contract
7 444 m² de SDP	Le Havre, France	Public Project Management

Intentions – Design Approach



The architectural approach aims to anchor the building within its surrounding landscape. The façades, conceived as an alternation of “white strata” punctuated with color, emphasize the building’s horizontal lines, allowing it to blend harmoniously and evenly into its environment.

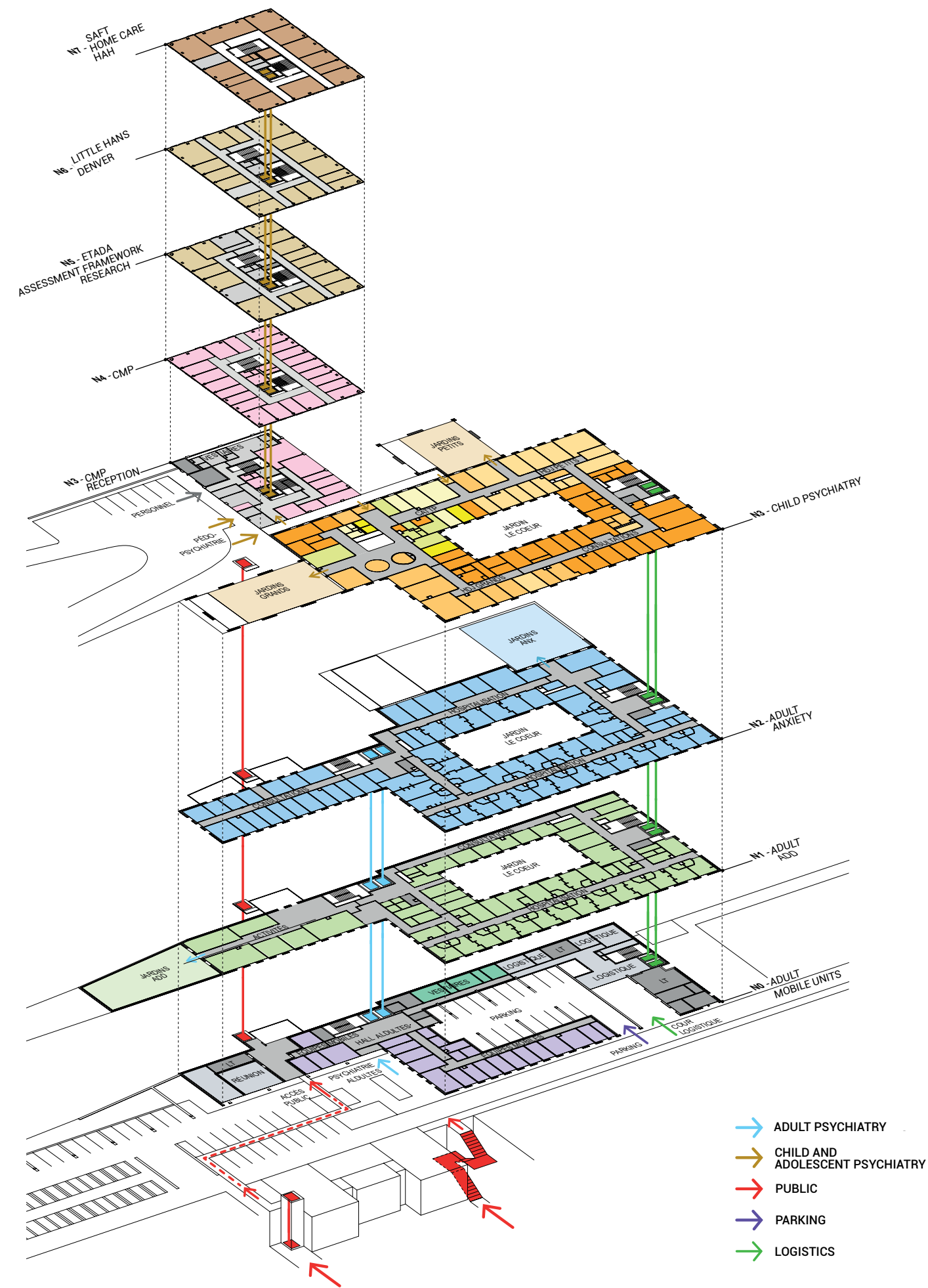
The site’s natural topography enables a smooth layering of the building’s various functions while preserving the privacy of each area: a three-level base embedded into the slope is dedicated to adult services. A rooftop level connects this base to the upper part of the restructured existing building, which houses the day hospital and the children’s unit.

Garden terraces are integrated into the slope as natural extensions of the building. The main volume of the new structure, compact and organized around a central patio, brings services closer together, fostering interaction and creating shorter connections for the benefit of staff.

An organized and secure pathway

Particular attention has been paid to the organization of flows to ensure each area maintains its privacy while facilitating communication and coordination for staff.

Several workshops conducted jointly with healthcare staff, as well as the logistics and technical departments of the Le Havre Hospital Group (GHH), helped optimize circulation routes. These efforts also ensured a strict separation between the different user groups, preventing any unwanted interactions – a key factor in guaranteeing both safety and comfort for all site users.



A caring and playful interior



Aware of the impact that spaces can have on people, interior design played a key role in this project. Both in the existing and new buildings, the spaces were designed with coherence to offer staff and patients pleasant environments that are easy to navigate. Warm-toned wood is combined with soft colors and rounded shapes to create a soothing atmosphere throughout the facility. Natural light, a true source of well-being, was also given special attention.

The façades were designed to allow for large glazed surfaces, with:

- Low sills, offering sweeping views of the surrounding landscape.
- Generous height, allowing light to penetrate deeply into the rooms and opening up views toward the sky.

The rooms

The overall ambiance of the patient rooms is inspired by the colors of the beach, combining the warm tones of sand with shades of blue, green, and grey reminiscent of the sea. The view to the outside is a key element in the layout of these restful spaces. Window niches have been designed as cozy spots to sit, relax, and let the mind drift toward the shores of Le Havre and the Normandy coast, offering residents peaceful moments in an intimate setting.

The use of a noble material like wood, combined with the blue tones selected for the patient rooms, creates a sense of serenity and calm. This warm and reassuring atmosphere is enhanced by furniture with rounded shapes, ideal for providing patients with a feeling of comfort and care. Certain elements, such as the desk lamp, can also be fixed in place to comply with safety standards.



Playful space

The blue cylinder, featuring porthole windows, houses the water play area and sparks children's curiosity with its playful shapes. The white circular library also offers a unique experience: a child inside can retreat into a cocoon-like space — a true protective shelter — that allows them to observe their surroundings with confidence, thanks to its large horizontal openings.

The classroom

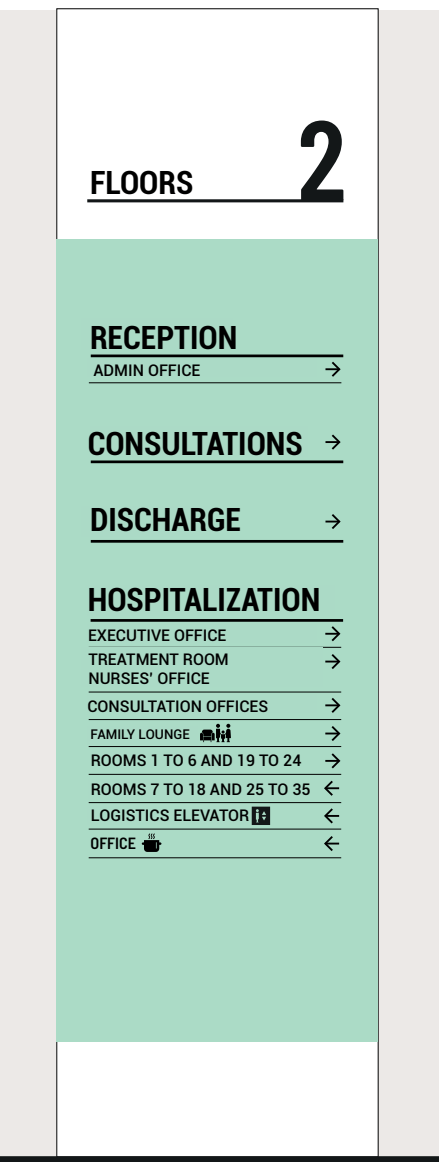
The classroom, fully open to the outside, is a space that encourages discovery and creativity. Fostering children's cognitive development and self-confidence, it is designed with a “home-like” atmosphere — reassuring, warm, pleasant, and cozy.

- The room is composed of several activity areas :
- A blackboard and a collaborative round table
 - A wall with two focus alcoves featuring individual desks
 - A relaxation area with floor mats and large cushions

Signage – An identity inspired by the building's architecture

The building's colorful rectangles extend into the interior to provide clear and easily readable signage.

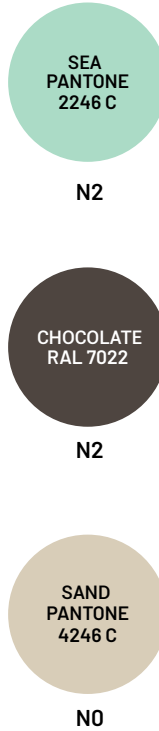
The role of signage is essential in an environment like this. It is crucial to develop an effective system through which users can intuitively find their way. These strong visual elements are a creative extension of the building's architecture, contributing to the overall coherence of the project and making navigation within the site easier. These recurring visual cues help define the different areas and welcome users on each floor, with service segmentation clearly identified by wide, rectangular bands of color.



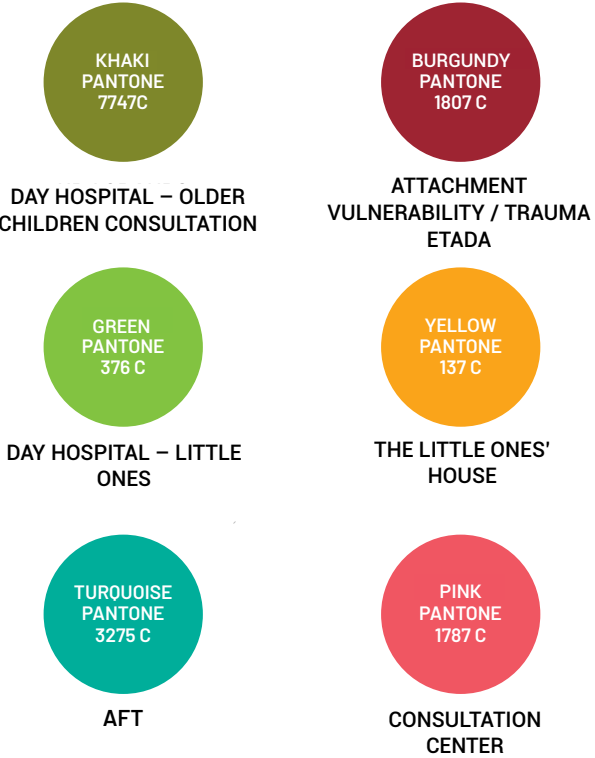
PICTOGRAMS



ADULTS' AREA



CHILDREN'S AREA



A haven of peace for Flaubert Hospital

A green and peaceful garden for healing, meditation, and contemplation. A journey, an ascent toward... a refuge.

Highlighting and creating a green space, a landscape, allows nature to be integrated at the heart of the project. It can be a place of rest, retreat, and offers everyone an opportunity for renewal, a journey, a change.

« The garden is the natural extension of a philosophy of life » E. Orsenna.

For this psychiatric hospital project, the landscape becomes an element of care.

Different inaccessible spaces are intended to be contemplated and to challenge the user. Placing positive images of nature along their path, creating a setting — a meditative and/or pictorial refuge — allows for a momentary escape.^[1]

The garden terraces, in continuity with the different sectors, are integrated into the slope of the terrain as natural extensions of the building.

A garden designed for children aged 5 to 12 is arranged with several sub-spaces. In a marine-themed environment offering a variety of activities and experiences, it is adapted to the diverse needs of this age group. It includes a vegetable garden area, a minimalist free play zone, a space with a platform, and an area with small vegetated mounds. All of it is visible from the classroom.^[2]

This garden is intended to welcome patients suffering from anxiety and depression. It offers a relaxation space that is both stimulating through its activities and soothing through its minimalism and design. The edges of the garden are treated with vegetated screens that draw the gaze outward or upward. It includes a walking area, a tabletop vegetable garden, and other sub-spaces.^[3]

This garden is intended for patients undergoing addiction treatment. It is designed in the spirit of a Japanese garden, like a sanctuary. It combines a wooden walkway on stilts with a green core that allows observation of the central garden.^[4]



[1]



[2]





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