Unlocking Educational Social Value, at the New Sunshine Coast University Hospital

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1Architectus, 2Sunshine Coast Health Institute, Sunshine Coast University Hospital, 3Aurecon, 4Lend Lease

Early collaboration between users, designers, and the builder has led to the most spectacular results at the new Sunshine Coast University Hospital, where the early design process envisaged a highly integrated education community; collocating contemporary teaching space, research space, and collaboration spaces, with front line clinicians within this tertiary hospital campus.

The Sunshine Coast University Hospital (SCUH) is a $1.8bn project built in a private/public partnership by Exemplar Health for Queensland Health. Exemplar Health won the project in a competitive bid led by Lendlease with an architectural team of Architectus Brisbane in association with clinical architects HDR Rice Daubney, and supported by Aurecon engineers.

The Sunshine Coast Health Institute (SCHI) is an integrated and comprehensive education, skills training and research facility for health professionals and vocational students. The institute is a partnership between the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service, the University of the Sunshine Coast, TAFE Queensland – East Coast, and a medical school provider. The uniqueness of the tertiary health/education partnership, with collaboration and co-operation at the heart, was key to achieving an outstanding integrated education/health facility.

The presenters from the SCUH project:
- Jill Nicholson RN, DipNursing, BSc(Hons), MA – SCHI/SCHHS
- Stephen Long Phd, BArch (Hons I). – Architectus
- Aditi Saha BE Mechatronics, CPEng, RCDD. – Aurecon
- James Wright DipSurv., MSC. – Lend Lease Healthcare and Scientific Research

The presenters will focus on key design and contemporary teaching space drivers that evolved the SCUH/SCHI partners vision within a collaborative design process and delivery period:
- Creating an innovative environment for student development – user experience
- Movement towards social connection – statistics for collocation
- Co-locating SCHI partners – creating synergy
- Unlocking the potential of campus – innovation
- Mix of uses and mix of inside and outside spaces – importance of the ground plane to connect people
- Connectivity in design
- Physical urban planning
- Front line clinicians
- ICT and technologies (including simulation suites, human visualisation, and digital library)
- Future planning