Designing dynamic hospitals for pandemics

Design Studio 2020W

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Student Works
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Foreword

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The design studio "designing a dynamic hospital for pandemics" took place in the winter term 2020/2021 at TU Wien, during the 2nd wave of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. Its goal was to establish novel ways in which hospital architecture can react to a pandemic crisis, mostly in a permanent (built) manner rather than by using temporary measures. As such, the subject was unprecedented in TU Wien's curriculum. New ways of working together had to be established, since TU Wien was closed (everyone worked from the home office) and we did thus not have the usual physical desk crits but rather only ZOOM calls. As a matter of fact, we shifted the medium from presentations, drawings and models to papers, which we thought would give more structure to each and every students' contribution. The outcome is to be found in this collection of working papers.

DESIGN STUDIO “DESIGNING A DYNAMIC HOSPITAL FOR PANDEMICS”

The design studio's task was, first and foremost, to let students occupy themselves with hospitals and adjoining health institutions in times of the COVID-19 pandemic; this context required a basic knowledge of hospital planning, namely

- an understanding of the structure of the Austrian healthcare system from a health-economic standpoint
- a feeling for the spectrum of patients and personnel working in the clinic
- the ability to understand the role of individual departments within the clinic in schematic form (spatial concept, personnel, patients, equipment, links to other departments)

As such, this endeavor was unprecedented in TU Wien's history; hospital planning not in the regular curriculum of the Faculty of Architecture and Planning, and pandemics were thought to be a subject more for epidemiologists rather than architects and urban planners. However, simulation has led the way to better understanding and forecast the pandemic (e.g. colleagues Popper and Bicher of TU Wien / dwh, who have been working in the crisis team of the Austrian government; see [1] for a description of their model), which is why we have also sought to supplement the work within the design studio using simulations (see figures in this foreword).

Figure 1
Simulation of access; own work supplementing Christian Lehner's contribution.
DISCLAIMER
Although all contributions of this book have been prepared thoroughly, we cannot guarantee that all material used in each individual contribution was correctly cited. We insisted on naming sources and naming image licenses where applicable, but since our students are learning to publish there could be some cases where something has slipped through. If that is the case, please drop us a line and we will include that info into the text.

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REFERENCES
## Contents

**1** Foreword  
Gabriel Wurzer, Wolfgang E. Lorenz, Sigrun Swoboda

**5** Papers  
**7** Discussion of an Aperiodic Pattern for Hospital Design  
Emanuel Bührle  
**19** Isolation Rooms  
Jehona Gashi  
**27** Die Architektur der Heilung  
Philine Flaig  
**43** An Adjustable Entrance for Hospitals  
Rinor Ahmetaj  
**53** Patientenschutz durch ‘physical distancing’ in der Wegführung  
Stefan Neischl, Gabriel Wurzer  
**61** Nähe in Zeiten der Krise  
Christian Lehner  
**71** Mehr Abstand für mehr Nähe  
Clara Pfaffinger  
**87** Warteräume in der Notfallambulanz  
Sefa Abidin Dogan  
**97** Proper design for pandemic hospitals  
Gazmend Rashiti  
**107** MODULAR WALLS  
Alessandro Zanin  
**117** Check Box 2.0  
Giorgia Bonet
Papers