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Architecture in primary health care – a symposium

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Background and Aim: The Logan Practice is a large family practice in central Scotland with national and international teaching commitments. First premises in 1893, an extension out the back of a Victorian family house in Wishaw. Moved in 1977 to custom-built Health Centre. Since August 2015, from a new civic facility in the centre of Wishaw, the Houldsworth Centre.

Our new building a joint project between Lanarkshire Health Board and North Lanarkshire Council.

The role of good architecture in secondary healthcare provision has been well described - in Primary Healthcare, less so. We address challenges to architects and clinicians in designing Primary Healthcare facilities that are functional, cost-effective and aesthetically pleasing. We suggest that co-operation between architects and clinicians are beneficial, allies against "enemies of promise". Good architecture can deliver better health outcomes. Also a good and ambitious building supplies an inspiring environment for teaching and research in general practice. Will that attract more young doctors into Scottish family medicine?

Method - a Conversation:

The design challenge: Logan Practice past, present, and future

To incorporate Wishaw's primary medical and dental practitioners and extensive primary care teams. Also elements of secondary care operating within a primary care environment - psychiatry, old age medicine and psychiatry, paediatrics. Better near-patient diagnostics. Other civic functions - a replacement town library, One Stop Shop, municipal bank, local housing department, some social work presence. A café!

Alec Logan

The architectural response

A brief overview of architecture and healthcare. Architecture and the building of hospitals and hospices. Then an architectural response to the Wishaw brief.

Andy Law

The Houldsworth Centre in action

For patients, doctors, staff, students, planners, politicians.

Alec Logan

Reflections and what next?

Why is good architecture important in primary health care?

Andy Law

Results: A tour of the Houldsworth Centre. Sumptuous architectural photography and story-telling included.

Reviews, good and bad, from users - patients and clinicians, private and public.

Conclusions/Discussion: We anticipate a lively discussion session.

- The role of architecture and design in primary healthcare.
- Does good architecture deliver better health outcomes?
- A new architecture for General Practice