



HEALTHCARE & SUPPORTED LIVING

DKA

CREATING ENVIRONMENTS TO ENHANCE YOUR WELFARE

We understand the challenges of designing a healthcare facility. They present an exciting opportunity to create buildings with a strong civic presence where good design can directly impact patients' well-being and recovery. DKA are aware of the rigorous standards that must be achieved and can bring our architectural and interior design skills to create environments that are beneficial for the immediate building users and the wider community.

WHY DKA?

We have experience working on a variety of healthcare buildings and understand their complexity, the current design standards and breadth of consultation required to achieve a high-quality result.

Our experience covers all stages of the design and construction process – from targeted feasibility stages, planning approvals, tender packages or seeing a project through all RIBA stages. We have the knowledge to advise clients about the key design decisions at the start of the process and to help contractors deliver successful buildings at the end.

To aid this process we have developed a series of exemplar room designs which are instrumental for clinical consultations and allow projects to progress quickly. The use of 3D Revit software to provide visualisations had become invaluable for coordination with other disciplines once work begins on site. Positive feedback from building managers, consultants and patients confirms that we are getting this right.

SERVICES

Our healthcare experience covers brand new community hospitals, refurbishments to departments within acute hospitals, GP and dentist surgeries and a wide range of supported living accommodation from extra care housing to care and nursing homes.

We also have an interior design team who specialise in designing for sensitive environments, with a particular focus on dementia care. We can advise on the other necessary specialist consultants and can act as Principal Designer for CDM 2015.

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BRIDGWATER COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

THE CULMINATION OF OUR SOMERSET COMMUNITY HOSPITAL EXPERIENCE

When it came to designing a new community hospital for Bridgwater, we had excellent experience of the building type and a thorough understanding of the client requirements having designed three previous community hospitals for NHS Somerset. As lead designers we were able to provide a common thread of expertise that the client could rely on. Each previous hospital addressed specific local healthcare needs resulting in differing accommodation requirements, and responded to different site characteristics. Bridgwater Hospital was to be the fourth and biggest, and was oriented to provide acoustic protection to patient spaces on a site alongside the M5 motorway.

Having a wealth of reference information from our previous schemes (including a library of specialist room designs) we could engage rapidly with NHS staff who were not familiar with conventional building plans. We were also able to re-visit the completed hospitals to see how they worked in practice, with feedback directly influencing the emerging designs. We found this very helpful when trying to introduce new working practices to staff familiar only with out-dated and inefficient buildings.

The hospital is laid out using standard sized rooms with a structure that has no internal load-bearing walls and minimal internal columns. This ensures maximum flexibility for future layout changes, whether it be 're-badging' rooms for different uses or making more long-term changes by moving internal walls.

The adaptability of our design was tested even before it was complete; during the construction phase a requirement was identified for an endoscopy suite. Since we had allowed space on site for expansion from the outset it proved easy to accommodate the endoscopy suite in an ideal location – linked to outpatients.

At a late stage we were also required to demonstrate that the building met NHS requirements for accommodating the needs of people with dementia. DKA's interior designer wrote an authoritative dementia strategy for the project which was formally adopted for the internal colours and finishes. This proved so successful that the client asked us to adapt it for general use across their entire estate.



MINEHEAD COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

ART DECO INTERVENTION BETWEEN EXMOOR HILLS AND WEST SOMERSET COAST

After operating for the previous 200 years in a building that was initially designed as the Town Hall the decision was made that this West Somerset coastal town needed a new purpose designed community hospital. The new building opened in 2011 is designed in a white rendered art deco style, appropriate to its seaside town location. The plan is laid out around two courtyards which maximise the opportunity to bring natural light into much of the building. Each courtyard houses commissioned sculptures themed on the sun and the moon, designed to reflect the sky into the heart of the building.

The hospital provides a 19-bed ward (with predominantly single en-suite bedrooms), a day surgery theatre and therapies, outpatients, minor injuries and x-ray and ultrasound departments as well as a mental health day unit.

This building was the first to be developed on a mixed-use site that homes the NHS, West Somerset Council and Minehead Town Council. It set a high design benchmark for the other buildings on site to follow and stands out as a landmark building; visible across the marshes and along the coast on the eastern fringes of the town.



SOUTH PETHERTON COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

PLENTY OF ROOMS WITH A VIEW

The new community hospital for South Petherton was designed to take full advantage of the marvellous views from its hilltop site with most of the 24 inpatient bedrooms having their own balcony overlooking the Somerset countryside. These bedrooms provide an excellent environment for the patients in what has been designated the regional centre of excellence for stroke and rehabilitation.

The hospital was designed to reflect its rural setting, with pitched roofs breaking up the form of the building and timber cladding to reflect the adjacent woodland. The entrance / waiting area is a top-lit double height space with a coloured glass art installation which projects changing patterns on the wall and the floor.

Throughout the grounds there are additional works of art which enliven the patient areas and form a dedicated therapy garden for the rehabilitation of patients. The hospital also includes a health and well-being centre providing outpatient services, a therapies department and X-ray facilities. The wheelchair assessment unit provides customised mobility solutions for patients.



WESTON GENERAL HOSPITAL THEATRES

MAINTAINING CLINICAL OPERATIONS NEXT TO A CONSTRUCTION SITE

DKA were appointed by Capita Health to develop the feasibility design and prepare tender information for the refurbishment of the Operating Theatres department at Weston General Hospital. All four operating theatres required upgrades to meet the latest requirements for fire protection, infection control and patient privacy. At the same time, new lamina flow systems were to be installed to increase the range of procedures available.

We had to balance a tight budget along with complex phasing of the work. This meant keeping three out of four operating theatres in use while refurbishing one theatre at a time. We were required to establish a phasing plan that provided contractor access while maintaining uninterrupted operation of the rest of the department.

We worked closely with both the department operational team, infection control advisors, the trust's fire officer and estates team to ensure the proposals met their requirements at each phase of work.

The success of the design and implementation led to DKA being asked back to the hospital to refurbish the Day Theatre surgery suite, ensuring again that it matched the fire protection and infection control standards of the Operating Theatres.



CARE CENTRES IN DEVIZES & TROWBRIDGE

A NEW MODEL FOR COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE IN WILTSHIRE

DKA have been appointed via NHS Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to provide design services for developing the business cases for two new healthcare facilities, one in Trowbridge and one in Devizes. These will be designed to re-provide the existing community hospital services along with new same-day appointment facilities to relieve pressure on local GP practices.

Our experience of designing community hospitals offers immense value to the CCG on the briefing requirements and creating the initial schedules of accommodation. We created departmental adjacency diagrams and appropriate massing on each of the sites, which has then been used to inform early planning discussions.

We have also conducted site analysis and concept layouts including the requirements for external support facilities i.e. car parking, ambulance service yards and delivery access.



NEEDHAM HOUSE

THE FUTURE OF HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY

Wiltshire Council identified a likely increase of the elderly population in Devizes of 64.8% by 2026 and thus a significant need for additional housing for this population group. DKA were commissioned to design an Extra Care housing scheme as part of their programme to achieve this – providing new homes for the over 55's that require care.

Needham House comprises 39 two-bedroom and eight one-bedroom apartments, with communal and support facilities for both residents and members of the wider community. Each apartment is designed to maximise the available living space, laid out in a flexible arrangement and with either direct access to its own patio area within the gardens or a private balcony that overlooks them.

The building layout on the site was carefully considered to maximise the number of units available whilst achieving a sense of space within the landscaped grounds and maintaining as much of the existing mature boundary planting as possible. All communal rooms within the building overlook the gardens and there is access to a generous terrace area within the south facing courtyard.

Being the first such scheme funded by Wiltshire Council there were a number of public consultation events required, both as part of the planning process and their wider aspiration to keep the public updated with their proposals. As the site is located within an existing residential area there was a lot of interest from the neighbours.

DKA also provided an interior design service for the communal areas, creating a pleasant, homely interior and an environment suitable for residents living with a variety of conditions. This led to further appointment for us to develop Wiltshire Council's Extra Care Housing Brief / Specification for future schemes.

We also provided BIM Manager services as this was the first BIM Level 2 project for both the main contractor and Wiltshire Council. The federated model generated proved a great asset in coordinating all design disciplines and the client anticipates the resulting COBie spreadsheet will be extremely useful to their management team in the future.



EXTENSION TO CASTLE HOUSE NURSING HOME

SIMPLE EXTENSION TRANSFORMS NURSING HOME

Castle House Nursing Home is a family run business in the Somerset village of Keinton Mandeville. DKA were appointed to design an extension to provide an additional 17 en-suite bedrooms, a new lounge, entrance, ancillary facilities and car park along with a number of improvements to the existing building.

The new extension has transformed the existing home. Visitors now arrive in a landscaped car park which has a dedicated drop off area right outside the new entrance. This is adjacent to the lounge with vaulted ceiling, feature glazed gable and access to a south facing balcony that has far reaching rural views.

The spacious new hallways have plenty of natural light and connect to both the new wing of bedrooms (each with en-suite wet-room and private balcony or terrace within the walled garden) and the communal rooms within the existing building that were previously down a warren of dark internal corridors. This has made the home easier to navigate for residents, staff and visitors.

The extension also forms a number of sunny courtyards that make safe external areas to be enjoyed in nice weather as well as bringing plenty of natural light into the building.

Since completing the work Castle House has managed to achieve a CQC Excellent rating and the Manager has won the National Care Home Manager of the year award.



OTHER PROJECTS

- BRIDGWATER HOSPITAL ENDOSCOPY UNIT
- FROME COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
- WEST MENDIP COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
- MEDICAL RECEPTION STATION, PIRBRIGHT
- GITTISHAM HILL HOUSE, HONITON
- AVONPARK VILLAGE, WINSLEY
- THE OLD VICARAGE CARE HOME, SHERBORNE
- CHELSTON GARDENS CARE HOME, WELLINGTON

KEY PEOPLE

ADRIAN ABBS

SENIOR ARCHITECT - BSC (HONS) BARCH ARB

After qualifying in 2002 Adrian has worked at DKA since 2004. He has a background working on projects in a wide variety of sectors but in recent years has focused on healthcare buildings. Adrian has been the project architect for a number of our community hospitals, refurbishment work in acute hospitals and several of our assisted living schemes, seeing them from initial concepts through to completed buildings.



JON ALLMAN

SENIOR ARCHITECT - BSC (HONS) BARCH ARB

Jon has considerable experience in the design and construction of most building types including healthcare, housing association, leisure and defence sectors. He has worked on projects of all scales using different types of procurement and has a strong working knowledge of different construction methods. Jon is also responsible for information technology administration in the office, including support and training.



REBECCA FURSE

SENIOR DESIGNER - BA (HONS) MSC

Rebecca has worked on a variety of projects, with a focus on interior design. Her designs can transform an interior using colour, texture and materials. She holds an MSc in Environmental Psychology and is our expert in dementia-friendly design. She believes that design with an emphasis on user needs can really make a difference. Rebecca has excellent contacts with furniture and finishes suppliers and coordinates these into all the projects she works on.



ABOUT DKA

We apply our design vision and technical expertise to create buildings that are expertly designed, carefully resourced and robustly built.

A firm built on reputation and referral, we are a Bath based independent architectural practice celebrating a proud 25-year history based on quality and relationships.

We pride ourselves on being reliable, personable and professional experts in our respective fields across a multi-sector portfolio of work including residential, commercial, education, healthcare, engineering and defence ranging in size from £0.5m to £50m.

We are an ISO9001 registered practice offering architectural services, master planning, interior design, project management, BIM management and design coordination services.

DKA understand that good design must stand the test of time, so for a short time we, as architects, are custodians of the future creating the foundations for the societies of tomorrow.

We look forward to working with you on your next project.

DKA: DESIGNING THE FUTURE, TODAY

*"BEAUTIFULLY DESIGNED, LIGHT AND AIRY BUILDING
WITH THOUGHT GIVEN TO BOTH PATIENT'S COMFORT AND
STAFF EFFICIENCY"*

*MEMBER OF BRIDGWATER COMMUNITY ATTENDING
HOSPITAL PUBLIC OPEN DAY*

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