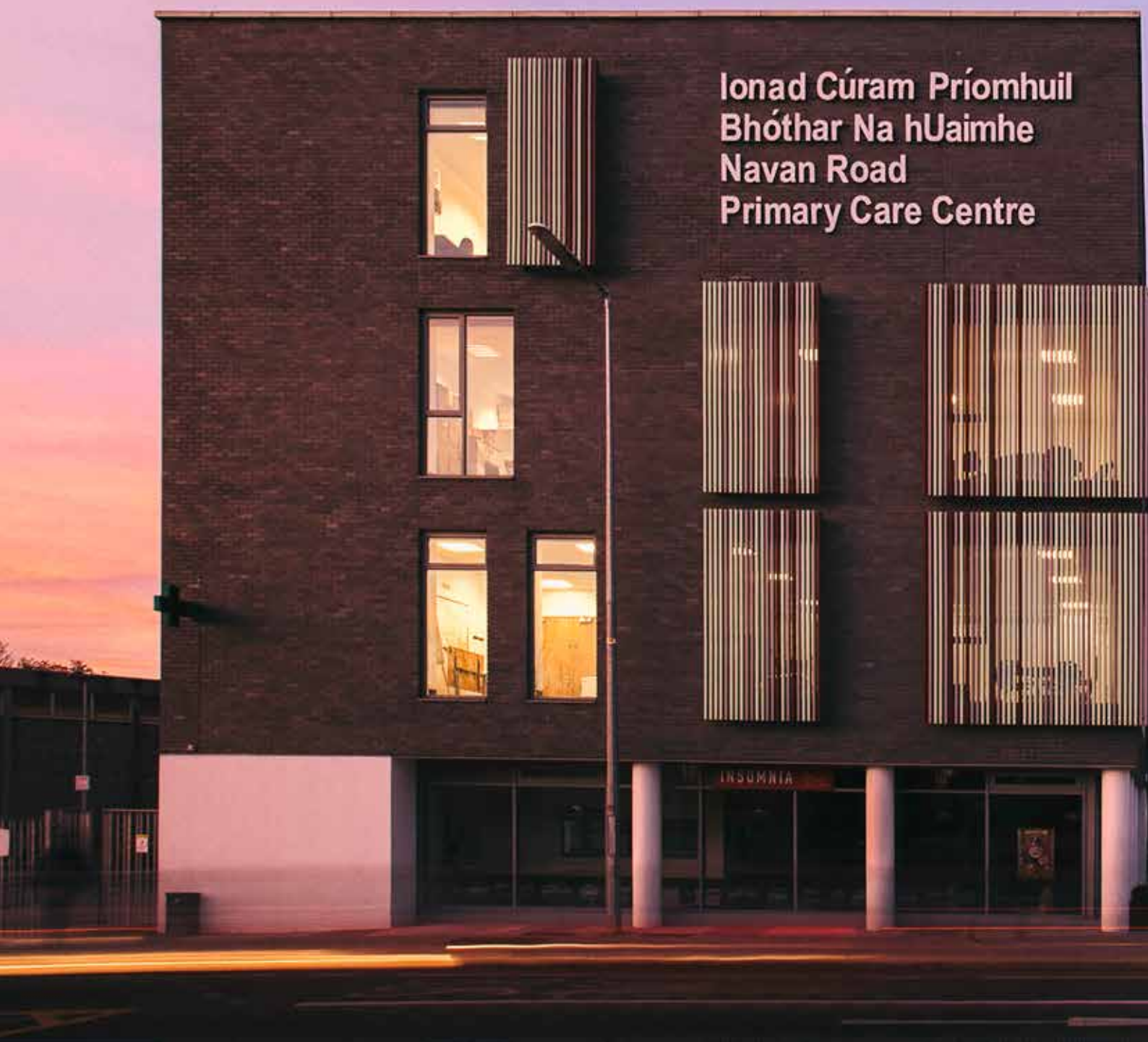
Primary Care Centre at the Navan Road, Dublin

hussey architects

Location:	Navan Road, Dublin 7, Ireland
Size:	3344m² (36,000ft²)
Cost:	€4,500,000.00
Client:	Clarington Primary Care
Architect:	hussey architects
Civil & Structural Engineers:	Merit Consulting
M&E Engineers:	Bernard Smith Consulting Engineers
PSDP:	Atkins
Quantity Surveyor:	KSN
Main Contractor:	Mythen Construction
M&E Sub-Contractor:	NSR



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www.husseyarchitects.com

Primary Care in Ireland

In 2000 the Health Service Executive (HSE) decided to greatly expand Ireland's public primary care health-care system. Primary Care services cover all healthcare provision not requiring a visit to the hospital. This includes GPs, Public Health Nurses and a range of other services provided through Local Health Offices. At the turn of the century these services were dispersed in different facilities and generally not co-located with General Practitioner Clinics.

It was decided to build dedicated Primary Care Centres across Ireland. These new buildings would centralise these public healthcare services within communities. It was also decided to co-locate primary care with private General Practitioner Clinics on the GMS system and with community Mental Health Clinics. The new facilities were to be developed under the public private partnership (PPP) model. Tenders were invited from the private sector to develop the facilities. Successful bidders are building Primary Care Centres across the country on which the HSE take a 25-year leases.

A Primary Care Team (PCT) is a team of health professionals who work closely together to meet the needs of the people living in the community. They provide a single point of contact to the health system.
Primary Care Team services include;

- General Practitioner Service
- Practice Nurse Service
- Community Nurse Service (Public Health Nurse & Community Registered General Nurse)
- Home Help / Home Care Attendant Service
- Occupational Therapy Service
- Physiotherapy Service
- Speech and Language Therapy Service
- Social Work Service

There is also a network of other services available supporting the Team including Psychology/Counselling, Audiology, Podiatry, Area Medical Officers, Community Welfare, Dental, Dietetic, Ophthalmology, Environmental Health, Community Development, Carers etc.

Each Primary Care Team (PCT) deliver local accessible health and social services to a defined population of between 7,000-10,000 people at 'primary' or first point of contact with the health service. The population to be served by a team is determined by geographical boundaries and/or the practice population of participating general practitioners (GPs) under the GMS Scheme.

In addition to the Primary Care Team and the GP Clinics within the Centres, Mental Health facilities are also provided. Both Adult Mental Health and CAMHS are provided at the Navan Road Primary Care Centre. CAMHS stands for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services and is a service that provides assessment and treatment for young people and their families who are experiencing mental health difficulties.

While a broad range of services support the mental health of children and adolescents, the term 'CAMHS' is usually applied very specifically to services that provide specialist mental health treatment and care to young people up to 18 years of age through a multidisciplinary team.

Site Location

The Primary Care Centre site is located to the south-east of the 12-hectare (30 acre) CIDP (Catholic Institute for Deaf People) Deaf Village campus in Cabra on the northside of Dublin. The Deaf Village Project is a collaborative community development initiative promoted by the CIDP in partnership with the main deaf organisations in Ireland. It will bring together in a single 30-acre site a range of service providers, deaf organisations, facilities and amenities much needed by deaf people.

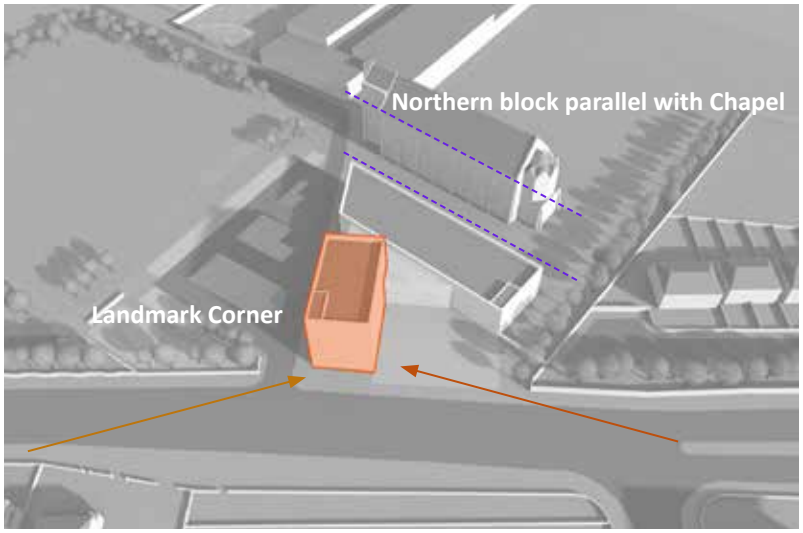
The main aims of the Village Project are to provide a centre where deaf people can be at home, to enable organisations of deaf people to work together in partnership and to consolidate all, previously dispersed, CIDP operations to one location. The local Cabra Community will also benefit from this initiative through access to new sports, recreational & ancillary facilities as well as the opening up of significant open space (30 acres) and its mature tree line.

The Primary Care Centre marks one corner of this campus. The site marks a transition point from the campus of the deaf village to the surrounding predominantly residential neighbourhood. An edge/marker is created by dividing the building into a 2 and 4 storey mass surrounding a new public open space. While the PCC provides an entrance to the Deaf Village it also opens up the campus towards the surrounding community.

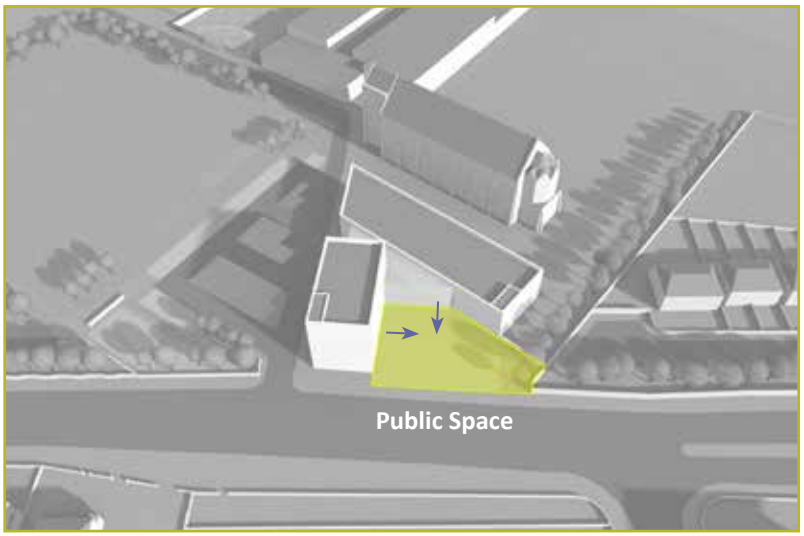
Urban Design

The building is composed of 2 blocks with a glazed link. The wedge shaped plan defines a south facing public space with pedestrian access from the Navan Road. The 2 storey northern block contains HSE functions and ground level with the GP Clinic above. The 4 storey element contains a cafe and dispensary at ground floor level with HSE functions from first to fourth floors.

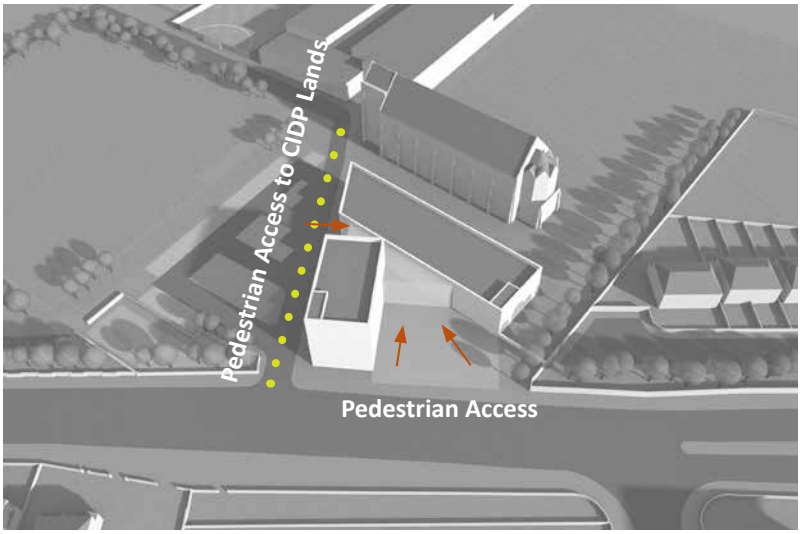
Parking is located to the west. Pedestrian access is via the 2 storey glazed link, either from the car park to the west or the south facing public space. The cafe spills out to the public space with dining tables animating the street.



Landmark



Public Space

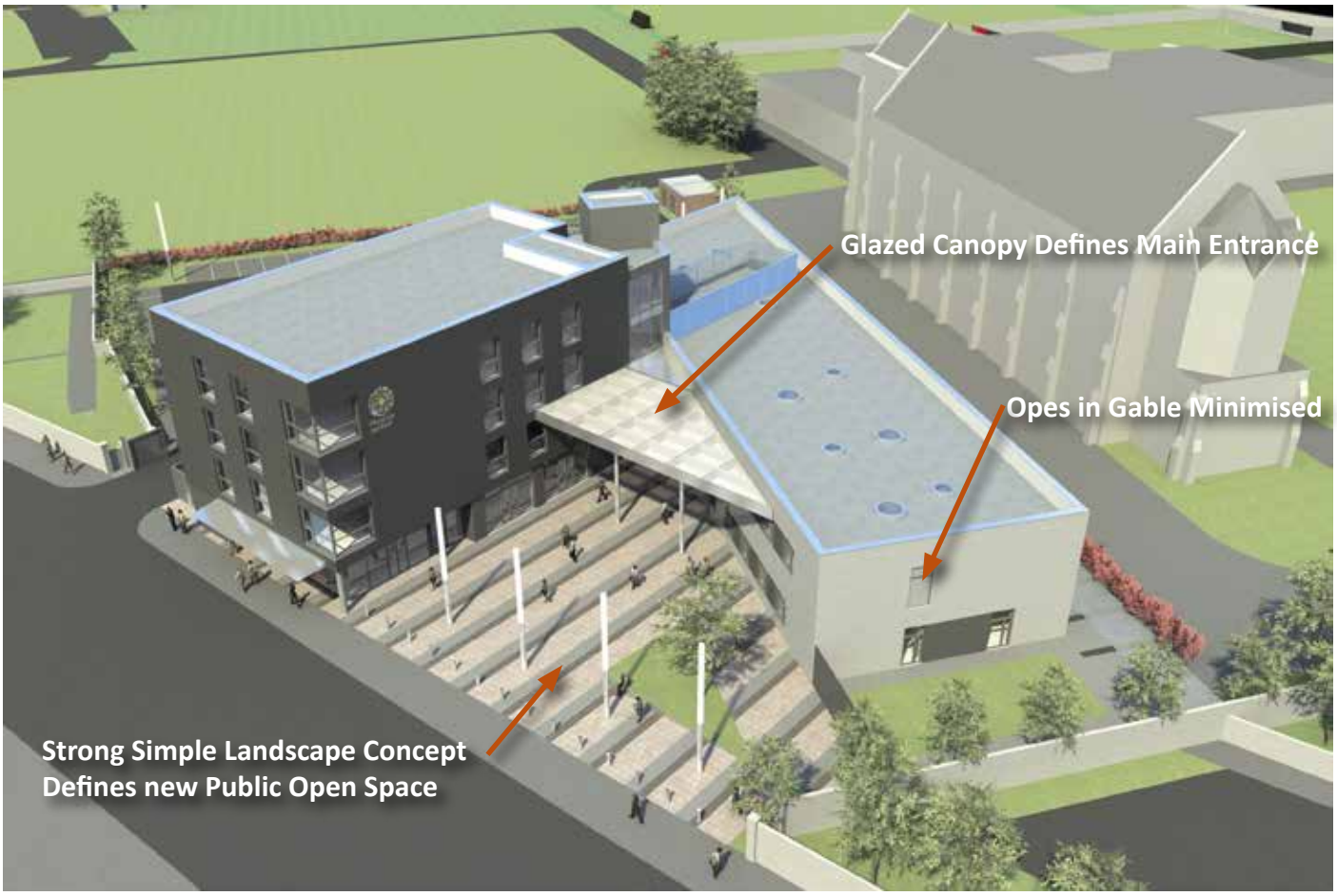


Access

Architectural Design

The neighbourhood is predominantly two storey. The relatively modest four storeys of the building's front block acts as a landmark defining the southeastern corner of the Deaf Village campus. The two storey block to the rear has been designed to minimise its' impact on its' residential neighbours to the southeast.

The new public space created by the building is paved in a simple pattern.



The Centre accommodates 3 public primary care teams, a large private GP clinic, a pharmacy and a cafe.

The public facilities include public health nursing, wound treatment, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, counselling, group therapy, psychiatry, child and adolescent mental health services and a Day Hospital. The Day Hospital has access to a secure garden to the south-east.

The private GP Clinic has 12 no. consulting rooms, minor surgery, counselling and 4 no. dental suites.

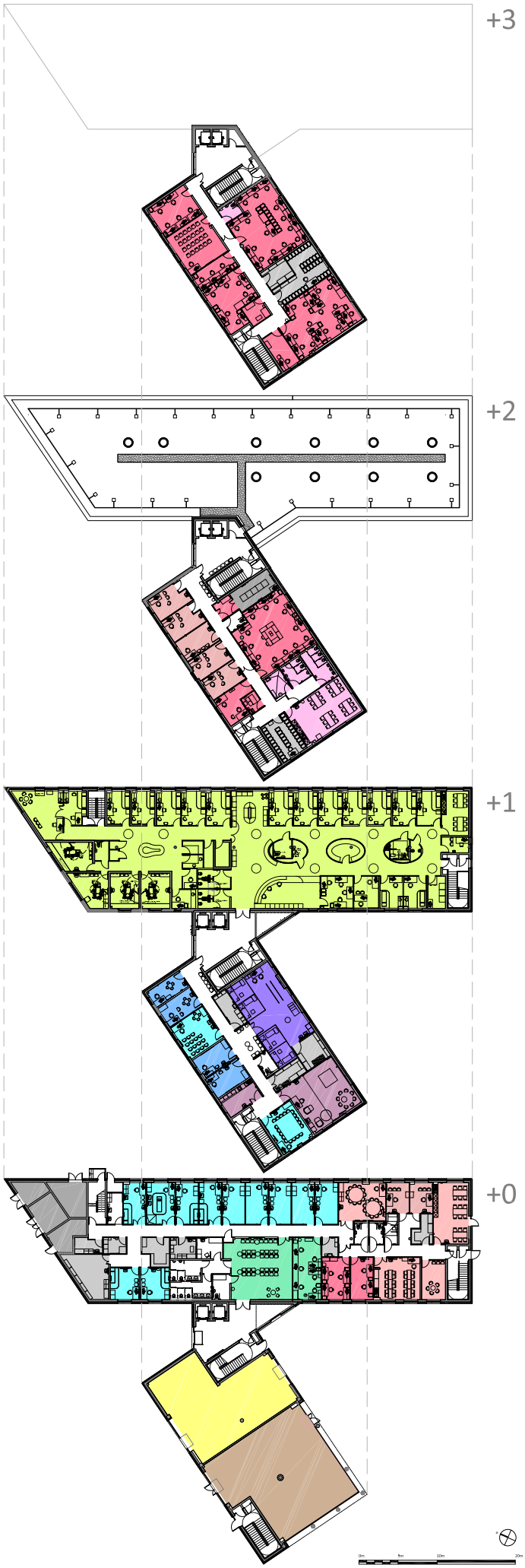
All public facilities are designed in accordance with HSE Room Data Sheet Specifications for size, materials and equipment. Space planning involved consultation with HSE Estates and end users. This informed both the layout of each individual room and the required clinical adjacencies of rooms and departments.

The building depth is restricted to 13m to minimise the need for mechanical ventilation.

HSE Reception

GP Reception

Mix of Uses



- Cafe
- Pharmacy
- GP Clinic
- HSE Reception
- Primary Care Group Rooms
- Primary Care Consulting Rooms
- Physiotherapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Mental Health Group Room
- Mental Health Consulting Room
- Staff Facilities
- Administration
- Storage
- Plant

The building is entered through a double height space. Primary vertical circulation is contained in the fibre cement clad volume linking the two blocks. Oak fins act as a full height balustrade - necessary in a building with mental health facilities.

Ground Floor contains HSE reception, Public Health Nursing, Wound Treatment, and the Day Hospital. The Day Hospital Client Kitchen opens onto a secure garden for patient use. To the front of the building facing the new public space are the pharmacy and cafe.

The private GP Clinic is to the rear at first floor. This contains a variety of consulting rooms, bookable rooms, counselling, nurse rooms and dental suites. The waiting area is placed on the opposite wall to reception to allow acoustic privacy to patients checking in. Sub-waiting areas are created between the consulting rooms and this space is broken up by accommodating ancillary facilities in oval pods. These inner spaces are top lit.

To the front at first floor are the public physiotherapy, occupational therapy and group therapy facilities. Mental Health facilities are at second floor level and Administration is at third floor level.

Window Design

It is a requirement of the HSE that *HTM 55 Windows*, the NHS guidance on window design in healthcare facilities, be followed. This restricts window openings that can be reached by children to 100mm. A further requirement of the HSE is that all proposed buildings be thermally modelled.

The IES thermal model of the building initially showed overheating when window openings were restricted to 100mm. This led to the windows on the upper floors taking a vertical proportion with all opening vents a minimum of 1.8m above FFL. Once out of the reach of children the windows could be opened beyond 100mm and the over heating issue was solved.

Universal Design

One universal design initiative pursued is the colour coding of each publicly accessible floor.

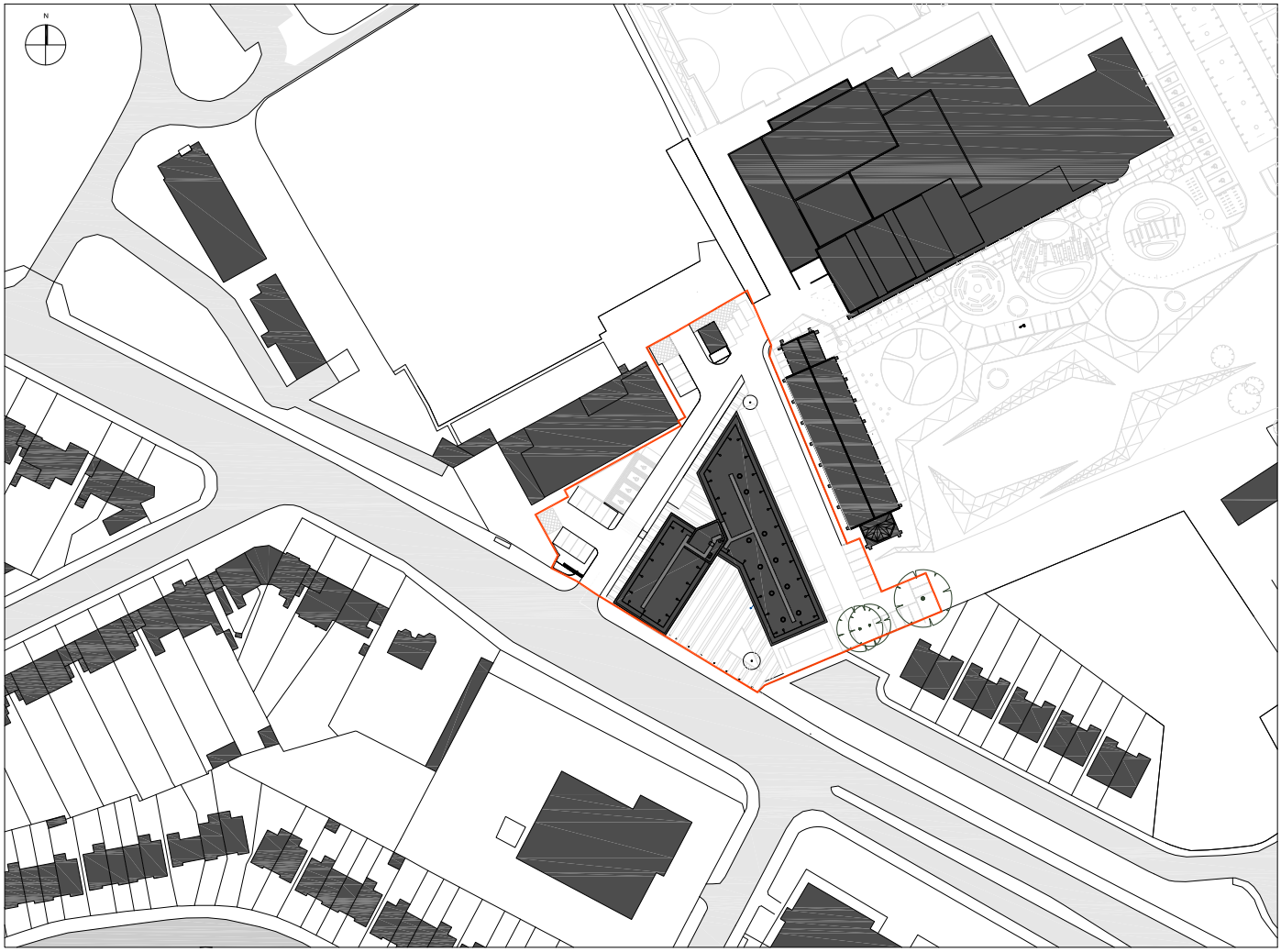
The corridor wall opposite the principal entrance at each floor level is picked out in an easily describable colour, namely green, blue, lilac and pink.

Patients will literacy problems can easily be directed from reception to, for instance, “the third door on the right on the blue floor” (the PCT Group Room).

This theme is further reinforced by all signage and IPS panels at each floor being co-ordinated with this colour scheme.

All signage is provided in Irish, English and braille.

Drawings



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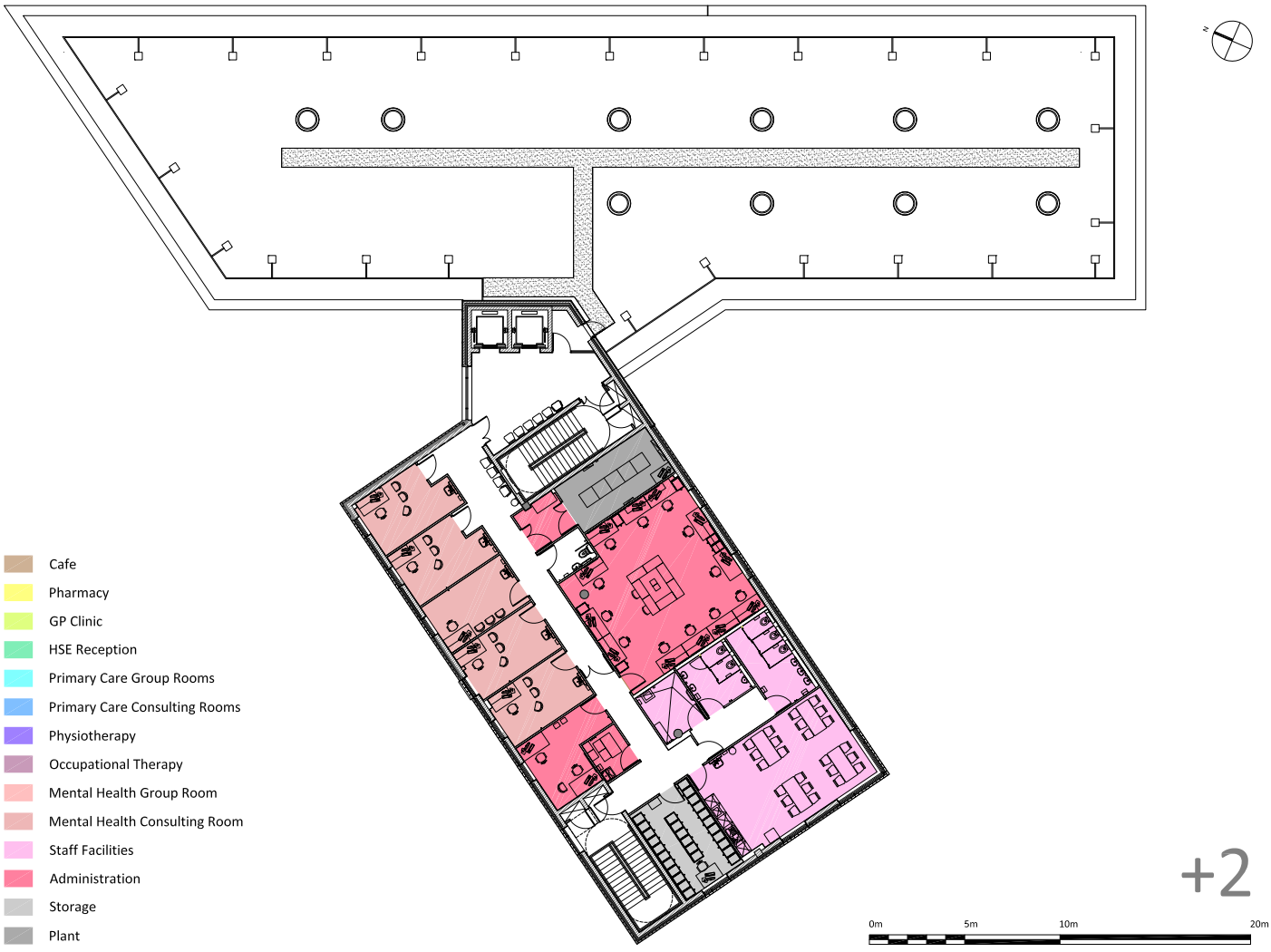
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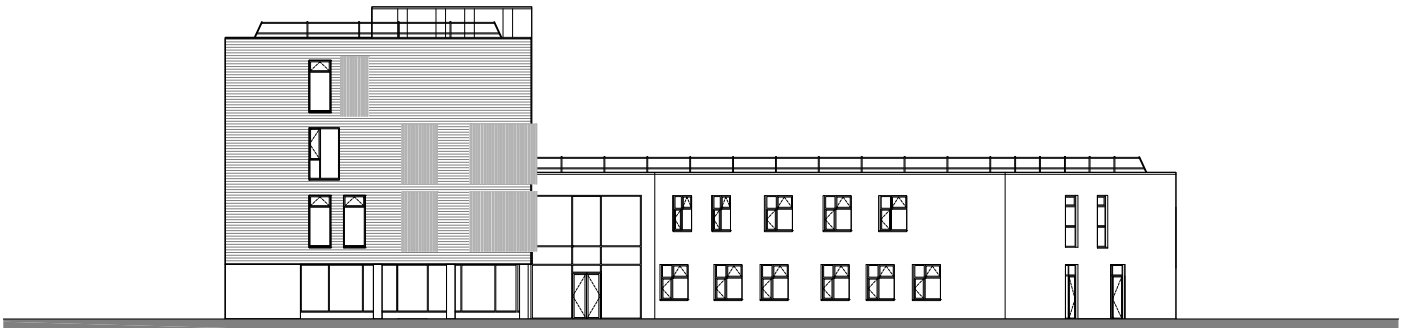

Southwest Elevation

Northwest Elevation

Southeast Elevation