

# Press release

19 juni 2019

## Erasmus MC wins European Healthcare Design Award

The most important European architecture prize for healthcare environments in the 'Interior Design and Arts' category awarded to Erasmus MC.



*London, June 19, 2019*

Last night, the Erasmus MC, designed by EGM, was elected winner of the category "Interior Design and Arts" at the award ceremony of the European Healthcare Design Awards in London. The prize is the most important European architectural prize for healthcare environments. The prestigious prize is awarded to the most inspiring project that manages to exceptionally create an empathetic and compassionate care environment which reflects the values of the caregiver through the integrated application of interior design and (visual) art. The interior of the new complex receives this recognition for successfully creating a Healing

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**Environment tangible in all respects. A hospital which became a healthy building through usage of the right blend of shapes, materials and colours and the natural and large-scale integration of greenery and art. A building that matches the human dimension. The prize was awarded by Alexandra Coulter (Director of Arts & Health South West) at the European Healthcare Design 2019 Congress in London.**

## **A Healthy Building**

The Healing Environment starts at the entrance area of the medical centre. Visitors to the new Erasmus MC are pleasantly surprised by the inviting entrance, where the striking floating mezzanine with grand café welcomes all guests. In the central interior street and atria, the glass roofs filter the daylight and ensure a pleasant indoor climate. Daylight is a very important, almost tangible, building material of the medical centre and reaches into the basement where radiation rooms and logistical routes are located.

The interior street and adjoining atria all have street name signs which create a natural orientation and apply a human scale. Atria are equipped with greenery and bamboo seats which brings distraction, peace and well-being while waiting or simply being with family. Important are the integrated anchor points in the design such as the large reception desks with rounded shapes and wooden finishes, monumental artworks and grouped seating areas. This creates places which help visitors orientate.

Outpatient clinics, patient lounges and radiation rooms are equipped with special, customized and wall-filling images of nature, made by artist Ron ter Burg. The single patient rooms were designed with a carefully chosen pastel colour palette which, together with the wooden exterior frames, offer a warm, homely atmosphere that contributes to the healing process. To maintain the spatial feeling and to ensure direct contact between patient and doctor, all fixed and detached elements in the rooms are kept low. This means that the view from the bed to the outside and to the door is uninterrupted. Patient rooms are self-sufficient: patients can open their own windows and curtains and they have their own sanitary facilities. With the help of a personal tablet, patients can access the internet, adjust the lighting, blinds and temperature, select meals and operate the TV.

The nursing wards adjoin the bed-accessible roof gardens, which cover a total of around 6,000 m<sup>2</sup>. Apple and pear trees make the garden a successful social meeting place for patients, visitors and employees.

## **The importance of art**

Art has a beneficial role within Erasmus MC. Art creates a warm welcome, distraction from stress and sadness and plays a part in signage. Erasmus MC, its art committee and EGM have naturally integrated art into the medical centre; many works of art were selected from the

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existing collection and given a new place. Such as the work of Stephan Balkenhol, made from the old plantation of the Coolensingel Hospital. Or the huge face made by Jaume Plensa in the interior street and "KIT" by Rotterdam's wood artist Ron van de Ende near the main entrance.

## **European Healthcare Design Congress**

The award ceremony, organized by Architects for Health and Salus, took place during the 5th edition of the European Healthcare Design Conference on June 18, 2019 at the Royal College of Physicians in London.

Erasmus MC has previously been voted the best building in Rotterdam by both jury and public, received prizes for the roof garden, an honourable mention at the Dutch Daylight Award and category winner "Stimulating Environments" of BNA's Best Building of the Year 2019.

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## About EGM

**EGM architects is one of the most innovative and knowledge-intensive architectural firms in the Netherlands. For more than 40 years, we have been pioneers with our sustainable and proactive approach to architecture. The result is a wide range of distinctive facilities for health care, government, education, research, community and business. In the Netherlands and abroad.**

**EGM interior is a concept studio with the focus on experience. With internet driven data, digital 3D modelling, software scripting, Evidence-Based Design, environmental psychology and corporate branding we create new, innovative environments. Our team stands for an integrated design approach and provides a wide variety of inspiring projects in healthcare, for governments and cultural institutions, for work environments, leisure and retail.**

**EGM advisors form the link between design and implementation with architectural and practice-oriented advice in the field of building physics, acoustics, structural fire prevention, building regulations, sustainability, building technology, building pathology and building plan assessments. EGM advisors have been part of EGM architects for many years and have therefore been able to develop into a special group of consultants: consultants operating close to the design.**

**Powered by EGM is frontrunner in BIM and offers its BIM knowledge and EGM experience with building and engineering to professionals in the design and construction industries in the Netherlands. Powered by EGM offers a total BIM solution: from the preliminary design to the as-built phase, as well as management and maintenance.**

## Not for publication

In case you have any question, would like to receive (additional) HR-material or are interested in an interview, please contact:

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**EGM r&d. Based on our leading position in the healthcare and public sector, we feel responsible for making an active contribution to research and innovation. We develop instruments and tools, do research and share our findings with clients and other stakeholders. EGM r&d actively contributes to the public debate through blogs, articles, lectures and symposiums.**