

Opportunities and limits of user focused trends in hospital architecture the case of government hospital, Thailand

Supuck Prugsiganont, Ph.D project

Background

There has been a growing interest in hospital architecture in the past twenty years with a paradigm shift where the healthcare design focus has moved from medical treatments toward users' need and well-being (Fronczek- Munter, 2016; Huisman, Morales, van Hoof & Kort, 2012; R Ulrich, 2010) the term user-focused has become one of the most important aspects during the design process of complex project of healthcare facilities including hospitals (Fronczek-Munter, 2016; Steinke, Webster & Fontaine, 2010). The concept of End-users and Usability have been adopted to amend the design strategies to construct healthcare buildings that can optimize its architectural functions and facilitate its users (Fronczek- Munter, 2011; Jensen, Alexander & Fronczek –Munter, 2011). Moreover, Huisman (2012) Ulrich (2004, 2008) identify that there is a development of the healthcare design facilities toward a more costumer-oriented management approach with a growing body of research regarding the effects of physical environment on users well-being in the past decades.

Thus, this PhD research wishes to fist, investigate general context of the Thai healthcare landscape and its current situation. Later the investigation of the hospitals will be conducted to narrow down and highlight the problems of the hospital built environment that need urgent attentions. Finally, the analysis of hospital architecture together with the use focused hospital design trends can enable to tackle the problems in the Thai hospitals.

The main purpose of this research is to improve the physical settings of the Thai government hospitals especially the public areas where the areas serve not only patients but also stuff and visitors.

Research question?

- 1) What is the current situation of hospital landscape in Thailand and why are the government hospitals facing the incremental development? What are the underlying causes of the incremental development in the government hospitals and what are the effect caused by this development?
- 2) What can be learned from precedent European hospitals, as the international inspiration, that have been through process of expansion, modernization and reconstruction
- 3) How can the integration between the Thai local culture and the user focused hospital design trends be involved in the improvement of public areas of the Thai government hospital which includes Maharaj hospital?
- 4) How can the review of the international trends of hospital architecture and the study of the Thai local culture inspire reconstruction proposals for the Thai government hospitals? What could the answer give back to trends in hospital architecture

Expected results

Proposal of intervention and recommendation on improving public areas of the government hospitals and design guidelines for general improvement of government hospitals and specific guidelines for improvement of Maharaj Government hospitals and specific guidelines for improvement of Maharaj Government hospital, Thailand.



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