

# Kentish Town Health Centre

Case Study produced by the A+DS  
Healthcare Design Programme.



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# Kentish Town Health Centre



^ Site Plan (credit Allford Hall Monaghan Morris)



^ Entrance Area Signage

v The building sits on a tight urban site surrounded by existing trees

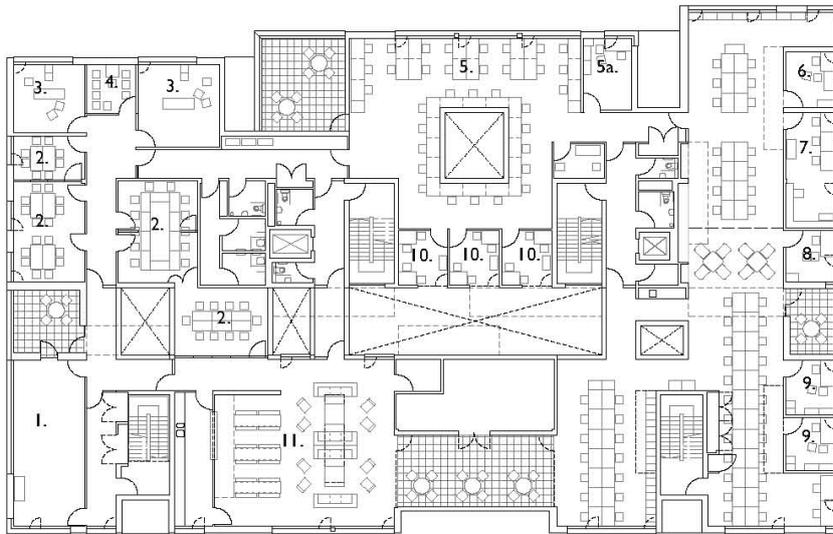
Located on a tight urban site, the new Kentish Town Health Centre sits behind a selection of mature trees embracing a composition of forms and materials that respect both the scale and the materiality of the surrounding residential setting. Although its primary function is for health and medicine, the building was also designed as a civic venue; as a gallery for displaying local artists' work, a space where local groups meet, and a base for neighbourhood initiatives.

Within walking distance for most users, the centre's connection to the community is evident in its layout, with public entrances on both the north and south elevations. The scale of the building is mitigated by layered block forms, which have been combined in a simple structure and clad in contemporary materials, including dark grey brick, smooth white render and bright green ventilation grilles, to create a unique identity. This ensures the centre is at once comfortable with the appearance and materiality of the surrounding buildings, but is also easily recognisable as a new and vibrant addition to the town.

The ethos of the centre was established at the briefing stage, that being to create a building that expressed a new, holistic approach to healthcare, and to create an inspiring and uplifting environment for staff and users alike. In response, the roof-lit internal street connecting the buildings entrances, which is activated by art works and large-scale graphics, allows views and transparency to the external environment and creates a welcoming entrance sequence.



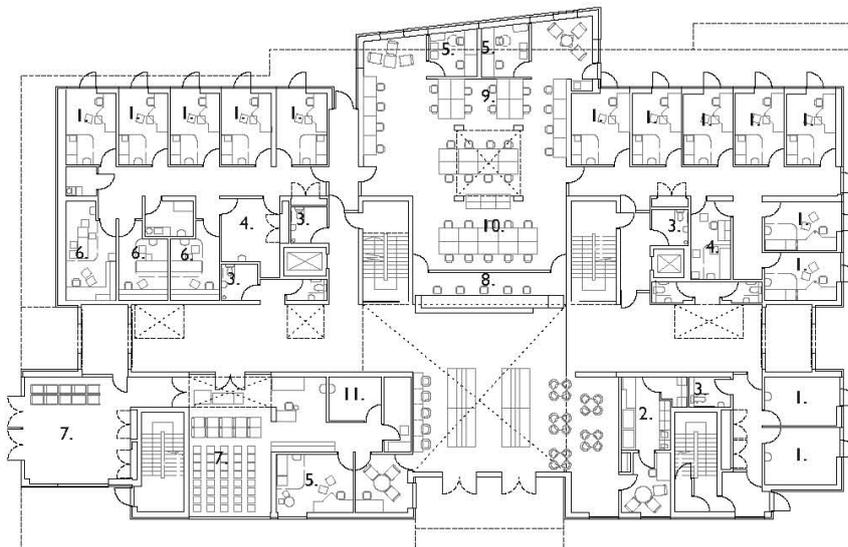
# Kentish Town Health Centre



## KEY

1. Library
2. Meeting Rooms
3. Teaching Consultation Rooms
4. Observation Rooms
5. District Nursing/Health Visiting/Open Plan Office Space
- 5a. District Nurse Office
6. Social Services Manager
7. Duty Team Room
8. Child Protection Officer
9. Reach Office
10. CNN Office
11. Staff Room

Second floor plan (credit Allford Hall Monaghan Morris) ^



## KEY

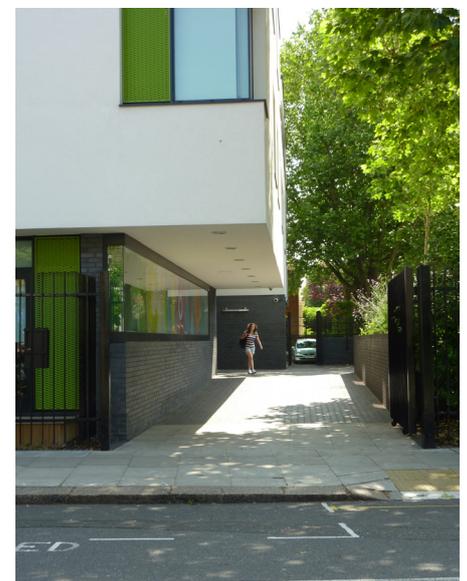
1. Consultant Rooms
2. Cafe
3. Disabled Toilets
4. Examination Rooms
5. Office Space
6. Treatment Rooms
7. Gym/Health Promotion
8. Reception
9. GP 'Hotdesk'
10. Admin hub
11. Immunisation Room

Ground floor plan (credit Allford Hall Monaghan Morris) ^

The “street” leads to a central reception hub serving all publicly accessible areas on the ground and first floors, which comprise a large GP Practice alongside a range of complimentary diagnostic, screening, dental and children’s health facilities as well as many other associated services. It also opens out to a secluded garden area, allowing visual and physical connections to be made between the articulated central space and the external environment. The relationships between these spaces, the visual linkage between all floors, and the coded graphics (in black and bright green) consolidate the centre’s identity whilst providing clear and intuitive way finding, through discrete routes that are woven unobtrusively into the building as required.

The majority of the functional spaces within the centre have been designed so that they are not regarded as the territory of one service or discipline. On the ground and first floors all consultation and treatment rooms are available for each practice or service to book via the centralised administration system. IT systems allow the doctors to access patient records and forms from the desk minimising the clutter in rooms and the

Main entrance v





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need for such materials to be stored and transferred, increasing efficiency. Each room has a relaxed colour scheme, three variable light settings and carefully considered furniture and sanitary ware that supports interaction and the ethos of the facility. An interchangeable storage system allows rooms to be transformed to suit a variety of functions, for example from a clinical to counselling, with comparative ease.

On the second floor, which is accessible to staff only, there are communal teaching spaces, an open plan office and various meeting rooms that allow staff to exchange knowledge and expertise. The visual linkage provided in the lower sections of the building extends to this floor as well. Staff also have access to external terraces at this level that are deliberately discrete and domestic in scale, creating the potential for a moment away along with a sense of privacy and a connection to nature in what is, nonetheless, an urban location.

As part of the building's sustainability strategy, the Design Team devised a unique solution that has considerably reduced the amount of mechanical ventilation required and realised a significant cost saving. Brightly coloured grilles have been incorporated into the design of the window frame so that a section of each window can remain securely open when the centre is unoccupied, thereby providing passive cooling. In conjunction with the windows, rooflights have been utilised to naturally light as much of the building as possible, which subsequently reduces its energy consumption.

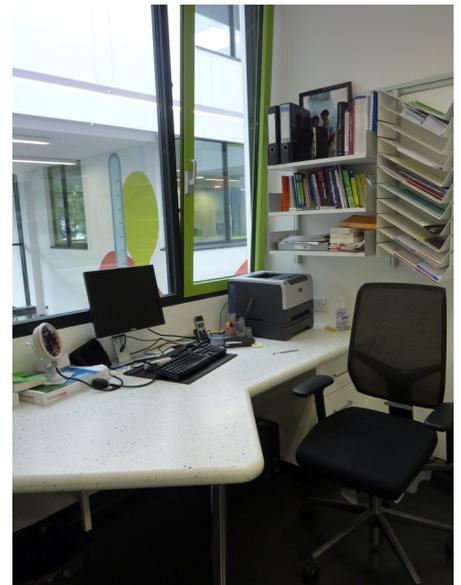
Above all, the new Kentish Town Health Centre replaces its predecessor with a new standard of healthcare building. The abiding impression for the patients and staff is that of a light and airy building, well connected into the fabric of the neighbourhood, which evidently provides the community with a valuable resource in terms of a health facility and a civic venue in a considered addition to the local built environment. Despite the extent of accommodation achieved on the site, such a flexible building not only benefits the efficient delivery of services currently provided at the centre, but also enables simple adaptations to suit future uses.

With thanks to Dr Roy MacGregor



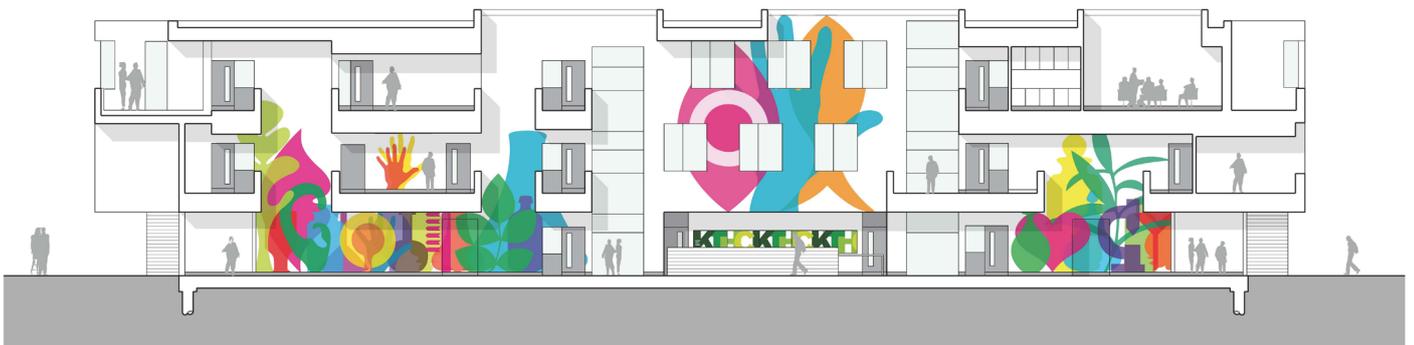
The reception and waiting area in the central atrium ^

The consulting rooms are bright and airy, with opening windows either to the outside or the atrium v



The circulation areas are bright, spacious and clearly signed, allowing light in and views out to the surrounding buildings and trees. <

The building has a playful section that lets light and movement deep into the building at all levels. (credit Allford Hall Monaghan Morris) v



## Project Information

Location: Kentish Town, London  
Delivery Team: Allford Hall Monaghan Morris, Camden Islington  
Community Solutions and Morgan Ashhurst  
Value: £ 10.1 Million  
Opening Date: January 2009  
Procurement Type: Traditional  
Client body: Camden Primary Care Trust NHS

Architecture and Design Scotland

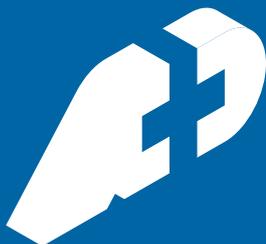
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Produced in association with



Health Facilities Scotland