



ASST SPEDALI CIVILI DI BRESCIA: DESIGN FOR THE HOSPITAL OF THE FUTURE UNVEILED AT TEATRO GRANDE

INTERNATIONAL DESIGN COMPETITION FOR THE NEW MAIN AND CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL CONCLUDES

The international design competition for the Hospital of the Future in Brescia has come to a close. The winning proposal, developed by Park Associati, CRA-Carlo Ratti Associati and Politecnica Building for Humans, with Openfabric, Dotdotdot, Eckersley O'Callaghan and Studio Mattioli, was unveiled this afternoon at Teatro Grande in Brescia. The presentation was attended by the President of the Lombardy Region, Attilio Fontana; the Regional Minister for Welfare, Guido Bertolaso; the Director General of ASST Spedali Civili di Brescia, Luigi Cajazzo; and other institutional representatives.

The ceremony featured a distinguished musical ensemble with comprising a string quartet, pianist Jiwon Kang, soprano Viviana Nebuloni and mezzo-soprano Marina Serpagli. Music marked the event through three key moments—opening, interlude and closing—blending cinematic emotion with the operatic tradition, moving from introspection to a vision for the future.

The winning design reimagines one of Lombardy's leading healthcare institutions with the aim of redefining the role of the contemporary hospital: an integrated public infrastructure designed to support collective wellbeing. The project embraces the principles of One Health, recognising that human health, the environment and social systems are fundamentally interconnected. This approach translates into a unified strategy that brings together healthcare, education, research and landscape within a single evolving organism, conceived to adapt over time. Construction will begin in 2028, with an investment of €274 million, and additional funding from the Lombardy Region is expected.

The original masterplan designed by engineer Angelo Bordonì in the early twentieth century provides the project's generative framework. Its hexagonal core and radial layout are reinterpreted as the structural foundation of a new territorial vision.

Nature will embrace the entire campus, allowing patients, healthcare professionals and visitors to move through the landscape as much as through the architecture itself. The new buildings will open outward, welcoming natural light, fresh air and views of the Brescia Prealps. Clinical and technological functions will be concentrated within the new facilities, providing a total of 60,500 square metres of floor space and more than 745 beds. The historic pavilions will be progressively repurposed to accommodate academic and scientific activities. This will strengthen and formalise the relationship with the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Brescia, reinforcing the site's academic identity and shaping the campus as an integrated ecosystem where healthcare and research operate seamlessly together.

Main Hospital

The Main Hospital is organised around three interconnected wings that reinterpret the radial logic of the existing hospital while opening the complex towards the city. At ground level, a continuous fully glazed lobby will form the project's urban threshold. Overlooking a new public square, this welcoming space



establishes a strong relationship with the surrounding urban fabric, transforming the hospital into an open, accessible and recognisable civic landmark.

Internally, the layout prioritises intuitive circulation, abundant natural daylight and clear wayfinding. The principles of Healing Architecture are implemented through measurable design strategies, including careful control of daylight quality, acoustic comfort, balanced spatial proportions and framed views towards the Brescia Prealps. Each patient room is conceived as a place of calm and recovery, where visual connection with the landscape becomes an integral part of the healing process.

The ends of each wing are designed as large, glazed winter gardens, creating spaces that extend the interior towards the outdoors while reducing the perception of enclosure.

The Main Hospital enhances existing clinical services through a more effective organisation of relationships between clinical, diagnostic, surgical, intensive care, logistics and support functions. Functional adjacencies streamlined circulation and reduced travel distances will improve operational continuity, management efficiency and the overall patient experience.

The façades incorporate advanced solar control and energy optimisation technologies. Transparency is carefully managed through a sophisticated façade system that balances environmental performance with visual continuity, making the building envelope an active instrument of climate regulation as well as a defining architectural feature.

Children's Hospital

The Children's Hospital is conceived as an independent building composed of three cylindrical volumes of varying heights. Its system of terraces and internal courtyards forms a genuine therapeutic garden, bringing nature into direct contact with every department. Landscape becomes a fundamental component of the healing experience. The entrance lobby is organised around a dramatic full-height atrium that serves as a welcoming social space, accommodating play areas and consultation zones within a bright, protected environment.

CareRing and Landscape

The CareRing is the project's defining spatial concept: a continuous ring extending for more than one kilometre, where landscape orchestrates mobility, logistics and public life. More than a piece of infrastructure, the CareRing is a landscape infrastructure that connects the campus with the city, people with ecological systems, and the concept of health with the quality of place.

Below ground, it concentrates technical and operational flows, separating them from clinical circulation to ensure greater efficiency and safety. At ground level, it unfolds as a continuous green system of tree-lined squares, therapeutic gardens and publicly accessible open spaces. The landscape guides movement supports everyday wellbeing and creates new relationships between the hospital, the campus and the city. Landscape, mobility and healthcare functions converge into a single spatial framework that embodies the One Health approach and the principle that human health is inseparable from environmental health.

Structure, Adaptability and Technology

The hybrid timber-and-steel structure, assembled using dry construction techniques, reduces embodied carbon and shortens construction time while introducing a modular system capable of accommodating



future reconfiguration. The architecture is conceived as an open framework, ready to evolve alongside advances in medical technologies and models of care.

Digital technologies are integrated throughout the project. Intelligent wayfinding systems, flow management and environmental monitoring become operational tools that enhance efficiency and safety without dominating the architectural experience. The user experience combines physical environments with digital platforms to create more intuitive and inclusive access while introducing strategies to reduce unnecessary movement, minimise operational interference, eliminate unproductive time and support the re-engineering of everyday healthcare processes.

The new hospital will be a public infrastructure capable of translating the principles of One Health into architecture. By concentrating clinical and technological functions within the new buildings, the project strengthens relationships across the entire complex, transforming the hospital into a more efficient, legible and resilient clinical, logistical and digital network.

The result is a healthcare campus where technical excellence, environmental responsibility and spatial quality come together in a long-term vision for collective health.