

## The Impact of Architecture on the Healing Process of Paediatrics: A Case Study of Lady Ridgeway Hospital in Sri Lanka

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Optimal health, encompassing both physical and psychological wellbeing, is a fundamental goal, with healing as a critical process. This study explored the impact of architectural and landscape design on creating healing environments in paediatric healthcare, focusing on Lady Ridgeway Hospital, the largest paediatric hospital in Sri Lanka. The study aimed to establish a framework for designing hospital environments that cater specifically to paediatric patients, recognizing that their needs differ significantly from those of adults. Existing research suggests that paediatric healthcare facilities possess distinct features that influence the creation of healing environments; however, there is limited emphasis on the role of architectural elements within these settings. This study contributes to the broader understanding of how architectural elements can influence health outcomes in paediatric care, underscoring the need for specialized design strategies that address the unique requirements of paediatric healthcare facilities. The study investigated both indoor and outdoor environmental design factors at Lady Ridgeway Hospital through thematic observation and structured questionnaires. The findings suggest a strong correlation between the hospital's ambiance and the recovery of paediatric patients. Further, the study proposes that strategic architectural features such as size, proportion, texture, and colour, grounded in architectural principles, can significantly enhance the healing process for children.

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