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ARCHITECTURE, BUILT
ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING



RESEARCHER

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OUTPUT TITLE

Maggie's Lanarkshire

OUTPUT TYPE

Landscape Design

DATE

May 2014

01 / STATEMENT

FIG. 1

View across the Woodland Garden to the building. Photo rankinfraser landscape architecture llp.



The project is an enclosed walled garden for the Maggie's Centre at Lanarkshire Hospital in Airdrie.

Maggie's Centres provide the physical space for practical, emotional and social support to people with cancer, their family and friends. The garden has several distinct components comprising an entrance courtyard, a woodland garden, and a series of four small external courts which are embedded within the building plan, all of which are enclosed and linked seamlessly and cohesively to the building by a finely articulated perimeter wall of Danish bricks which also embraces two detached stands of mature lime trees.

Fraser's practice-based research over 4 years involved all stages of the design and construction of the project. It enhances knowledge associated with designing outdoor environments to improve human well-being in a cancer caring environment via design team, client and stakeholder engagement, design development and iteration. The research also establishes a model for future centres by emphasising the relationship of building and walled garden (internal and external spaces) as a cohesive overall environment in contrast to many of the earlier centres, in which building and garden remained detached from one another.

The research contributes further knowledge to the delivery of projects via the technical resolution of the walled garden/hortus conclusus concept which allowed the retention of the existing mature trees despite the associated boundary wall foundations on a site with Japanese knotweed present. Both the wall and the presence of Japanese knotweed would typically require the removal of the mature trees and the dilution of the concept. The retention of these trees suggests a dialogue between them, the series of enclosed gardens and the building itself.

Significance has been recognised by a wide variety of awards, reviews, publications and peer reviewed website and exhibition inclusion. The project was also shortlisted for the RIBA Stirling Prize in 2015.

FIGS. 2-3

A linear rill animates the space with the sound of running water.
Photo rankinfraser landscape architecture llp.



02 / RESEARCH DIMENSIONS

The project makes a 'hortus conclusus', an enclosed walled garden, for Maggie's Lanarkshire in Airdrie.

Maggie's centres provide the physical space for practical, emotional and social support to people with cancer, their family and friends.

The garden has several distinct components comprising an entrance courtyard, a woodland garden, and a series of four small external courts which are embedded within the building plan, all of which are enclosed and linked seamlessly and cohesively to the building by a finely articulated perimeter wall of Danish bricks which also embraces two detached stands of mature lime trees.

'Visitors enter a quiet arrival court defined by the low brick walls and two lime trees. Entering in is an insurmountable step for some, an acknowledgement of what they may have long denied. But the courtyard helps, it is a place where they can linger and maybe leave – nothing lost, they can try again. If they do come in, at once a sense of dignity and calm is encountered. A linear rill, a spring, animates the space with the sound of running water.'

*Extract from RIBA Stirling Prize 2015
Shortlisting Citation*



FIG. 4
The entrance to Maggie's Lanarkshire, showing the Entrance Courtyard, water rill and retained mature trees. Photo rankinfraser landscape architecture llp.

FIG. 5

View from one of the external courtyards embedded in the building plan through the building to the Entrance Courtyard demonstrating the cohesive relationship of internal and external spaces. Photo rankinfraser landscape architecture llp.



03 / ORIGINALITY

The relationship of building and gardens at the project represents an important moment in the design evolution of Maggie's Centres, signifying a point when the focus further shifted to the importance of outdoor spaces and the cohesive relationship of building and outdoor space as mechanisms to enhance the overall useability of the centres and the well-being of centre users.

Writing in *The Architect's Journal*, Ellis Woodman acknowledges this, saying, 'The formal pyrotechnics of such early iterations as Frank Gehry's building in Dundee and Zaha Hadid's in Kirkcaldy have been exchanged for a greater focus on the making of places in which interior and exterior spaces enjoy an equivalent status. This is well exemplified by the latest Maggie's Centre, which stands in the grounds of Monklands Hospital in Airdrie.'

The new knowledge embedded in the completed project is a possible model or exemplar for future centres. The research contributes further knowledge to the delivery of projects via the technical resolution of the walled garden concept which allowed the retention of the existing mature trees despite the associated boundary wall foundations on a site with Japanese knotweed present. Both the wall and the presence of Japanese knotweed would typically require the removal of the mature trees and the dilution of the concept. The retention of these trees suggests a dialogue between them, the series of enclosed gardens and the building itself.

'The specificity of place, and the role that design can play in creating salutogenic environments, remain important areas where research is needed to offer a better understanding of opportunities for action in every sense of the word.'

Catharine Ward Thompson, 2013. Activity, exercise and the planning and design of outdoor spaces. *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, (34)79-96 (p.93).

This proposition frames the new knowledge the project addresses, which is how to design a garden to enhance human well-being in the specific context of a cancer caring centre.

FIG. 6
The Woodland Garden reflected
in the building with terrace
steps and planting in front.
Photo rankinfraser landscape
architecture llp.



FIG. 7
Hand digging to locate tree roots
prior to wall foundation design.
Photo rankinfraser landscape
architecture llp.



FIG. 8

Airdrie House, c.1900. Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 3.0 License.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Monkhouse2.jpg>



04 / RIGOUR

This project focus emerged via interrogation of the brief. Maggie's do not provide a specific landscape brief articulating their requirements and expectations.

However, the building brief does define the extremely high aspiration expected and as such, it initially framed the ethos, requirements and scope of how the project was conceived. A more detailed site-specific landscape brief emerged via discussions between Fraser, the architects and the client and essentially applied this ambition to the landscape. This ambition is an achievement of the project and a crucial staging post in how the project was conceived.

The initial concept was simply to build the centre on a car park and extend the boundary wall to enclose and embrace the remaining lime trees that date from the designed landscape of Airdrie House. The design was subsequently developed via a period of intensive research into the links between landscape and well-being and therapeutic landscapes and via analysis of similarly scaled gardens such as Carlo Scarpa's Querini Stampalia in Venice. This was complemented by regular, on-going dialogue with the architect, Reiach and Hall and other design team members and by Maggie's Centre site visits including West London by Rogers Stirk Harbour and Partners.

This process was complemented by key stakeholder dialogue and peer review with the client, Chief Executive Laura Lee, Maggie's co-founder and Board Member Charles Jencks and architecture co-client, Marcia Blakenham. Knowledge derived from all of these processes was embedded in the developing design.

The design developed as the response to the Maggie's brief further crystallised, and included substantial design iteration across a range of scales via model making, hand sketching and 3d visualisations. Mapping of this process via reference to the original design material indicates where the final design stuck closely to the original intent, for example with the walled garden concept and where, in the entrance courtyard for example, the design developed significantly through the different stages.

FIG. 9
1858 map of Airdrie Estate – the red line indicates the site. Extract from the 2nd edition OS, surveyed in 1897. Reproduced by permission of the National Library of Scotland.

<https://historic-hospitals.com>



FIGS. 10–11
Site plan of the hospital car park site overlaid with drawings. Images courtesy of Google Earth. Drawing by rankinfraser landscape architecture llp.



FIG. 12
Early concept drawing
study; overall site layout.
Drawing rankinfraser landscape
architecture llp.

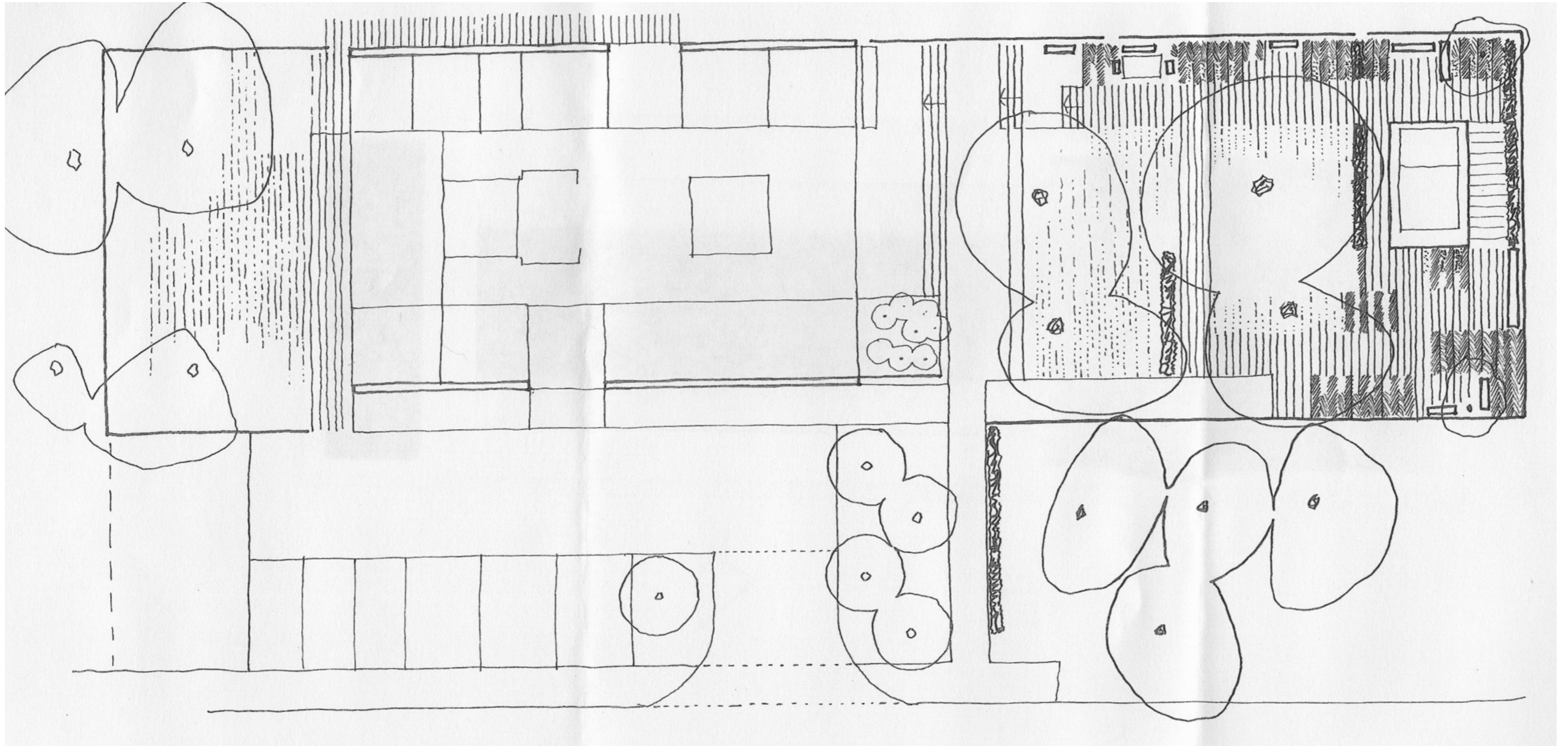


FIG. 13
Early concept visualisation
of the Woodland Garden.
Drawing rankinfraser landscape
architecture llp.

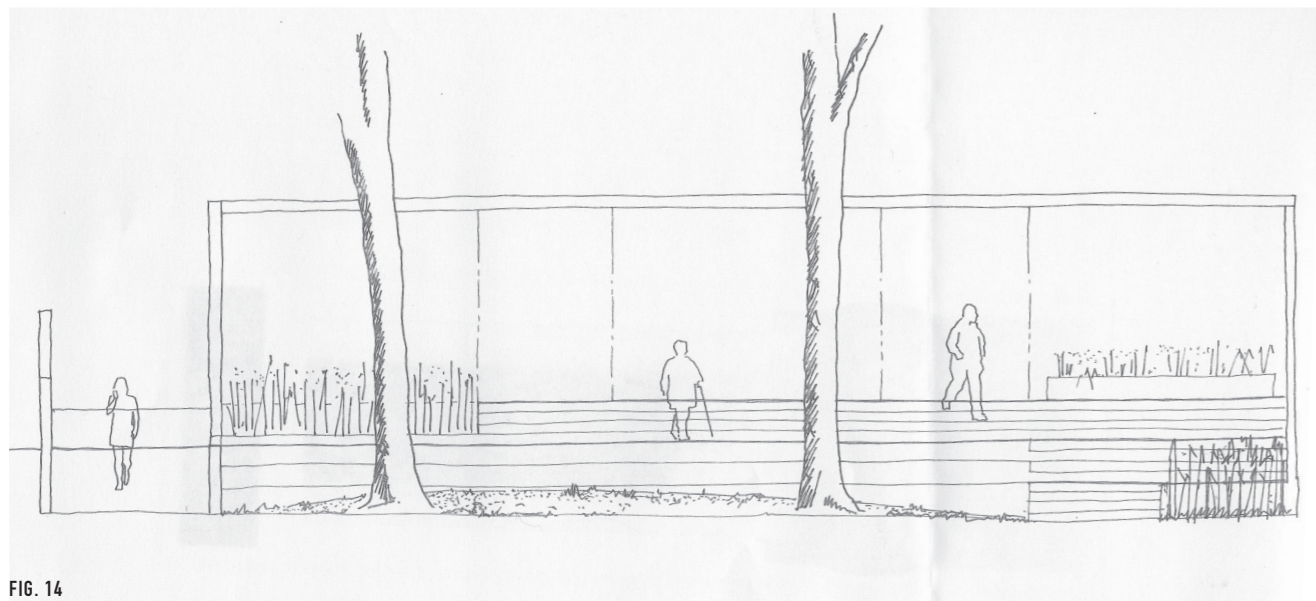


FIG. 14
Early study section of the
Woodland Garden Terrace.
Drawing rankinfraser landscape
architecture llp.

FIG. 15
Early study axonometric
of the Woodland Garden
Terrace. Drawing rankinfraser
landscape architecture llp.

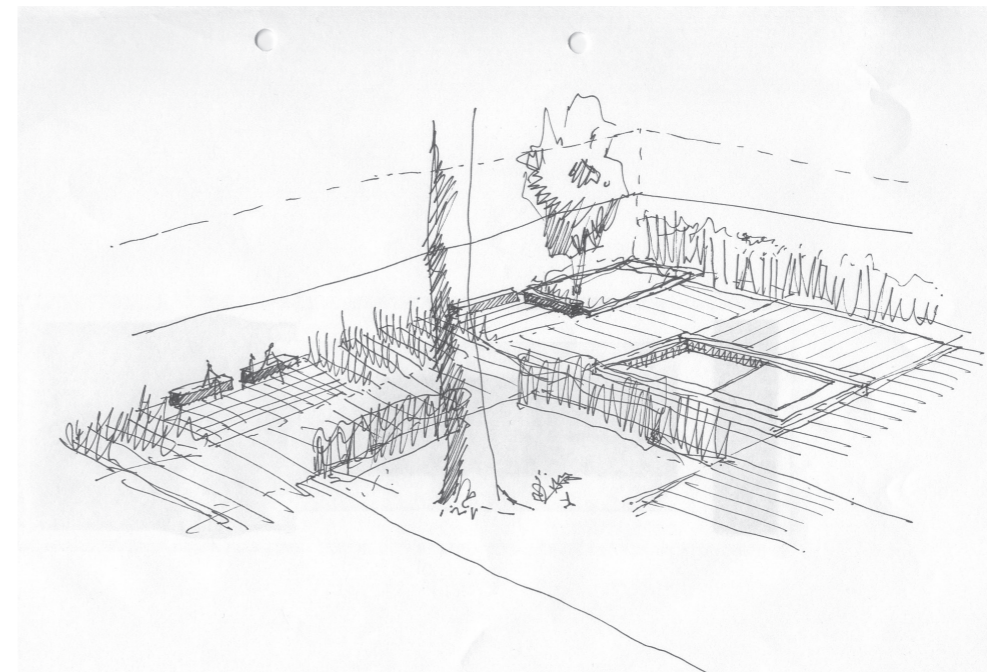
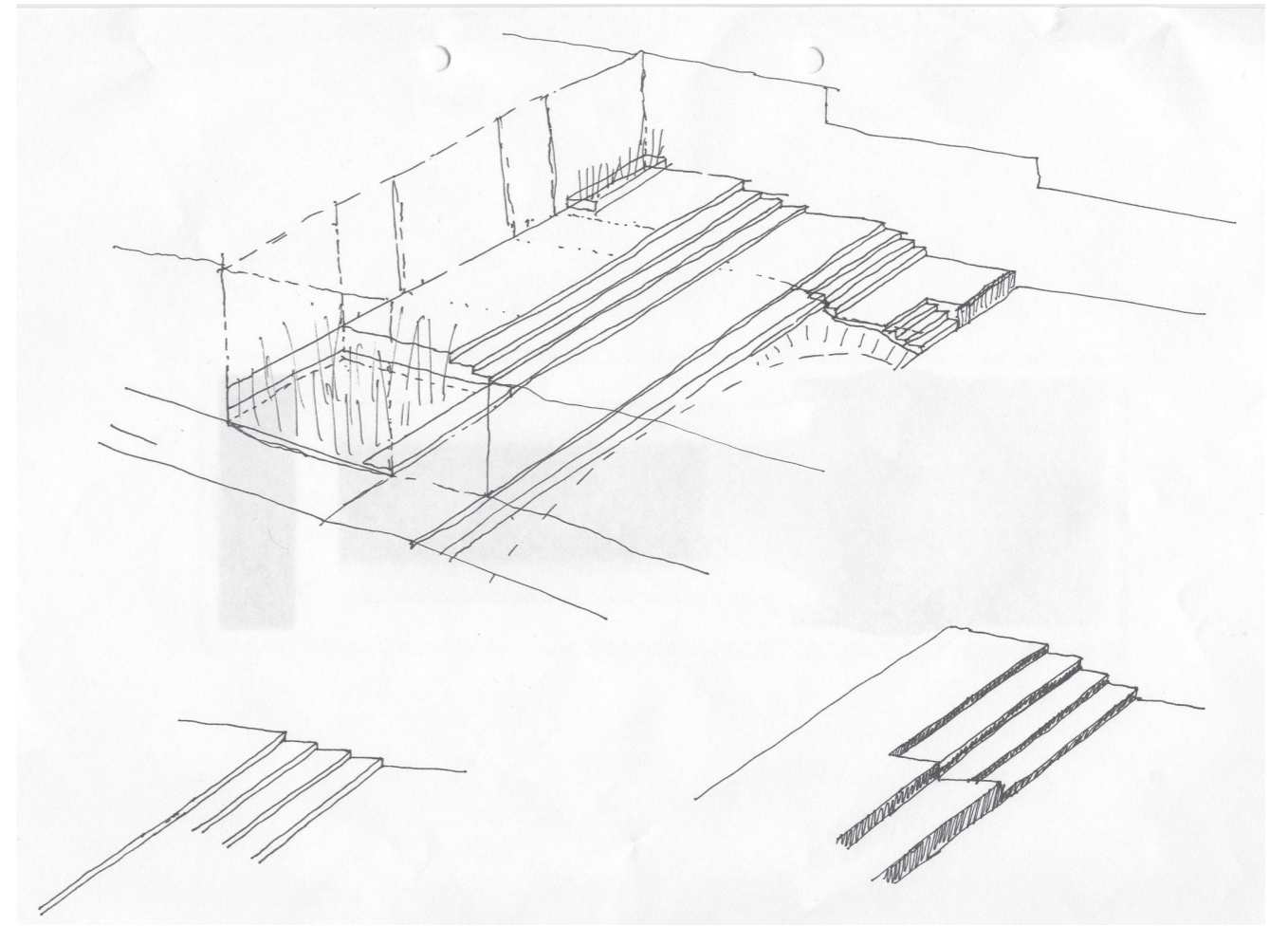


FIG. 16
Early study sketch
of the Woodland Garden.
Drawing rankinfraser landscape
architecture llp.



FIG. 17
Early concept visualisation
of the Entrance Courtyard.
Drawing rankinfraser landscape
architecture llp.



FIG. 18
Overall site plan.
Drawing rankinfraser landscape
architecture llp.



FIG. 19
Maggie's Lanarkshire model.
Photo rankinfraser landscape
architecture llp.



FIG. 20
Maggie's Lanarkshire model.
Photo rankinfraser landscape
architecture llp.

FIG. 21

Planting flowers and foliage textures Entrance Courtyard.
Photo rankinfraser landscape architecture llp.



05 / SIGNIFICANCE

Maggie's Lanarkshire has won a number of awards and been shortlisted in many more; most significantly the RIBA Stirling Prize in 2015.

It is a published case study on The Landscape Institute's website and was also peer reviewed and subsequently selected for inclusion on the international landscape architecture website *Landezine*, with over 12,700 views currently on-line. See Appendix, pages 28 and 29.

It has been published and reviewed in a number of publications, including *The Architect's Journal* (2014) where Ellis Woodman writes that the project is, 'an empathetic space that invites nature to provide succour for its visitors,' and that the design is an example of the, 'making of places in which interior and exterior spaces enjoy an equivalent status.'

He also states, 'The building conveys a powerful empathy for the emotions of people undergoing one of life's most challenging experiences and illuminates the capacity of nature to serve as a vehicle for their physical and spiritual regeneration'. See Appendix, pages 28 and 29.

It has been written about and reviewed in the wider national press including both *The Scotsman* and *The Herald*. The project is included in several book publications including, *The Architecture of Hope: Maggie's Cancer Caring Centres* (2015) by Charles Jencks. It was also included in the exhibition, *The Architecture of Hope: Maggie's Cancer Caring Centres* at the V&A Museum (2011) and was selected for inclusion in the 187th Royal Scottish Academy Annual Exhibition in 2013. See Appendix, pages 28 and 29.

FIG. 22

The Entrance Courtyard and the wider landscape beyond. Photo rankinfraser landscape architecture llp.



FIG. 23

External Courtyard embedded within the building plan and 'raincatcher'. Photo rankinfraser landscape architecture llp.



FIGs. 24-27

Views of the Woodland Garden, the planting and still, reflective pool. Photos rankinfraser landscape architecture llp.



06 / APPENDIX

Awards

The research's impact and significance has been recognised by a wide variety of awards.

The Landscape Institute Awards, *Design for a Small-Scale Development*, Highly Commended, 2016.

Judges Citation:

'There is a beautifully restrained palette of materials chosen for colour, texture and warmth, which complements the elegant building and makes a sympathetic canvas for the sparkling light and shadows.'

WAN Healthcare Award, Shortlisted, 2016.

Judges Citation:

'The gathering of domestic-scaled spaces, both internal and external, bring a sense of continuity and enclosure. The building's scheme contributes as an extension of the landscape that offers moments of visibility and outlook with places of privacy and in look.'

Scottish Design Award, Public Realm/Landscaping, Winner, 2016.

RIBA Stirling Prize Finalist, Shortlisted for Maggie's Centre Lanarkshire, 2015.

RIAS Awards Andrew Doolan Best Building in Scotland, Finalist, 2015.

RIAS Award, 2015.

Prime Minister's Award Better Public Building Finalist, 2015.

Blueprint Awards Best Public Use Project (Privately funded), Shortlisted, 2015.

BDA Awards Best International & Worldwide Project, Shortlisted, 2015.

RIBA National Award 2015, Judges Citation: *'a respite from the clinical atmosphere and built form of the nearby hospital, this is a place of relaxation and contemplation.'*

Scottish Design Awards, Architecture Grand Prix, 2015.

Scottish Design Awards, Best Public Building, 2015.

AJ Awards Building of the Year, Shortlisted, 2015.

Civic Trust Award, Special Award for Scotland, 2015.

Civic Trust Award, 2015.

Scottish Property Awards, Architectural Excellence, 2015.

GIA Awards Supreme Award, 2015.

Judges Citation:

'the building feels like it is sitting on the edge of a forest' and that *'the quality of the winning building would have shone through whatever the competition.'*

GIA Awards, Best Healthcare Building Award, 2015.

Roses Design Awards, Proposed Building of the Year, Gold, 2011.

Exhibitions

The Architecture of Hope: Maggie's Cancer Caring Centres, Victoria and Albert Museum, London, 2011.

Selected for inclusion in The Royal Scottish Academy Annual Exhibition, 2013.

Press and Online Media Coverage

Journals

Architectural Design; Maggie's Architecture: The deep affinities between Architecture and Health, *Architects' Journal*, 12 September, 2014, Vol. 240(9), p.36(5).

Building Design, 3 June, 2011, Issue 1968, p.4.

Architectural Review, June 2015, pp.10-11.

Peer Reviewed Journals

Angie Butterfield and Daryl Martin, Affective sanctuaries: understanding Maggie's as therapeutic landscapes, *Journal of Landscape Research*, Volume 41 2016, Issue 6 – Landscape and Health, Taylor and Francis.

<https://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/102417/>

Book Publications

The Architecture of Hope: Maggie's Cancer Caring Centres, Charles Jencks, 2015.

Therapeutic Landscapes: An evidenced based approach to designing healing gardens and restorative outdoor spaces, Clare Cooper Marcus, 2014.

Television

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b082m7bq>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QkVcZuAikrI>

Websites

The research has been widely published including;

<http://landezine.com/index.php/2018/08/maggies-centre-by-rankinfraser-landscape-architecture/>

<https://my.landscapeinstitute.org/case-studies#list>

<https://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/buildings/maggies-lanarkshire-by-reiach-and-hall/8669419.article>

<https://www.architectsjournal.co.uk/buildings/riba-stirling-prize-2015-finalist-maggies-lanarkshire-by-reiach-and-hall/8690178.article>

<https://www.ajbuildingslibrary.co.uk/projects/display/id/6934>

<https://www.dezeen.com/2014/10/20/reiach-and-hall-architects-maggies-centre-lanarkshire-walled-gardens/>

https://www.architectmagazine.com/project-gallery/maggies-lanarkshire_o

https://www.heraldscotland.com/life_style/13715515.maggies-lanarkshire-centre-built-by-reiach-and-hall-nominated-for-prestigious-stirling-architecture-prize/

https://www.urbanrealm.com/buildings/1007/Maggie%27s_Cancer_Caring_Centre_Lanarkshire.html



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