

Project name	Caritas Medical Centre
Location	Sham Shui Po, Kowloon, Hong Kong
Publication	Building Journal September 2002

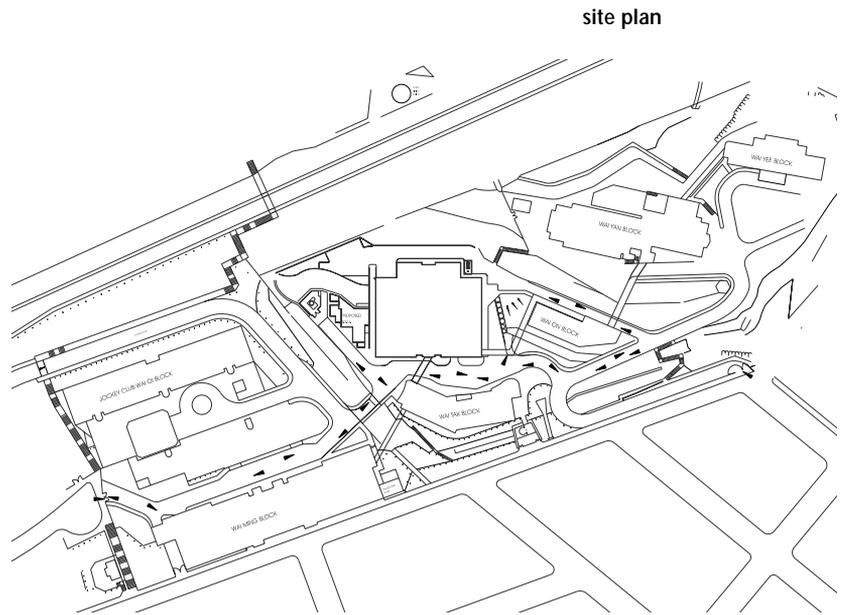
Caritas Medical Centre

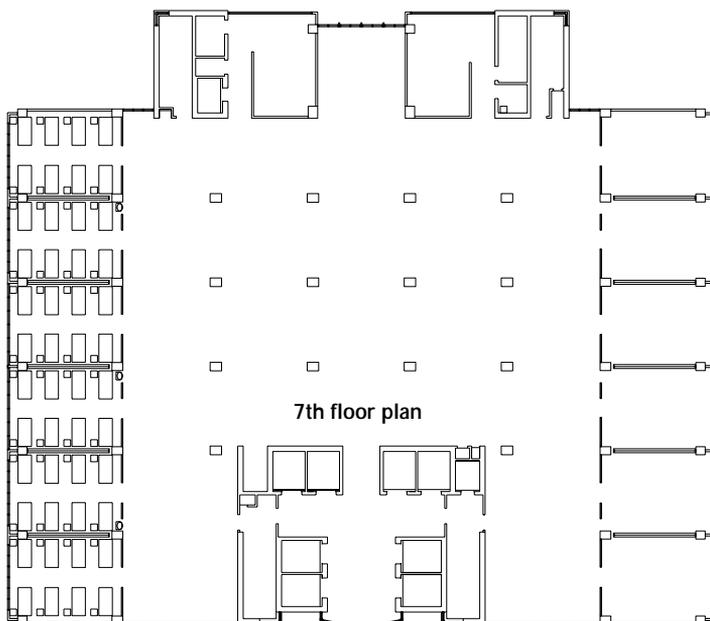


The HA took over Caritas Medical Centre in Sham Shui Po in the early 1990s and incorporated it into its Kowloon East hospital network. In 1998, the two blocks occupying the site in the middle of the complex were demolished to make way for the new acute block, a 14-storey building that provides acute care.

Christened the Wai Shun Block, the combined building has a total gross floor area of 35,340 sq m and 716 beds — not a lot of space for a building that contains the range of facilities the medical centre does, which include various clinical specialities such as geriatrics, paediatrics, ophthalmology and orthopaedics as well as operating theatres, an intensive care unit, a radiology department and an accident and emergency department.

The compactness of the footprint available for housing these facilities dictated the adoption of a square design that maximised site coverage to provide 20,000 sq ft of space per floor. Designed



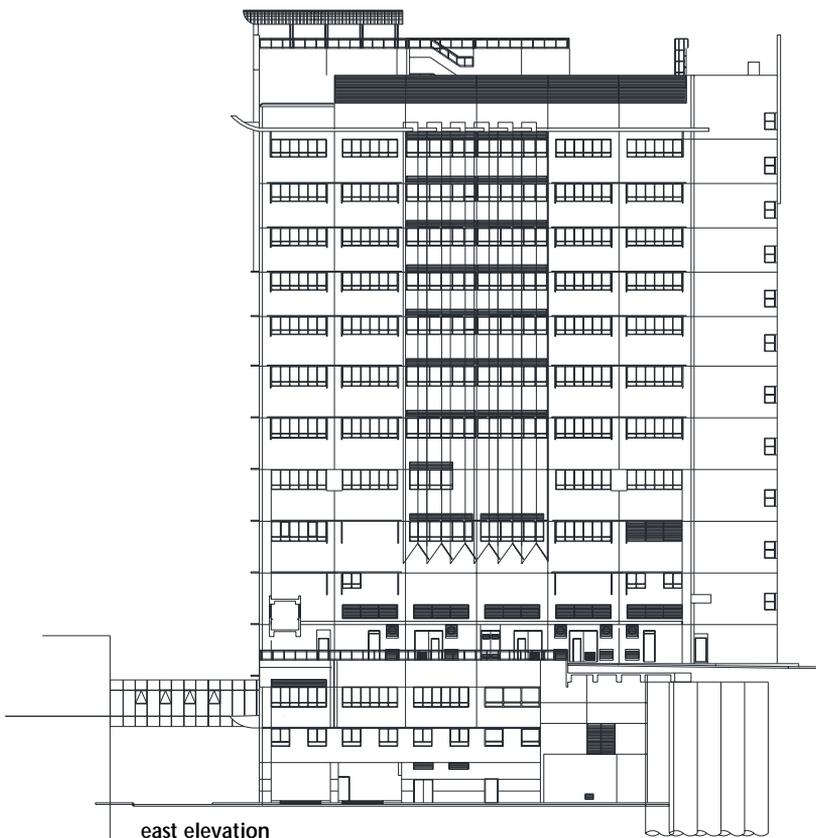
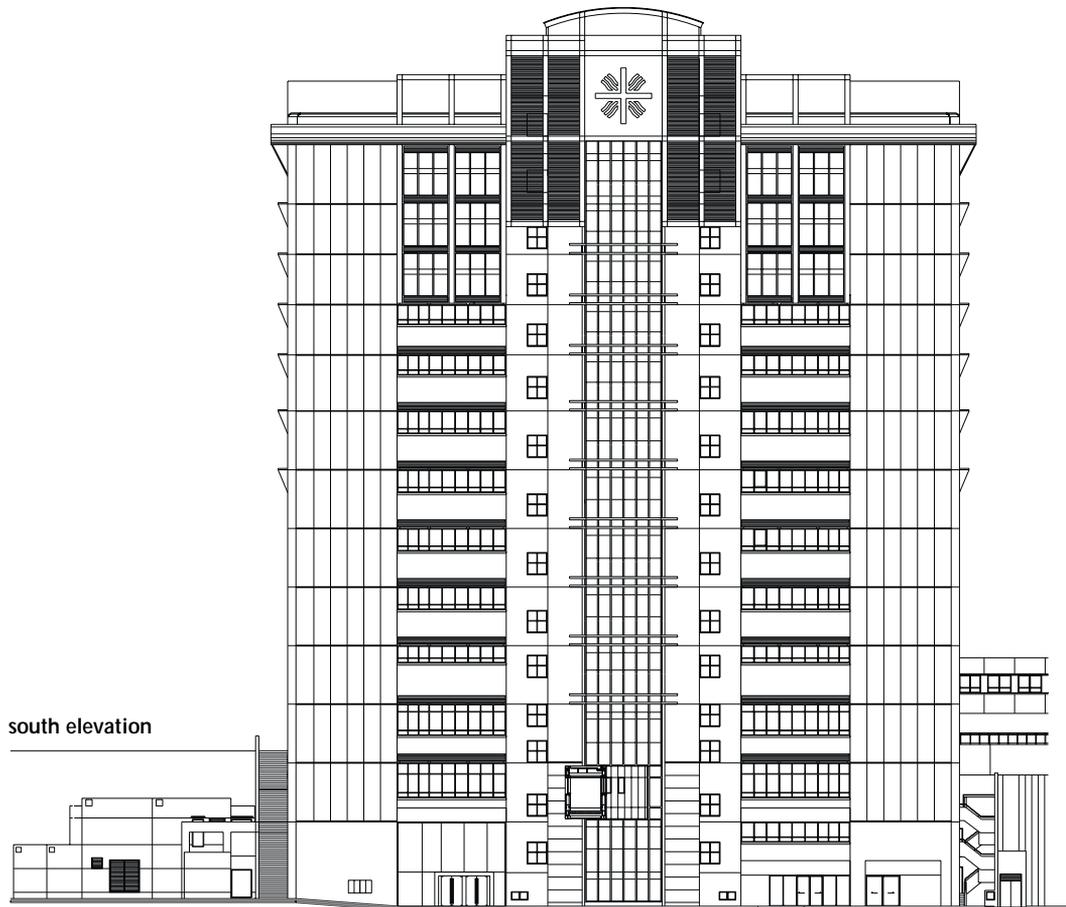


to take advantage of the topography, the building has a third floor vehicular access for a sizeable kitchen.

The medical centre has a typical floor layout with bathrooms, treatment areas and pantries located in the service core while wards are distributed on either side of a corridor. The allocation of space is determined by the needs of individual departments as well as a desire to minimise walking distances for staff and patients. Thus, the accident and emergency department is located on the ground floor, with direct access from ambulances, and operating theatres occupy a central position close to related departments. There are eight passenger lifts plus one fireman's lift and one goods lift.

One advanced feature adopted by the medical centre is an isolation concept that uses a pressurised anteroom to achieve complete isolation of an isolation ward. This is different





from the traditional concept, which relies on manual control of the air pressure in the ward to ensure isolation, which makes the system susceptible to human error.

To be integrated with the rest of the hospital, the centre has two footbridges linking it with two other buildings. Many existing buildings at the hospital, which was built in 1964, are slated for redevelopment. It is anticipated that all the buildings will eventually be linked together by a network of footbridges. With this integration in mind, the architect has designed a pneumatic tube system for the centre that is provided with reserves which will allow it to be connected to other buildings via the footbridges in the future.

Architecturally the medical centre features a green colour scheme that harmonises with the colours of the existing buildings. The cladding materials are a combination of aluminium, ceramic tiles and granite. Depending on the direction the façade faces, horizontal, curved or vertical sunscreens are installed to reduce solar heat gain.

Construction of the new building commenced in 1998 and was completed in early 2001 at a cost of HK\$563 million.