

# Karl Bremer Hospital New Emergency Centre and Medical Records

Bellville, Cape Town, Western Cape

Client: **Western Cape Government**  
Department of Public Works: **Health**  
Project Leader: **Joe Neethling**  
Architects: **Blueprint Architects**  
**BF Architects in association**  
Project Team: **Andrew Rudolph, Justin Runyowa, Hassan Mowzer, Bentley Faulmann**  
Structural Engineers: **KFDWilkinson**  
Electrical Engineers: **Triocon**  
Mechanical Engineers: **Triocon**  
Electronic Engineers: **NWE**  
Health & Safety: **Solid State**  
Contractor: **GVK**  
Photography: **Wieland Gleich-ARCHIGRAPHY.com**  
Text **Hassan Mowzer**

33°53'33.00"S 18°36'33.41"E

The brief called for the construction of a new Emergency Centre (EC) and Medical Records facility. The existing 24-hour emergency services offered were limited to medical, obstetric, gynaecological and paediatric cases only as the existing space neither qualified nor was equipped to serve as a full emergency centre. The new facility hence needed to provide an integrated and comprehensive emergency service to the population of the Tygerberg area, required to manage up to 160 patients a day.

The design team envisaged a double-storey building, with the Medical Records Area situated on the lower ground floor and the New Emergency Centre on the ground floor. This allowed for the EC to connect directly to the existing hospital via the existing south wing, whilst allowing the Medical Records to connect via a more discreet route. The compact nature of the plan is conducive for efficient patient management.

A central courtyard covered with a glazed roof was introduced to serve as the fulcrum for the circulatory passages and becomes a focal point that allows patients to orient themselves.

Furthermore, the courtyard breaks the building's deep footprint and provides ample natural light to the internal spaces.

Patient supervision is greatly enhanced through the provision of strategically located central supervisory workstations. These optimize staff efficiency and patient safety. Colour is used internally to orient and direct patients and provides areas of visual interest in the unit.

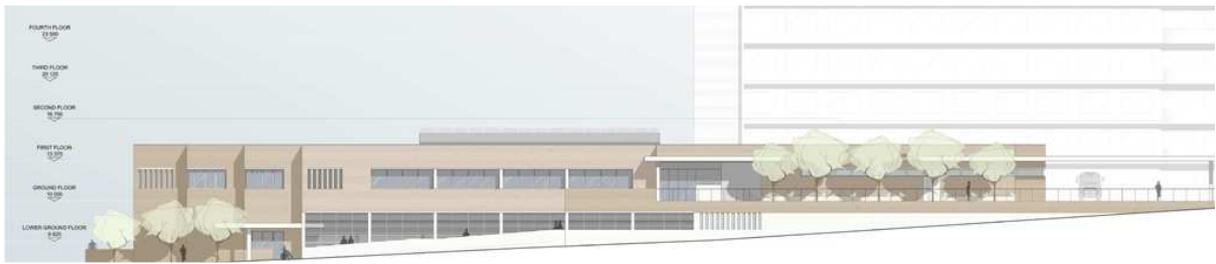
The building responds sympathetically to the complex sloping and corner site conditions.

Though the building is modern in its fenestration and facade treatment, it integrates seamlessly with the existing building by employing similar architectural elements. It creates a plinth for the existing hospital as opposed to trying to overshadow it.

The ubiquitous nature of the red facebrick and framed windows of the existing buildings on site is echoed on the facades of the new building allowing for a common language between old and new.



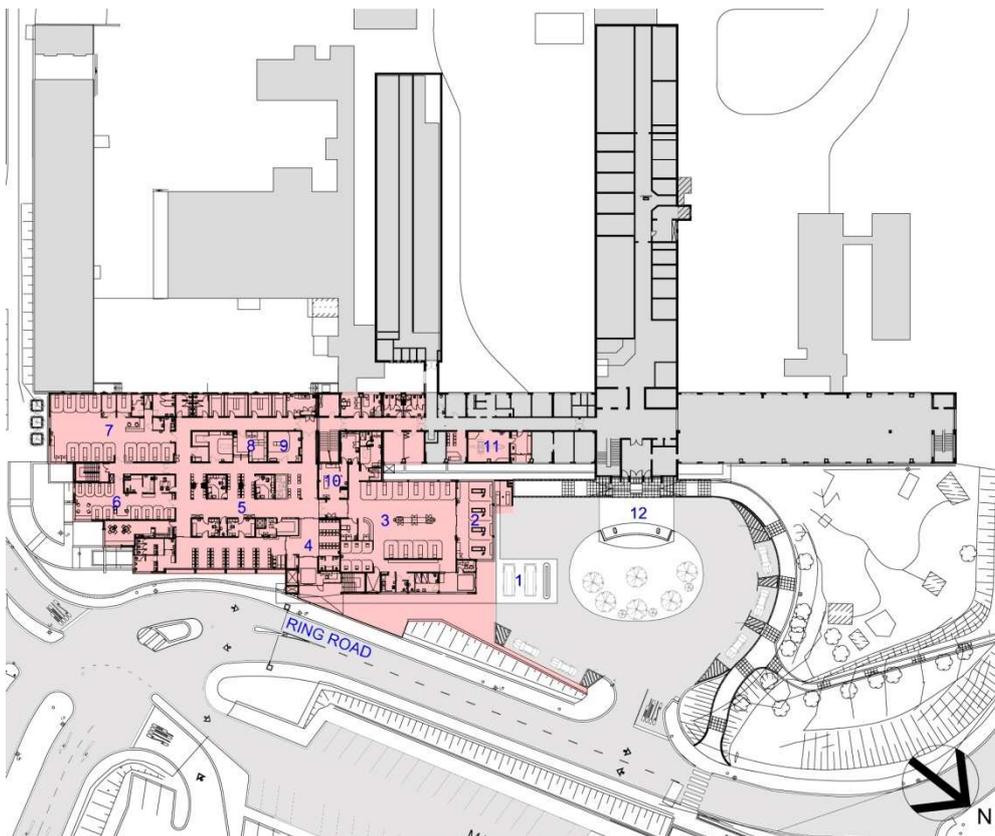
North East Elevation



**North East Elevation**



**South East Elevation**



**Upper Ground Floor Legend**

- 1. Ambulance Drop-off
- 2. Resuscitation Ward
- 3. Trolley Treatment Area
- 4. Public Admission and Waiting Area
- 5. Triage and Consultation Rooms
- 6. Paediatric Treatment Ward
- 7. Observation Ward
- 8. Pharmacy
- 9. Procedure Room
- 10. X Ray Unit
- 11. CT Scan Unit
- 12. Existing Main Hospital Entrance



**Paediatric Ward**



**Ambulance Entrance**



**Lightwell over Waiting Area**