

Speed to Market for Health Infrastructure

May 05, 2026

Canadian Centre for Healthcare Facilities



John MacSween
Director, Parkin Architects



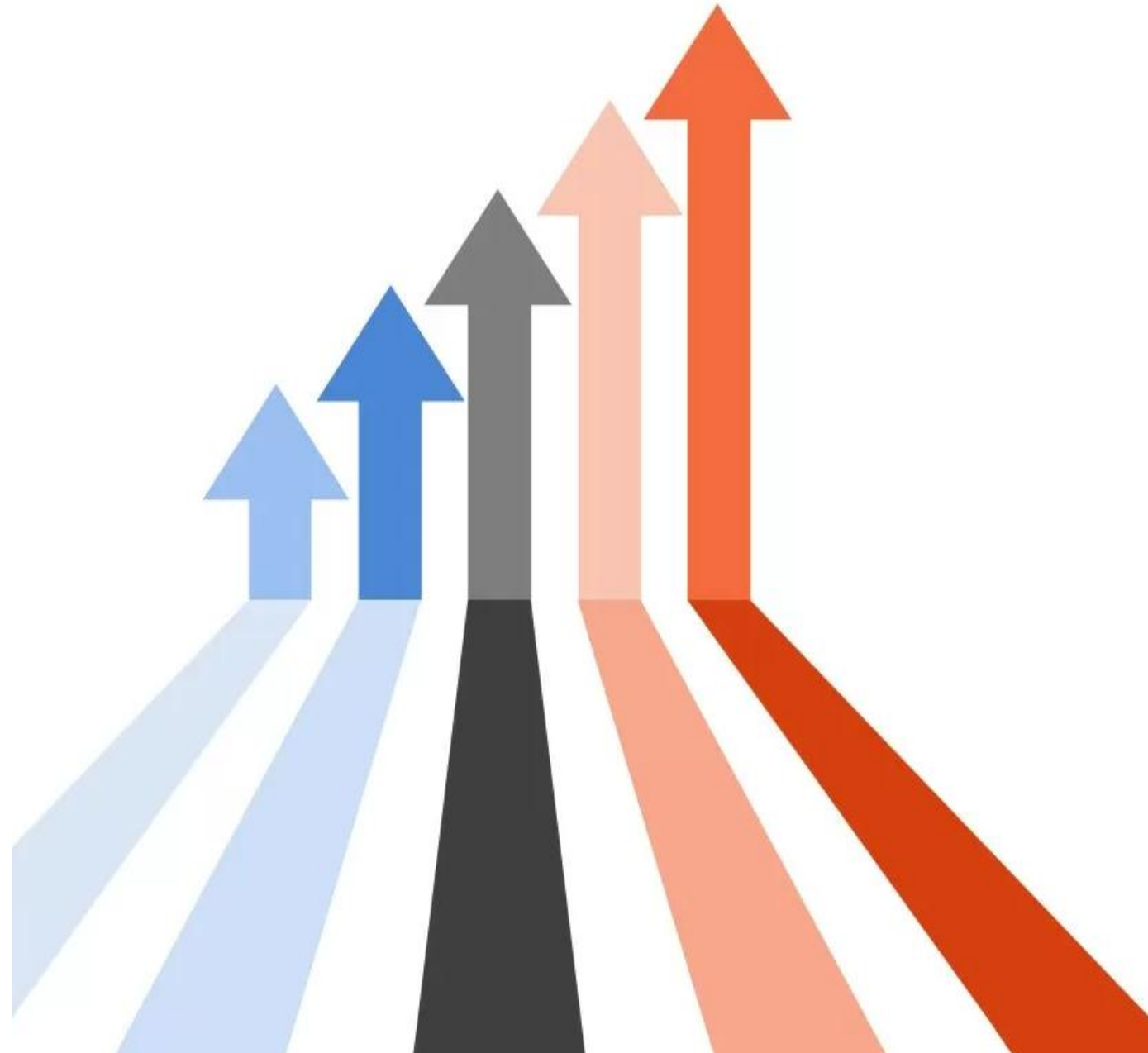
Melinda Lobo
Senior Associate, Parkin Architects

PARKIN Designed with care.



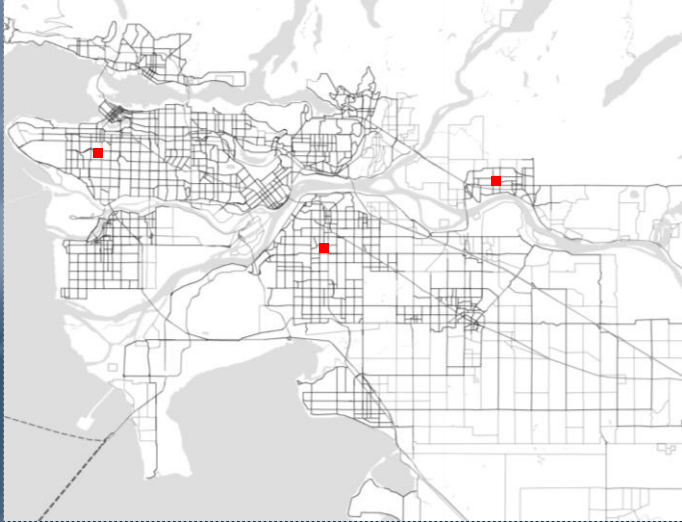
Focus of Discussion

- Why traditional strategies exceed budgets
- Constraints of urban hospital sites
- Implications for speed to market

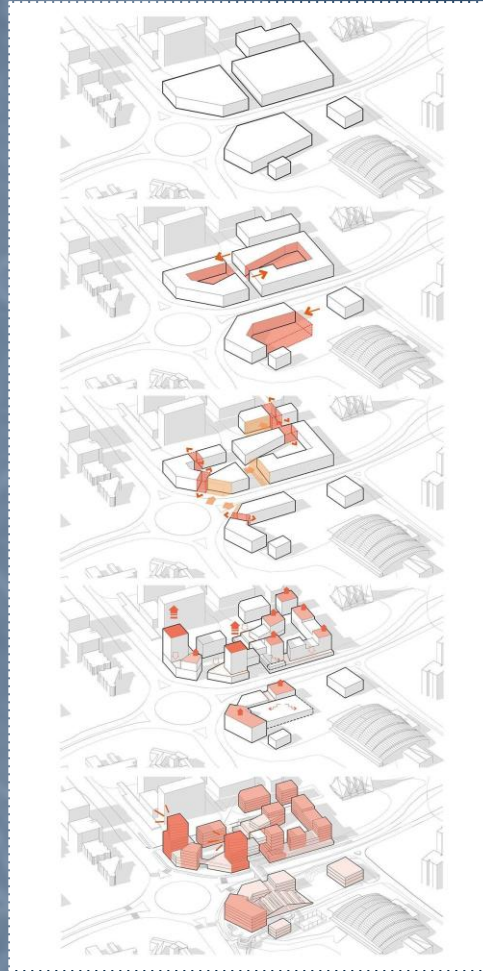




Why 'Speed to Market' is Breaking Down



Constrained Hospital Sites



Phasing while staying Operational

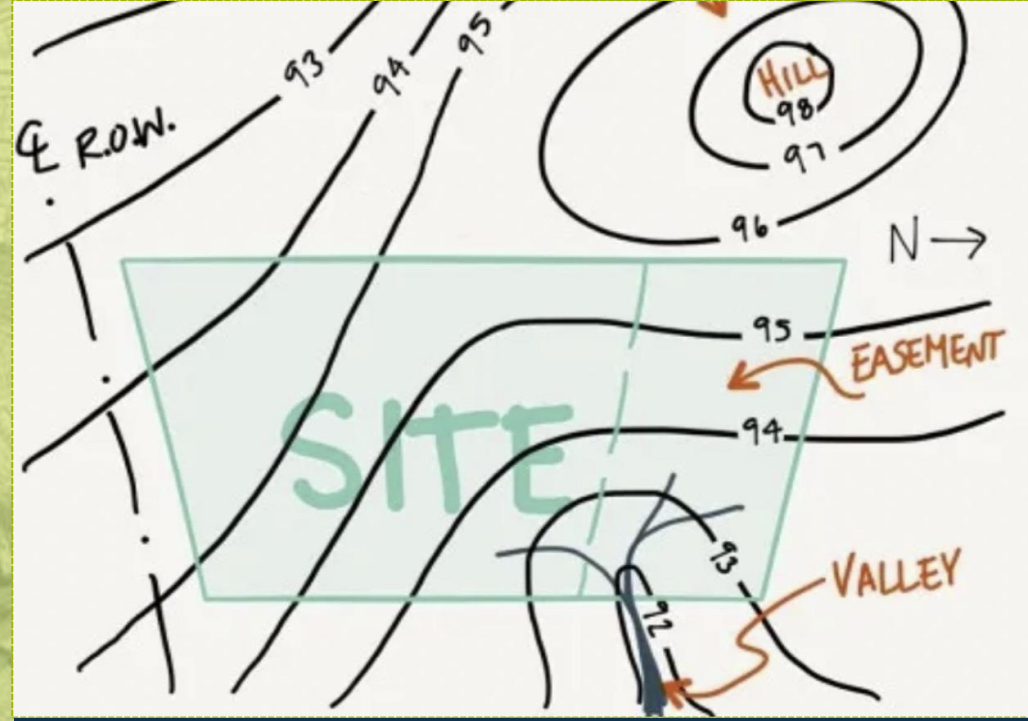


Capital Escalation

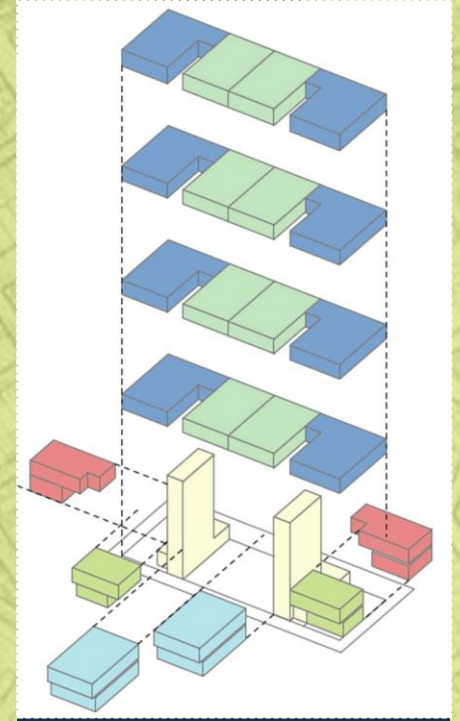
THE COMPOUNDING EFFECT



Build new + Renovate old



Delivered within existing site constraints



Multi-Phase
(20-30 years)

TRADITIONAL REDEVELOPMENT MODEL

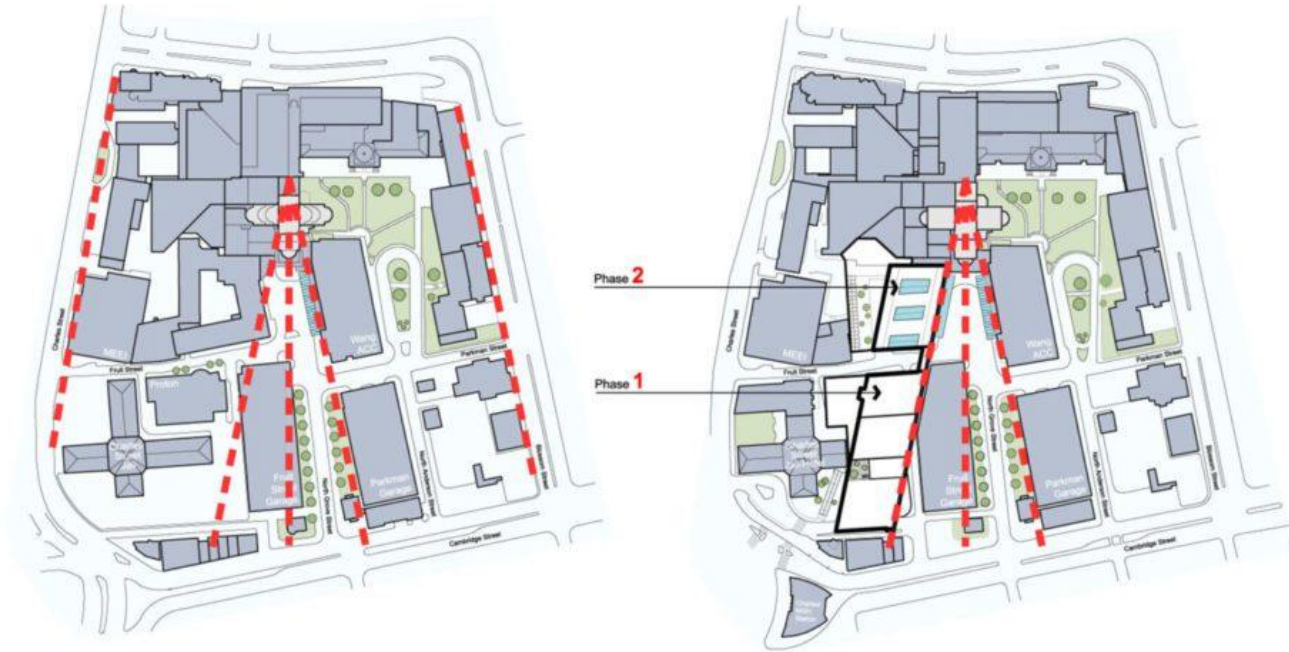


Scenarios:

A Pattern Across Urban Hospitals



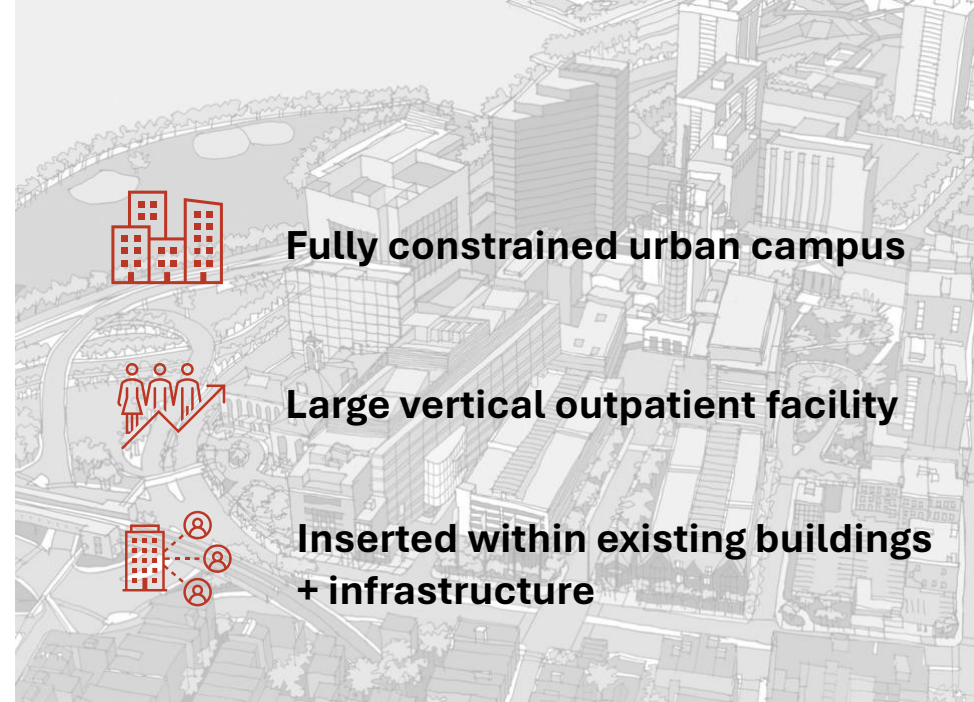
MASS GENERAL HOSPITAL'S YAWKEY CENTER, BOSTON



Existing MGH Campus

MGH with New Ambulatory Building

TOTAL AREA	UNDERGROUND PARKING	PATIENTS ANNUALLY
420,000 ^{sf}	750 ^{car}	600,000



Fully constrained urban campus



Large vertical outpatient facility



Inserted within existing buildings
 + infrastructure





EVELINA CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, LONDON



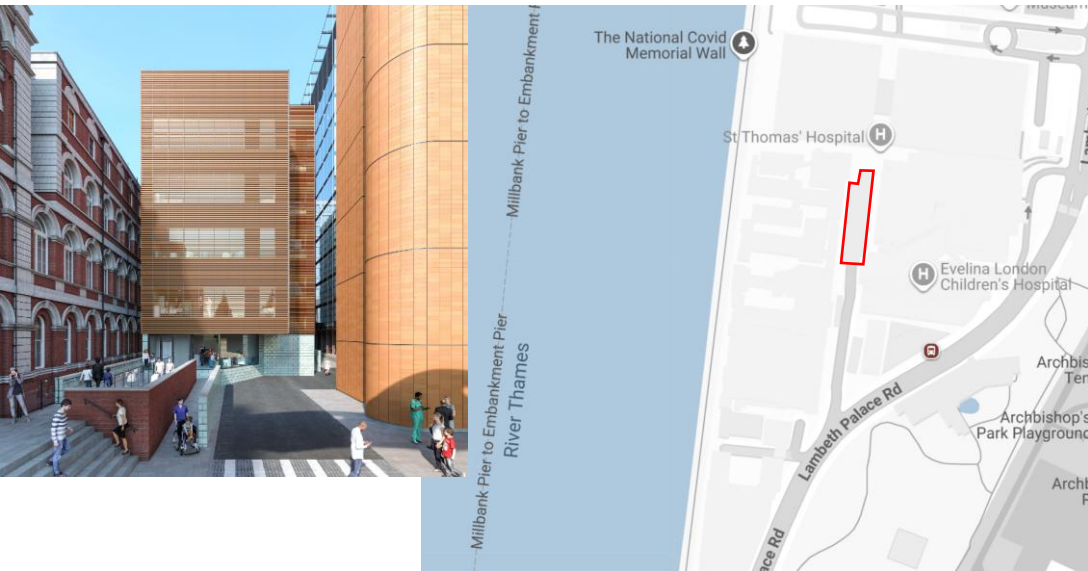
Compact Verticality



Purpose Built Facility



Fitted into what space allows





ROYAL ADELAIDE HOSPITAL, AUSTRALIA



Completely new hospital to be built



Old hospital remained fully operational



Phased transition of services (2017 move)





ST. BARTHOLOMEW HOSPITAL, LONDON



Historic hospital (900+ years old)



Redevelopment done in phases
while hospital remained active



New buildings inserted into tight urban site



WHAT WE SEE

INCREMENTAL
GROWTH

FRAGMENTED
ADJACENCIES

COMPLEX
CIRCULATION

VERTICAL
STACKING

CONTINUOUS
REDEVELOPMENT

Different cities. Same outcomes.

PLANNING PRINCIPLES THAT HAMPER URBAN HOSPITALS

SCALE DRIVER

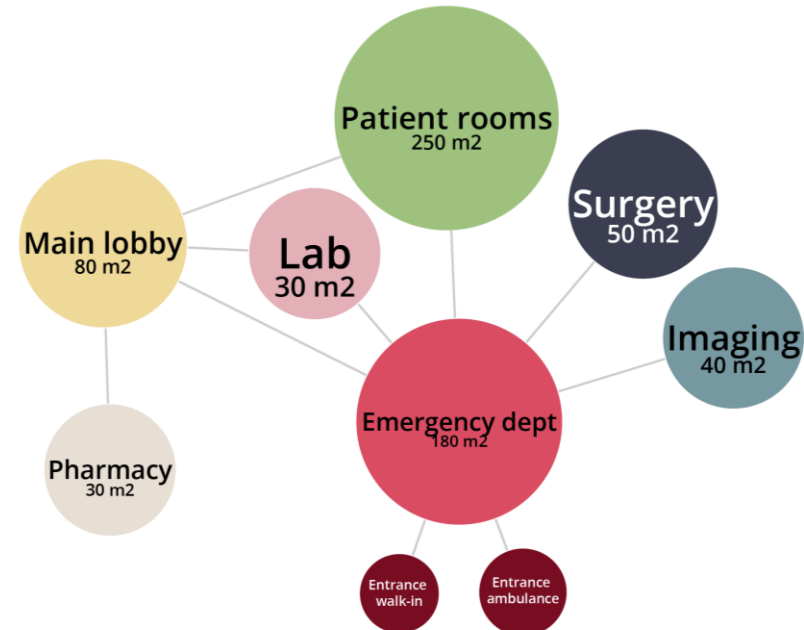
Co-location of All Services

Everything must be in one hospital



Adjacency-Driven Planning

Everything must be next to everything

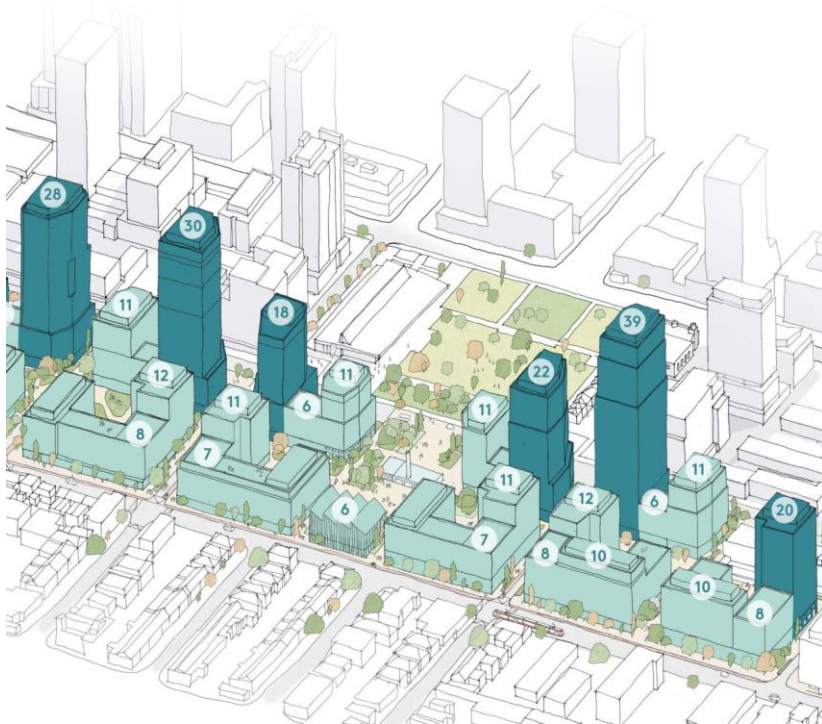


PLANNING PRINCIPLES THAT HAMPER URBAN HOSPITALS

DELIVERY CONSTRAINTS

Phased Redevelopment

Build new while operating



Centralized Infrastructure Systems

One big plant serves everything



PLANNING PRINCIPLES THAT HAMPER URBAN HOSPITALS

SITE PRESSURES

Standardization without Context

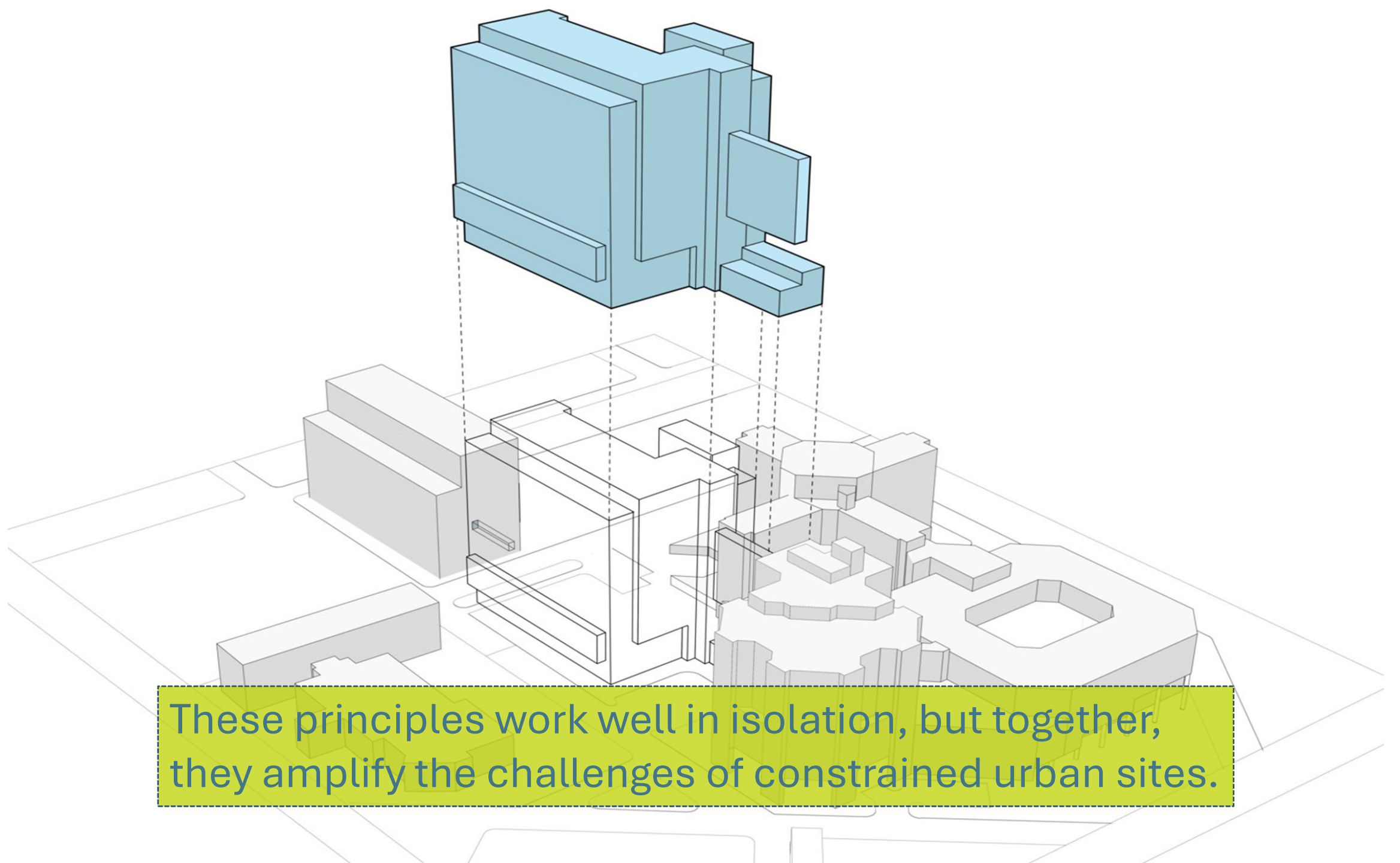
Same room, same everywhere



Parking + Access Requirements

Provide full on-site parking





These principles work well in isolation, but together, they amplify the challenges of constrained urban sites.



We are no longer designing ideal hospitals,
we are responding to site constraints.



WHAT THIS MEANS FOR SPEED TO MARKET



Phasing adds years, not months



Complexity multiplies cost



Clinical efficiency is compromised



Decision-making becomes risk-averse



SOME OBSERVATIONS...

With few exceptions, we have been planning and building hospitals based on the same principles for decades



SOME OBSERVATIONS...



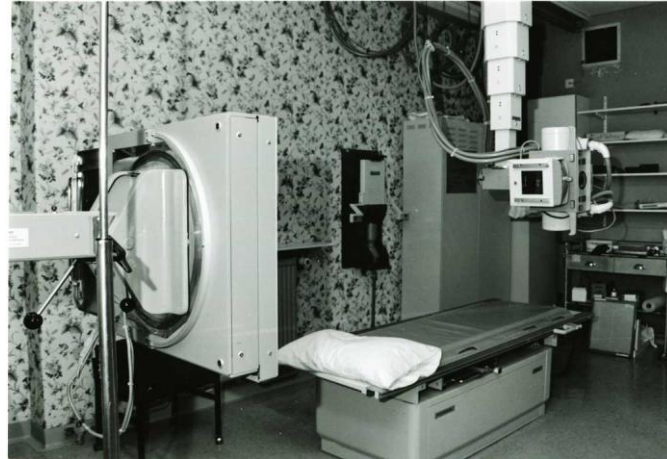
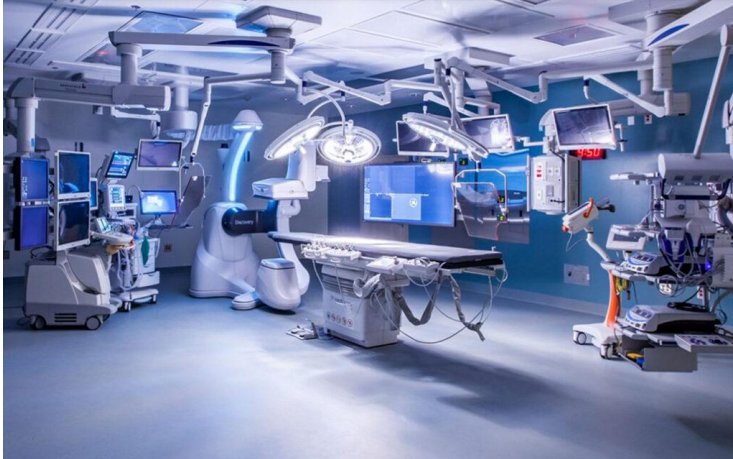
Governments, Clinicians, Designers and Builders each respectfully look to the others to "fix" current challenges of scope, schedule, and cost



Medicine continues to evolve from a generalist to a specialist approach with increasingly specialized clinicians and departments



SOME OBSERVATIONS...



Technology and Standards advance to support healthcare delivery, placing increasing demands on infrastructure

- larger spaces
- more support infrastructure
- higher quality spaces

SOME OBSERVATIONS...



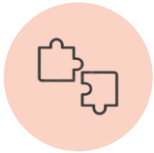
- Our collective approach continues to be **inward** focused rather than outward
- We are intent on "**fixing**" the current model (fixing vertical unified) rather than re-inventing (horizontal segmented)

But what if the solution lays
elsewhere?

WHAT OTHERS ARE THINKING / DOING?



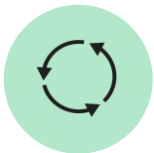
Hospitals are not "one size fits all"



Form and Function should complement, not conflict



Horizontal "stacking" relationships as opposed to traditional vertical



Traditional "must haves" are no longer sustainable

WHAT OTHERS ARE THINKING / DOING?

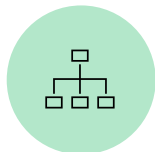


Traditional models of healthcare delivery and operations reinforce **traditional planning models**



Alignment of infrastructure with specific requirements

Strategic master planning, design, and construction of specialized rather than general hospital redevelopment projects



Smaller, specialized "pavilions" can be delivered faster and more **cost-efficiently**

SOME EXAMPLES

- Germany
- University Hospital Heidelberg





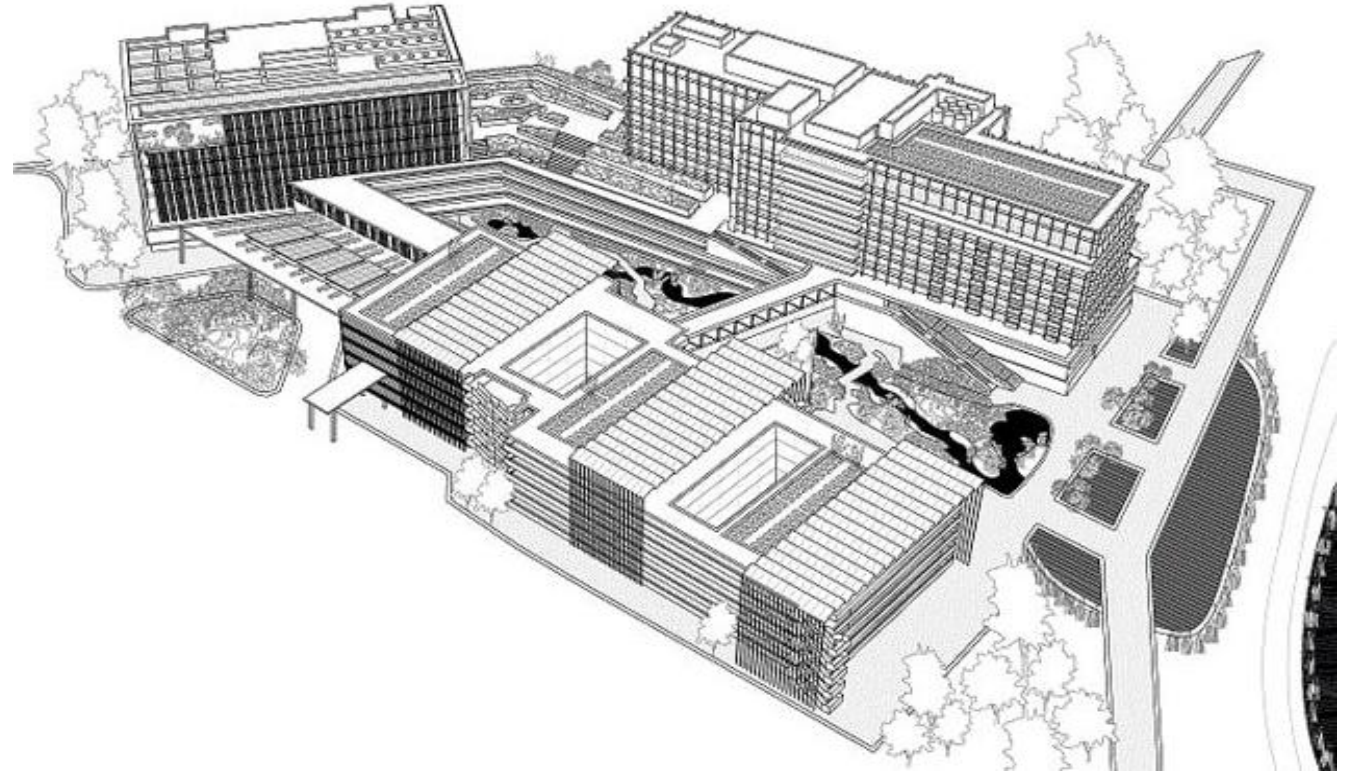
SOME EXAMPLES

- Germany
- Charite Berlin Masterplan



SOME EXAMPLES

- Singapore
- Khoo Teck Puat Hospital





SOME EXAMPLES

- Denmark
- Rigshospitalet



HOW MIGHT WE MOVE FORWARD?

Re-imagining the traditional model with purpose-built pavilions is just one option...



PROS

- Bring critical services to market faster
- Closer alignment of infrastructure with health services
- Improved scalability and flexibility
- Future growth has minimal impact on existing
- Cost is reflective of complexity
- Broader market base for supply



CONS

- Requires larger campus
- Strategic visioning needed from master plan level
- Challenging to integrate with existing monolithic facilities
- Essential buy-in from all participants



CANADIAN CENTRE FOR HEALTHCARE FACILITIES
SPEED TO MARKET FOR HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE
May 05, 2026

THANK YOU