

# Art and architecture

at Sunderland Hospital



*Good design, well-chosen materials and beautiful colours in our indoor environment have been appreciated for generations and are perceived as being important to our well-being. Our senses are receptive and react to the things around us. The architecture in Sunderby Hospital have sought new ways of expressing how a hospital should look and be perceived. The building is not only function and technique, it has also been given a soulful dimension. The fundamental idea is that architecture and art should provide support to patients as well as to personnel working in health care. We should like to give a brief presentation of the architecture and works of art that have been created especially for Sunderby Hospital.*

## Architecture stimulates our senses

Materials, forms, lighting, colour, acoustics, places with a view, art, etc., have all been consciously selected to stimulate our senses and keep us in touch with life's various aspects. They are meant to comfort, soothe, divert our thoughts, awaken memories and lift our sights above the mundane.

The elements of life—earth, fire, air and water—have inspired the design of the hospital. Look around you, both indoors and out; where else can you see examples of this? Natural materials such as wood, stone and metal have been used. From the large windows you can see earth and water in the hospital park. The windows let in light and air.

The idea is that the architecture should give a positive impression, making visitors and personnel feel welcome.

## The countryside merges with the city

The hospital and its nearest surroundings reflect the way the city and the countryside blend into each other. Outlying natural meadows and woods have remained intact, but the closer one comes to the hospital, the more the hospital park and, finally, the hospital itself, take over. It's easy to enter the hospital park, the largest in the province of Norrbotten. Large windows provide fine views and proximity to the park. Many different types of trees, bushes and flowers that are native to Norrbotten have been planted there.

## The city as a model

Divided into various departments, the hospital is built like a city, with building façades that separate the different sections. This makes it easier to find one's way in the hospital, and it breaks the complex down to a human scale. Just as in a city, there are places where people can meet: a restaurant, a café and a library.

## Art and architecture in harmony

Art has been given plenty of exposure at Sunderby Hospital. The idea is that art and architecture should be united. In many of the hospital's sections, art is part of the architecture. Everything is unified to speed up patients' recovery, while providing comfort and stimulation for everyone who spends time at the hospital.

New works of art have been introduced in several locations, all of which are primarily places where many people gather or where art can play an important role in calming, soothing and caring for people.



▲  
*Dan Lestander*  
 "HEMISPHERE"

This is a granite sculpture in which the spaces and the play between light and shadow are important integral parts. In its outdoor setting in the south inner courtyard, the sculpture changes with the yearly and daily nuances of natural light. The work was inspired by the midwinter sun and the midnight sun.  
 Location: The south inner courtyard, "The Courtyard of the Senses"



▲  
*Agneta Andersson*  
 "SUMMER GAME"

These are large, decorative reliefs in clear colours and materials. The abstract motif gives the viewer great freedom of interpretation. One's thoughts can soar freely before the forms, colours and images called to mind by the reliefs.  
 Location: The day surgery

▶  
*Sigurdur Gudmunsson*

"WHEN ALL COMES TOGETHER"  
 This work of art expresses what happens when everything has assumed its rightful place and humanity unites into a whole entity.  
 Location: Inlandsgatan

Gift from: PEAB, BPA, EIAB, TAC





◀ *Eva-Stina Sandling*

"LADDER - SAIL - MEMBRANE"

The viewer is inspired to go sailing in his imagination. The coloured glass scatters reflections around the room and the viewer's impression of the mobile changes depending on how the light strikes it.

Location: Inlandsgatan



▲ *Elisabet Englund*

"THE GREAT WAIT"

This is the name of the series of pictures in the X-ray ward's waiting room. The artist, Elisabet Englund, has hit upon a subject that can amuse and interest many people during what might be an anxious wait.

Location: The waiting room in the X-ray ward

*Sture Berglund* ▶

"SIGNS FROM THE ARCHIPELAGO"

This decoration is meant to emphasise the maritime character of the room. In this large painting, the arctic light of the northern archipelago is revealed, and in the aluminium reliefs the secure landmarks of the lowland coast are depicted.

Location: Källan, the hospital's restaurant



Gift from:

CMn Byggprojektledaren i Norr AB  
 Frontec Norr  
 Eneyda Vårdprodukter  
 Scandiaconsult Sverige AB  
 SWECO AB  
 MAF Arkitektkontor AB  
 Jacobsson & Widmark  
 Arne Johansson Ingenjörbyrå





▲ *Eva-Stina Sandling*

**"SHIELDS OF THE SEASONS"**

These shields call to mind seriousness and nearness as protection against the difficulties of life. On each shield is a picture that the viewer's thoughts can take hold of and be guided by to life outside the hospital.

Location: The reception area at the cardiac intensive care unit



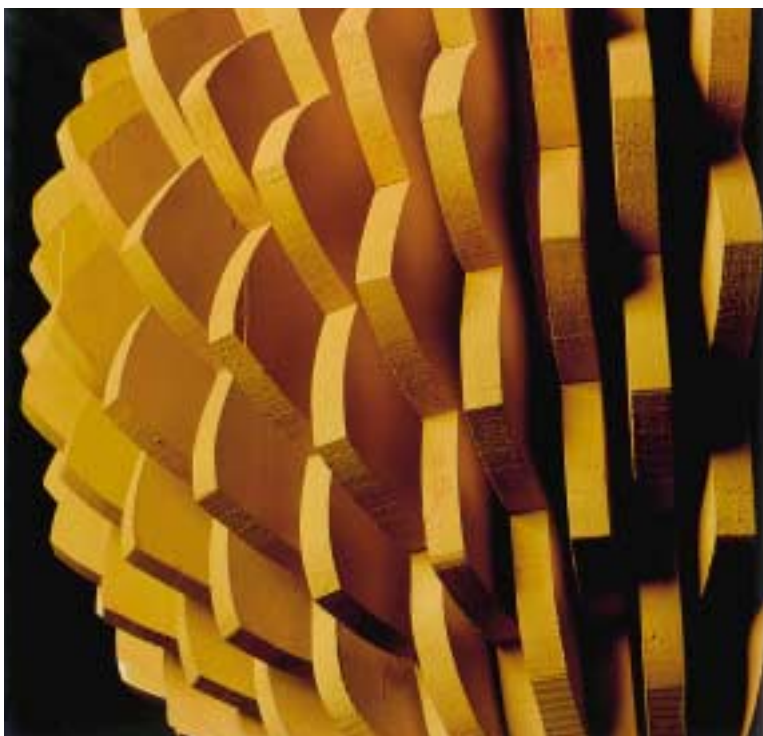
▲ *Sara Edström*

**"THE ROOM OF CALM"** - A room for peace and quiet.

"To me, the most important thing was to create a quiet, peaceful place that people could go to when they needed to get away from everything and be in peace. I have used straight, simple forms in concrete and glass, and with the help of light in the pillars and the view from the windows, I hope that this has become a warm, welcoming room," says Sara Edström.

Location: The hospital chapel

Gift from: Lions, Luleå



◀ *Marianne Öqvist*

**"RELIEFS IN WOOD"**

Each stairwell has its own colour and its own idiom, with inspiration taken from seeds, fruits, pinecones, the forests, the meadows and the rivers. In the stairwell at street level sculptures glow around pillars like lighthouses, guiding visitors. Colours and forms are playfully reiterated.

Location: The stairwells and connecting bridges



▲ *Torsten Renqvist*  
**"THREE LOONS"**  
 Creatures of Nature that have remained in the building, but not as prisoners-rather more like casual visitors.  
 Location: The main entrance

*Torsten Renqvist* ▶  
**"THE TEMPLE"**  
 Highly abstract cyclamens that twist and turn, striving to reach the light that enters from the glass roof. The sculptor, Torsten Renqvist, was awarded the Sergel Prize for the original version of this sculpture. The Sergel Prize is the most prestigious award a sculptor can receive in Sweden.  
 Location: Inlandsgatan



◀ *Ulf Rollof*  
**"THE GYRO FAMILY"**  
 This sculpture depicts two adults and two children, each standing on a blade in a mobile three metres up in the air. They rotate in their own circles, often approaching one another and meeting, then immediately gliding apart and leaving one another. Just as in real life, sometimes they meet, sometimes they go their separate ways.  
 The hospital is like the hub of a wheel. Families gather here during important stages in their lives, positive as well as negative. This sculpture expresses how a whole family will meet in the course of a day, but when, no one knows. It isn't possible to foresee when they will meet, just as we cannot foresee if or when we will be taken ill.  
 Location: The hospital park

*Lennart Holmbom*

"THE LAKE IS SHINING AND  
THERE'S NOT A CLOUD IN THE  
SKY"

The ceiling displays a net that provides an abstract sketch of people interacting with one another-sometimes in harsh weather, and sometimes with a mild wind behind the stern, just as it is in real life.

Location: Kustgatan

Mr Holmbom's playfulness expresses itself here in the form of a boat with an inviting cabin, and a playing area from which children can go on board.

Location: Kustgatan



*Kerstin Hedström*

In decorating the five light and sound shafts, Ms Hedström has used the five senses as symbols.

The sculptures can be seen from the main corridors and on the transport floor that lies one flight below them.

Location: At the light and sound shafts on floors 2 and 3



◀ *Bertil Sundstedt in co-operativ  
work with Karin E E Larsson*  
"BROTHER OF THE SNOW"

Manitu, the Great Spirit of the Native Americans, was also called The Great Hare, The Giver of All Water, The Lord of the Winds, The Hero of Dawn, The Embodiment of Light, and The Brother of the Snow. He symbolises the agile mind that outwits raw strength just as the hare in capricious flight outwits the hunter. Manitu lives on the Moon with his grandmother.

In the mythology of other cultures as well, the hare has always been closely allied with the Moon, the symbol of the female principle and humanity's inner mystique. The Moon is the eye of the night, measuring Time and bearing the elixir of immortality that was blended in the mortar of the moon-hare. Possessing all of the moon gods' attributes, the hare represents alertness, intuition and freedom, besides serving as a mediator between the moon gods and mankind.

In European traditions, the hare is a positive figure that brings gifts and heralds the long-awaited spring when life is born anew.

The vision of the hare, which combines immortality and regeneration, is a suitable symbol for trust, relief and rehabilitation.  
Location: Inlandsgatan (furthest in)

Gift from: Siemens-Elema AB



SUNDERBY SJUKHUS