



University of the
West of England

Health: The Design, Planning and Politics of How and Where We Live

- **Paper / Proposal Title:**

Concept design for a New Mother and Baby Unit at Panzi Hospital, in Bukavu, DRC

- **Format:**

Presentation (in-person)

- **Author(s) Name:**

White Arkitekter represented by Agnes Orstadius & Tania Sande

- **University or Company Affiliation:**

White Arkitekter

- **Abstract (300 words):**

White Arkitekter presents a proposal that cuts right to the heart of the matter of AMPS Bristol 2018: the relationship between wellbeing and architecture. White Arkitekter developed the design concept for a new Mother & Child unit in Bukavu, DRC. The existing Panzi hospital was set up in 1999, by Dr Denis Mukwege and the CEPAC church, with the main goal of improving wellbeing for mothers and their children. Today, the Panzi Hospital delivers up to 3500 births per year.

For the new Mother and Baby Unit, White Arkitekter have collaborated with healthcare specialists and sustainability experts to propose a building that supports the provision of modern healthcare tailored to the local context – in short, evidence-based architecture. Our vision for the project comprises of two parts:

- A mother-baby unit based on a scientific, patient-centered, holistic care philosophy, and informed by established principles of healing architecture
- A sustainable blueprint for other maternity and neonatology projects in similar geographical/demographic contexts

White Arkitekter have identified the following shortages in the current maternity care model: a lack of sufficient space, integrity and privacy for patients, complicated logistics, and separation between mother and child in the care-giving process. These shortages are addressed with considerate designs, allowing for optimized circulation routes, shorter distances, designated spaces for family members and well-designed patient rooms which enhance recovery.

Carefully chosen architectural strategies have been developed to tackle the challenging climate conditions and insufficient infrastructure. Maximum influx of daylight, easy access to green spaces, natural ventilation and locally sourced materials, create a high-performing building in a low-tech context.

As Dr Denis Mukwege says: "All women should receive quality care throughout pregnancy,

labor, birth and beyond". Once built, the new unit will serve as a blueprint for maternity and postnatal healthcare facilities in similar circumstances across borders.

• **Author(s) Biography (200 words each):**

White Arkitekter was introduced to the project by Professor Peter Fröst, director of The Center for Healthcare Architecture at Chalmers University of Technology in Gothenburg, Sweden. As well as Professor Fröst, the team also includes WSP Group, midwife Maria Hogenäs of Art of Life and Birth and Marie Berg, Professor in Health Care Sciences specialising in Reproductive and Perinatal Health at Gothenburg University. The team is continuing to work on the development of the unit, which will be implemented in collaboration with local architects.

White Arkitekter was founded by Sidney White in 1951 and is Scandinavia's leading architectural firm with over 900 employees working in 16 offices in Sweden, Denmark, Norway and the UK. Our work is research focused and our expertise encompasses architecture, urban design, landscape architecture and interior design. For nearly two decades, White has invested in establishing a unique research-based organisation of highly qualified experts in the field of sustainable design. Our founder's aim was to improve society through architecture and his legacy lives on in our ambition to contribute towards the building of a sustainable world. www.white.se