



Image: KRA

COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

*Health and Wellbeing Architecture studio / Fall 2022 / Aalto University
/ prof. Laura Arpiainen*

Wednesdays: 7 September – 14 December 2022

The topic for the 2022 studio is Community Health Center (SOTE-keskus in Finnish).

The Health and Wellbeing Architecture Studio offers students the opportunity to tackle complex and demanding design problems. Successful attendance in the studio requires previous experience with complex building types and advanced ability for independent work. This studio is not recommended for students taking their first studio.

The 2022 studio is being offered jointly with the City of Vantaa which is planning a large, brand new facility in Tikkurila. Students will be able to work on this real project. All students will be party to a collaboration agreement with Vantaa.

Course requirements: Full attendance, active class participation, seminar presentation, completed design project.

background

How will architecture answer to the needs of changing healthcare and society? What are the general architectural elements, design principles, and qualities that support health and wellbeing? In this studio, you will dive into these and many other questions by designing a Community Health Center.

Community Health Centers (henceforth CHCs) bring health and social services under the same roof. The rationale for the model is to co-locate care services to improve access, decrease facility costs and support increased integration, collaboration, and operational effectiveness. CHCs aim to provide client and family-focused services where “any door is the right door” to access care. Integrated care delivery stems from an aspiration to improve the care experience and reduce duplication of effort by partners, providers, and clients. One main goal is to provide a single plan of care with involvement of interdisciplinary team members and resources.

The CHC service model poses architectural design many interesting challenges. The task is not only to solve functional challenges of a large scale and multi-use building, but to create also welcoming aesthetics, emphasize users’ experience and design an environment that promotes healing and contributes to the well-being of the staff. One of the main design challenges is to also reflect how to fulfil both the purpose and the visual and cultural ethos of the facility, without creating an institutional atmosphere.

select / possible functions

PRIMARY CARE

Family medicine, Nurse Practitioners, Acute outpatient services

DIAGNOSTICS – Radiology suite. Mobile imaging, Laboratory

REHABILITATION

Physiotherapy, Occupational therapy, Speech pathology, Nutritional counselling, Assistive Devices

MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE SERVICES

Substance use services, Mental Health services, Private, family and group counselling

SOCIAL WORK

Intake assessments, Mediation, Young Adult services, Housing services, Social credit, Debt counselling

CHILD PROTECTION

Child protection outpatient services, Foster services, Child Protection Support Unit, Foster family Unit

PSYCHOSOCIAL SERVICES

Family counselling, Family justice issues, New families' support unit, Psychologists, Crisis call centre, Youth psychosocial services

IMMIGRANT SERVICES

Immigrant services – housing, language, employment, financial

GERIATRIC OUTPATIENT SERVICES

Homecare, Acute assessment and home rehabilitation, Client orientation unit

MATERNAL / PERINATAL SERVICES

Maternity clinic and advisory services, Early childhood services, Maternity telehealth

APPOINTMENTS AND REGISTRATION

All outpatient services

WALK-IN CLINIC

Acute, Infectious Disease, Minor Injury, Wound care etc.

DIABETES TREATMENT AND EDUCATION

Diabetes treatment, Diabetes education, Education kitchen, Nutritional counselling

ORAL HEALTH

Dental hygiene, Cavity care, Dental surgery, Orthodontics, Prosthetics. Oral care emergencies

CARE ASSESSMENT, CARE MANAGEMENT

Two pediatric teams, one adult team. Centralized client management and referrals

EQUIPMENT DEPOT

Assistive equipment, Equipment servicing, Equipment fitting

STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION

'Back of house' -functions, Meeting. Education, Conference areas. Lunch and staff rooms

SUPPORT SERVICES

Housekeeping, stores, utilities etc.

COMMERCIAL SPACES

e.g. pharmacy, café, restaurant, gift shop, kiosk, massage therapy

COMMON AREAS

Library / resource center, quiet / spiritual / meditation room

OUTDOOR SPACES

Therapeutic landscapes, patios, terraces, outdoor counselling / meeting areas

The program will be clarified during the term. Students will be able to edit their own programs.

Last updated: August 15, 2022