

PROBLEMS / OPPORTUNITIES

Courtyard Garden

It is apparent that the garden courtyard is a place of great value to the hospital patients and staff, and this observation was echoed by a key informant who worked at the hospital. The garden has a number of elements working in its favour. In terms of proximity; it is close to the hospital's most used entrance, making it an easy destination for the hospital's users. Moveable seating is abundant and there are both communal and intimate places to sit. A central gazebo breaks up the space, and the landscaping draws the focus away from the surrounding structures to create an enclosed, but not trapped, experience. A distinctive feature of this garden is that it is open to the street on both sides of the hospital, yet preserves an indisputable amount of privacy. It is equitable to the backyard of a private home, which could be accessed from the street but is clearly not the realm of all who walk the sidewalks near it. The garden is nestled in a corner of the hospital (on 2 sides), but is also bounded (on its other two sides) by the fences of residential neighbours. Despite the discreteness, and interwoven nature of this facility, there are noted cases where the internal program bleeds outward into the private worlds of the surrounding citizens. Formal complaints have, in the past, been filed with the hospital regarding noise from the intercom system as well as the industrial strength lighting during evening hours and its visibility from neighbouring yards.



COURTYARD GARDEN

