“Conurbation and Health: A teaching hospital in Noida, India”

Practice Critics:
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Summary
Delhi, India, is a conurbation, or a region comprising a number of villages, towns, and other urban areas that, through population growth and physical expansion, have merged to form one continuous urban and industrially developed area. The Delhi conurbation is the fourth largest in the world with a combined population of nearly 24,000,000. The majority of Delhi’s population growth is occurring outside of the traditional city centers. Outlying districts have shown explosive increases with the population of the Noida district growing nearly 50% in less than 10 years.

Opportunity
India still confronts a multitude of health challenges despite matching decades of worldwide leaps in healthcare delivery and technology. While recognized as a powerful emerging economic force, India continues to face rising maternal and child mortality rates and pandemics threats. The health workforce is overburdened and overstretched. Many dedicated health workers demonstrate commitment and purpose above and beyond the call of duty, yet critical shortages, imbalances in skills’ mix and uneven geographical distribution of health professionals have left millions without access to health services. Despite urgent needs, these factors constrain the ability of the private healthcare sector to expand and deliver high quality care, and new, innovative solutions must be developed and taught. (CannonDesign)

Program
In response to the rapidly growing need for hospital and ambulatory care this studio will design a Western style teaching hospital in Greater Noida. The hospital program will include inpatient care; diagnostic and therapeutic services; administrative and public areas; support services; and outpatient clinics accommodated in approximately 1,100,000 GSF. The teaching hospital will make available quality healthcare services within the region for all sections of society.

Site
Noida is a planned Metro Centre located approximately 35 miles SE of Delhi, India. The site is being developed by a leading Indian Corporation as a health campus with medical schools; nursing schools; hospitals; and housing. The corporation has undertaken an innovative and transformative plan to build a premier integrated health sciences institute. This institute will bring together world-class clinical care, higher education, and research for the first time in India. It will significantly help to establish Greater Noida as a destination for and leader in health, education, and research, spurring regional economic growth, infrastructure investment, and employment opportunities.

Issues
Students will learn contemporary hospital design best practices with emphasis on the specifics of clinical flows; patient safety; access to nature; the place of advanced clinical technologies; and evidence based design interventions. Indian Vastu Principles (building in harmony with nature) will also be examined and integrated into student proposals.

Teams: Students will work in teams of two (2) or three (3).

Deliverables
Mid-term reviews will be held in the offices of VOA in Chicago with multiple healthcare architects acting as reviewers. Final deliverables for the studio will be a self-published book. The book will be distributed to all Practice Critics and healthcare architecture firms assisting in the studio.

Thanks
Many thanks to CannonDesign for sharing their design and programming work for the Greater Noida Integrated Health Sciences Institute. This studio is built upon the foundation of their outstanding work.