



**Typology**  
Health

**Site**  
President Kennedylaan 4  
8500 Kortrijk, Belgium  
50° 48' 6.383" N 3° 15' 53.136" E

**Competition/Award**  
1<sup>st</sup> prize 2000  
AIT Healthcare Application Award  
for Best Sustainable Concept 2011

**Client**  
AZ Groeninge vzw, Jan Deleu  
Kortrijk, Belgium

**Cooperation**  
Osar architects n.v.  
Antwerp, Belgium

**Landscape design**  
Ingenieursbureau Jan CTRL-Z  
Gent, Belgium

**Interior design**  
Baumschlager Eberle Architekten

**Photography**  
Eduard Hueber  
Werner Huthmacher

**Site area**  
144,000 m<sup>2</sup>

**Area of building**  
31,500 m<sup>2</sup>

**Gross floor area**  
115,000 m<sup>2</sup>

**Building volume**  
489,484 m<sup>3</sup>

**Floor area**  
105,280 m<sup>2</sup>

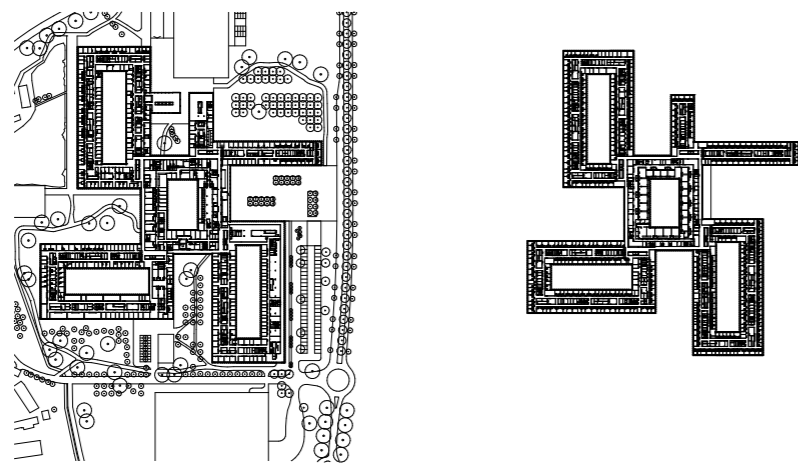
**Start of planning phase**  
2000

**Start of construction**  
2005

**Completion**  
2017

**Construction cost**  
EUR 284 million

AZ Groeninge Hospital  
Kortrijk, Belgium



**The discrete charm of a major hospital.** Despite the magnitude of the project – 31,500 m<sup>2</sup> of built space on a 144,000 m<sup>2</sup> site – the remit here was to design a building that **blended into its park-like surroundings**, with the additional aim of creating a number of emblematic architectural features within the complex. A closer reading of the brief also revealed that the hospital itself should possess healing properties, that it should convey an **atmosphere of peace and serenity** in order to divert attention from its actual purpose, that it should offer the charm of a hotel rather than the clinical feel of a hospital. In the end, a **courtyard structure** proved the most appropriate solution with five interconnected blocks reducing the huge site to more human proportions. The layout comprises a number of **individual modules** that operate as independent units, making the complex easier to navigate for professionals and patients alike.

### Insights

Today the practical value of a building depends largely on the quality of the environment it provides or the extent to which its architecture can achieve lasting added value despite quickly changing usage requirements.



**Promoting wellbeing and aiding recovery.** The complex is characterised by a series of interior courtyards, individually designed to counteract its anonymity and provide a number of emblematic architectural features. The highly flexible, use-neutral design means that changes in hospital organisation can be accommodated without difficulty. With its **clearly defined, generous spaces**, plenty of natural light, high-quality materials and clear sightlines between interior and exterior, the structure's **architectural quality** engenders a feeling of everyday normality and wellbeing. The uniform design of the façade with its load-bearing supports can even be read as a metaphor for the hospital in which the burden of illness is lightened by the care it provides. Both framed and permeated by greenery, the hospital provides a **multi-faceted urban structure** that is inward-looking but not excluding, open but not exposed.