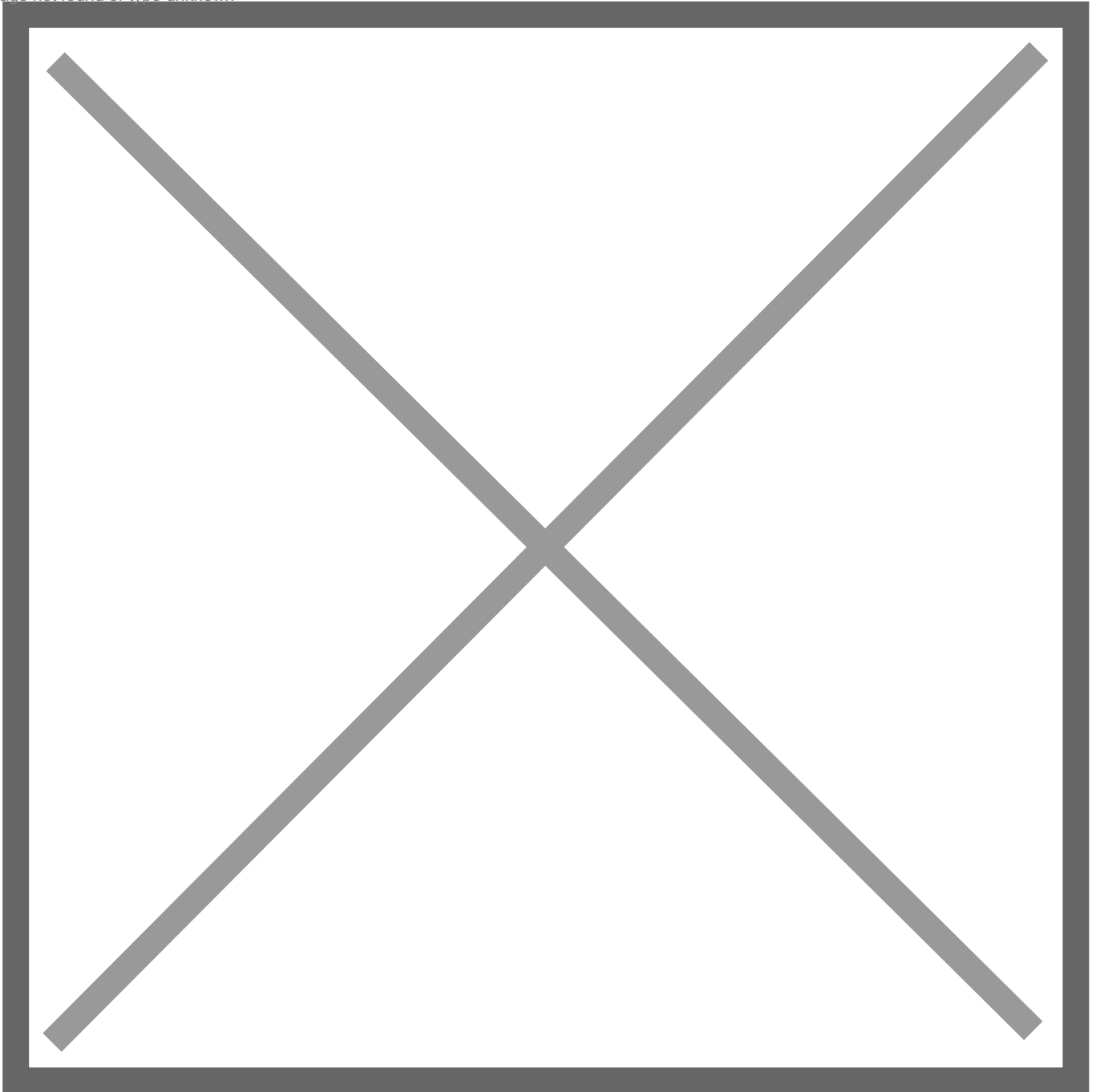


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Herlev Sygehus [Herlev Hospital]

Denmark

Herlev Ringvej 75
Københavns Amt [Copenhagen county],
Hovedstaden (Region) 2730 Harlev Kommune

Commission

1966

Completion

1976

Other denominations

Herlev Amts Sygehus [Herlev County Hospital]

Original use

Health/social services/hospital

Current use

Health/social services/hospital

Architects

Gehrdt Bornebusch, Max Brüel, Jørgen Selchau

Artists

Poul Gernes

Others

Sven Hansen, Landscape Architect

Concrete by reinforcement

Reinforced concrete

Construction method

Cast-in-place concrete, in-situ concrete, Facade cladding

Architectural concrete

Architectural concrete, Colored concrete

Structural types

One-dimensional/concrete frame, Two-dimensional/[shear] wall, Two-dimensional/[cantilever] roof, [suspended] roof

Description

Herlev Hospital, with 28 floors reaching 120 meters in height, is the tallest building in Denmark. The immense complex, on which construction began in 1961, was conceived as an emblem of the advanced social protection systems that characterize the Nordic countries. No efforts were spared in ensuring the quality of services and the medical technology, which was the most advanced for its time. The value of the building's architecture, as well as its spectacular interiors, with contributions from important Danish artists of the period, make this facility a magnificent example of quality public architecture.

The complex consists of several buildings: under the appearance of a single vertical block, three independent towers are articulated and connected to one another. One houses the medical staff, another is for patients – with broad views over the landscape from all the rooms, and the third is occupied by the communications center. The façades of the towers were built using colored concrete panels, combined with glazed panels with exquisitely designed joinery. At the base of the tower, the most emblematic image of the building is formed by two auditoriums in a fan shape with prominent cantilevers: it is a futuristic architecture, built from exposed concrete and glass, which is considered one of the country's best examples of the Brutalist movement.

It is also worth highlighting the painstaking work of the artist Poul Gernes in the interior decoration: 10 km of curtains in a colorful print fabric designed especially for the hospital and more than 4,500 doors painted with different motifs, in 21 color schemes, are some of the many details that

generate a unique interior atmosphere.

Due to the complexity and the enormous cost of the construction, the initial floors were not put into operation until 10 years after the work began, and the building did not become functional in its entirety until 2007.

Links

[DOCOMOMO Virtual Exhibition](#)

[Henning Larsen Architects design a new addition to Herlev Hospital](#)

[Medium Corp.](#)