

# Culturally Responsive Healthcare Facilities

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In Iran, the vulnerability of hospitals older than 50 years to seismic damage is creating an increasing demand for new facilities.

Replacing inadequate hospitals with modern ones not only limits to application of state of the art technology but also needs to pay proper regard to the cultural demands of patients. Therefore there is a need to review existing standards for design of hospitals, orienting them towards the culturally healing environments.

So this research aims to present a series of considerations on the cultural aspects of healthcare facilities steering architectural design principles towards domestic solutions. Initiating the functional programming process for rebuilding project of the hospitals highlights the need for restudying human and cultural factors associated with healing aspects of an environment to ensure accuracy in design decisions.

Consequently this project demonstrates an approach used for understanding different cultural patients' spatial perception about specific treatment areas of a hospital.

The research methods have been carried out through visiting the cases, interviewing their occupiers and analyzing their architectural features.

Using Christopher Alexander's notes on design, this research attempts to recognize the users' cultural activity patterns in the hospital built environment which forms specific architectural elements and clarify the physical pattern. Ultimately by reviewing them, it tries to solve the problem of designing a culturally responsive healthcare facility in Iran.

## Keywords

Healing environments, Design Principles, Cultural Factors, Activity Patterns.

## References

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