Seeding Health
Relocatable modular surgical hospital, Masaya, Nicaragua

Summary and appraisal of the project by the jury
This project is a prototype for temporary rural surgical hospitals. Because of the sensitivity of the equipment and supplies, it proposes a hybrid approach of prefabrication and local construction. Recycled shipping containers are outfitted as the core spaces of the hospital – operating room, pharmacy, kitchen, and laundry – and delivered in situ. Local builders erect wooden piles and place the containers on an elevated courtyard arrangement. The project is then also used to cover the containers with a tessellated timber roof for shading and ventilation. As the medical center expands, the complex can grow with it. Clinic rooms and patient rooms extend out from the surgical core in a pinwheel arrangement. When the surgical core is relocated, these wings remain as a lasting resource for local public health.

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Project data
Project group: Architecture, building and civil engineering
Client: Gedeon-Medical
Project background: Public commission
Planned start: October 2017

Resumen y apreciación del proyecto por parte del jurado
Hospital quirúrgico modular trasladable, Masaya, Nicaragua
Este proyecto es un prototipo para hospitales quirúrgicos rurales temporarios. Dada la sensibilidad del equipamiento y los insumos, se propone un abordaje híbrido entre prefabricación y construcción local. Se utilizan contenedores reciclados y se los equips como área central de un hospital para que funcionen como quirófano, farmacia, cocina, y lavandería y se los traslada al lugar. Artesanos locales construyen pilares de madera y ubican a los contenedores en un sitio elevado. Luego, se recurre a carpinteros locales para cubrir los contenedores con un techo de madera teselada que brinda sombra y ventilación. A medida que el centro médico se expande, se puede acompañar el crecimiento. A partir del quirófano central, estos espacios permanecen como recurso para la salud pública local.

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Acknowledgement prize 2017

The project addresses an important concern: how to provide high-level healthcare in rural regions. The jury found the solution proposed here commendable. The project was commissioned by a medical organization focusing on the treatment of childhood cancer in developing countries. Their work relies on donations of equipment and the support of local doctors and a local hospital. Within this specific arrangement, the project was seen to be a thoughtful solution that tries to use temporary medical support to induce long-term change.