



## CULTURAL INFLUENCES ON HEALTHCARE DESIGN

Session introduction

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Reconciling the high international design standards of healthcare facilities with different cultural specificities is a highly topical issue.

The experiences shared in the sessions highlight how the use of criteria aimed at increasing the humanization of the spaces is essential in design that is ever more sensitive to Human-centered Design topics.

Moreover, it can be seen how the same functional and design quality of spaces is strongly linked to the intrinsic characteristics of the local culture. The full steps used to manage the development of planning and design decisions are revealed, seeking to integrate multiple disciplines through the participation of staff and consumers.

For the redevelopment of Sarah Hospitals in Brazil, an attempt was made to validate the effectiveness of the principles used in the design. Interesting conclusions emerged on the integration of the very principles of Evidence-based Design theories in the design and construction of healthcare facilities. The growing demand for adequate healthcare in China has led to questions about the effectiveness of a highly Westernized international model broadly used in its hospital facilities, identifying cultural preferences for organizational communication and assessing how they are reflected in the spatial configurations of the treatment units.

Local religious and cultural integration is a key aspect for architecture that acts as a model for the promotion of health and equality.

The case studies reported highlight differences in European architectural parameters with respect to those of the Arabic culture, particular characteristics being the humanization of some healthcare environments through religious culture.

There was also an attempt to provide criteria and indications useful for integrating the best practices and international standards with local traditions and specific requests concerning requirements.

For some cultures more than others, healthcare facilities must be a place for the healing of the body but also of the spirit. The study on integrating the requirements of Buddhism provides an illustrative framework of how to link spiritual requirements with the healthcare space.

Sometimes current trends need to be addressed, as in the case of Japan which has seen the demand for nursing rather than medical assistance increase for elderly people. This implies there is a demand to meet the new requirements and verify the appropriateness of the existing inpatient rooms, for example.

Finally, there was a look at integration between new technologies and medicine in an increasingly Smart hospital, in order to foster an improved user experience encouraging safety and integrating assisted monitoring activities for a better quality of care.