

Carlton Gardens

Carlton Gardens is a new 128-bed complex care facility designed for Chartwell Seniors Housing REIT to replace an existing care home built in the early 1970's. The 2.2 acre site is located on Canada Way, Gilmore Avenue and Norfolk Street in Burnaby. The client wanted the new retirement residence to be a friendly supportive environment in which the frail elderly and Alzheimer residents would be accommodated in several self-contained households or homes, more in keeping with an extended family unit.



The two-storey building is aligned in an east-west direction and configured as a pair of U-shapes linked by central entrance pavilion. The building steps down the sloping site creating south-oriented courtyards. The entrance pavilion houses the administrative functions and a two-storey glazed pavilion that acts a gathering space at the heart of the facility. An exposed post and beam structure with expanses of glass to bring in abundant light and establish a

connection to the landscape. There are two self-contained homes on each floor accommodating a grouping of residents permitting frail residents in their daily lives to live among familiar faces. Each home has its own dining, living and activity areas, care centre and support services. The social spaces are clustered together in an open plan. Floor-to-ceiling glazing and large patios stretch outward into the landscaped gardens establish a sense of transparency, openness and integration of the outdoors with the interior living spaces.

The architecture is rooted in northwest regionalism. The project has a modern and materially expressive aesthetic with a directness of expression, simplicity and clarity in the massing and structure. Flat roofs and cubic forms with intricate use of exposed wood structure as an expressed decorative element marked by large expanses of glass to bring in abundant light and establish a close connection to the landscape. Starkly modern, formal yet one with the natural terrain, the use of local natural materials and crisp clean details devoid of surface decoration create a strong modern architectural character.