ONCOLOGICAL AFTERCARE IN THE PLANTAGE, AMSTERDAM

The Plantage in Amsterdam finds its straightforward structure through a succession of the city gardens which were realized in the 17th century to the building blocks it has now. By following this structure and adding a new 'hofje' typology a quiet space for healing and contemplation can be created. Since the Plantage has always had normal Living and Caring together and has an central position relative to the 5 hospitals in de area, the addition of this aftercare centre seems to be only logical.
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In order to embed the building block into the architectural language of the Plantage, the language of the outer facade follows the rules of its surroundings. This means a strong tripartite division in the facade, with a foot, a body and a head. The foot is made of stucco, the body is made of brick and the head is a typical Amsterdam school recessed brick. The facade follows the rhythm of the program of the care centre and on the entrance points, the foot goes up. This marks a special point in the facade.
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The groundfloor of the aftercare centre hosts the biggest part of the care centre. Here you’ll find the Maggie Centre with its homely atmosphere, the restaurant, the psychology wing, the office, the gym, the spa and the shops.

The outer parts of the building block start functioning as a buffer for the care centre. In the sections below you’ll see the different spaces the double ring structure allows.
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The first floor of the care centre hosts the hotel rooms and the second floor gives room for the rooftop parks and greenhouse. The hotelrooms are raised from the ground. This makes sure the visitors are able to enjoy the garden without losing their privacy.
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The facades looking towards the internal courtyard follow the rules of the garden architecture of the buildings found in the Hortus Botanicus (Neoclassical mansions). This rule also shows a tripartite division in the facade, but differs in effect. There were the typical Amsterdam like architecture uses bricks, stucco is used. This creates a very calm en space-giving architectural language, which is needed to let the courtyard perform at its best.
The gate towards the courtyard of the aftercare centre is designed in a way so that it invites people in, without forcing them to enter a building. Because there isn’t a physical barrier to scare people away, the step to actually visit the centre is much smaller. In this way people who are doubting about the whole experience can take their time to get to know the centre before rushing in.
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The aftercare centre is located in the interior ring of the bigger building block. The outer ring functions as a filter for the internal world. This creates a quite place for healing and contemplation. With the hotelrooms on the first floor, balconies can be placed around the internal courtyard without violating the privacy of the visitor in their most private rooms inside the aftercare centre.
ONCOLOGICAL AFTERCARE IN THE PLANTAGE, AMSTERDAM

Every room or space in the plan has a connection with the internal courtyard. This makes sure nature is part of the experience in all parts of the architecture, and also makes sure there is enough light.