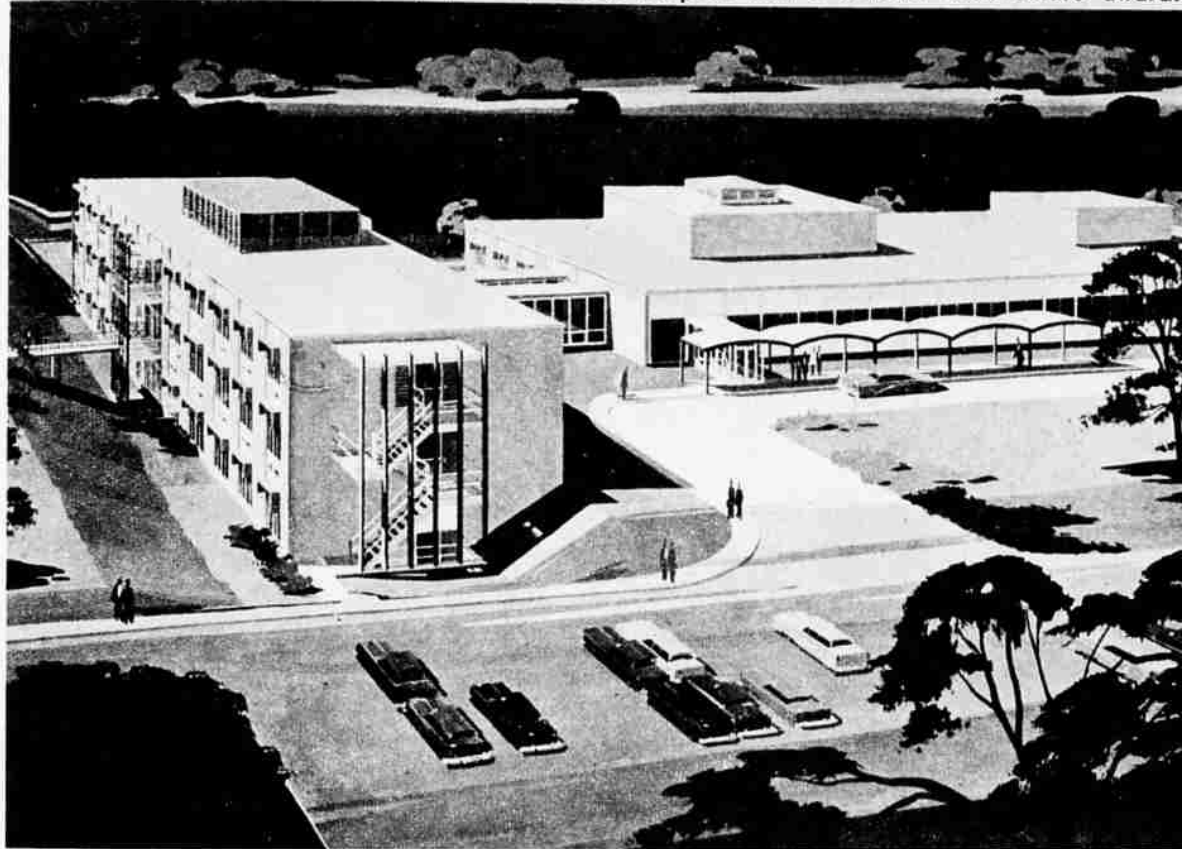


This design for a horizontally planned Illinois hospital won a national architecture award.



HOSPITAL

by Jack Glasner

Rehabilitation services imply more than recuperation from an illness. Hospital planners envision helping a patient adjust to his old job despite the handicap which an illness may have caused, or retraining him when he can't go back to his old job. Again, this doesn't mean the service should be under the same roof as other hospital services.

Home care and visiting-nurse services would take much of the load off hospital and nursing-home staffs.

Other community services, working with the hospital, could be used to complete the patient's care. Helping him get a job after rehabilitation would be one example.

Hospital planners agree that these added functions shouldn't make the hospital of tomorrow a monster building, with all services combined under one roof. A solution can be seen in metropolitan hospitals where many facilities are under one administration.

Another example of how this problem may be solved has been demonstrated by the 250-mile-long chain of United Mine Workers hospitals recently completed at a cost of \$125 million. The 10 hospitals in three states serve many areas which never had adequate medical care. They were built and are operated out of a fund paid for by mine operators.

In this thoroughly integrated system, "base" hospitals have most of the necessary specialists and equipment, and the smaller

"branch" hospitals either send the patient to or call a specialist from the base hospital when needed. The hospitals are a unique example of a coordinated medical system serving a non-metropolitan area's needs.

HOW WILL the future hospital look, what will be its equipment?

Dr. Jack Masur, former chief of the bureau of medical services for the U. S. Public Health Service, predicts the new hospital will be located out of the congested areas but will have diagnostic and walk-in clinics in those areas. Many will be one-story buildings, have single rooms—the ward will vanish—with all necessary plumbing built into beds.

Dr. Masur envisions tomorrow's hospital as being completely air conditioned, with twice as much laboratory as bed space. Frozen foods will be radar-cooked and served piping hot from disposable dishes and trays. There will be pediatric nursing units with rooms for mothers to stay overnight with their children if the doctor thinks it desirable. Some hospitals may have attached motel units for patients staying a short time for a checkup, and mental-health services—which are rare today—will be common.

With the responsibility of the nation's health an ever-growing problem, hospitals are staking out their future with the emphasis on more and better service for all.

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Worship with Them This Week