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Bernard Sunley & Sons Ltd

Building Construction & Civil Engineering

HAMAD GENERAL HOSPITAL, DOHA, QATAR

Main Contractor	Bernard Sunley & Sons Limited
Project Director	E.H. Austin
Area Manager	D.L. Marter
Project Manager	T. Moore

Description

The hospital is divided into three interconnected groups of buildings:

- a single storey 'podium' containing most of the diagnostic, treatment and support services,
- 2 multi-storey blocks each consisting of 5 floors of inpatient accommodation connected to a central link block of stairs and lifts,
- laundry, central engineering services and bulk stores and ancillary engineering facilities.

Departments

Operating Department
Intensive Therapy
C.S.S.D.
Mortuary and Pathology
Accident, Emergency and Daywards
Nuclear Medicine and Radiology
Oral Surgery
Pharmacy
Outpatients Department
Clinical Measurement
Medical Records
Physiotherapy
Burns Department
Administration and Catering
Laundry
Bulk Stores

Structure

The structure of the buildings is basically of insitu reinforced concrete. Good ground conditions avoided the need for piling and simple column based foundations were used throughout. All walls are constructed in solid concrete blockwork and external walls consist of a double skin with an insulating infill. The roof is an insulating lightweight screed and the roofing membrane is covered with white stone chippings giving a high degree of solar reflectivity. External wall finishes are mostly of glazed ceramic tile, giving a maintenance free finish and all windows are shaded with white precast sunbreaker units, all of which were cast on site by Sunley. The window frames are anodised aluminium throughout and contain a bronze tinted solar control glass.

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The Hamad General Hospital is one of the Government's most important projects, and when completed will become the focal point of Qatar's health service. The hospital will provide a total of 650 inpatient beds and a further 34 intensive therapy and day beds. The inpatient accommodation is arranged in two 5-storey ward blocks which rise above an extensive single-storey building containing the diagnostic, treatment and support services. In addition there is a large services building which contains the hospital stores, laundry and central engineering plant. The facilities to be provided in the hospital were determined by close consultation with the Ministries of Public Works and Public Health, and the design and construction reflects the high standards required by the Government.

Planning studies have established that hospital plans should be flexible enough to allow for future internal change and for each department to expand at its own rate with minimum of disruption to other areas. The Hamad General Hospital plan allows for this by arranging those departments which are most susceptible to change and expansion, in a single storey building, with the main corridors extending to the extremities of the building to allow future health care facilities on the adjacent site to be linked to Hamad hospital. The departments are planned around a series of landscaped courtyards, one of which contains a mosque. The hospital is fully air-conditioned and all windows are shaded to reduce solar heat gain.

The planning of the hospital has had to respect the Muslim laws of segregation of the sexes, and the outpatients and Radiology departments have separate corridor networks for men and women. Throughout the hospital separate waiting spaces are also provided. The inpatient accommodation is based on the principle of grouping patients according to their degree of illness and dependence on nursing staff, and on each floor the inpatient areas are arranged in two 30-bed nursing units and a 12-bed high dependency unit. About 35% of beds are in single rooms and the remainder in 4-bed rooms.

The Architects for the project are Llewelyn-Davies Weeks, the Main Contractor is Bernard Sunley & Sons Limited and sub-contractor for engineering services is Reliant Company of Doha. Together the Contractors have established on site a management and supervision team of some 40 mainly expatriates, supervising a labour force of over 1000 men mainly from India and Pakistan. Construction work started in October 1974 and will be completed in October 1979

Facts and Figures

Value, QR 174 million (based on original scheme)
Area of site, 100 acres (40 hectares)
Floor area of hospital 58,000 square metres
Volume of concrete, 33,000 cubic metres
In excess of 2 million wall tiles have been used internally and externally.

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COMPANY HISTORY

Bernard Sunley & Sons Ltd., headed by Managing Director John Fryer from the Head Office at Beckenham, is engaged in the construction of commercial, industrial and government work in the United Kingdom and overseas.

Middle East Operations

In 1969 the Company commenced operations in the Middle East in Dubai and negotiations were soon started with the Ruler of Dubai for the construction of the Rashid Hospital. The building of the 400 bed hospital was commenced early in 1970 and successfully completed 4 months ahead of the original 3 year programme.

The completion of the Rashid Hospital did not immediately guarantee other work would follow. During the next two years only small packages were carried out but the Company still maintained their organisation in Dubai.

Later, two major contracts were won in Dubai, the 11 storey British Bank of the Middle East at Deira and the new Police Headquarters on the Sharjah Road. These two contracts helped to establish Sunley as the leading expatriate building company in Dubai and provided scope for expansion into other Gulf States. The next major achievement was the winning of the contract for the 640 bed Hamad General Hospital, Doha, in the State of Qatar. Since then, other major contracts have been won in Qatar, including the Doha Radio Studios, Army G.H.Q. and a swimming pool and Majlis. The Company are also building the impressive 7-storey British Bank of the Middle East premises, Doha, in conjunction with Mideast Constructors.

The Company later won its first major contract in Abu Dhabi for the construction of the impressive 15-storey Bank of Credit & Commerce International building on the Abu Dhabi Corniche. The architect for the scheme Fitzroy Robinson & Ptns. designed a unique building for that part of the world, being almost entirely clad in blue solar reflective glass. Much praise has been given to the building, which is considered to be one of the finest commercial buildings in Abu Dhabi. Following this contract, Sunley won a further contract with the same client to build another bank on the Deira side of the Dubai Creek, using the now familiar glass finish. Work is now in progress with completion due in early 1979. The value of the two buildings is about £9 million.

Three and a half years after completing the Rashid Hospital, Sunley started work on the £10 million Central Medical Services Complex in Dubai. This Centre serves the Rashid Hospital and all existing and future planned hospitals in Dubai with a central area for laundry and sterilising facilities, a central pharmacy for dispensing drugs and supplies, as well as medical workshops and stores.

Early in 1975 Sunley started work on probably the largest project of its kind, the £109 million Dubai International Trade & Exhibition Centre for the Ruler of Dubai. This vast Centre is being built in stages and when completed will include the tallest building of its kind in the Middle East, rising to over 500 ft. The complex includes a 39 storey tower block, 348 bedroom 6-storey Hilton Hotel, swimming pool, exhibition hall and 500 furnished apartments built in two 15-storey and one 14-storey blocks.

The Centre stands by a large roundabout at the beginning of the main Dubai to Abu Dhabi road just outside Dubai. Opposite is another Sunley site, the New Divisional Police Headquarters, which forms part of the £10 million Dubai Police Expansion scheme to be built by Sunley on three separate sites.

In Abu Dhabi Sunley is currently building 153 residential units for the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), on the Abu Dhabi Corniche next to the Hilton Hotel. The apartments are being constructed in two multi-storey blocks each formed

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to a separate circular shape on plan, rising from 7 to 13 floors in height. Just a short distance from this site the Company are in the final stages of building a Medical Pavilion for H.H. Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahyan, the Ruler of Abu Dhabi.

Head Office Organisation

At the Head Office in Beckenham, the Company has resident estimating, structural engineering, mechanical and electrical services, technical planning and purchasing departments, to provide a back-up service to the sites. The Company Directors and Executives regularly visit the Middle East to liaise with the Regional Managers and meet their clients.

Today, Sunley enjoy a prominent position in the construction industry in the Gulf States. This position was earned by achieving a high standard of work on contracts carried out at a very fast pace. The Company has invested a considerable amount of capital on the recruitment of skilled and experienced labour and staff and the purchasing of plant and equipment. With their large organisation in the Gulf States and the back-up from the Head Office in Beckenham, Sunley is able to mobilise quickly and carry out contracts rapidly in any part of the Middle East.