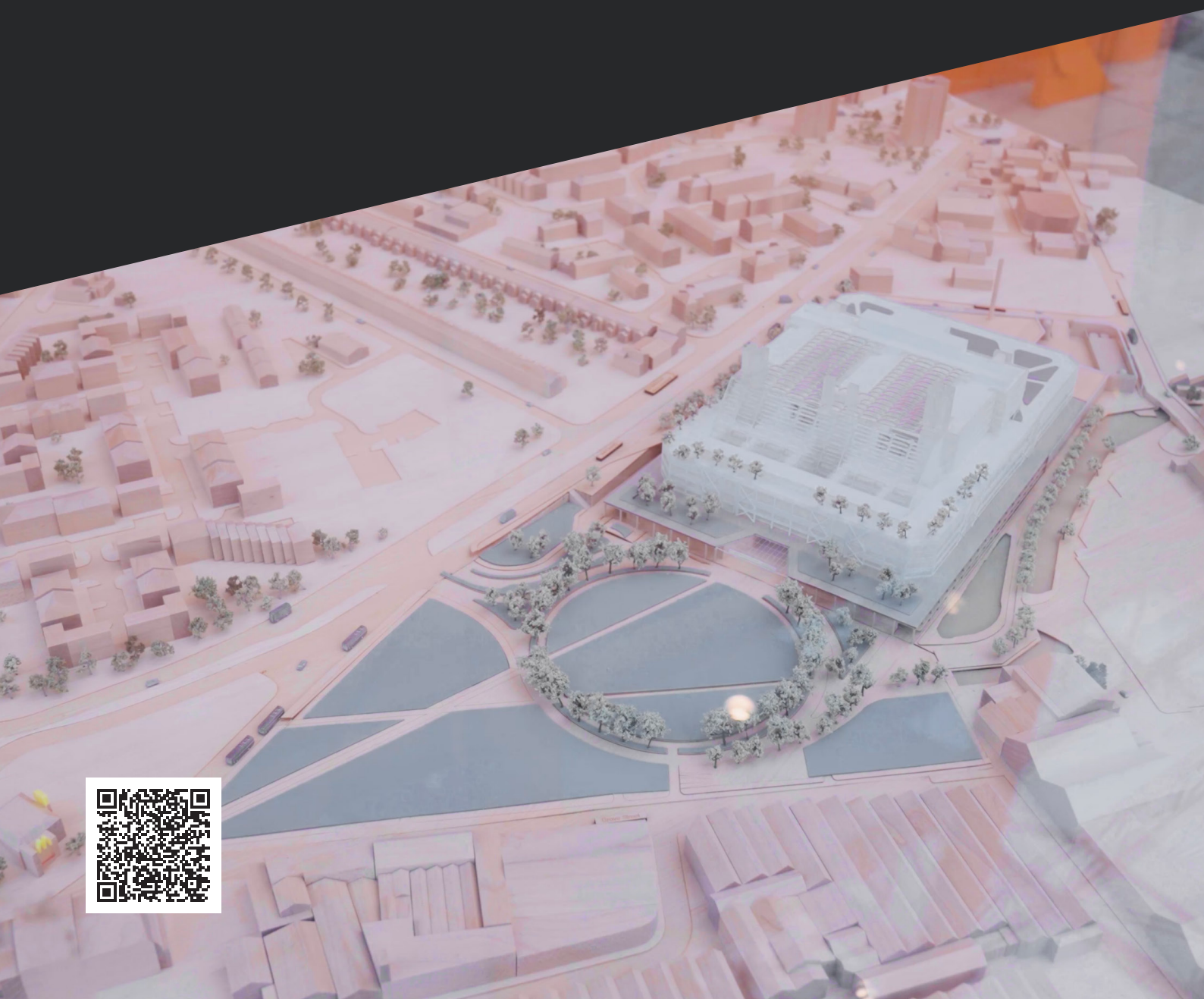


Delivering Integrated Patient Hoisting at Midland Metropolitan University Hospital

CASE STUDY





Client: Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust
Location: Smethwick, Birmingham
Architect: HKS Architects
Contractor: Balfour Beatty
Sector: Acute Healthcare

Aspiration: Safer, More Flexible Patient Transfers Across a Major Acute Hospital

Midland Metropolitan University Hospital required a comprehensive patient handling solution that could support the varied mobility needs of patients across its inpatient wards.

With a combination of single rooms and four-to-six-bed bays, the hospital needed a system that would enable safe and efficient transfers while integrating seamlessly with privacy curtains, clinical workflows and the demands of a busy acute care environment.

The aspiration was to embed patient handling into the hospital design from the outset, creating a flexible solution that would support patient dignity, reduce manual handling risks for staff and accommodate everything from routine assisted transfers through to bariatric care.

Simplified by Innova

Innova worked closely with the Trust and wider project team to design and install a coordinated overhead hoisting solution across the hospital's inpatient environment.

By integrating the systems into the building design during construction, Innova was able to consider ward layouts, clinical workflows, privacy requirements and differing patient needs as one coordinated package.

The approach included:

- 353 ceiling-track hoist systems across single rooms and multi-bed bays.
- AirRise200 hoists supporting patients up to 200kg.
- Dual-hoist systems providing bariatric capacity up to 500kg.
- AirGlide360 tracking configured around different ward layouts.
- Curtain Hopper Systems allowing hoists to cross privacy curtain tracks.
- Flexible arrangements enabling hoist units to be shared between bed spaces where appropriate.

This coordinated approach helped ensure patient handling equipment became an integral part of the hospital environment rather than a standalone addition.



Future-Proofed Through Co-Ordinated Design

The hoisting solution was designed to accommodate a broad range of patient mobility needs, from assisted transfers through to bariatric care.

By incorporating both standard and dual-hoist systems and integrating tracking into the hospital infrastructure from the outset, clinical teams have greater flexibility to respond as patient requirements change. This early coordination also reduces reliance on manual handling and provides a patient handling infrastructure designed to support the hospital over the long term.

Specification Highlights

- 353 ceiling-track hoist systems installed throughout the hospital.
- Coverage across single rooms and four-to-six-bed bays.
- AirRise200 ceiling hoists with a 200kg safe working load.
- Dual-hoist systems supporting bariatric patients up to 500kg.
- AirGlide360 ceiling-track systems.
- Innovative Curtain Hopper Systems within multi-bed bays.
- Flexible H-frame configurations supporting movement between bed spaces.
- Hoist-sharing arrangements to improve equipment efficiency.
- Coordinated design and installation alongside the wider construction team.

Challenges, Outcome & Value Delivered

Midland Metropolitan University Hospital required patient handling provision on a significant scale, while accommodating different ward layouts, privacy curtains and patients with widely varying mobility requirements. Innova coordinated 353 ceiling-track hoist systems as part of the hospital design, including specialist solutions for multi-bed bays and bariatric care.

The completed installation provides safer and more efficient transfers throughout the inpatient environment, helping reduce manual handling risks for staff while improving accessibility, dignity and flexibility for patients. Early integration also ensures clinical teams have a patient handling solution designed around the operational demands of a modern acute hospital.





AirRise Dual Hoisting System



AirRise Dual Hoisting System in New Ward









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