Tom Lacey worked on the early stages of this project under the guidance of Ivan Harbour. The building was designed to provide non-clinical support to anyone affected by cancer, be it patients themselves or their family and friends. It occupies a corner site facing busy road dominated by a large hospital.

The two main components of the design – a large over sailing roof and a wraparound wall provide enclosure and shelter from the busy surroundings and welcome the users in a relaxed non-institutionalised environment. The interior works as an ‘open house’ arranged over one and a half floors that could be adapted for various uses during the day. It can be noisy or quiet, light or dark, transparent or opaque. The kitchen is the social hub of this space and is located in the centre so it is viewed from all the corners of the building.

The exceptional quality of this building was recognised by awarding it the Stirling Prize in 2009. Michelle Obama paid a visit to the building on her first official visit to the UK as the First Lady.