HEALING WITH A HAND FROM MOTHER NATURE

Can a better view help you heal? A new Colombian hospital puts this question to the test by making pastoral panoramas visible from most interior spaces — including the emergency room.

Centro Hospitalario Serena del Mar is one of the first major builds in Serena del Mar, a 2,500-acre privately funded urban development on the country's northern coast, near Cartagena. Designed by Safdie Architects, the hospital opened in January with its more than half a million square feet (and more to come) oriented toward courtyard, gardens, and a bucolic lake.

According to Sean Scenser, the project's lead architect, greenery even determines how visitors move through the building: "The main pedestrian corridor parallels a bamboo garden, and five wings stretch from this spine to carve yards that open onto a garden" accessible from department offers sanctuaries of Indian lilac, red and yellow pomegranate trees and scarlet-blooming poinciana.

Visitors also can steal glass-walled chapel tucked into a booth enclosure. The goal, said, was to avoid "monotony" in favor of a "new hospital: highly efficient humane."

Below, Centro Hospitalario San Mar, designed by Safdie Architects includes half a million square feet of space that is oriented toward yards, gardens, and a lake.

FINDING STRENGTH IN FABRIC

If you stop by the Gropius Bau, an exhibition hall in Berlin, on any day from April 29 to Aug. 15 you will find Hella Jongerius or her colleagues at work. Ms. Jongerius, a Dutch industrial designer who for more than a decade has been based in Germany, has transformed gallery space into an active meditation on social responsibility, spirituality and fabric called "Hella Jongerius: Woven Cosmосs.

Ms. Jongerius moved her studio, Jongeriuslab, into the Gropius Bau in November to initiate the projects that will be displayed in the show in different phases of research and completion. She will demonstrate a particular interest in three-dimensional weaving, which she sees as possessing enormous potential for architecture because of the flexibility, strength and lightness of textiles. Imagine, she said, a folding fabric balcony embedded with solar cells that "pops out when the sun shines."

Visionary ideas are often at the top of her mind. Stephanie Rosenthal, the Gropius Bau's director, recalled that their first conversation was about flying cars. Noting that Ms. Jongerius has leaptfrogged over skeptics by, for example, embedding silicon chips into fabric and making it look beautiful, she said, "Her radical thinking comes from not giving up."

NO ANIMALS WERE HARMED IN MAKING THIS PARCHMENT

For DeMuro Das, an interior design studio near New Delhi, an unusual project, which was planned to be a"whole house and garden design," took a rather unusual turn. The firm was approached by a client who was interested in a more organic aesthetic—"a house that celebrates nature, not just a wall of plants." The client wanted a natural looking oasis in the midst of the city, with "a sense of peace, tranquility, and renewal." This led to the idea of a garden room, with large windows that would bring the outdoors inside, and a meandering path that led to it. The design is inspired by traditional Indian architecture and gardening, with elements such as a water feature and an arched doorway that symbolize "the connection between the natural world and human beings."

LONDON

During quarantine, home improvement projects have been a tale for many — even the professionals. Pierre Yovanovich, a French interior designer, completed an upgrade to his 17th-century home near Montpellier in southern France with a newly frescoed ceiling in his 250-square-foot bedroom.

The fresco's single-named artist, Rochevaussen, had worked with Mr. Yovanovich previously on a restaurant interior in London (he painted cutlery and cookware on a field of cobalt over the chef's table). Given carte blanche for the bedroom, Rochevaussen arranged woodland animals in his signature energetic line — a motif Mr. Yovanovich described as "a joyful Mediterranean dance." The creatures were inspired by fauna from a Provencal forest and include boar, snakes and owls. The designer said that a refreshed environment helped him stay inspired, especially in a period of isolation. And he added, "there's something so special about looking up from bed and seeing a painting."