

Permanent Commission for balcony areas and public lifts in Cancer Care Centre at Guy's Hospital - London (2014-2016)

Mariele Neudecker has proposed a number of artworks throughout the building as part of the Kings Health Partners Cancer Center Arts Program.

She set out to find parallels between the building situated in the 'urban jungle' of central London, and the growth pattern of a stable rainforest, re-presented and reflected in the architectural layers within the building in terms of the denser, darker forest floor, leading up through the understory layer to the light strewn canopy at the top.

✕1 *Hanging Gardens* was the heading of the initial brief and encouraged Mariele to 'live up to' the notion of the term. It suggested to her, a densely planted up, green wall, as realized in a number of buildings around the globe.



✕2 The proposal developed into an abstract and conceptual approach to the idea of a tall rainforest, represented in a range of media across the interventions across the entire building (audio, 3D imagery, video and actual planting).

✕3 There are, horizontally and vertically, numerous parallels between dense urban spaces and the internal structures of a rainforest, which in itself encourages an exploration of the entire building.

✕4 The *Hanging Gardens* would re-present the rainforest by using different densities of planting, differing leaf sizes, using edible, medicinal and herbal plants as much as grasses and, where possible, also some tropical plants.

✕5 All the spaces would be allowed to, and actively be encouraged to, evolve over time - which means it would be shaped and re-shaped by the communities needs and interests.

✕6 For the patients, the layers within the forest should not only offer comforting, 'other' spaces, that are physically engaging, but also act as a 'shield' for the consultation rooms, as much as being a 'strengthening' and engaging environment.

✕7 The issues raised by using forest imagery will add engaging elements to the clinic; they will encourage discussion and allow positive awareness of our rainforests which are disappearing at alarming rates all of the globe.



Tiputini Biodiversity Station, image: National Geographic

✕8 For the filming of the cross-section of the rainforest, we have identified Tiputini Biodiversity Station, a scientific field research center in the Ecuadorian Amazon. It has two 120 foot towers located in the forest, perfectly suitable to enable the steady vertical shoot raising above the canopy.

✕9 Potentially this commission, particularly the film project, could be developing into a longer term engagement with 'conservation', between changing and growing communities around the hospital, the universities and beyond.

Mariele Neudecker, March 2015