

# Case study

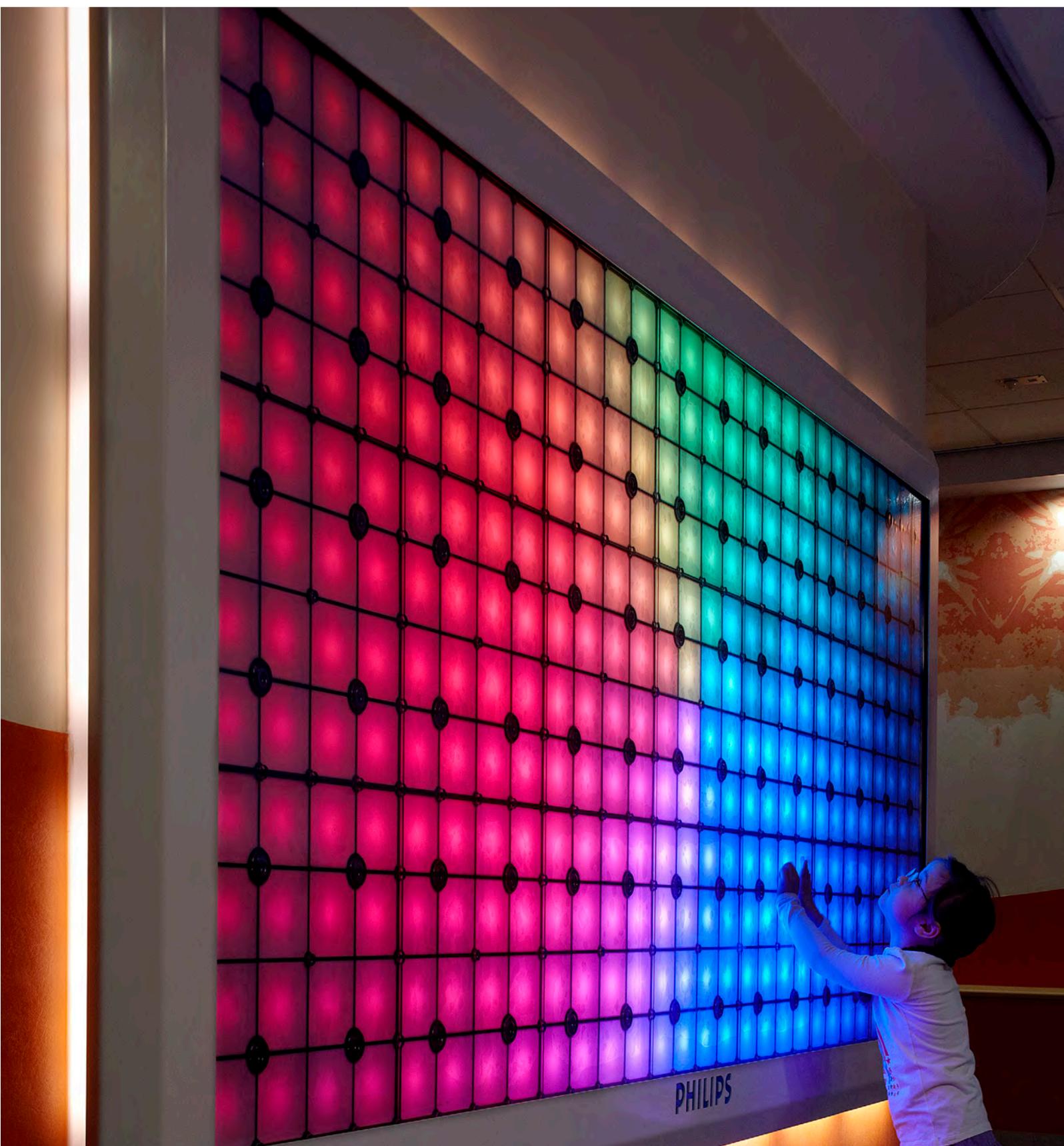
## Birmingham Children's Hospital

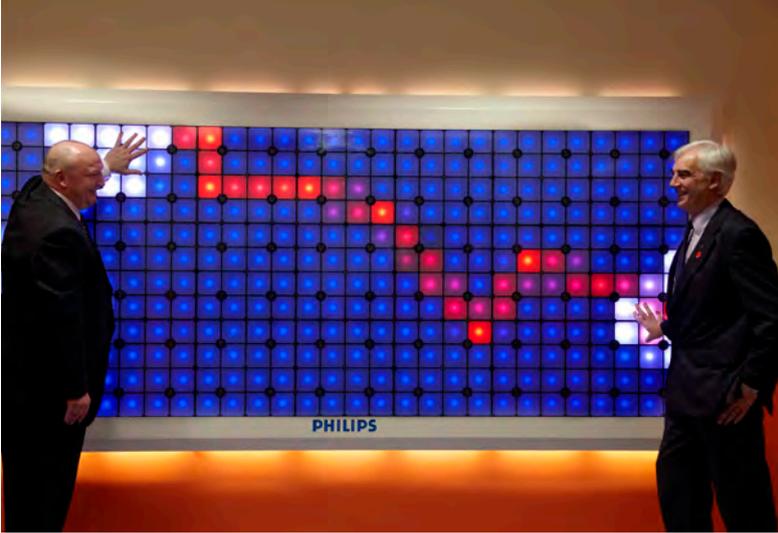
Location  
Philips Lighting

Birmingham, UK  
LED Lighting

**PHILIPS**

# Philips unveils the UK's first Imagination Light Canvas at Birmingham Children's Hospital





## Fast Facts

### Location

Birmingham, UK

### Installed Lighting System

Philips Light Wall

LED cove

### Project in Partnership with

Birmingham Children's Hospital

The King's Fund

Midas Technologies

Philips Lighting

## Background

The new renal unit at Birmingham Children's Hospital has been designed with a holistic approach in mind to lessen the tension, anxiety and stress young patients typically feel when entering a hospital environment.

The whole project has brought much closer involvement with the local community. Support and fund raising within the region was instrumental in ensuring that the entire wish list of equipment, including the Light Canvas, was able to be purchased. However, the project team was really keen to realize their vision for a space which would enhance the unit's environment based on the ethos of The King's Fund's 'Enhancing the Healing Environment' programme.

Birmingham Children's Hospital have previously undertaken two schemes as part of the EHE programme since its start in 2000 and is committed to following its philosophy on all capital schemes. Sarah Waller, The King's Fund EHE programme director, said: 'Over the 10 years that the EHE programme has been running, we have seen time and again that creating welcoming and calming environments makes a huge difference to the way we feel and to the healing process. We are delighted the Birmingham Children's Hospital EHE projects have been such a success and that their legacy continues in the Trust's transformations of further spaces. We look forward to seeing the new facilities when we visit Birmingham later in the year.'

## Challenge

"Going into hospital for treatment brings out worry and concern in most people never mind in the young children we deal with. Therefore, we wanted to create an environment which is uplifting, far removed from the clinical, sterile atmosphere usually associated with hospitals. Our whole philosophy was to design the unit with children in mind and involve them in the design process." Derick Harrison, Capital Project Manager at Birmingham Children's Hospital

## Solution

A key element in generating a sense of wellbeing within the unit is the innovative "Imagination Light Canvas", the first of its kind in the UK. Supplied by Philips, this pioneering, light wall, 3 metres by 1.5 metres, is simply operated via a standard PC giving staff the flexibility to select from a menu of interactive and static scenes. The 144 individual LED points used within the canvas are thus brought to life in a myriad of colourful animations and shapes.

Deliberately positioned opposite the main entrance to the renal unit's reception area, it is the first thing that visitors see on arrival, thereby creating immediate distraction, interest and curiosity.

The Light Canvas typifies the drive to "Imagine the Possibilities", one of the key values of the Fund which encourages creative thinking to improve the physical surroundings of patients for the benefit of their wellbeing.

## Benefits

Without doubt, the facility now is second to none in terms of state-of-the-art medical equipment but it is perhaps the visual impression and the bespoke features which make it even more exceptional. This is particularly relevant when compared to the former renal unit's location situated in the lower storey of the hospital which was, in stark contrast, drab, dark and dull. Young patients are often required to attend for treatment up to three or four times a week for several hours at a time, therefore, with little to distract them it can make the whole experience much more unappealing.

This is no longer the case. The layout with its curved, flowing lines, colourful artworks, created by the children themselves, and choice of furnishings and materials all add to create a welcoming and reassuring ambience.

Mounted within a sturdy steel frame, supplied by Midas Technologies of Peterborough, the Light Canvas itself has an intriguing quality of floating against the wall created by the LED cove lighting which softens the perimeter edges. Eye-catching for youngsters coming to the unit for the first time, the Light Canvas also offers welcome entertainment for patients who have to be kept on the ward for any length of time. The programme options even include the potential to create simple games so that 2 or more children can play together. Kidney disease is incredibly disruptive to daily life and visits to hospital can seem endless, therefore, having the opportunity to play and have fun is a welcome relief for children, and of course their concerned parents.

As Peter Maskell, Chairman of Philips Electronics, sums up, "As a Health and Well-being company, we are delighted to have been involved in this project. The Imagination Light Canvas is a perfect example of how lighting can improve wellbeing and uplift people's spirits. But, the ultimate seal of approval is seeing a child's face light up when they first walk in – that really what it's all about after all."

Without doubt the renal unit at Birmingham Children's Hospital is exemplary in the first class treatment it provides, but now it can equally be proud of the exemplary surroundings it has created for the young patients across the entire region who attend the centre as well.



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