



@sarahjjoyce1

Designing birth spaces grounded in women's experiences of giving birth

An architect's perspective

E·S·R·C
ECONOMIC
& SOCIAL
RESEARCH
COUNCIL



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Whiteboard animation

Without people, what is the
point of architecture?

An architect's perspective?

The Fountainhead movie (1949)



I'm an architect



‘Reframe the Architect more as a co-creator
who facilitates an awareness
and shares understanding of
built environment issues with others;
than as a powerful leader with a
monopoly on knowledge’

Samuel et. al, 2015

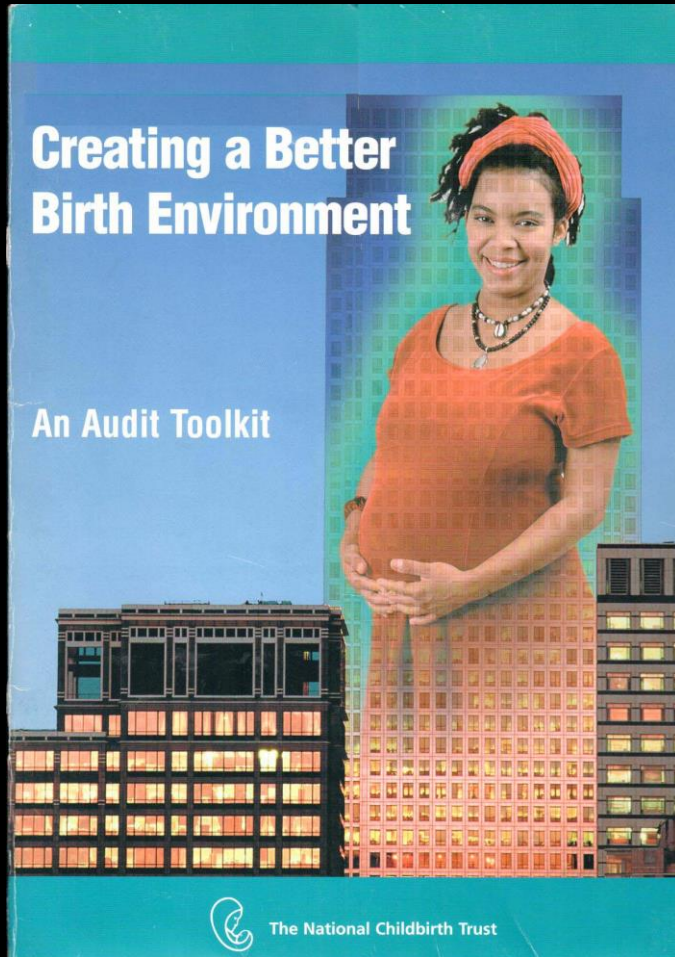
Sharing some issues ...

2016

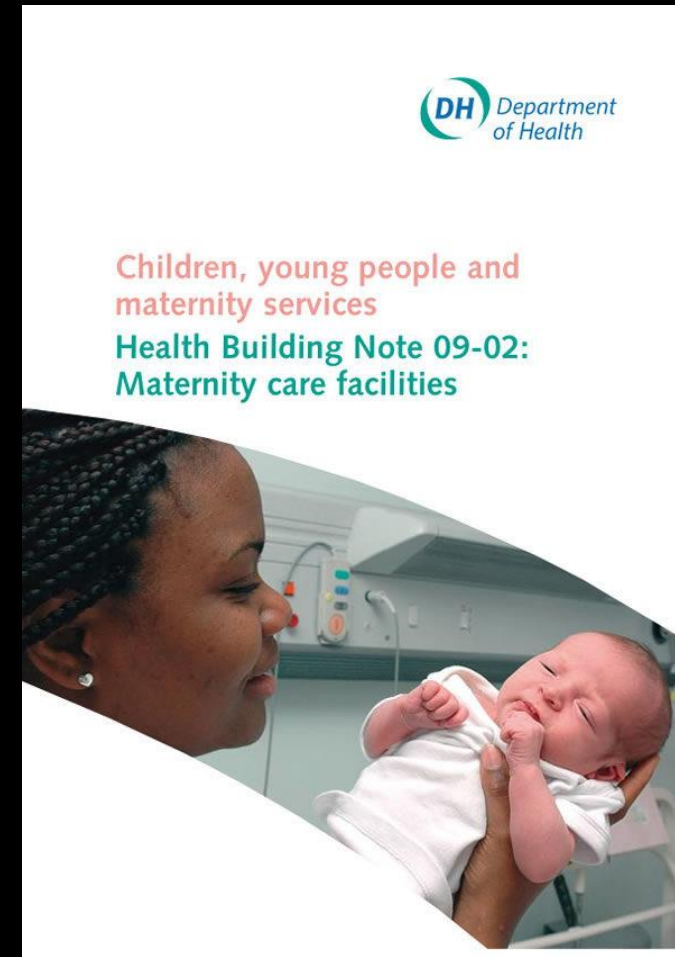


Policy and design guidance documents are grounded in research

2003



2013



Policy and design guidance documents are grounded in research

a problem with evidence
disciplines & professions

Research & design "a gender"

Evidence-based healthcare design

Favours environmental sciences approach

Quantitative research

EG. infection control, medical errors, manual handling, biophilia, stress & healing environments, daylight, wayfinding, patient satisfaction

Feeds into



Birth environment research

Favours midwifery approach

Quant /qual. Research

EG. Environmental factors to facilitate physiological birth, as a midwifery work space, women's views, furniture & fittings, homely, salutogenic spaces, decision-making

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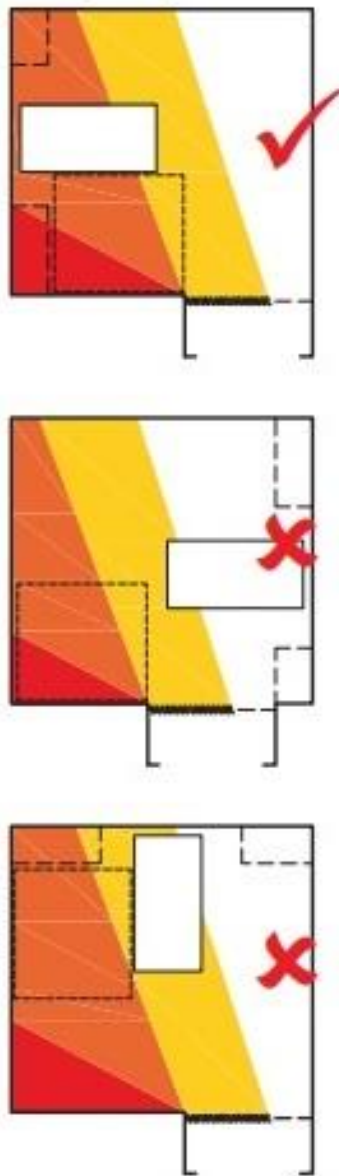
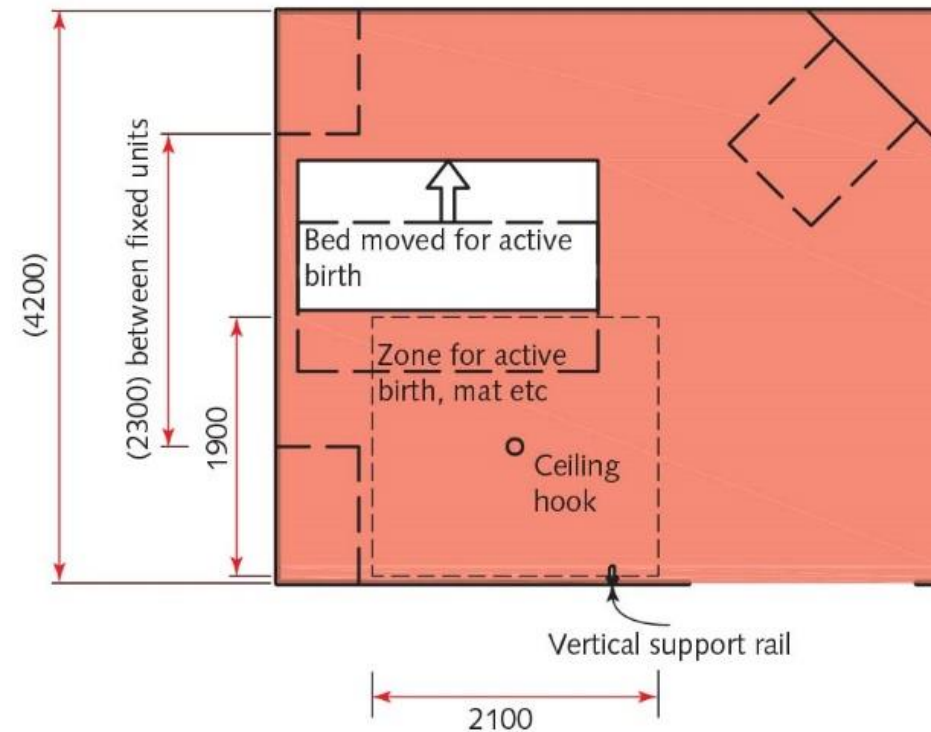
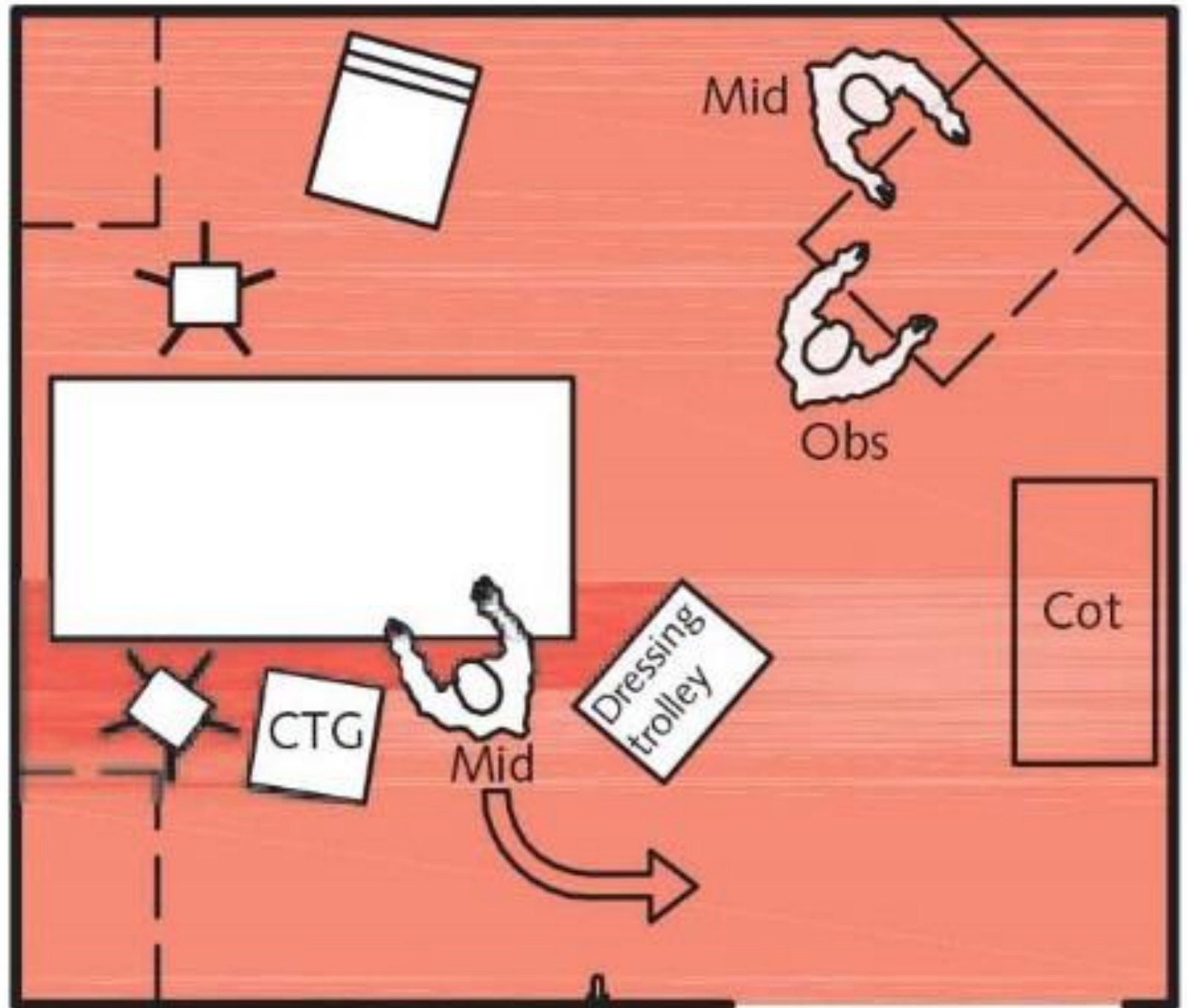
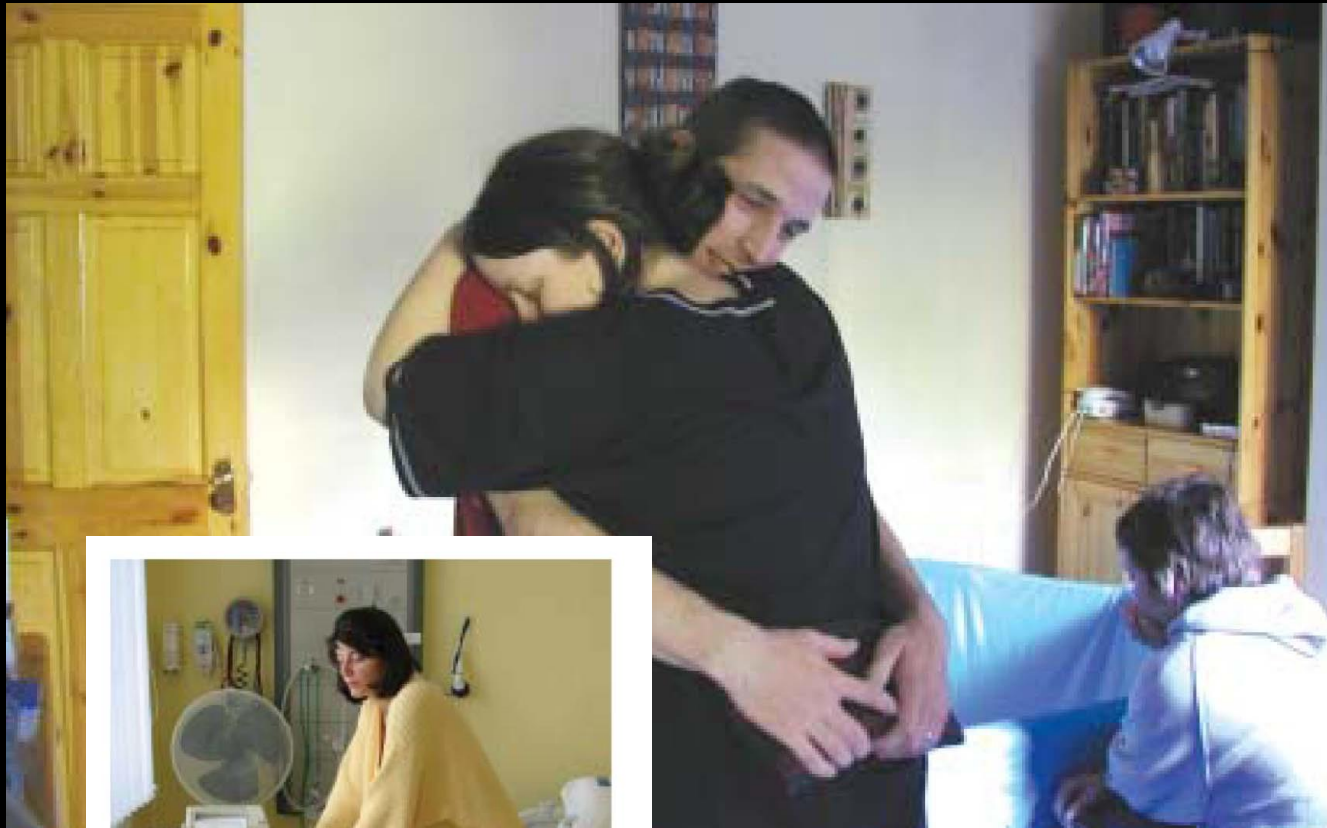
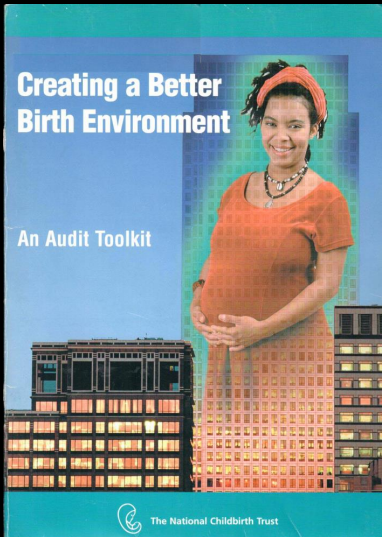


Figure 16 Bed location/privacy

Activity space widths







The loving touch of a partner or reassurance of a companion can help women feel secure.

Units should provide space, a comfortable chair and a sincere welcome for birth companions.

As women go deep inside themselves to focus on the overwhelming waves of contractions they need privacy and quiet, and may not want to be touched.



Megan tries another upright, supported, leaning forward position.

BETTER BIRTHS

*Improving outcomes of
maternity services in England*

A Five Year Forward View for maternity care



2. Continuity of carer, to ensure safe care based on a relationship of mutual trust and respect in line with the woman's decisions.



I want to there to be new evidence
for designing maternity facilities

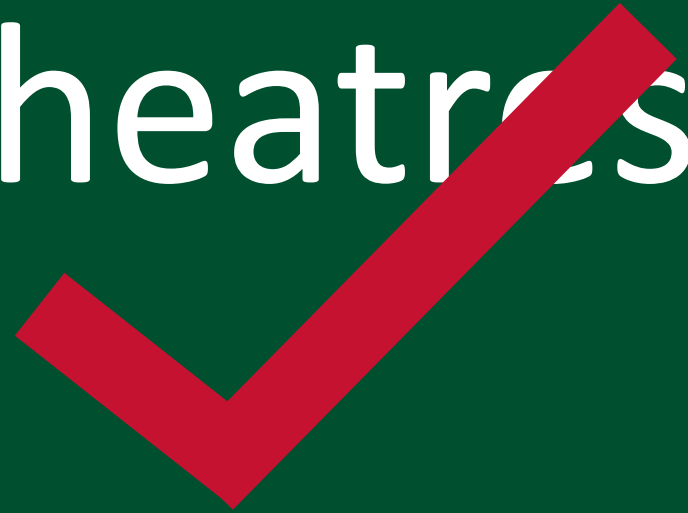
Dos & don'ts

~~1~~
birth room



Categories

Operating theatres



Space is social



... Let's do these 3 things ...

Let's do this

1 Ground birth environment / spaces research in the social-spatial experiences of users

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 - *invite them to your MVP!*

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PhD E-thesis:

<http://etheses.whiterose.ac.uk/21643/>



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