



Photo: Harel Gilboa

SZMC Helmsley Cancer Center

Jerusalem, Israel

The extension to the Shaare Zedek Medical Centre, designed by Canadian star architect Tye Farrow, impresses with several visible details: as the first timber construction of its size in Jerusalem, it stands out simply because of its chosen design. The importance of architecture for well-being is becoming increasingly recognised in the healthcare sector. The SZMC Helmsley Cancer Centre is shaped like a butterfly, whose wings are formed by 350 m³ of precision-engineered laminated larch timber. The butterfly symbolises the transformation from one (health) state to another. Wood, as a 'warm' material, supports the concept of health-promoting architecture in this building and is also used in the interior for this reason.

The 16-metre-high wooden structure is designed to convey hope and optimism to the outside world and to give patients a feeling of stability, security and calm during their treatment. It is an example of how appealing the combination of health and architecture can be.





Technology Award

WIEHAG for timber construction

Companies involved

Architecture

- Farrow Partners Architects
- · Rubinstein Ofer Architects

Client

· Margolin Brothers Facts

Facts

Hospital

- Completed in 2023
- Total area: 12,000 m²

Environmental aspects

- First large timber construction in the area
- High degree of prefabrication of timber elements, resulting in fast construction time
- · Comprehensive energy monitoring
- Irrigation system and water-saving fittings and toilet facilities to minimise water consumptionKey figures

Key figures

- 350 m³ of glued laminated timber elements made of larch
- Roof covering made of 560 m² of spruce cross-laminated timber elements
- 16 m high timber construction

