

Reimagining Destination: Wellcation (กัก - รัก - ษา) by Keyne Chayachat (INDA '25)

The project revitalizes the abandoned Surin Airport by integrating it with a specialized women's hospital, addressing the healthcare needs of Cambodian patients, particularly women who frequently travel to Surin for check-ups and tumor treatments. The design proposes a mixed-use facility where the airport enhances access to medical services, facilitating quicker and more efficient cross-border travel for patients from Cambodia and other nearby regions. This integration not only improves healthcare accessibility but also creates new opportunities for cultural exchange and transportation in Surin.

The design departs from the **typical glass-box** approach found in modern hospitals and airports. Instead, it adopts a more organic, village-like layout inspired by **colonial-era hospital designs** that prioritized openness, natural airflow, and ventilation. This approach minimizes the risk of infection, which is particularly important in a facility combining both hospital and airport functions. The hospital is organized into clusters of separate departments, structured around a **radial grid**, similar to Copenhagen's **"five-finger plan**," ensuring critical areas like emergency access points are efficiently connected to both the main entry road and the airport terminal. The organic arrangement of the hospital's departments creates open courtyards and flexible spaces, enhancing natural light and ventilation. **Open corridors** between departments facilitate movement and interaction while minimizing the risk of infection, improving both safety and patient comfort.

Ultimately, this project aims to establish a new benchmark for integrated healthcare and transportation facilities. By combining the needs of both healthcare and transit in a flexible, adaptive design, it creates a safer, more efficient space that prioritizes patient care, and accessibility. This project sets the stage for future growth in Surin, contributing to the region's development as a healthcare and transit hub.