ALZHEIMER’S RESPITE CENTRE
DUBLIN, IRELAND

Working closely with the architect, BuroHappold Engineering designed a centre that would provide a safe, secure and homely environment for day care and residential clients affected by Alzheimer’s. It also includes administrative accommodation for The Alzheimer Society of Ireland.

The single storey building is set in a walled garden that is thoughtfully landscaped to allow users ease of access so that they can enjoy this external space as part of their daily routines. A series of courtyards, as well as shared and private spaces, are connected to this garden, with bright colours used to differentiate areas and help clients identify their private rooms.

Our engineers gave careful consideration to devising the lighting and ventilation strategy for the centre to ensure it created a comfortable environment that maintained a domestic, rather than institutional, feel. Brick and sustainably sourced timber are the main materials used for the building itself, which was insulated far beyond standard regulations at the time and continues to use energy efficient service installations and systems. In addition, large windows have been included that maximise daylight and afford users stunning views out across the surrounding landscape.

With an increasing need for similar facilities across Ireland and the UK, this centre was envisaged as a prototype. We have helped realise this goal, and in doing so have set a high precedent for providing patient care in comfortable surroundings.