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Hospital Time Capsule is feat of engineering

A stunning hospital art commission by furniture designer, Fred Baier, demonstrates his talent for creating contemporary geometric designs, combining his artistic flair with mathematical precision.

Guy's and St Thomas' Charity commissioned the time capsule for the Evelina Children's Hospital, part of Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, to enhance the atrium of the hospital, as well as provide a historical record of children's toys and other popular everyday items in 2006.

The Twin Torroid time capsule consists of two interlocking doughnut shaped containers into which items are suspended. Over three hundred glass portholes allow visitors to see the objects which children in the hospital and local schools have chosen for inclusion.

Using computer generated drawings Fred created 16 wooden parts which are repetitively set to create the perfect curved shape. It took him and his technicians three months to carefully construct the 1.8 metre high and 2 metre wide structure. The pieces were fitted together using the coopering method - the technique traditionally used to make water tight barrels.

Fred said: "The components of the Time Capsule were larger than my machines' capabilities which set a challenge. It was an extremely physical six weeks, lifting all the parts and fitting them together with millimetre accuracy."

The concept is inspired by the architectural structure of the hospital's roof, with the cylindrical forms reflected in the torroids.

Karen Sarkissian, Director of Art and Heritage at Guy's and St Thomas' Charity, said: "The installation is not only a beautifully crafted object but also a vessel housing some intriguing items which will entertain children and their families visiting the hospital."

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Frances Flinter, Clinical Director of Children's Services and Genetics at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, said: "We know that artwork in a hospital provides children with a distraction from their illness and worries. The time capsule is designed so that children can move around it and peer into different holes to see what is inside. The contents have been chosen by a large range of children of all ages and include Lego, and MPS player, Ladybird books and a variety of toys – all things that have given them enjoyment as they were growing up."

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Notes to News Editors:

1. Images of the Time Capsule are available from Kate Dawson, Head of Communications on 020 7188 1218 or out of hours 07722 119175.

2. Guy's and St Thomas' Charity is the largest NHS – related charity in the UK. It provides funding to support health services in Lambeth and Southwark and to benefit the wider NHS. It has commissioned fourteen artists to produce a range of artworks for the Evelina Children's Hospital to complement Hopkins Architects inspired building design. The arts collection aims to make the environment more welcoming and provide the best possible atmosphere for recovery and rehabilitation. For more information contact Kate Dawson (as above) or visit the website: www.gsttcharity.org.uk

3. Apart from large public commissions such as the Time Capsule for Guy's and St Thomas' Charity, Fred Baier undertakes commissions for Liberty's on Regent Street and private collectors. Fred is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, a Fellow of the Royal College of Arts and a Fellow of Northern Arts. For further information please contact Jo Delmar, PA on Tel: 01672 563386 or visit the website at www.fredbair.com

4. Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust provides ¾ million patient contacts in acute and specialist hospital services every year. As one of the biggest NHS Trusts in the UK, it employs over 8,500 staff. The Trust also works in partnership with the Schools of Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing and Biomedical Sciences of King's College London and other Higher Education Institutes to deliver high quality education and research. Website: www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk