Architectural suitability, designing achieving infection control and also the psychological comfort of the users: - Isolation centre (IC) for especially dangerous pathogens

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Background: Architectural suitability of a medical facility is very key to infection control, prevention and reduction of escalation of the infection in an individual. It contributes to prevention of spread of the infections to the staff and also to the community around the facility. These spaces should also accommodate the well-being of the users. Isolating the individual should not make them feel like prisoners but you cannot send them to the community. Therefore the space designed for this function should be well thought through to achieve the two contradictory statements. The IC should be adequately located with adequate internal / room microclimate and building/ space layout. When they are poorly designed they may cause more harm than good because they may lead to infection of even the medical workers. OBJECTIVES: To examine the architectural suitability. To evaluate the suitability of the location, appropriateness of room micro-climate/ internal climate and the adequacy of the building/space layout plans, finishes and fixtures. And to establish factors that hinder architectural suitability.

Methods & Materials: I interviewed and discussed with the key sources of information like the users and administrators. I also physically visited and inspected some of the facilities at Entebbe and Mulago. I did desk study of the drawings and documentations for the existing designs.

Results: The existing Isolation Centres and medical facilities are not architecturally adequate thus a risk to infection and also they are unfriendly to the users thus resistances for staff. There and also for patients to be taken there.

Conclusion: Most of the emerging epidemics of highly infectious diseases are actually from other nations and recently we have seen the effect of such epidemic on the capital city as the case in West Africa thus the need for a centre at the country's main international access point and the capital city close to the national health excellence centre the national hospital. To improve the situation, the government should rectify the mistakes and infectious disease units should be created in all national hospitals and should be well designed so that cases can be well managed within the hospitals before transfer to the Isolation Facilities.