

# DESIGNING WITH CARE: HOSPICE DESIGN SINCE 1980



## AIMS

JDDK Architects have over 30 years' experience in the field of hospice design, having worked on over 40 hospice projects to date.

Through collaboration with Architects and Interior Designers from Northumbria University we undertook:

- To visit twelve JDDK hospices that span from 1980 to the present day and undertake post-occupancy evaluation by speaking to key stakeholders.
- To uncover emerging themes that contribute towards the positive improvement of hospice environments and the consequent benefits to patients, staff and the wider community.
- To understand the impact of changing patient demographics.
- To obtain guidance on how hospice requirements are likely to change over the coming years.



## METHODOLOGY

### Stage 1 (completed):

- Twelve of JDDK's most significant hospices were visited and over 50 key stakeholders were interviewed. Amongst those interviewed were CEOs, hospice managers, doctors, nursing staff and facilities managers.
- JDDK also interviewed a number of independent experts in the field of hospice care so that their views could be factored into the findings.

### Stage 2 (currently underway):

- Post-occupancy evaluation of Marie Curie Hospice in Newcastle upon Tyne piloting a variety of evidence-based methods, including established design toolkits for healthcare and hospices. The results will be:
  - (i) Analysed against hospice-specific patient demographic data from 1990 and 2015 to understand the impact that the design has had on the changing user profile.
  - (ii) Interrogated to determine whether key 'intangible qualities' can be interpreted from the built form, namely Intimacy, Trust, Empowerment, Compassion and Coping.



*"Hospices are about life and living. What we do in hospices is about enabling people to live the life that they choose for the duration of their natural life, however long or short that may be. It's about life-enabling, life-enriching, life-enhancing and the physical environment is critically important in that regard."*

*Professor Tony O'Brien, Consultant in Palliative Medicine, Curraheen Hospital, Cork*



*"Most patient bedrooms open out onto the gardens and we often wheel beds out so people can use the outdoor space... the patients really do enjoy that. Towards the end of life, people's lives and their circle of importance becomes smaller and very often what is important is becoming connected to the world; the sun, air and plants."*

*Angela Egde, Director of Care Services, St Oswald's Hospice, Newcastle*



*"Not everybody likes a single room or sometimes they just like them for night time. If there were ever a way to do this I would have the bedroom walls as retractable so that if you had two single rooms and the two patients were up and active and mobile, then you could have a wall that retracts back to create a multi-occupancy area."*

*Irene Barclay, Practice Service Development, St Columba's Hospice, Edinburgh*

## FINDINGS

- The need to focus on value rather than cost
- Debate over single or shared bedrooms
- Increased walking distances within purpose designed hospices
- Landscape design and bringing the outside into the building
- Younger patients with increasingly complex needs
- Increasing dementia levels are not as significant as expected
- Larger equipment due to manual handling requirements
- The importance of a spiritual space
- The impact of increased emphasis on infection control
- Architectural understanding of hospice care and design
- How to cater for young adults within hospices
- Design needs to facilitate dignity, privacy, intimacy, trust, empowerment and compassion

## CONCLUSIONS

The research project seeks to 'close the loop' with respect to JDDK's design processes, with an over-arching aim of developing an evidenced-based approach to hospice design.

When all stages are complete conclusions can be drawn on:

- What has worked and where improvements can be made
- What themes emerge as key factors in determining the success of a hospice building
- How could future hospice design respond to the changing political, demographic, social and regulatory context of healthcare design in the UK
- How we can establish clear metrics of the values of good design towards the beneficial experience of palliative care patients who will use hospice facilities

The JDDK Hospice initiative therefore addresses a wide variety of educational, professional and societal issues towards the promotion of design excellence as an active factor in the improvement of the end-of-life experience.



External view of St Columba's, Edinburgh



The Reception area at St Columba's, Edinburgh



PATIENTS AND FAMILIES AT MARIE CURIE, SOLIHULL