

Hospice Architecture in England

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Although 40 million people need palliative care worldwide annually, relatively little research has examined the settings in which palliative care is administered or attempted to understand how patients, visitors and staff experience them. **This project proposes a new critical study of English hospice architecture, aimed at making evidence-based recommendations for inclusive hospice design.**

PROJECT AIMS

- Conduct the first critical study of hospice architecture and design in England
- Broaden our understanding of how individuals experience palliative care environments
- Explore the emulation of domestic design in hospice architecture
- Provide recommendations for policy makers on how to inclusively design hospices in the future

OCT 2021 – MARCH 2022 BUILDING A HOSPICE DATABASE

The first phase of this project was to compile the first database of hospices in England with adult in-patient units. Information was collected for each hospice, including:

- Size (by number of beds)
- Region of England and Local Authority
- Rural or urban area
- Income ranking of the surrounding population
- Date of the building's completion
- Purpose-built or converted building

This database was used to select a representative sample of hospices to approach for site visits.

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

137 Hospices in England with in-patient units

30% Of hospices have <10 beds

18% Located in rural areas

48% Located in the lowest quartile of income deprived areas

AN INTERDISCIPLINARY METHODOLOGY

BUILDING A DATABASE OF HOSPICES

Gathering data on all the hospices in England to understand their demographics and allow for representative sampling

SITE VISITS

Visiting 12-15 hospices in England to study their design and understand the variety of hospice architecture across the country

ARCHIVAL RESEARCH

Exploring the process of design that each hospice goes through and the decisions that influence their final appearance

OBSERVATION OF HOSPICE SITES

Observation at two hospices to better understand the way that patients, staff and visitors use and interact with the buildings

INTERVIEWS

In-depth interviews with patients, their families and staff to explore their experiences of hospice buildings

FOCUS GROUPS

Group discussions with staff about their experiences of how architecture and design influences the delivery of palliative care

SYNTHESIS INTO CASE STUDIES

In depth-case studies of hospices from across the country will explore the variety of hospice design and highlight how different feature may help or hinder the equitable delivery of palliative care

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The final thesis will include recommendations for UK Policy Makers on inclusive hospice design based on the findings of the study

JULY – DEC 2022 SITE VISITS

Site visits will be conducted to a representative sample of hospices based on:

- Region
- Urban and rural sites
- Small (<10 beds) and large hospices
- NHS and independent hospices
- Economic deprivation of local authority

The hospices will be examined and photographed to record details on their size, layout and design.

Any evidence of emulation of domestic design will be carefully recorded. Hospice design guidance suggests using 'homely' design for palliative care settings but the prevalence of this trend in English hospice design it is unknown.

Two of these sites will be selected for further investigation through observation, interview and focus groups in 2023.



Fig 1. Proposed hospices to visit across England. Sites have been selected to ensure a geographical spread across the sample.

EXAMPLES OF HOSPICES TO BE VISITED



Fig 2. St Michael's Hospice, Hereford.

- A new, purpose-built hospice in a rural area of the West Midlands
- Won the Royal Institute of British Architects Regional Awards in 2017
- Set in carefully curated grounds with patient bedrooms leading onto the gardens



Fig 3. Leckhampton Court Hospice, Cheltenham.

- One of the oldest hospices in England, founded by Sue Ryder after WWII
- Set in a converted manor house
- In a wealthy urban area with no other in-patient hospices in the rest of the county