

# HOSPICE ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN IN THE UK: REPORT OF THE EXPERT STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

On 14th January 2025 the University of Hull hosted a one-day stakeholder consultation workshop to share recent research on hospice design and explore new directions for developing official UK hospice design guidance.

The event was organised by PhD Researcher Lucia Crowther and attended by a range of expert stakeholders including hospice management staff, palliative care clinicians, hospice architects and researchers. Here we present a summary of the key findings and directions for future collaborations and research which resulted.

## REFLECTIONS FROM RESEARCH & PRACTICE

The workshop opened with presentations reflecting different perspectives on hospice design and the use of hospice space from researchers and practitioners.

**Lucia Crowther**, PhD researcher at the University of Hull, presented new research on the acceptability of homelike design to hospice users.

**Dr Annie Bellamy**, Lecturer in Architecture at UWE Bristol, explored co-production as an architectural tool in palliative care design. **Ray Tyner**, Director and Owner of Inspire Architects, discussed how to successfully create architectural briefs.

**Katherine Smith**, a performance artist and death worker, gave a performance reflecting on their practice, after which they visualized the performance with two scores shown on the right.

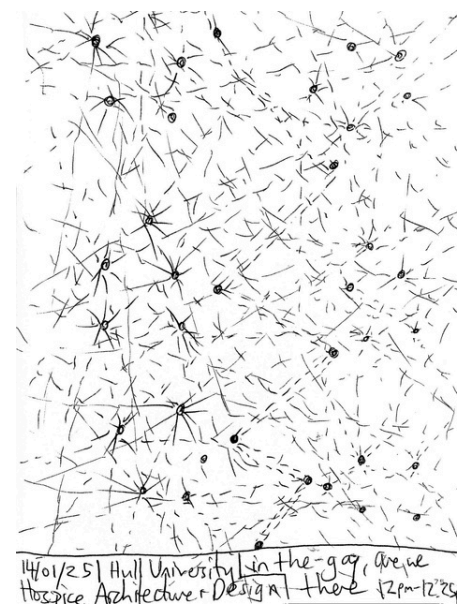
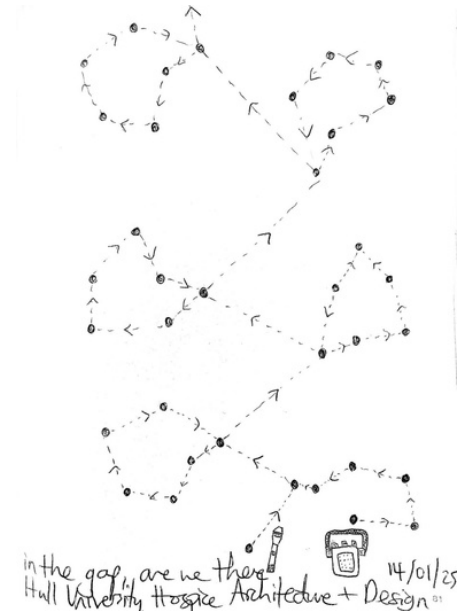
## CREATIVE OUTCOMES & COLLABORATIONS

### New Hospice Architecture and Design Network

In order to continue sharing news, opportunities and research on hospice design after the workshop, the group agreed to create a new online network which would be open to anyone with a professional interest in hospice architecture and design.

Following the workshop, the new network was set up on LinkedIn where it has been slowly growing in numbers.

To join and view posts, search on LinkedIn for "UK Hospice Architecture and Design Network".



### Katherine Smith

*in the gap, are we there*  
Scores following performance on  
14 January 2025  
Hospice Architecture and Design  
University of Hull

# UK HOSPICE DESIGN GUIDANCE: WHAT, HOW & BY WHOM?

## THE CHALLENGE

The UK currently has no official hospice design guidance, unlike countries like the Republic of Ireland and Denmark where End of Life design guidance has been adopted by the national health services. A key aim of the workshop was to consult with expert stakeholders to establish if there was support for the creation of hospice design guidance for the UK, and if so, to explore what this guidance should contain and how it should be developed.

## WAS THERE SUPPORT FOR CREATING UK GUIDANCE?

In a word, yes! Support for the creation of evidence-based UK hospice design guidance came from stakeholders across all professional groups, establishing a clear mandate for its future development.

## GETTING INTO THE DETAILS

A broad, flexible set of principles was called for to allow hospice organisations to work within the contexts of their budgets, site limitations and organisational models, and to support hospices to maintain their own individual identities.

Guidance which is based in evidence and kept updated was seen as key for reliability and relevance. Stakeholders suggested Hospice UK could be approached to explore guidance being hosted by them to ensure its visibility to hospice care organisations.

Hospice design guidance from other countries was examined by the expert stakeholders to explore different ways of presenting design principles. The process highlighted the valuable input from different professional groups. Some hospice staff and researchers appreciated the inclusion of real-life examples, while architects cautioned against illustrations which could fix ideas in place too early in the design process. The need for content aimed at different audiences was also discussed, especially to support hospice staff unfamiliar with design processes.

Budgets and running costs were a key focus of discussions, with advice for how to create adaptable, energy-efficient projects seen as crucial to ensuring success and sustainability in the long term.



Examples of international design guidance examined during the consultation. Left: Design & Dignity Guidelines (2020). Right: Programme for the Good Hospice in Denmark (2007).

*"I believe that a set of standards should be established so that designers and professionals can use these as guidance... actual End of Life care design principles."*

*- Feedback from an attendee*

## Key feedback for future UK hospice design guidance

### UK hospice design guidance should...

- Be evidence-based
- Be broad and flexible
- Be advisory (as opposed to statutory)
- Advise on creating adaptable, future-proof settings
- Advise on sustainability and energy efficiency
- Advise on refurbishments as well as new capital projects
- Include guidance for adaptive-reuse settings
- Include visual examples appropriate to different audiences
- Support hospice care organisations to navigate the design process
- Take into consideration the needs of different patient cohorts and demographics, especially minoritised groups

### ...and be based on consultation with:

- Clinical and non-clinical hospice staff and volunteers
- Architects and engineers
- Palliative care and design researchers
- Representatives from patient and family groups

## CONTRIBUTORS

Thank you to all contributors to the expert stakeholder consultation. Those who agreed to have their contribution formally recognised are listed below. Other contributors included hospice staff from across the UK and researchers from the Wolfson Palliative Care Research Centre, University of Hull.

Name	Job Role	Organisation
Bayley, Zana	Research Associate	University of Hull
Clarke, Karen	Chief Executive	St Michael's Hospice, Hastings & Rother
Connor, Neale	AHP Lead & Senior Specialist Occupational Therapist	Sobell House Oxford University NHS Foundation Trust
Crowther, Lucia	PhD Researcher	University of Hull
Duggleby, Jonathan	Architect	Vanguard House Architecture
Franklin, Stuart	Associate Director & Senior Architect	JDDK Architects
Howell, Annabel	Medical Director; PhD Student	Children's Hospices Across Scotland
Johnson, Miriam	Professor of Palliative Medicine	University of Hull
Jones, Elizabeth	Associate Director of Capital Build, Communications & Marketing	St Michael's Hospice, Hastings and Rother
Knights, Louise	Associate Director	LSI Architects
Lappin, Chris	Associate Architect	LSI Architects
Lowney, Aoife	Consultant in Palliative Care	Marymount University Hospital and Hospice, Cork, Ireland
Robson, Elsbeth	Reader in Human Geography	University of Hull
Smith, Katherine	Artist	-
Tyner, Ray	Director & Architect	Inspire Architects

### What next?

Additional detail about the findings of the stakeholder consultation will be presented in Lucia Crowther's PhD thesis (forthcoming in 2025). Options for taking forward the development of UK hospice design guidance are being explored, including funding options. Updates will be posted to the new network.

### Contact the presenters

Lucia Crowther:  
l.crowther-2021@hull.ac.uk

Annie Bellamy:  
Annie.Bellamy@uwe.ac.uk

Ray Tyner:  
ray@inspirearchitects.co.uk

Katherine Smith:  
katherine.smith@gmail.com

### Join our new network

To join our new network, search for "UK Hospice Architecture and Design Network" on LinkedIn and click to request membership, or email Lucia Crowther to request an invite.

Open to anyone with a professional interest in hospice design.