



Architecture Moriendi: Designs for the Art of Dying Brief for a Hospice Home

- To design a home for a patient in hospice care, and their loved ones, that supports their end-of-life journey by providing a sheltering space while allowing connections to the natural environment
- Fully accessible to all at any time
- Initial impressions must include “normalizing” cues, offering serenity and safety, and have a domestic, people-centered scale
- Corridors and doorways must allow for easy movement of patients and equipment. They should not be institutional in layout, and include small seating areas for conversation
- Gardens will surround the hospice providing direction to the entrance and areas for reflection and connection to the natural world
- Plantings that reflect the changing seasons, also have conditions of light and shade
- The gardens may include sculpture and artwork, possibly not permanently installed, allowing for new pieces to be included
- Architecture to maximize quality of life of patient, loved ones and staff
- Attention to acoustical quality, to be welcoming and warm, never shutting the patient off from the sounds of normal life
- Areas for family to gather away from a loved one, and ability to stay overnight
- Private rooms that can be imprinted for a short time with a patient's favorite things, and sensory experiences. Pinnable walls and wide shelves to accommodate personal items
- A home-like environment with access to a kitchen where you can help yourself to a cup of tea or a snack
- Windows that can be opened, with shades to customize light offering autonomy to the patient
- Space for the staff to work collaboratively in comfort, and to take breaks in privacy
- Center will have a 'spiritual sense', respecting the intangible mysteries of life and death
- Use of natural materials, such as timber, expressing a connection to the natural world