

## Dignified Spaces: deinstitutionalising spaces in the heart of the clinical environment

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The Therapeutic Design and Art Strategy for the New South Glasgow Hospitals has a key focus on patient dignity and participation. This paper provides an action research based reflection exploring the process of creative practice and innovation within a major capital healthcare context focused on the project Dignified Spaces which addresses some 70 rooms variously labelled quiet, relatives or family rooms in the new hospital buildings.

The key research question is “What does dignity mean to users and how that inform the design process?”

The need for dignified spaces has emerged within hospital design and in NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (NHSGGC) this is the first generation of buildings in which these spaces are included at the stage of design. The importance of patient dignity and the need for appropriate environments is evidenced in NHSGGC’s Community Engagement programme reports (2006, 2009). These types of spaces have been created in older buildings as part of refurbishment programmes. These spaces are used for a range of purposes of which the most important are conversations between clinical, nursing or spiritual care staff and patients’ relatives and carers. They are also used by families and carers waiting to have conversations with healthcare professionals.

The potential for creating quality spaces is constrained within an acute hospital setting. Examples such as Maggie’s Centres and initiatives within the King’s Fund Enhancing the Healing Environment Programme demonstrate a range of possibilities.

The Dignified Spaces project takes key aspects of the learning from these other contexts and is working with a palette including lighting, wall colours and coverings, flooring, furniture and artworks. The project utilises creative engagement strategies to inform thinking about the idea of dignity and the development of innovative approaches to interiors.

### References

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