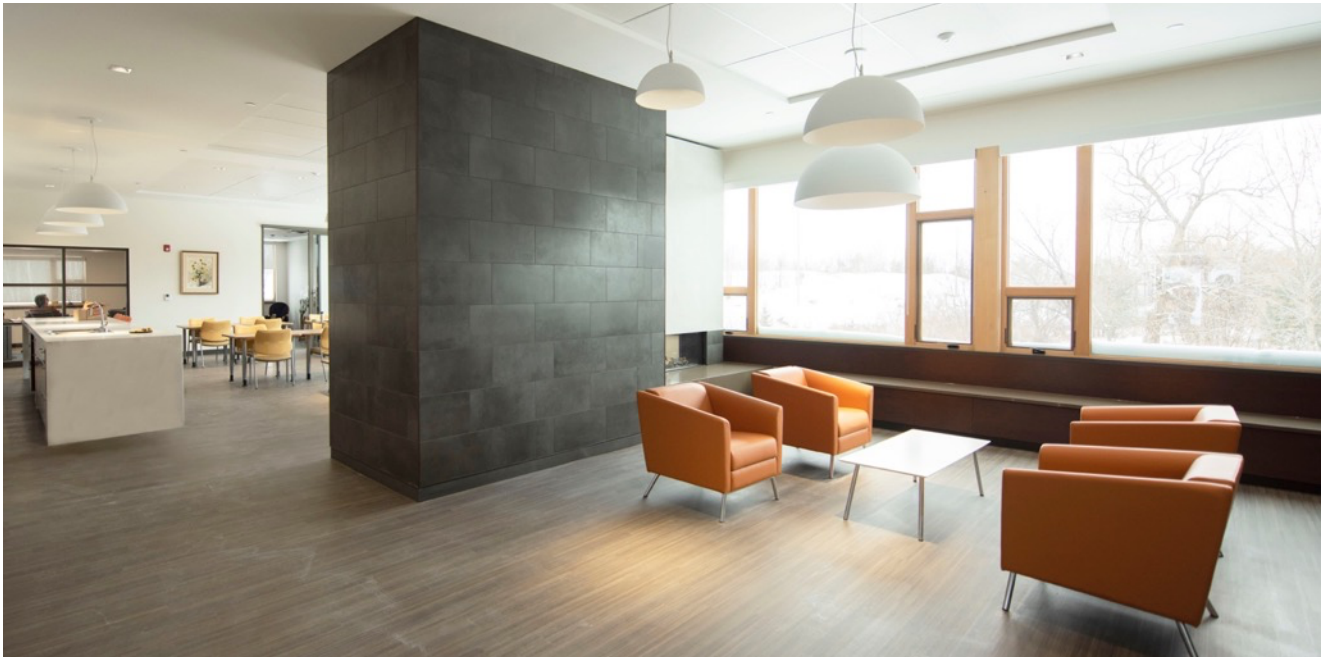


Nipissing Serenity Hospice:

Bringing comfort, respite and hope to end-of-life



The Nipissing Serenity Hospice in Northern Ontario provides a peaceful setting for patients and their families to come to where quality end-of-life care is honored in a compassionate and holistic manner.

A Boutique-hotel Feel

The Nipissing Serenity Hospice functions much like a mini mini-hospital. An expert, multi-disciplinary team comprised of physicians, nurses, personal support workers along with visiting social workers, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, pharmacists, palliative care volunteers and multi-faith chaplaincy delivers 24-hour palliative care. However, as Jean Larocque of Larocque Elder Architects Inc. and Principal Architect for the Hospice explains, “There’s no question we didn’t want to make the hospice feel like a hospital. We wanted people accompanying their loved one for their life’s final journey to feel connected and peaceful.”

Set on two and a half acres above Chippewa Creek surrounded by the Northern landscape, the facility brings the natural setting inside through details like

wood and stone finishes and lots of light. Windows are low and wide, providing immediate access to the outdoors. Adds Gil Pharand, Executive Director, Nipissing Serenity Hospice, “Every resident room overlooks a wooded area and creek. If you open the window you can hear the water running and birds chirping. It’s very tranquil.” Special attention is paid to lighting, a key detail that is often overlooked by designers in healthcare settings. The spa-like lighting is the same as typically found in high-end retail or boutique hotels. Larocque explains, “Let’s say you’re with your loved ones. You want to look your best for them and yourself. You want your spirits uplifted, not drawn down with harsh lighting.”

Furniture has been selected to enhance the privacy and comfort of residents, as well as accommodate family and friends that visit during the day or wish to spend the night. Seating has been placed to create different groupings or ‘petits salons’ enabling people to gather and create their own little corners of comfort. “We tested a lot of chairs and the nice thing about the Global line is that even though they look and feel substantial, they can still be moved quite easily to create a grouping – at the same time they create a welcoming presence while providing a great deal of comfort,” says Larocque.



“It’s not a doom and gloom sort of place. It’s a place to celebrate life

Gil Pharand, Executive Director
Nipissing Serenity Hospice

A Safe Space for Patients and Families

Hospices, as a healthcare deliverer, need to follow strict IPAC rules. Choosing Global’s healthcare furniture above residential furniture helped Serenity Hospice meet these protocols, even during the COVID pandemic. Larocque adds, “Having leather-like finishes you can wash and clean in furniture that has contemporary lines allows us to create the boutique hotel atmosphere we wanted to achieve without sacrificing style or function. To find furniture that can do all that was a win for us.”

Nipissing Serenity Hospice ensures patients have the right to quality palliative care and the right to choose where they wish to receive care at the end of life. Pharand concludes, “We want to embody what the community wants and elevate their vision of what a hospice is. Now we can offer our community members peace and respite during their time here. It’s not a doom and gloom sort of place. It’s a place to celebrate life.”



Photo Credit: Paola Vega, LEA Architects Inc.

