

# Yee Hong Peter K Kwok Hospice:

Delivering optimum living for the dying to a diverse community



[A first-of-its-kind residential hospice for an urban community delivers comfort and care for patients and their loved ones.](#)

The Yee Hong Peter K Kwok Hospice, located in Scarborough Ontario, operates as a Centre for Excellence providing palliative care and bereavement support after death. Or, as Nazira Jaffer, the hospice's Executive Director describes it, as "optimum living for the dying," which is no small feat given the diversity of the community the Hospice serves. "Between the 15 staff here, we are able to speak 16 languages," Jaffer expands. "This way, we're able to not only speak to our residents in their mother tongue but also to understand their culture and support them." The key to delivering this inclusionary experience is to create an environment that

imparts a feeling of home. A place where everyone feels safe and secure.

## **Balancing Performance with Care**

Being a hospice, there are operational requirements that need to be met. In addition to the delivery of medical care, all furnishings in the space need to be able to withstand the rigid cleaning and disinfection protocols of a post-pandemic world. These operational issues needed to be reconciled with the aesthetic and human aspects of comfort and care, respect and dignity. Eugene Kam, Chief Information Officer/Vice-President, Corporate and Community Services, Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care, affirms, "This is a residential hospice and the first in our community. We prioritize service to the diverse demographic of our city. That translates into creating an environment where every patient and their loved ones feel at home and at peace."



“Key to creating a sense of place and belonging in the Hospice is to mimic the structure, hierarchy and flow of a home.”

Irka Dyczok  
Principal, Designfarm

### Following the Visual Logic of a Home

When planning the interior finishes of the Hospice, Irka Dyczok, Principal at Designfarm, explains, “the key to creating a sense of place and belonging in the Hospice is to mimic the structure, hierarchy and flow of a home.” Following this logic, the initial interior experience is a more formal front-of-house. Visitors and patients enter a living room space, organized around a central hearth that welcomes. The living room includes a variety of lounge and casual seating that features colorful, textured, high-performance fabrics. This area provides several opportunities for connection, respite and quiet moments of contemplation. A sophisticated, contemporary stain used on the millwork is complemented by lighter quartz in the open area kitchen, adding to the sense of family and community. The children’s play area is included in this space. Playful bench seating accented with colorful poofs create space for multiple generations to gather and celebrate the lives of the people who are cared for at the hospice.

Then, transitioning into the private spaces, the corridor walls that lead to ten private rooms, along with doors and trim are all painted white, much like the hallways of a home. Each room features large windows inviting an abundance of natural light. These rooms feature their own accessories, artwork and color palette, honoring the individuality of each person who will occupy it. Bedside tables and wardrobes accommodate plenty of storage room for bedding, clothing and personal effects, while not taking up too much space.

### Making the Most of the Space You Have

In the community this hospice serves, families tend to be larger and they want to be with their loved ones throughout their stay here. Each patient room features a generous glider and sleeper couch, both of which pack a lot of comfort and space into a smaller footprint. The sleeper couch sits five while converting into a bed that easily accommodates two. Strategic placement of this furniture ensures that loved ones are never far away.

Dyczok sums up, “when you walk in here, it doesn’t feel like a strange place. In effect, it doesn’t look ‘designed’; it just looks and feels familiar and comforting.” These words resonate with a community that now has a place that provides compassionate palliative care to patients and their families so they can live life to the fullest with dignity, purpose and hope.

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#### ARCHITECT

Jonathan Wong, Larkin Architect Limited

#### FURNITURE SELECTION

Elizabeth DiFrangia, Rx Solutions

#### INTERIOR DESIGN

Irka Dyczok, Designfarm

#### FEATURED PRODUCTS

Wind seating	Drift seating and stools
Coast glider	Primacare wingback
Dreame sleeper	Sirena seating
River seating	Descor occasional tables

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