North East Scotland and Northern Isles Integrated Mortuary
Arts and Environment Strategy

GRAMPIAN HOSPITALS ART TRUST

NHS Grampian

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Introduction

Introduction

This strategy outlines the integration of artworks throughout North East Scotland and Northern Isles Integrated Mortuary and its surrounding environment. It's an evolving document that is built upon the findings of consultation and by Grampian Hospitals Art Trust, which combines the findings of the NHS Grampian Project Team, Services Team Leaders.

The development of North East Scotland and Northern Isles Integrated Mortuary will provide a multi-purpose mortuary serving the needs of NHS Grampian, University of Aberdeen, the Crown Office Procurator Fiscal Service, Police Scotland, and Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Moray, Orkney, and Shetland Island Councils.

The key aims of the North East Scotland and Northern Isles Integrated Mortuary are:

Improved bereavement suite facilities, with more dignity for the deceased and privacy for families.
Improved teaching, learning and training facilities.
Improved Effectiveness and Efficiency.

This strategy sets out the methodology for the creation the visual environment throughout the building. The strategy will not detail definitive areas for art inclusion but locations that are likely to include the main entrances, circulation routes, waiting areas, external spaces and specific treatment spaces. It forms a starting point for commissioned artists to respond to research, development and production of artworks.

The endorsement and support of the community which North East Scotland and Northern Isles Integrated Mortuary serves is central to the success of any project which will be created as part of the art and environment initiative. Public and user consultation will be carried out to ensure the views of patients, visitors and staff are taken into account at all stages of the project.

Benefits of Art and Design in Healthcare Contexts

Benefits of art and design in a healthcare context

In 2010 The Scottish Government published 'A Policy on Design Quality for NHS Scotland 2010' that includes recognition of the importance of embracing good design, the role of placemaking and the positive effects of the incorporation of artworks and therapeutic design on patient's wellbeing and staff retention.

A wealth of evidence-based finding has demonstrated that good design adds value, not only from an economic perspective but also in terms of a range of social and environmental benefits. This capacity to add value is particularly important for healthcare environments, where the physical and psychological wellbeing of patients, staff and visitors is of paramount consideration.

"Good interior design can contribute to visitor and staff morale and the aim should be to create a serene, comfortable and safe environment throughout the facility within the constraints of mortuary practice. Interior design should be particularly sensitive to the needs of bereaved visitors.

Interior design, e.g. colours, textures, space, fittings, furniture, finishes and lighting should work holistically to facilitate the function of the accommodation and provide an efficient, robust and safe working environment appropriate for the activities in each area. Art, wayfinding and greenspace views should also contribute to a serene, calming and reassuring experience for visitors."

Scottish Health Planning Note 16-01 Mortuary and Post Mortem Facilities: design and briefing guidance 2017
https://www.nss.nhs.scot/media/1974/shpn-16-01-v2-nov-2017.pdf

"Many factors can contribute to engendering a sense of ease, for instance: the first impression of the facility from the public realm, the entrance experience, the degree of natural light, brightness and airiness, colour and texture, an easily understood layout with clearly defined focal points, uncluttered signage and a clear distinction between the realms of public and private space, maintaining patient dignity."

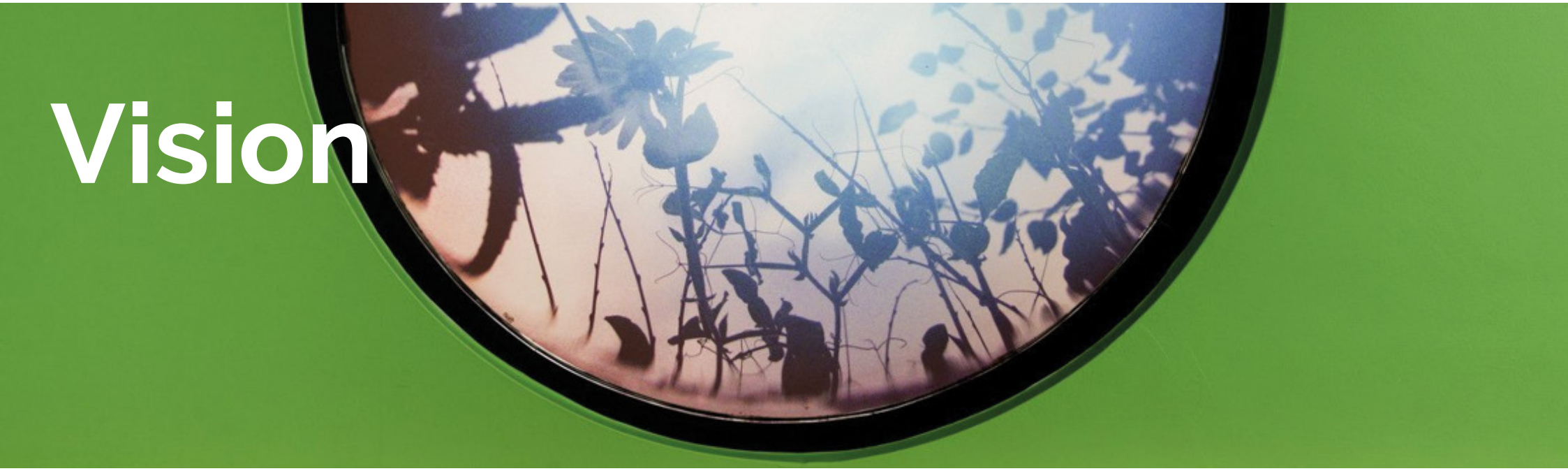
A Policy on Design Quality for NHS Scotland 2010
https://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/mels/CEL2010_19.pdf

"A well-designed building - inside and out - and the surrounding green space can make people feel calmer, and that means when they arrive for their appointment they're able to explain themselves better which means that medical staff can provide better and appropriate healthcare. Simply put if you're calm and the patients are calm then you're going to get much further."

Chris McNeill, Head of Community Health and Care Services, West Dunbartonshire Council

The North East Scotland and Northern Isles Integrated Mortuary Arts and Environment Strategy proposes an integrated approach to how artworks are presented and how they sit within building's internal and external environments.

Vision



Vision

The vision for North East Scotland and Northern Isles Integrated Mortuary is that it must:

be a place of privacy and comfort;
provide a feeling welcome and calm;
be relaxing and reassuring;
relfect the surrounding landscapes and nature;
be a place to be with family;
feel more part of the community than a hospital environment.

These ideas are designed to meet the ambitions of this strategy. They intend to help to create a calm, welcoming and interesting building and the surrounding environment that reflect the aspirations of the community groups and individuals, staff and the design team.

It is anticipated that during the commissioning process as community groups are involved and further relationships are made within communities that further opportunities will emerge to develop long-term activities and partnerships

Guiding Principles

Guiding Principles

LIGHT AND BRIGHT: A SAFE AND WELCOMING SPACE is the key guiding principle that runs through the heart of this strategy.

Through the delivery of this strategy, it will be the artists' dialogue and collaboration with the NHSG Project Team and service users that will inform the creative solutions that will be developed, finessed, fabricated and installed into the new building. Also, there are three secondary guiding principles and that any project will directly responds to:

A SENSE OF CALM
SECURITY AND COMFORT
A PLACE OF REFLECTION

Creative Rationale

Creative Rationale

The primary purpose of this strategy document is to help convey the sense of the high-quality care that will be provided in the facility.

The Arts and Environment Strategy will help create a new sense of place that responds to the context of the new building. It will resonate with the users of North East Scotland and Northern Isles Integrated Mortuary because they will evolve from the skilful facilitation of commissioned artists collaborating with the NHSG Project Team, Clinicians and Public Representatives. The final project will result from the distillation of a wide range of potential ideas gathered through the consultation processes down to a short-list of projects that we believe will have the biggest impact and make the biggest difference. The works will intrigue and create moments of interest and reflection.

The project will also play a practical role in helping staff and users navigate their way around the building; providing opportunities for distraction, but also helps alleviate any anxieties for visitors to the new facility.

Management and Delivery

Management and Delivery

Grampian Hospitals Art Trust (GHAT) will be responsible for the delivery and management of North East Scotland and Northern Isles Integrated Mortuary Arts and Environment Strategy. A steering group will be formed who will report to North East Scotland and Northern Isles Integrated Mortuary Project Group at key stages of the overall project. GHAT Art Project Design and Sign Off processes will be followed, details of these processes can be found in the NHS Grampian Healing Environment Strategy.

It is anticipated that any artworks developed will be installed in the following priority areas:

Ground Floor
- External screening for windows facing onto Foresterhill carpark
- Counselling rooms and adjoining courtyards;
- Reception and waiting area
- Corridor leading to Counselling rooms

First Floor
- Stairwell;
- Corridors;
- Offices, meeting and police rooms
- Staff and Professionals Terraces.

The Steering Group will work closely with the project team to involve users and patient representatives in the decision making process.

Any new work must be appropriate and relevant to their context. There are several factors to be taken into consideration:

- the function of the building as a whole;
- the architectural concept: layout of departments, use of space, circulation routes, lighting, the palette of materials and colours;
- the wide range of users of the building: staff, visitors, students, police and other services;
- health and safety issues: work will need to conform to current NHS regulations;
- infection control issues: work will need to conform to current NHS regulations;
- maintenance of work: the work should be low maintenance, durable and vandal-proof.

Key Aim and Outcomes of North East Scotland and Northern Isles Integrated Mortuary Art and Environment Strategy

The provision of art will contribute to the creation of a unique and welcoming environment, enhancing both the working environment and the patient experience. The work produced following this strategy will be integrated and coordinated throughout by the Steering Group.

Aim: To create a well-designed, person centred environment, where everyone should leave feeling they have had the best possible experience.

Outcome: To improve the visitor experience
Outcome: To enhance staff experience
Outcome: To increase community engagement on NHS Grampian sites

Objectives

- integrate artwork into the full environmental design linking architecture, interior design and wayfinding;
- create artwork which will sustain the interest of viewers e.g. work that will not readily date and which retains interest on repeated viewing;
- create artwork which is visually interesting, relevant and promotes a sense of calmness;
- make effective use of GHAT's links with the local and national arts and wellbeing infrastructure;
- make effective use of links with the organisations and groups in the immediate area.

Evaluation

The project will be continually evaluated at key stages. Outcomes have been set which will deliver the aim of the project and monitored throughout to ensure that this is being achieved. A full evaluation plan will be written when the final draft of the strategy is completed.

The evaluation of the project is invaluable to GHAT as this informs the development of other projects on NHS Grampian sites.

Long term maintenance, care and decommissioning of artwork

A budget will be agreed for the long term maintenance and care of permanent works. A maintenance plan will be reviewed annually, taking into consideration the possible change of uses of internal and external spaces. Grampian Hospitals Art Trust will be the first point of call regarding all artwork in North East Scotland

and Northern Isles Integrated Mortuary and signpost NHS Grampian staff to the relevant person to contact regarding specific artwork. Grampian Hospitals Art Trust will also hold a database of all artwork in the centre, a copy of the maintenance plan and a list of relevant contacts.

At times it may be necessary to decommission works due to environmental issues such as reconfiguration of space. In the case of work having to be decommissioned, the artist will be informed with the following options;

If it is cost-effective to remove the artwork in one piece, with the permission of the artist:

- The artwork will be relocated within North East Scotland and Northern Isles Integrated Mortuary building;
- The artwork will be accessioned into the Grampian Hospitals Art Trust Art Collection to be relocated to another NHS Grampian facility
- The artwork will be sold by NHS Grampian/ Grampian Hospitals Art Trust Art with a percentage of the sales price going to the artist.

In cases of it not being cost-effective to remove the artwork in one piece, the artwork will be dismantled and disposed of professionally.

Curatorial Vision

LIGHT AND BRIGHT: A SAFE AND WELCOMING SPACE
A SENSE OF CALM
SECURITY AND COMFORT
A PLACE OF REFLECTION

The new building must reflect the guiding principles and function as a place of comfort and reassurance, welcoming and calm.

Any work undertaken will need to respond to varying requirements and be designed to add to the experience for all users of the building.

Works can be designed which form meeting points, punctuation points, distraction points and non-written wayfinding points

To realise a curatorial vision, advantage will be taken of natural features such as daylight, landscaped areas, gardens, plants, shrubs and trees which are already present on the site and are integral to the design of the building and external areas.

The Steering Group will work closely with the design team to focus on key areas and reflect the guiding principles. The key areas include;

- Solution for external screening for windows facing onto Foresterhill carpark;
- Solution for Counselling rooms and adjoining courtyards;

- Solution for privacy and distraction in ground floor waiting area;
- Solution for offices and meeting rooms on the First Floor;
- Solution for the stairwell and first floor terraces;
- Solution for the display of the stained glass window in the current Foreserhill Mortuary;
- Solution for the dispay of 'time capsule' objects.

Integrated projects delivered during construction - Project Manager and Project Assistant

The overall project will work in 2 stages. In Stage 1 GHAT Project Manager and Project Assistant will work closely with those involved in the project, acquiring information about the place and relevant issues. This process provides a means of documenting the project, collecting evidence of need and developing tailored solutions which can then be developed to fully realised outputs in stage 2 of the project.

For this purposes, they will work with all NHS Grampian to develop a fully formed brief that can be used to initiate stage 2 of the project. They will

- Work closely with the project team to realise the agreed action plan.
- Engage the service users and staff who will be in the new building when it is completed
- Document the on the ground change of the place visually
- Work with the project team to get an understanding of their roles in the process
- Document evidence of need within the overall strategy and rescope if the strategy needs to change
- Create a fully formed project and design statement that can be initiated and implemented in Stage 2

Stand-alone artworks delivered during the commissioning of the building – Commissioning an Artist/ Designer

Stage 2 of the project we will commission a Lead Artist(s) who can deliver to a brief. This will be put out to tender to commission the best artist and or designer that will reflect the high quality of arts activity and output expected on NHS Grampian sites.

For this purpose, suitable individuals will be employed who will work with all stakeholders to create artwork to a fully formed brief. They will:

- Run creative sessions with stakeholder groups to investigate the use of the new building, explore the guiding principles.
- Design, manufacture and install artwork suitable for North East Scotland and Northern Isles Integrated Mortuary as laid out in this strategy and in the brief.

Grampian Hospitals Art Trust and NHS Grampian Partnership

Since the establishment of Grampian Hospitals Art Trust in 1985 as an independent charity, the arts have played a pivotal role in creating a suitable environment in which NHS Grampian health services are delivered. With more than 4,000 works of art in a wide range of media, GHAT has one of the largest art collections in hospitals in the UK. In 2013 the Foresterhill Campus Arts and Environment Group developed an Arts and Environment Strategy and an Interior Design Framework. These documents are the basis for any refurbishment or new build projects within NHS Grampian.

This partnership over 38 years has engendered an expectation across NHS Grampian services that the visual environment is an essential part of the wellbeing of patients and the retention of staff leading to the better patient experience

Supporting Documents

A Policy on Design Quality for NHS Scotland 2010
https://www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/mels/CEL2010_19.pdf

All Party Parliamentary Group on Arts, Health and Wellbeing Report 2017
https://www.culturehealthandwellbeing.org.uk/appg-inquiry

Scottish Health Planning Note 16-01 Mortuary and Post Mortem Facilities: design and briefing guidance 2017
https://www.nss.nhs.scot/media/1974/shpn-16-01-v2-nov-2017.pdf

Health Building Note 16-01: Facilities for mortuaries, including body stores and post-mortem services (NHS England)
https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/PRN00284-health-building-note-16-01-facilities-for-mortuaries-including-body-stores-and-post-mortem-services.pdf

Standards for mortuary services Guidance published by the Scottish Ministers, Police Scotland and the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service
https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/advice-and-guidance/2022/08/standards-mortuary-services-guidance-published-scottish-ministers-police-scotland-crown-office-procurator-fiscal-service/documents/standards-mortuary-services-guidance-published-scottish-ministers-police-scotland-crown-office-procurator-fiscal-service/standards-mortuary-services-guidance-published-scottish-ministers-police-scotland-crown-office-procurator-fiscal-service/govscot%3Adocument/standards-mortuary-services-guidance-published-scottish-ministers-police-scotland-crown-office-procurator-fiscal-service.pdf

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