Synopsis

Hospice is a concept of caring which dates back to medieval times, symbolizing a place where travelers, the sick, the wounded or dying found rest and comfort on their journeys. The modern day hospice provides a comprehensive program of care to patients and families facing a life limiting illness. Hospice is a concept of care and not a specific place of care.

In Singapore, the concept of hospice care is still in its infancy as compared to other western models. Singaporeans, who are still very traditional in terms of caring for loved ones, see hospice care as a negative resort in terms of health care. However, the situation is improving as the public gets more educated in the concept of hospice care.

The objective of this thesis project stems from the observation of present hospice facilities. There is no criticism on the technical aspects of hospice care, however the siting of hospice buildings in Singapore could be much more inspiring, for the benefit of the patients. Take Assisi Home & Hospice and Dover Park Hospice as examples, they are both sited on hospital carpark compounds. This thesis aims to reconcile site and environment into the system of care towards the general well being of the patients in the hospice.

“ If I were to name the chief benefit of a house, I should say: the house shelters day-dreaming, the house protects the dreamer, the house allows one to dream in peace.”

Gaston Bachelard (1884-1962)

The architecture would be set in an environment that would encourage the patients to relate and understand nature; thus heightening their spiritual awareness and acceptance of death. Secondly, the hospice would be designed in such a manner that would encourage public participation in its programs. This reconciliation between the public and the hospice would in due time erase the many myths that prevents hospice care from being better understood so that many more could benefit from it.