

# NORMALCY IN HEALTHCARE DESIGN

## An extension of the natural and built environment

Theme: Sustainable Development: Designing to promote health and biodiversity Environments that enhance wellbeing and foster healthy ecosystems

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## Lady Cilento Children's Hospital:

- Conrad Gargett Lyons
- Queensland Health
- \$1.4 billion
- Design & Construction: 2008 – 2014

LCCH





Normalcy in Healthcare Design



LCCH: Philosophical underpinnings

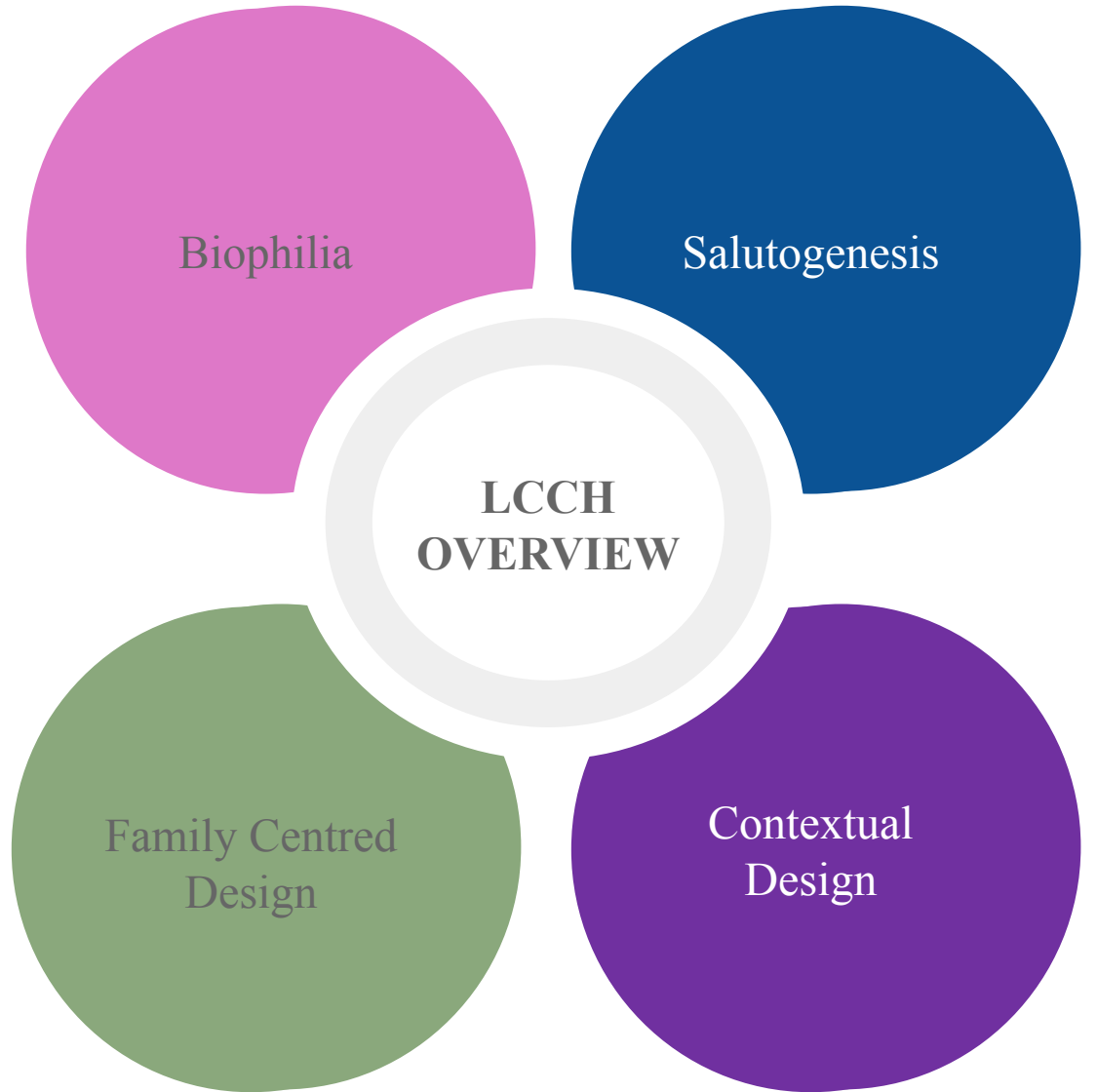






- Opportunities and challenges
- The Hong Kong revelation
- Bring together academia & industry









- Hospitals can be stressful – for patients, their families and staff

[Stevens, 1986]

- Normalizing activities divert attention, create ease and facilitate better responses to therapy and healthcare

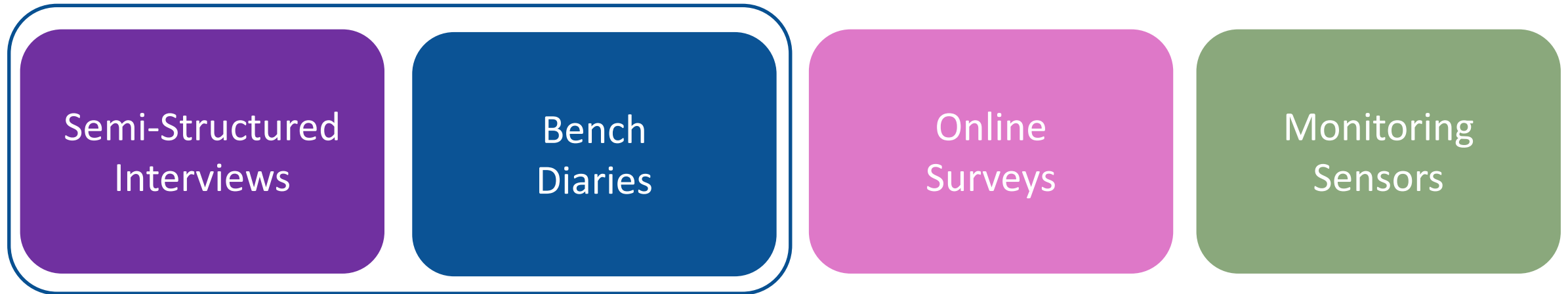
[Interview findings, 2017]

- Emergent question: How could gardens play a role in normalizing?



## Lady Cilento Children's Hospital Project – Accumulating Research Data

- Twelve semi-structured interviews – End user experiences (2017)
- Two rounds of bench diaries (2015, 2016)
- Hospital-wide survey – 90 survey respondents (2017)
- Environmental monitoring – 25 sensors (2017)





## 12 SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEWS

- Therapy session run smoothly
- Children to feel like children
- Responsive to therapy
- Accelerate healing rates

*“...the garden plays a very important role in normalising everything that is going on in their life. I found that especially with one boy that was 13 years old and the garden was a place where he felt normal.”* Physiotherapist



*“...a huge shift in mood and the relationship that you can build with them as well. They are very used to meeting so many different people that they develop a stronger relationship with you because you take them to do more normal things – being outside in the garden and it is better for your mood.”* Physiotherapist





Dear Bench Diary,

What a beautiful view and  
Stunning garden that you live in.

We are here today for a happy fella  
to have an EEG and tomorrow an MRI  
on his leg for a bone Tumour.

We are So fortunate to be at this  
gorgeous hospital.

The View has inspired us to explore  
along the river and take in the sites  
and Scenery Southbank has to offer.

We hope that this garden brings  
Peace to those who come here.

May your dreams come  
true

Love the  
X

Hello Bench Diary,

me ~~and~~ and my mum agree  
that putting REAL plants  
on the roof of a hospital  
is a very good Idea.  
As soon as we came  
here we felt as though  
we weren't even at  
a hospital! And it has  
a beautiful view!



It feels good to breathe  
fresh air!



& Mum

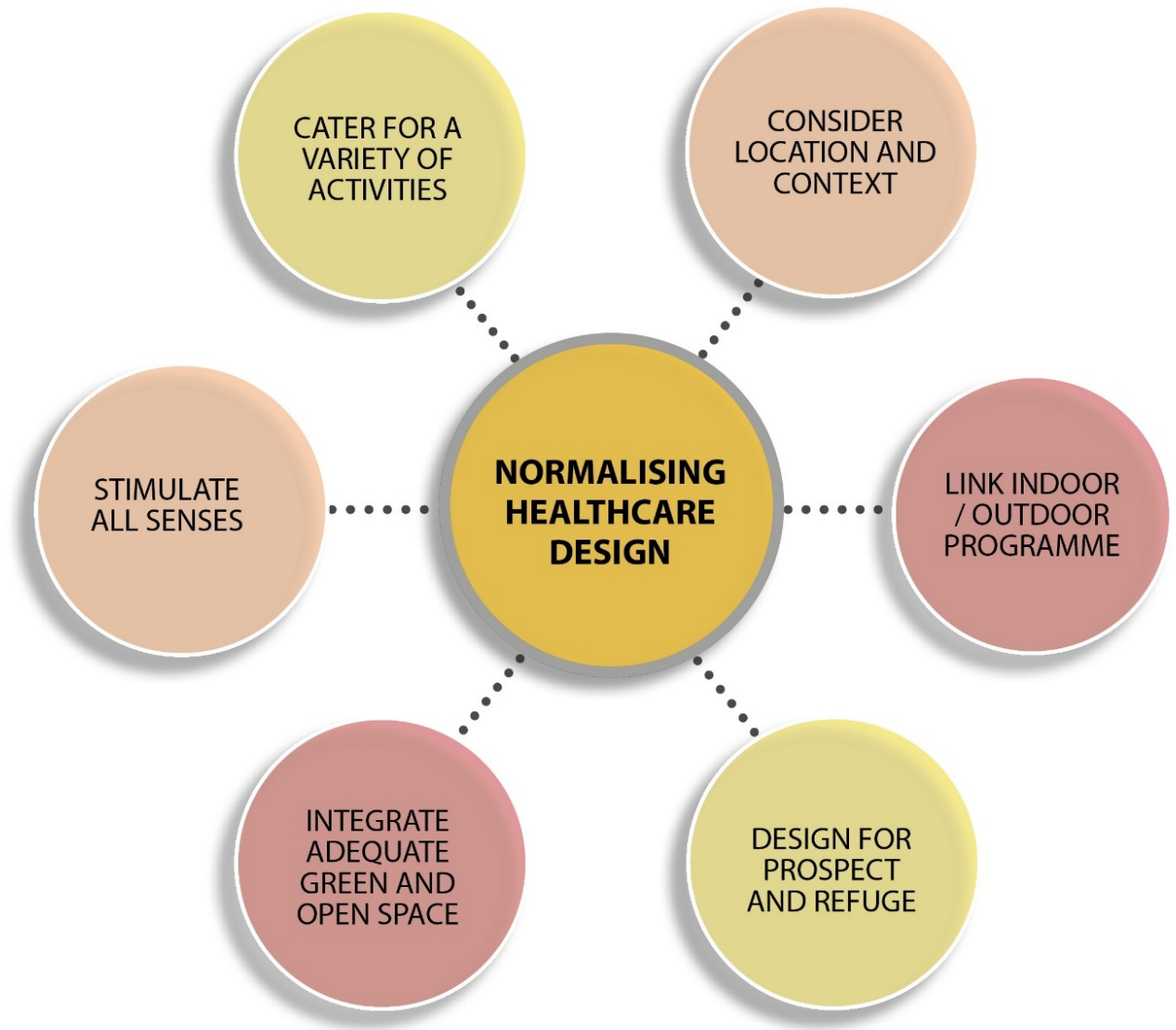


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# Emergent Design Principles for Normalcy

- Six principles
- Evolving framework
- Testing emergent principles
- Aim: Develop tools for application







## Emergent Design Principles for Normalcy

### 1 Consider location & context

Seamless and natural extension of the surrounding environment to reduce disruption for building occupants

### 2 Link indoor/outdoor

Co-location of hospital programs inside and outside, and connection to neighbouring institutions and facilities





# Emergent Design Principles for Normalcy



### 3 Prospect & Refuge

Offer opportunities for safe observation, concealment, prospect and refuge to assist users in recuperation



### 4 Adequate green & open space

Offer sufficient space for occupants to find reprieve from stressful hospital environment







# Emergent Design Principles for Normalcy



**5 Stimulate all senses**  
Inspire the senses to create familiarity – attractive views, fresh air, olfactory stimuli, warmth on the skin



**6 Cater for variety of activities**  
Comfortable places for socialising, therapy activities, family gatherings and staff events





## LCCH Healing Gardens – Research Engagement Next steps

- End user experience of the gardens (2017 – 2019)
- Maintenance costs for healing gardens (2018 – 2019)
- Therapy studies – controlled random trials (CRTs)







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## Conclusions and Acknowledgements

