By linking health, social and architectural theory and establishing conceptual principles, this book defines ‘hospice’ as a philosophy that is underpinned by space and spatial practice. In putting forward the notion of ‘hospice space’, removed from the bounds of a specific building type, it suggests that hospice philosophy could and should be available within any setting of choice where the spatial practices support that philosophy, be it home, nursing home, hospice or ‘hospice-friendly-hospitals’.

‘Where and how people die is becoming a pressing concern in an ageing society, and Sarah McGann’s timely study of its architectural and therapeutic context is richly rewarding.’

– Ken Worpole, London Metropolitan University, UK

‘Buildings and the spaces we live and work in become part of our life story. They hold memories, meaning, relationships and stages of our life. We invest time and energy in creating a good space that will enhance our quality of life and make the time within that space purposeful. We spend a lot less time and energy creating a good space when we are sick or when we are facing death. This book takes us on a journey that assists us to understand what makes a good space during illness and when someone is dying and how a space can assist with the dying process and the grieving that occurs. It helps us to understand how a philosophy of care can design a space and how we can use this space to bring quality of life even at death. Today, with our increasing ageing population, this book is a valuable resource for all those who work in this special space.’

– Barbara Horner, Curtin University, Australia

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Contents: Introduction; Situating the problem of hospice space; The question of the hospital; The question of the hospice; An Irish hospice; The production of hospice space; The unbounded hospice; Bibliography; Index.