



# BAHAY PAROLA

A Women's Drug Rehabilitation Complex in Bulakan, Bulacan  
*parola - english translation: lighthouse; a beacon*

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

Bahay Parola is an in-patient and out-patient drug rehabilitation complex in Bulakan, Bulacan. Founded on the belief that proper rehabilitation is grounded on holistic treatment; Bahay Parola offers medical, social, and economic treatment programs for drug-dependent women in Bulakan.

## MACRO ANALYSIS

### RATIONALE | BULACAN & METRO MANILA

With Bulacan slowly becoming a part of Metro Manila, it is inevitable that such urbanization will contain phenomena that is typical of a growing city. The increase of crime rates in a growing city is a key observation.

In this context, Bulacan has been plagued with drug-related crimes in its province. Nestled between areas with several drug-related cases such as Pampanga and Manila, it is vital that the problem of drug addiction and dependency in Bulacan is addressed before it is further catalyzed due to its surrounding areas and rapid development.

### BULACAN VIS-À-VIS REGION III

Central Luzon has eight (8) DOH accredited in-patient drug rehabilitation centers, one of the main rehabilitation centers in the region is found in Nueva Ecija. Dubbed as the 'MEGA' rehabilitation center, it is expected to house 10,000 patients. Due to the great distance between Metro Manila and Nueva Ecija, the oversight of patients in NCR are not willing to admit themselves in the said center. Patients would rather opt to be contained in severely dense centers in the NCR.



In line with this, four (4) of these centers can be found in the Bulacan province. The concentration of centers in Bulacan proves the feasibility of a drug rehabilitation complex in the province. With Bulacan being recognized as the Northern Gateway from Manila, its location between vital areas such as the NCR and Pampanga (New Clark City & Angeles City) creates many opportunities to help both its local community and its neighboring provinces.

### BULACAN, BULACAN

Continued development is expected to be focused on the City of Malolos, along with some areas of Calumpit, Pulilan, and Bulacan, due to their geographic characteristics. These areas are strategically located along national highways that connect them to other municipalities and provinces.

The construction of the New Manila International Airport in Bulacan, Bulacan accelerates the growth potential of infrastructures (especially road and transportation networks that will connect the coastal towns to the urban centers). The rapid increase in urbanization in Bulacan must be coupled with community development wherein locals are given ample support in order to be able to adapt with its growing environment and community.

## MICRO ANALYSIS

### SITE CONTEXT

Found in Bulakan, Bulacan, the site is nearby the municipality's poblacion. From the site, the major road that traverses the poblacion can be easily accessed by pedestrians. Public transportation such as jeepneys and tricycles can be reached via the major road as well.



**TOPOGRAPHY**  
The site is relatively flat.

**ZONING**  
Hospitals and schools are some of the institutions that can be found nearby the site. A residential area can be found behind the site. A small road separates the site from the neighborhood.

**CIRCULATION**  
Members of the community pass through this site for quicker access to the municipality's poblacion. Proper building orientation must be observed in order to reduce heat gain. When physical barriers were put up along the site's perimeter, walking trails along the site slowly disappeared.

**SUN PATH**  
The longer side of the site is heavily exposed to the sun with of Bulacan. Proper building orientation must be observed in order to reduce heat gain.

**STRENGTHS**

- Near the Downtown area - several opportunities for so calculation and commerce
- Relatively flat site and has vast greenery
- Corner lot - has immediate access from main road of the town

**OPPORTUNITIES**

- Vast greenery can be master planned relative to the context of the neighborhood
- Nearby an existing drug rehabilitation center - there is an existing demand for rehabilitation centers in the area. The town's natural landscape is feasible for therapeutic methods that revolve around nature

**WEAKNESSES**

- Surrounded by residential spaces, has narrow roads
- Few provincial roads from urban zones such as Malolos City and Mayagayay lead to Bulacan

**THREATS**

- Prone to flooding
- Near fish pens - may cause odor and attract mosquitoes
- Complaints from neighborhood due to the nature of the institution

**SWOT SYNTHESIS**

- Utilize various forms of horticultural therapy
- Create a system wherein there will be an exchange of ideas between nearby drug rehabilitation centers (this can help in creating more well-designed rehabilitation spaces).
- Take advantage of the proximity from the city's downtown area
- Use greenery to enclose areas in order to maintain the site's character relative to its physical environment.
- Create public spaces that can promote socialization between patients and the community

## KEY USERS

- DRUG-DEPENDENT WOMEN**  
Holistic treatment will be provided in order to tackle medical, economic, and social needs of the patients.
- AFFECTED FAMILIES**  
In order to mend severed familial bonds, opportunities to reforge family relationships will be accessible to patients.
- BULAKAN COMMUNITY**  
Integrating the local community in specific areas of the site for certain activities can help slowly normalize the institution's nature among the neighborhood.
- LGU**  
Recovered patients will eventually be productive members of Bulacan, increasing the income of the town in the end.

## BULAKAN'S SOCIAL PROFILE

Seek to reduce poverty and vulnerability of the community to risks and enhance the social status and rights of the marginalized by protecting their livelihood and employment. Improving the people's capacity to manage risks. (Municipality of Bulacan, 2010)

**STAKEHOLDERS**  
Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)  
Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO)  
Municipality of Bulacan, Drugsmen Drug Squad (DDS)  
Bureau of Jail Management and Penology National Headquarters (BJMP)  
Private Sector (Public-Private Partnership Center)

**PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP PROJECT**  
Concentration of public-private partnership projects in Central Luzon (particularly Clark and Bulacan) and NCR, this implies that there is an interest to develop these areas from both the public and private sector. There is a need for automation in the public health system of the Philippines. LGUs are urged to undertake PPPs to develop and improve the state of primary health facilities and services such as barangay and health centers, secondary and tertiary hospitals.

**PPP AND GENDER AWARENESS**

- Weak overall integration of Gender Awareness Development in PPP projects
- PPP often to create projects that can be accessed and become beneficial for both women and men
- Gender integration is treated as a non-priority by the top management of PPP
- Lack of policies that support the mainstreaming of GAD

Lack of coverage for Gender & Development in public-private projects is concerning. Proposing projects that reflect the effectiveness of gender-responsive architecture can help curb the lack of gender integration in PPP projects. And hopefully eventually become a pre-requisite in future developments towards a just organization.

**IMPORTANCE OF GENDER AND SEX SPECIFIC TREATMENT**

PHYSICAL: natural environment, built area  
SOCIAL: community participation, peer interaction  
TREATMENT: Relational Model of Women's Psychological Development: Implications for Substance Abuse (Louvain & surry, 2000), community-based therapy, horticultural therapy

These are the main factors to be considered and included in order to ensure holistic and effective drug

## ARCH. PROGRAMMING

- ORGANIZATIONAL GOALS**
- Integrate social reform activities of the LGU in the building
  - Become a main rehabilitation center for the province of Bulacan and the northern part of Metro Manila
- FORM & IMAGE GOALS**
- Be able to embrace notable Filipino in the building design to help empower its patients
- FUNCTION GOALS**
- Put to an effective stop to drug addiction among the women of Bulacan
  - Be able to help rehabilitate drug-dependent women within a set time frame. Minimum amount of days for treatment: 3 months (90 days), Maximum: 12 months
  - Be used as a model for drug rehabilitation in high-security prisons in order to give convicts opportunities to be rehabilitated properly
- ECONOMIC GOALS**
- Create a rehabilitation center that is energy-efficient and sustainable in order to reduce costs but not compromise user experience
- MANAGEMENT GOALS**
- Inspire and encourage members of the community to handle positions in the community center.

## TRANSLATING INTANGIBLE CONCEPTS

- WOMEN EMPOWERMENT**
- Display visible images of notable Filipinas in the communal area of the building, use iconic symbols that are women-related in the configuration and creation of the plan
- LIBERATION**
- Blur the line between normalcy and their current rehabilitation period by using design elements that evoke a sense of welcoming
- GROWTH**
- Allow the architecture to grow WITH the women, allow the patients to design the space themselves (customizing one's own housing unit)
- AUTONOMY**
- Include the women in appropriate administrative or staff work, give the patients enough space for leisure and recreational activities
- HOLISTIC**
- Go beyond the social and medical treatment in terms of rehabilitating the patient. Rooms for vocational classes and general education areas shall be provided.



Activity	Frequency	Location
Therapeutic	High	Indoor/Outdoor
Recreational	Medium	Indoor/Outdoor
Economic	Low	Indoor
Social	High	Indoor/Outdoor
Educational	Medium	Indoor
Medical	High	Indoor
Administrative	Low	Indoor
Support	High	Indoor/Outdoor

**ACTIVITIES IN BAHAY PAROLA**

**ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES**

- Skills Training
- Agri-culture
- Small Business

**RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

- Relaxation
- Group Therapy
- Sports (Intra/Inter physical activities)

**DESIGN PHILOSOPHY: "CENTERED"**

An emphasis is placed on the importance of centers in the middle in any sort of activity, whether it be the best or the worst.

Collaboration involves a group of individuals that coalesce when they finally meet at the center or when they further continue growth between so many thoughts and ideas.

## DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

- Residential area of the complex uses a circular layout to encourage interaction between the patients
- Long and narrow hallway is used as a main corridor to enter the main area of the complex
- Massive portions of the buildings are sectioned into smaller buildings to allow easy entrance of daylight in the building
- Emphasis of curves in order to create a more welcoming appearance for its users
- Spaces are further divided
- The residential area of the complex uses a "horseshoe"-like layout, this setup still encourages interaction between its users
- A circular layout is now used for the mood-up building of the center
- Curved corridors connect the major circular buildings of the complex
- A central courtyard is expected to create opportunities for social interaction
- Emphasis is placed on the connectivity of the building through wide and open corridors along the whole perimeter of the building
- Inclusion of a walkway between the two main buildings
- The initial horseshoe scheme was turned into full circles in order to emphasize curved facades along the building
- Public and employees' only spaces were separated in a clear manner
- A lobby/foyer was introduced as the building's main entrance
- Roof and columns are refined to a more realistic and efficient form
- Shingles were adjusted in order to allow wind to enter through it for better ventilation



## SPACE DESIGNATION

