

# **BALAI MARIA: A Proposed Welfare Home for Girls**

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## ABSTRACT

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"Balai Maria: A Proposed Welfare Home for Girls" aims to be a tool in presenting information regarding the intervention of architecture in line with the increase in the number of disadvantaged girls- whom are/were victims of abuse and are becoming a primary concern of the government. With the unfortunate growth of this issue, as well as the lacking social development centers, the proposed welfare home shall serve as a regional-based residential institution that will cater to the health, comfort and interests of the target clients.

Being a residential-type institution housing-in abused and neglected girls, the proposed project is an age-bracket specific welfare home; providing care for girls with ages ranging from 5-17. The reason for the specific age bracket is that, the younger clients are taken care of in linked orphanages while those whom are 18 years old and above are housed in the DSWD center, Haven for Women.

The gradual change in the national department's approach to their clients directly affects the development of their offered services and programs which are proportional to the growth and addition of needed facilities and spaces which will be essential in the programming and design of such institutions in preparation for the community reintegration of the

clients. Through the needs analysis of the target clients, the architectural rejoinder and space proposition were also identified.

The target site for the proposed welfare home, which is in Bulacan, allows opportunities for harmonizing the architectural concepts to the sense of place which enabled the researcher to relate the 'traditional' or 'nostalgic' ambiance as the general character of the proposed project while incorporating tropical design approaches.

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