To my committee and professor, who have helped me, encouraged me and guided me at every step of my project.

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Thank you!
Being an Architect was always something I was proud of, and I see it as a means to give back to the society. Architecture can change and influence one's life tremendously to create betterment and excellence.

Likewise, choosing this project is a means of giving back to the country's most vulnerable with the skills as a designer. Housing for homeless Veterans, to help the people in need is the primary motto behind my final study.

Keeping in intact the essence of one's identity, culture and need this project goes forward to design housing and medical facilities for the Homeless Veterans.
Texas is the 2nd largest holder of veterans with 1,583,272 veterans of the total vet population. The homeless veterans in Texas are constantly rising, among which 50% are disabled, above age 50 & majority men. Most of them face Mental Issues like Depression, Suicidal thoughts, PTSD, Low self Esteem & Self-Worth Issues.

10% of the homeless population are veterans.
8/10 homeless veterans experience Alcohol, Drug or Mental Issues.

Demographics

- Age Distribution of Veterans
- Veteran Household
- Disability & Economic Status

Financial Profile

- HUD-VASH-EUL: U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development - VA Supportive Housing - Enhanced Use Lease Program.
- HUD Housing Voucher + VA Support Services help homeless veterans & their families find & sustain permanent housing.
- Case Management involves case managers who play a major role. Case Managers respond to every individual veteran needs uniquely to improve their mental, physical, social and economical conditions to cope up the shift to civilian living.
- Report – End of FY 2018, 85,000 veterans were with active vouchers & 78,000 veterans were in housing with a HUD-VASH Vouchers.
THE SIX-PERMANENT DISABLES/HOMELESS VETERAN HOUSING

Architecture Firm: Brooks + Scarpa
Location: MacArthur Park, Los Angeles
Site Area: 0.37 acres

The housing comprises of 45 studios, 7 one bedroom apartments.
CREST APARTMENTS
Location: Van Nuys, Los Angeles
Site Area: 1 acre
It comprises of 64 efficiency apartments and on-site social services.
As a part of Evidence Based Design a research question was selected to understand how nature can help veterans heal. The research question was as follows and an experiment was conducted to understand the results.

The question:
Can nature participation help in physical & mental healing of veterans in a residential setting?

The Experiments:
8 Danish veterans suffering from PTSD participated in a 10-week Nature Based Therapy at the university of Copenhagen forest therapy garden Nacadia in Horsholm arboretum.

Qualitative Interviews were conducted before and after the study.

Elements that were a part of Nature Based Therapy were:
1. Mindfulness activities
2. Applied Mindfulness
3. NBA- Nature Based Activities
4. Therapeutic Individual sessions.

Results:
The Arboretum was a place where they felt included and a place with no or low demand. There was a shift of preferred space by veterans from one that offered refuge & considered safe to, open areas & public locations where they could welcome other veterans.

Conclusion:
After the interviews at the end of the experiment, veterans who participated in the Nature Based Activity therapy found it motivating and meaningful. They also vocalised that it improved their self-efficacy to make them feel more responsible and courageous. Therefore including nature and nature participation at a residential setting was found beneficial for the improvement of mental and physical health of veterans.

The 3 levels of Nature participation or Nature Based Activities are as follows:
- Viewing Nature
- The presence of nature nearby
- Active participation & involvement with nature
Gardening as an activity in residential Balconies.

Presence of seating and walking pathways in a garden setting.
Programm

HOUSING FOR 159 HOMELESS VETERANS

1.0 REQUIREMENTS
Shared Spaces
Recreation 40 2 90
Working area 35 1 60
Meander walk/bikes 50 1 50
Computer area 100 1 200
Recreational multi-purpose room 60 1 60
Laundry Rooms 50 1 50
Medical Rooms 100 1 100
Pharmacy/Pharmacy 80 1 80
Storage area 10 1 10
Onsite dining facilities

SPACES \(\times\) QTY \(\times\) NSF

2.0 SUPPORT SYSTEM IN WELNESS CENTER

KINSHIP

Recreation 40 5 200
Working area 60 10 150
Pharmacy/Pharmacy 50 1 50
Group therapy 120 2 300

ANCILLARY

Staff Lounge and Lounges 120 1 120
Confidential room 100 1 100
Staff area 50 1 50

CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT TREATMENT

Consulting and Assistance rooms

Crafts/Laboratory occupational therapy 120 2 240
Steam/hot water facilities 40 2 80
Teaching kitchens 120 2 240
Housekeeping/Storage/Recreation 120 2 240
Massage/Spa therapy 120 2 240
Physiotherapy 120 2 240
Ecclesiatical rooms

COMMERCIAL

Drug Store 120 2 240
Cafe 350 1 350
Shop 500 1 500

SPORTS

Walking mentoring track 700 1 700
Basketball/Handball/volleyball courts 300 1 300
Baseball/Batting cage 300 1 300

SERVICES

Ambulance 10 9 90
Security & Safeguard 10 5 50
Storage 200 1 200
Memorial items 100 1 100

BIBLIO AREA

Classroom 300 1 300
Total Biblio Area 900

PARKING

None

Total Area 1050

Bed size Area

Radiology 600

Total Back up Area 900

Site Selection & Analysis

Bexar County, in Texas with major homeless veterans, was chosen to maximise the design scope. A site at walkable distance to the amenities like schools, hospital, commercial zones and public transit was chosen to help the financially frail homeless veterans. Choosing a site near a residential zone also was an essential condition considered, to serve the vulnerable as it would instill a feeling of safety and a scope to socialize.

SAN ANTONIO

Climate: Hot & humid long summers
Warm to cool winters

The wind flows from SW-NE for a period of 10 months in a year

Amenities around the site

- Public Transit
- Medical Centre
- Food
- Religious
- Commercial
- Residential

The Vizag Steel Plant is a township, in India which comprises of 12 sectors. Each sector is in the shape of a tear drop, with central zone being occupied by the commercial and parks, surrounded by residential. All the sectors are connected with internal roads and a major arterial roads.

This has been a major inspiration for the evolution of the design to create a community that comes together made up of clusters.

Inspiration

The Mughal Gardens

The Mughal gardens, which are also called as the Persian gardens which an epitome to the major design guidelines like symmetry, balance and repetition. These gardens are an inspiration to the evolution of the landscape in the design, which plays a primary role to support the research of nature and its effects on veterans mental and physical health. The landscape forms a walking maze creating pockets of green spaces for various activities.

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Prefabricated Modular Cluster Layout:
The Residences of Veterans have been designed as clusters of communities to create niches of green pockets that evolve from unit level to site level to create meeting hubs.

Each Block comprises of 10 units and Every 3 blocks from a Cluster.

2 clusters on either side of the Health clinic depict how the contrasting building typologies are held together in a tight knit, through the seamless landscape creating a harmonious and safe environment.

Creating Communities

Zoning & Evolution

The octagons spread along the longitudinal site connecting the two bus-stop at the two extreme corners of the site.

The clusters are arranged in a radial manner to create pockets of green spaces with the wellness centre in the middle.

The frontage of the wellness center provides the parking for the wellness centre and also acts as a drop of zone to the residential clusters.

The contrasting form of the building depicts the contrasting functions of the building, while the seamless landscape connects them together.
Design
- Site Plan
- Floor Plans
- Elevations & Sections
- Structure & Details
The Buddy Housing:
The buddy housing is a 2bhk housing for veterans who want to share the house with their buddy or who want to live with their family. Every house has views towards the nature, due to its radial arrangement. A private balcony facilitates activities like gardening and also encourages socialization.

The One-Man Housing:
The one-man housing is a 1bhk unit. Every 2 units share a common balcony which encourages socialization. The housing units are arranged in a way that they are at walkable distance to the bus stops and the wellness center.

The Wellness Centre:
The wellness centre provides health care facilities to the veterans living on the site, while it is open to the veterans not living on-site as well, as a result generating revenue. The 1st floor of the wellness centre is open to the public while the 2nd floor - The club House, is accessible only to the veterans living on-site.
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