

Virgen del Socorro: a home for children and adults with special needs

Due to a generous donation of three estates surrounded by a peaceful and quiet environment, a land of 40,000 m² has been obtained, with a front of 320 meters and a spectacular view of the surrounding woods and the Agua Volcano. It's objective is to become a home for the children and adults with special needs that currently live at the Obras Sociales of Hermano Pedro, located in 6a. Calle Oriente No. 20, La Antigua Guatemala.



The project was conceptualized with the idea of taking care of a large number of patients who need special facilities because of their mental and physical conditions. Here, they will receive special care, medical attention, spiritual support, entertainment within an educational and stimulating environment.

Virgen del Socorro will also have areas and buildings to take care of people from nearby communities and other rural areas of the country, who need medical consultations.

The project seeks to offer a warm and comfortable environment to their patients and visitors, through excellent human and material resources, and activities that contribute to their spiritual peace, understanding and development.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

"We thank everyone who has promoted the project in benefit of our patients with special needs, and everyone who has supported us to adhere to its proper execution, especially the staff of Obras Sociales of Hermano Pedro, who manage its construction. We deeply believe that with everyone's prayers and help, this project inspired in Santo Hermano Pedro's, charitable work will soon become a reality, with the protection of Our Lady of Perpetual Relief (Virgen del Socorro). Peace and good!"

Friar Giuseppe Contran OFM



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SOCIAL WORKS OF SANTO HERMANO PEDRO
A home for children and adults with special needs

VIRGEN DEL SOCORRO

GENERAL DESCRIPTION



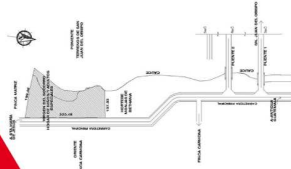
The land has an average slope of 7% along its 320 meters of length in front of the highway, and a more pronounced perpendicular slope. These topographical characteristics and the presence of the natural elements of the land were taken in advantage to have large green areas, plazas, paths, lookout points and an amphitheater, so patients and visitors can interact in outdoor spaces and enjoy the view of the buildings. The buildings were designed to provide a view of the woods, even when indoors.

The architecture of the buildings and their urbanization is adapted to the norms of the colonial architecture of La Antigua, and follows current standards on building safety and sustainability.

Because of the layout of the land, the project has three entry points.

The main entrance is located in the center of the project: it is fully pedestrian and has a special area for buses or cars to park and pick up or drop off people.

The vehicular entrance goes directly into the parking lot, which has a capacity of 125 cars, for the use of the entire complex.



GENERAL AREAS OF THE COMPLEX

The main entrance of the complex is through a central plaza that works as a unifying and distribution element for the four general areas.

- The public area with the clinics and offices building, the playground Plaza, an amphitheater and the Church with its chaplaincy.
- Plazas, with buildings for hospitalized children, male and female adults.
- The service area, which includes a building with all the necessary spaces and equipments for the rest of buildings, and the entry of staff and supplies for the complex.
- These three first areas are connected by bridges and ramps, and all buildings also have stair and elevator systems.
- The Fraternity is located at the highest part of the land, with a view of the entire complex. It will be the home and shelter of the Franciscan Fathers that are in charge of Virgen del Socorro and of the Obras Sociales of Hermano Pedro.

Except for the Church, all buildings are designed based on square geometry in floor plans, developed in two floors, around a central patio with wide corridors to shelter a large number of users.

The structure of buildings is made up by columns, beams and exterior walls (frames); making interiors very flexible, so they can be used in the most efficient way possible.

This was also designed to work as a shelter or aid centre when necessary. At the same time, details were planned for a project of easy upkeep.



The complex is completely connected through a series of ramps, stairs and elevators that allow the free circulation of patients, visitors and staff, and this allows for a better use of the facilities without complications.



Description	Construction Area m ²	Total
TOTAL AREA OF THE LAND	39,930	100%
Fraternity	2,000	24 rooms
Clinics	2,200	8 clinics + offices
Children's Building	2,200	72 beds
Male and Female Adults Building	5,745	200 beds
Services	2,300	Laundry room + Kitchen
Church	810	550 people
Plazas	1,450	----
Rampas, stairs and paths	1,800	----
Parking lots	3,000	125 parking spaces
Green Areas	27,280	68.32%
TOTAL AREA OF BUILDINGS	15,250 m²	----
TOTAL AREA OF URBANIZATION WITH ASPHALT	6,250	+ GREEN AREAS

