



# Building Case Study

## Crisis Accommodation

### Project Outcomes

- A culturally-appropriate, open design.
- A controllable, safe environment for staff and clients.
- A procurement process that allows for quality construction within a tight project budget on a remote site.

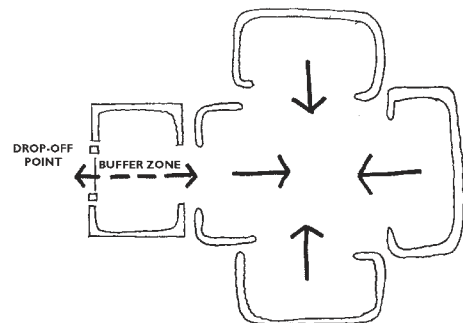
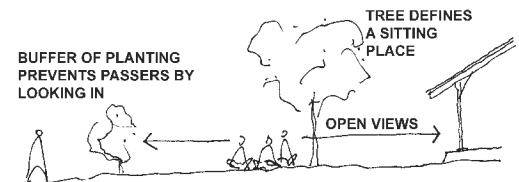
### The Project

The project includes crisis accommodation and day facilities, both of which are government-funded programs. The accommodation aims to protect and support people who are intoxicated to a level that puts them at risk to themselves and others. It provides an overnight bed and, together with the day programs, creates an opportunity for people to access services that can help them move towards a more stable lifestyle. The design focused on security, safety and comfort. The design creates opportunities for more intimate conversations between the building users.

### Initial Review

*Constructive Dialogue* spent time observing and participating in the life of existing accommodation facilities, community patrols and other associated programs. Some issues identified in the initial assessment included:

- **Openness:** Many of the clients enjoyed sitting outside. Outdoor spaces, such as areas under tree canopies, enabled them to appreciate their surroundings in a comfortable way.
- **Small Groups:** The client group did not gather in a single large group, but sat in smaller groups from which they could see other people in their vicinity.
- **Comfort:** The site is in a harsh environment. Buildings needed to provide protection from rain, heat and insects.
- **Remote Location:** The remote location may require a building to be prefabricated in a workshop elsewhere and then transported to the site.



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## The Brief

Our processes facilitated the detailed input of senior management in the development of the brief. The design ideas that comprised the brief included:

- **A Place of Safety, Protection and Intervention:** The building is to be inwardly focused. It is to contain people in a controlled environment that is safe for both them and the staff who run it.
- **Keeping Groups Small:** The building will limit gatherings to small groups within the bedrooms and social areas in order to assist the staff in maintaining control.
- **Ability to Look Around:** Clients are to have good visibility of their surroundings whether they are in bed, having a meal or waiting for an activity. Corners in which a client may feel trapped should be avoided.
- **A Defined Site:** The Entry and Reception space will provide a buffer between the accommodation and the outside world. The entry is to be designed as a clear 'gateway' into the accommodation – a point that identifies an individual as either within the facility or outside.

## The Design

The design was developed as series of bedroom buildings around a contained, raised courtyard. People will pass through the courtyard from where they can move around, go to a bathroom or exit the building. The features of the design include:

- **Central Courtyard:** The courtyard provides a central, covered area that shelters people from the rain and sun while still allowing them to see the sky and surroundings.
- **Open Bathrooms:** Bathrooms are open to fresh air, easy to clean and simple to survey without use of equipment that would infringe on privacy.
- **Entry as a Gathering Space:** A covered entry space provides a place for meetings, meals and other events. This space also shelters arriving vehicles.
- **Prefabrication in Modules:** The building has been designed to a module that will allow it to be fabricated in parts at a workshop in Alice Springs and then shipped to the site for assembly.

