

# Transitional Shelter for Homeless Youth

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## INTRODUCTION

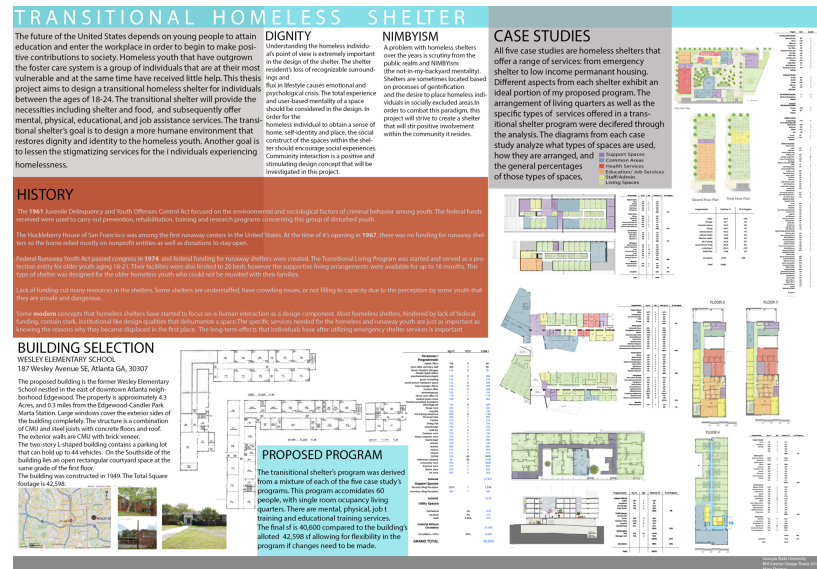
Homeless assistance is not just providing temporary shelter, but providing a sense of community such that individuals maintain self-identity. Homeless youth that have outgrown the foster system are a group of individuals that are at their most vulnerable and at the same time are receiving little help. According to the biennial census by Metro Atlanta Tri-Jurisdictional Collaborative on Homelessness, of the 6,664 homeless individuals counted in 2011, approximately 2,500 of these individuals fall under the 18-24 age range and only 30% of which are living in transitional housing services.

## PURPOSE

The aim of this thesis is to construct an optimal transitional shelter for homeless youth that not only provides food and shelter, but subsequently offers mental, physical, educational, and job assistance services. The transitional shelter's goal is to design a more humane environment that restores dignity and identity to the homeless youth which in turn gives these individuals the opportunity to experience necessary psychological, physical, social and emotional security. (Graham, Walsh, Sandalack, 2002)

## METHOD

The optimal architectural program for a transitional homeless shelter was derived through case study analysis and literature review. In the analysis of 5 case studies spanning the globe, the resulting program is derived by mixing the most effective living arrangements with the best services. In the review of literature, it suggests the optimal transitional living shelter architectural program considers the users of the space when designing. A well-designed shelter facility can encourage these shelter-resistant individuals to seek services by reassuring them they are not about to enter a sterile, institutionalized warehouse for discarded and possibly dangerous people. (Davis, 2004)



## RESULTS/CONCLUSION

Programatically, the divisions of spaces within the shelter are as follows: 20% housing, 15% staff/administration, 20% public/community spaces, 19% services, 6% support spaces, 4% utility, and 16% circulation. Adjacency and communal interaction were examined in order to determine the configuration of spaces.

## CONCLUSION

A common issue with homeless youth is the choice of living on the street or in dangerous situation over homeless shelters. With this thesis, I wanted to construct the optimal transitional shelter that included elements that would encourage these shelter resistant individuals to seek these services (Davis,2004).

	Sq Ft.	QTY	Total Sq Ft.	
<b>Personnel / Programmatic</b>				
<b>Living Quarters</b>				
DORM	10x15	150	60	9000
bathrooms (shared)	10x8	80	30	2,400
<b>Common Areas</b>				
Community room (tv/game/coffeebar/reading/seating)		952	4	3808
Exercise room		500	1	500
Barber shop		200	1	200
Dining Hall		700	1	700
library computer room		700	1	700
Art room		260	1	260
<b>Service Staff/ Admin</b>				
Admin Office	10x17	170	5	840
open office secretary staff		300	1	300
House Resident Manager	10x15	150	14	2100
Break room		240	1	240
<b>Medical Services</b>				
medical exam rooms	10x18	180	2	360
Lab/testing/copy		150	1	150
Nurse open office (2)		175	1	175
group counseling		450	1	450
<b>Education/Job Services</b>				
copy/file		150	1	150
Job training classroom		600	2	1200
Personal Care		250	1	250
staff w/c		90	3	270
<b>Support Spaces</b>				
Services Wing Reception/Check in		1300	1	1,300
Dormitory Wing Reception/Security		350	1	350
mail/storage		250	1	250
phones		180	1	180
laundry		380	1	380
lockers		132	2	264
prep/storage		183	1	183
Donation room		150	1	150
kitchen		520	1	520
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>27,630</b>
<b>Utility Spaces</b>				
mechanical		3%		1072
electrical		2%		715
trash		0.50%		315
<b>Subtotal Without Circulation</b>				<b>29,732</b>
Circulation = 30%		30%		<b>9,002</b>