Project SER: architectural design

Social · Holy Spirit · Reintegration · SER, to believe again

CENTRE FOR CARE, FORMATION AND REINTEGRATION · THE CLIENT'S PRELIMINARY DESIGN, NOVEMBER 2026

1. Overview

SER is an architectural, social, educational and spiritual project: a comprehensive centre for care, accompaniment, formation and reintegration for people in vulnerable situations.

The design is organized as a two-storey ring of shipping containers around a central cross built from separate containers and an inner garden dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. It brings together homes, hydroponic production, professional care, education, perpetual adoration, gardens and recreation areas.

The architecture expresses unity, mercy, human restoration and the path towards spiritual fullness.

Component	Make-up	Use
Ring, ground floor	8 × 40 ft shipping containers	6 two-bedroom homes; kitchen and dining (north); main access (south)
Ring, upper floor	8 × 40 ft refrigerated containers	6 hydroponic and 2 storage; solar panels on the roof
Central cross	3 × 20 ft and 1 × 40 ft containers	Chapel, four consulting rooms, classroom and toilets
Central garden	Open to the sky	The Sacred Heart of Jesus
Access	2 separate entrances	Pedestrian and goods

2. Layout

A. Outer ring: ground floor, homes

Eight 40 ft containers per floor, sixteen in all. On the ground floor six standard steel containers are homes; the other two, to the north and south, hold the kitchen and dining room and the main access.

- Each home has two bedrooms with two beds each, two bathrooms (one beside each bedroom) and a central living area.
- Two double doors in the living area open it onto the inner garden.
- Windows and doors face only the inside of the compound; the outer façade is closed except at the entrances.

A. Outer ring: upper floor, hydroponics

- Eight 40 ft refrigerated containers, six for a variety of hydroponic crops.
- The container above reception serves as storage; the one above the kitchen and dining room stores packaging.

- Closed containers, each with a single door facing inwards, fitted for growing systems, water, power, ventilation and climate control.
- A continuous inner walkway resting on the ground-floor containers; solar panels on top of the hydroponic containers.

B. Stairs

Four staircases on the inside of the ring, one every two containers, link the two floors; the upper walkway gives access to the hydroponic modules.

C. The central cross

All four modules have side windows and double doors at their ends. The cross lines up with the north (kitchen and dining) and south (main access) containers of the ring, with a clear passage between them.

- Top arm: a 20 ft container for the chapel of perpetual adoration, an enclosed space for prayer and spiritual encounter.
- Left and right arms: one 20 ft container each, with two consulting rooms per arm for health care, emotional care, legal advice, and educational guidance and support; each room has its own door.
- Bottom arm: a 40 ft container for the classroom, training, reintegration workshops and work, with two separate toilets, one for women and one for men.

D. The central garden

Where the four arms of the cross meet, a space open to the sky is kept for the central garden, with an image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus at its heart: the spiritual, visual and community centre of the whole site.

3. Entrances

The main access is on the south side of the ring, with two separate entrances. The 40 ft access container, aligned with the bottom arm of the cross, is split into two halves of about 14 m² inside: the pedestrian entrance with reception and visitors, and the store with goods in and out.

Pedestrian entrance

- An attractive façade and a glass main door.
- A welcome room, reception and information.
- A waiting and orientation area.

Goods and materials entrance

- A separate gate.
- Delivery of supplies, materials and farm produce.
- Logistics kept apart from visitors.

4. Outdoor spaces

Between the ring and the cross there are gardens and places for recreation: footpaths, ornamental gardens, benches and resting areas, green spaces and room for community life and activities, with paths linking every module. The whole site works as one integrated unit, with no isolated spaces.

5. Engineering and construction criteria

The ground floor uses standard steel shipping containers and the upper floor refrigerated containers for hydroponics. The structural system is to be defined by a professional study covering:

Structural engineering

- Foundations and the bearing capacity of the ground.
- Strength of the containers and their connections, and reinforcement around door and window openings.
- Supports for the walkway, stairs, railings and safety elements.
- Wind and earthquake resistance, and the loads of crops, water, equipment and solar panels.
- Checking the stacking capacity of the refrigerated containers.

Water and drainage

- Drinking water, wastewater and storm drainage.
- Irrigation and hydroponic recirculation; water storage and treatment where needed.

Electrical and energy

- General electrical installation, indoor and outdoor lighting and emergency systems.
- Assessment of solar panels and energy storage; power for the hydroponic and refrigeration equipment.

Mechanical and environmental

- Ventilation of homes and consulting rooms, temperature and humidity control, extraction systems.
- Suitable growing conditions for the hydroponic crops.

Safety and accessibility

- Escape routes and fire protection.
- Access for people with disabilities and safe movement for residents, visitors and staff.
- Protection and privacy for vulnerable people.

6. Identity and symbolism

- Eight containers per floor: the eight Beatitudes and the way to perfection.
- Sixteen containers: 1 + 6 = 7, a number that stands for perfection and spiritual fullness.
- The ring: the eternal God, without beginning or end, a sign of unity and continuity.
- The cross: Christ's call to take up our cross and follow him.
- The Sacred Heart of Jesus: the source of mercy, love and restoration.
- The Holy Spirit: the presence that accompanies and strengthens the emotional, spiritual, educational and health dimensions.

7. Who it serves, and why

SER is meant for people deprived of their liberty, people detained because of their migration status or in a vulnerable migration situation, people living on the street, and survivors of abuse. It works for the recovery of dignity, emotional accompaniment, spiritual formation, education, whole-person health and real chances of social reintegration.

SER is a path of mercy, restoration and human transformation: it walks with people as they recover their dignity, identity, abilities and opportunities, bringing together faith, education, health and service to the

community. The full model of the program is set out in "Program SER: the model in three pages".

Concept image



An illustrative image of the site (original Spanish labels). Final dimensions and layout are those of sections 8 and 9.

8. Reference dimensions

The measurements start from standard ISO container sizes; the geometry of the site is a preliminary calculation to be confirmed by the structural study.

Container	Outside (length × width × height)	Inside, approx.	Floor area
40 ft standard	12.19 × 2.44 × 2.59 m	12.03 × 2.35 m	≈ 28 m²
40 ft refrigerated	12.19 × 2.44 × 2.59 m	≈ 11.6 × 2.29 m	≈ 26 m²
20 ft standard	6.06 × 2.44 × 2.59 m	5.90 × 2.35 m	≈ 14 m²

The outer ring (an octagon)

Eight 40 ft containers form an octagon, because a container is straight and cannot trace a circle. The corners need closing and bracing pieces, to be set by the structural study, which will also decide on the "high cube" version (2.90 m high).

- Side of the ring (container axis): 12.19 m; centre to axis: 14.72 m.
- Clear inner diameter: ≈ 27.0 m; outside width between faces: ≈ 31.9 m; between corners: ≈ 34.5 m.
- Clear inner area: ≈ 604 m²; footprint of the 16 containers: ≈ 475 m²; height of the two floors: ≈ 5.2 m.

The central cross

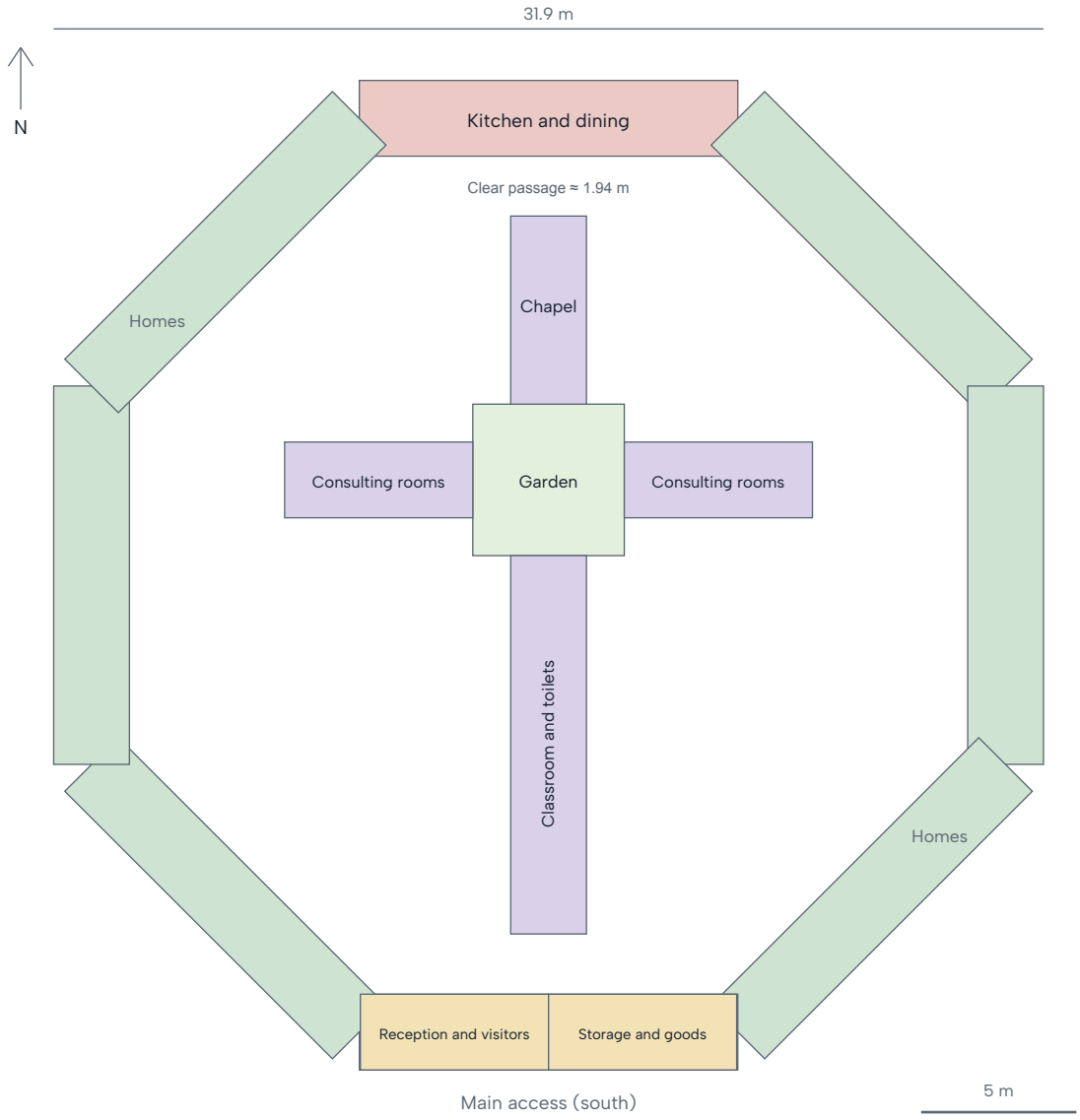
- Chapel (top arm): 6.06 × 2.44 m, ≈ 14 m².
- Side arms: 6.06 × 2.44 m each, two consulting rooms of ≈ 6.9 m² per arm.
- Classroom (bottom arm): 12.19 × 2.44 m, ≈ 28 m² (≈ 21 m² of classroom and two toilets of ≈ 3.5 m²).
- With a central garden of 4.88 × 4.88 m, the cross measures 23.1 m long by 17.0 m wide. To leave a clear passage of ≈ 1.9 m at each end, the crossing shifts ≈ 3.1 m towards the chapel.

Standard home and circulation

- Bedroom, bathroom, living area, bathroom, bedroom: two bedrooms of ≈ 7.5 m², two bathrooms of ≈ 3.5 m² and a living area of ≈ 6.1 m². The six homes add up to 12 bedrooms and 24 beds.
- North container: a kitchen of ≈ 8 m² and a dining room of ≈ 20 m².
- Upper walkway at least 1.20 m clear; four 1.20 m staircases (about 15 risers of 17 cm and 28 cm treads, ≈ 4.0 m long).
- The upper floor can only be reached by stairs: a lift or stair platform must be assessed under the applicable accessibility rules.

9. Ground-floor plan

Drawn to scale with north at the top. The upper floor (hydroponics and storage) sits on the same ring. Preliminary figures, to be confirmed by the structural study.



> *A recreation, in Eccekenoo's format, of the preliminary architectural design delivered by the client on 3 November 2026; the plan was redrawn from its measurements and the geometry was checked by calculation. "No one is lost to the love and mercy of God."*