The thesis deals with architecture as an integral part of the deinstitutionalisation process of the mentally ill in Singapore. The architectural issues investigated arise from the need in providing the mentally ill with community care instead of custodial care, shifting from the institutional to the community.

The vehicle chosen is a half-way house which is a Psychiatric Rehabilitation centre for Psychiatrically Disabled that comprises of residential units, sheltered workshops, sheltered enterprises and a clubhouse. It is proposed to be located next to the Changi General Hospital in Simei, Singapore.

The proposed centre is an amalgation of different programmes within a single complex, comprising of a public front (sheltered enterprise) and a private sphere (residential and sheltered workshop). The complex is designed to give the users a sense of security as well as aid in the process of resocialization through a balance of private and public spaces. The public front, which is the active interface between the patients and the community, is separated from the more passive private sphere through threshold spaces. The threshold spaces not only provides a separation of the different components but also gives a sense of orientation and sense of routine to aid the users in their rehabilitation. Care is given to create an environment where the complex becomes a large house where the users have a place of their own.