

"Dreaming with eyes wide open"



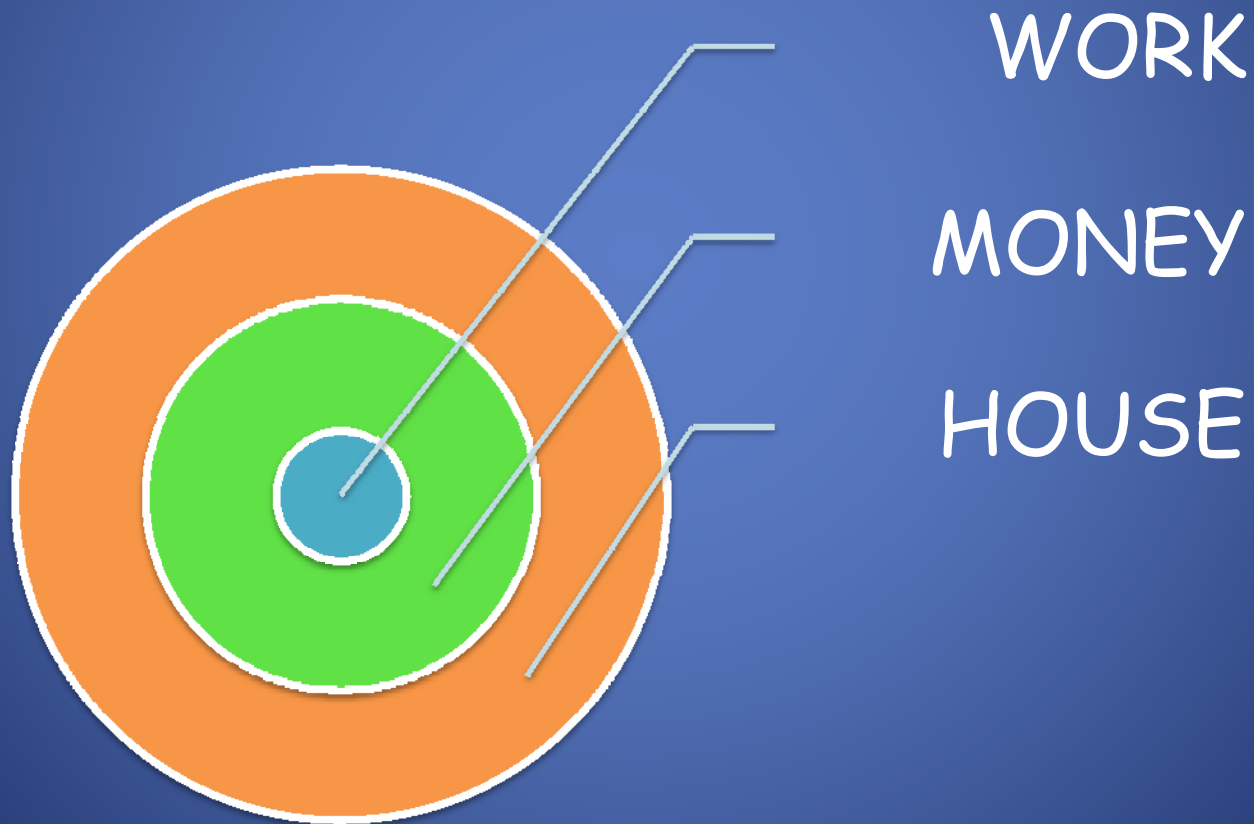
¿Wanna take a look ?

Go ahead !

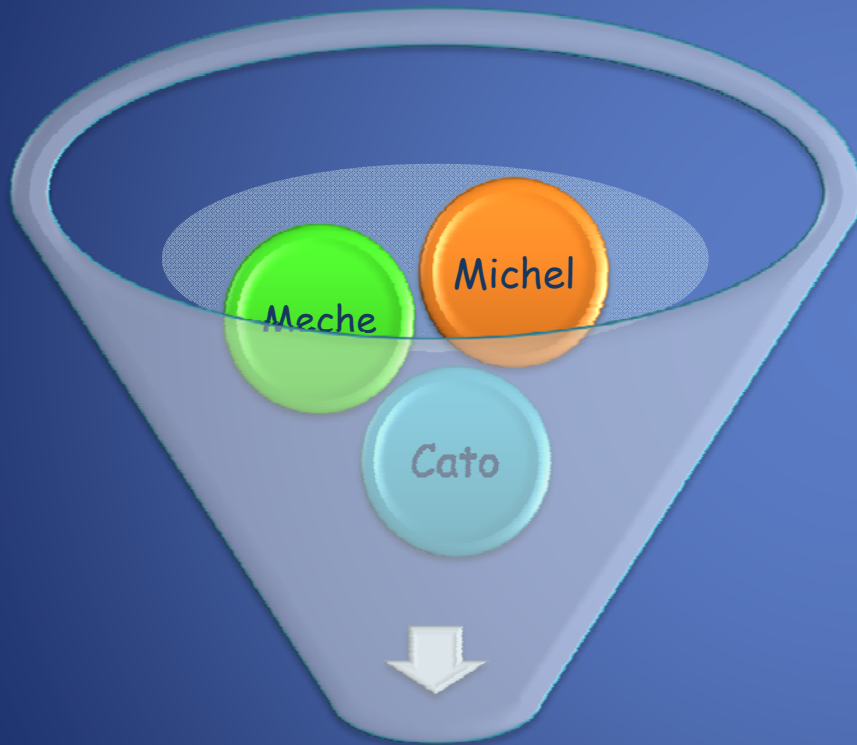
As in other parts of Mexico, the people at the López-Hernández community, live in “temporary” houses.



As in other parts in Mexico, the root problem is not the lack of a house, but the lack of work.



"Give a man a fish and he will eat one day. Teach a man how to fish and he will eat every day."



Community

- Michele, a Swiss photographer, Mercedes, a committed activist and me, Cato, a wanderer, joined efforts, to look for a feasible alternative.
- The people's participation would be fundamental.

We decided to build using "Superadobe"

Affordable

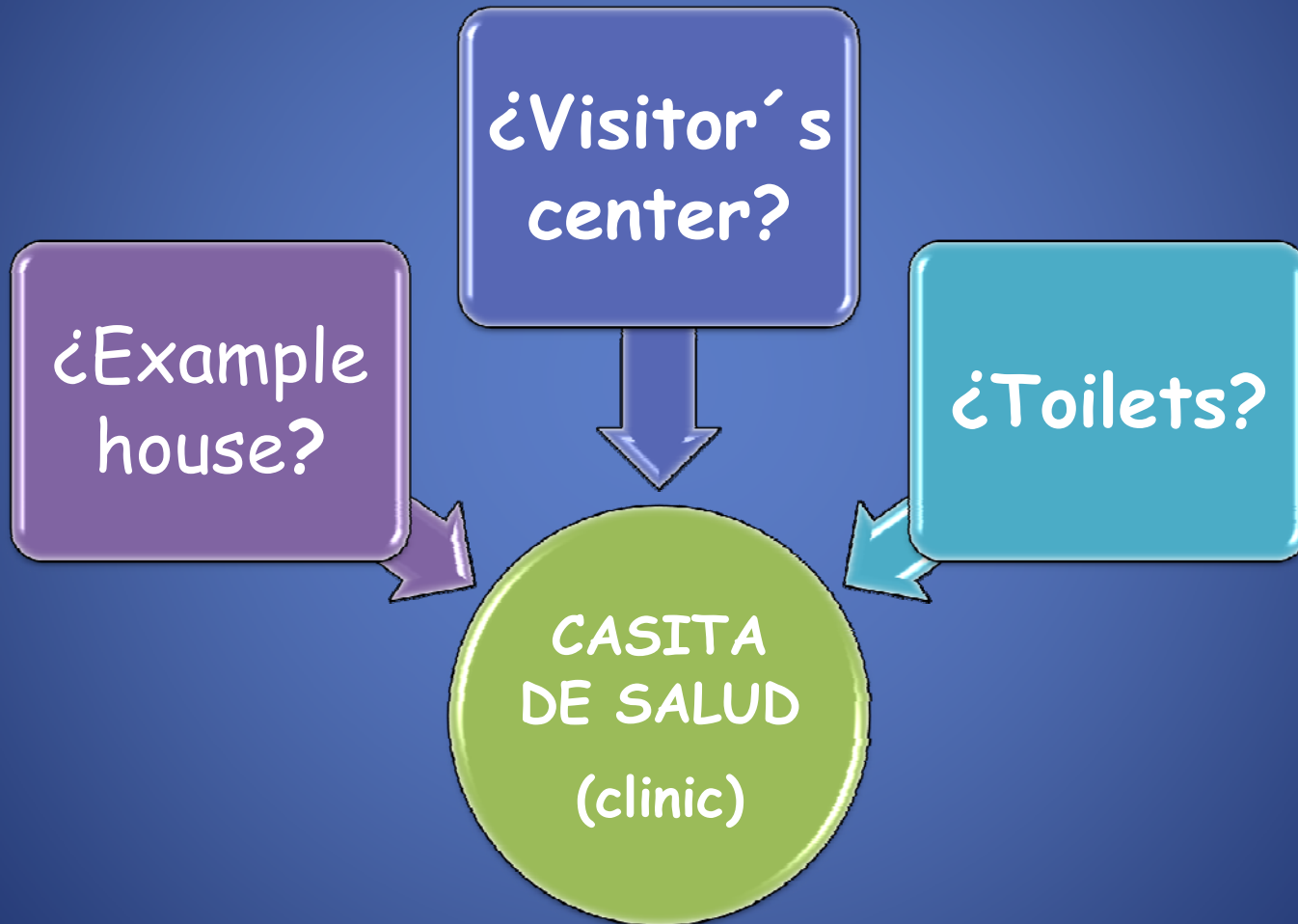
Sustainable



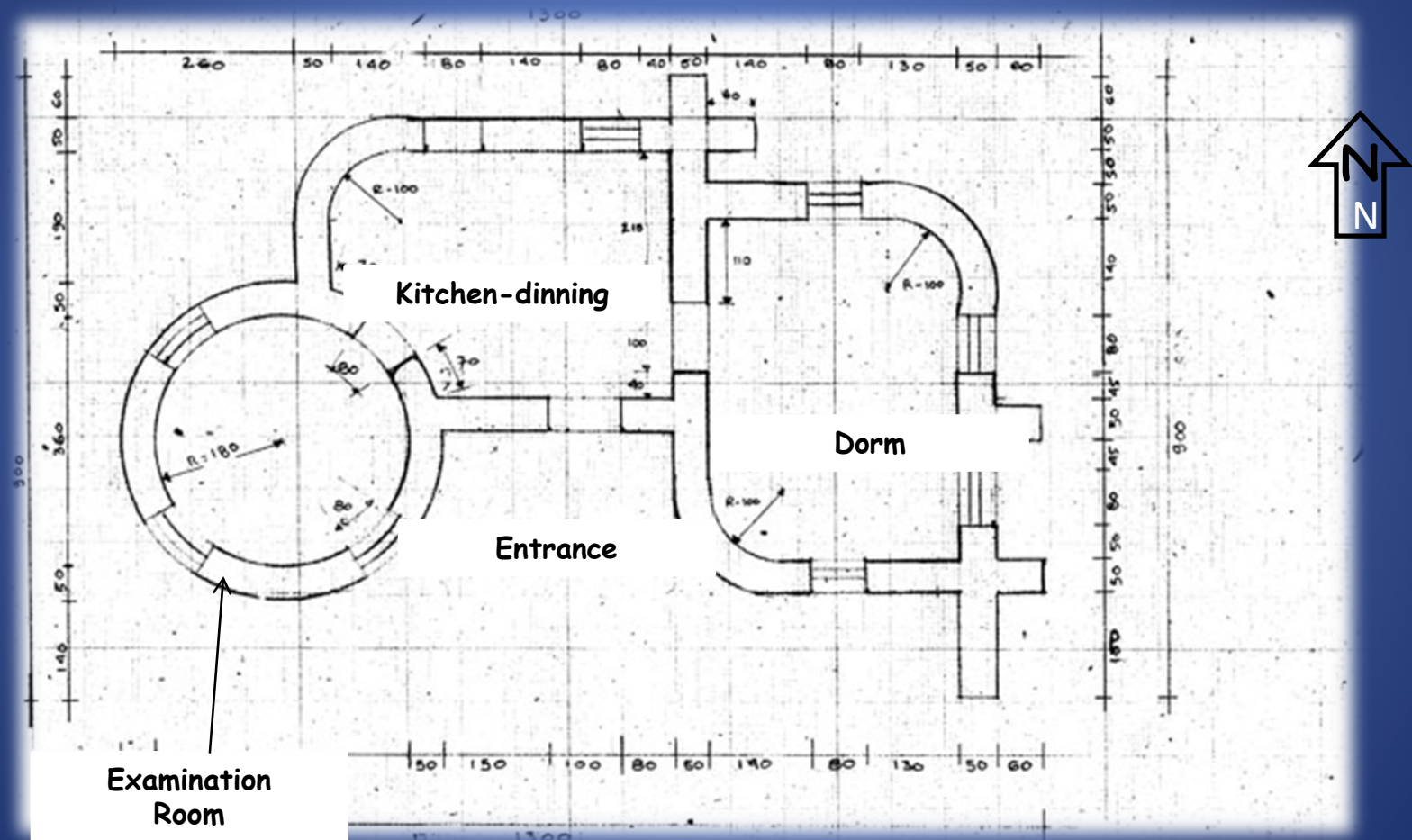
Easy to
duplicate

Flexible

But, with so many things lacking, what would we build?



To make our little plan work, we made a little blueprint.





Then, we picked, cleaned, prepared and dug the best building site !



We made several piles with different types of dirt. We did some tests, and found the best mix with which to build our "Superadobe" !.



We wanted to have a clean slate to work on. So, we leveled the site!



When it was ready, our little blueprint got a lot bigger.



And then, it got deep !!.



Once it was deep enough, we went to the nearby river, got a couple of truck loads of gravel, and filled it back in!



And we kept doing it, but since we were using the "Rubble Trench" foundation system, we put the gravel inside rows of double bags !



We did it like this until we were higher than grade level !



We then were ready to start building the walls with "superadobe".



Fill the bag up...



Tie and place the bag...



Tamp it !

We got better and better every time !



We used heavy duty plastic sheet to prevent ground moisture !.

Check our door forms
out



Only nineteen more rows to go !

At first, we used rocks to hold the barbed wire in place



This is what the other side looked like !

It is difficult to see,
but there are two lines of barbed wire
between each row of bags!





But then, we got smarter and started filling plastic bottles with sand and attached twine cord to them to hold the barbed wire.

Slow but steady.

There are nine windows
and four doors

Here for
example



To save wood, we borrowed a few blocks
to make our door and window forms.



No need for reinforced
concrete lintels if we
use arches.

It was a lot of work, but finding
solutions as challenges showed up was
stimulating !



Yes...the plaster is
mostly dirt.

After we finished the arches, we
started with the plaster.



We then removed the forms, plastered both sides and started working on different details.

A skylight



Since our resources were limited, we had to use galvanized metal sheets for our roof.



Our first "reciprocal roof".
I was close to brain meltdown
figuring out how to do it!



But...it puts a smile in our
eyes now !



This is what it looks like after
the second coat of plaster!



Remember the
other side?



The façade !





Our cob benches on the entrance are almost ready!



Stone work



Wine bottles



Bamboo

D
E
T
A
I
L
S



A foot
washing
bin



KITCHEN-DINNING

A. Window

B. Built-in shelves

C. Electricity





KITCHEN-DINING

A. Main entrance

B. Door to Dorm





DORM

A. Door to the kitchen

B. Built-in night table





DORM

A. East windows

B. Built-in night table





EXAMINATION ROOM

A. Door to kitchen

B. Built-in cabinets



BUILDING DOOR AND WINDOW FORMS

Recycled pallets !



Start



A bit higher



Place the arch



Fan bags !



Almost there!



Remove it !



Done !



DETAILS





Learning together





French friends



"Communal work"



We are almost
There !

Would you like
to help us ?



“You make your living by what you get,
but you make your life by what you give.”

Wayne Dyer

i GRACIAS !

... and YOU,
What do you dream about ?



Cato

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