
Correcting the Middle Ground

DEVELOPING AN ARCHITECTURAL RESPONSE TO ENCOURAGE THE REHABILITATION OF INDIVIDUALS THAT HAVE BEEN RECENTLY RELEASED FROM PRISON.

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Abstract

Incarceration and architecture are fields that are inherently linked. Architecture provides the physical framework for incarceration to occur. Incarceration as a means of punishment is imbedded in the norms of today's society, it is likely to be continually used as the most humane form of punishment. The implications of prison are often negative with the punishment going far beyond just a loss of freedom.

Although there are instances of corrective systems in other countries providing premises for positive change during a sentence period, the current state of prisons in New Zealand shows that this is not the case in this country. In the New Zealand context there is minimal implementation of reformatory prison ideas and as a result the nation's recidivism rate is worryingly high. The high recidivism rate not only reflects poorly on the corrections systems it also causes issues as individuals are likely to be sentenced to prison on multiple occasions, compounding the issue of the current prison population.

Because of the shortfalls of the New Zealand system the period of transition that occurs immediately after a prison sentence has been identified as the best opportunity for intervention. Through the ideas gathered on reformatory prison design and designing for communities a facility can be developed that eases the transition from a harsh, rigid environment into the day to day lifestyle of the general population.

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Background of the Project

Throughout many cultures, as society has progressed, prison facilities have been established to punish individuals who are guilty of committing crimes. As reformatory thinking has developed and been adopted there are several examples where prison facilities offer more than just a period of punishment. Examples in Scandinavian nations prove that a change in behaviour can occur during a period of incarceration. In New Zealand however, prisons are grossly overpopulated. In addition to this, statistics reflect a high recidivism rate, with up to 60% of the incarcerated population in New Zealand likely to become repeat offenders. Individuals who have at some stage of their lives been incarcerated in a New Zealand Correctional Facility are highly likely to experience the conditions on numerous occasions. The statistics identify where the shortfalls of the system are occurring. Support for individuals leaving the prison system in New Zealand is limited in an architectural sense but there are organisations that provide support services. The support organisations however do not occupy facilities of a particular typology, rather they utilise retrofitted buildings. As such, this project will investigate a suitable typology with the integration of architecture that could provide appropriate support for individuals leaving the confinement of prisons, within New Zealand.

Project Outline

The project is a transitional facility, located in the greater Auckland area, to service individuals who have recently been released from New Zealand prisons. Akin to a halfway house the facility will offer substantially more in terms of its architectural articulation and the services offered on site. In order to create a successful facility for reintegration it should provide suitable accommodation, safe spaces that encourage a rebuilding of relationships, areas for professional medical intervention, facilities for further education and the ability to exercise as well as access to a local community and work opportunities. For the individuals who are able to live on site there should be a noticeable progression towards independence, to aid in this progression there will be facilities for live in support staff.

Aims of the Project

Reasoning behind designing a facility of this nature is mostly due to the current nature of New Zealand's corrections system. The current system provides an appropriate start point for successful reintegration into the general population as the average sentence length is relatively short. What the system does not provide is the skills required for individuals, who have been exposed to the system, to thrive after completing their sentence. Corrections facilities within the country currently do not exhibit properties that can improve the chances of successful reintegration. The project intends to develop an intermediate facility that exists between the incarcerated and general population. Hopefully by establishing a facility that has greater success in nurturing individuals experiencing the difficulties after a period of incarceration there is the opportunity to curve the current recidivism statistics. In treating the individuals with care there is the potential that through a change in behaviour the stigma surrounding individuals who have been incarcerated can be broken down. As prisons themselves are an architectural composition that can have lasting detrimental consequences this project looks to be an architectural composition that can reintroduce a sense of independence.

Research Question

To what degree can the development of an architectural response encourage the rehabilitation of individuals who have recently been released from prison?

Scope and Limitations

The project intends to provide accommodation and resources for individuals who have been exposed to the New Zealand prison system. The facility will house and provide resources for individuals from a period of three to six months in which time they will have access to live-in units, with assistance from support workers. Individuals residing in this facility will be males that have been hand-picked on

the basis of their individual prisoner plan, and will be between the ages of 18 to 49. The males entering the facility are expected to have been classified as minimum to low-medium level offenders. The facility will cater for up to thirty on site residents with additional bed space for nine support staff. Individuals will also be able to travel to the facility from elsewhere to take advantage of the resources on offer.

People living in the facility will not be bound by gates or fences and are free to leave the premise, the design will not be considered a prison. Because the facility is being established in response to a social issue with the hope that human behaviours are altered it must be known that the architecture should not be seen as a cure and rather it is providing an opportunity for the right practices to be carried out within its walls. It is hoped that the combination of correct procedure within the bounds of specifically designed spaces will provide a positive impact on those who use the facility. It should also be noted that the psychological toll of incarceration will be taken into account however the facility will not be equipped to deal with individuals who have complex mental disorders.

State of Knowledge

The general understanding of a prison environment is that of a regimented, isolated and stigmatised condition that one becomes subjected to. A period of incarceration has many instances where an individual encounters significant changes to their lifestyle due to the implications of prison architecture.

It is important to acknowledge and explore the complexities and current climate of prison architecture and the effects it has on the user.

Authors that discuss the architectural nature of prisons as well as the psychological impact the architectural implication has are Roger Paez, Leslie Fairweather and Seán McConville. Paez, in the text *Critical Prison Design: Mas d'Enric Penitentiary by AiB Arquitectes + Estudi PSP Arquitectura*, uses a critical analysis of Mas d'Enric Penitentiary in Spain to examine prisoner behaviour, their general psychological state and the influence well designed prisons can impact individuals during incarceration.

Paez expands on already established general opinions of prisons and their environments while using a critical analysis of a well-designed prison to exemplify the impact of prison reform.

Leslie Fairweather, (RIBA) a Chartered Architect and Sean McConville, a Professor of Criminal Justice, discuss known ideas in regards to penal reform and prison design. The authors further highlight the complexity of prison design and the affect prison architecture has on all that experience it. The text *Prison Architecture* gives valuable insight into the experiences of individuals during a period of sentenced incarceration.

Examples exist that effectively show the result of incorporated reformatory design as well as the positive effects architecture can have in the community. In the case of Halden Fengsal (HLM Arkitektur), in Norway, reformatory thinking in regards to prisons has been brought to the forefront. Through the architectural composition it highlights the degree of nurture that should occur in order to provide a positive reformation. It also establishes an awareness as to how compact personal spaces can also be comfortable.

Methods

To successfully develop a facility that will benefit individuals transitioning from a period of incarceration, the consequences and conditions of the facilities they have been incarcerated in will be explored. Areas of investigation will include but not be limited to traditional prison design, frequently used prison typologies, progressive and non-progressive prison design as well as community facilities, and other halfway house examples. From these various explorations ideas such as appropriate master planning, arrangement of internal services, movement through the site and appropriate implementation of public and private space definition will be incorporated into the final design. The precedents will also help suggest appropriate composition of the arrangement and size of individual living quarters for those occupying the site. Initial design development will likely be through the development of schematics with site influence altering the composition and building form. Building form may also become suggestive in regards to moving through the site, by way of least resistance.

Prison Psychology

Connotations that exist when mentioning prison tend to immediately refer to a sense of physical limitation that one is restricted to. As defined by the Oxford English Dictionary, prison itself is,

“A building in which people are legally held as a punishment for a crime they have committed or while awaiting trial.”¹

The definition refers to a framework that holds physical value, a building in which someone is housed, and when talking about this topic it is often the visibly tangible elements that are discussed. In reality however, incarceration itself becomes more than just a physical condition, rather a disassociation from what is considered normal. In establishing a disassociation between what happens in the greater bounds of society and what exists within a prison can lead to issues of a physical and psychological nature. The psychological impact on individuals that are subjected to prison conditions can stem from a number of things, however most visible are the conditions one is housed in.

Roger Paez, a research leader, identifies key reformatory prison design factors through the critical analysis of Mas d'Enric Penitentiary in Spain

Over time there has been an establishment of typologies that can be associated with incarceration, Paez in the text *Critical Prison Design: Mas d'Enric Penitentiary by AiB Arquitectes + Estudi PSP Arquitectura* highlights this in saying,

“At the beginning of the 19th century, a large number of prisons were designed with circular, octagonal or hexagonal floor plans, with such an extreme regularity that, above and beyond programmatic considerations related to surveillance, they can only be understood as ideological.”²

Paez's statement alludes to the notion that early typologies promoted an ease of surveillance of imprisoned individuals and it was seen as a normal occurrence for these design intentions to be replicated in the early 19th century. Although thinking has evolved since the early 19th century there is evidence that the basic ideas regarding prison design still focus on internal condition, with ease of movement within a facility seeming to be of utmost importance. Christophe Haubursin is a video producer for Vox in the areas of culture

1 “Prison, *Meaning of Prison by Lexico*, accessed January 7, 2020, <https://www.lexico.com/definition/prison>.

2 Roger Paez, *Critical Prison Design : Mas d'Enric Penitentiary by AiB Arquitectes + Estudi PSP Arquitectura*, ed. AiB Estudi d'Arquitectes and Estudi P S P Arquitectura (New York: New York : Actar Publishers, 2014), 28.

and design. A Vox video publication directed by Haubursin, named *How Norway designed a more Humane Prison*, gives an insight to current thinking in regards to institutional design, and acknowledges the issues around a monotonous lifestyle that inmates are generally exposed to during periods of captivity. Three of the most utilised floor plan layouts can most easily be described as a courtyard layout, a telegraph pole layout and a wheel and spoke layout. Each particular design has its advantages and disadvantages, however what all three tend to produce are a repetitive, internally driven design which leads to people experiencing the same interior condition day after day. Information regarding the intricacies of the various typologies are addressed in a later chapter.

Evidently, particular design patterns have evolved and been frequently repeated, showing that over a period of time considered thinking in regards to prison reform has occurred. In a general sense it has led to considered and improved physical conditions within prisons, however, the personal consequences of confinement still exist.

Environments as harsh as prisons cause issues that are not necessarily due to the architecture, although it must have some impact. Paez explains that this is just one of the issues, however hard the architecture attempts to improve the prison experience, there are many other considerations.

“There are many variables that go into defining what a prison is and how it works, as much or even more than its architectural design. They include the relationships among inmates, prison employees and visitors that are formed there; the legal framework that regulates admissions and releases’ or the different socio-cultural backgrounds of the inmates, which frame their penitentiary experience in radically different ways.”³

Leslie Fairweather (RIBA) a Chartered Architect and Seán McConville a Professor of Criminal Justice, in the text *Prison Architecture*, discuss ideas and nuances in regard to effective penal policy and prison design.

Fairweather and McConville also describe factors outside the realm of architectural intervention.

“The prisoners major problem lies not so much in their physical environment as in separation from family and friends, loss of

3 Roger Paez, *Critical Prison Design : Mas d’Enric Penitentiary by AiB Arquitectes + Estudi PSP Arquitectura*, ed. AiB Estudi d’Arquitectes and Estudi P S P Arquitectura (New York: New York : Actar Publishers, 2014), 27

freedom, concern about life after release, maintaining their self-esteem or self-identity, and how to manage their time.”⁴

Disconnect from support networks along with being involved in such a vastly different lifestyle are factors that can cause a compromised state of mind, usually in the form of stress. Fairweather and McConville point out that throughout imprisonment individuals struggle both emotionally and somatically.

“The prison experience is traumatic and stressful for most inmates, and detrimental to the physical and mental wellbeing of many.”⁵

Fairweather and McConville refer to the prison experience as a whole, and distinguish that moments of significant change are likely to have a greater impact on a person’s mental stability. Fairweather and McConville highlight when emotional unrest tends to be expected and when a person is most vulnerable.

“Stress levels vary throughout, being highest during reception and the first few weeks in prison, and later, just prior to release.”⁶

Times of transition may be the period where someone is under the most stress, however implications of stress and other issues associated with being in a prison has the potential to last well beyond an individual’s sentence period. Trauma suffered by inmates cannot reasonably be visually interpreted or be deemed to be determined by a single factor.

Some factors that contribute to the physical and mental difficulties, as a result of an extended period of incarceration, are further examined in the following sections.

4 Leslie Fairweather and Seán McConville, *Prison Architecture Policy, Design and Experience* (London: London, 2000), 32.

5 Leslie Fairweather and Seán McConville, *Prison Architecture Policy, Design and Experience* (London: London, 2000), 32.

6 Leslie Fairweather and Seán McConville, *Prison Architecture Policy, Design and Experience* (London: London, 2000), 32.

Inside

Imprisonment is not a new idea in regards to the treatment of individuals awaiting the due process of a criminal trial. Although initially not considered a punishment in itself, individuals were often incarcerated as they awaited sentencing, be that execution, corporal punishment or a fine. As the holding period was often short term, prisons in the 18th century were often a residual space within an existing building and not a stand-alone structure. As imprisonment has established itself as a mainstream form of punishment the complexity of prisons has developed. Rather than being limited to residual spaces of existing structures, prisons often exist as self-standing, large complexes.

Prison complexes have the difficult task of mirroring the intricacies of greater society in an intrinsically internal environment. In establishing the framework of a prison, and introducing humans into the structure there is the creation of a restrictive microcosm of greater society. Fairweather and McConville mention that,

“The prison is a mirror of society, but society is not a rigid and immobile framework; it is a joint construction in a permanent state of change.”⁷

In simpler terms, Paez elaborates that.

“Everything that happens outside the prison also happens inside it, with the fundamental particularity that it all goes on in a confined space.”⁸

In regards to the activities of human nature that occur in a corrections facility, Fairweather and McConville state,

“Inside the prison, inmates eat, sleep, work, study, play, swim, go to the doctor, and visit their families. They also talk, negotiate, listen, learn, express opinions, relate, hate and love. Inside the prison, people also look, think, read, and listen to music; they doubt, they are inspired, they worry, they get distracted, excited, depressed, hopeful, they cry and laugh. Like it or not, the prison building becomes the de-facto world for the inmates, the setting for their lives and their compulsory and necessary frame of reference.”⁹

7 Leslie Fairweather and Seán McConville, *Prison Architecture Policy, Design and Experience* (London: London, 2000), 30.

8 Roger Paez, *Critical Prison Design : Mas d'Enric Penitentiary by AiB Arquitectes + Estudi PSP Arquitectura*, ed. AiB Estudi d'Arquitectes and Estudi P S P Arquitectura (New York: New York : Actar Publishers, 2014), 28.

9 Leslie Fairweather and Seán McConville, *Prison Architecture Policy, Design and Experience* (London: London, 2000), 29.

Highlighting that all human behaviours should be allowed and respected in an environment where individuals cannot willingly leave. The restrictive nature of prisons can create psychological issues and the disestablishment of personal relationships, the results of which are discussed in previous and following sections.

There is evidential proof that the nature of these internal environments struggle to cater for the complex series of human needs. In placing an individual within a prison you not only take away their freedom, but remove an ease of connection with that individuals previous life. Inmates need to adapt to the reduction of freedom in an environment that is a reflection of society in a much more confined space, away from whatever support network they had established before entering. Difficulties arise as individuals enter facilities of this nature, and as such, with the help of research, the difficulties that arise when one leaves a prison environment can also be established.

Outside

When an individual leaves prison, although they are exiting a confined and complex environment and are being introduced to the general population, difficulties still arise. In many instances, prison conditions are physically basic and mentally distressing. Prison life however, can also provide a regularity that becomes inaccessible when a person completes their sentence. Meaning there is potentially a loss of schedule, as well as the loss of basic shelter from natural elements. In prison there is the potential for social circles and a sense of community to develop, as they do within the public society.

Sabine Heinlein, analyses and recounts the experiences and difficulties that former inmates must deal with upon release, in the text *Among Murderers Life After Prison*. Heinlein establishes the issues that release has, in that,

“Freedom was a relief, surely, but it was also a challenge.”¹⁰

Upon gaining their freedom, the former prisoners struggles are not necessarily over, Heinlein continues to further elaborate the strife some people encounter in this situation.

“One man I spoke to had forgotten how to turn on a faucet after living in a prison cell for twenty years. When I accompanied another recently released man on his walk through the city, he almost got run over when crossing the street, not once but five times in half an hour. His sense of public space had atrophied so completely that whenever he managed to avoid the traffic, he bumped into other pedestrians.”¹¹

Examples regarding an inability to turn on a faucet and the apparent loss of one’s physical spatial awareness are extreme examples, however it could be said that this explains the level of helplessness a newly released individual could encounter. Being unable to deal with basic situations that are normal, regular occurrences brings into consideration the ability former inmates have in sustaining a life outside prison walls. Either from the amount of time spent in prison or the circumstances these individuals were in before entering the facility. Skill level, in this instance, is not specific to work or the ability to carry out activities, but inclusive of a social skillset and a level of psychological awareness.

10 Sabine Heinlein, *Among Murderers Life after Prison* (Berkeley, Calif.: Berkeley, Calif. : University of California Press, 2013), 11.

11 Sabine Heinlein, *Among Murderers Life after Prison* (Berkeley, Calif.: Berkeley, Calif. : University of California Press, 2013), 10.

Heinlein also acknowledges that a lack of basic living needs such as shelter, clothing and food can become a very real issue for people in this situation. Of the struggles formerly incarcerated individuals face at the very least they require,

”a roof over their heads, medical care and a job.”¹²

In providing these basic necessities there is the opportunity to provide one with some notion of stability and with the introduction of building and fostering new relationships, creates the best chance to avoid repetitive offending.

To this point the information is non-specific in regards to a particular country, but there is a general theme occurring in how unprepared some people are in dealing with a changing environment. What Heinlein acknowledges and reiterates is,

“that no one had ever addressed those seemingly minor obstacles of prisoner rehabilitation and reintegration;”¹³

Furthermore, the most astute way of influencing a change in attitude for people in this situation is the introduction of meaningful human interaction or intervention.

Contextually the treatment of former prisoners needs to be considered within the current New Zealand climate to establish what services are being offered.

In terms of treatment of special cases within New Zealand’s current system of prisoner release, if an individual classifies as one with complex needs, they can be referred to a service that provides supported accommodation. The aided accommodation extends to a maximum stay of thirteen weeks in a unit provided by the service. Support involving the development of life skills, affording assistance in finding employment or providing training in some form to improve employment opportunities is included in the service. All in all, this creates an environment of positive change whilst assisting with meeting the conditions of their release. After the initial thirteen week period, assistance is provided in finding further accommodation with the offer of a further thirteen weeks of ‘post tenancy support.’¹⁴ Those that do not qualify for these conditions rely more on the actions of their parole officers in finding appropriate accommodation and

12 Sabine Heinlein, *Among Murderers Life after Prison* (Berkeley, Calif.: Berkeley, Calif. : University of California Press, 2013), 10.

13 Sabine Heinlein, *Among Murderers Life after Prison* (Berkeley, Calif.: Berkeley, Calif. : University of California Press, 2013), 11.

14 Department of Corrections. “Finding Suitable Housing,” Accessed October 10, 2018. https://www.corrections.govt.nz/working_with_offenders/community_sentences/being_on_probation/supported_accommodation.html

opportunities for employment.

Further specifics in regard to the conditions within New Zealand's prisons, and the make-up of the population within the prison system in this country are discussed in further detail in later chapters.

Interim Conclusion

After being denied a sense of freedom both literally and metaphorically, there is a transitional period that occurs upon being released. During this period former inmates not only have to deal with the implications of the environment they have left, but the environment they are entering as well. Upon release, individuals are entering a highly unpredictable world whilst having to deal with the trauma of a very rigid structure, routinely and architecturally, without the support of a regular network of friends and family. Understanding the basic issues these people have to negotiate immediately after leaving prison begins to outline particular concerns that need to be addressed. The intention of this project is to provide stability for individuals that have completed their prison sentence. By providing them an appropriate environment and facilities that encourage rehabilitation there is the potential to reduce the chances of them reoffending.

Incarceration and the Single Room

Importantly, it is to be noted that solitary confinement is exempt in this particular case. The conditions of single room confinement that are being considered, refer to a personal cell.

As far as the single room is concerned, in the perspective of prison design, it is a significant factor in the secure holding of inmates throughout their period of incarceration. In the case of prison design a single room is often known as a cell, which throughout this chapter will be used to distinguish whether a prison setting or a psychological institution is being discussed. With cells being such a necessity in the design of a prison, the arrangement of cells usually provides significant influence on the general form of prison buildings. Visibly, the effect of arranging cells is physically identifiable, however, they also provide more to a facility than just a means of holding people. If the capacity of a given prison has the ability for each incarcerated individual to have the use of a personal cell, it may provide a small amount of personal relief from the immediate surrounding condition. Despite the fact that this cell will be controlled with a high level of surveillance, Fairweather and McConville note the importance even a small amount of privacy can have,

“Privacy provides an emotional haven; it allows the opportunity for self-evaluation, permits limited communication and establishes a psychological distance from others. It provides personal autonomy and a sense of individuality and control over ones situation.”¹⁵

Prison, as discussed in previous chapters, can have significant detrimental effects. Without the relief of a single cell it could be more of a contributing factor. With prisons often unable to provide this level of space allowance per individual, it is likely many individuals are not provided the relief that single cells can offer.

To further examine the importance of healing spaces, sanatoriums and asylums should be considered.

In the cases of asylums and sanatoriums there is a notion where simply living in a building of this nature is healing in itself. Sanatorium design, through architectural composition, incorporates exposure to the air, in a scenic rural setting. In the case of asylum design, the use of landscaping in conjunction with a building of residence are key factors in creating a therapeutic atmosphere.

Asylum design in particular can provide important insight into the benefits of single rooms within a therapeutic community, as well as the notion of a connection to nature, and how the considered arrangement of buildings can instigate a particular manner of control. Single rooms are important in allowing a degree of privacy, and a personal space for reflection, within the setting of a building that houses many individuals. In instances where an individual is experiencing high levels of stress, a location to escape is important.

Sarah Schrank and Didem Ekici in the text *Healing Spaces, Modern Architecture and the Body* explore various design ideas established by architects, planners and medical professionals in relation to spaces for living, working and healing.

Sarah Schrank and Didem Ekici identify factors of varying importance that should be considered in the use of single rooms in an asylum including notions of privacy, security and the separation of demographics.

“the ambiguity of the single room as a place of privacy which is also a site of isolation, and shifting attitudes to the appropriate connection between patient’s class origins and the spaces provided for them in a public institution. The room itself and its purpose was a shifting thing too: sometimes the discussion is about where patients should sleep at night (together in dormitories or alone in a single room); ‘sometimes it is instead, or also, about a secure place in which the patient should be confined for limited periods to protect him/herself and others, or to return to a calm state of mind;’ occasionally it is about the room as protection for the patient’s individuality, a haven for quiet contemplation. The lines between these types of single rooms (single room as bedroom, as secure cell, as retreat) are sometimes definite, and sometimes blurred.”¹⁶

Schrank and Ekici continue to mention the positive influence single rooms can have for an individuals state of mind, in this case mentioning that,

“patients should have their own rooms, not for reasons of control or security, but rather for the protection of their own time, space and individuality against the onslaught of communal life in the asylum”¹⁷

By providing individuals a space that is completely their own, they are able to distance themselves from the reality of the day to day

16 Sarah Schrank and Didem Ekici, *Healing Spaces, Modern Architecture, and the Body* (London: London, 2017), 88.

17 Sarah Schrank and Didem Ekici, *Healing Spaces, Modern Architecture, and the Body* (London: London, 2017), 89.

occurrences within the asylum, thus allowing some form of respite both physically and emotionally. Schrank and Eckici show the personal side to the use of single rooms in mentioning,

“it provided a pleasant cocoon for evening and morning rituals, and sleep; it also stood for the possibility of privacy even if most of life went on outside of it.”¹⁸

By providing a brief summary of the literature relating to the role single rooms have in asylum and prison facilities, benefits they provide to individuals held in confined communities can be established.

Notion of Prison Today

In the case of the prison today there is still the implementation of strict physical limitations and an exposure to unsatisfactory conditions.

Paez begins to describe the influence progressive movements within prison development can have, and the affect of the architecture surrounding individuals in restrictive conditions. It should be made aware that Paez identifies that in society there are limits that everyone must live within, and that incarceration is a more physically noticeable element of this,

“While not underplaying the severity of incarceration, we might admit that we are all in various states of voluntary and involuntary confinement.”¹⁹

Forced incarceration in the current era is seen as not only a punitive measure, rather, it has been identified as an opportunity to rectify the mind-set or behaviours of sentenced individuals. In Roger Paez’s critique of Mas d’Enric Penitentiary in Spain it is noted that the design attempts to upkeep the notion whereas,

“The essential aim of modern justice is not to punish, but to correct.”²⁰

Paez refers to Evans regarding the role that prisons now play in the greater context of society in the modern era. It should be taken into consideration that a prison environment becomes the world for those who are incarcerated, and that all manner of human activity exists within the walls.

“As Evans says, beginning with the reformed prison, architecture is no longer limited to the passive role of simple container; it takes on the active role of organizing human activity and becomes an operative agent in the formation and transformation of human experience. Architecture becomes an instrument of social transformation.”²¹

In this case, architecture is being considered as an aid in the development of human behaviour. More importantly, there is a creation of a totally insular environment, being completely physically segregated from society. As such, the architecture of a prison environment becomes the world for these individuals. The literature also establishes the thought that built form can suggest how one conducts

19 Roger Paez, *Critical Prison Design : Mas d’Enric Penitentiary by AiB Arquitectes + Estudi PSP Arquitectura*, ed. AiB Estudi d’Arquitectes and Estudi P S P Arquitectura (New York: New York : Actar Publishers, 2014), 41.

20 Roger Paez, *Critical Prison Design : Mas d’Enric Penitentiary by AiB Arquitectes + Estudi PSP Arquitectura*, ed. AiB Estudi d’Arquitectes and Estudi P S P Arquitectura (New York: New York : Actar Publishers, 2014), 44.

21 Roger Paez, *Critical Prison Design : Mas d’Enric Penitentiary by AiB Arquitectes + Estudi PSP Arquitectura*, ed. AiB Estudi d’Arquitectes and Estudi P S P Arquitectura (New York: New York : Actar Publishers, 2014), 24.

themselves whereas,

“the idea of using architectural design to affect even direct peoples behaviour with a previously unheard-of degree of precision.”²²

Paez also acknowledges at which point in history this progressive thinking began to occur.

“The belief in the power of architecture to transform lives, which is established toward the end of the 18th century and is largely reinforced by the penal reform and the penitentiary project,”²³

Putting into practice the idea of architecture having a suggestive influence on individuals who are involuntarily held, stating that,

“if the environment creates criminals, the environment can also reform them.”²⁴

Architecture establishes the nature of a built forms physicality and rigidness, however it also affords opportunity to create a particular atmosphere and environment through considered design decisions.

“the physicality of the prison building – plays a fundamental role, since it constructs the passive framework that shapes and is intended to determine people’s behaviour.”²⁵

To this point, the literature has established parameters of an ideal prison environment in current society and the reasons as to why the ideal has been established. What is not mentioned is the effect the state of upkeep, and the humanity of the structure, has on the inmates or individuals who are frequently in contact with the prison. Fairweather and McConville, in *Prison Architecture*, indicates the condition in which a facility can provide the best opportunity to create an appropriate rehabilitative atmosphere.

“the way in which the buildings are designed, their state of repair and decoration are important to management, staff and

22 Roger Paez, *Critical Prison Design : Mas d’Enric Penitentiary by AiB Arquitectes + Estudi PSP Arquitectura*, ed. AiB Estudi d’Arquitectes and Estudi P S P Arquitectura (New York: New York : Actar Publishers, 2014), 23.

23 Roger Paez, *Critical Prison Design : Mas d’Enric Penitentiary by AiB Arquitectes + Estudi PSP Arquitectura*, ed. AiB Estudi d’Arquitectes and Estudi P S P Arquitectura (New York: New York : Actar Publishers, 2014), 23.

24 Roger Paez, *Critical Prison Design : Mas d’Enric Penitentiary by AiB Arquitectes + Estudi PSP Arquitectura*, ed. AiB Estudi d’Arquitectes and Estudi P S P Arquitectura (New York: New York : Actar Publishers, 2014), 24.

25 Roger Paez, *Critical Prison Design : Mas d’Enric Penitentiary by AiB Arquitectes + Estudi PSP Arquitectura*, ed. AiB Estudi d’Arquitectes and Estudi P S P Arquitectura (New York: New York : Actar Publishers, 2014), 24.

prisoners alike. They can significantly affect the atmosphere of a prison.”²⁶

Not only does the atmosphere improve, but Fairweather and McConville continue by acknowledging the improvement in the treatment of the facility by individuals, based on the condition being respectable.

“Inmates respond fairly negatively towards the buildings they inhabit, but do not frequently officially complain about the standard of accommodation. It is noticeable, however, that inmates respond more positively to newer accommodation and keep it cleaner and tidier.”²⁷

In current times, prisons have the difficulty of preparing individuals for an open, unpredictable society within a restrictive structure. It should be noted that, in general, the articulation of prison spaces and the treatment of incarcerated individuals has improved however, this is not necessarily evident in measurable statistics. Literature, particularly in this chapter, acknowledges that architecture can only play some role in influencing change, as well as providing a more humane and considered environment. The problem lies in the unpredictability in how each individual reacts to the conditions, which remains largely unknown. Architecture, in the case of prisons, has the opportunity to suggest patterns of movement throughout a routine, particularly in an environment as rigid as a prison. When applied correctly, architecture has the potential to provide a beneficial effect for the people inhabiting it. Fairweather and McConville summarise the importance of architecture in the design of restrictive environments and the responsibility that is bestowed upon prison architecture,

“At best, their designs can support the rehabilitative process and offer a humane environment for staff and inmates; at worst, they should at least do no harm.”²⁸

26 Leslie Fairweather and Seán McConville, *Prison Architecture Policy, Design and Experience* (London: London, 2000), 33.

27 Leslie Fairweather and Seán McConville, *Prison Architecture Policy, Design and Experience* (London: London, 2000), 32.

28 Leslie Fairweather and Seán McConville, *Prison Architecture Policy, Design and Experience* (London: London, 2000), 33.

Current State New Zealand

Previous chapters have begun to establish what exists in regards to the implementation of reformatory prison design globally and the impact these institutions have on the individual. In this instance the project exists within a particular society, that being New Zealand, therefore, the nuances and specifics of the state need to be made apparent.

As with the majority of the world within the current social climate, prisons are still required as an acceptable method of punishment. Within the country there are aspects of progressive thinking and intention within the system, including some measures to provide a small amount of rehabilitative support, these are highlighted in case studies in following sections.

Statistically the nature of the situation shows a steady growth in the population of New Zealand prisons which has led to the system operating beyond its capacity. As of June 2015 New Zealand's prisons have been operating at 106.1% capacity, with the total number of prisoners having increased from 5,720 in the year 2000 to 10,645 in 2018.²⁹

As the prison population trends upwards, it naturally has a direct effect on increasing the number and capacity of prisons around the country, as such there are plans in place to increase the capacity of New Zealand's prisons by 2021. Planned expansions include the addition of accommodation for 245 individuals in Auckland's Mount Eden Remand facility due to be completed by the end of 2019.³⁰ Another prison expansion scheme is the addition of 80 beds in the Northland Regional Corrections Facility, as well as, an entirely new facility located in Waikeria that will have a capacity of 1500 individuals.³¹

In total New Zealand currently has sixteen prisons used for the incarceration of males, this number accommodates both remand and sentenced individuals. Remand prisoners are classified as those awaiting trial or sentencing, whereas sentenced refers to individuals serving time they have been sentenced to after being found guilty. Within these sixteen prisons the security classifications of incarcerated individuals ranges from minimum through to maximum. The stages of low, low medium and high exist between the two extremes. Eleven of the sixteen prisons accommodate minimum to high risk individuals, three hold minimum to low medium classified individuals and the remaining two are primarily remand prisons. With 80% of the prison population being classified as minimum to low medium level offenders it is this range of offenders that will begin to form the target demographic.

29 Department of Corrections, "Prison Facts and Statistics - March 2018," Accessed August 19, 2018. https://www.corrections.govt.nz/resources/research_and_statistics/quarterly_prison_statistics/prison_stats_march_2018.html

30 New Zealand Department of Corrections, "Mt Eden Corrections Facility Increasing Capacity at Mt Eden Corrections Facility," 2017, https://www.corrections.govt.nz/news/mt_eden_corrections_facility Accessed 24/04/2019,

31 New Zealand Department of Corrections, "Increasing Prison Capacity to Meet the Rising Prison Population," accessed April 24, 2019, https://www.corrections.govt.nz/resources/newsletters_and_brochures/corrections_works/2016/corrections_works_december_2016/increasing_prison_capacity_to_meet_the_rising_prison_population.

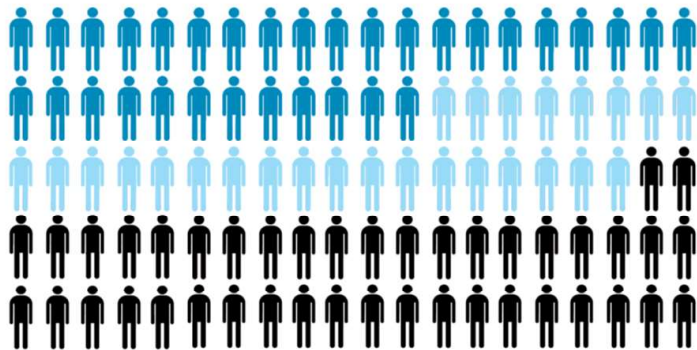


Figure 1:
Visual
Representation
of Recidivism
Percentage (100
Individuals)

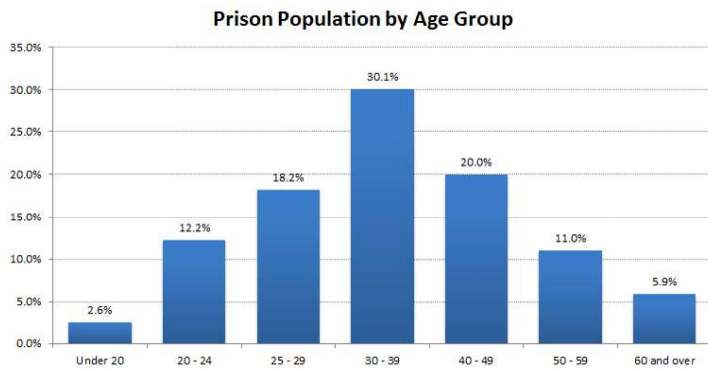


Figure 2: Graph
Showing Age of
Prison
Population
(December 2018)

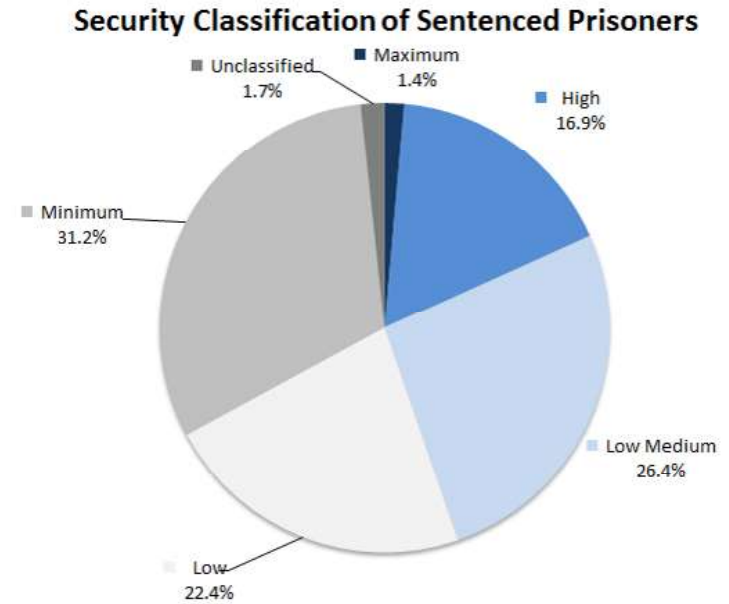


Figure 3: Graph Showing Security Classification of Sentenced Prisoners (December 2018)

Another factor in the target demographic is the age of individuals that a facility should cater for, with 80% of the male prison population being between the ages of 18 to 49.³² By focussing on the correction of behaviour of this age range the hope is to steer individuals away from a life of going in and out of prison facilities.

As of December 2018 the total prison population was 9,782 individuals, males account for 93% of this total. The 93% represents 9,102 individuals, of which 2,714 are classified as remand prisoners and the remaining 6,388 are serving sentenced time.³³ The average length of sentence that the 6,388 individuals are likely to face should also be taken into consideration. In 2016 the average sentence length was 509 days,³⁴ this means that within two years of entering prison a large majority of the prison population will require to readjust to life in the general population. It should, therefore, be of utmost importance to treat individuals leaving the system in a manner so that they are prepared to a point where they are unlikely to return.

Regrettably, there is evidence to show that individuals leaving the system are not appropriately skilled to deal with life after having completed their sentence. A 2009 report, by Arul Nadesu of the Department of Corrections, into reconviction rates that resulted in reimprisonment or further community service found, that over a five year period 58% of those included in the survey reoffended. Of this 58%, 32% had reoffended within 12 months of being released.³⁵ Statistically this shows that for whatever reason reoffending is occurring to the extent that an individual is likely to be incarcerated a number of times. Creating a backlog of returning individuals on top of an already growing population.

As stated by the New Zealand Department of Corrections,

“research has shown the re-offending is not reduced by simply incarcerating offenders, or by increasing the harshness of their sentences. However, well-designed and delivered programmes can have a real effect on re-offending.”³⁶

Suggesting that what is currently being implemented within the prison system, in the country, is not effectively providing appropriate pathways to rehabilitation.

32 Department of Corrections. “Prison Facts and Statistics – December 2018.” Accessed March 11, 2019. https://www.corrections.govt.nz/resources/research_and_statistics/quarterly_prison_statistics/prison_stats_december_2018.html

33 Department of Corrections. “Prison Facts and Statistics – December 2018.” Accessed March 11, 2019. https://www.corrections.govt.nz/resources/research_and_statistics/quarterly_prison_statistics/prison_stats_december_2018.html

34 2017 PQ19304 (2017) Amy Adams table, Released by Andrew Little (PDF)

35 Arul Nadesu, *Reconviction Patterns of Offenders Managed in the Community: A 60-months follow-up analysis*. (Department of Corrections, 2009). PDF e-book, 4.

36 Department of Corrections. “Rehabilitation and Intervention,” Accessed October 10, 2018. https://www.corrections.govt.nz/working_with_offenders/community_sentences/employment_and_support_programmes/rehabilitation_and_treatment_programmes.html

The current nature of New Zealand's prisons, coupled with the current rate of reconviction suggests that individuals leaving correctional facilities are not well enough prepared to face the challenges of everyday society. You could argue that the state of affairs within the correctional facility points towards punishment rather than rehabilitation. It is seen as a way of preventing a particular individual from committing a crime for a certain period only for the individual to reoffend within five years of being released.

The current state of prisons within New Zealand still fail to reflect an ideology of rehabilitation in regards to prison design and the system's ability to successfully rehabilitate individuals.

Cultural Considerations

There is a vast over representation of Māori in the New Zealand prison system. As Māori are the indigenous people of New Zealand there needs to be a respectful consideration of what resonates with them culturally. Statistically the majority of the prison population consists of Māori (50%), followed by European (31.3%) and Pacific Islanders (11.6%).³⁷ Therefore a general acceptance of various other cultures should be considered, as well as spaces that allow individuals to experience a spiritual connection if they so desire.

Within the context of New Zealand, designers have a responsibility to acknowledge the culture of the native people and provide some representation of this culture in the finished product. By producing structures that encompass basic cultural design principles a sense of place can be created and as such, a style of design that is representative of the people and country is established.

A series of Māori design principles are included in the Auckland Council Design Manual that suggest ways in which new designs can become noticeably connected to place. The core values, known as the Te Aranga principles, have been determined from essential Māori characteristics that help to produce culturally appropriate design outcomes along with improving the overall design value.

Following are the significant principles that have been established to create these particular Māori based design conditions.

Mana

Mana refers to the recognition and respect paid to a community or group of Māori people (iwi) or those who have an ancestral link to the land (hapu) and the right that the community has in the management of areas of land.³⁸

Whakapapa

Whakapapa refers to the naming of places and that the naming is synonymous to the Māori community of the area and follows the indigenous values of place naming.³⁹

Taiao

Taiao ensures that the natural environment that is being altered or utilised is maintained, improved or at the very least respected and

37 Department of Corrections, "Prison Facts and Statistics." https://www.corrections.govt.nz/resources/research_and_statistics/quarterly_prison_statistics/prison_stats_march_2018.html

38 "Te Aranga Principles - Auckland Design Manual," accessed June 2, 2020, http://www.aucklanddesignmanual.co.nz/design-subjects/maori-design/te_aranga_principles.

39 "Te Aranga Principles - Auckland Design Manual."

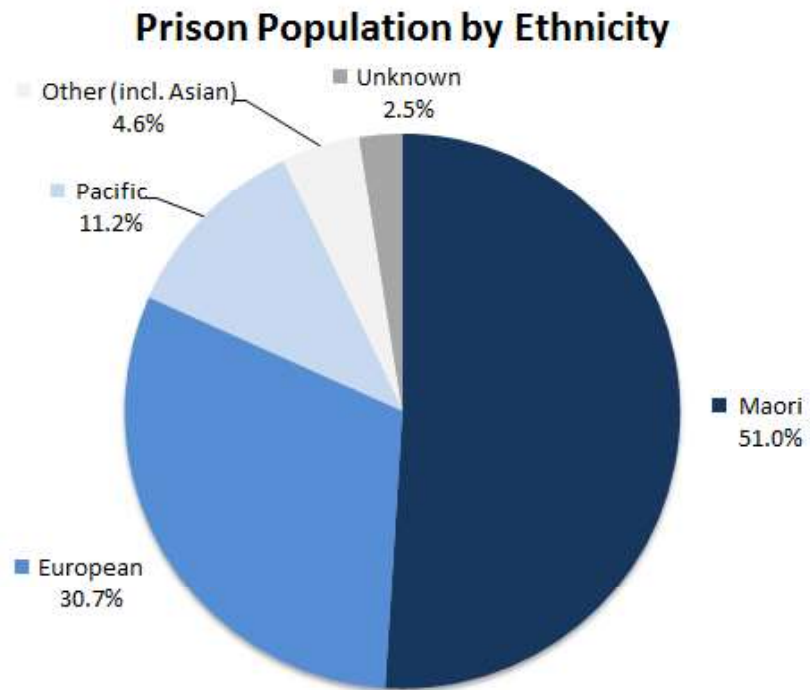


Figure 4: Graph Showing Prison Population in terms of Ethnicity (December 2018)

protected.⁴⁰

Mauri Tu

Mauri Tu is different to Taiao in that it refers to the remaining factors of the environment such as the community that the design is serving is positively affected as well as environmentally friendly building and design decisions being made throughout the process of design.⁴¹

Mahi Toi

Mahi Toi sees that the tale of the local community is allowed to be creatively integrated within the design process and are suitably conveyed.⁴²

Tohu

Tohu sees that culturally meaningful places and landmarks, as identified by the Māori community, be recognised appropriately.⁴³

Ahi Ka

Ahi Ka sees that the local Māori community and those who are ancestrally connected to a particular location continue to have an active role and presence within their territories. It should also allow those using the land to have an ease of access to required natural amenities such as waterways.⁴⁴

It should be noted that not all of these principles are directly design related however in the process and execution of design there should be elements that engage with those who are indigenously tied to the land. It is also important to acknowledge that although a significant proportion of the prison population are of Māori heritage, there should also be considerations for other cultural groups that have been exposed to prison conditions, and as such the completed scheme should have a generally neutral cultural undertone.

40 “Te Aranga Principles - Auckland Design Manual,” accessed June 2, 2020, http://www.aucklanddesignmanual.co.nz/design-subjects/maori-design/te_aranga_principles.

41 “Te Aranga Principles - Auckland Design Manual.”

42 “Te Aranga Principles - Auckland Design Manual.”

43 “Te Aranga Principles - Auckland Design Manual.”

44 “Te Aranga Principles - Auckland Design Manual.”

Paradox of Modern Prison

Initially, Prison design was based around the means of security and an ability for efficient lines of sight for those in control of the facility. With the development of frequently adopted prison typologies, the notions of security and surveillance, as well as ease of movement throughout the facility tend to be high design priorities. However, effective prison design and the holistic implementation of reformatory initiatives, has generated a progressive nature within various global locations, particularly in some Scandinavian nations. Specific methods and designs adopted in these countries will be investigated later. In nations such as Denmark and Norway the use of prisons as a means of punishment is still considered appropriate, however the nature in which the imprisoned population is treated is different. These nations have adopted and enforced a sympathetic response when creating prison environments, this causes issues that were not previously considered.

With Scandinavian prisons, the concept of a prison has developed from a facility of captivity to an opportunity for beneficial intervention. It poses questions as to how an enclosed environment can offer a clear path in which someone can rebuild their livelihood prior to release to prepare themselves for life in the general population.

Paez identifies the contradiction these prisons must deal with in the passage,

“A prison must respond to the demand for confinement (discipline) and reinsertion (freedom) at the same time.”⁴⁵

Modern prison development becomes the balancing act of two opposite demands, as Paez puts it,

“internment and reinsertion”⁴⁶ - discipline through physical limits.

Expanding on the phrase noting that,

“Reinsertion requires that it promote the apprenticeship of freedom- it constitutes a living space.”⁴⁷

With prison now seen as a facility for rehabilitation, it places more responsibility on the architectural outcome. The architecture becomes a highly important factor in determining how well prison reform can be implemented. It must be noted that prison is, in essence,

45 Roger Paez, *Critical Prison Design : Mas d'Enric Penitentiary by AiB Arquitectes + Estudi PSP Arquitectura*, ed. AiB Estudi d'Arquitectes and Estudi P S P Arquitectura (New York: New York : Actar Publishers, 2014), 12.

46 Roger Paez, *Critical Prison Design : Mas d'Enric Penitentiary by AiB Arquitectes + Estudi PSP Arquitectura*, ed. AiB Estudi d'Arquitectes and Estudi P S P Arquitectura (New York: New York : Actar Publishers, 2014), 52.

47 Roger Paez, *Critical Prison Design : Mas d'Enric Penitentiary by AiB Arquitectes + Estudi PSP Arquitectura*, ed. AiB Estudi d'Arquitectes and Estudi P S P Arquitectura (New York: New York : Actar Publishers, 2014), 52.

an architectural implementation that establishes a physical barrier between society and the imprisoned population. Hence creating an environment that is totally insular. Architecture therefore is not the only variable, there should also be an acknowledgement of what the structure encapsulates.

What this presents is the issue of human nature, and the impossibility to understand every person's response to the environment around them. Not only for prison design in particular but architecture in general. Paez poses the issue when designing in regards to a social issue.

“Architecture is a determinate framework which houses indeterminacy.”⁴⁸

It is in this case however compounded, as the architecture in the instance of prison becomes all encapsulating. There is no disassociation from the prison architecture while one is serving a sentence, the architecture is required to provide everything. Housing, a place to socialise, if an individual's terms allow, safety for the inhabitants and those who watch over them, among other things.

Prisons no longer have the sole focus of being a method of punitive detention, rather they need to provide an opportunity for people to work towards reintegrating themselves into society. Adopting this line of thinking requires an astute use of architecture, the acknowledgement of the unpredictability of human nature, and an understanding that there is a paradox underlying reformatory thinking.

Scandinavian Model

A number of Scandinavian countries have adopted a much more humanitarian response to the treatment and housing of prisoners. Leading to these countries being frontrunners in the implementation of progressive prison design. The examples that will be examined in later sections show not only a general typology that can positively influence the day to day life of prisoners, but also the composition of respectful private spaces that also have a meaningful impact. Particular countries that will be used in examples in this instance are Denmark and Norway.

Examples from these countries provide a basis for reformatory design that stems from the attitude designers, and the general society, have towards the treatment of prisoners. There is a clear notion that it is the absence of freedom that is the punishment, and imprisonment should not lead to a complete alteration to an individual's lifestyle and comfort. The lead architect behind the design of Halden Fengsal in Norway, Gudrun Modlen of HLM Arkitektur states,

“The sentence is taking away the freedom. Everyday life shouldn't be a sentence.”⁴⁹

In saying this, imprisonment should not be considered a nice place to be. However at the very least there should be a level of safety, and a place for self-reflection and personal improvement to be acknowledged and occur.

The most repeated prison typologies tend to be the courtyard, telegraph and radial design which will be explained in a following chapter. Some elements of these arrangements are adopted in the schemes in Denmark and Norway, however, they are usually used in the composition of a hybrid design.

Halden Fengsal in Norway and Storstrøm Prison in Denmark are examples in which humane treatment of individuals occurs through the use of appropriate architectural implementation. The combination of these ideas can create a positive change in the development of imprisoned individual's life skills, which prepares them for life post sentence. It is the nature and care taken in the handling of individuals who have done wrong, that tends to provide a more likely step towards successful rehabilitation.

Denmark's prison system is a clear example of positive implementation that has results. With a total population of 5.8 million people

as of September 2018 the total prison population at the time stood at 3,635 individuals. This number is inclusive of both sentenced and remand prisoners of which 1,290 are classified as remand prisoners, accounting for 35.5% of the total incarcerated population.⁵⁰

New Zealand, a nation with a smaller general population, currently has a larger prison population than Denmark. The rate of recidivism, in New Zealand, is also significantly higher than the likes of Denmark and Norway. Figures regarding the current state of the New Zealand prison system have been highlighted in an earlier chapter.

When comparing the situations in New Zealand and Denmark, figures prove that treating the incarcerated population with care and in a humane manner provides a positive outcome.

Designing to Heal

In various places around the world today, notably Scandinavia, there is a conscious effort to provide individuals with skills and opportunity to thrive when they are able to re-join the general population. Although the thinking regarding this method of reintegration is widespread, the product of this in some locations has not reached the level of positive outcome as it has in the aforementioned countries.

There is evidence to suggest that individuals are leaving prison with damaged psychological states and very little to look forward to when re-entering society. The environment they have been held in strains relationships and exposes individuals to not only a harsh physical setting but a stressful one as well. It is the system that has a responsibility to make sure this is not the case, as what happens in these Scandinavian nations, however measurable statistics say otherwise. Especially in New Zealand there is a trend of reoffending as well as a significant total population of incarcerated individuals. As is highlighted in the section regarding the Current State within New Zealand. With a system that is not seeming to reform an individual while in jail, there needs to be further investigation into what physical measures could provide a positive psychological influence while reducing exposure to desensitizing circumstances.

Although prison is intended to set an individual on a path of correction, there are very few design intentions that suggest prison is a place of positive transformation. As such, implications that can encourage a positive change in nature should be identified. Jenny Donovan, in the text *Designing to Heal*, establishes basic principles that when followed can establish a premise for people to recover after experiencing natural disasters. Although natural disasters are not the issue in question, rather that of people exiting prison, in this case the ideas Donovan brings awareness to are relatable, as in both instances there is likely to be psychological trauma that needs to be overcome. Donovan mentions that.

“Places are designed to heal when they provide people with the opportunities they need to thrive and the places that offer those opportunities.”⁵¹

She continues by suggesting characteristics of a space or structure that can aid in providing these opportunities, these are that the

51 Jenny Donovan, *Designing to Heal*, ed. Peter Storer Editorial Services, *Designing to Heal : Planning and Urban Design Response to Disaster and Conflict* (Collingwood, Vic.: Collingwood, Vic. : CSIRO Pub., 2013), 261.

design should,

- “Invite occupation
- Resonate with the community
- Enable diverse people to get what they need from it
- Are flexible
- Are connected
- Provide reassurance”⁵²

There is no set framework, when creating a space or structure, which will directly influence a change in an individual’s psychological state. By utilising the values mentioned, however, there is the possibility of creating a platform that instigates change. Finding ways to incorporate these principles within a design could prove to be beneficial in providing someone their best chance to reintegrate into society. The incorporation of these characteristics are not entirely building based rather there are elements of location and services provided within the structure. Ideas that are achievable through composition of design and particular design features include,

“inviting occupation, flexibility, connection and reassurance”⁵³

52 Jenny Donovan, *Designing to Heal*, ed. Peter Storer Editorial Services, *Designing to Heal : Planning and Urban Design Response to Disaster and Conflict* (Collingwood, Vic.: Collingwood, Vic. : CSIRO Pub., 2013), 261.

53 Jenny Donovan, *Designing to Heal*, ed. Peter Storer Editorial Services, *Designing to Heal : Planning and Urban Design Response to Disaster and Conflict* (Collingwood, Vic.: Collingwood, Vic. : CSIRO Pub., 2013), 261.

Transitions

A prison sentence is a period of punishment through the loss of freedom of movement however with the development of prison reform a period of incarceration is now being seen as an opportunity for rehabilitation. Scandinavian models provide good examples of rehabilitation being achieved in a prison environment through a humanitarian response towards individuals who have done wrong in the community. The approach is in both the application of policy within the system and the incorporation of good design.

The nature in which Norwegian and Danish systems treat their imprisoned population is not necessarily replicated in other parts of the world. The current climate in New Zealand is an example of this. These two examples show the problem that exists in the ideas of prisons for reform versus prisons for incarceration. In an ideal scenario, a prison would be the location for an internal corrective change being achieved by prisoners through the re-establishment of personal principles or as Paez describes as,

“moral values (order, truth, goodness)”⁵⁴

Although re-establishing these values is the intention of modern prison facilities, time in spent prison has repercussions that last beyond the time spent behind the perimeter walls. Time in prison often interrupts previously established support networks and usually a disassociation from a standard routine develops. The environment that individuals, in some cases, are incarcerated in make it difficult to acknowledge that time in prison also accounts for time as a necessary period of transition. Examples show that in some instances an appropriate transitional environment is provided for prisoners. However, in scenarios where this is not the case the transitional period tends to occur upon the departure from incarceration. By separating the notion of incarceration and transition there is the potential to cater for particular difficulties that arise specifically during times of change.

Annie Opie has published a study that investigates the struggles that formerly imprisoned individuals face upon their re-entry to the general population. Opie’s publication *From Outlaw to Citizen: making the transition from prison in New Zealand* gives reasoning as to why this transitional period can be so difficult.

“Transitions are times of uncertainty and change. They require a re-working of knowledge and certainties about self and others, and the re-formulation of one’s place in and relationship to society.”⁵⁵

54 Roger Paez, *Critical Prison Design : Mas d’Enric Penitentiary by AiB Arquitectes + Estudi PSP Arquitectura*, ed. AiB Estudi d’Arquitectes and Estudi P S P Arquitectura (New York: New York : Actar Publishers, 2014), 23.

55 Anne Opie, *From Outlaw to Citizen : Making the Transition from Prison in New Zealand* (Auckland, N.Z.: Auckland, N.Z. : Dunmore Pub., 2012), 13.

Opie identifies four important personal factors that individuals need to balance and have some control of in order to establish themselves within society and deal with the change, with respect to,

“the complex nature of a transition from prison and the multiple ongoing demands (personal, social, psychological, economic)”⁵⁶

Not only do people have to re-establish their place in society but they have to adapt to an entirely different physical world. Opie continues,

“Released prisoners must needs manage one way or another the consequences of moving from the highly reductive, closed society of the prison and adjust to the differently complex actuality of living within a democratic society.”⁵⁷

It must be acknowledged that the transition is occurring for individuals who have come from a specific environment. Therefore the transitional environment they are entering should exhibit particular design principles reflective of design decisions that are made when designing or locating a prison. The fundamental ideas respond to the design and composition of buildings as well as what should be accessible and in close proximity to a prison facility. Leslie Fairweather establishes a broad set of elements that prison design should take seriously.

“There are a number of key design factors to consider, from the major issues of location, size, layout and control, to the smaller-scale but no less important questions of accommodation and environmental conditions.”⁵⁸

Fairweather and McConville elaborate further on these points particularly referring to the importance of location, for reasons of connection,

“prisoners should be sited within reasonable proximity to, and have close connections with, the community with which the prisoners have their closest ties.”⁵⁹

To further allow external support, Fairweather and McConville mention the need to have sufficient modes of access.

56 Anne Opie, *From Outlaw to Citizen : Making the Transition from Prison in New Zealand* (Auckland, N.Z.: Auckland, N.Z. : Dunmore Pub., 2012), 7.

57 Anne Opie, *From Outlaw to Citizen : Making the Transition from Prison in New Zealand* (Auckland, N.Z.: Auckland, N.Z. : Dunmore Pub., 2012), 13.

58 Leslie Fairweather and Seán McConville, *Prison Architecture Policy, Design and Experience* (London: London, 2000), 34.

59 Leslie Fairweather and Seán McConville, *Prison Architecture Policy, Design and Experience* (London: London, 2000), 34.

“There should be good public transport links for ease of access for family and friends, and it should be in reasonable proximity to a town or city.”⁶⁰

Fairweather and McConville also suggest a population range for sections of the prison that could potentially allow for slightly more meaningful relationships to form between inmates and prison staff.

“At the lower end of the range, 100-125 beds, staff are able to recognise every resident and develop personal relationships. Although this small size may prove too expensive a solution as a free-standing prison, it is possible as a subdivision or specialist group.”⁶¹

Fairweather and McConville are referring to considerations that provide a more appropriate prison setting, however, in the development of a transitional facility ideas of this nature should be explored and utilised. By adopting these principles with a higher degree of care in the development of a transitional facility, the transition period that occurs post release can become a period of personal growth through re-established connections. Fairweather and McConville explain the importance of providing a platform for relationships to be rekindled and allowing a support network to become established.

“One of the most important factors in an inmates successful return to freedom is to facilitate and encourage the social and emotional support that can be given by family and friends.”⁶²

Fairweather and McConville make the point that however hard the architecture works, in facilities of a transitional nature, not every individual will be influenced in the same manner.

“Buildings affect people in a wide variety of ways. Some are deeply influenced by their surroundings, others scarcely notice them.”⁶³

It has been established in the most part that conditions individuals are exposed to within prison facilities lack an empathetic tone.

60 Leslie Fairweather and Seán McConville, *Prison Architecture Policy, Design and Experience* (London: London, 2000), 34.
61 Leslie Fairweather and Seán McConville, *Prison Architecture Policy, Design and Experience* (London: London, 2000), 37.
62 Leslie Fairweather and Seán McConville, *Prison Architecture Policy, Design and Experience* (London: London, 2000), 34.
63 Leslie Fairweather and Seán McConville, *Prison Architecture Policy, Design and Experience* (London: London, 2000), 34.

Prison environments usually remove access to emotional and social support that had previously existed, creating issues that have the potential to last beyond an inmate's period of sentence. By adopting a more sympathetic approach there is the opportunity to mitigate the usual complications, both mentally and physically. As prison systems are not currently adopting a sympathetic approach the transition period for these individuals now occurs the moment they are released from prison, this becomes the next best opportunity for intervention. By addressing the issues highlighted in this chapter, with the help of architecture as a tool it may provide better success in the re-wiring of an offenders thought process and decision making abilities.

Prison Typologies

Through the development and application of prison reform a basic architecture of prison buildings has been established.

Prison typologies that have become most commonly used tend exhibit two notable features, those being the ease at which individuals can be moved through the facility safely, and the allowance of effective surveillance. In order to achieve these design intentions successfully prison design tends to be condensed into a single uninterrupted structure, with three particular design models being established. The most identifiable typologies are those known as the wheel and spoke, the courtyard typology and the telegraph pole. Each particular design typology has various characteristics that can be beneficial and aid in proactive design, nonetheless there can also be issues.

Due to the generic nature of these basic typologies issues arise in regards to inmate stimulation, in particular stemming from the repetitive and simple nature of many facilities. Not only do these typologies create a monotonous environment they also tend to house inmates in close proximity to one another which, if not treated respectfully can lead to aggression between staff and inmates causing unnecessary stress.

Although the general progression of prison reform is to provide an opportunity for positive change within a prison environment, the continued use of particularly telegraph pole and courtyard design conflicts this intention.

Wheel & Spoke

The wheel and spoke design tends to offer itself to a more variable design as it is not such a rigid and rectilinear model. Within a design of this nature a central hub of communal and or administrative facilities act as a centre point in which wings containing the living spaces branch off from. It is an appropriate basis for hybrid design in which other typologies are incorporated, and it tends to be the most frequently adopted starting point in new prison design. The arrangement of different facilities creates a series of zones in which individuals would carry out usual day to day activities in different areas of the institution, along with maintaining the ease of movement that all the basic typologies allow. The basic framework of this type of design allows for interesting residual spaces to occur between structures and occasionally the continuity of the building is broken up leading to separate building masses that resemble the wheel and spoke design.

Courtyard

A courtyard focused design is another one of the simple frameworks where a building encapsulates an internal space of varying size. Inmates usually occupy this encapsulated space during recreational time outside their cells. Often in this instance it is the cells that border the courtyard and as such a rigid and inward focussed notion occurs, it is not unusual for this typology to be adopted as a unit of cells rather than on a holistic scale. Easy observation is one of the reasons that this particular typology can be established at a reduced scale. The issue of scale has the potential to create spaces that are rarely intimate and to an appropriate human scale which in some instances can be uncomfortable. A major factor in this prison typology being adopted is the ease of surveillance by institutional staff with inmates able to be observed from every direction when inhabiting the central courtyard.

Telegraph Pole

The telegraph pole design consists of a series of parallel rows of buildings that are occasionally connected. The connection allows for ease of movement and in terms of building mass the design is an efficient use of cell layout. Much like the courtyard design, the series of parallel structures produce instances where cells look towards one another, creating an internally focussed environment. The nature of the building arrangement often means that the external environmental condition of one structure is altered by that of another. By altering the external environment acting on the building the internal condition is altered as well.

Forward thinking can successfully incorporate these basic frameworks into prisons that are effective in creating positive change within the incarcerated population. A good example of this is Denmark's Storstrøm Prison. In the composition of this facility there is a successful adoption of the wheel and spoke typology that is used within a hybrid typology that generates a less oppressive atmosphere.

Campus

Although not frequently seen in prison design in particular, a campus typology that is often used in schools, universities and hospitals can provide sensible solutions to align prison design with the ideas established in general prison reform. With Halden

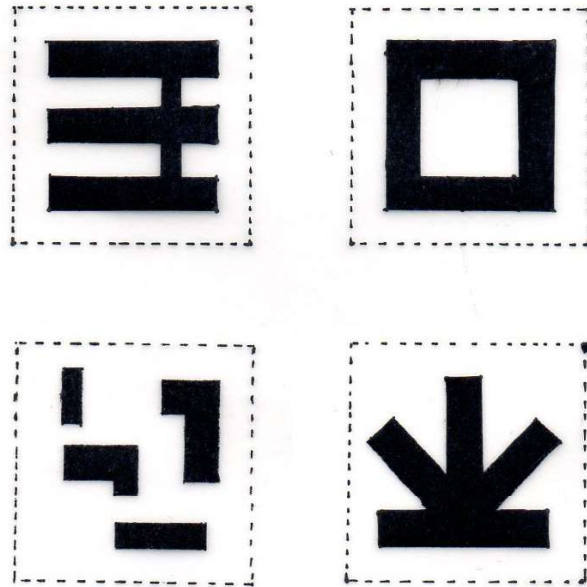


Figure 5: Prison Typologies
Top Left: Telegraph Pole
Top Right: Courtyard
Bottom Left: Campus
Bottom Right: Wheel & Spoke

Fengsal in Norway adopts a campus typology that has proven to be successful for individuals that adopt the system offered to them. By utilising this typology that is also used frequently in facilities that the general population use, it could provide an important middle ground to house individuals going through a transitional period in their lives.

Mount Eden Corrections Facility

Stephenson Turner (Expansion Architects - Completed 2011)

One of the prisons currently undergoing expansion is located within the urban centre of Auckland, as such it is predominantly used to hold remand prisoners awaiting trial or sentencing. The central location of Mount Eden prison presents itself as the most reasonable option for a remand prison due to its proximity to the Auckland courts. Due to the location of this prison, a major typological implication occurs, the prison adopts high rise typology with the cellblocks stacked one on top of the other. The internal composition of these cellblocks is an example of an entirely internal courtyard typology with minimal or no views to the external environment. Increasing prison numbers has led to a current expansion, in the form of a multi-story building, which intends to add room for an additional 245 individuals.⁶⁴ The addition of beds will increase the population, which as of December 31st, 2018, was 799 remand prisoners and 86 sentenced prisoners. Of the total prison population within New Zealand at this time the population within Mount Eden Prison accounts for 9%.⁶⁵

Notably, this particular facility is one of New Zealand's most recent to undergo major expansion with the creation of a multi-story unit. Considering this is a recent expansion it begins to establish the conditions prisoners in New Zealand will experience in a more contemporary facility. As such it identifies a plausible environment prisoners in this country are at some stage of incarceration likely to encounter. Noticeably there is a suggestion of individuals having to live in bunking situations, and therefore, in close proximity to other inmates, potentially causing further issues. Although present-day materials are used, there is a definite brutality to the interior suggesting that these finishes need to be robust enough to withstand rough treatment. Located within the shared space of the cellblocks are areas in which inmates can prepare food and do their own washing of personal clothing. The noticeable physical segregation between inmates and the prison guards shows a clear notion of a direct line of observance, this suggests that the only personable interaction that occurs is inmate to inmate. In addition to the minimal visual connection to the outside world, the lack of interaction between inmates and people who experience the general population regularly, is sure to further disassociate the imprisoned population from normality. It is under these conditions that individuals are expected to undergo a reformatory transition and put themselves in a position to operate effectively amongst the general population.

64 New Zealand Department of Corrections, "Mt Eden Corrections Facility Increasing Capacity at Mt Eden Corrections Facility."

65 New Zealand Department of Corrections, "Prison Facts and Statistics - December 2018," 2019, https://www.corrections.govt.nz/resources/research_and_statistics/quarterly_prison_statistics/prison_stats_december_2018.



*Figure 6: Mount
Eden Corrections
Facility High Rise
Typology*

*Figure 7: Mount Eden Corrections
Facility Interior Courtyard*



Spring Hill Corrections Facility

Stephenson & Turner (completed 2007)

Spring Hill Corrections Facility caters for male inmates that are classified as minimum to high security individuals. Located in Mere-mere, in New Zealand's Waikato region, the prison covers 215 hectares and is one of the country's largest prison facilities. Opened in September 2007, the design is somewhat similar to a wheel and spoke typology, where the prison branches out from an administration block that guards the entry. In close proximity to the administration area is a multi-use building that caters for a number of activities including facilities for recreation and cultural connection, such as a designated Fale and a Whare, as well as opportunities to gain competency in various skills. A sports field separates the cellblocks and the areas of production that exist within the multi-use structure, with all facilities being enclosed by a perimeter fence. The majority of the cellblocks adhere to a figure eight plan, allowing for two courtyard spaces for each cluster of cells, a number of these courtyards are grassed but there are a few that have been concrete sealed. The remaining cellblocks, that are located within a separately fenced area, resemble an offset telegraph pole typology which reduces the commonly occurring issue of altered environmental conditions on the buildings parallel to them. The facilities were initially intended to hold 650 individuals with the majority of the inmates being encouraged to transition back into routine life outside prison with the necessary support through an established pathway. However, with the implementation of double bunking and the loss of focus in regards to reintegration the total capacity of the prison is now 1038 individuals.⁶⁶ As of December 2018, Spring Hill Corrections Facility was home to 869 male prisoners,⁶⁷ of which 211 individuals have been classified as remand prisoners. The facility attempts to retain its goal of successful rehabilitation through the use of industry upskilling and educational programs such as release to work. It also offers various stages of living that range from single person cells to a more independent style of living where an individual can go about a daily routine with fewer restrictions.

The typology of the cellblocks suggest that it allows a connection to the outside from each cell however, the notions of insularity and confinement still exist with the connection to the external environment likely to be extremely limited.

Interim Conclusion

Spring Hill Corrections facility is an example of a facility that has the possibility to provide a good opportunity for

66 Peter Boshier, "Report on an Unannounced Inspection of Spring Hill Corrections Facility Under the Crimes of Torture Act 1989," 2017, http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/ckeditor_assets/attachments/522/OPCAT_Spring_Hill_report_PDF.pdf.

67 New Zealand Department of Corrections, "Prison Facts and Statistics - December 2018."

Figure 8: Spring Hill Corrections Facility Figure Ground of Building Mass

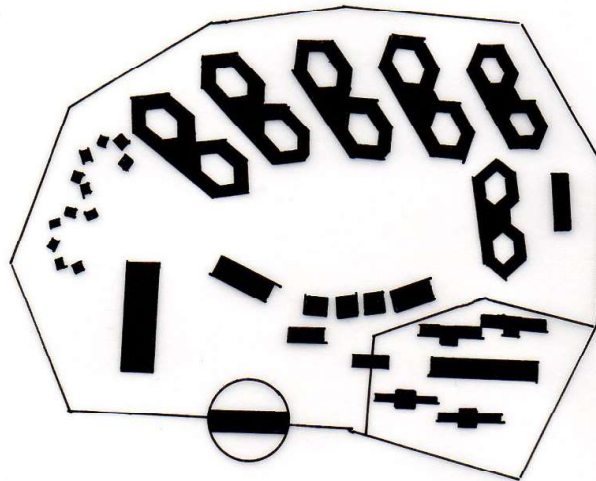




Figure 9: Spring Hill Corrections Facility Figure 8 Cellblock Courtyard



Figure 10: Spring Hill Corrections Facility, view from Whare

Figure 11: Spring Hill Corrections Facility Self Contained Units Observation House



Figure 12: Spring Hill Corrections Facility Cellblock Interior



Figure 13: Spring Hill Corrections Facility Single Cell

self-improvement during a period of incarceration. There are hints of a rehabilitative processes being incorporated and considered with more than just cellblocks located on site, individual cabins and the inclusion of culturally significant structures prove this. Although there are positive interventions there is a clear indication that the overall condition is harsh and institutionalised, in some aspects negating the effects of the positive schemes within the facility. The materials used are austere and robust and there are additional notions of confinement aside from the large perimeter fence. The furniture and layout of the single bed cell spaces are well considered with some privacy existing between the living and bathroom areas as well as the inclusion of a desk, however the finishes do not provide a domestic atmosphere. With a large number of individuals within the same space and the mixing of different security levels there could be a detrimental effect on the individuals on the lower end of the classifications. The incorporation of skill based learning is a positive step however, with the off-site location and the prison itself taking control of the transport the notion of a commute that an individual has to be responsible for does not exist.

Odyssey Programme

The intervention programs discussed in this chapter can both be categorised as residential therapeutic community models. A residential therapeutic community is a treatment method for addiction, mental illness and personality disorders in which carers and patients work collaboratively and often share the same living facilities. The intention is not only to improve addictive behaviours but encourage a positive holistic lifestyle change.

“The Therapeutic Community model includes aspects of the following: Behaviour modification, Cognitive behaviour therapy, Supportive psychotherapy, Psychodynamic therapy when appropriate, Stage of change model - Motivational Enhancement Therapy.”⁶⁸

Odyssey, Auckland

The Odyssey program in Auckland is a residential live in facility that acts as a recovery centre for individuals that have had addiction problems with drugs and alcohol. It also provides services to individuals that have previously spent time in correctional facilities, who may enter the live-in community with a professional’s referral. In order to be accepted into the community, participants are required to have gone through a period of detoxification before entering. Specific aspects within the facility inform how the programme intends to operate in an attempt to create a productive, domestic atmosphere. Each individual has their own private room with access to areas of communal use that includes a kitchen, dining, and living spaces. Located within the premises are various facilities that encourage the residents to engage in physical activity, on offer are a number of sporting facilities, a gym and a swimming pool. A therapeutic community can only be achieved through the collective effort of both the staff and residents, the aim is to generate a positive and cohesive atmosphere that promotes the establishment of new behaviours. To encourage a progressive shift in the mental health of residents, counselling sessions are offered along with establishing interaction and connections with medical professionals. In order to allow the residents to appropriately recover, as well as keep social connections open, family visitation is allowed but is limited to particular times. The limited connection to family members provides an additional level of support during the recovery process while also ensuring that the individual makes a concerted solo effort in their own recovery process.

On the completion of the programme, Odyssey offers further support to aid the former residents in the learning of life skills, opportunities for future employment and by providing a network of support services that the individual can revisit if needed.

The program creates an immersive environment in order to provide the best opportunity for individual improvement and clearly establishes a positive atmosphere. Although theoretically positive actions are being taken, the architecture in general does not seem conducive to the scheme. On face value the live in facility operates from a retrofitted building, which could make the orientation of spaces difficult, it is an admirable use of an existing building. However, it begs the question that if the building was specifically designed would it become more of an aid in recovery? Currently there is a single building that contains all the interior services including kitchens, living areas, bedrooms and the gymnasium, seeming to suggest the building is more of a container for services rather than a tool to assist rehabilitation. There is no architectural cues to improve social relations or mimic everyday society in terms of a commute to and from particular destinations. As such it could provide a sense of shelter and protection, which is important, but could it more appropriately respond to the idea of a transition. Where one goes through a period of personal growth in both mental wellbeing and the physical movements required to complete a successful transition. All facilities mentioned so far are physical in nature, this is important, but should not be the only focus in terms of additional facilities. By incorporating resources designed for the learning and development of skills such as workshops and kitchens the programme would offer further opportunity to acquire transferrable skills. The total area of the vicinity gives an indication as to the amount of space required to fit a range of services on a single site that requires both indoor and outdoor space.

Odyssey, Christchurch

The Odyssey programme located in Christchurch is a male only facility that contains accommodation for twenty three residents. It also adopts a therapeutic community model that looks to instigate a change in an individual's lifestyle that harbours personal growth.

“Residents receive extensive assessment, group therapy as well as education and recreational opportunities”⁶⁹

As with the model in Auckland it requires the staff and residents to work collaboratively in order to develop valuable life skills while

in the facility. The programme creates a daily structure for the individuals helping develop a routine, the daily structure and experiences are used to create a pattern for an improved standard of living. As the level of independence of the individual increases they earn the privilege of increased visitor access. The structure of the day is explained to be based around activities such as,

“housekeeping, work (vocational training), therapy groups, personal time, teaching group, meetings and recreation.”⁷⁰

The residents stay is often funded by the governments income support benefit with additional funds being provided by the Ministry of Health or the local District Health Board if required. New residents entering the facility require to be free of any non-prescribed substances and are helped in adapting to their new surroundings by residents that have been in the programme for some time.

An important factor in this model is the residents being able to implement self-help, this could be an important notion in how the architecture of a facility like this is arranged. Architecture in this case can be used as a tool in order to directionally aid residents, and establish an individual’s sense of independence which is important for their integration into society.

Interim Conclusion

Both examples are insightful as to how a holistic community model can deal with addiction issues as well as restoring an individual’s ability to operate independently after difficult times. By mimicking a home environment it provides domestic elements with the integration of communal facilities, along with encouraging interaction during times of the day that social connections are likely to be made. A privacy gradient is established allowing ample space for individuals to have their own time as well as choosing to, at times, be in a shared environment. By allowing the families to enter at certain stages it establishes a reconnect however does not allow the resident to become reliant on outside support, once again encouraging independence.

Day to day within the programmes there is a reasonably organised schedule in order to keep the individuals active which is partly reflective of how society operates. It establishes a new routine as well as giving little opportunity for the wrong behaviours to reoccur.

The variation of facilities available on site in particular at the Auckland location allows for physical activity, which is key in



Figure 14: Odyssey House Christchurch, Residential Therapeutic Community

Figure 15: Odyssey House Christchurch, Interior Condition



developing good exercise habits as well as remaining physically healthy. The most limiting factor in both instances to some degree is that they are operated out of what look to be retrofitted buildings, somewhat limiting the ability of the architectural or built form to encourage how one operates within the facility. Unlike other examples, the architectural composition of these programs do not provide a noticeable commute between various tasks. Architecture can in some ways have the ability to affect how individuals interact or respond to a particular space but in this case the spaces are pre-prescribed and therefore prove limiting.

People at Risk Solutions (PARS)

Another organisation that assists individuals leaving the prison system or at risk youth is People at Risk Solutions (PARS). The organisation aims to provide various services for people in the upper North Island, from south of Auckland's Bombay Hills through to the northern most tip of the country.

PARS provides welfare services to at risk people out of their operational offices located within the Unitec, Mt Albert campus. By integrating the operational centre of the organisation within an already established campus they are able to provide appropriate services in an arrangement that is fitting. The Carrington Road location can be described as,

“a good typology to offer a range of services while using the tertiary institute as a form of protection for the individuals using the services as the general stigma can be obscured by the diversity that tends to occur at institutes of this nature.”⁷¹

PARS also offers avenues of supported living conditions and other accommodation options for a minimum of three months, up to six months, and on condition longer. PARS looks to provide support for former inmates as soon as they leave a correctional facility based on referrals by the New Zealand Correctional Services. Transport is organised directly from the prison gates to the living arrangement that best suits the individual, this is where the PARS intervention begins. One of the biggest reasons PARS looks to nurture people from the earliest possible point of intervention is that young offenders, those under the age of thirty, can potentially offend a further eight times after previously being exposed to prison conditions.

One of the benefits of the PARS system is that it offers support, in the way of assisted living, for some while also providing individual living options. Living arrangements range from multiple bedroom houses that have live in support workers to individual studio apartments, suitable for individuals that cannot cope in a shared facility. With the ability to provide various living options the organisation is able to offer a positive service for people from different backgrounds be it cultural, ethnic or value based (gang related). It also allows individuals to progress from supported living conditions to independent living incrementally, while enabling the more independent individuals to have continued psychological support. Additionally, the typology of each of the various living options creates an atmosphere as far removed from prison conditions as possible, there are significant differences in materiality. Materi-

als are deliberately not as hardwearing as in a prison environment and it has been reported that there are minimal instances of property damage. Suggesting that individuals in the most part treat materials with respect. The location of each of these living situations are chosen due to their proximity to basic necessities and public transport routes, in order to encourage independent living.

The intention of PARS is to re-establish a sense of personal welfare, through the use of various resources ranging from the counselling services through to the various living options. Welfare in this instance has been established through six sub-categories that contribute to ones overall wellbeing, these are accommodation, employment, health, education, financial stability and family (whanau). By finding ways to address these categories there is an ability to restore independence as well as providing a premise for future growth. It aims to provide these people with options as well as confidence.

Storstrøm Prison, Denmark

C.F. Moller (2017)

Storstrøm Prison is a correctional institute in Gundslev Denmark, which was completed in 2017 by the architects group C.F. Moller. The facility that has a capacity of 250 inmates is intended to be less institutionalised, while still providing a secure and pleasant condition for employees. The high-security prison aims to create an architectural environment that is humane and allows socialising, with the focus being on the wellbeing of the users within the facility. As such the architecture looks to create an appropriate setting for personal development, the learning of skills and exposure to arts and culture, as individuals would in the general population. Along with the inclusion of sporting facilities the prison provides the inmates with both physical and mental support in a non-threatening environment.

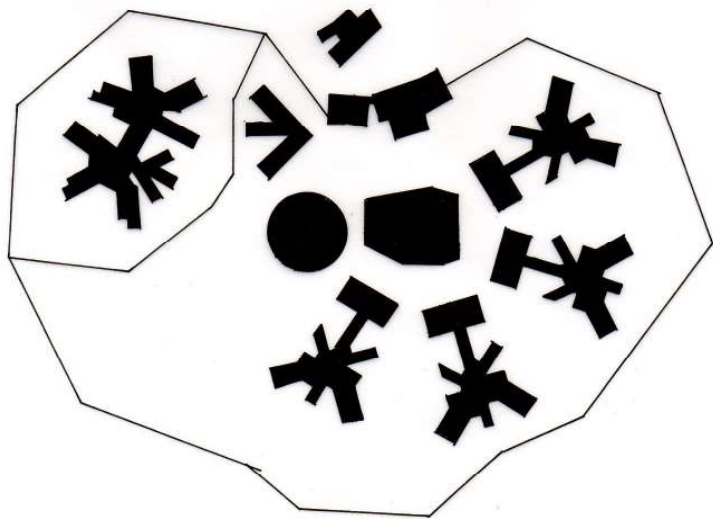
One of the key ideas behind the design was to incorporate building masses that are reflective of the scale and structure of a small provincial community, this extends to the inclusion of streets and squares. Not only does this reduce the typically imposing nature of prisons, it also creates residual spaces that can be likened to how the composition of a small town tends to have areas of compression and release. These spaces can also be referred to as bump spaces.

Architecturally, there is variation in the angularity of the facades and rooflines along with a range of façade materials including bricks, concrete and steel. Not only does this create an aesthetic interest it is also appropriate as the selection of materials are durable, hardy and utilised in a manner that is not reflective of a standard incarceration facility.

There are some parallels to a traditional wheel and spoke prison layout with cellblocks surrounding a central hub, however the use of interesting geometry reduces the aridity experienced in most modern facilities of this nature. The centre-point of the prison, that makes this hub, contains the administration building as well as a secondary multipurpose building that includes,

“a church, multi-faith prayer room, library, music room, healthcare unit, sports hall and ‘supermarket’.”⁷²

Collectively this establishes the core of the facility.



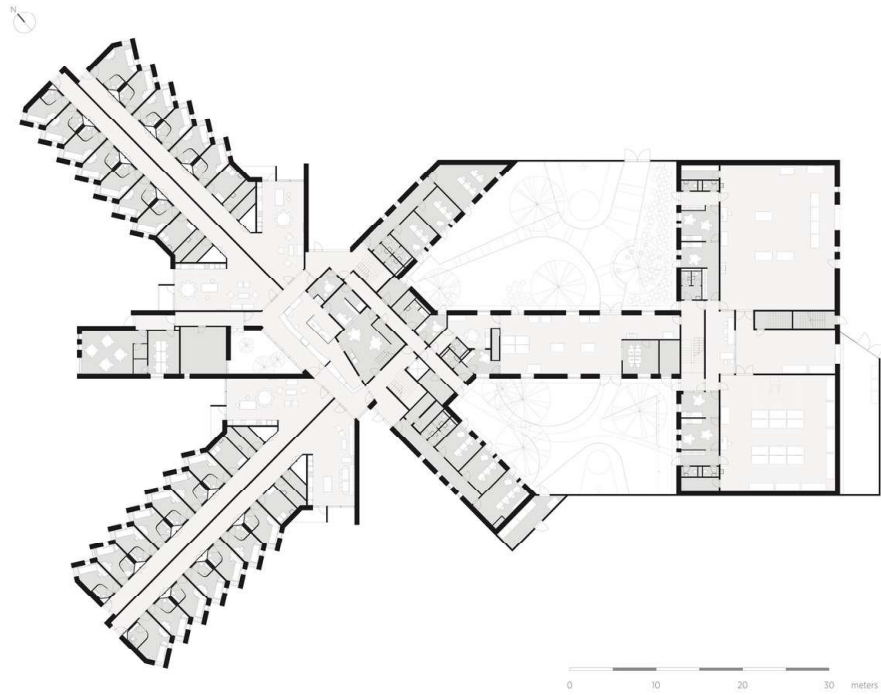
*Figure 17: Storstrøm Prison
View of Cellblock*



*Figure 18: Storstrøm Prison
Courtyard Space*



*Figure 16: Storstrøm Prison
Figure Ground of Building Mass*



*Figure 19: Storstrøm Prison
Floorplan of Cellblock Wing*



*Figure 20: Storstrøm Prison
Communal Shared Space*



*Figure 21: Storstrøm Prison
Internal Courtyard*

The street like infrastructure then diverges from the building towards a series of “accommodation units”⁷³ these contain a series of individual cells which more so resemble bedrooms, and a communal kitchen and living space that the inmates occupy and use to cook their own food. Notably the individual rooms are orientated so as the outlook from the non-barred window is not in the direct line of sight of another inmate’s private area. Incorporated within the communal areas are engaging colour schemes with each unit a different colour, it acts, in some respect, as a place marker as well as adding liveliness; although in some instances this becomes overwhelming.⁷⁴ Within these communal areas there is also considered integration of effective daylighting.

Interim Conclusion

Storstrøm Prison sets a precedent as to how a prison can act as a structure of imprisonment while also allowing a sense of normality in an inmates life. The prison achieves this through a range of factors including the orientation of living spaces and the incorporation of daylight.

The environment provided to inmates creates an improved atmosphere through town square-esque bump spaces and splashes of colour, as well as interesting design elements that obscures the sterile, repetitive nature of most other modern prisons.

Within the walls lies a hint of independence and an opportunity to learn transferrable skills. There is also an introduction to the scale and challenge of a general township typology that one must learn to navigate through, there are very few parallels to a large scale institutional building.

It allows the occupants to still continue to practice their faiths and adheres appropriately to a variety of cultures, giving the inmates a chance to maintain or develop their own personal beliefs.

It is an example of how the incorporation of architecture and improving ideas regarding incarceration can confine individuals under high security conditions while allowing them to upkeep a degree of independence.

73 Francesca Perry, “The Danish Maximum-Security Prison Where Wellbeing Comes First,” Blueprint, 2018, <http://www.designcurial.com/news/storstrm-prison-by-cf-mller-6040669/>.

74 Francesca Perry, “The Danish Maximum-Security Prison Where Wellbeing Comes First,” Blueprint, 2018, <http://www.designcurial.com/news/storstrm-prison-by-cf-mller-6040669/>.



Figure 22: Storstrøm Prison
Prayer Room

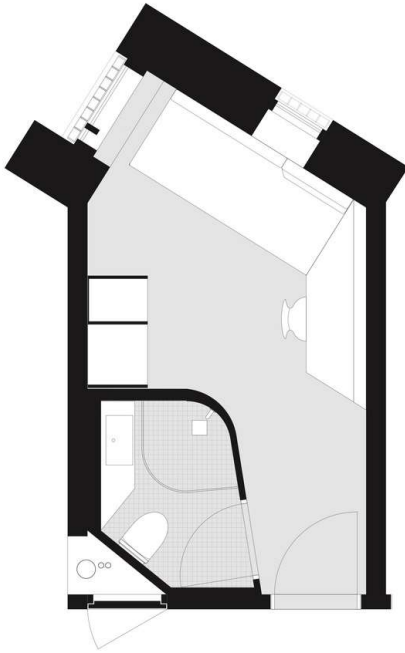


Figure 23: Storstrøm Prison
Floorplan of Cell

Figure 24: Storstrøm Prison
Cell



Halden Prison

HLM Arkitektur (2010)

Halden Fengsel in Norway is a high security prison that architecturally reflects the Norwegian response of empathy in the treatment of their incarcerated population. The physicality of the facility and the human element operating within the prison goes further than solely providing a safe environment for the residents.

The documentary *Prison: Breaking the Cycle* directed by Tomas Lindh and John Stark compares the method of treatment towards prisoners in an American prison with those serving sentences in Halden Fengsel.

There is a clear intention to offer the inhabitants an appropriate premise to serve their sentence, build social connections and develop life skills. Additionally the prisoners are offered exposure to various skills that are reflective of what could become an established profession within the general population post sentence. For the entire scheme to be successful the architecture has an obligation to aid the empathetic intention. As such, the design not only reflects a sense of normality but it is also suggestive of a lifestyle pattern that can be replicated once the prisoners leave the facility. The intention of the facility is to retain normality, in order to achieve this there is an attempt to resemble society as much as possible.

Gudrun Modlen of HLM Arkitektur, the lead architect of the project, concisely identifies the notion and therefore the parameters that the architecture has to work within,

“The sentence is taking away the freedom. Everyday life shouldn’t be a sentence.”⁷⁵

By treating incarcerated individuals in a humane manner the hope is that it will enable more opportunity, reduce criminality and as a result establish a more civilised individual returning to society. In order to achieve this the approximately 240 sentenced individuals are staffed by 360 guards, where the staff are encouraged to establish positive social interaction between themselves and the inhabitants. By the staff engaging with the prisoners in a more compassionate manner respect is established and in essence the respect creates a further level of safety.

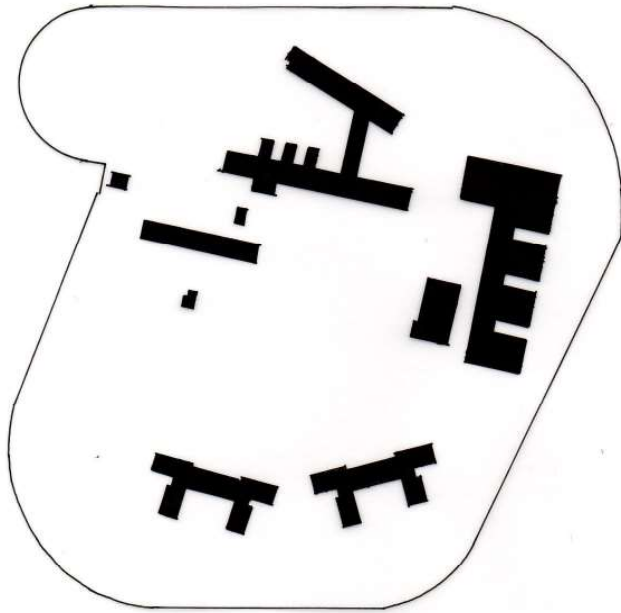


Figure 25: Halden Prison
Figure Ground of
Building Mass



Figure 26: Halden Prison
External Environment

The documentary *Breaking the Cycle* also highlights various initiatives that occur in the facility. One factor is that in order to retain a personal identity inmates have the choice to wear their own clothes. To suggest a sense of independence inmates are encouraged to prepare their own food and eat their meals in a manner that instigates positive social interaction. The gathering together and interaction around meal times reflects what tends to happen in life outside prison.

When it comes to work within the prison walls Halden Fengsel offers the advancement of skill based learning that goes beyond basic skills. The facilities on site for those serving sentences provide opportunity to learn more specific skills such as sound engineering, car mechanics and even includes a culinary school.

Halden Fengsel's deputy warden, Jan Strømnes, explains the reasoning as to the level of care that is offered to these sentenced individuals stating,

“A good correctional treatment has a huge long term effect on society”⁷⁶

Interim Conclusion

Halden Fengsel is a campus rather than a single continuous building, this encourages the inmates to travel from one building to another during their daily routine. The movement through the complex not only replicates a routine commute but forces physical movement through an outdoor environment. To achieve this notion the prisons facilities are separated into three core activities, these being education, visitation and housing. As such an indoor outdoor commute occurs in order for an individual to carry out various tasks throughout their time in prison. Movement within the prison during day to day activities replicates the commute that one has to undertake to travel to and from a work environment.

Separating these facilities immediately establishes a campus style cluster of buildings rather than a single building mass which is often the norm for prisons. Not only does this separation encourage a regularity to an inmate's day it also encourages an engagement with the external environment. The external environment that exists between the prison buildings and the perimeter wall is important for the



Figure 27: Halden Prison Courtyard

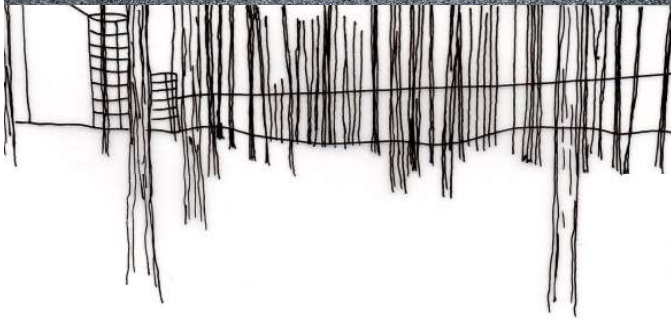


Figure 28: Halden Prison Sketch of Vegetation Obstructing the Wall



Figure 29: Halden Prison Cell

commute but also the design intention from an internal perspective.

Much like a normal household each living area and personal quarters has an outward view, with no bars and a clear outlook to the surrounding environment. With such a large focus on allowing the inmates to observe an outdoor environment there is a significant amount of greenery within the site. Not only does this provide a variable view as the seasons change, allowing the inmates to recognise the passage of time, but also visually breaks up the continuity of the wall that encloses them. To add to the visual appeal within the walls a number of contemporary art pieces have also been included on site.

In terms of the internal architecture, the individual rooms are also non-reflective of a typical harsh and uninviting prison cell. Each inmate is allocated their own room which includes an enclosed bathroom, a refrigerator, storage for personal belongings and a desk. The prisoners are also encouraged to interact with other inmates and prison guards in communal living areas which are used for general recreation and meal preparation. General living areas are set up in a similar fashion to a common room, rather than a food court seating area, and provide a comfortable shared setting to interact. Guard stations in these common areas are deliberately designed to be used sparingly which encourages the guards to mingle with the prisoners on a more personal level.

In the example of Halden Fengsel it is the combination of compassion, the services offered and the integration of architecture as a tool that prepares people for reintegration to society.

Rotterdam's Cube Houses

Piet Bloom (Original Design, 1974), Personal Architecture (Adaptation, 2005)

Originally developed in 1974, Piet Bloom's cube houses were designed as a response to the brief for a pedestrian bridge over a major roadway in Rotterdam. What eventuated was a forty unit housing development of an arrangement of rotated cubes that included a series of public spaces in some of the more spacious forms. Initially two thirds of the designated public building were occupied however, the remaining third was never inhabited. When the Architecture Academy vacated their spaces in 1998 the entire public building area remained unused until in 2005, when Personal Architecture were involved in renovating the vacated spaces.⁷⁷ The composition of the unusual forms created difficulty in providing adequate light to the centre of the building with a disconnect occurring between the various levels, due in part to the layout of the stairs.

The first of the renovated public edifice became a forty-nine room hostel that spread out from a central void. The remaining space became part of a prisoner reintroduction programme, known as the Exodus Foundation, in which individuals have the opportunity to be housed during the last nine to fifteen months of their sentence.⁷⁸ It was as much an architectural answer to a difficult form as it was an aid in providing a social service to the community. Individuals who have left prison and are struggling to adapt are also accepted into the program on an application basis. With up to twenty available live in spaces in the complex, it is as much about putting these individuals in some reasonable shelter as it is about fostering new relationships and social connection. All while placing people in an environment to upskill and reduce the chances of reoffending.⁷⁹

The existing structure provided the basis for a vertical separation of various functions within the building which creates an element of privacy and security but can also hinder social connections. The ground floor operates as a reception area as well as space for administrative duties, in this, a semi-secure entrance is established. People that pass through this space in order to meet with a resident can be observed by individuals manning the reception area. Individual rooms are located along the perimeter of the first and second floors with the residual space surrounding a central void being utilised as communal space. Remaining communal facilities such as a shared kitchen, additional work space and common living areas all occupy the uppermost floor. The separation of the communal facilities from where individuals have their own private rooms also inadvertently creates areas of productivity and areas of rest, both socially

77 Cristina Ampatzidou, "A Halfway House for Ex-Prisoners in Rotterdam," uncube, 2014, <http://www.uncubemagazine.com/blog/12788579>.

78 Sammy Medina, "Failed Icon Of Social Housing Becomes New Home For Former Inmates," 2013, <https://www.fastcompany.com/3016606/icon-of-social-housing-transformed-into-a-new-home-for-former-inmates>.

79 Cristina Ampatzidou, "A Halfway House for Ex-Prisoners in Rotterdam," uncube, 2014, <http://www.uncubemagazine.com/blog/12788579>

Figure 30: Rotterdam Cube Houses
Section Showing Program

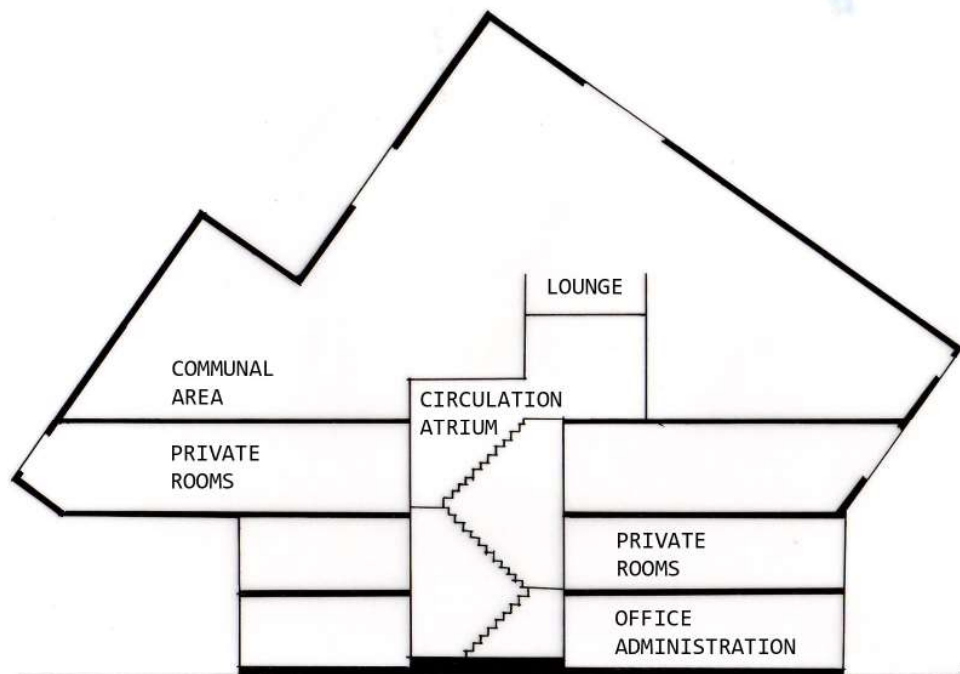




Figure 31: Rotterdam Cube Houses Central Atrium



Figure 32: Rotterdam Cube Houses Communal Area



Figure 33: Rotterdam Cube Houses Bedroom

and physically.

The architectural intervention of opening up a central void not only created a more liveable and brighter atmosphere, it also encouraged interaction between the inhabitants. Where previously each floor was visually disconnected from another there was now a channel in which communication or visual awareness could exist. The atrium also provides a secondary level of security through the centre of the building as the visual connection allows the residents to see who is coming. Living in the Cube Houses allows former inmates to establish a sense of independence and puts them in a position to foster positive future relationships.

Birkimörk Halfway House, Iceland

PK Arkitektar ehf (2017)

Birkimörk halfway house is a block of five apartments with adjoining services for use by support staff and individuals visiting residents, as well as offering communal spaces for the residents. Located in Hveragerði, Iceland, about 45 kilometres from Reykjavik, the building is nestled in the lowlands of nearby mountains in the small town of approximately 1,700 people. The design intends to imply a structured living facility that has minimal association to institutionalised living. It provides an appropriate insight as to how you can effectively manage people from a rigid previous environment with close proximity to one another but in a respectful manner.

The transition from public to semi-public areas is through a well disguised L-shaped entryway that leads to the communal areas of the building, access to the more private spaces is along the single sky lit corridor. The central corridor allows easy movement through the entire facility and makes wayfinding very straightforward.⁸⁰

The communal facilities that can be used by visiting family members, support staff and residents include a living area, kitchen, bathroom and various service rooms all of which are clustered towards the southern end of the building. The occupant's private rooms are on the opposite side of the building with each 35 square metre unit containing a small en-suite bathroom, minor kitchenette and a bed. Each unit opens up to a shared outdoor space that connects the north-western and north-eastern façades of the building. Large horizontal chunks are removed from the rigid, regular form to allow light to enter the building, creating some variation in the building's façade.⁸¹ The finishes are basic and to a degree sterile due to the crispness of the finish, white plaster and walnut timber finishings with the addition of a tiled kitchen splashback.

The nature of the finish almost replicates a mid-range hotel however the brief described durable material with the only variation in colour coming from the timber itself and the tiled splashback. The exterior condition of the building along with the layout of external walls and the nestling of the building in its site creates an atmosphere that in the most part seems uninviting. At the main entrance this is not the case, rather the building is engaging on approach and invites one around the corner into the beginning of the central corridor.

80 PKdM Arkitektar, "Birkimörk," accessed April 23, 2019, <https://pkdm.is/projects/birkimork>.

81 PKdM Arkitektar.

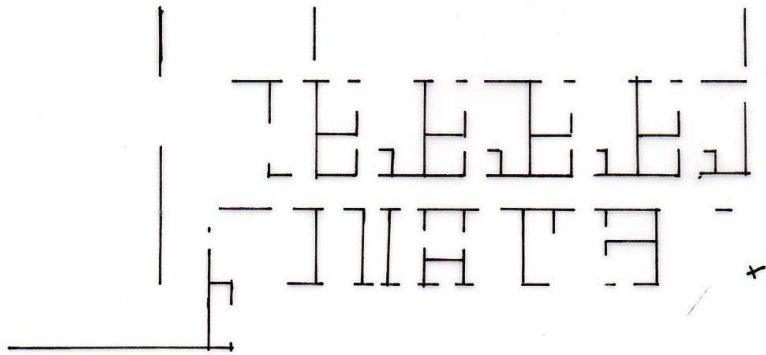


Figure 34: Birkimörk Halfway House Floor Plan



Figure 35: Birkimörk Halfway House Entryway



Figure 36: Birkimörk Halfway House Hallway



Figure 37: Birkimörk Halfway House Communal Area

From this precedent ideas in regards to the layout and the movement of individuals through spaces can be gathered, as well as, considerations of the internal environment. In the case of the Birkimörk Halfway House it is the internal condition that should predominantly be focused on in regards to what it offers the residents. Due to the geographical location of Iceland the structure needs significant wind protection in external spaces as well as being considered as to how much light is able to penetrate deep into the building. Throughout the year, Iceland experiences periods in which there are only four to five hours of effective daylight and other times where effective daylight lasts for twenty one hours a day. It is because of these unusual daylight hours that the internal condition is conceived independently of the external environment.

Distinguishing what works and what does not from this example will be important in the living areas of the facility that intends to be created.

Butaro Hospital, Rwanda

MASS Design Group (2011)

Completed in January 2011, the Butaro Hospital was the first hospital in the Burera District of Rwanda, a region with a population of 340,000 people. Butaro Hospital is the first building of this nature in the area and is important in showing the influence architecture has within a community. The design allows for the social interaction that occurs when individuals are unwell, a particular trademark of the country's culture. The use of a campus typology and the composition of individual buildings, allows for effective patient management and social interaction to occur without shunning the patient's family from the process. The relationship to the context and inter-building relationship is also well considered. In order to successfully produce a complex that successfully responds to the architectural problem and addresses cultural norms in the area, the MASS Design Group adopted a philosophy that focussed on,

“user experience, contextual response and community impact.”⁸²

Butaro Hospital not only respects local customs in the recovery process, it also provides 140 bed spaces, a number of wards, operating rooms and emergency medicine facilities, with a total land coverage of 6,040 m².

Interim Conclusion

Butaro Hospital demonstrates the positive influence architecture can have within a community, and through the use of passive ventilation how to appropriately service individuals with physical ailments. With the structure being located on a hill, the context of the facility is important in its ability to provide a comfortable atmosphere while also being a noticeable, established landmark within the community. The context in this sense, provided a viable sense of place as well as being highly beneficial to the patients of the hospital in a therapeutic sense.

The specific design considered what would work most effectively for the patients as well as allow the hospital to function as best as it could. By creating a partition wall down the centre of the wards and facing the beds towards the external walls the layout does not follow a traditional ward design. The use of a non-traditional ward layout allows functional elements to be centralised, with a refined

⁸² MASS Design Group, *Empowering Architecture : Butaro Hospital, Rwanda : Strategies to Improve Health and Strengthen Community through Architecture and Design*, ed. Iwan Baan, *Butaro Hospital, Rwanda : Strategies to Improve Health and Strengthen Community through Architecture and Design* (Boston, MA: Boston, MA : MASS Design Group, 2011), 26.



Figure 39: Butaro Hospital Establishing Shot

Figure 40: Butaro Hospital Elevation



Figure 38: Butaro Hospital Figure Ground of Building Mass



*Figure 41:
Butaro Hospital
Courtyard*



*Figure 42:
Butaro Hospital
Bump Space*



*Figure 43:
Butaro Hospital
Ward Layout*

method of colour coding within wards providing a better overall experience for the patients.

By re-imagining a traditional ward layout the interior arrangement of Butaro Hospital increases the number of beds per ward, allowing for more effective staffing of the wards. Views towards the gardens and surrounding environment from the hospital beds provides a more comfortable user experience. By not creating one singular large building rather a series of small buildings, it ensured each ward is not more than one room wide, therefore ensuring a visual connection to the outside.

The method of space planning used in this instance is known as a campus typology. The hospital shows advantages of the campus typology in that it effectively creates a desirable holistic complex while also positively influencing the internal condition. By creating a campus it allows for the separation of different functions and as such provides an immediate privacy gradient from one area to another. The permeability that exists between structures invites the outdoor environment indoors, as it allows for the majority of rooms to have views to the outside. The arrangement of a series of buildings results in residual spaces occurring. Residual spaces then become not only avenues of circulation but also areas in which people can linger and communicate with each other. In the particular context of Rwanda this is important as it allows for the family groups of patients to be involved in the recovery process, without them being forced to congregate in a single building.

Methodology

The intention of the transitional facility is to allow an individual a sense of stability and give them the opportunity to establish a level of independence that can be put into practice in wider society. Functionally the resources that would be most beneficial to these individuals can be established as important buildings or structures. Including but not limited to, the establishment of an interface between the facility and public space, residential areas for both on site staff and live-in individuals, counselling or a support network area, areas that can be used to allow a restoration of lost relationships with friends and family, areas that provide the ability to teach or learn skills, as well as areas of recreation. With these functions required to be filled it provides an understanding of the activities happening within the structures and as such establishes the initial scale and size of the respective buildings.

Physically throughout the entirety of the site there needs to be the notion of progression, so that individuals living in the facility get a sense of the independence they are working towards. As the facility is in no way intended to be a prison the architecture needs to provide a sense of privacy without walls, a progression while maintaining social connections and an openness to friends and family while also providing a sense of safety. How this can be achieved architecturally can be indicated by the exploratory drawing of Nicolas Duval-Bory's investigation of "gradient space strategies and grid." The drawing is a composition of a grid with gradual openings increasing throughout, transitioning the spaces from almost entirely enclosed to almost entirely open. Introducing the idea of gradual permeability throughout the scheme via architectural implementation would be the most effective way to begin designing a facility of this nature.

The visual representation of enclosure degradation and gradual permeability of access to a support network can become an important metaphorical and literal notion of this facility. Establishing a pathway to a less restrictive lifestyle.

Typology

It needs to be established as to how similar or removed from prison the scheme becomes. If the intention is to provide support of an individual who is no longer serving their sentenced time restrictions on movement need to be lifted. These individuals should not be restricted by fences and should be able to leave the premise without having to negotiate a gate.

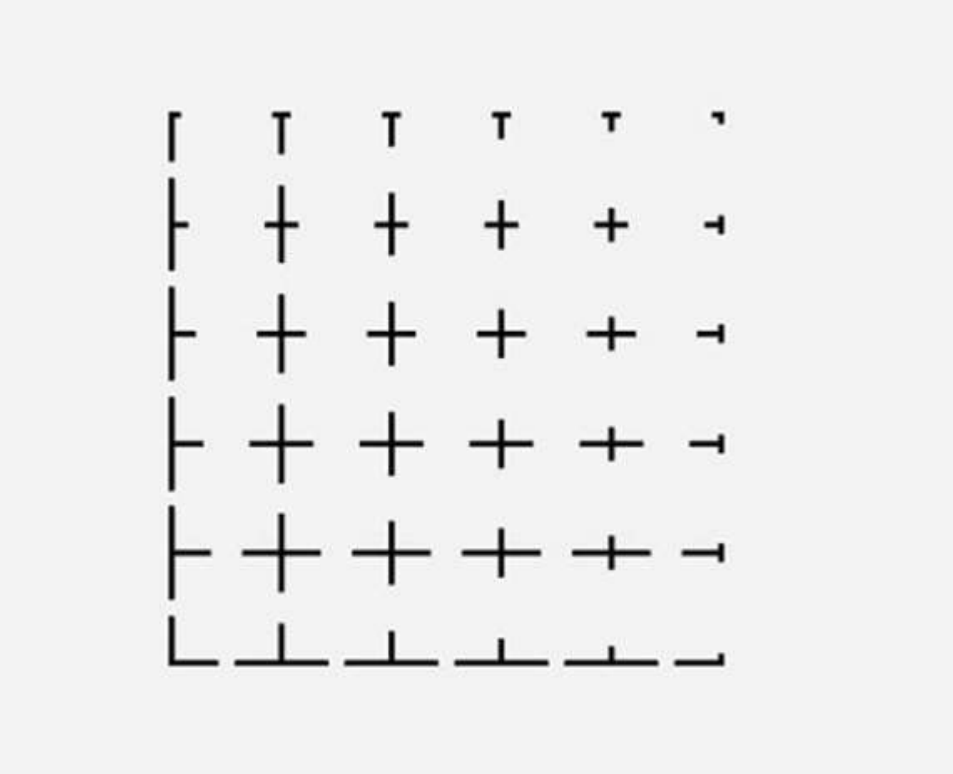


Figure 44: Gradient Space Strategies and Grid

Considering this, the privacy and the individuals who are most at risk need to be afforded the most sheltered and comfortable location, with access to the wider community more available for those who have been able to establish an appropriate level of independence.

A gradient between public and private space needs to be established within the scheme as well as a considered separation between individuals who are at different stages of independence. It is in this overlap of positioning that the orientation and location of services and buildings can be identified.

The development of a privacy gradient can begin to suggest building orientation and the transparency of facades, as well as the built forms relationship to the surrounding environment. As each structure becomes populated the overall scale becomes apparent.

Design Process

Determining an appropriate typology is the first step needing to be taken. By settling on a particular typology incorporating various design elements within the scheme begins to establish various zones. Schematics aided the development of a number of key zones culminating in a campus layout. Residual space between zones provides an opportunity for green and bump spaces to occur.

Threshold/Administration

The interface that occurs between the public and semi-public realm is one of the most important factors. It becomes the start point of the design and can have a large directional influence on how the remainder of the site is experienced. It should also be reflective of Duval-Bory's investigative plan, with areas of permeability as well as areas of enclosure arranged in a way that benefits the entire facility. Additionally it should hold administration areas to allow for the day to day running of the facility. The next logical step is the incorporation of counselling services and areas for safe and comfortable re-engagement of previous relationships that were interrupted by an individual's incarceration period.

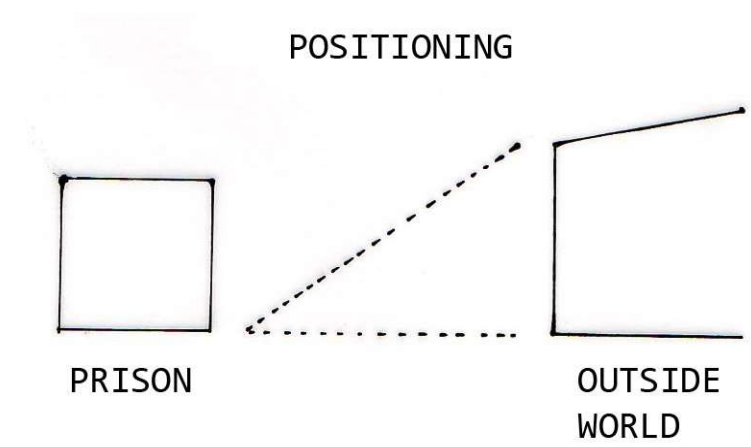


Figure 45: Establishing a Position

Community

Structures and landscaping that encourage community engagement are important in a scheme of this nature. With residents likely having more access to friends and family in a transitional facility a safe environment to re-establish these relationships should be accessible. The service that this zone provides caters for residents of the facility as well as people visiting from elsewhere. Therefore it should be located close to the facilities entrance and near to the counselling area so mediation of family visits can occur if needed. The space will also need to be respectful of the broadest range of demographic as this is a zone where sons, daughters as well as parents and spouses will occupy the most.

Counselling

It has been well established that the prison environment can create psychological tension, as such consideration needs to be taken in the encouragement of professional medical intervention. In the most part clinical psychologists and professionals that can help with addiction. To enable a positive interaction between the two parties a neutral safe space should be established on the site to benefit both parties. By isolating this area from other services on the site it can also allow individuals living off site to benefit from this service. It should therefore be within close proximity to the entrance of the site, as well as being connected to the areas where community interaction occurs. By linking the counselling and community areas it allows the reintroduction to family and friends to be overseen by medical professionals hopefully producing a more positive outcome as initial meetings will occur with mediation.

Education

Similar to what occurs in some prisons opportunities to upskill professionally as well as develop life skills should be catered for. Some of these skills can be learned through the day to day use of private and communal facilities but, for more structured teaching spaces should be developed to allow for in classroom learning. The learning facilities should exist in a neutral space so as there is access for every member on site. Because of this it makes sense to establish areas for this service in the centre of the design. In

Figure 46: Further Positioning

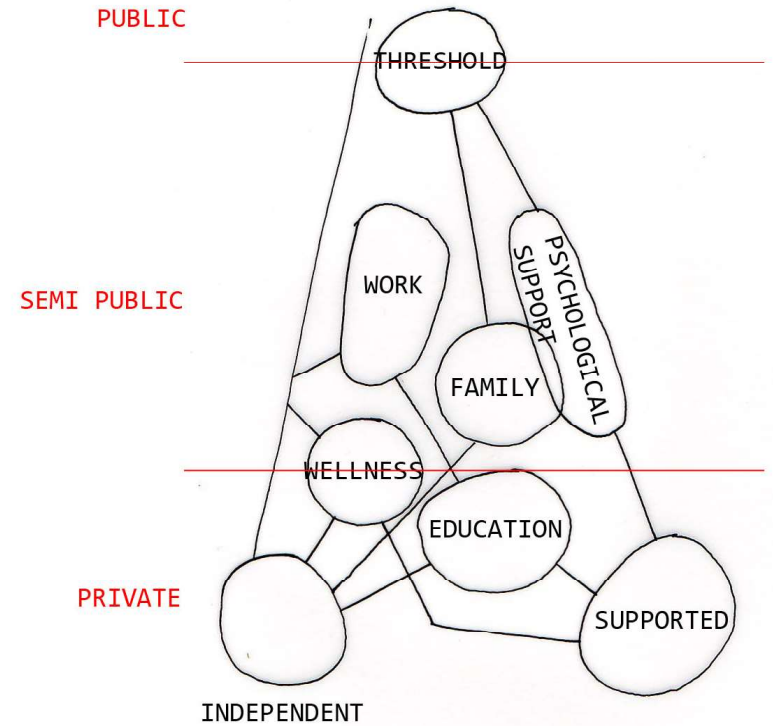
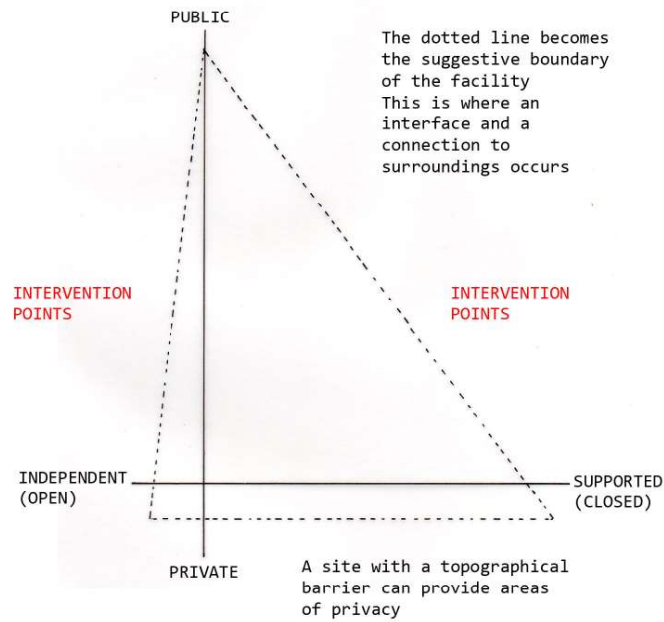


Figure 47: Design Schematic

terms of architectural articulation externally it is likely to follow the aesthetic of the rest of the facility. Internally however there should be some potential to alter the space with a degree of flexibility.

Supported Living

As individuals take the first steps out of incarceration they should be confronted with a comfortable environment but one that is not in any way daunting. It is likely that one's idea of privacy has been skewed by the time spent in prison and as such a personal re-establishment with the idea of privacy should be catered for. The best way to do this is likely through a motel like structure where each resident has their own personal bedroom and bathroom but the kitchen and living facilities are shared. To aid in the supported nature of this living condition there should be spaces established for support workers to live in close proximity to these residents. To invite as much light into these individual rooms as possible the use of courtyards should be considered, this would also allow for an external gathering area for residents to interact socially in an almost private area.

Independent Living

Providing areas of independent living allows residents to have a noticeable progression of lifestyle while living on the premises. It would also allow for increased levels of privacy as individuals work their way through the levels of independent living. Architecturally it is likely that these independent units will be grouped at the very least in twos to allow some understanding of neighbourly interaction but in a setting that is less daunting than the same situation in a standard residential setting. By designating a resident their own self-contained unit there is the opportunity for the individual to start nurturing their newly established relationships in a space that is their own, and as such host guests in a manner that can be reflected in the general society. The self-contained living experience would also allow support staff to further distance themselves in day to day involvement with the residents, allowing them to begin to figure out a routine for themselves. Due to the benefits that this living situation offers the location of this zone within the scheme needs to be well considered.

Site Analysis

Prison research shows that in the New Zealand context there tends to be an element of isolation, usually located in rural areas with small residential developments established nearby to house staff. There is usually a clear disconnect to any heavily populated areas for both security purposes and the notion of keeping the incarcerated population out of sight and therefore out of mind. Space that rural areas afford also allows potential expansion.

Taking this into consideration a transitional facility should offer the privacy of a rural area but the opportunity and interaction of a residential community, allowing improved access to work and further opportunity. Additionally, a facility that invites the wider community in could go some way to reducing the stigma that these individuals face. Therefore, a semi-rural location that is close to public transport systems becomes an important factor in determining a site. A semi-rural location allows a gradient from nature to habitation to occur, reduces typological limits and provides adequate accessibility for occupants and the greater community.

The North Island of New Zealand has a larger population both in the general and prison sense and is therefore seen as the most appropriate place to start identifying a site. A number of prisons exist in and around Auckland and the Waikato regions, and it is likely individuals will re-enter society in these areas.

In addition to this the most consistent public transport system is the train system, with already laid infrastructure and routes that are unlikely to change the proximity to a train line is another site determining factor.

Based on the initial parameters two greater Auckland suburbs became the areas of further investigation, those being Pukekohe, South Auckland and Swanson, West Auckland. Both offered rural patches of land, reasonable connection to Auckland Central via public transport, as well as being close to a well-established community.

Location

Tram Valley Road, Swanson, Auckland

The specific location of the facility is in the semi-rural suburb of Swanson, West Auckland. Chosen predominantly due to the accessibil-

ity to Central Auckland as well as being an area that would not be classified as suburban. With an operating train station that acts as the termination of the Auckland rail systems Western Line there is an appropriate level of both ease of access and a separation from a heavily built up area. In order to avoid the site being too easy to approach a considered distance between the station and the true location of the facility has been adopted. The new cluster of buildings will mostly occupy what is currently farmland.

Topography

The site is predominantly flat with a slight rise as the pasture meets the road, the topography falls away to a waterway running along the Western border of the site. The descent towards the stream is not a consistent gradient but rather in some places stepped and in others an undulating gradual fall. The fall of the site provides opportunity to sink larger structures into the ground and utilise the varied terrain to meet buildings at different levels. Not only does this allow for an interesting campus composition but can be considered in the establishment of a privacy gradient. As the open farmland nears the waterways the gradient increases significantly. Beyond the Western boundary past the waterway the ground rises to a significant ridge, creating an opportunity for views as well as a topographical barrier. To the north of the site the ground remains relatively flat and void of vegetation. To the south however the gradient falls to meet a secondary waterway that at some point joins the waterway on the western border of the site.

Waterway

There are two waterways of note in the immediate vicinity of the site, Swanson Stream runs along the western boundary of the site with the flow of water occurring in a northern direction. Along with the topographical features this waterway offers opportunities for a natural view as well as providing an appropriate natural deterrent for people. Due to the significance of waterways in Māori custom this stream could provide an opportunity to establish a name for the facility. Along the southern boundary of the site a second minor waterway that joins the main stream is present. Due to the location of this smaller stream there is an opportunity to split various facilities via a natural separation. The choice to incorporate a secondary area to contain various facilities will be considered as the design develops. If the site is not split the minor waterway could become the southern boundary. It is noticeable that the most heavily

vegetated areas of the site occur around these aforementioned waterways.

Vegetation

As the site is rural the majority of the vegetation has been cleared for livestock, as such the areas of heavy vegetation occur around the perimeter of the site. There is a high density of vegetation immediately surrounding the waterways and on the areas of land with the steepest gradient. With the vegetation being heaviest along the waterways and along the western and southern boundaries of the site contain with open farmland continuing north of the site. Due to the thickness of the vegetation particularly around the perimeter of the site it can act as a useful topographical barrier as well as being utilised as for views from residential areas in the facility.

Connectivity

The major form of significant public transport that is intended to be utilised is the Auckland train network. The site lies 1.1 kilometres from Swanson train station, to cover this distance it takes an individual of average fitness fifteen minutes to walk, and by bike this distance can be covered in less than 8 minutes. Access to Auckland central from Swanson station along the western train line is under an hour, therefore opening up not only work opportunities but reasonable accessibility for visitation. It is this accessibility that is one of the key factors for Tram Valley Road being an ideal location. The site is also accessible by private vehicle with a trip from Auckland central taking less than thirty minutes in favourable traffic.

Amenities

In terms of pre-existing building structure and public services there is nothing of significant use. Swanson Township is approximately 1.5 kilometres away which could allow for work opportunities within the local community. The township also provides appropriate public transport links that are extremely useful for a project of this nature.

Traffic

The site is located on a rural road, as such, the vehicle traffic is light. The rural road does provide issues however as it is an open road and therefore vehicles will be moving at speed. For the most part vehicles moving past the site are private automobiles rather than heavy freight vehicles.

Existing infrastructure

Although there are existing structures on the site including a horse ring and a couple of residential and farm buildings, for the purposes of this project the site will be assumed to be clear. Other than the structures mentioned there is no other significant man-made structures on the site.



*Figure 48:
Establishing the
Site*



*Figure 49: View
of Site*



*Figure 50:
Gradient on Site*

Conclusion

Incarceration and architecture are fields that are inherently linked. Architecture provides the physical framework for incarceration to occur. Incarceration as a means of punishment is imbedded in the norms of today's society, it is likely to be continually used as the most humane form of punishment. Although architecture and incarceration are highly interlinked the architecture of prisons often creates an unforgiving and harsh environment. It is understood that a period of imprisonment should not be comfortable, however the psychological impact of being exposed to prison conditions often extends beyond the length of sentenced time. The architectural implication of a prison building is to deny a person their freedom, the isolation this creates coupled with the harsh physical nature of prison structures, tends to be the main cause of a compromised psychological state. While periods of imprisonment are often missed opportunities in the behavioural development of individuals there are examples where some corrective systems offer rehabilitative support.

In the instance of prisons in Norway and Denmark, the corrective system has recognised the opportunity to influence a change of inmate behaviour while they are serving sentenced time. The incarcerated population are treated in a humane manner, with a high degree of sympathy expressed in both the ideology of prison thinking and the composition of prison architecture. The combination of progressive thinking and effective design manages to reduce the negative psychological effects of time spent in prison that so often occur. Utilising design intentions of Scandinavian nations could improve the corrective system in most societies however it is the specifics of the New Zealand environment that must be considered in this case.

The situation of the New Zealand corrective system shows the shortfalls in regards to the current implementation of established protocols. Although the average sentence length in New Zealand is reasonable, when coupled with the rate of recidivism it becomes a major issue. The short term recidivism rate is currently around 60%, short term in this case refers to a five year period. A recidivism rate as high as this proves that the current systems in place are not correcting behaviours but rather creating further problems as individuals are likely to encounter a prison environment on more than one occasion. Therefore compounding the already major issue of the total prison population within the country.

As the systems in place within the context of New Zealand are not providing individuals with the right skills to progress their lives after completing their sentence, it has been identified that a major transition occurs for these individuals upon release. During this

period former inmates have to make sense of implications resulting from the environment they have left and the environment they are entering as well. The individual will enter a highly unpredictable world whilst simultaneously having to deal with the trauma of a routinely and architecturally rigid structure. Establishment of a transitional period particularly in a New Zealand context occurs immediately following a sentenced period with little to no assistance being offered by the corrections system. Independent organisations do help during the significant transition however they are often limited by the facilities they operate from. In conclusion through the research that has been conducted there is an appropriate premise to suggest that an architecturally considered transitional facility would be mutually beneficial for the currently incarcerated and general populations of New Zealand.

Figure 51: Identification of site within the Swanson region, showing roadways, train lines, waterways and building footprints

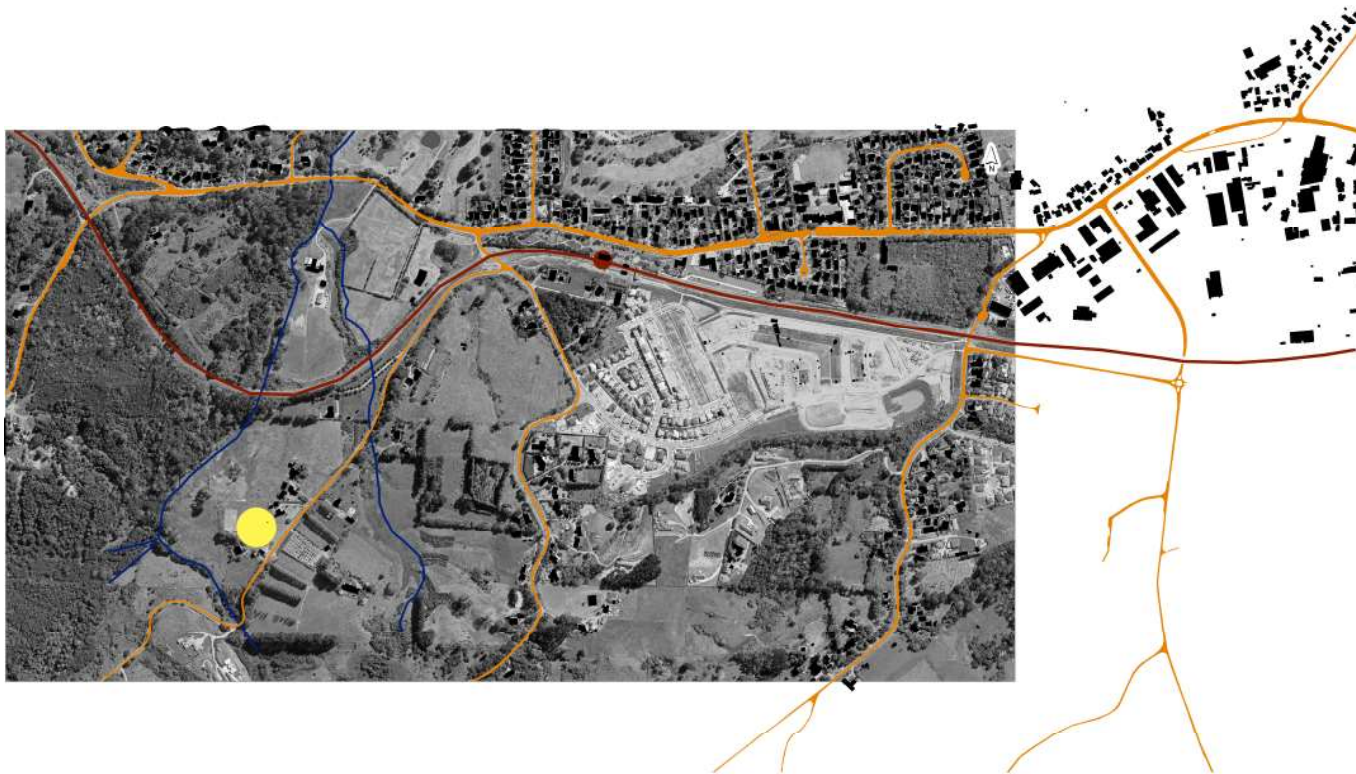




Figure 52: Site Plan of designed Transitional Facility

Figure 53: Section through entirety of the facility, showing private, semi-private, semi-public and public spaces

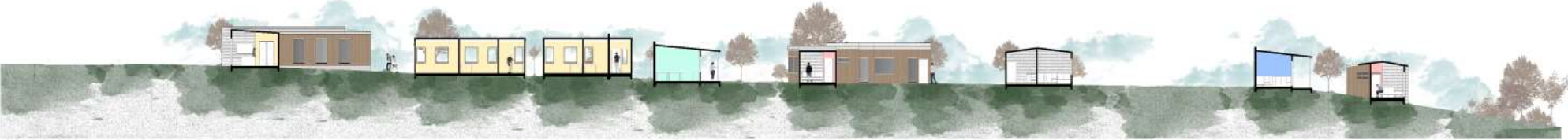




Figure 54: Render showing the interface between the public realm and the facility

Figure 55: Render showing external courtyard intended for family interaction





Figure 56: Render showing the courtyard in the supported living area



Figure 57: Render showing the independent living option

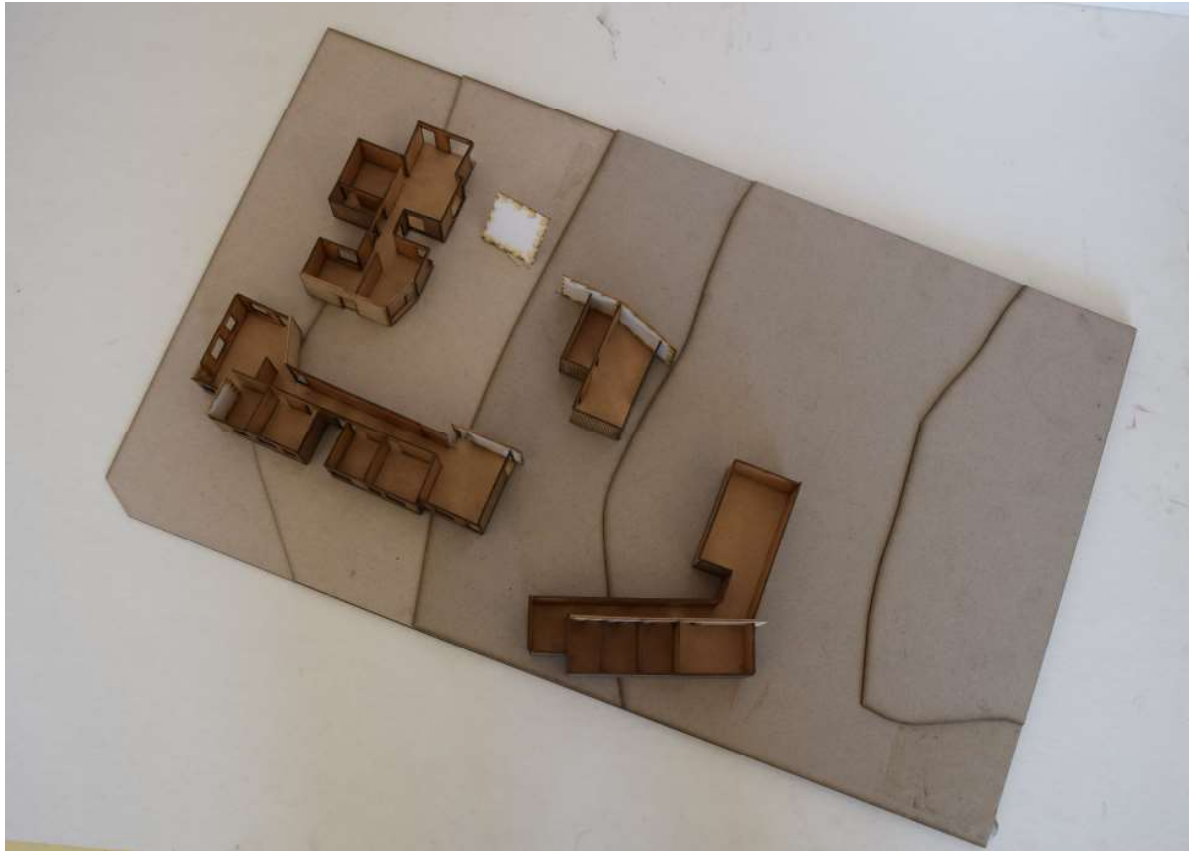


Figure 58: Model showing the arrangement of the administration building in relation to the counselling and support services buildings.

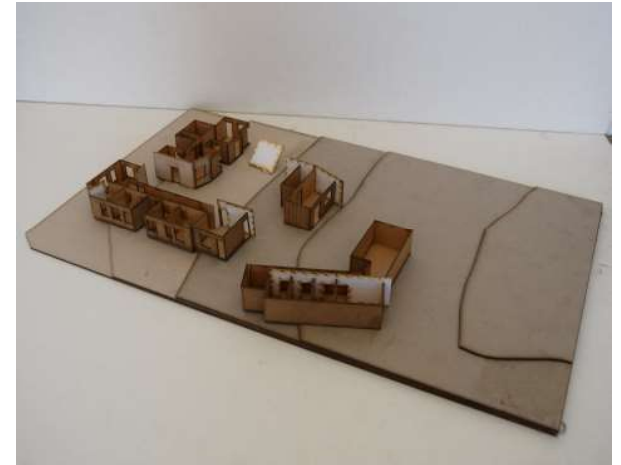


Figure 59: Model showing the arrangement of the administration building in relation to the counselling and support services buildings in context.

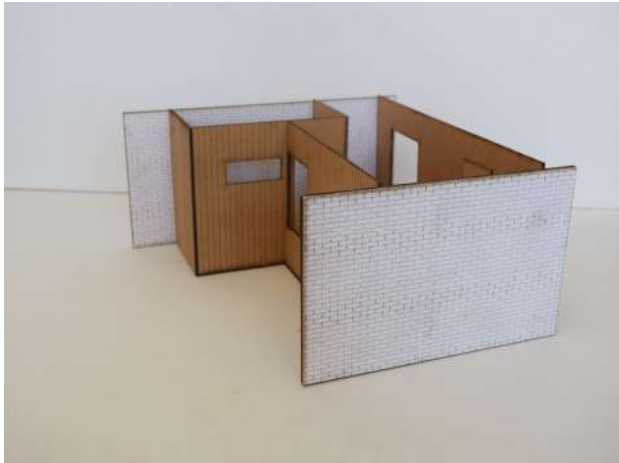


Figure 60: Model showing the materiality of the first accommodation unit individuals entering the facility will inhabit.



Figure 61: Model showing the spatial orientation of the first accommodation unit individuals entering the facility will inhabit.

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Figure 2: Department of Corrections. "Prison Facts and Statistics - December 2018," accessed May 27, 2019. https://www.corrections.govt.nz/resources/research_and_statistics/quarterly_prison_statistics/prison_stats_december_2018.html

Figure 3: Department of Corrections. "Prison Facts and Statistics - December 2018," accessed May 27, 2019. https://www.corrections.govt.nz/resources/research_and_statistics/quarterly_prison_statistics/prison_stats_december_2018.html

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Figure 6: Stephenson Turner. "Mt Eden Corrections," accessed March 11, 2019. <http://www.stephensonturner.com/mt-eden-corrections>

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Figure 9: Stephenson Turner. "Spring Hill," accessed March 11, 2019. <http://www.stephensonturner.com/spring-hill>

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Figure 14: Stacy Squires, “First women’s rehab service to address urgent need,” accessed March 27, 2019. <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/crime/105094495/first-womens-rehab-service-to-address-urgent-need>

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Figure 17: Torben Eskerod, accessed April 9, 2019, <https://www.cfmoller.com/p/Storstroem-Prison-i2730.html#>.

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Figure 31: René de Wit, accessed April 23, 2019, <http://www.uncubemagazine.com/blog/12788579>

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Figure 35: PK Arkitekar, accessed May 5, 2019, https://www.archdaily.com/38771/birkimo%25cc%258rk-halfway-house-pk-arkitektar/5011920628ba0d7042001208-birkimo%cc%88rk-halfway-house-pk-arkitektar-image?next_project=no

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Figure 39: Iwan Baan, accessed March 28, 2020, <https://www.archdaily.com/165892/butaro-hospital-mass-design-group/5015904528ba0d5a4b0002e6-butaro-hospital-mass-design-group-photo>

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This Thesis/Dissertation/Research Project entitled: Correcting the Middle Ground

is submitted in partial fulfillment for the requirements for the Unitec degree of Master of Architecture (Professional)

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