

DESIGNING FOR WOMEN



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Real Estate Expert Group
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Research-based knowledge of the needs of prisoners

Special needs of female prisoners

Prison concept

Service offering chart of the prison and the framework for operation

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Decrease risk of re-offending

Main requirement

Objective / outcome

Enable safe and controlled^①

Prison concept applies to not only the facilities
but also the everyday operating culture

and
management
culture in order
to gain the
benefits

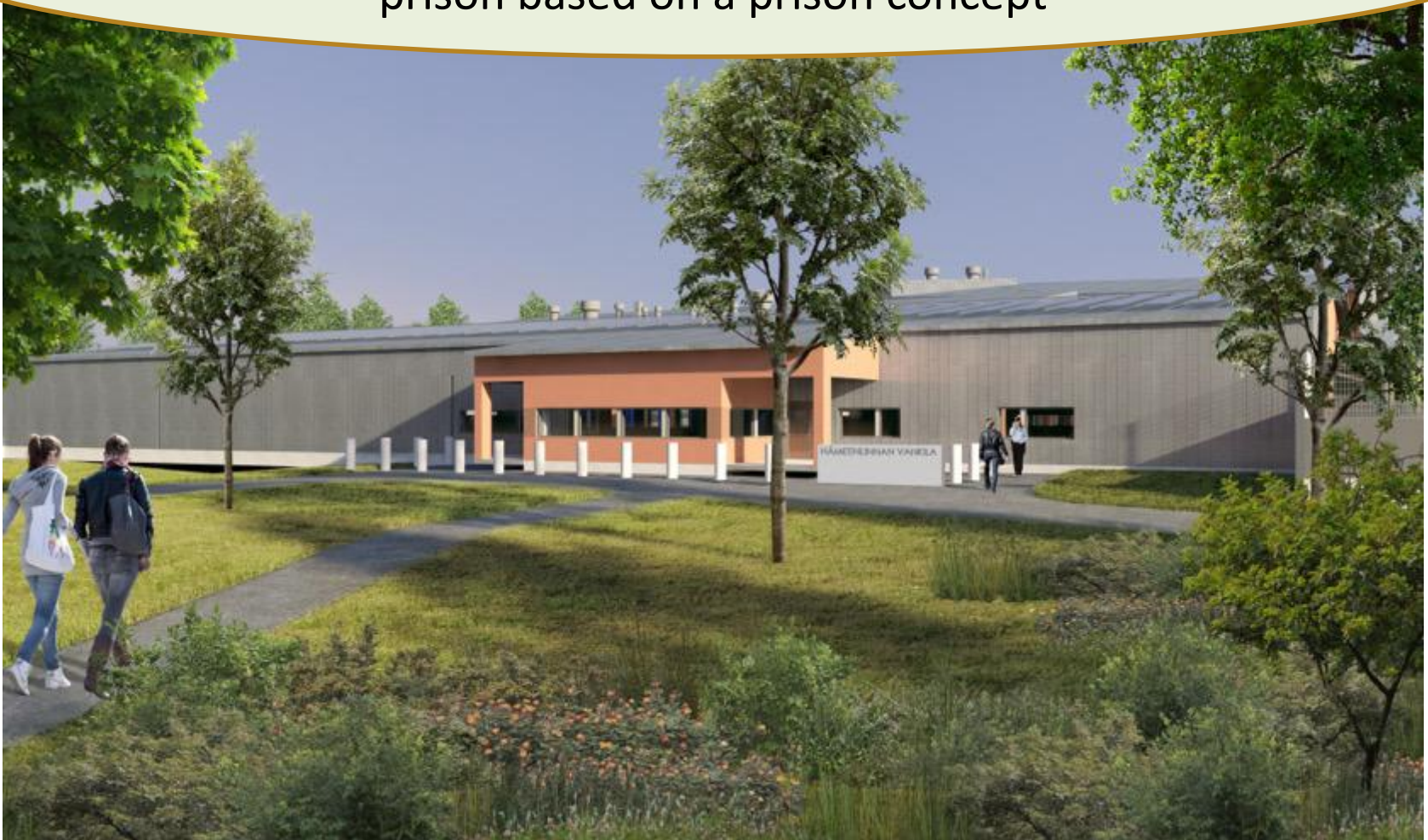
in a controlled manner

Leave more time for
personnel to interact with the
prisoners and coach them^③

Cut costs and use space
more efficiently^④

^⑤

The new women's prison in Hämeenlinna is the first prison based on a prison concept



HÄMEENLINNA PRISON KEY FIGURES

- Work on the site started at the end of 2018
- Completed by 8/2020
- In operation on 10/2020
- Costs 34 million €
- Running expenses (rent, electricity, heating, water) max 2.5 million € per year

Focusing on the prisoners' independence to move and do everyday activities



A ward is a functional learning environment where it is possible to practise various everyday activities and learn to use electronic services





Image of a new accommodation ward (12 places)

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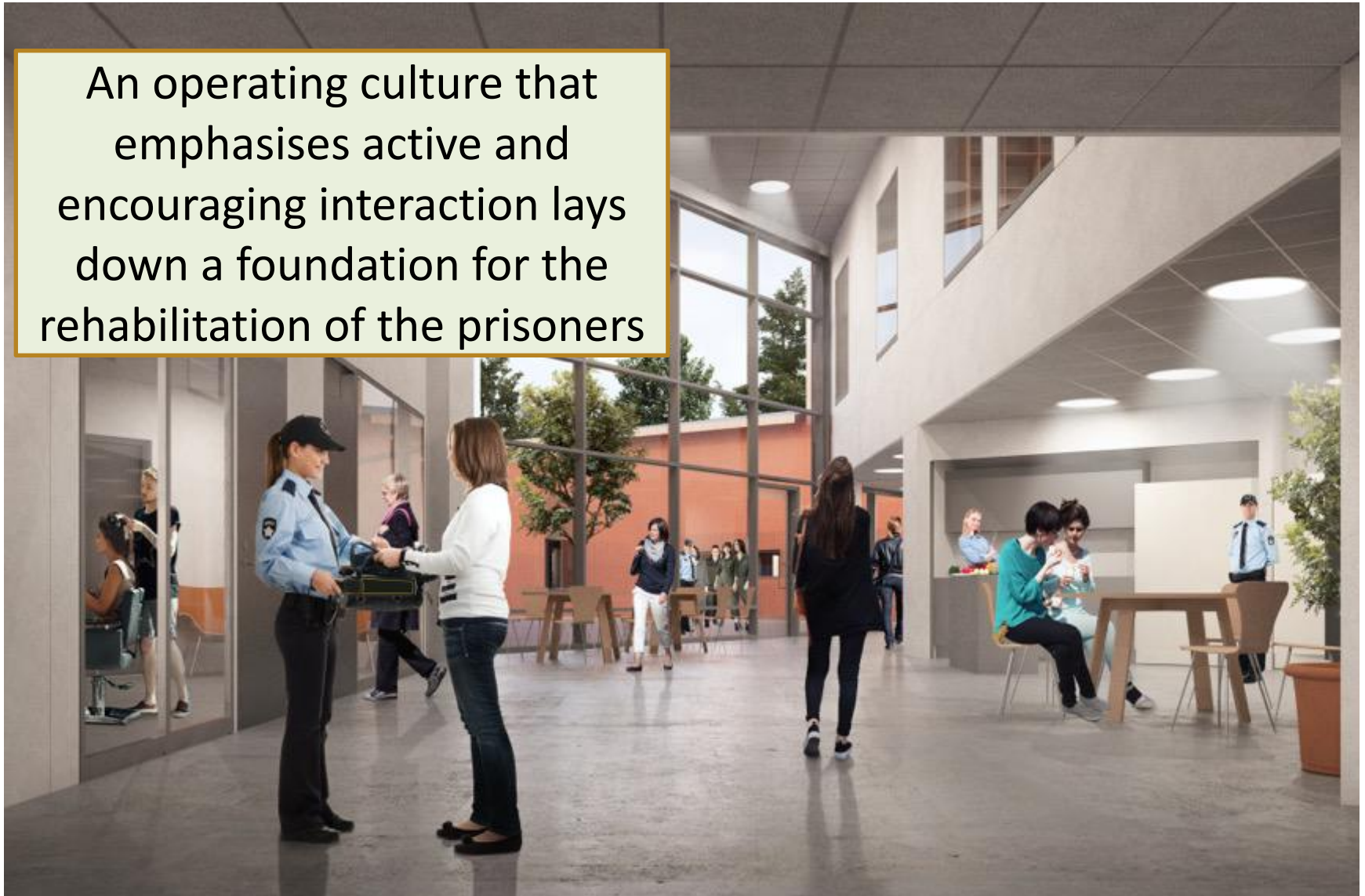
The work of the staff of the ward focuses on interacting with the prisoners and guiding them towards independence



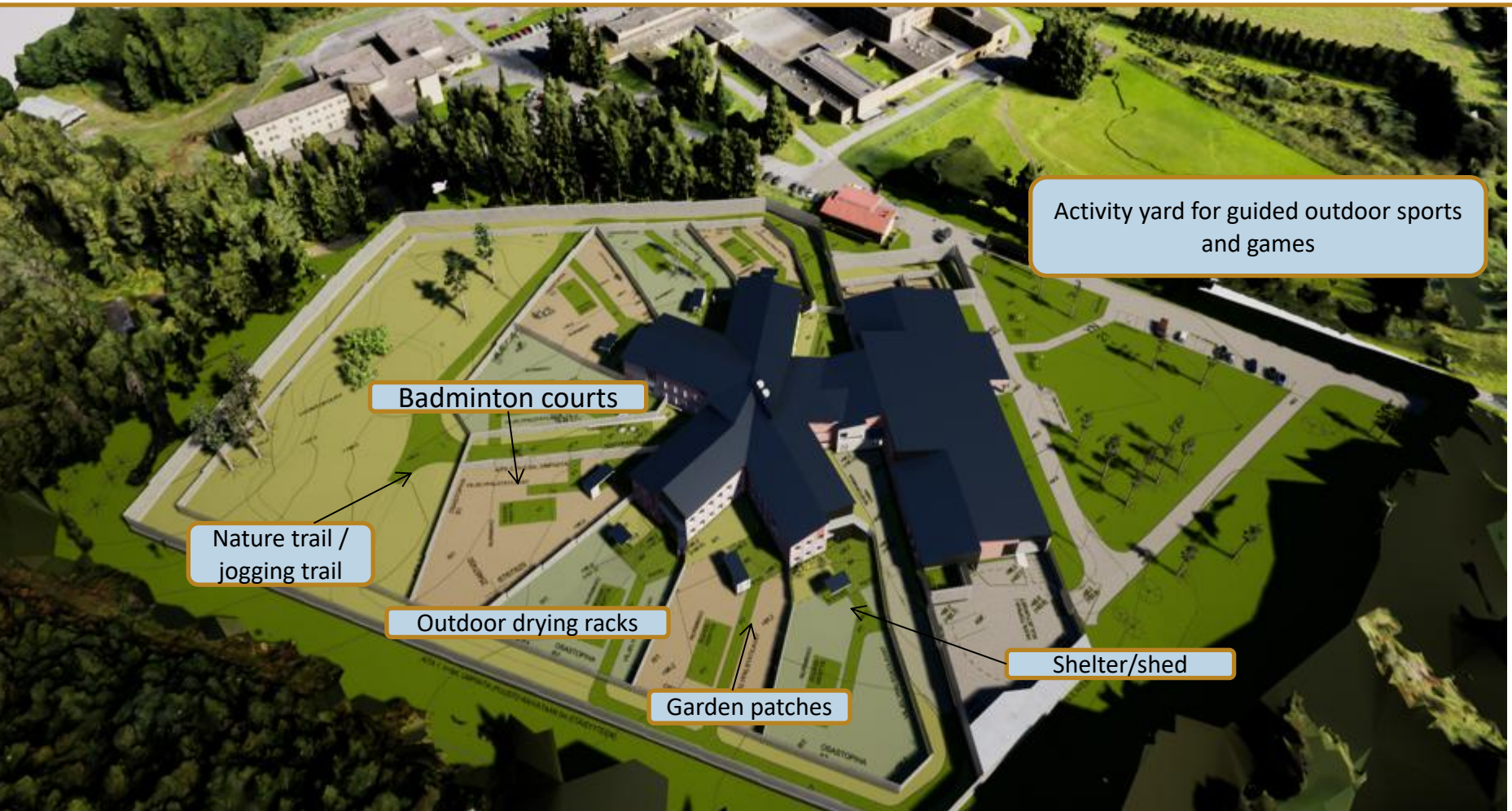


The architecture differs from the traditional prison look. The centre of the building is a bright square-like area, which is surrounded by, e.g., the library, premises for religious activities, and educational workshops.

An operating culture that emphasises active and encouraging interaction lays down a foundation for the rehabilitation of the prisoners



According to the prison concept, the prison yard has to provide versatile opportunities for, e.g., exercise or Green Care activities. The yard of each ward has plenty of room to move around, a field for badminton and other outdoor games, garden patches and planting boxes, outdoor drying racks for personal laundry, and an area for barbecues and other summer activities. A common nature trail enables jogging and is also a good place to practise landscaping and planting.









Thank you for your interest





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EuroPris Expert Group Report:

DESIGNING FOR WOMEN



KEY FIGURES

Population in Finland is about **5,5** million people

2 910 prisoners* (218 women=7,5 %)

5 546 entries from freedom in 2018

2 959 community sanction clients*

26 prisons (of which 11 open prisons)

14 community sanctions offices

2 496 employees** (41% women)
(of which approx. 250 in community sanctions)

* Daily average 2018

** Computational man-years in 2018



The Criminal Sanctions Agency contributes to the safety of society (2:35 minute video)





WHAT DOES THE RESEARCH SUGGEST ABOUT THE FEMALE INMATES' NEEDS IN THE PRISONS



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GLOBAL FEMALE PRISONERS' CHARACTERISTICS I (PRI Penal Reform International 2019)

- In a marginalized position in prisons worldwide
- Approximately 7 per cent of the total global prison population
- An increasing population globally; more than 50 per cent from 2000 to 2017
- Women are frequently convicted for non-violent offences, globally mostly drug related offences
- Poverty is a significant driver of women's offending; economic deprivation and household disruption
- Mental health problems such as post-traumatic disorder, depression, anxiety and tendency to attempt self-harm and suicide
- Women prisoners have often been victims of violence and domestic and sexual abuse



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THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES ON FEMALE OFFENDING

PATHWAY-THEORIES

- **Gender-specific pathways;** a) street women, b) battered women, c) harmed and harming women and c) drug-connected women (Daily 1992); Unique life circumstances leading to crime; females are differently affected by exposure to the same criminogenic conditions than males;
- **Victimization;** in the onset of female offending; childhood abuse can lead to increased likelihood to drug abuse and other associal behaviour and offending (Wattanaporn & Holtfreter 2014, 199)

RELATIONAL THEORIES

- **Psychological;** primary motivation in a woman's development is her relation to others; can lead to bad or good consequences; e.g. offending behaviour (Barlow 2014)



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SOME RESEARCH RESULTS OF FEMALE OFFENDING

- Offending women have often been victims of sexual and physical abuse (Liddell & Martinovic 2013, 131)
- Women in European countries, USA, Canada and Australia overrepresented in substance-abuse and drug-related offending (Gelsthorpe 2007; Holmes 2010; cited in Liddell & Martinovic 2013, 131)
- Drug and alcohol abuse/ dependence as the most prevalent problem of female offenders (Belknap & Lynch & DeHart 2015)
- Drug use often involves multiple substance dependencies, high rates of mental illness and self-harm and higher reported rates of past child and adulthood abuse (Liddell & Martinovic 2013, 132)
- Drug offences committed by women as "survival crimes" to earn money, feed a drug-dependent habit or to escape terrifying intimate relationships and brutal social conditions (Richie 1998; cited in Liddell & Martinovic 2013, 132)



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WHAT ARE THE GENDER-SPECIFIC NEEDS WOMEN FACE IN PRISON?

“Not typically seen in men, seen in men but occur at greater frequency in women, or occur in equal frequency among men and women but affect women in uniquely personal and social ways that should be reflect in current correctional assessment” (Voorhis et al. 2010; In Barlow 2014, p. 13).



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MOST COMMON PRE-PRISON PROBLEMS AND NEEDS WOMEN FACE

- Victimization
- Broken family and unstable family life
- Dropping out from school and work-life
- Substance abuse and mental health problems
- Dependence
- Exposition to family and intimate partner violence
- Single motherhood , poverty, marginalization and homelessness
- Women prisoners often the primary caregivers of their children



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EARLY REFORMERS ON FEMALE- SPECIFIC NEEDS IN PRISON

Helen Fry (1780-1845) prison reformer

'Treatment for women shall be different on the grounds that they committed different crimes, their behavior differ while in prison and they are different biologically and socially'

Sheila Rothner, an English architect, suggested in an article published in Howard Journal of Criminology in 1963 that:

'Female offenders should be placed in semi-custodial prison in which the architectural solutions supported a regime based on therapy and female-specific treatment and activities'

CURRENT RESEARCH ON FEMALE SPECIFIC NEEDS

'Nowadays widely accepted that imprisoning women is not the same as imprisoning men, that women's experiences are different and women experience imprisonment differently and therefore new prison design philosophy is also needed which do not always replicate traditional prison architectural models' (Fair 2009, 9)

'Sharing same facilities with male inmates does not give women access to such gender-specific treatment and rehabilitation programs which they need thus enhancing their marginalization in prisons and contributing to continuity of their offending behavior' (Stone et al 2017, 297).

TO BE CONTINUED

'Women can only get their basic needs met (shelter, food, medication, counseling) while incarcerated; insufficient resources , housing, and/or treatments for women leaving jail; the staff needs up-dated training on trauma-informed care, mental illness, and gender-responsive programming to most effectively work with incarcerated women and deter their reentry to jail and prison' (Belknap, Lynch & DeHart 2016, 95)

'To be responsive to females' pathways into and out of offending, a program and treatment environment in prisons should promote respect, empathy, safety, agency, and privacy' (Lanctôt 2018, 209)

'Special attention concerning especially; substance abuse, mental health issues, exposure to violence, low self-esteem, abuse related trauma, socioeconomic deprivation, and low employability' (DeHart & Moran, 2015;



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PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES WITH PRISON DESIGN AND OPERATIONS

- Prisons and prison systems organized and designed usually on the basis of the needs and requirements of the male prisoners; architecture, to security procedures, to facilities for healthcare, family contact, work and training (Fair 2008)
- Women in male dominated prisons face different constraints both in terms of physical space and the possibilities to be engaged in different rehabilitative activities and treatment (Barlow 2014; Morgenstern 2005); Recreational, vocational, medical and educational activities is often deficient in prisons designed for males (Player 2017, 576)
- Male inmates dictating the participation of the women in different activities (Bosworth 2005, 140)
- Small proportion of women in custody 'inevitably means that custodial culture is dominated by the needs of men' (McIvor 2004) women being 'hancapped by the virtue of their number' (Chesney-Lind & Pasko 2004).



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WHAT DOES THE RESEARCH SUGGEST CONCERNING PRISON DESIGN?

- Challenges the stripped, closed prison design and architecture (Kärrholm 2018, 14)
- Highlights the importance of ‘more homely’ design ‘associated with favorable perceptions of atmosphere’ at closed institutions’ (Vaaler, Morken & Linaker, 2005: 19-20)
- Less institutional and more comfortable living environment where inmates can control lighting and walk in and out of their rooms prevents suicide and self-harm (Tartaro et al. 2008; cited in Kärrholm 2018)
- Well-kept and familiar surroundings seem to lower vandalism and bullying as well as assaults in prison (Vaaler & Morken & Linaker 2005, 22-24)
- The design of new women’s facilities should use ‘environmental factors known to promote wellness’, including natural light, fresh air, colour, space, privacy and access to land (Moffat 2004)
- Cottage-style accommodation that enables women to replicate healthy family and community responsibilities (Bartels & Gaffney 2014)



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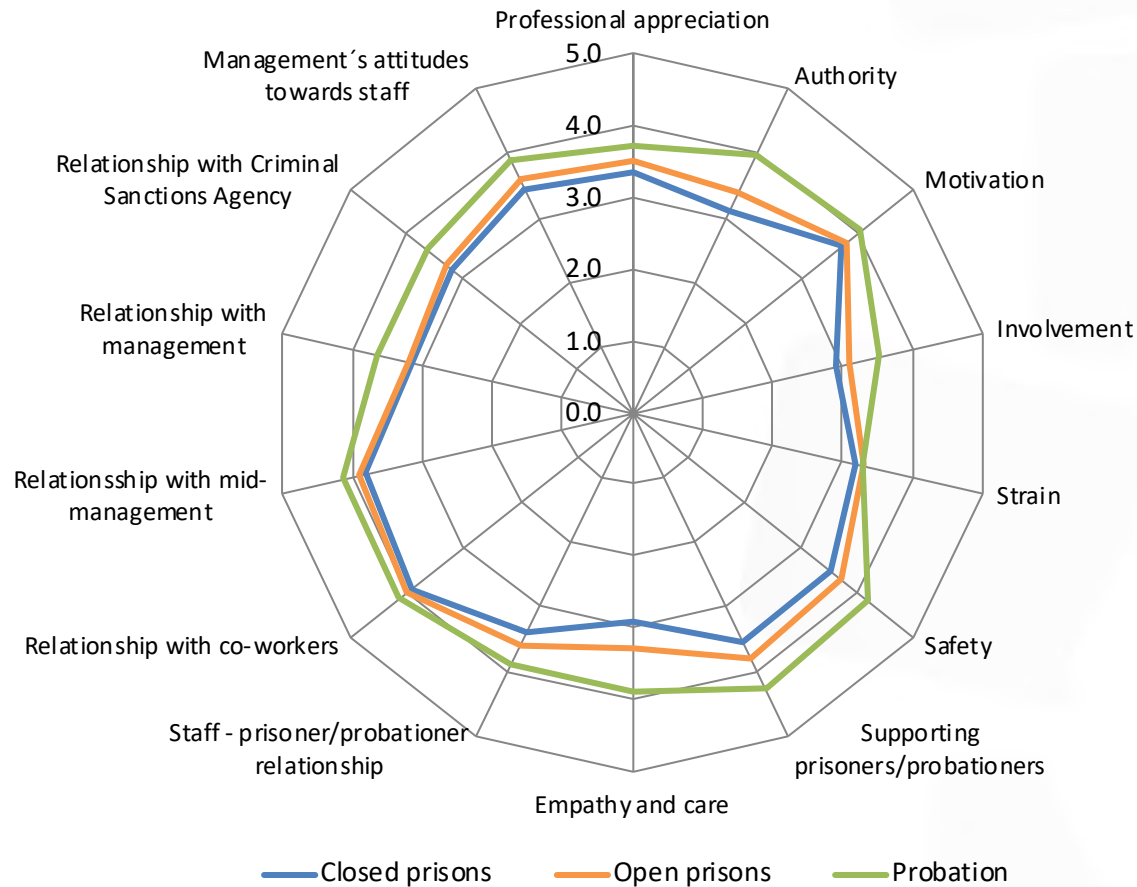
WHAT ELSE THE RESEARCH SUGGESTS REGARDING FEMALE PRISONERS' ADJUSTMENT

Gender-sensitive prison management and operations especially in the context of: reception; transportation, physical and mental well-being; education; employment and program treatment; security and pregnancy and parenting (Bartels & Gaffney 2011)

Gender-specific risk- and needs assessment practices taking account of the "gendered pathways" into crime which are from their male counterparts (e.g. depression, anxiety, unhealthy relationships, substance abuse, parental stress) (Boppre & Salisbury 2016)

Holistic programs and rehabilitation as well resettlement practices which address women's varied and complex needs including housing, parenting, relationships, trauma recovery, financial management, independent living, legal advice, physical and mental health issues, drug and alcohol counselling and reintegration into the community

STAFF DIMENSIONS



PRISONER/PROBATIONER DIMENSIONS

