Just Design?

Architectures of hope, trust and empathy in future prison designs

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Some of the questions we are asking:

- How are prisons commissioned and what factors determine the site and design of a new prison?;
- what level of creativity (humanity) can a prison architect bring to a new commission?;
- who is the ‘client’?;
- does ‘good’ design necessarily cost more than ‘bad’ design?
- What ‘effects’ does design have on prisoners’ and staff?
- can architecture and design help to deliver rehabilitation, or is a prison a prison, regardless of what it looks like?

Wener, R. (2012) *The Environmental Psychology of Prisons Jails: Creating Humane Spaces in Secure Settings*, Cambridge U Press.

'Prisons represent more than just warehouses of bed space…They are more complicated environments than just good or bad, comfortable or not. The design of a prison is critically related to the philosophy of the institution, or maybe even of the entire criminal justice system. It is the physical manifestation of a society's goals and approaches for dealing with arrested and/or convicted men and women, and it is a stage for acting out plans and programs for their addressing their future' (p. 7).

'The design process is the wedge that forces the system to think through its approach and review, restate, or redevelop its philosophy of criminal justice' (p. 7).

Recent prison builds in England – Oakwood & Thameside
“value engineering” and “future proofing”

Maggie’s Centres: an architecture of hope?

Maggie’s Centre, Nottingham

From architect’s vision…

…to realisation

Unsuccessful design for new women's prison in Iceland

In designing a new women's prison in Iceland, the project team from OOIIO Architecture explicitly set out to design a prison that doesn't look like a prison, forgetting about dark spaces, small cells, and ugly grey concrete walls…we based the building design on natural light, open spaces, and natural green materials like peat, grass and flowers.
http://plusmood.com/2012/06/female-prison-in-iceland-ooiio-architecture/

Unsuccessful design for new prison in Haeren, Belgium

Sodexo/Strabag/AS Architecture/Conix

Successful bid for Greenland's first 'closed' prison (Schmidt Hammer Lassen and Friis & Moltke)

Scotland – “doing prisons differently”

Entry Buildings
HMP Inverclyde and
HMP Grampian

HMP & YOI Inverclyde Design Illustrations
View to North-West: Horticulture and Animal Husbandry

5.3

Entry Building

The Main Entrance

The stage C entry building design was based on a three storey solution with staff facilities and management/ admin arranged around a courtyard space which provided excellent access to natural light and ventilation, particularly through roof lights to closed and agents visits on level 01 of the building. As part of the VE process initiated in October 2013 the plan layout of the entry building was reviewed and a conceptual layout developed which co-located staff facilities and management/admin on level 2, creating a two storey building (with plant only on level 3). This approach combined with a review of the briefed area requirements for the building, saved approx. 750m2 of area, reduced the complexity of the built form and reduced external envelope, however it did result in more deep plan spaces within the heart of the building that would prove difficult to naturally light and ventilate.

The outcome of the VE process described in section 4.4 and summarised above was an instruction from SPS to implement the above changes and engage in a dialogue with SPS to refine the design proposals into the current scheme. Consequently the design team worked in close collaboration with Eats and WOT to develop the stage D design proposals described in greater detail below and overleaf.

The Main Entrance

As the public face of both the prison and the SPS, the main entrance is representative of a contemporary forward thinking prison service, which is focused on rehabilitation and transformational change. Hence the space has been designed to be light, spacious, high quality, contemporary and uplifting but also welcoming and inviting. It is also of primary importance that the space has both clarity and functionality and therefore the design has been developed to ensure that there is sufficient space both in front of and behind the reception desk, that there is clear designated staff and visitor routes and that there is sufficient space for search procedures to be carried out.

To the rear of the desk, but in front of the secure line is the gate managers office and the prisoner property depository store, a tea point provided in this location was removed during design development to provide greater space to the rear of the reception desk and on the assumption that staff can go to the café within staff facilities during their breaks. Discrete spaces have been provided off the main entrance for cleaner's cupboards, lockers and pram storage ensuring the space can be fully serviced and yet retain simplicity of form and legibility of layout.

Accommodation - association

Work, training

5.6

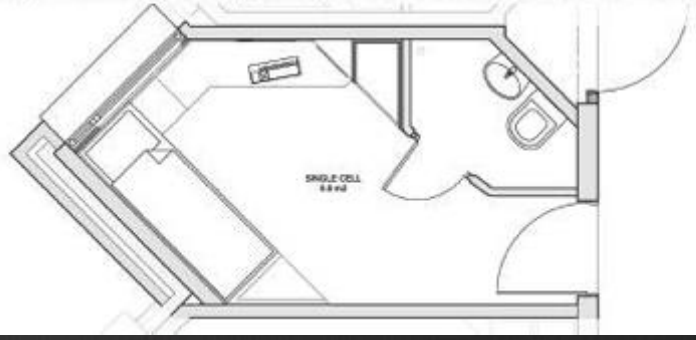
The Cells

Single Cell

As part of the development of the design for the accommodation, the layouts of the single, double, accessible and mother and baby cells have all been refined. In particular the design for the furniture, fixtures and fittings has been developed to create a functional, efficient layout, incorporating robust, low maintenance solutions and anti-ligature measures, but also create a normalised environment that promotes rehabilitation.

As previously indicated the plan form of each cell was initially developed to maximise views over the landscape and restrict views between cells in adjacent houseblocks, however the size, position and configuration of the window has also been developed to ensure good daylight and ventilation of the space. The decision to provide fresh air to the cell via the window (rather than provide a ducted supply direct to the space) has required the introduction of a side vent, increasing the aperture for the window whilst maintaining the area of glazing. It has been agreed with SPS that the vent should be located away from the bed head and the design is currently being revised accordingly. Furthermore options for delivering a U value of 1.6 W/m2/K are being explored, in particular the construction of the window itself i.e steel, aluminium, UPVC or composite and the use of gas filled double glazed units. Inside the window, the use of blinds or curtains have been considered and SPS have expressed a preference for curtains fixed to a recessed track within the reveal of the window, as they create a softer, more homely feel to the environment. Anti-ligature solutions are being explored for this arrangement.

The design team have developed an integrated, bespoke furniture solution which can be constructed by SPS industries using a solid surface material. The design provides a bed (with under bed storage), shelving, bedside table and desk formed in sections



5.6

The Cells

Single Cell

that are fixed together on site to create a robust monolithic solution that is easily cleaned and maintained. A vertical panel fixed to the wall around the bed, unifies the arrangement and in combination with a folding mattress, provides the opportunity for the creation of a sofa directly facing the TV, which is positioned on the desk. The corners and junctions of all of the furniture have been curved in order to provide a more softer, calmer and more contemporary environment.

A built in wardrobe arrangement has also been developed which removes a potential hiding place from the cell, encloses LTHW distribution pipework and integrates a radiator recessed into its base. As part of this installation, a space is provided on the wall adjacent to the wardrobe for the distribution of services and the incorporation of a mirror and vanity shelf.

Finishes within the cell have been selected to provide a domestic style environment, therefore wood effect vinyl is proposed for the floor, a timber effect laminate is proposed for the cell door, and soft furnishings including cushions, curtains and bedding will be selected to create a familiar, comfy environment. The use of colour in fixtures, furniture and feature walls will add life to the space.

The design for the en-suite has been developed so that there is sufficient space for the ergonomic use of each element of sanitaryware and to ensure that there is no exposed pipework, hence the Wc and wash basin back directly onto the service riser and pipework to the shower is concealed. In addition the relationship between the shower and the Wc has been considered in an attempt to minimise potential for splashing of the Wc seat. Through discussion with SPS, A mirror and vanity shelf positioned above the wash basin and a space for the storage of toilet roll adjacent to the wc, is to be included in the design. Following discussions with SPS it has been agreed that sanitaryware in standard cells is to be ceramic/porcelain, however in safer cells or Seperation and Reintegration cells where a more robust solution is required, solid surface sanitaryware is likely to be specified.

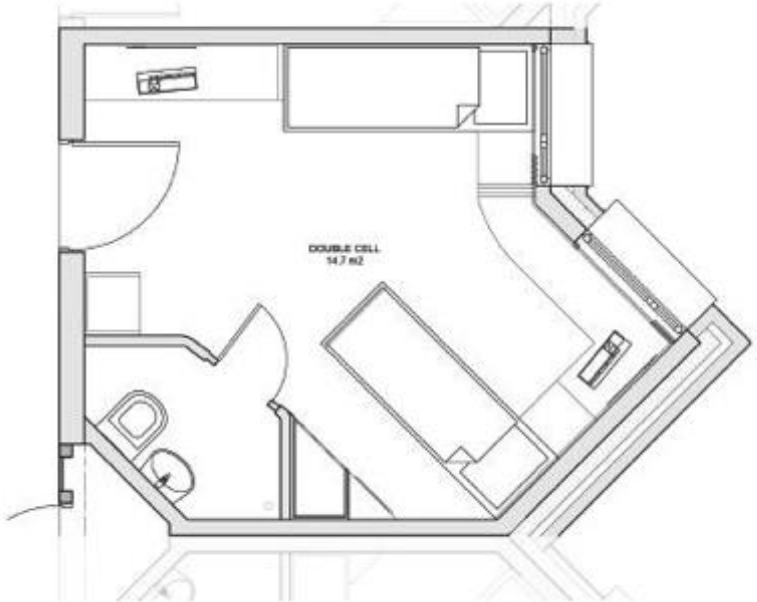
The design for the double cell has been developed to include all the same features of the single cell and allocate these equally to each of the occupants. Beds and desks have been carefully positioned in relation to each-other and to windows to maintain sight lines to TV's and ensure unbroken access to views, whilst wardrobes have been sized to provide the same overall volume of storage space.

The Cells

Double Cell

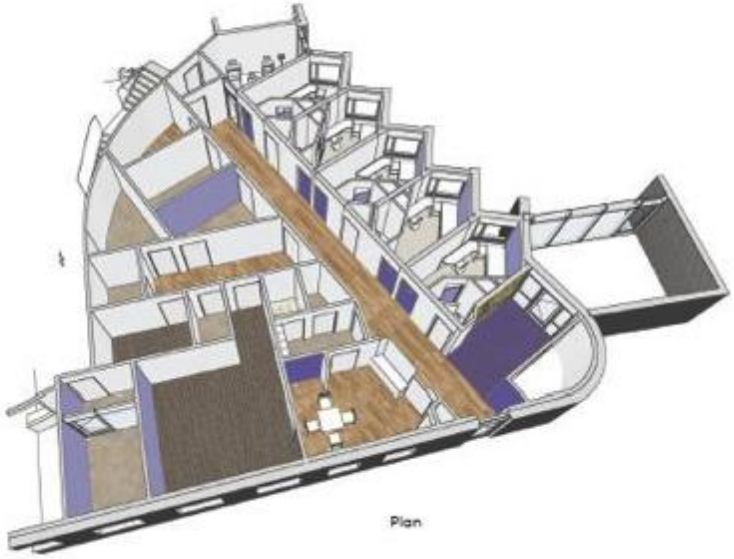
Mother and baby cells are the same in plan form as the double cells, except one of the beds is replaced by a cot, this ensures they have the flexibility to be used as double cells when no mothers/children are in residence.

There are four accessible cells within the scheme, two in Accommodation block A and one in each of blocks B and C. The footprint of the typical accessible cell is the same as two single cells, the bedroom area being in one cell and the en-suite bathroom being in the other. A 1500mm diameter turning area is provided in both spaces allowing for wheelchair manoeuvring. The height of light switches, socket outlets and furniture will all be designed to meet accessible requirements, furthermore accessible sanitaryware and grab rails will all be provided to the en-suite. It should be noted that one of the accessible cells in Block A is designed to be large enough to take a hospital bed and permit the use of a mobile hoist for transferring prisoners between the bed and the bath.



Separation & Reintegration Unit

Block A - Separation & Reintegration Unit Corridoor View & Feature Graphic on Wall to Excercise Yard

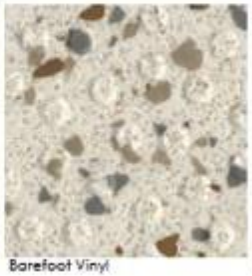


Plan

Feature Graphic

Timber effect

Accent Floor Colour



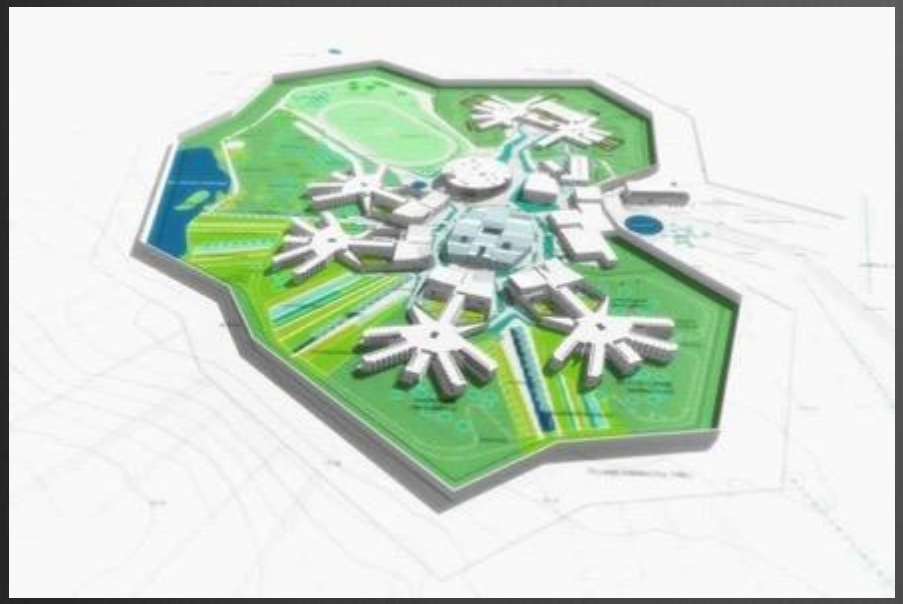
Barefoot Vinyl

Carpet tile

Non - slip Vinyl

Accent Wall Colous

Feature Wall Colour



Falster, Denmark
(C F Møller)

all wings have a view of the landscape within the walls, but none have visual contact with each other

Maggie's Centres in Hong Kong, Oxford, Aberdeen and Fife

Architecture of hope enabling the person to *flourish?*

Architecture of despair causing people to be *broken?*

Albion "looks and feels like it can actually work as a rehabilitative prison, but in fact it is the least effective prison of all…"

…It is a dysfunctional, mean-spirited facility that callously steeps you in despair while it lavishes you with physical comfort. Albion provides the inmate a sterile environment with faceless bells and voices precisely controlling time and movement for no apparent purpose other than order. It is a place where everyone is suspicious of each other and superficial friendliness is all that can exist…This manufactured effect is comparable to that of a store-bought ant farm. The visible order, regularity, and routine of the seemingly content ant farm fails to expose the violence and crushing hopelessness the trapped ants are actually forced to endure. Albion is a crowded and violent place and, in many ways, paradoxically more hopeless and indifferent than any prison that had ever housed me.
(Hassine, 2010)

lipstick on a pig…?

…or a vital component for enabling discussions about far-reaching justice system reform, including decarceration?