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## Unblocked Re-imagining Incarceration by Restructuring the Cell Block

Carlee Castle

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# U N B L O C K E D

RE-IMAGINING INCARCERATION BY RE-STRUCTURING THE CELL BLOCK



**BACHELORS OF SCIENCE IN INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN  
WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY**

**2023-2024  
Carlee Castle**

“No one truly knows a nation until one has been inside its jails. A nation should not be judged by how it treats its highest citizens but its lowest ones.”

**Nelson Mandela**

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# ABSTRACT

Prison cell blocks, often overlooked as monolithic structures of confinement, conceal a rich tapestry of complex social environments. This study delves into the interplay between the architectural and interior design of cell blocks and the individuals who reside within them, highlighting the profound impact of built elements on the promotion of privacy, independence, and collaboration among cellmates.

Incarceration, by its nature, places inmates in close proximity, fostering interactions that range from cooperation to conflict. However, the prison environment is not equivalent in different countries, and the layout of cell blocks varies widely. By examining these variations, it becomes evident that the built elements of prison design are instrumental in shaping the social dynamics within cell blocks.

**Privacy**, a fundamental human need, is a critical element in maintaining mental and emotional well-being. This study explores how cell design, including the size and layout of individual cells, the presence of barriers like curtains or screens, and the availability of personal space, affects an inmate's ability to carve out moments of privacy. Such privacy is not only essential for personal reflection and maintaining a sense of self but can also foster healthier relationships with cellmates by reducing the constant scrutiny inherent in shared living spaces.

**Independence** within the constraints of incarceration is closely tied to the layout of cell blocks. The presence of private spaces within the cell and access to personal belongings allows inmates to retain a sense of self-control and autonomy. Conversely, overly crowded, or poorly designed cells can lead to heightened tension and conflicts among cellmates.

**Collaboration** within the cell block is another critical aspect of this study. Inmates often rely on each other for emotional support, safety, and resource-sharing. We explore how built elements that encourage interaction, such as communal spaces or shared facilities, can foster positive relationships among cellmates and enhance their collective sense of community.

Understanding the relationship between prison architecture and social dynamics is not only pertinent to inmate well-being but also holds implications for prison management and rehabilitation efforts. This research sheds light on the significance of design choices in prison construction and the potential to influence the rehabilitation process through thoughtful architectural and interior space planning.

# WHY?

## THE TRUTH - THE INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS

### A SURVEY OF ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, DESIGNERS, & MORE CONCLUDES THAT-

49%

**Strongly agree** with the statement "Architecture and Design can impact feelings of safety."

70%

**Strongly disagree** with the statement "The conventional or current prison design promotes feelings of inmate *safety*."

59%

**Strongly disagree** with the statement "The conventional or current prison design promotes healthy inmate *social dynamics*."

45%

**Strongly disagree** with the statement "The conventional or current prison design promotes feelings of inmate *privacy*."

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

## THESIS STATEMENT

Unblocked delves into the relationship between architecture and interior design and the individuals residing in prison cell blocks, revealing the profound influence of built elements on the promotion of *privacy*, *independence*, and *collaboration* among cellmates. By examining variations in prison cell block layouts and the presence of design features that facilitate privacy, independence, and collaboration, this research sheds light on the critical relationship between prison design and social dynamics. Understanding this relationship not only impacts inmate well-being but also holds significant implications for prison management and rehabilitation efforts, emphasizing the potential to enhance the rehabilitation process through thoughtful architectural and interior space planning.

## RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

1. Understand the role of architecture in prison functionality and safety.
2. Examine the impact of design on privacy and social well being of inmates.
3. Compare and contrast different ideas of incarceration.

## RESEARCH TOPICS

1. Current incarceration construction
2. Structural and spatial impacts on inmate rehabilitation.
3. New ideas of incarceration.

## RESEARCH METHODS

1. Precedent Studies
2. Interviews
3. Survey

# PROJECT GOALS

## Restructure the cell block by utilizing design tools to:

1. promote privacy, independence, and collaboration among cellmates.
2. emphasize the relationship between structure and positive social dynamics.



# DEFINING THE PROJECT

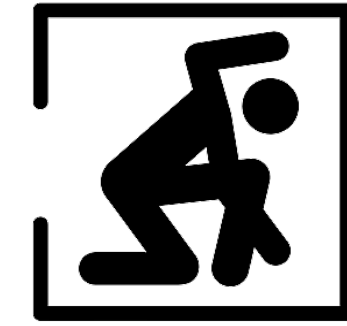


Figure 1: Confinement

con·fine·ment

*noun*

the action of confining or state of being confined.

similar: imprisonment, internment, incarceration, captivity

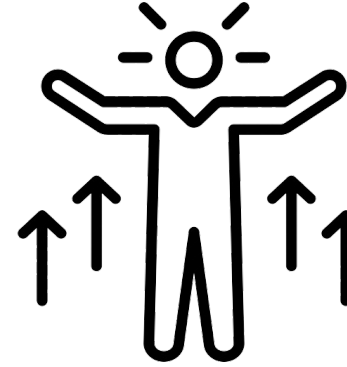


Figure 2: Independence

in·de·pend·ence

*noun*

the fact or state of being independent.

similar: self-government, self-rule, self-determination



Figure 3: Privacy

pri·va·cy

*noun*

the state or condition of being free from being observed or disturbed by other people.

similar: seclusion, privateness, isolation, peace

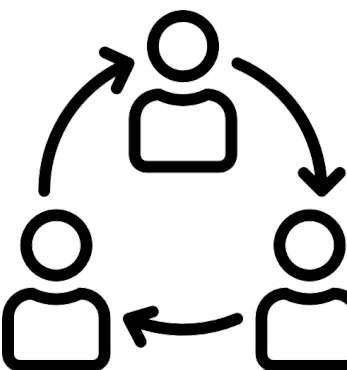


Figure 4: Collaboration

col·lab·o·ra·tion

*noun*

the action of working with someone to produce or create something.

similar: cooperation, alliance, partnership, participation

# THE LANGUAGE OF INCARCERATION

## *Stigma around crime and the impact of criminalization.*

After being incarcerated, individuals often face a complex web of stigma that profoundly impacts their lives. Society tends to label them with negative stereotypes, viewing them solely through the lens of their past mistakes rather than acknowledging their potential for change and growth. This stigma can manifest in various forms, including limited employment opportunities, social ostracization, and difficulties in accessing housing or education. The societal perception of former inmates as inherently dangerous or untrustworthy creates barriers to reintegration into their communities. This stigma not only affects the individuals themselves but also their families, perpetuating cycles of marginalization and hindering their chances of rehabilitation and successful reentry into society. Overcoming this stigma requires systemic changes, empathy, and a shift in societal attitudes towards rehabilitation and second chances.

in·car·cer·ate

*verb*

to put in prison

to subject to confinement

In the English language incarceration refers to the state of confinement rather than a physical structure—but it comes ultimately from the Latin noun *carcer*, meaning “prison.” Incarcerate is also on the formal end of the spectrum when it comes to words related to the law and criminal justice, meaning you are more likely to read or hear about someone incarcerated in a penitentiary or detention center than in the “pokey” or “hoosegow”.<sup>1</sup>

1. Merriam-Webster. (n.d.). Incarcerate definition & meaning. Merriam-Webster. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/incarcerate>

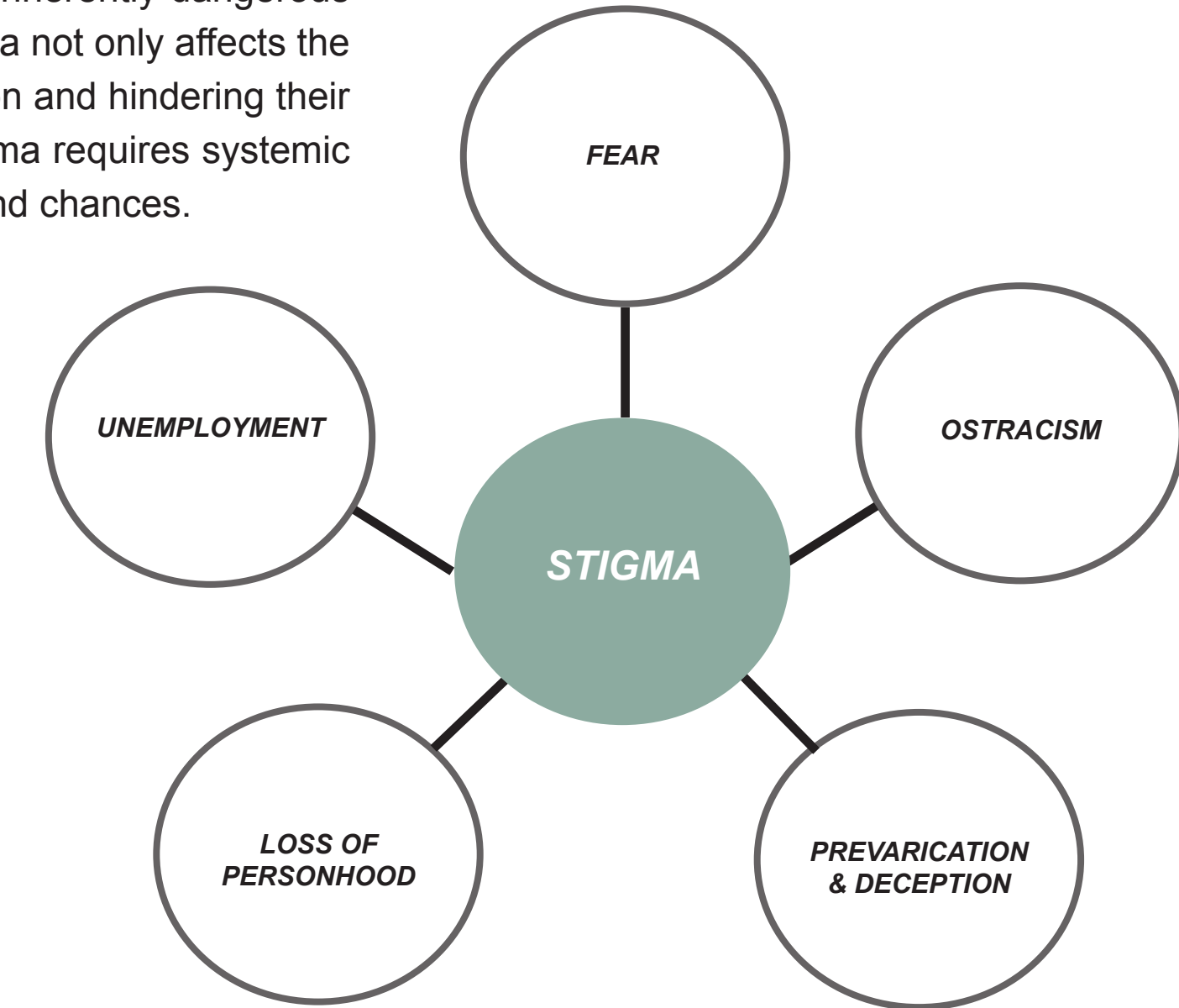


Figure 6: Results of Stigma

# UNDERSTANDING THE HISTORY

Throughout Western history, the concept of long-term incarceration as a method of punishment was not prevalent. In fact, it was actively discouraged in many places. The advent of prisons as we understand them today began shortly after the American Revolutionary War, marking a significant shift in the approach to criminal justice. While Europe and other parts of the world had a longer history of utilizing jails and short-term confinement, the emergence of prisons with more extended sentences was a novel development in the late 18th century.<sup>1</sup>

In the 16th century, workhouses in England and the Netherlands played a crucial role by detaining a diverse range of individuals, from criminals awaiting trial to prostitutes and orphans. The prevailing system of justice was characterized by the frequent use of violence, particularly capital punishment. As authorities sought alternatives to the mass execution of offenders, they increasingly granted pardons. Over time, the focus shifted toward less severe forms of punishment, such as corporal penalties like whipping and branding. This transition from physical to less graphic forms of punishment raise complex questions regarding socially acceptable violence. While corporal punishment may have been perceived as a less brutal option, it introduced emotional and psychological elements of suffering associated with confinement.

## HOW DID IT GROW?

The earliest modern prison in the United States, was established in Massachusetts in 1785, followed by Connecticut in 1790 and Pennsylvania in 1794, these represented a pivotal moment in the evolution of criminal justice systems. This transformation was driven by the ideas of social reformers and politicians who deemed capital and corporal punishment inhumane and recognized that existing punitive measures were inadvertently contributing to higher crime rates. A central element of this shift was a focus on rehabilitation and the removal of individuals from detrimental environments, reflecting a desire to address the root causes of criminal behavior.

Furthermore, early prisons often incorporated hard labor as a means of both punishment and reform. The subsequent expansion of the prison system in the United States was remarkable, with 711 prisons built between 1811 and 1979, followed by the construction of an additional 936 prisons between 1980 and 2004. This historical trajectory underscores the dynamic nature of penal systems and the changing philosophies and approaches to punishment, rehabilitation, and social control.<sup>1</sup>

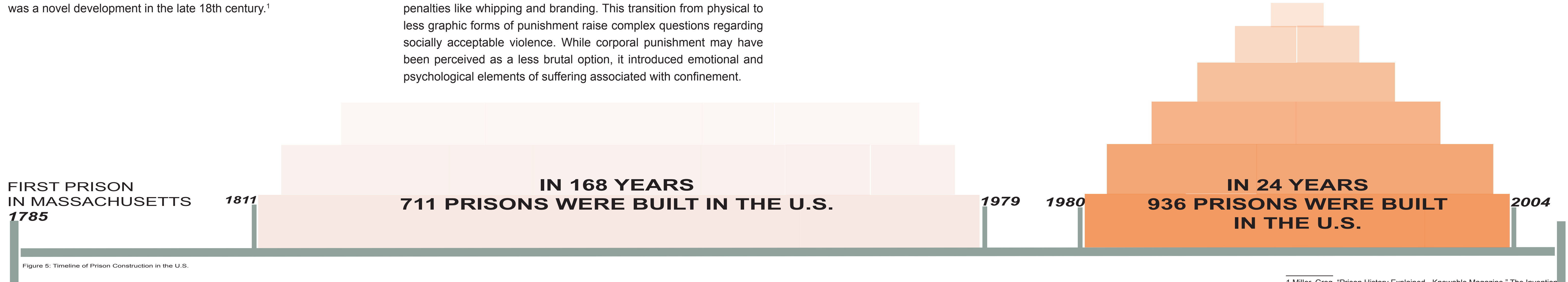


Figure 5: Timeline of Prison Construction in the U.S.

<sup>1</sup> Miller, Greg. "Prison History Explained - Knowable Magazine." The Invention of Incarceration, March 18, 2022. <https://knowablemagazine.org/article/society/2022/prison-history-ashley-rubin-qa>

<sup>1</sup> Miller, Greg. "Prison History Explained - Knowable Magazine." The Invention of Incarceration, March 18, 2022. <https://knowablemagazine.org/article/society/2022/prison-history-ashley-rubin-qa>.

# WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?



Figure 7: Jail vs Prison

1. Lopez, German. "Watch the Number of US Prisons Skyrocket after 1980." Vox, July 14, 2014. <https://www.vox.com/2014/7/14/5898267/prison-america-mass-incarceration-map-gif>.  
2. "Correctional Institutions." Bureau of Justice Statistics. Accessed October 11, 2023. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/topics/corrections/correctional-institutions>.

# WHO IS THERE?

*\*In the United States*

Understanding the demographics of the incarcerated population is crucial for comprehending the intricate social dynamics within prison cell blocks and how incarcerated individuals interact with their surroundings. Demographics encompass various factors such as age, gender, ethnicity, socio-economic background, and even citizenship. These demographics significantly influence the needs, behaviors, and interactions of prisoners within the prison environment.

## INMATE POPULATION BY GENDER

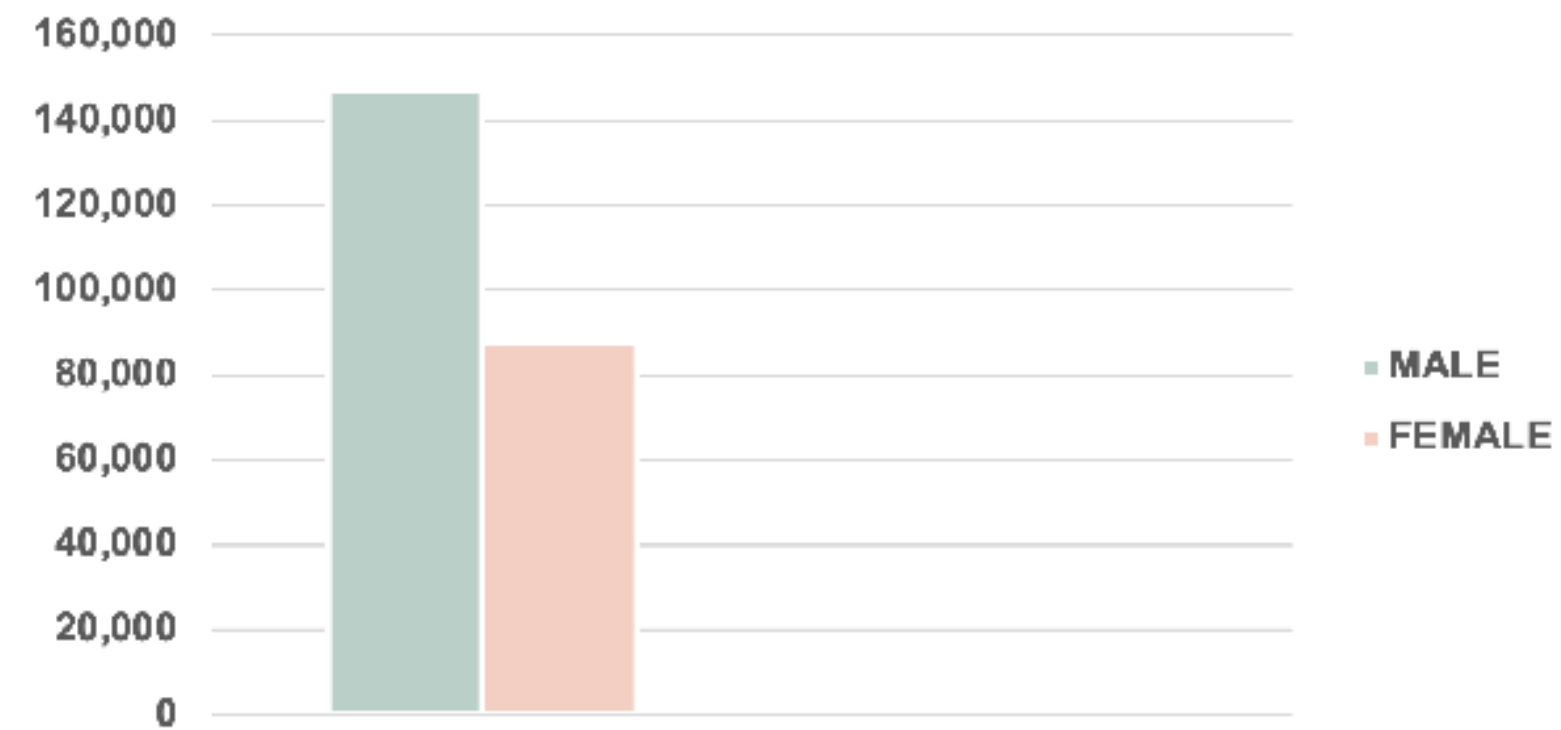


Figure 8: Inmate Population by Gender

## INMATE POPULATION BY AGE

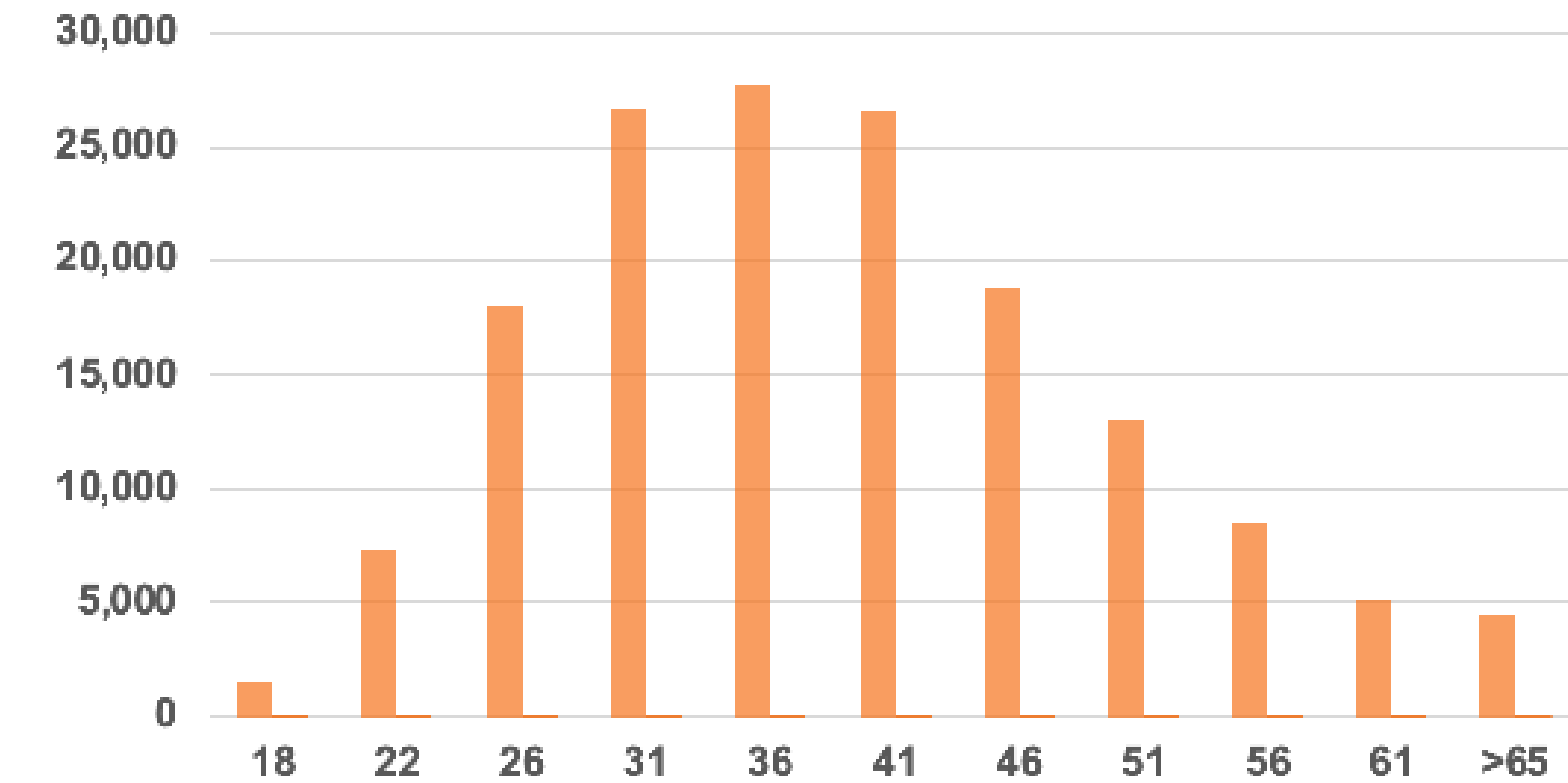


Figure 9: Inmate Population by Age

Demographics provide insight into the diverse range of backgrounds and life experiences of inmates. Different age groups have varying needs, from young adults seeking opportunities for education and rehabilitation to older inmates with specific healthcare requirements. Gender-specific dynamics also play a critical role in how individuals interact with the space, influencing issues related to safety and privacy.



## INMATE POPULATION BY CITIZENSHIP

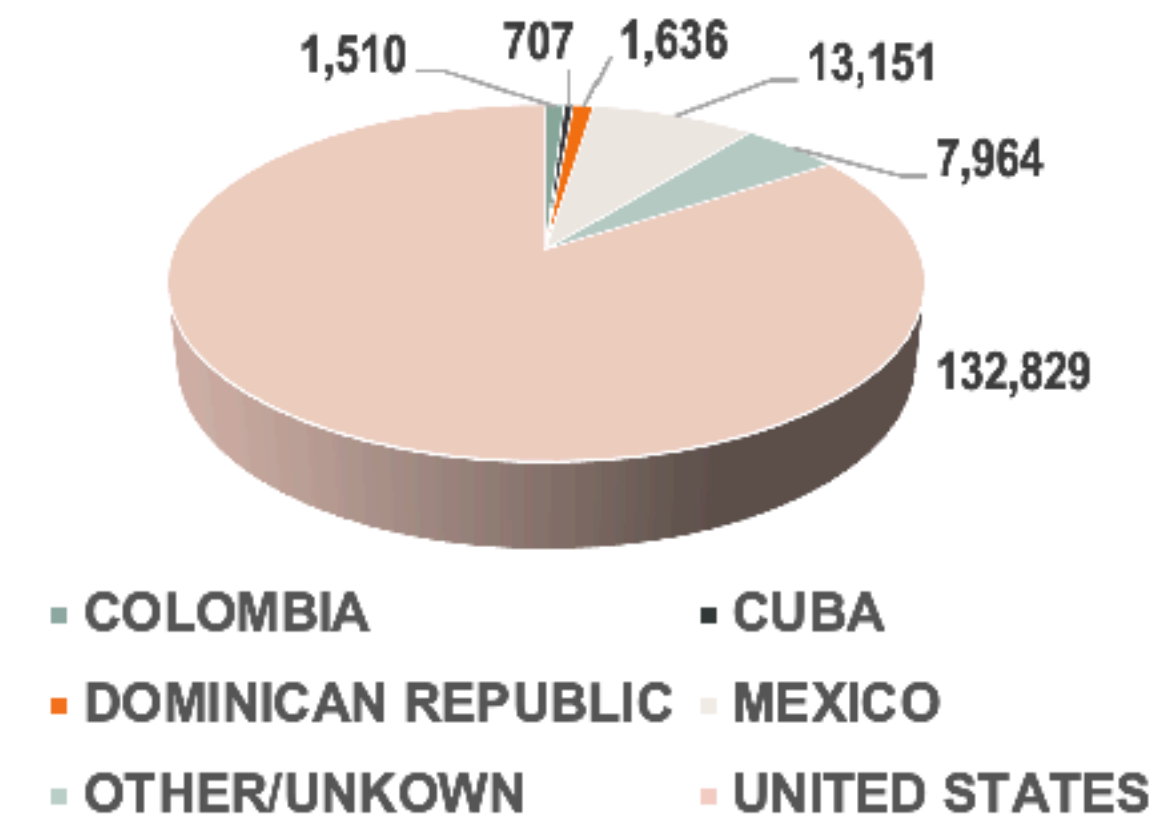


Figure 10: Inmate Population by Citizenship

Ethnicity and socio-economic factors even citizenship can shape inmates' perceptions of the prison environment and impact their interactions. Racial tensions or affiliations may affect group dynamics within cell blocks. Socio-economic backgrounds and status of citizenship can determine the level of support an inmate receives from their families or the extent of their involvement in prison programs.

By considering these demographic aspects, correctional facilities can better tailor their programs, security measures, and cell block layouts to address the specific needs and potential challenges of their inmate populations. This understanding can lead to more effective rehabilitation efforts and improved safety, promoting a more stable and balanced social environment within prison cell blocks. Ultimately, recognizing the demographic diversity of the incarcerated population is a fundamental step in enhancing the management and social dynamics of prison environments, which can contribute to the overall success of the rehabilitation process and the safety of both inmates and staff.

## INMATE POPULATION BY RACE

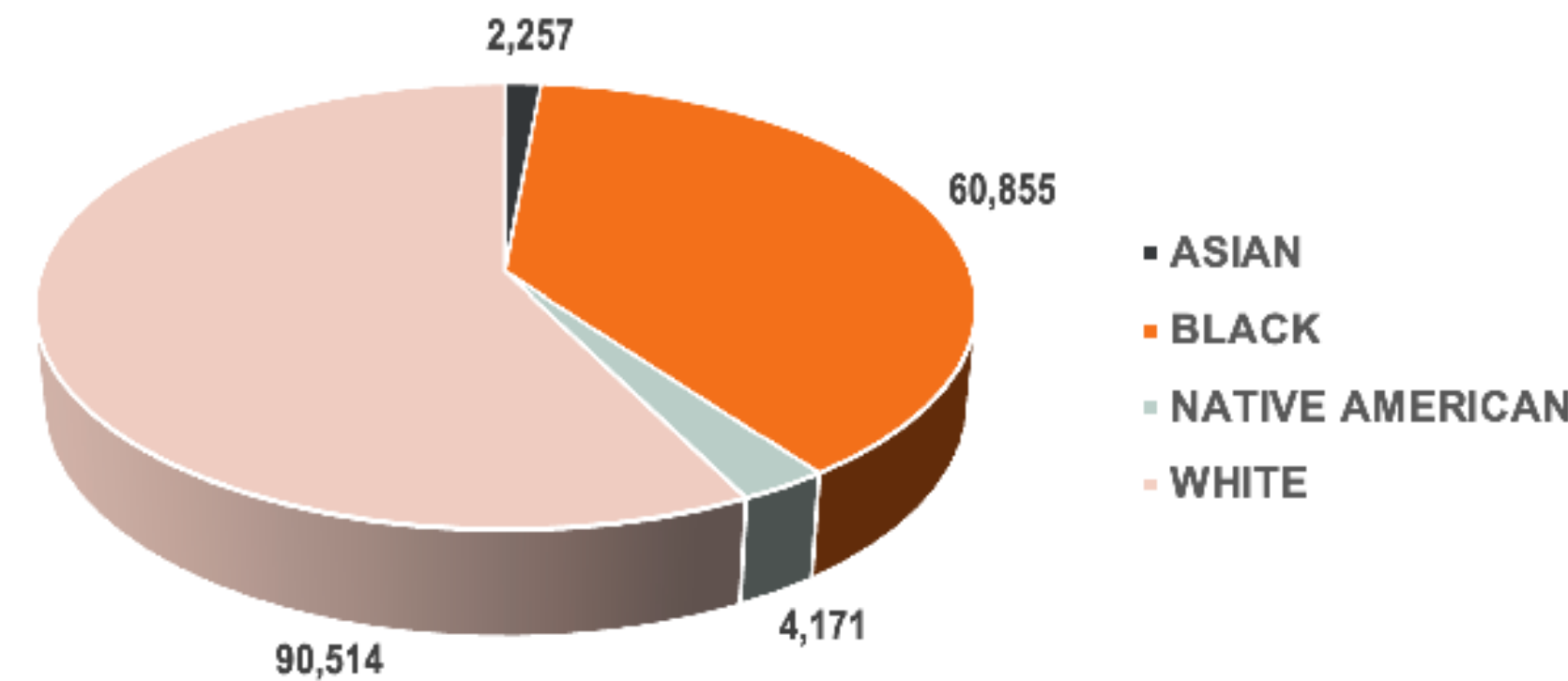


Figure 11: Inmate Population by Race

## WHO IS GOING BACK?

### Recidivism and why.

re·cid·i·vism  
noun

the tendency of a convicted criminal to re-offend

### COMMON MEASURES OF RECIDIVISM



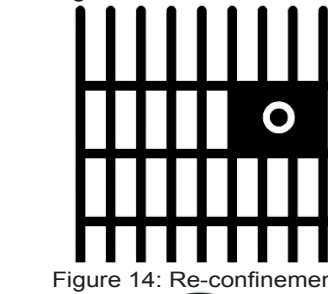
REARREST

Figure 12: Rearrest



RE-CONVICTION

Figure 13: Re-conviction



RECONFINEMENT



SELF-REPORTED  
CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR

Figure 15: Self reported

Recidivism is measured by criminal acts that resulted in rearrest, reconviction or return to prison with or without a new sentence during a three-year period following the person's release.<sup>1</sup>

**Recidivism plays a crucial role in the fundamental criminal justice topics of incapacitation, specific deterrence, and rehabilitation.**

**Incapacitation** involves using sanctions to prevent individuals from committing crimes by removing them from society. **Specific deterrence** focuses on whether a sanction prevents individuals from committing additional crimes once it has been imposed or completed. **Rehabilitation** assesses the effectiveness of programs in reducing crime by addressing an individual's needs or deficiencies.

There's a significant correlation between recidivism and the expanding body of research on criminal **desistance**, which describes the process of individuals reaching a permanent state of non-offending. When someone is released from prison, they may either relapse into criminal behavior (recidivate) or achieve desistance. The impact of interventions and sanctions on the desistance process is an area where research intersects.

The evaluation of prisons also connects recidivism with prison performance, serving as a tool to compare the effectiveness of privately and publicly managed prisons.

### NINE YEAR RECIDIVISM RATES BY OFFENSE CATEGORY

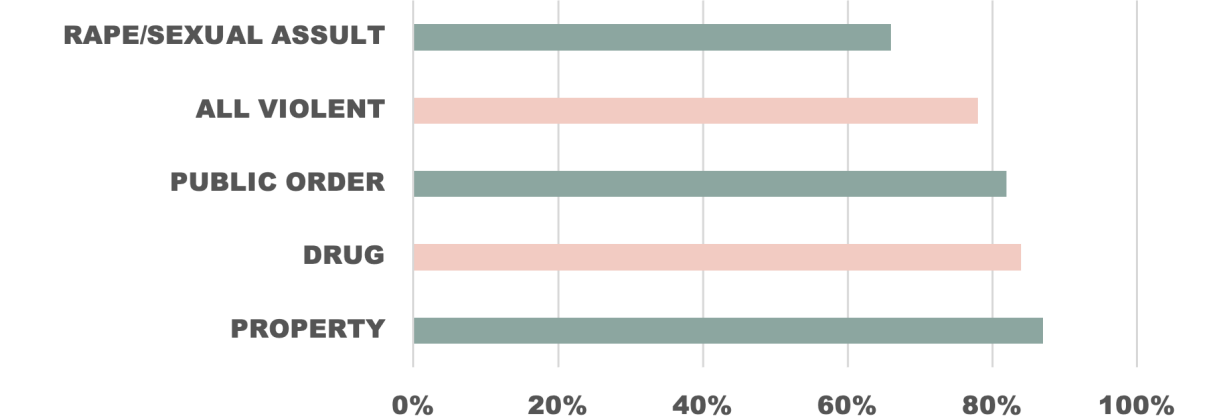


Figure 16: Recidivism

1. Recidivism. National Institute of Justice. <https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/corrections/recidivism>

# CELL BLOCKS

cell block

*noun*

a large single building or part of a complex subdivided into separate prison cells.

## 1. MINIMUM SECURITY CELL BLOCKS

These are the most common cell blocks found in most prisons. They house the general inmate population, typically sorted by security level. Inmates have individual cells, and there are communal areas for dining, recreation, and other activities.<sup>1</sup>

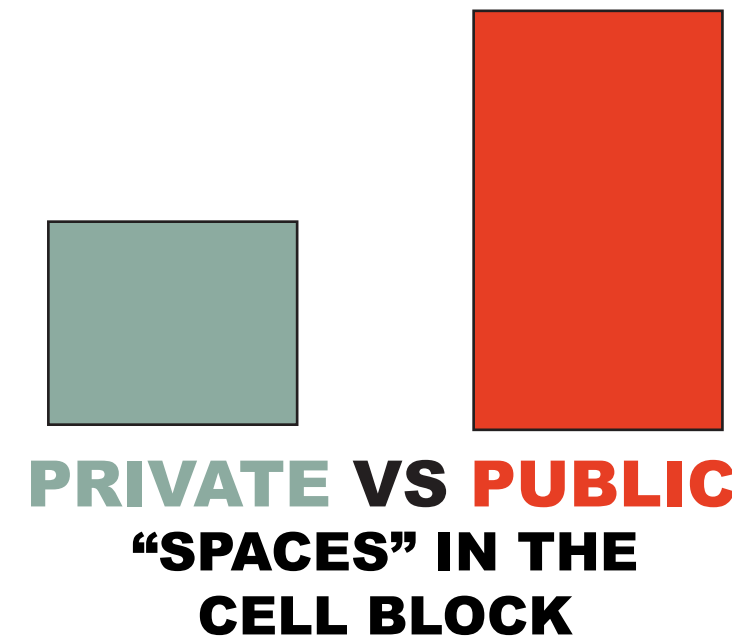


Figure 17: Private vs Public Minimum Security Cell Block

<sup>1</sup> Prison security levels: Inmate Classification Levels. Law Offices of Grant Smaldone. (2023b, June 9). <https://federalcriminaldefenseattorney.com/prison-life/prison-security-levels>

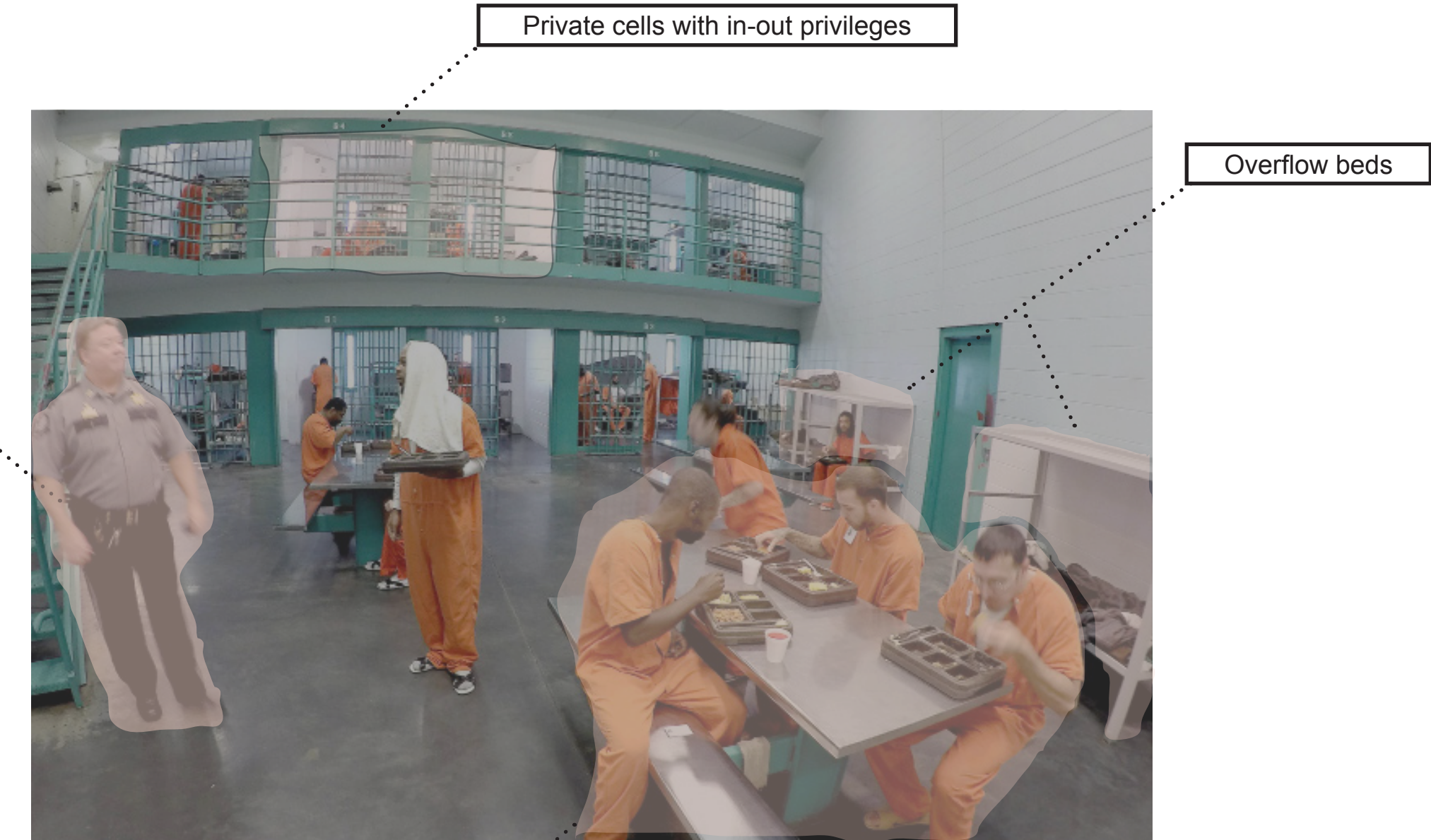


Figure 18: Minimum Security Cell Block

## 2. MAXIMUM SECURITY CELL BLOCKS

**Maximum-Security Cell Blocks:** These cell blocks are designed to house the most dangerous and high-risk inmates. They often have more secure features, such as solid doors, limited out-of-cell time, and extensive security measures.<sup>1</sup>

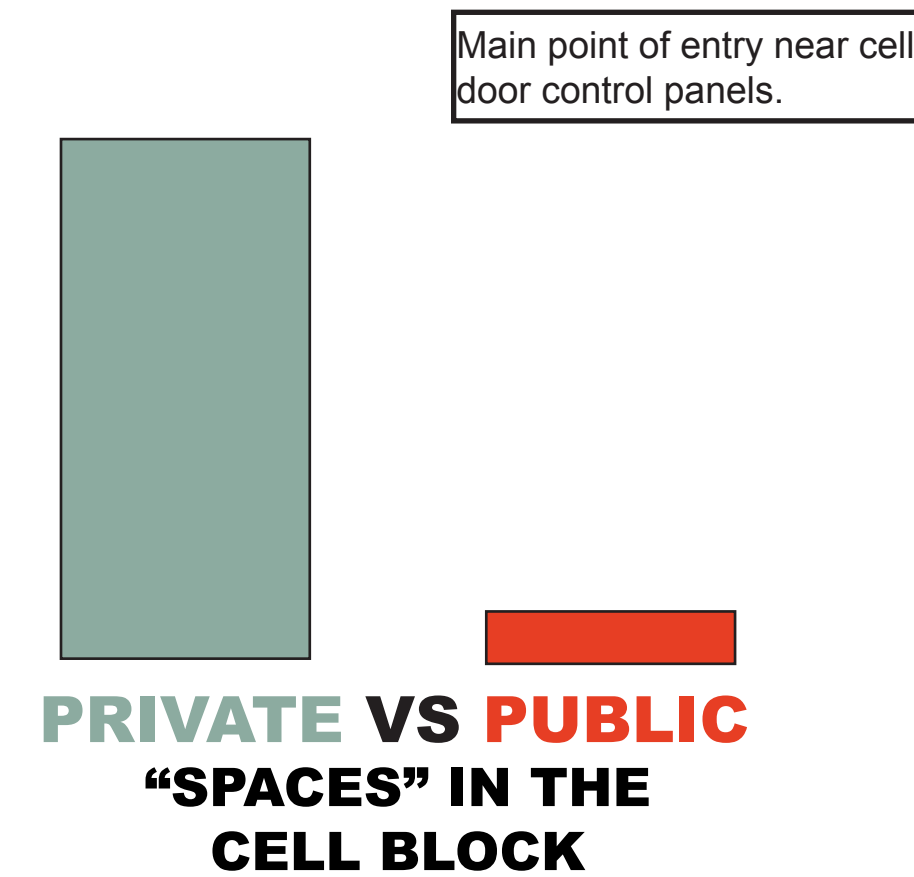


Figure 19: Private vs Public - Maximum Security Cell Block

<sup>1</sup> Prison security levels: Inmate Classification Levels. Law Offices of Grant Smaldone. (2023b, June 9). <https://federalcriminaldefenseattorney.com/prison-life/prison-security-levels>



Figure 20: Maximum Security Cell Block

## ZONES IN A CELL BLOCK

In **general population or minimum security cell block**, there are typical zones. First, individual cells, which aim to provide inmates with privacy and personal space. Second, common areas which are designated for dining, socializing, and recreational activities, fostering a sense of community. These spaces often serve as vital hubs for interaction, enabling inmates to connect and establish a social support system. Then sometimes not directly adjacent to the cell block are the showers. With individual toilets in the cells, the showers are functional and efficient, designed to meet the basic hygiene needs of inmates while maintaining security standards. There are some spaces outside of the cell block that inmates would have access to such as outdoor space, or laundry rooms these privileges are available based on behavior or job reasons.

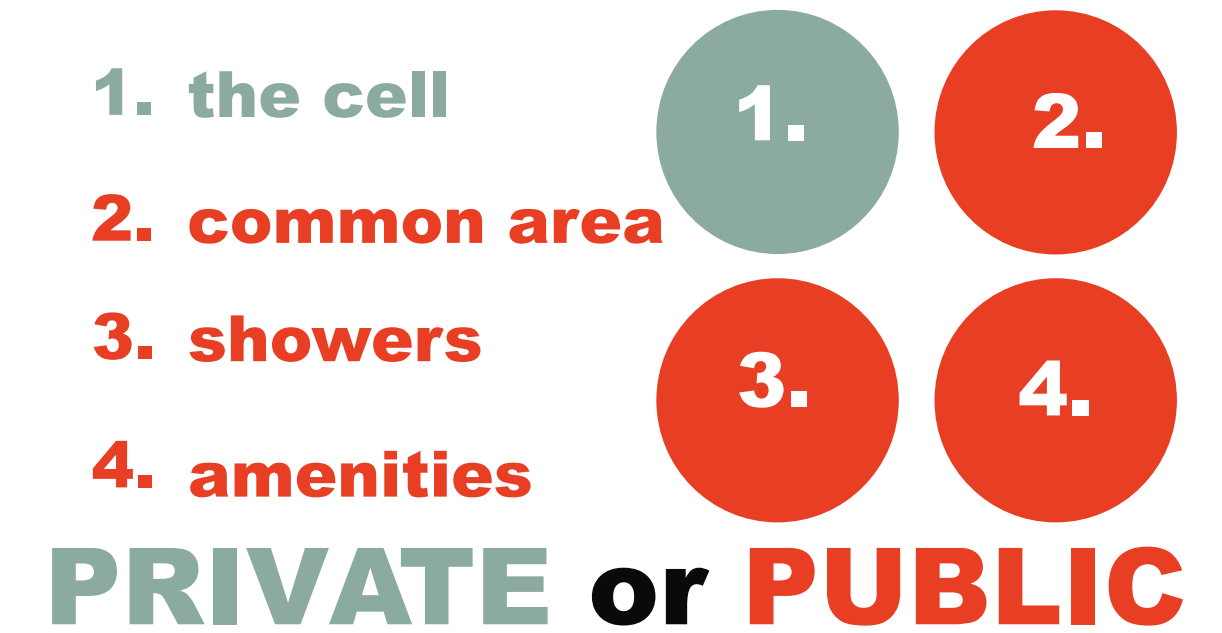


Figure 21: Private vs Public Spaces

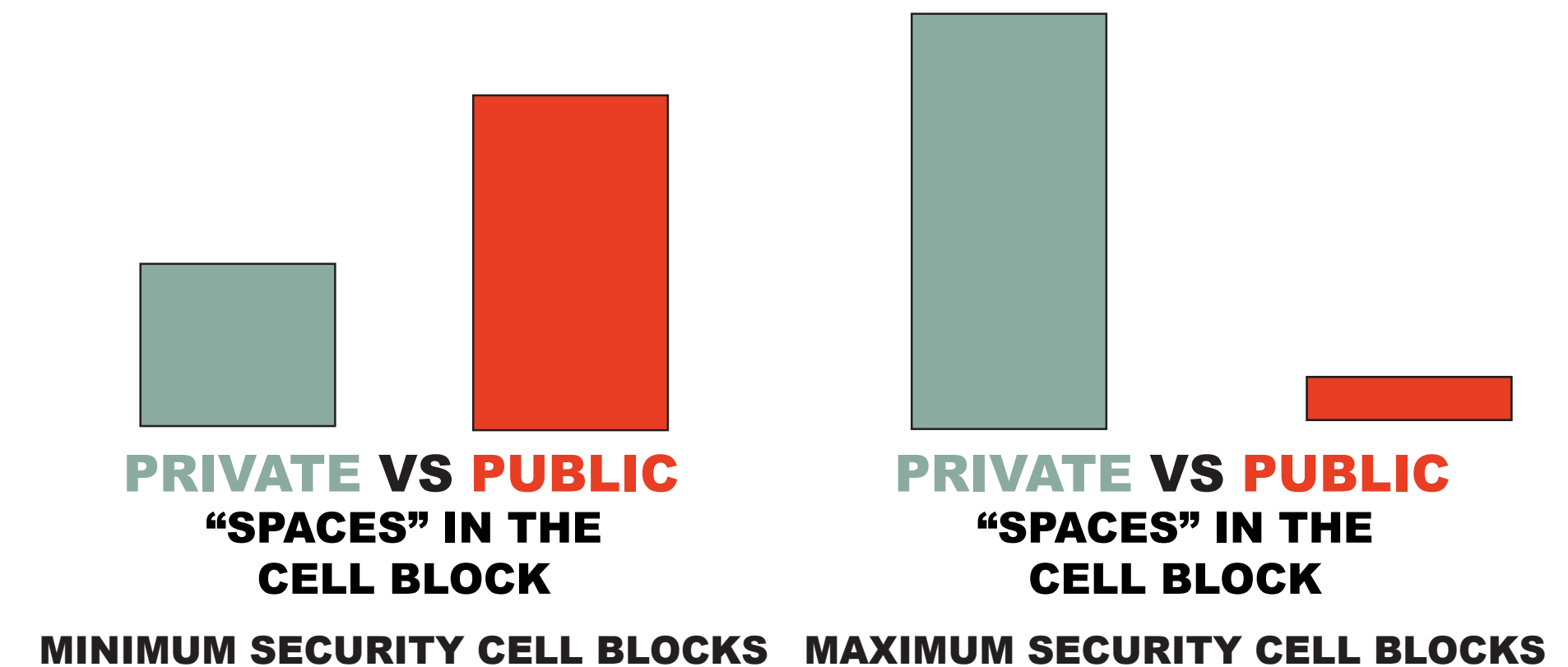


Figure 17: Private vs Public Minimum Security Cell Block

Figure 19: Private vs Public - Maximum Security Cell Block

# PUBLIC ZONES **Common Area**

## WHAT IS TYPICALLY THERE?

- **Tables and Benches:** Common areas often feature tables and benches for dining, reading, and socializing.
- **Televisions:** In some facilities, there may be communal televisions for inmates to watch approved programs.
- **Payphones:** Access to payphones for inmates to make approved calls.
- **Vending Machines:** Snack or beverage vending machines, where permitted.
- **Game Tables:** Areas with board games, card tables, or other recreational activities.
- **Exercise Equipment:** Depending on the facility, there may be exercise equipment like weights or stationary bikes.
- **Security Cameras:** Surveillance cameras for safety and monitoring.
- **Trash Bins and Recycling Bins:** For waste disposal and recycling.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Inside prison: How to survive prison. Law Offices of Grant Smaldone. (2023, March 26). <https://federalcriminaldefenseattorney.com/inside-prison/>



Figure 22: Common Area 1



Figure 23: Common Area 2



Figure 24: Common Area 3

# PUBLIC ZONES **Amenities**

## WHAT IS TYPICALLY THERE?

- **Outdoor space:** secure, fenced areas designed to allow inmates access to fresh air and limited outdoor activities while maintaining security.
- **Laundry room:** a designated facility where inmates are allowed to clean and launder clothing and linens under supervision sometimes for minimal pay.
- **Kitchen:** a controlled environment where trained staff prepare and distribute meals for inmates, adhering to strict security protocols and hygiene standards.
- **Library:** a resource center where inmates can access a limited collection of books, educational materials, and resources to support their reading, research, and educational needs within the correctional facility.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Inside prison: How to survive prison. Law Offices of Grant Smaldone. (2023, March 26). <https://federalcriminaldefenseattorney.com/inside-prison/>



Figure 28: Amenities 1



Figure 29: Amenities 2



Figure 30: Amenities 3

# THE CELL

prison cell

*noun*  
a cell in a prison, in which a prisoner is locked.

## ANATOMY OF A CELL

### WHAT IS TYPICALLY THERE?

#### The Cell

- Bed:** A simple bed or bunk with a mattress, pillow, and blankets.
- Toilet and Sink:** In most cells, there's a combination toilet and sink unit for basic hygiene.
- Desk and Chair:** Some cells have a small desk and a chair for writing or studying.
- Window:** Often a small, high window, allowing limited natural light but without a view.
- Locking Mechanisms:** Doors, hatches, or windows may have locking mechanisms controlled by prison staff.
- Surveillance Camera:** Most cells have a surveillance camera for security and monitoring.
- Light Fixture:** Overhead or wall-mounted light for illumination.
- Inmate Personal Items:** Personal belongings like clothing, hygiene products, and reading materials, depending on the facility's policies.
- Emergency Alarm System:** An emergency alarm button or pull cord for safety.
- Fire Safety Equipment:** Fire alarm, sprinkler system, or fire extinguisher.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Inside prison: How to survive prison. Law Offices of Grant Smaldone. (2023, March 26). <https://federalcriminaldefenseattorney.com/inside-prison/>

### Term to note:

Anti - ligature devices or products designed to prevent individuals from self-harm or suicide by removing or reducing the possibility of using ligatures to inflict harm or suicide.

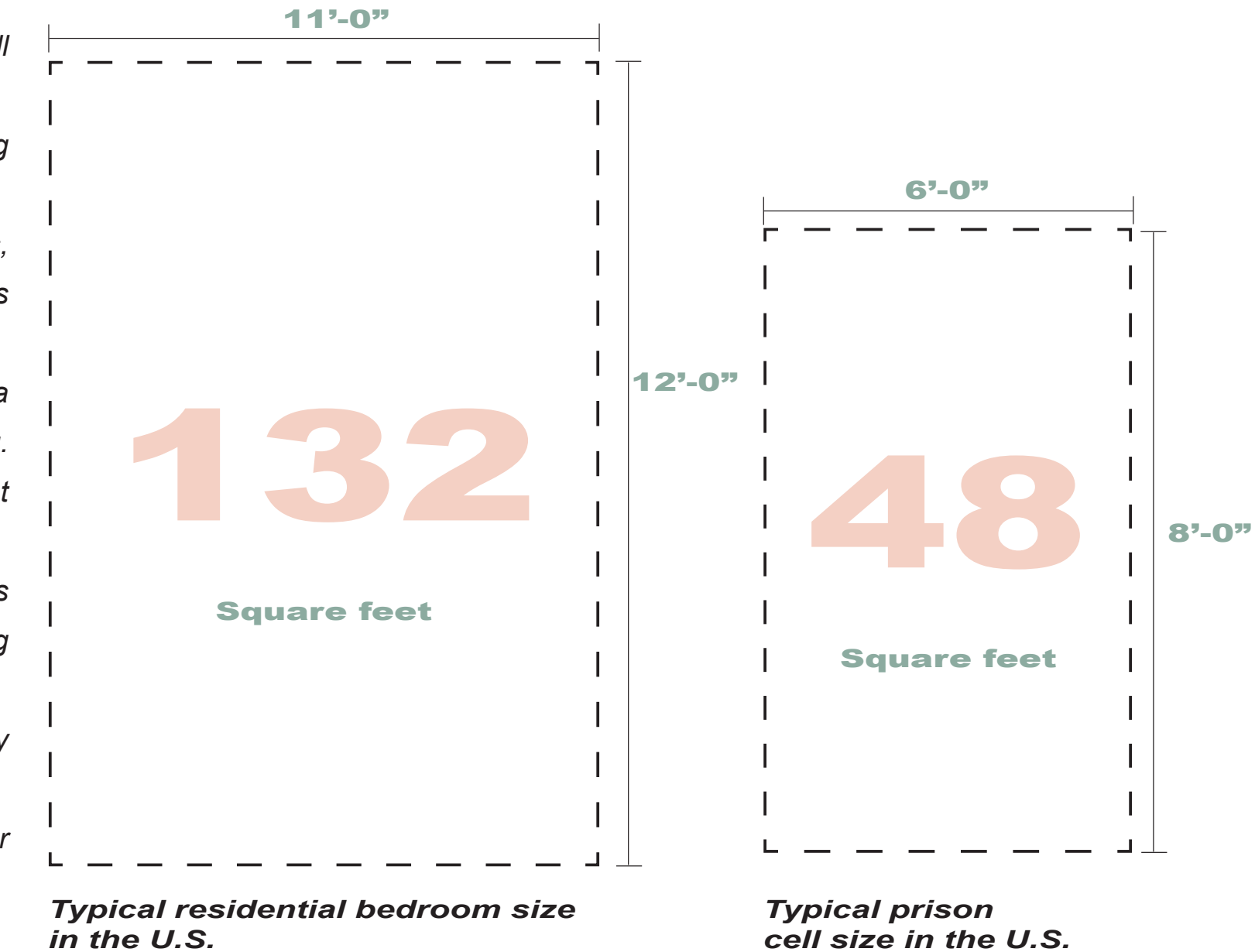


Figure 31: Bedroom vs Cell

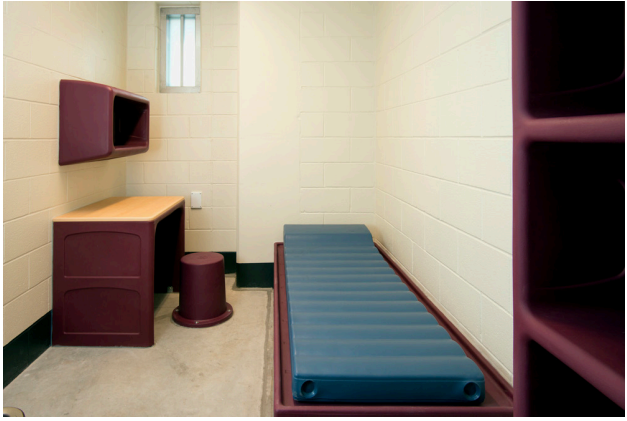


Figure 32: Cell 1



Figure 32: Cell 2

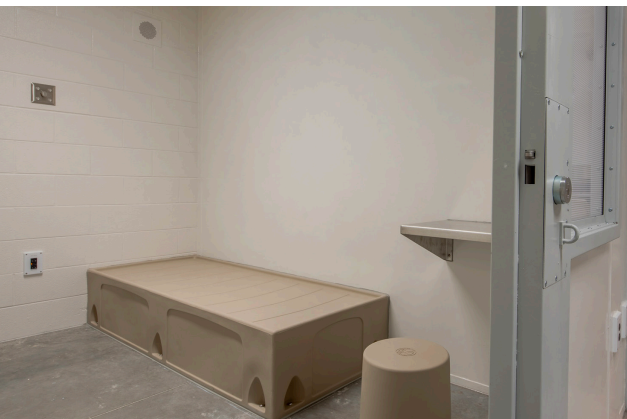


Figure 34: Cell 3

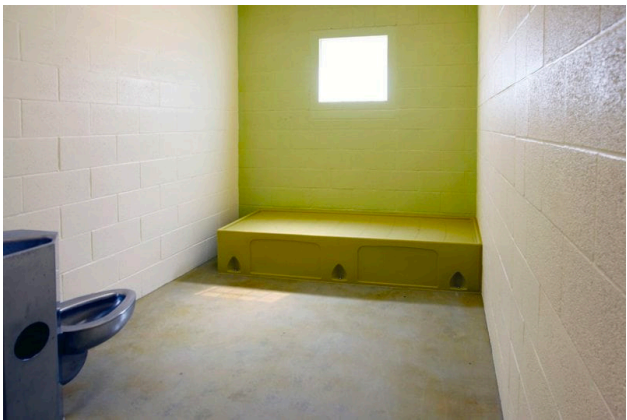


Figure 35: Cell 4

# A DAY IN THE LIFE - REAL LIFE EXAMPLE

A minimum-security cell block is a part of a correctional facility designed for inmates who pose a lower risk to security and the public. Inmates in this setting typically enjoy more freedoms and privileges than those in higher-security prisons. Cells may be less restrictive, and there's often greater freedom of movement within the block. Inmates have access to communal spaces for dining and recreation, and they can participate in vocational training, educational programs, and other activities. The daily activities for incarcerated individuals in minimum security cell blocks are way more flexible than that of a maximum security individual.

Sentencing decisions and the assignment of inmates to different security levels depend on various factors, including the specific circumstances of the offense, the individual's criminal history, and the discretion of judges and correctional authorities. Additionally, the classification of inmates into different security levels can vary by jurisdiction and the policies of the correctional system in place.

## WHO IS TYPICALLY THERE?

Inmates may have been charged with-

- **Non-Violent Drug Offenses:** Individuals convicted of drug-related crimes, especially possession or low-level trafficking of controlled substances, may be sentenced to minimum-security facilities, especially if the offenses do not involve violence or substantial criminal organizations.
- **Property Crimes:** Some property crimes, such as theft, burglary, or white-collar crimes like embezzlement, may result in sentences to minimum-security prisons if they are non-violent and do not involve significant monetary losses.
- **Low-Level Offenses:** Lesser offenses like misdemeanor convictions, traffic violations, or ordinance violations might result in incarceration in a minimum-security prison, especially if these offenses do not involve violence.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Prison security levels: Inmate Classification Levels. Law Offices of Grant Smaldone. (2023b, June 9). <https://federalcriminaldefenseattorney.com/prison-life/prison-security-levels>



Figure 36: "Jerry"

## Meet Jerry

Jerry Metcalf, 43, is incarcerated at the Thumb Correctional Facility in Lapeer, Michigan, where he is serving 40 to 60 years for second-degree murder and two years for a weapons felony, both of which he was convicted of in 1996.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Metcalf, J. (2018, July 13). What 24 hours in prison is really like. The Marshall Project. <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2018/07/12/a-day-in-the-life-of-a-prisoner>

*"We aren't deadbeats - our days are in fact incredibly full."*

*"Woken abruptly at 1:30 a.m I rush to a suicide watch duty after a thorough search. Supporting a troubled young inmate during my shift, I return to my cell around 6 a.m. for a brief rest."*

*With interruptions from the surrounding noise, I start my day at 10 a.m. greeted by my service dog, Ross. Basic tasks in a communal bathroom follow, along with training Ross, then using the prison's limited amenities like the email kiosk and shared kitchen."*

*The routine continues with mandatory counts, uncertain in duration, evoking a sense of purgatory. Fortunately, on this day, the count clears by 12:10, granting me time in the near-empty yard for exercise"*

## Minimum Security Cell Block

			TIME	ACTIVITIES
			0500-0830	WAKING UP SHOWERS ROLL CALL BREAKFAST
			0830-1230	DAYROOM ACTIVITES CLASSES/JOBS YARD ACTIVITIES MEDICATION
			1230-1400	LUNCH MEDICATION
			1400-1700	DAYROOM ACTIVITES CLASSES/JOBS YARD ACTIVITIES/GYM MEDICATION
			1700-1900	DINNER MEDICATION
			1900-2300	DAYROOM ACTIVITES LIBRARY YARD ACTIVITIES/GYM
			2300-0500	ROLL CALL SLEEPING

**PUBLIC vs PRIVATE**

Figure 37: Cell 1 Day in the Life, Minimum Security Cell Block Inmate

# A DAY IN THE LIFE - REAL LIFE EXAMPLE

A maximum-security cell block is the highest level of security within a prison system, typically housing inmates who pose a significant risk to both the safety of others and the security of the institution. In this environment, cells are designed with heightened security measures, such as solid doors, limited out-of-cell time, and close supervision. Inmates have restricted access to common areas, and the entire block is subject to intense surveillance. The primary goal of a maximum-security cell block is to maintain a high level of security, prevent escapes, and control the movement and actions of inmates who may have committed serious crimes or have a history of violence. Rehabilitation efforts in such facilities often take a backseat to security and containment. The access to amenities is little to none for maximum security inmates.

## WHO IS TYPICALLY THERE?

Inmates may have been charged with-

- **Murder and Homicide:** Individuals convicted of first-degree murder or other forms of homicide often serve their sentences in maximum-security prisons due to the extreme nature of their crimes.
- **Aggravated Assault and Violent Crimes:** Convictions for aggravated assault, armed robbery, kidnapping, or other violent offenses that involve significant harm or the threat of harm may lead to incarceration in maximum-security facilities.
- **Sexual Offenses:** Convictions for serious sexual offenses, such as rape, sexual assault, or child molestation, often result in sentences to maximum-security prisons due to the potential threat to other inmates and the community.
- **Gang-Related Offenses:** Individuals involved in organized criminal gangs and convicted of crimes related to gang activity, violence, or racketeering, may be placed in maximum-security facilities to prevent further gang-related activities.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Prison security levels: Inmate Classification Levels. Law Offices of Grant Smaldone. (2023b, June 9). <https://federalcriminaldefenseattorney.com/prison-life/prison-security-levels>



Figure 38: "Michael"

## Meet Michael J. Nichols

Michael J. Nichols, was born and raised in Kansas City, Missouri. At age 19 he was convicted of murder and sentenced to life without parole. Now 50, Nichols is now a co-author and founder of, a spiritual organization. He is currently being held at Potosi Correctional Center in Mineral Point, Missouri.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Nichols, M. J. (2022, September 30). How I survived a year in "the Hole" without losing My Mind. The Marshall Project. <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2022/09/30/how-i-survived-a-year-in-the-hole-without-losing-my-mind>

In prison, going to "the hole" can mean spending 23 hours a day alone in a tiny cell.

**"Surviving the harsh conditions of the hole, a 7-by-9 foot cement room in the Level 5 maximum security Potosi Correctional Center, requires mental resilience and strategic coping mechanisms. With limited access to the outside world, inmates endure isolation, restricted showers, and minimal interaction with others. In this challenging environment, I, a life-sentenced prisoner, learned valuable survival tactics that helped me navigate this austere existence."**

**At 50 years old, having spent a year in isolation following a prison riot, I am sharing tips for surviving the hole. I recommend maintaining a daily routine, prioritizing physical fitness through exercise, and engaging in continuous learning by reading and expanding vocabulary. Avoiding unnecessary conflicts, seizing every opportunity to leave the cell, writing letters, lodging grievances about legitimate issues, and consistently practicing faith were among the strategies outlined."**

## Maximum Security Cell Block

TIME			ACTIVITIES
0500-0830	WAKING UP SHOWERS ROLL CALL BREAKFAST		
0830-1230	INDIVIDUAL TIME IN CELL		
1230-1400	LUNCH MEDICATION		
1400-1700	INDIVIDUAL TIME IN CELL		
1700-1900	DINNER MEDICATION		
1900-2300	INDIVIDUAL TIME IN CELL		
2300-0500	ROLL CALL SLEEPING		

PUBLIC vs PRIVATE

Figure 39: Cell 1 Day in the Life, Maximum Security Cell Block Inmate

# IMPACTS OF DESIGN ON THE CELL BLOCK

Privacy in a prison cell block impacts various psychological aspects of an incarcerated individual. There are also many things that would make privacy needs different for each type of cell block structure. Understanding this relationship is crucial to re-imagining the cell block to foster ideas of *privacy*, *independence*, and *collaboration* among cellmates.

## Design and Architecture as tools to heal.

A study done by the National Library of Medicine found considerable evidence that architecture and design of prisons is significantly related to measures of mental health and well being.<sup>1</sup>

### The principles:

### The examples:

### The impact:

**-acoustics**

**-lighting**

**-visibility**

*Hard surfaces (flooring, walls, furniture) Greatly impact the sound reverberation in the interior space. This can lead to echoes and sounds being louder than necessary. It can lead to feelings of anxiety and over stimulation.*

*Natural Lighting has a huge impact on inmates. From healing to the connection to the influence of the sun rising at setting on our internal clocks Artificial lighting and the control over it and its brightness impacts inmates sense of safety and control of their environments.*

*Visibility to the outside world and outside of the cells themselves has a major impact on feelings of inmate safety and security. Visibility to the outside also plays a role on the views of natural light.*

### Sensory Processing:

- Privacy can influence the sensory experience of inmates, impacting their well-being.
- A lack of privacy can result in heightened sensory stimulation and stress, while privacy can provide a sense of control and emotional well-being.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Home. Applied Psychology OPUS. (n.d.). [https://wp.nyu.edu/steinhardt-appsych\\_opus/effects-of-solitary-confinement-on-the-well-being-of-prison-inmates/](https://wp.nyu.edu/steinhardt-appsych_opus/effects-of-solitary-confinement-on-the-well-being-of-prison-inmates/)

## Minimum Security Cell Block



Figure 18: Minimum Security Cell Block

**Visibility:** Cell doors with constant visibility out and in. Inside the cell there are no windows with exterior views.

**Acoustics:** Hard walls lead to echoes.

**Acoustics:** Hard Surface tables and chairs lead to cold surface temperature, echoes and ergonomic discomfort.

**Acoustics:** Hard floors lead to echoes, cold temperature, slippery texture.

## Individual Cell



Figure 35: Cell 4

**Visibility:** Only one window to with exterior views and at a height above eye level.

**Lighting:** minimal natural light. And manually controlled timer lights.

**Acoustics:** Hard Surface beds lead to cold surface temperature, echoes and ergonomic discomfort.

**Acoustics:** Hard floors and walls lead to echoes, cold temperature, and slippery texture.

## Maximum Security Cell Block



Figure 20: Maximum Security Cell Block

**Acoustics:** Hard floors lead to echoes, cold temperature, slippery texture.

**Lighting:** Manually controlled lighting by security, and little to no natural light.

**Visibility:** Cell doors with constant visibility out and in. But no visibility to their neighbors. Inside the cell there are no windows with exterior views. Second level cells have no view below them

### The principles:

**-acoustics**

**-lighting**

**-visibility**

When these design principles are implemented in a positive way the impacts on the cell block can be crucial to feelings of inmate privacy,, safety and success.

<sup>1</sup> U.S. National Library of Medicine. (n.d.). Space and Well-Being in High Security Environments. National Center for Biotechnology Information. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles>



# EVALUATIONS & STUDIES

## RESEARCH OBJECTIVE- *THE PRISON ABOLITION MOVEMENT*

ab·o·li·tion

*noun*

the action or an act of abolishing a system, practice, or institution.

As the spotlight on prison reform grows in today's media and society, the prison abolition movement is gaining significant attention. Chicago, within the United States, provides a noteworthy example of this shift, and Finland has fully embraced the idea of prison abolition. In the upcoming section, we will delve into two prominent precedents that illuminate Chicago's current position and its aspirations. But before we explore these precedents, let's take a closer look at the prison abolition movement itself.

Abolitionists emphasize that their movement doesn't advocate for immediately throwing open prison doors and releasing everyone simultaneously. Instead, it envisions a society that operates without the need for prisons, offering alternative approaches to punishment and rehabilitation. This perspective encourages the exploration of models that promote a more equitable and just society without relying on violence, control, inequality, or racism. It acknowledges that achieving such visions requires radical imagination, often involving a search for innovative models beyond existing paradigms. Abolitionism, therefore, seeks to challenge the status quo and develop progressive alternatives to our current justice system.

At its core, prison abolition is fundamentally rooted in philosophy. It has evolved from observations, experiences, and opposition to decades of relying on prison structures made of concrete and steel as one-size-fits-all solutions to societal challenges. The vision is aimed at fostering a society where the primary focus is on freedom and justice, rather than prioritizing profit and punitive measures.<sup>1</sup>

This perspective explains that it is evident that incarceration fails to address critical needs such as adequate housing, mental health care, or access to sustainable employment. Additionally, it doesn't enhance our overall safety. In fact, efforts like electronic monitoring, gender-responsive jails, or broadening the scope of parole and other forms of control have only reinforced our belief that substantial transformation is the sole way forward

**FREEDOM & JUSTICE**  
~~**PROFIT & PUNISHMENT**~~

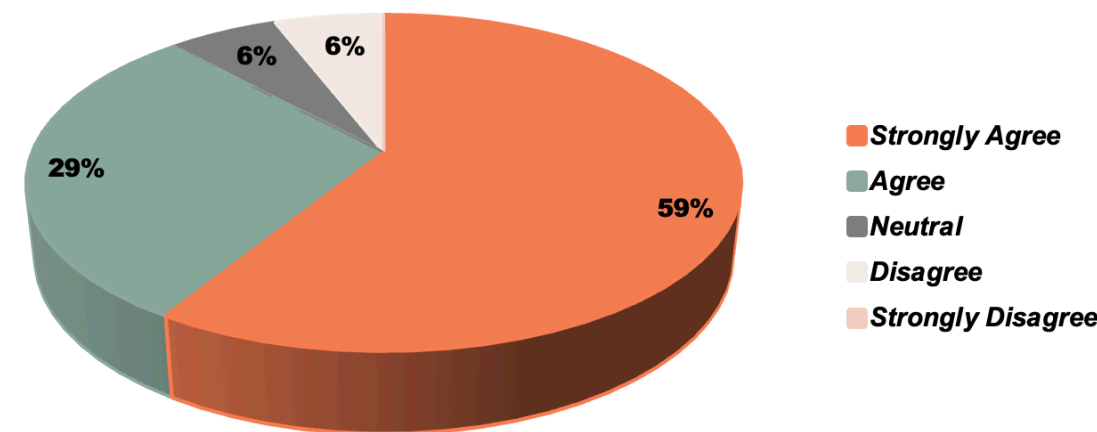
<sup>1</sup> Gilmore, R. W., & Kilgore, J. (2019, June 19). The case for abolition. The Case for Abolition. <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2019/06/19/the-case-for-abolition>

# ANSWERS FROM THE INDUSTRY

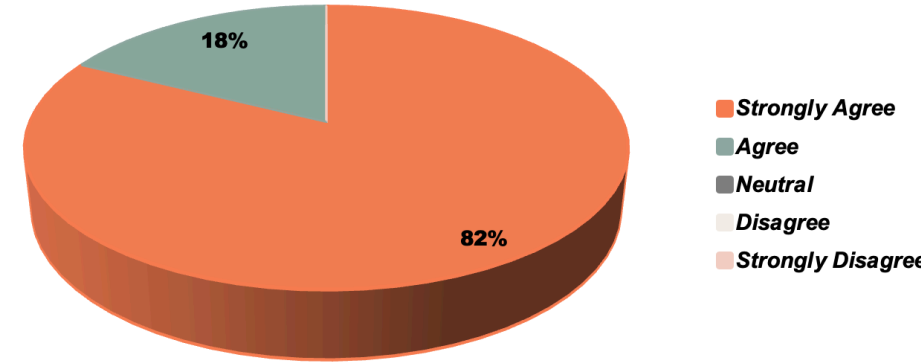
## SURVEY RESPONSES

I conducted interviews with 17 professionals from diverse backgrounds in architecture, interior design, engineering, and administration, utilizing a survey aimed at exploring the differing design standards for prisons between the U.S. and other countries. In the U.S., prison design primarily centers on security and safety measures, while in contrast, some countries feature "open" prisons emphasizing structured elements geared toward providing a more comfortable environment. The survey I conducted sought to delve into the perspectives of these professionals regarding their experiences working on prison designs and their perceptions of how prisons ought to be designed. By understanding their viewpoints, the survey aimed to elucidate their insights on potential improvements or changes needed in the design of correctional facilities to create spaces that prioritize both safety and a sense of comfort or rehabilitation.

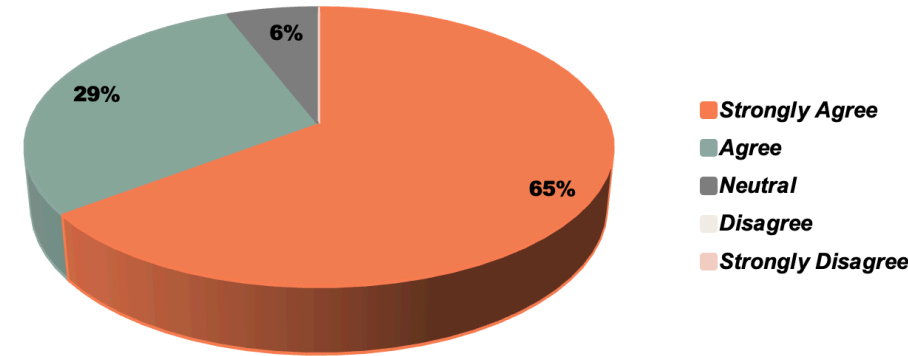
**How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement:  
"Architecture and Design can impact social dynamics"**



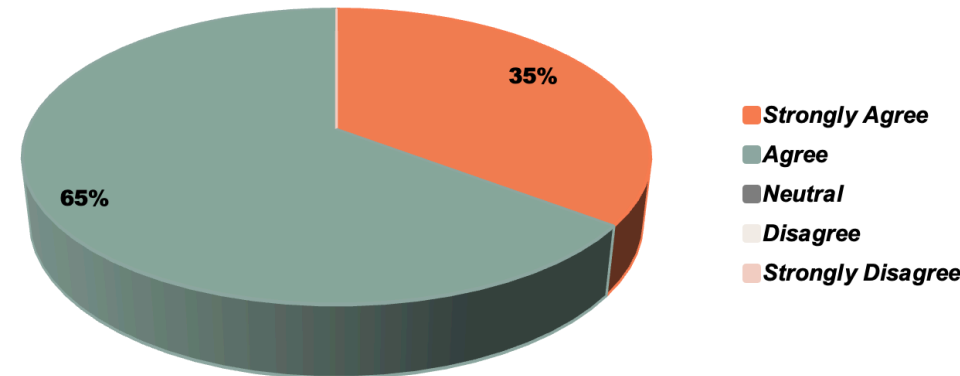
**How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement:  
"Architecture and Design can impact feelings of privacy."**



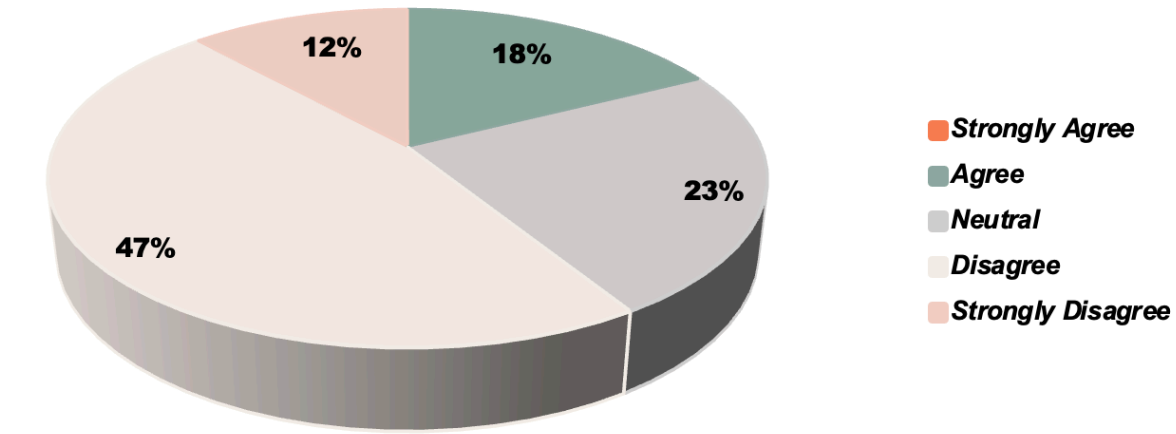
**How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement:  
"Architecture and Design can be healing."**



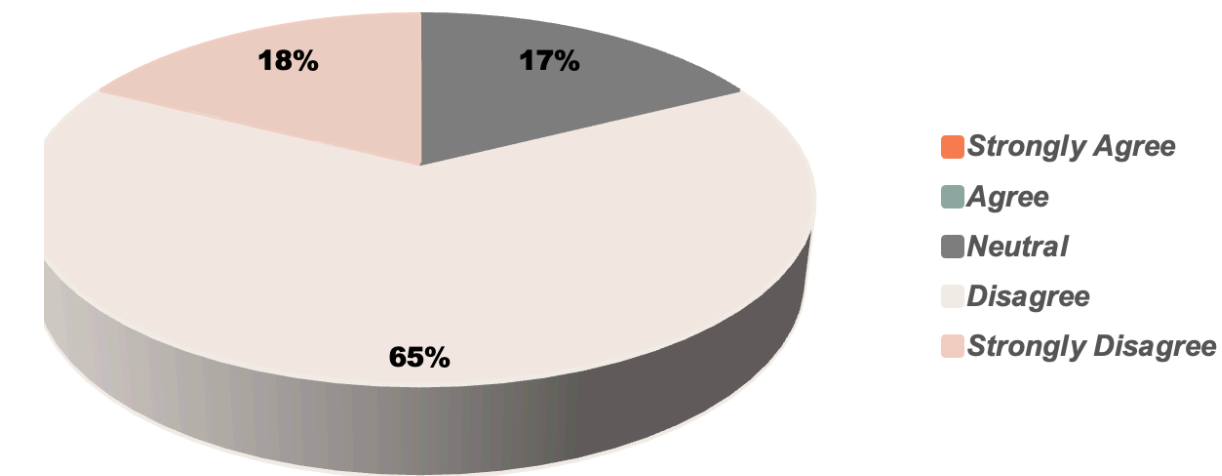
**How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement:  
"Architecture and Design can impact feelings of safety."**



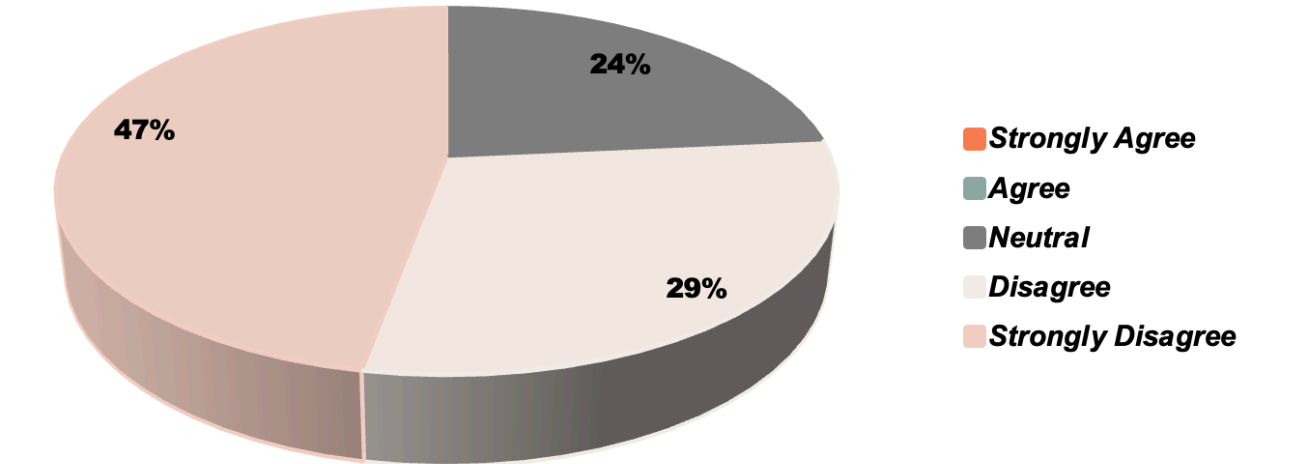
**How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement:  
"The conventional or current prison design promotes feelings of inmate safety."**



**How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement:  
"The conventional or current prison design promotes a healing environment for inmates."**



**How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement:  
"The conventional or current prison design promotes feelings of inmate privacy."**



**How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "The conventional or current prison design promotes healthy inmate social dynamics."**

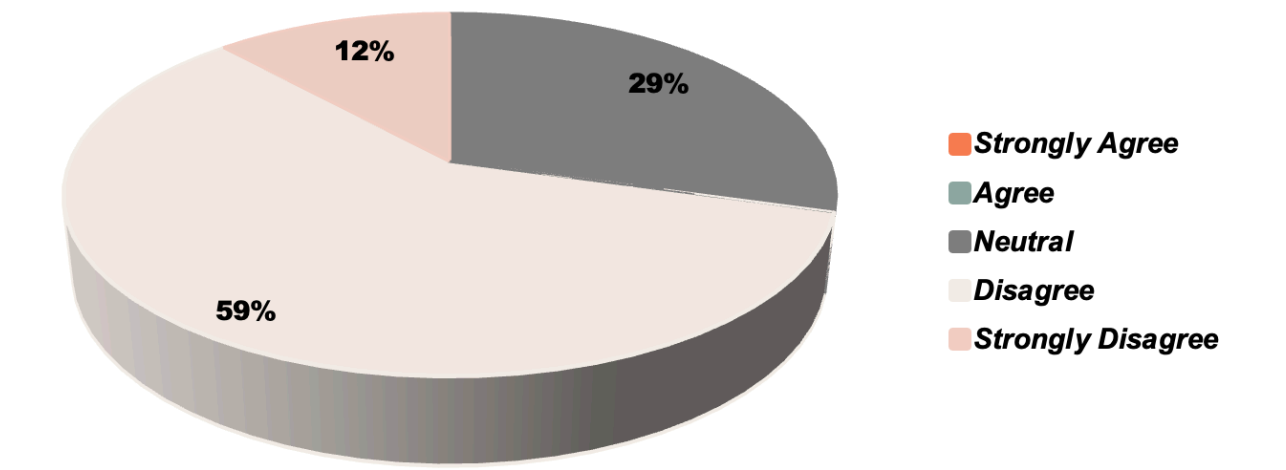


Figure 40: Survey Pie Charts

# PRECEDENT STUDY

## THE FEDERAL METROPOLITAN CORRECTIONAL CENTER - CHICAGO ILLINOIS



Figure 41: MCC 1

The Metropolitan Correctional Center, situated at 71 W Van Buren Street in downtown Chicago, is a federal prison in the United States. This building stands tall at 28 floors and primarily houses individuals awaiting court proceedings or serving short sentences. Designed by architect Harry Weese, the MCC showcases some unique architectural choices that set it apart from other federal correctional facilities. Weese's love for a right triangle as a key design element is evident in this structure. He also opted for floor-to-ceiling slit windows instead of traditional square ones and incorporating a rooftop exercise yard rather than a ground-level playground. These distinctive features make the MCC stand out in the world of federal prisons.<sup>1</sup>

Chicago has a long history of harsh punishment. The idea of jails and prisons we recognize today only started in 1832. Before that, they used things like public flogging, the pillory, short-term custody, and the death penalty for punishment.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Zhao, X. (2021, October 27). Exploring the Metropolitan Correctional Center: The Leniency and harshness in confinement. ELI AEPP Finding Chicago: Global Perspectives. <https://voices.uchicago.edu/findingchicago/2021/08/23/exploring-the-metropolitan-correctional-center-the-leniency-and-harshness-in-confinement/>



Figure 42: MCC 2



Figure 43: MCC 3

This prison breaks the mold with its unique design. It features carpeted, colorful interiors and private rooms with tall windows. Originally, the windows were quite wide, but due to a past escape attempt, bars were added. Despite this, the bars contribute to the building's unconventional yet elegant appearance.<sup>1</sup> People often liken the structure to a wedge of Swiss cheese or an IBM punch card.<sup>2</sup>

### “A PRISON IN THE FORM OF A SKYSCRAPER”

#### Why the triangle?

- it maximizes perimeter space, eliminates the need for long corridors, and offers an efficient layout.
- The outer edges of the building house individual rooms, leaving the inner core for lounge and dining areas.
- Stairs and elevators are located in the building's three corners.
- Each prison unit is bi-level with a two-story open lounge area in the center.

<sup>1</sup> Choe, J. (2020, January 30). Harry Weese's prison skyscraper. Harry Weese's Prison Skyscraper. <https://www.archigardener.com/2012/03/harry-weese-prison-skyscraper.html>

<sup>2</sup> Stevens, C. (n.d.). Metropolitan Correctional Center. <https://www.blueprintchicago.org/2010/12/22/metropolitan-correctional-center/>

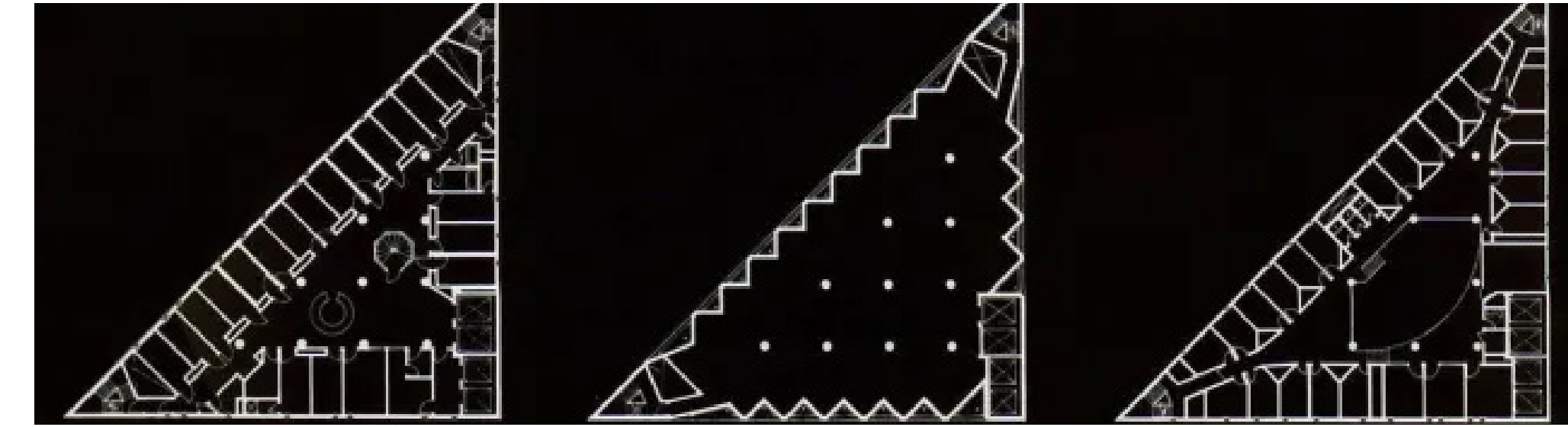


Figure 44: MCC 4



Figure 45: MCC 5



Figure 46: MCC 6

# PRECEDENT STUDY

## THE FEDERAL METROPOLITAN CORRECTIONAL CENTER CHICAGO ILLINOIS

### WHY IT DID NOT WORK & THE REALITY

While thought to be great for its time the Federal Metropolitan Correctional center in Chicago Illinois did not achieve its goal of being "State of the Art" Instead it was changed to what we are used to seeing now. Some aspects have remained, like the bright accent colors in the furniture and on the walls. But many things are different. The chairs, tables, game tables, and type of railing depicted in this image would not even be standard today in prison design or construction.



Figure 46: MCC 5



Figure 47: MCC 7

- |                 |   |   |  |
|-----------------|---|---|--|
| 1. <del>X</del> | MOVABLE CHAIRS AND TABLES WITH EASY TO BREAK LEGS THAT CAN BE USED AS WEAPONS | ○ | MOVABLE CHAIRS AND TABLES WITH A "NO BREAK" DESIGN AND ANTI -LIGATURE CONSTRUCTION |
| 2. <del>X</del> | GAME TABLE WITH MANY BREAKABLE ELEMENTS.                                      | ○ | IMMOVABLE TABLES, "NO BREAK" ELEMENTS. AND NO GAME TABLES                          |
| 3. <del>X</del> | RAILING LACKING SAFETY COMPLIANCE AND   | ○ | RAILING WITH UPDATED SAFETY REQUIREMENTS AND ADDED NETTING.                        |

**ON DECEMBER 18TH, 2012 TWO INMATES ESCAPED.** Two convicted bank robbers and cellmates carefully and steadily crafted a large hole in the concrete wall of their cell. This was done totally undetected. The men attribute the lack of security and worsening conditions to why they left,



Figure 48: MCC 8

# PRECEDENT STUDY

## VANAJA MEN & WOMENS PRISON - HAMEENLINNA, FINLAND

Finland came to the realization that imprisonment isn't the solution to societal issues. Despite once having a high incarceration rate, this nation underwent a comprehensive reevaluation of its criminal justice system and enacted new policies, informed by research findings.

The prior practice of incarceration failed to yield a reduction in crime rates. Consequently, Finland now boasts one of the lowest incarceration rates globally. This transformation is accompanied by a unique approach. The country excels in areas such as gender equality and displays minimal corruption. Its judicial system is widely regarded as the most autonomous globally. Individual liberties are highly valued, positioning Finland as a socially progressive and equitable society.<sup>1</sup>

### “Open Prisons”

- Adjacent to a farm where one prisoner serves as a sheep caretaker, the facility offers a spacious, green environment for its 50 inmates.
- Inmates wear electronic monitors but are not physically restrained by chains or locks.
- The prison complex includes a white two-story building resembling a dorm or hostel and a red ranch-style building.
- The facility provides opportunities for inmates to leave for education or employment, supported by social workers and classes in areas like substance abuse and anger management.
- Its small population allows for individualized guidance and support for the men.
- Inmates prepare their own meals and are transported to the grocery store every Friday in an unmarked white van.
- Prisoners have access to cell phones and bank accounts, handle their laundry, and can even order takeout pizza.<sup>1</sup>



Figure 49: Finland 1



Figure 50: Finland 2

The Finnish prison system differs from the U.S. in that it doesn't categorize offenders based on the violence of their crimes when considering parole opportunities. In open prisons, individuals convicted of crimes ranging from white-collar fraud to homicide are eligible for rehabilitation. For example, one inmate, who is serving a 15-year life sentence (with parole eligibility after 12 years) for murder, was transferred from a closed prison to an open one due to his exemplary conduct and sobriety.<sup>1</sup>

Vanaja's women's prison, originally a potato farm, offers a refreshing approach. Inmates can enjoy nature by walking along wooded trails and witness the changing seasons. A dedicated dormitory wing caters to pregnant women and mothers with young children; who can reside there until they turn 3.

The living spaces are adorned with books, toys, and sunlight streaming through the windows, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere. Stuffed animals wait on the couch, ready to provide comfort and companionship.

**1/3 OF FINNISH PRISONS ARE “OPEN”**

<sup>1</sup> Moore Grantee, N. (2021, September 2). Finland's open prisons. Finland's Open Prisons. <https://pulitzercenter.org/>



Figure 51: Finland 3



Figure 52: Finland 4

<sup>1</sup> Moore Grantee, N. (2021, September 2). Finland's open prisons. Finland's Open Prisons. <https://pulitzercenter.org/>

<sup>1</sup> Moore Grantee, N. (2021, September 2). Finland's open prisons. Finland's Open Prisons. <https://pulitzercenter.org/>

# PRECEDENT STUDY

## VANAJA MEN & WOMENS PRISON - HAMEENLINNA, FINLAND

### WHY IT DID WORK & THE RESULTS

Finland's prison structure promotes recovery, education and financial stability while incarcerated. It also encourages connections with family members. This allows for inmates to have the skills, money, and connections needed to be successful post prison leading to lower recidivism rates.<sup>1</sup>

RECIDIVISM IN THE U.S & FINLAND

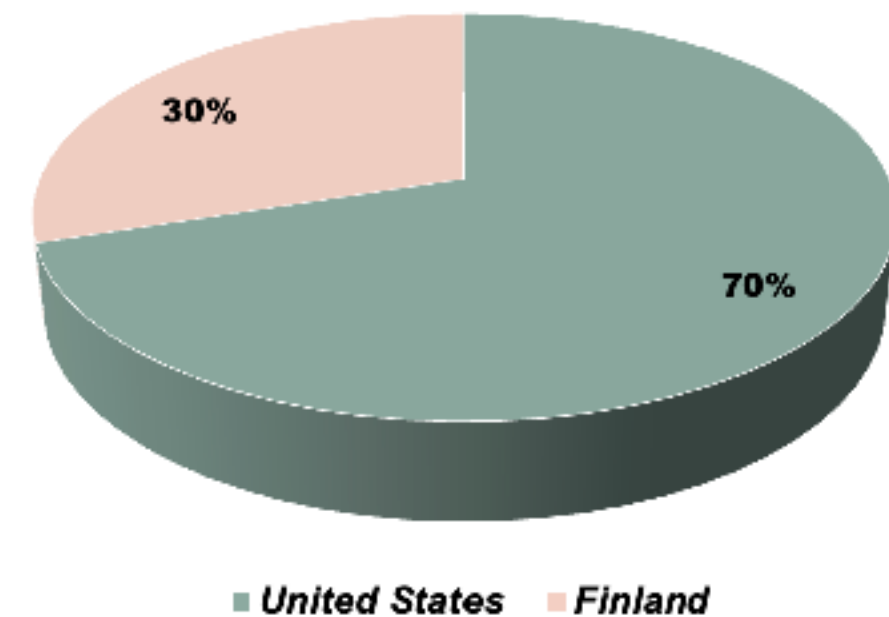


Figure 53: Finland vs U.S Recidivism

<sup>1</sup> Jones, Richard. "Doing Re-Entry: Accounts of Post-Prison Release in Finland and The ..." Doing Re-entry: Accounts of Post-prison release in Finland and the United States the United States , 2011. [https://epublications.marquette.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1139&context=socs\\_fac](https://epublications.marquette.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1139&context=socs_fac).

### FINLANDS POST PRISON PRACTICES LEAD TO DECREASED STIGMATIZATION OF INMATES

Finlands citizens *including* individuals who have just been released have many social benefits<sup>1</sup> ..



- support groups

Figure 54: Support Group



- housing allowance

Figure 55: Housing



- unemployment benefits

Figure 56: Unemployment

<sup>1</sup> Jones, Richard. "Doing Re-Entry: Accounts of Post-Prison Release in Finland and The ..." Doing Re-entry: Accounts of Post-prison release in Finland and the United States the United States , 2011. [https://epublications.marquette.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1139&context=socs\\_fac](https://epublications.marquette.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1139&context=socs_fac).

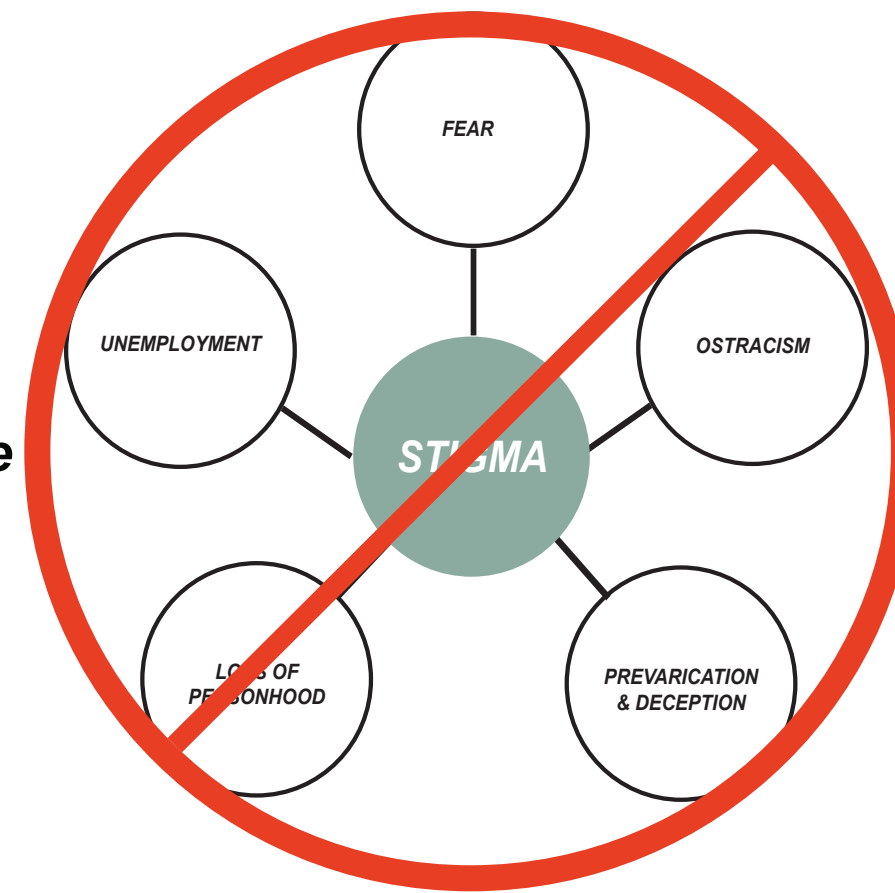


Figure 6: Results of Stigma

### DID THE DESIGN HELP?

This "open" style prison incorporates elements like carpet, curtains, and furniture with soft surfaces. This plays a pivotal role in enhancing acoustics and minimizing noise within the space. Carpets, absorb sound waves, reducing echoes and minimizing the transmission of noise between floors. Similarly, curtains act as sound absorbers, damping reverberations and softening the harshness of noise. Furniture with upholstered surfaces further contributes to noise reduction by absorbing sound rather than allowing it to bounce off hard surfaces.

Additionally, large windows offer the dual advantage of allowing ample natural light to flood the space, reducing the need for artificial lighting, and providing a visual connection to the outdoors. This not only enhances the ambiance but also contributes to a sense of openness while offering inmates a view of the surrounding environment. The combination of soft surface elements and large windows not only improves acoustics but also creates a more comfortable, visually appealing, and pleasant environment for occupants. One that promotes healing and positive social engagements.

There are many benefits for indoor plants: improved indoor air quality, sound reduction, and enhanced well-being.

### The principles:

-acoustics

*Carpets on the floors, curtains on the windows and multiple soft elements on furniture allow for sound absorption and comfort.*

-lighting

*The large windows allow for ample natural light into the spaces. The lighting in the spaces is controlled by the individuals using the space.*

-visibility

*Visibility to the outside world as well as views into the spaces allow for transparency. The blinds and curtains allows for individual control.*



Figure 51: Finland 3

# PROJECT CONDITIONS

## THE SITE - CONTEXT AND CONDITIONS

### THE FEDERAL METROPOLITAN CORRECTIONAL CENTER

**71 W VAN BUREN ST, CHICAGO IL 60605**



Figure 57: MCC 9

#### **THE CURRENT CLIMATE**

- Motor Vehicle thefts and assaults reach the highest levels in a decade during 2022
- Homicides up to 41% making 2021 Chicago's deadliest year in the past 25 years
- Arrest rates are lowest in a decade
  - Less than 12% of the 238,722 reported crimes result in an arrest<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> "Crimes - 2022: City of Chicago: Data Portal." Chicago. Accessed January 25, 2024. <https://data.cityofchicago.org/Public-Safety/Crimes-2022/9hwr-2zxp/data>.

#### **Architect, Harry Weese**

- Opened in 1975 thought to be "State of the art."
- Cell design based on sailboat cabins.
- Windows designed to be small enough to not have bars (7' x 5")

#### **THE PRISON SKYSCRAPER**

No one in Chicago, the mayor included wanted this prison built downtown. Except for the federal judges that needed a place for people to go while awaiting trial and right after.

Harry took on the job despite what people suggested. He had good intentions for the building he wanted it to be "cozy." Weese worked on it at the same time as a hotel and that might have been his inspiration.<sup>1</sup>

Currently these original designs that Weese intended are gone. They have been removed and replaced with steel, gray, and the once remarkable windows have been frosted.

Weese had strong design intentions for this project in mind. How can we bring these intentions back?

<sup>1</sup> 99pi. "The MCC: Chicago's Jailhouse Skyscraper." 99% Invisible, April 23, 2020. <https://99percentinvisible.org/episode/episode-26-the-mcc-chicagos-jailhouse/>.

# EXISTING SPACES - INTERIOR BREAKDOWN

## THE BUILDING FACTS

- Operated by BOP. (Federal Bureau of Prisons)
- Division of United States Department of Justice.
- Mens and Womens Facility, 535 current inmates.
- All security levels, and houses inmates at a variety of sentence levels (prior to, during trial, post conviction)
- 27 floors. Spaces include: healthcare, courtrooms, cell blocks, parking ramp, and administrative offices<sup>1</sup>

## PUBLIC

- Exercise space
- Lounge space
- Food prep zone
- Visitor rooms
- Rooftop rec area

## CIRCULATION

- Stairs
- Corridors

## PRIVATE

- Individual cells

### OPEN ABOVE TO 2ND LEVEL

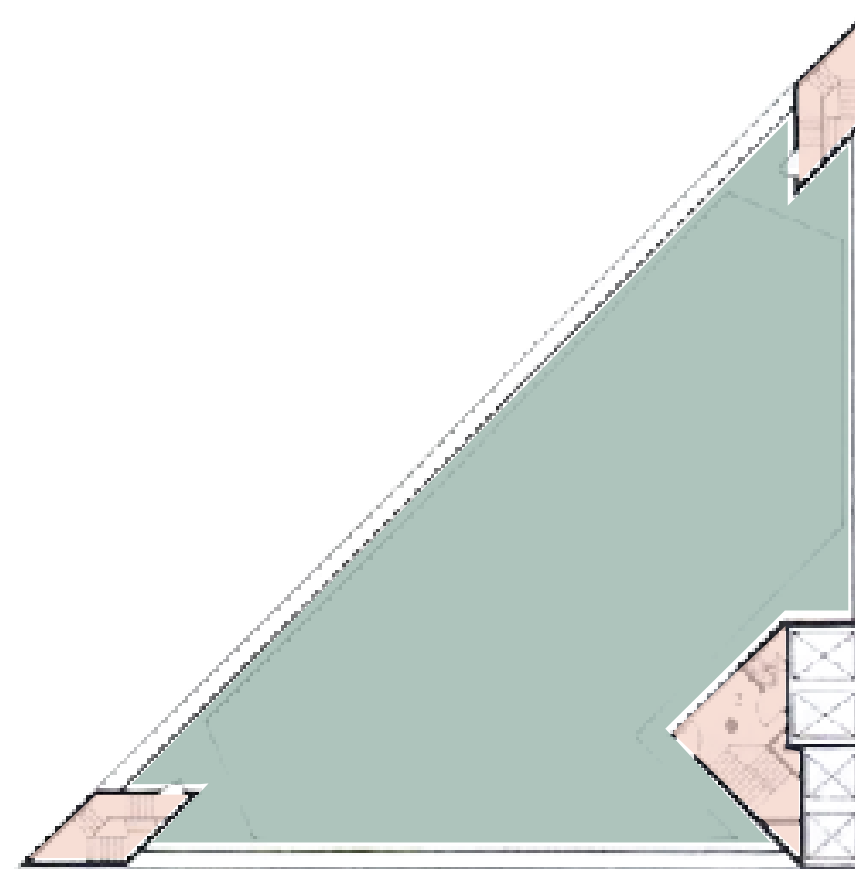
### OPEN BELOW TO 1ST LEVEL



Typical Cell block - 1st Level



Typical Cell block - 2nd Level



Rooftop Rec Area

Figure 58: MCC Existing Interior Breakdown

<sup>1</sup> "Harry Weese > Campbell U. S. Courthouse Annex." HIC, June 29, 2023. <https://hicarquitectura.com/2023/08/harry-weese-campbell-u-s-courthouse-annex-chicago-illinois/>.

# EXISTING SPACES

## AREAS OF FOCUS

### outdoor space

- picnic tables
- basketball court
- workout equipment

### Womens cell block

#### 44 Inmates in the cell block

#### Spaces:

- individual cells
- exercise space
- lounge space (eating/sitting)
- food prep zone
- visitor rooms

#### The Cell

- 6' x 8' cell
- 7' x 5" windows
- toilet/sink, bed platform, storage element

### Mens cell block

#### 44 Inmates in the cell block

#### Spaces:

- individual cells
- exercise space
- lounge space (eating/sitting)
- food prep zone
- visitor rooms

#### The Cell

- 6' x 8' cell
- 7' x 5" windows
- toilet/sink, bed platform, storage element

## ANALYSIS

- lacks diverse rec equipment
- lacks shade elements
- all concrete

#### 44 Inmates in the cell block

#### Spaces:

- hard furniture surfaces, walls, and floors aid in bad acoustics
- lacks color and comfortable finish textures and furniture
- no in block shower and bathroom
- minimal privacy outside of cell

#### The Cell

- too small
- no ergonomic considerations
- hard floors and walls lead to echoes

#### 44 Inmates in the cell block

#### Spaces:

- hard furniture surfaces, walls, and floors aid in bad acoustics
- lacks color and comfortable finish textures and furniture
- no in block shower and bathroom
- minimal privacy outside of cell

#### The Cell

- too small
- no ergonomic considerations
- hard floors and walls lead to echoes

Figure 59: MCC Building Section



# PROJECT CONTEXT

## DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

*The principles:*

### **-acoustics**

*Sound can be overwhelming for inmates and it can lead to conflict and discomfort. Acoustical privacy is important for social dynamics as well.*

### **-lighting**

*Access to natural light is important for circadian rhythms. Control over the access to natural light as well as control over the artificial light is important to healing and safety.*

### **-visibility**

*Visibility to the outside world as well as views into cells, and interior spaces allow for transparency. Views also contribute to feelings of privacy.*

### **-color**

*Color has a major influence on the mind. It also can be used as a tool for navigation.*

### **Implementation**

*LVT or RT with a sound mat underneath will be installed in common areas and cells to help with sound.*

*Application where safe of textiles and acoustic ceiling elements will be provided.*

*Larger windows will be installed to allow for natural light.*

*LED lights where inmates can control them will be provided.*

*Visibility outside will increase with larger windows. Privacy will be able to be personalized with safe elements of privacy control (Anti-ligature or anti-break window coverings.)*

*Calming colors (Blues & Greens) will be incorporated as well as accent colors for way finding in corridors etc.*

# DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

## WELL Building Standards

Health and wellness should be at the center of design. The WELL Building Standard takes a holistic approach to health in the built environment addressing behavior, operations and design. Well is a performance based system for measuring, certifying, and monitoring features of the built environment that impact human health and well being. It is a system grounded in a body of medical research that explores the connection between buildings where we spend 90% of our time and the health and wellness impacts on occupants. When the seven standards are incorporated in a building the environment can improve the nutrition, fitness, mood, sleep patterns and performance of its occupants. <sup>1</sup>



Figure 60: WELL Building Standards

## 7 CONCEPTS OF WELL BUILDING

### Air

#### DEFINITION

Optimize and achieve indoor air quality.

#### IMPLEMENTATION

Include air purification systems and air circulation items (fans).

### Water

Optimize water quality while promoting accessibility.

Include water filtration systems and promote easy access to water.

### Nourishment

Encourage healthy eating habits.

Provide access to healthy food options & facilities to learn culinary skills.

### Light

Minimize disruption to the body's circadian rhythm.

Ample natural light and individual lighting control capabilities.

### Fitness

Encourage and facilitate physical activity.

Provide a variety of workout equipment for diverse needs and abilities.

### Comfort

Create an environment that is productive & soothing.

Acoustic elements to reduce noise & soft textile applications.

### Mind

Support mental and emotional health.

Structured therapy rooms and spaces to nurture the mind.

# SPACE PLANNING

Adjacency supported by placing the public spaces on the first floor and the private spaces on the second floor.

Public spaces placed together to maximize community on the 1st floor focusing on promoting healthy collaboration, and social connection.

Private spaces put together on the 2nd floor to honor the need for individual space and privacy.

## SEPARATING PUBLIC & PRIVATE

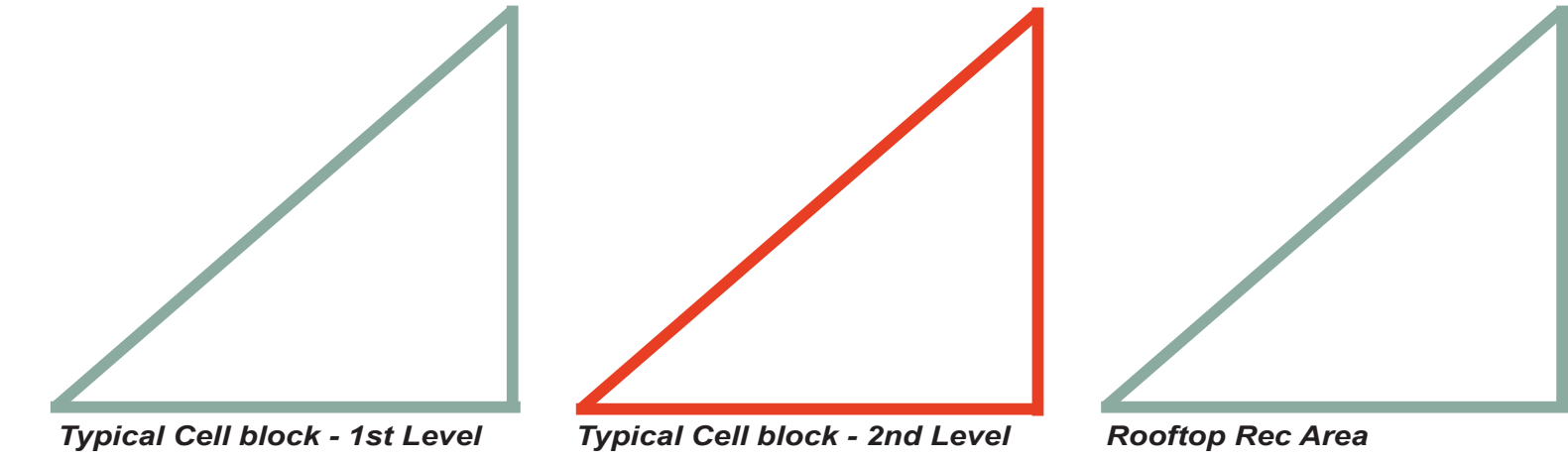


Figure 62: Separating Public and Private

Privacy is crucial to healing and creating a positive environment for all individuals in the space. Structured public areas encourage environments where social dynamics can be utilized when desired, but separate from private cells for rest. The separation becomes crucial.

## ADJACENCY DIAGRAMS

Primary Adjacency (solid line) Secondary Adjacency (dotted line)

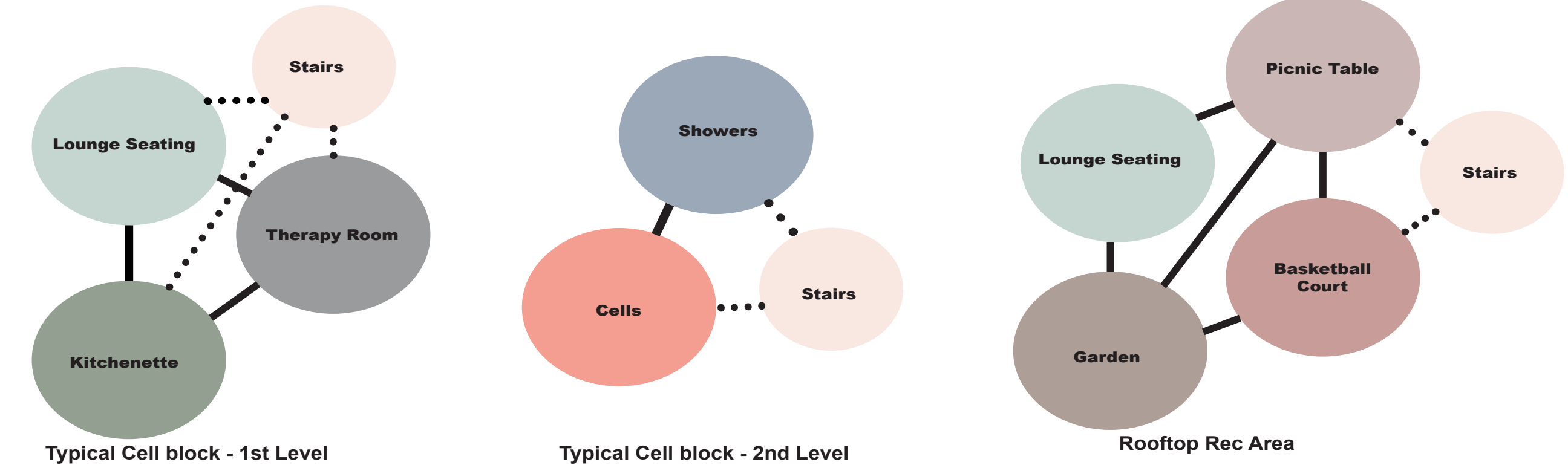


Figure 61: Adjacency Diagrams

1. "Well Building Standard®." WELL Building Standard® | WELL Standard. Accessed February 13, 2024. <https://standard.wellcertified.com/well>.

# BUBBLE DIAGRAMS

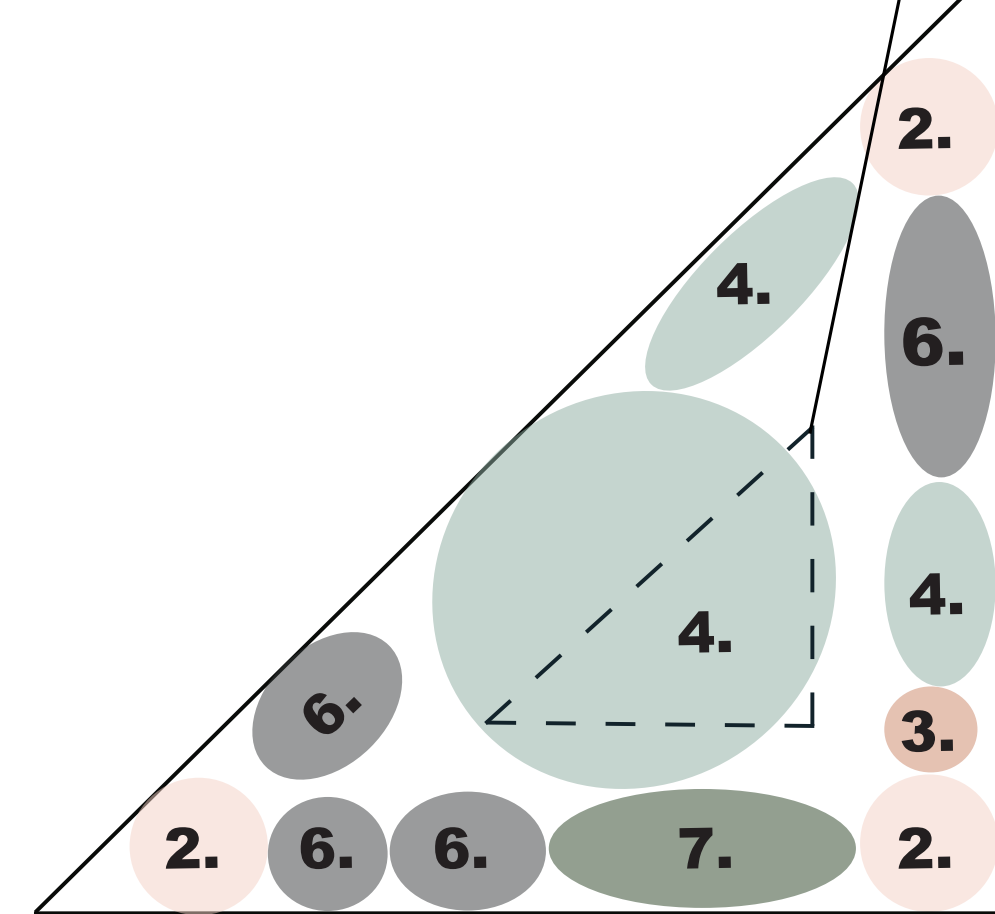
## Desired Spaces

- 1. Private Cells
- 2. Stairs
- 3. Elevator
- 4. Lounge Seating
- 5. Showers
- 6. Therapy Rooms
- 7. Kitchenette
- 8. Basketball Court
- 9. Garden
- 10. Picnic Tables

### A note on placement..

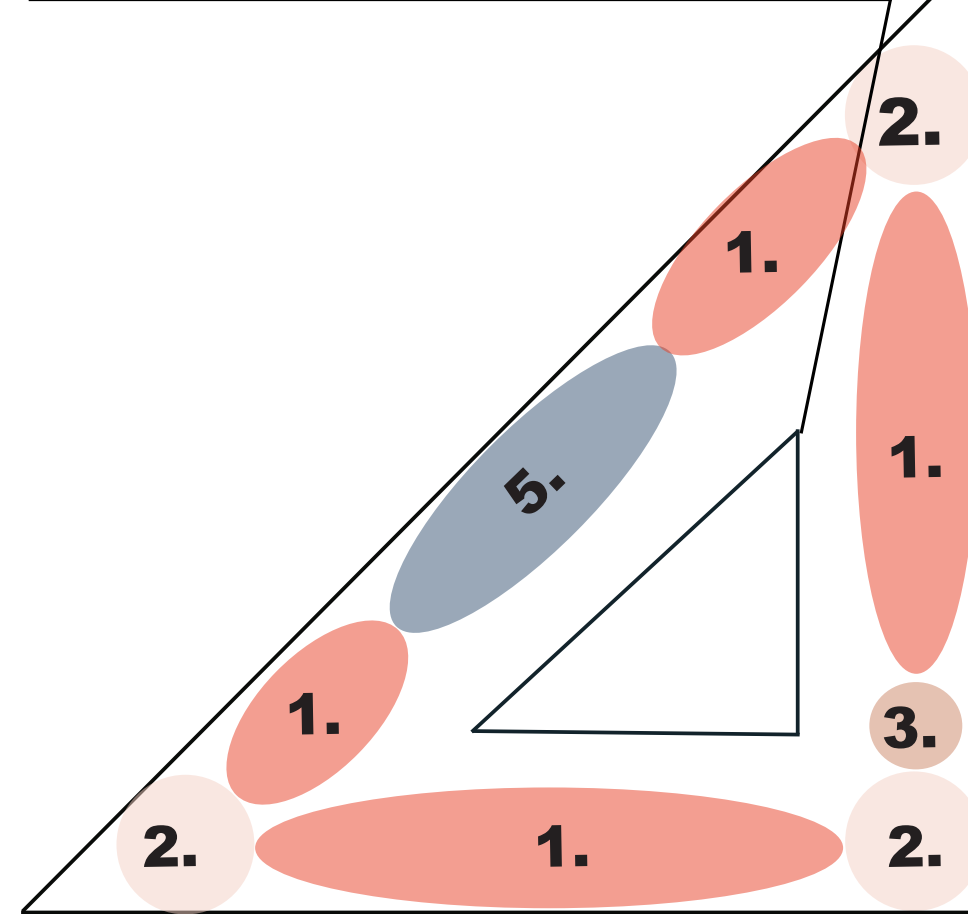
Architect Harry Weese wanted to allow natural light into the center of the building by including many windows on the perimeter of the building. This is an element I would like to include in my design. The rooms will be situated along the outside of the building with circulation through the middle to allow this.

OPEN ABOVE TO 2nd

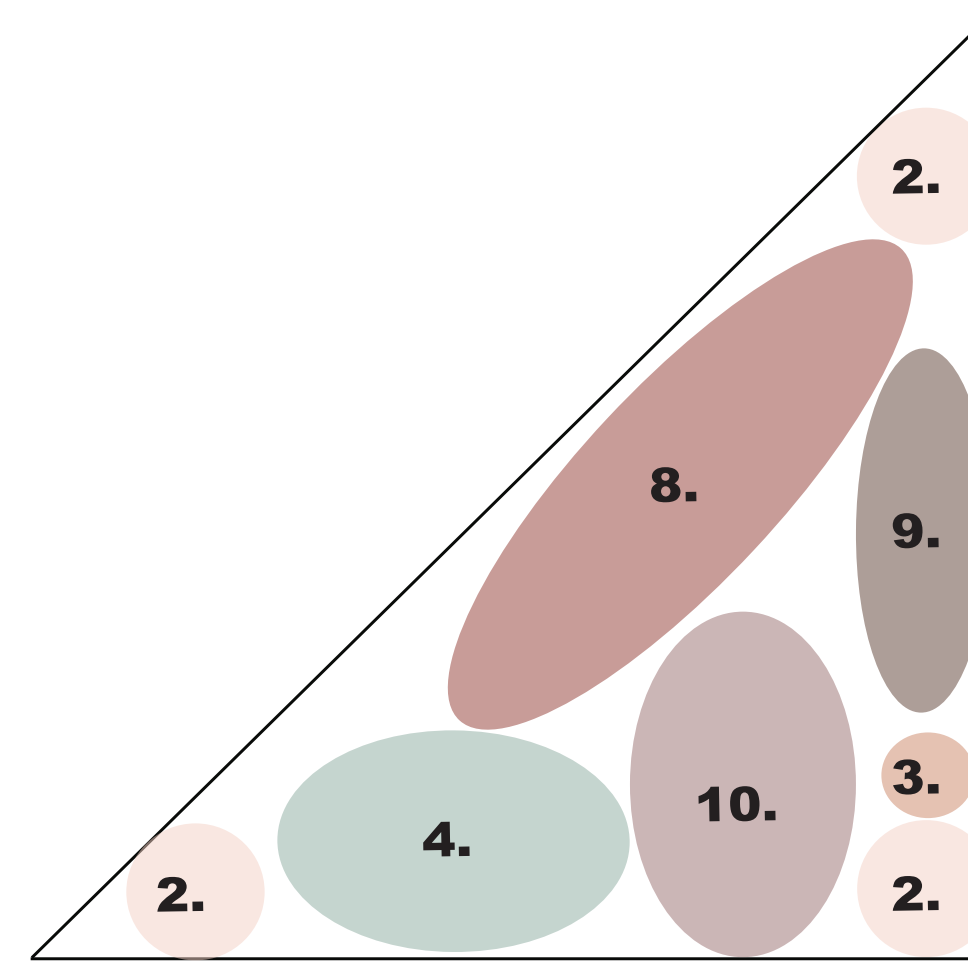


Typical Cell block - 1st

OPEN BELOW TO 1st



Typical Cell block - 2nd

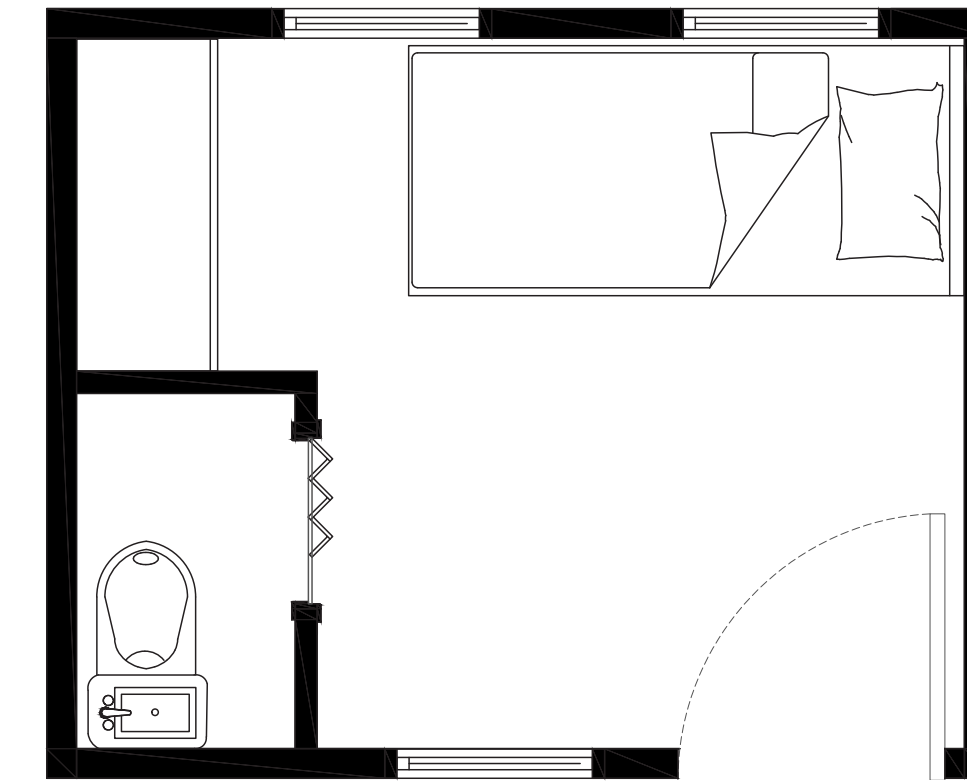


Rooftop Rec Area

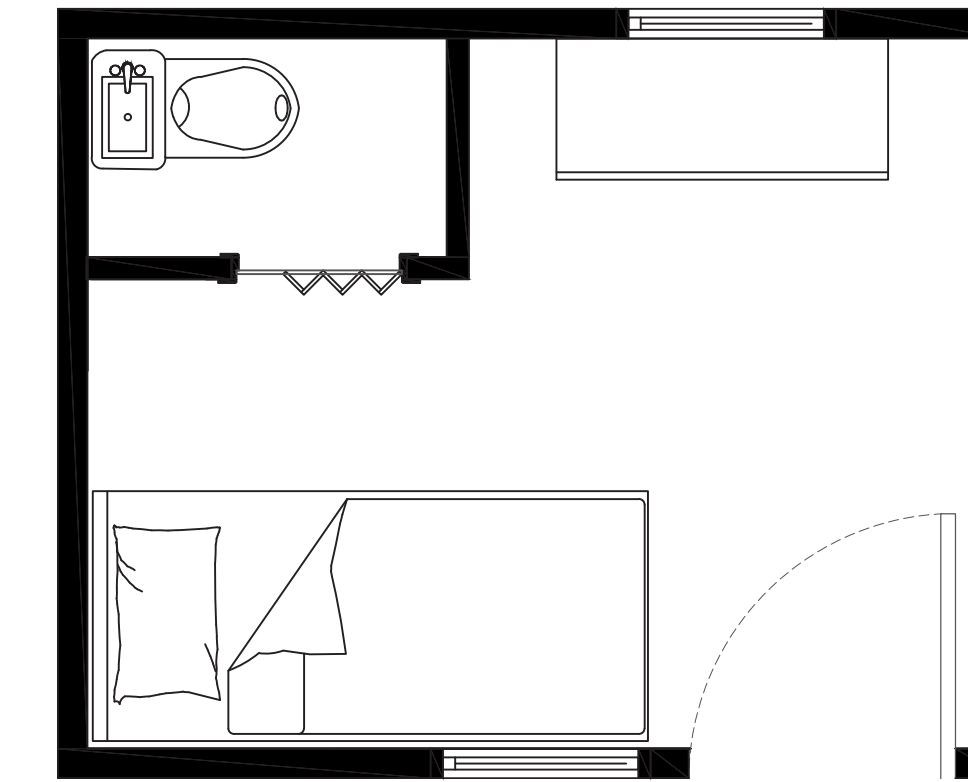
# UNBLOCKING - THE CELL

## A new type of cell

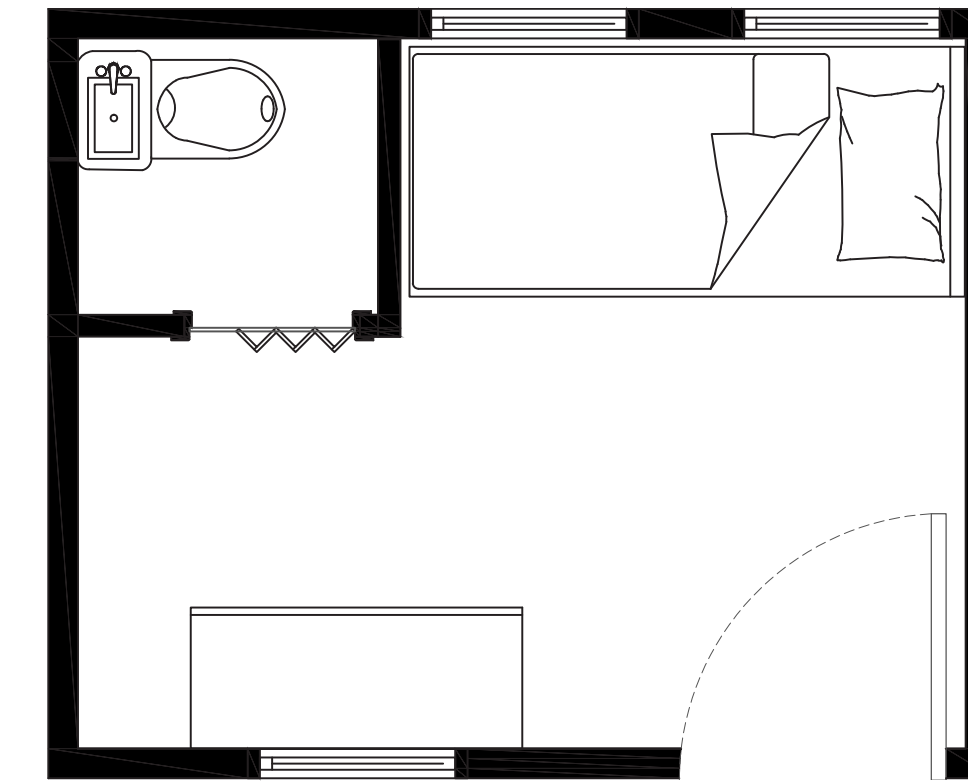
This new version of a cell includes a more private version of a personal restroom. Each cell also is equipped with an anti-break anti-ligature safe bed platform with storage. Along with that there is a mounted desk. Each cell has one or two windows on the exterior wall. One window is on the wall that is connecting to the corridor. The windows are fitted with internal blinds enclosed by glass on either side



VERSION 1



VERSION 2



VERSION 3

Preferred Iteration

Figure 64: Cell Iterations

# UNBLOCKING - THE CELL

WELL Building Standards

## Air

- Partially operable windows slide open slightly to allow for circulation.
- Air purification systems are implemented in the HVAC considerations.

## Water

- Water should be something everyone has easy access to. Small sinks are implemented in a private bathroom for this reason.

## Mind

- The mind needs space to rest and work. The privacy in the room promotes a safe space. The desk encourages a sense of independence allowing for activity.

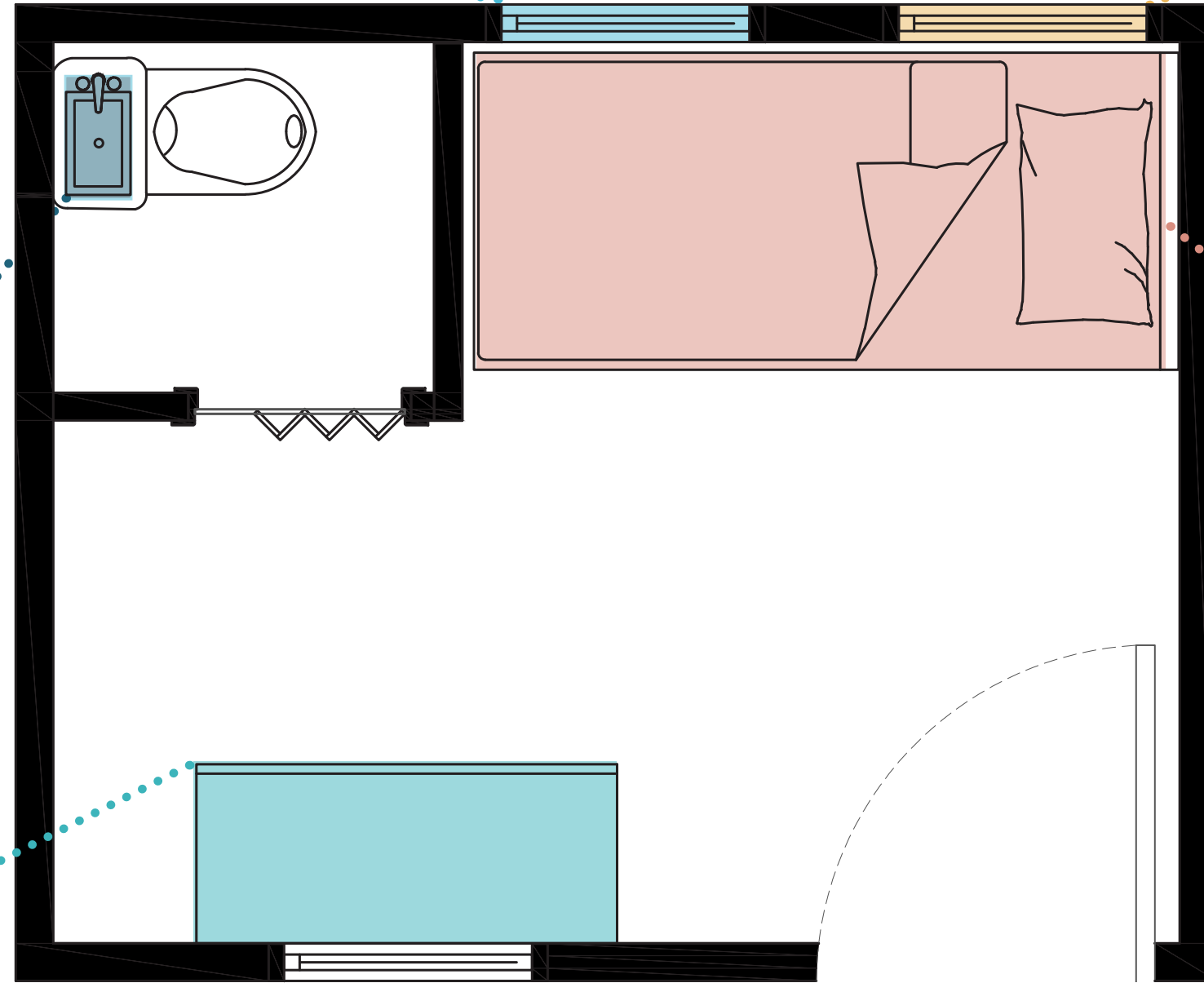


Figure 65: Cell with WELL Analysis

## Light

- Natural Light is brought into the space with the windows in each cell.
- Individual control over artificial light is permitted with light switches in the cell.

## Comfort

- Ergonomic considerations with furniture are made.
- Window blinds constructed in the windows provide privacy controls.
- Windows into the corridor as well as outside provide feelings of visibility and safety.

# UNBLOCKING - THE CELL

A new type of cell - Design Principles

## Acoustics

- LVT with an acoustic underlayment is provided as the flooring in each cell.
- Acoustic ceiling tiles will help with acoustic privacy and reducing echoes.

## Visibility

- Windows to the corridor allow for visibility into the public space. It also allows for visibility into the cell.

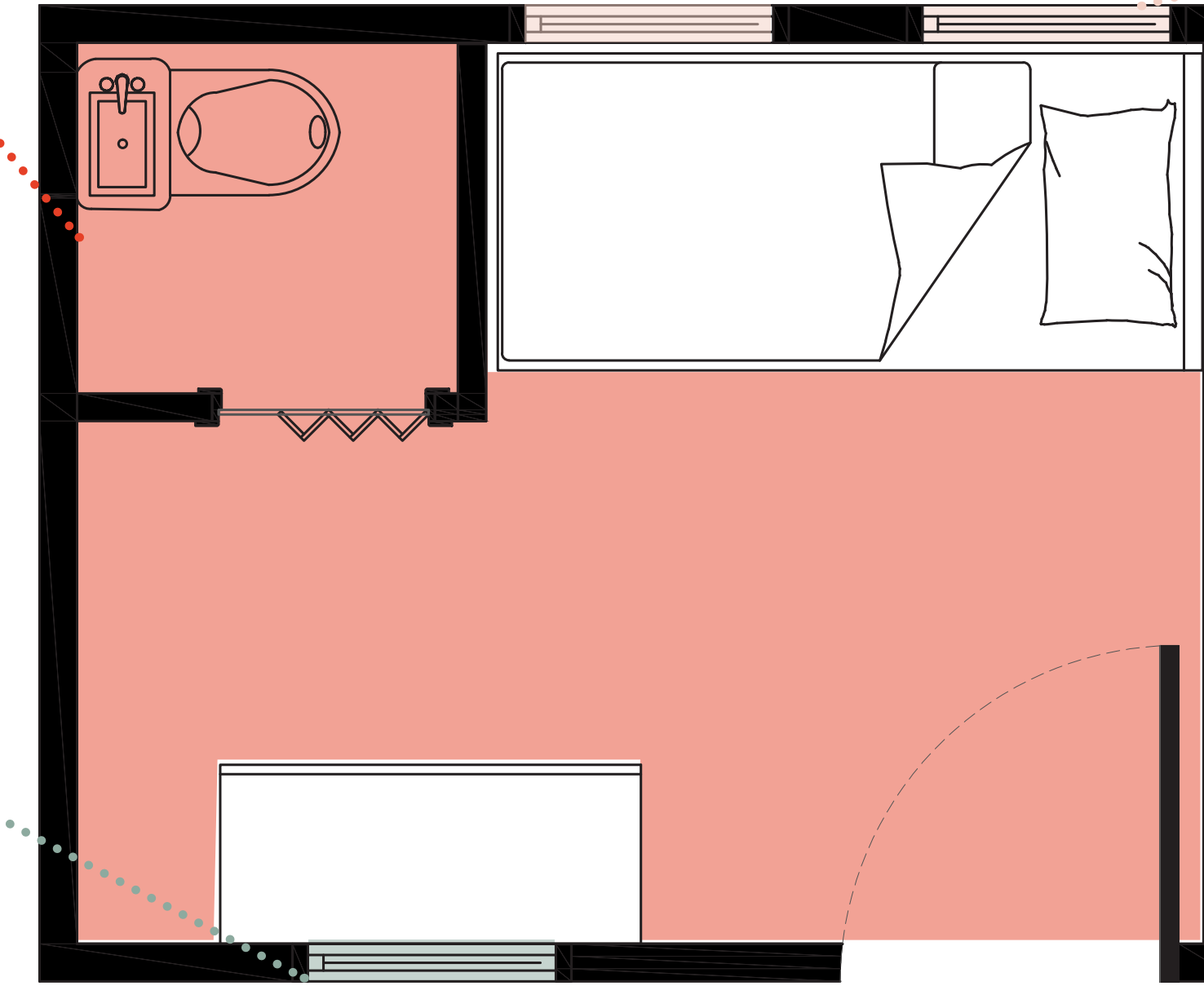


Figure 66: Cell with Design Principle Analysis

## Lighting

- Natural lighting is brought into the space through windows in each cell.
- Individual control of artificial lighting allows for independence.

## Color

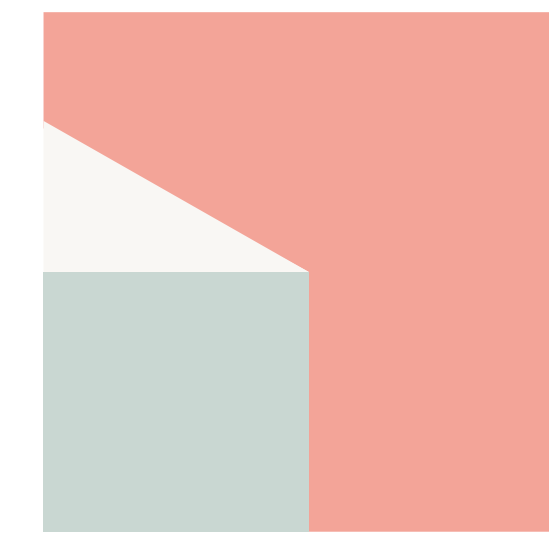
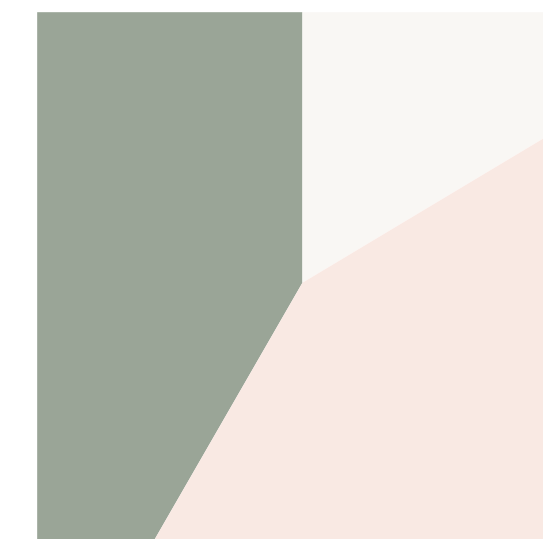
- Color theory encourages blue tones throughout the space. Color is added on interior walls as well as furniture elements.

# DESIGN RESPONSE

## UNBLOCKING THE FINISHES, FLOOR PLANS & VIEWS

**Restructure the cell block by utilizing design tools to:**

1. promote privacy, independence, and collaboration among cellmates.
2. emphasize the relationship between structure and positive social dynamics.



# FINISHES- COMMON AREA

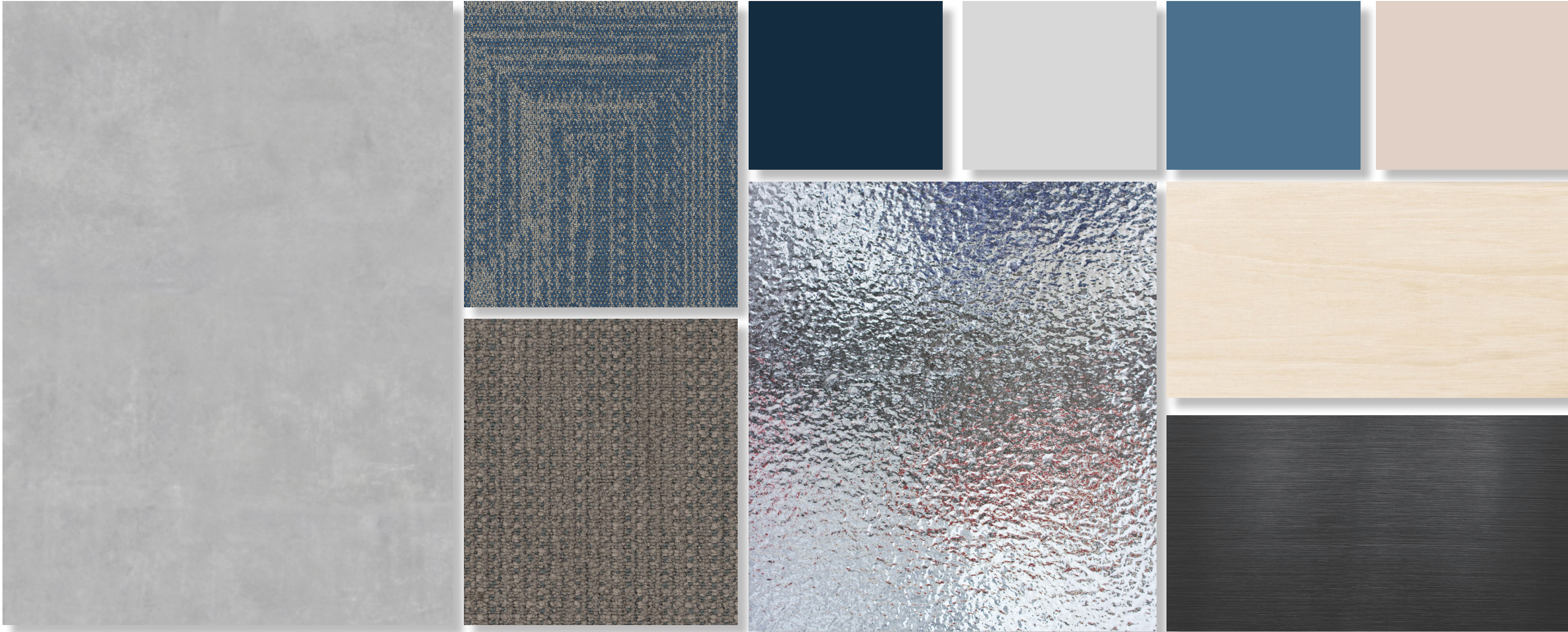


Figure 67: Common Area Finish Selections

# FINISHES- CELL



Figure 68: Cell Finish Selections

# FURNITURE- COMMON AREAS

The furniture throughout the space must have a few certain qualities. It needs to be extremely durable, have tamper resistant upholstery, be able to be bolted down, and have anti-ligature features. Because of this, Norrix is the best furniture manufacture available. These selections are from mainly from their healthcare lines allowing for ergonomic variety and more options in color and finishes. The color palette supports a calm relaxing environment that can foster a positive social dynamic.<sup>1</sup>



Rocksmart



Vesta



Pax Chair



Harmony



Pax Bench



Pax Ottoman



Max Master Table



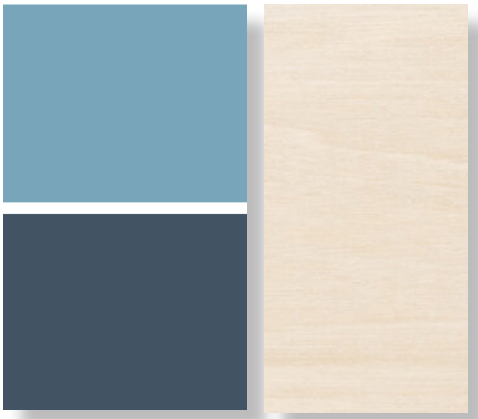
Truegrain Technology

Figure 69: Common Area Furniture

<sup>1</sup> "All Products: Durable Tables, Chairs & Bedroom Furniture." Norrix, April 8, 2024. <https://norix.com/products/>.

# FURNITURE- CELLS

This new version of a cell includes a more private version of a personal restroom. Each cell also is equipped with an anti-break anti-ligature safe bed platform with storage. Along with that there is a mounted desk. The furniture is from Norrix and the pops of color have proven to have an impact on mental health. The furniture emphasizes the ability to personalize the space without jeopardizing safety. Each furniture piece is durable and can be sanitized easily. It is designed to feel comfortable and less institutional. Prisons that use healthcare-based design ideas, like letting in sunlight, using color well, and bringing in nature, are seeing how these things can help improve the mental and social behavior of prisoners.<sup>1</sup>



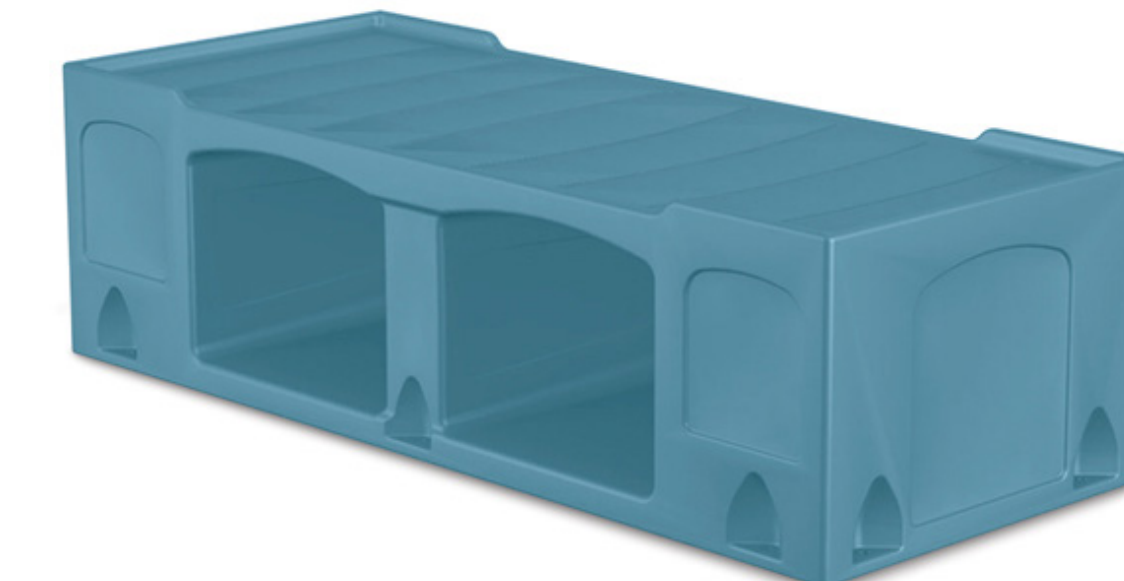
Attenda Shelf



Silver Secure Sealed Mattress



Attenda Wall Desk



Private Attenda Cubby Bed



Attenda 4 Shelf

Figure 70: Cell Furniture

<sup>1</sup> "All Products: Durable Tables, Chairs & Bedroom Furniture." Norrix, April 8, 2024. <https://norix.com/products/>.

# Typical Cell Block First Level

## THE FLOOR PLAN - COMMON AREAS

The initial tier of the cell block comprises essential communal zones tailored for diverse purposes. Among these are a versatile classroom designed to accommodate an array of educational courses and engaging lectures. Adjacent is a spacious room designated for group therapy sessions or communal activities. Additionally, there are three discreet therapy chambers conducive to private consultations or moments of solitude. For convenience, a communal kitchen stocked with snacks and refreshments is readily accessible. Completing the ensemble is a comfortable seating area, fostering social engagement and collective relaxation.

### **Nourishment**

This element of the well building standards is honored by the inclusion of a shared kitchen and pantry. Having access to healthy food and water is imperative to healing and feeling comfortable and safe

### **Mind**

This element of the well building standards is honored by the inclusion of a classroom, and group and private therapy room.

### **Comfort**

The comfort element of the Well Building Standards is fulfilled on this floor by the incorporated seating areas. Along with that the noise in the space is reduced by acoustic elements.

### **Light**

Natural and artificial light are emphasized in the space. Windows allow natural light and there are different light fixtures throughout the space.

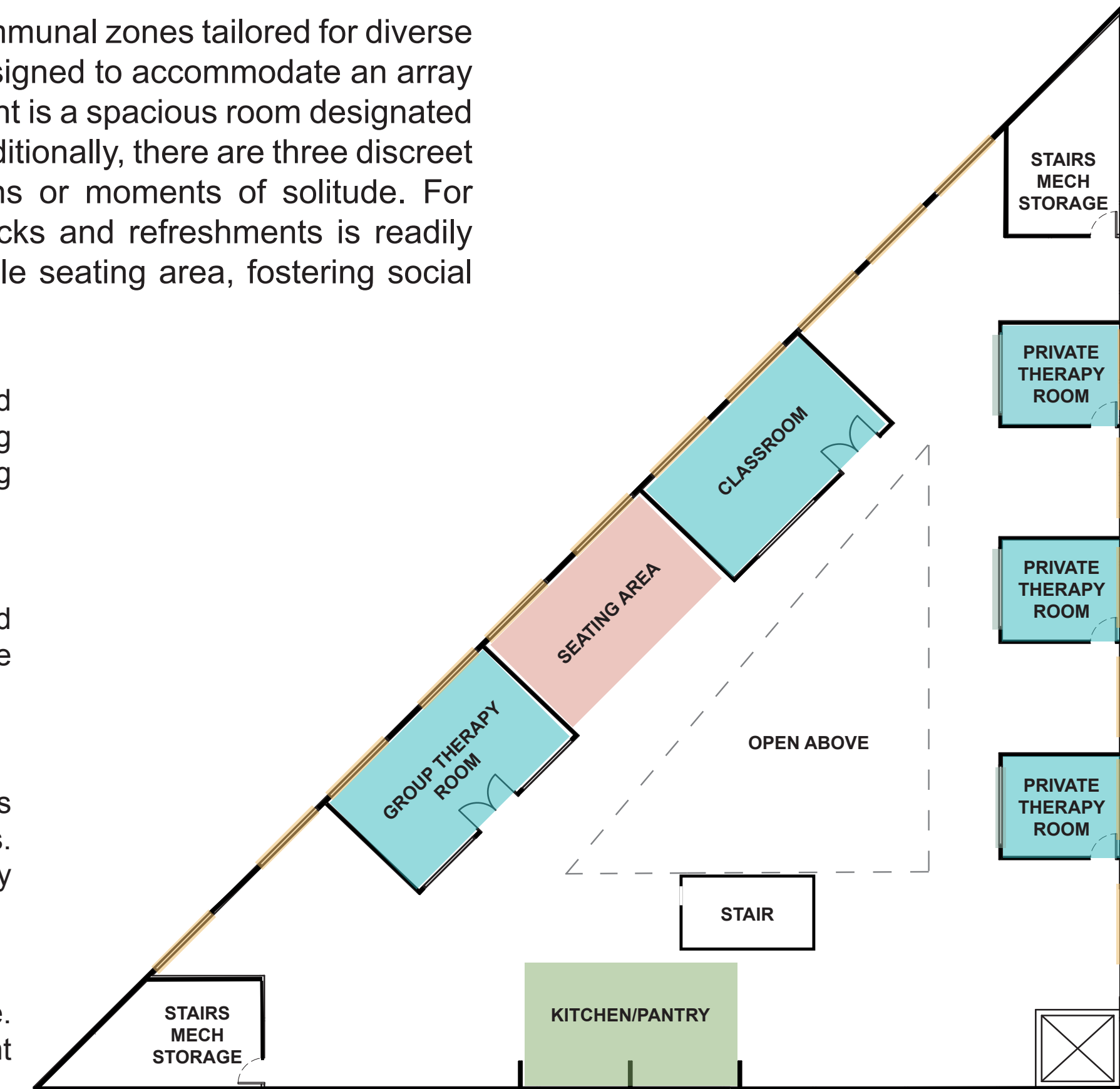


Figure 71: WELL Icons

Figure 72: Cell block First Level Floor Plan





These renderings illustrate the multi-functional nature of the space, thoughtfully crafted to cater to the diverse needs of its occupants while prioritizing accessibility and safety. Each element has been designed to promote inclusivity and foster a healing environment. From the versatile classroom, capable of accommodating various educational activities and lectures, to the communal area equipped for group therapy sessions and social interactions, every aspect of the space is tailored to honor individual requirements.

Figure 73: Cell block First Level Seating Area View

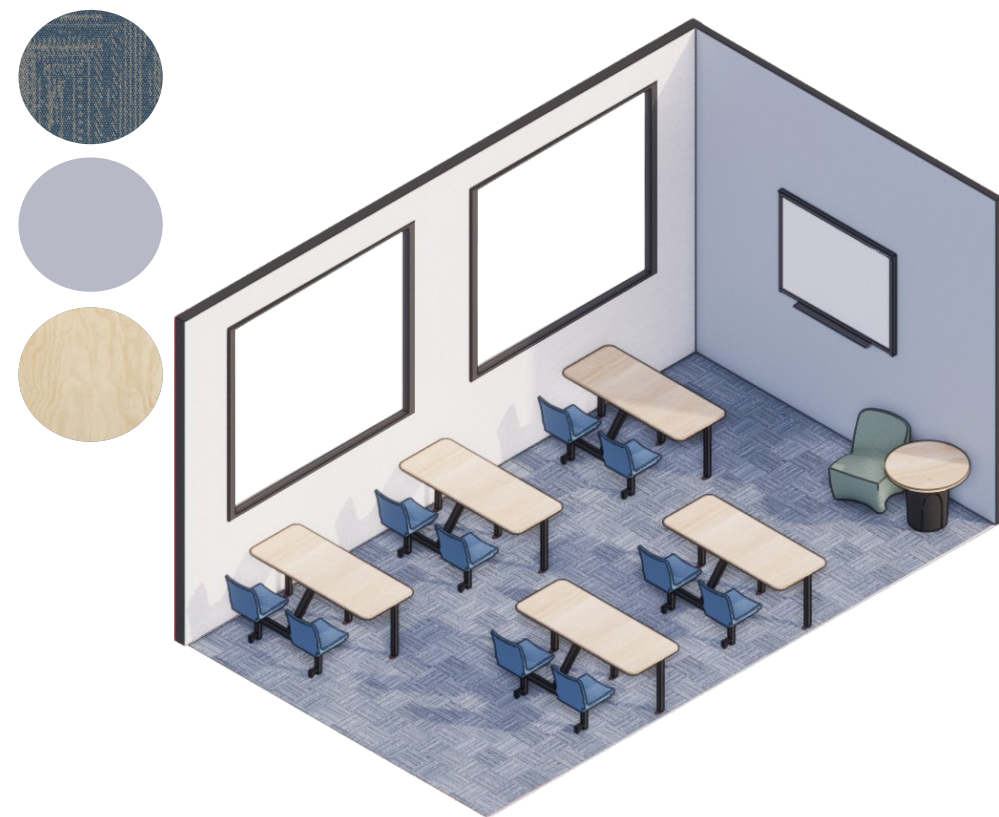
### Seating Area

The inclusion of private therapy rooms allows for confidential consultations or moments of solitude, ensuring privacy and comfort. Moreover, the shared kitchen stocked with snacks and refreshments promotes a sense of community while facilitating easy access to sustenance. Overall, these renderings exemplify a space that not only meets practical needs but also nurtures emotional well-being, creating a safe and welcoming environment for all.



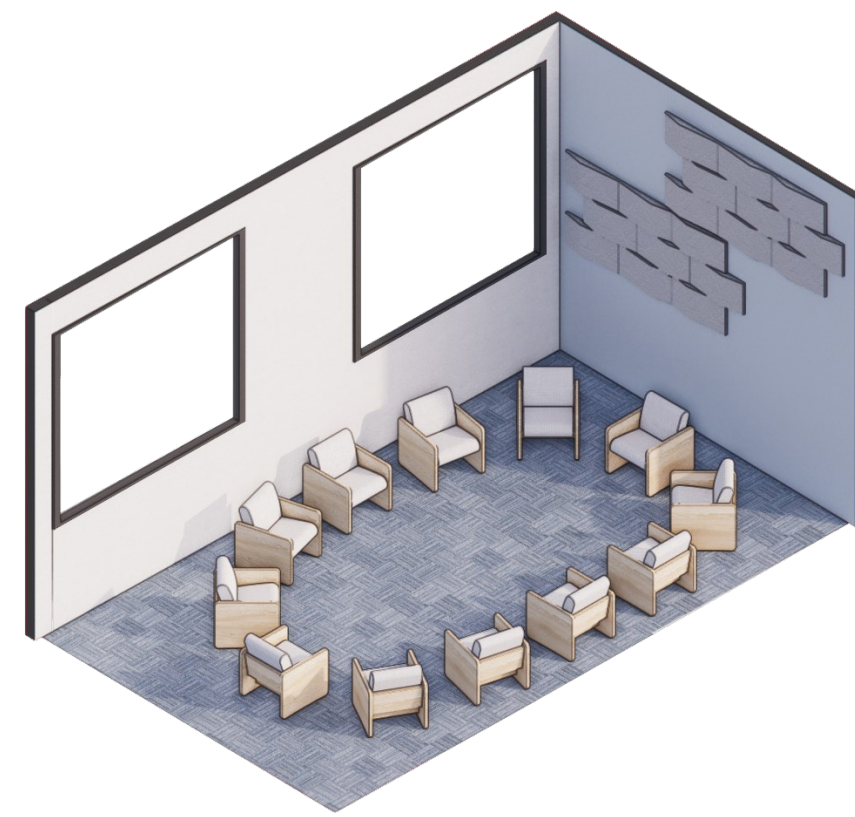
Figure 74: Cell block First Level Kitchen View

### Kitchen



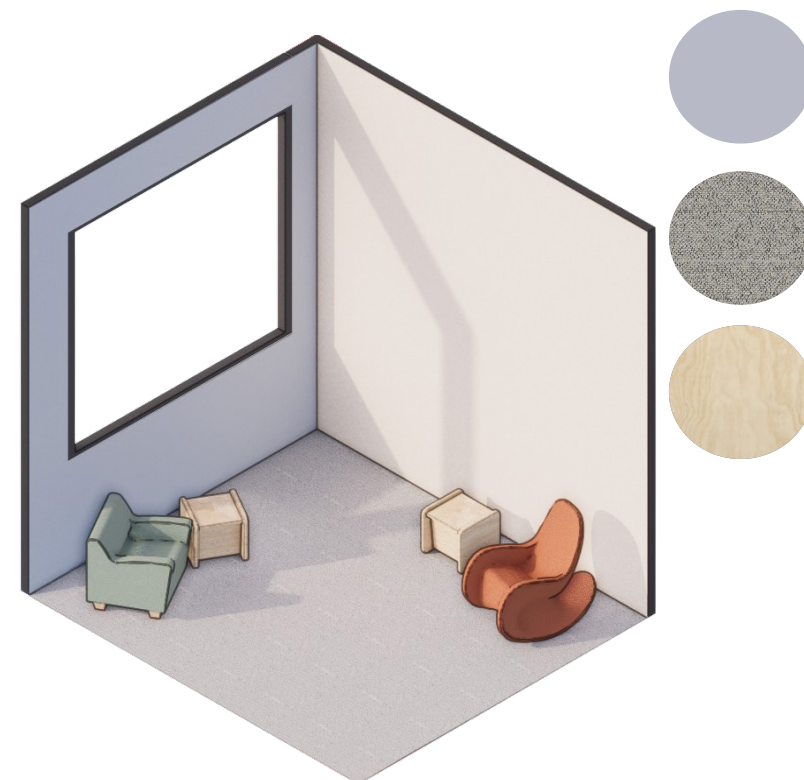
### Classroom

Figure 75: Cell block Classroom Isometric



### Group Therapy

Figure 76: Cell block Group Therapy Room Isometric



### Private Therapy

Figure 77: Cell block Private Therapy Room Isometric



### 1st and 2nd level shared spaces

Figure 78: Cell block Section View

Providing community spaces within correctional facilities that the inmates always have access to offers invaluable benefits for inmates. Fostering social interaction, support networks, and rehabilitation opportunities. These communal areas serve as essential hubs for educational activities, group therapy sessions, and enable inmates to develop skills, build relationships, and cultivate a sense of belonging. Moreover, the deliberate choice of neutral colors in these spaces contributes to a calming atmosphere, promoting emotional stability and reducing stress levels among inmates. Neutral hues encourage positive social interactions and a greater sense of tranquility, ultimately facilitating a more conducive setting for personal growth and healing within the correctional community.

# Typical Cell Block Second Level

## THE FLOOR PLAN - PRIVATE SPACES

The second level of the cell block is designed to uphold the privacy and security of the inmates, providing each individual with an individual private cells. This intentional layout not only respects the personal space of inmates but also facilitates a sense of ownership and familiarity within their living environment. Moreover, to ensure the safety of all occupants, security booths strategically positioned throughout the area are manned by guards, maintaining constant vigilance and preventing any blind spots. The calming ambiance of the space is further enhanced by the use of soothing blue tones, creating a tranquil and relaxing atmosphere conducive to promoting well-being and emotional stability among inmates. In this thoughtfully crafted environment, privacy, security, and comfort converge to support the rehabilitation and welfare of those within the correctional community.

### ♥ Comfort

The comfort element of the Well Building Standards is fulfilled on this floor by the security booths preventing any blind spots and making the inmates feel safe. There is also a sense of comfort in having your own individual cell.

### ☀ Light

Natural and artificial light are emphasized in the space. Windows allow natural light and there are different light fixtures throughout the space and in the cells.

### 3. visibility

Visibility is prioritized on this level. For safety reasons and for transparency. Visibility is provided to the first floor through the balcony, and then into the corridors and the cells by the windows on the front.

Figure 71: WELL Icons

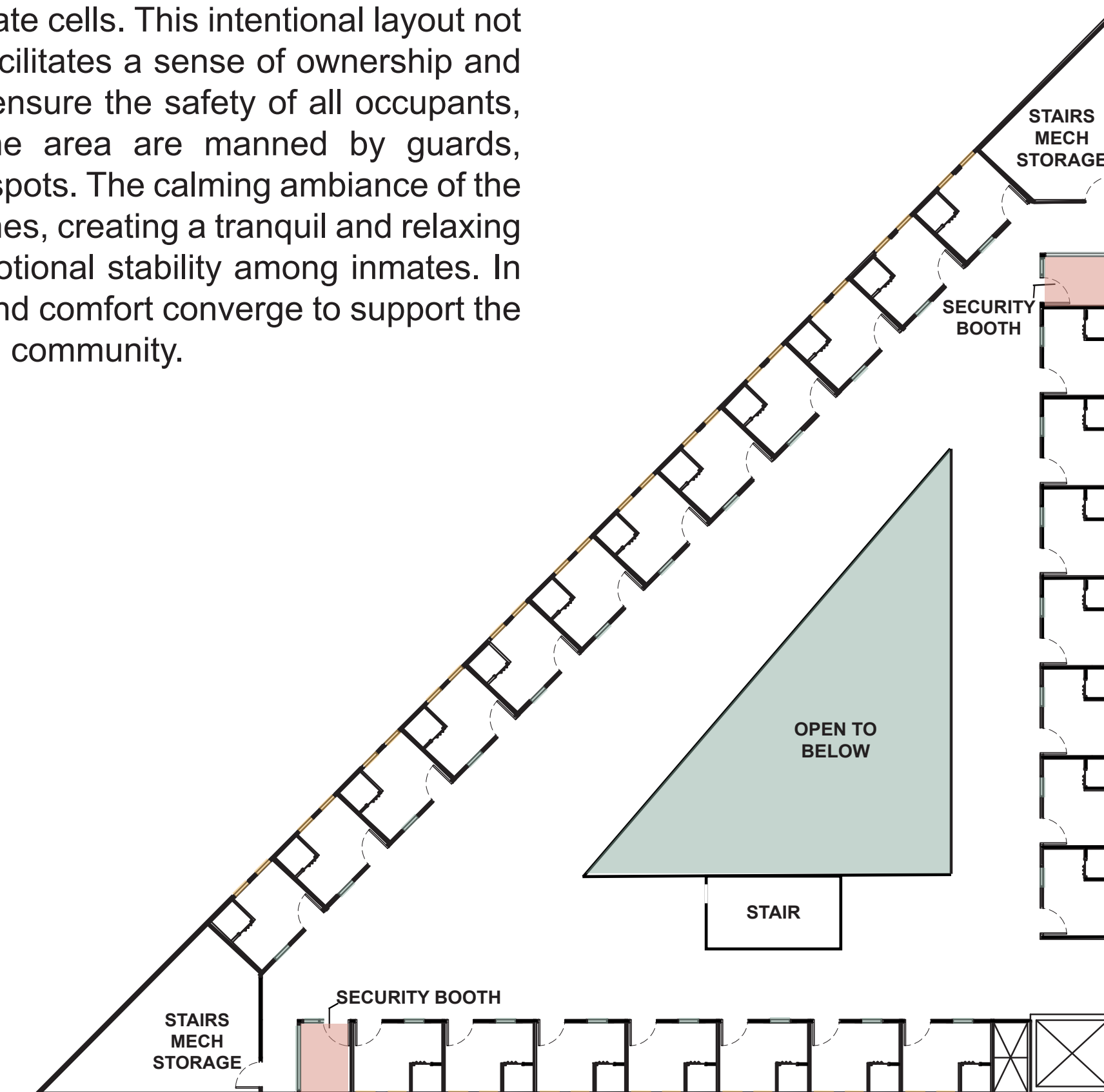


Figure 79: Cell block Level 2 Floor Plan

# THE CELL

This new version of a cell includes a more private version of a personal restroom. Each cell also is equipped with an anti-break anti-ligature safe bed platform with storage. Along with that there is a mounted desk. Each cell has two windows on the exterior wall.

One window is on the wall that is connecting to the corridor. The windows are fitted with internal blinds enclosed by glass on either side. The glass is made to be strong and resist any attempt at breaking it. The window to the corridor provides transparency and visibility to the corridor.



Attenda Wall Desk



Attenda 4 Shelf



Private Attenda Cubby Bed

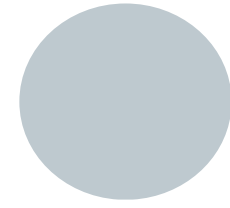
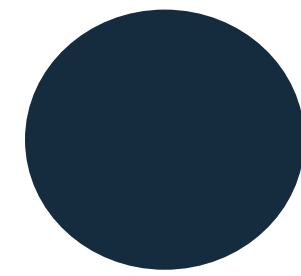
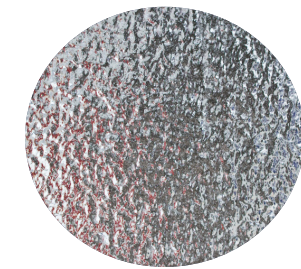
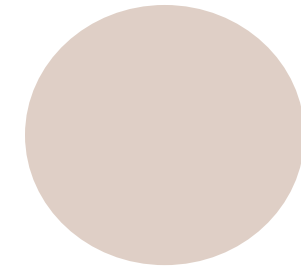
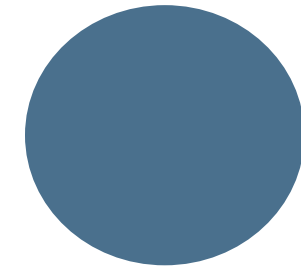
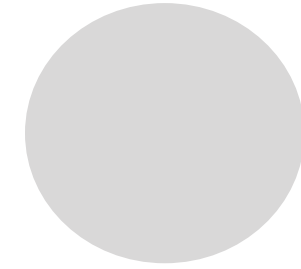


Figure 80: Cell Floor Plan and Isometric



The second floor of the facility serves as the sanctuary of privacy for the inmates. It houses individual cells where inmates find privacy. Two security booths are in this space as well. This ensures constant surveillance over the inmates and provides a space to monitor the locking mechanisms of each cell door.

In front of the elevator, an entry desk stands with a guard, available round the clock to address any needs the inmates may have.



The frosted glass balcony allows light to permeates. Offering a degree of visibility while maintaining the safety and privacy of the second floor. With stair access facilitating movement throughout the day, inmates can retreat to their cells for solitude or opt for the communal space, fostering a semblance of autonomy throughout their incarceration.



2nd level balcony and cells

Figure 81: Cell Block Level 2 Balcony and Cell View



Security Booth

Figure 82: Cell Block Level 2 Security Booth View

# Rooftop Recreation Area

## ROOFTOP RECREATION AREA

At the top of the facility, the rooftop recreation area is designed with safety at its core, granting inmates the opportunity to be in the open air without jeopardizing the safety of themselves or the outside world. Within this area, there are a plethora of amenities. Catering to both physical fitness and leisurely pursuits. A designated workout space has an array of equipment, inviting inmates to engage in exercise and cultivate a sense of well-being. Adjacent, a game area offers a reprieve from routine, encouraging social interaction and fostering a sense of camaraderie. Scattered throughout are numerous seating areas, providing havens for contemplation and relaxation. Notably, two greenhouses stand as symbols of sustainability and growth, serving dual purposes as educational platforms and sources of nourishment. Inside, produce and plants flourish, offering a tangible connection to nature and the satisfaction of cultivating life. Through meticulous design and thoughtful implementation, the rooftop recreation area harmonizes safety, recreation, and education, enriching the inmates experience with elements of vitality and growth.

### ❤️ Comfort

The comfort element of the Well Building Standards is fulfilled on this floor by the seating areas scattered throughout that allow for spots to relax.

### 🍏 Nourishment

Nourishment is promoted in this space with the greenhouses allowing for fresh produce.

### 🧠 Mind

The gaming area provides a space to challenge the mind and play strategic games that create a sense of community.

### 🏋️ Fitness

The workout area allows for physical exercise of various types for the individuals. The space also motivates the individuals to work together and strive to better

Figure 71: WELL Icons

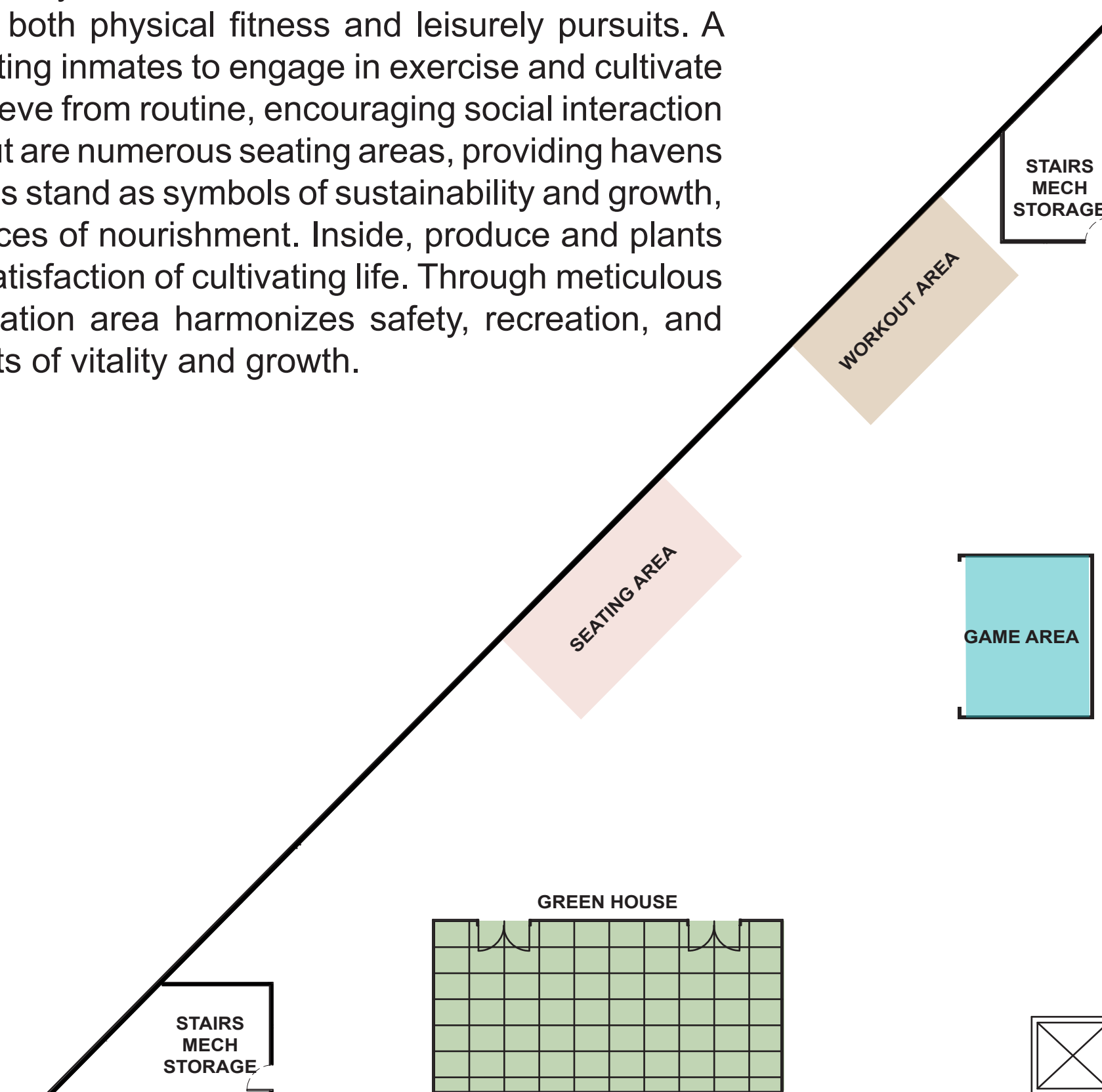
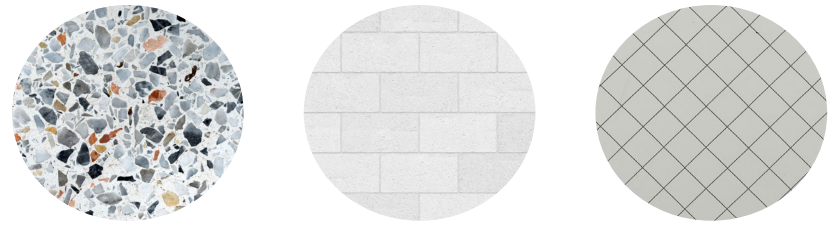


Figure 83: Rooftop Recreation Area Floor Plan



The seating areas are crafted to embody of safety and comfort resilient against the elements yet inviting and snug. Each piece of furniture is thoughtfully selected and designed to withstand the rigors of outdoor use, ensuring durability without compromising on aesthetic appeal. The design strikes a delicate balance, offering a sense of familiarity akin to home while prioritizing safety and longevity in the correctional environment.



Seating Area

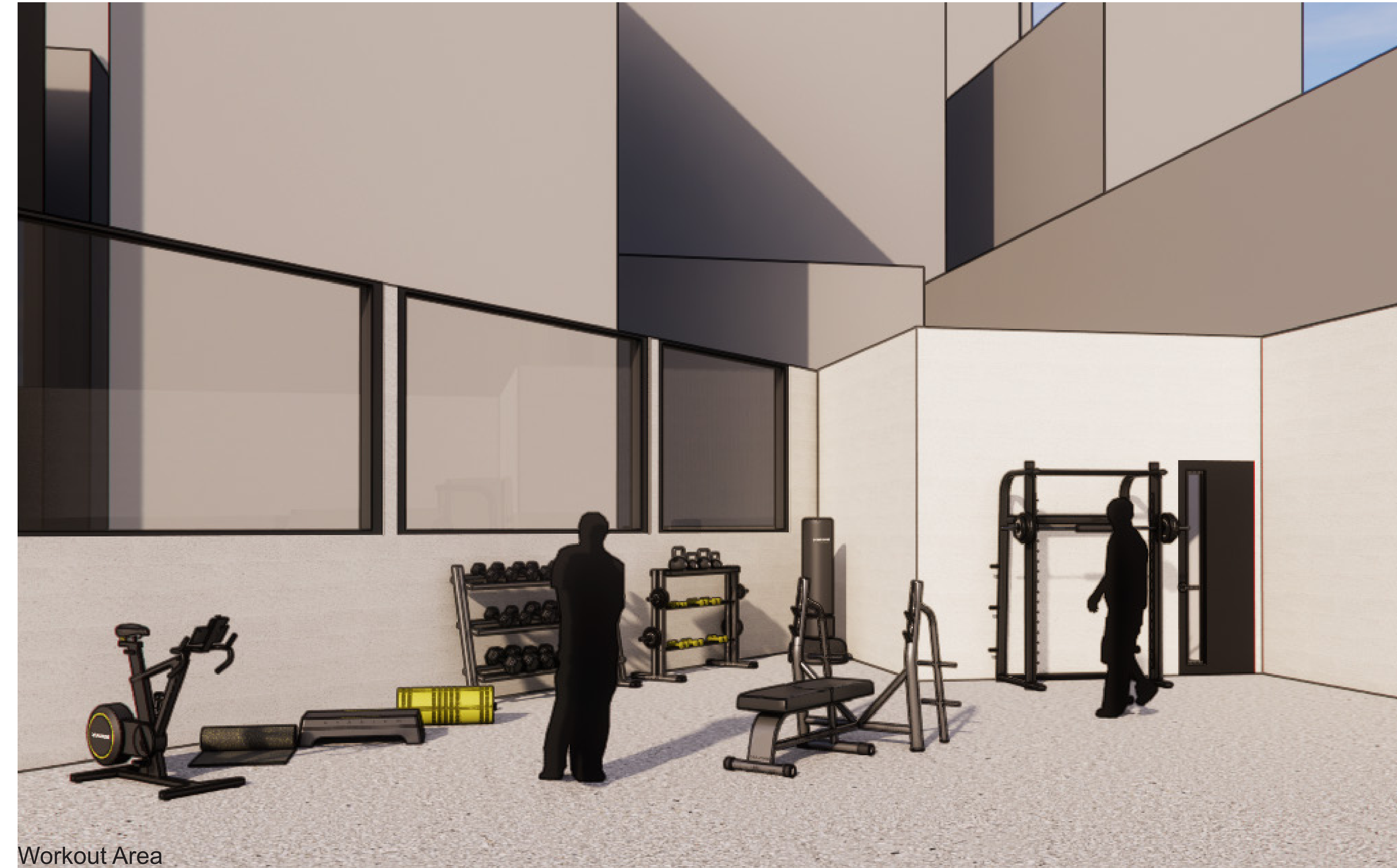
Figure 84: Rooftop Recreation Area Seating Area View



Gaming Area

Figure 85: Rooftop Recreation Area Gaming Area View

The gaming area offers inmates a multitude of benefits, enriching their daily lives and fostering positive engagement within the community. It serves as a platform for recreation and entertainment. Engaging in games promotes social interaction and camaraderie among inmates, facilitating the development of meaningful relationships and a sense of belonging within the community. Moreover, gaming encourages cognitive stimulation and problem-solving skills, offering inmates the opportunity to sharpen their mental acuity and improve their decision-making abilities.



Workout Area

Figure 86: Rooftop Recreation Area Workout Area View



Greenhouses

Figure 87: Rooftop Recreation Area Greenhouse View

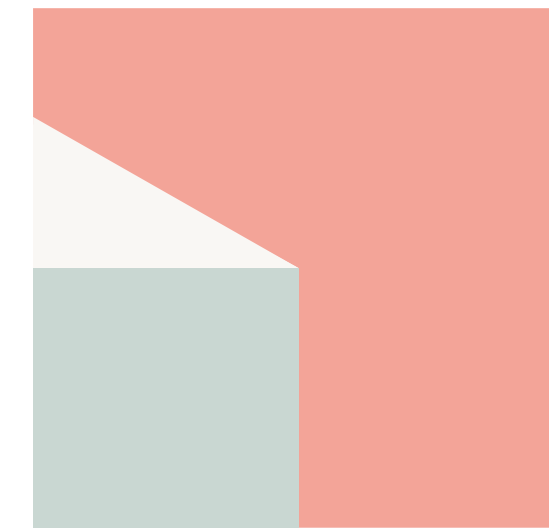
# C O N C L U S I O N

The results of my research and the survey I conducted have shed light on a critical aspect of our prison systems: the absence of sufficient design strategies to foster privacy, independence, and collaboration among inmates. Through my survey, industry professionals have voiced their concerns, indicating a glaring gap in our current approach to incarceration. This feedback underscores a pressing need for reform, prompting a reconsideration of the very structure upon which our prison systems are built.

In response to these findings, the my thesis project emerges as a catalyst for change, urging people to explore alternatives that prioritize the well-being and rehabilitation of inmates. By challenging the status quo, this initiative advocates for a shift towards more humane and effective practices within correctional facilities. Through the implementation of WELL Building standards and design principles. At its core Unblocked is integrating design strategies that not only address the physical aspects of incarceration but also nurture essential aspects of human dignity and social interaction.

Nelson Mandela's words resonate deeply in this context: "No one truly knows a nation until one has been inside its jails. A nation should not be judged by how it treats its highest citizens but its lowest ones." These words serve as a reminder of the moral imperative to ensure that our prison systems reflect our values as a society. They call upon us to confront our current approach and strive for a system that upholds the inherent dignity and rights of every individual, regardless of their circumstances.

In essence, the findings of the survey, my research, studies and response coupled with Mandela's powerful insight, compel us to reevaluate the purpose and principles underlying our prison systems. Through initiatives like the Unblocked thesis project, we have the opportunity to chart a course towards a more compassionate and equitable approach to incarceration—one that not only serves the needs of inmates but also reflects the true measure of a nation's character.



# REFERENCES & RESOURCES

## FIGURES LIST

**Figure 1:** Castle, Carlee. “Confinement” 2023. Self Illustrated Graphic

**Figure 2:** Castle, Carlee. “Independence” 2023. Self Illustrated Graphic

**Figure 3:** Castle, Carlee. “Privacy” 2023. Self Illustrated Graphic

**Figure 4:** Castle, Carlee. “Collaboration” 2023. Self Illustrated Graphic

**Figure 5:** Castle, Carlee. “Timeline of Prison Construction in the U.S” 2023. Self Illustrated Graphic

**Figure 6:** Castle, Carlee. “Results of Stigma” 2023. Self Illustrated Graphic

**Figure 7:** Castle, Carlee. “Jail vs Prison” 2023. Self Illustrated Graphic

**Figure 8:** Castle, Carlee. “Inmate Population by Gender” 2023. Self Illustrated Graphic

**Figure 9:** Castle, Carlee. “Inmate Population by Age” 2023. Self Illustrated Graphic

**Figure 10:** Castle, Carlee. “Inmate Population by Citizenship” 2023. Self Illustrated Graphic

**Figure 11:** Castle, Carlee. “Inmate Population by Race” 2023. Self Illustrated Graphic

**Figure 12:** Castle, Carlee. “Rearrest” 2023. Self Illustrated Graphic

**Figure 13:** Castle, Carlee. “Re- Conviction” 2023. Self Illustrated Graphic

**Figure 14:** Castle, Carlee. “Re-Confinement” 2023. Self Illustrated Graphic

**Figure 15:** Castle, Carlee. “Self Reported” 2023. Self Illustrated Graphic

**Figure 16:** Castle, Carlee. “Recidivism” 2023. Self Illustrated Graphic

**Figure 17:** Castle, Carlee. “Private vs Public- Minimum Security Cell Block” 2023. Self Illustrated Graphic

**Figure 18:** “Minimum Security Cell Block” Prison Security Levels: Inmate Classification Levels.” Law Offices of Grant Smaldone, June 9, 2023. <https://federalcriminaldefenseattorney.com/prison-life/prison-security-levels>.

**Figure 19:** Castle, Carlee. “Private vs Public- Maximum Security Cell Block” 2023. Self Illustrated Graphic

**Figure 20:** “Maximum Security Cell Block” Prison Security Levels: Inmate Classification Levels.” Law Offices of Grant Smaldone, June 9, 2023. <https://federalcriminaldefenseattorney.com/prison-life/prison-security-levels>.

**Figure 21:** Castle, Carlee. “Private vs Public Spaces” 2023. Self Illustrated Graphic

**Figure 22:** “Common Area 1” Gallery: Justice Installations. Norix, December 8, 2023. <https://norix.com/case-studies/gallery/>.

**Figure 23:** “Common Area 2” Gallery: Justice Installations. Norix, December 8, 2023. <https://norix.com/case-studies/gallery/>.

**Figure 24:** “Common Area 3” Gallery: Justice Installations. Norix, December 8, 2023. <https://norix.com/case-studies/gallery/>.

**Figure 25:** “Showers 1” Prison Security Levels: Inmate Classification Levels.” Law Offices of Grant Smaldone, June 9, 2023. <https://federalcriminaldefenseattorney.com/prison-life/prison-security-levels>.

**Figure 26:** “Showers 2” Prison Security Levels: Inmate Classification Levels.” Law Offices of Grant Smaldone, June 9, 2023. <https://federalcriminaldefenseattorney.com/prison-life/prison-security-levels>.

**Figure 27:** “Toilets 1” Prison Security Levels: Inmate Classification Levels.” Law Offices of Grant Smaldone, June 9, 2023. <https://federalcriminaldefenseattorney.com/prison-life/prison-security-levels>.

**Figure 28:** “Amenities 1” Prison Security Levels: Inmate Classification Levels.” Law Offices of Grant Smaldone, June 9, 2023. <https://federalcriminaldefenseattorney.com/prison-life/prison-security-levels>.

**Figure 29:** “Amenities 2” Prison Security Levels: Inmate Classification Levels.” Law Offices of Grant Smaldone, June 9, 2023. <https://federalcriminaldefenseattorney.com/prison-life/prison-security-levels>.

**Figure 30:** “Amenities 3” Prison Security Levels: Inmate Classification Levels.” Law Offices of Grant Smaldone, June 9, 2023. <https://federalcriminaldefenseattorney.com/prison-life/prison-security-levels>.

**Figure 31:** Castle, Carlee. “Bedroom vs Cell” 2023. Self Illustrated Graphic

**Figure 32:** “Cell 1” Gallery: Justice Installations. Norix, December 8, 2023. <https://norix.com/case-studies/gallery/>.

**Figure 33:** “Cell 2” Gallery: Justice Installations. Norix, December 8, 2023. <https://norix.com/case-studies/gallery/>.

**Figure 34:** “Cell 3” Gallery: Justice Installations. Norix, December 8, 2023. <https://norix.com/case-studies/gallery/>.

**Figure 35:** “Cell 4” Gallery: Justice Installations. Norix, December 8, 2023. <https://norix.com/case-studies/gallery/>.

**Figure 36:** Castle, Carlee. “Jerry” 2023. Self Illustrated Graphic, with Adobe Illustrator AI

**Figure 37:** Castle, Carlee. “A day in the Life Minimum Security Inmate” 2023. Self Illustrated Graphic

**Figure 38:** Castle, Carlee. “Michael” 2023. Self Illustrated Graphic with Adobe Illustrator AI

**Figure 39:** Castle, Carlee. “A day in the Life Maximum Security Inmate” 2023. Self Illustrated Graphic

**Figure 40:** Castle, Carlee. “Survey Results” 2023. Self Illustrated Graphic with Microsoft Excel

**Figure 41:** “MCC 1” Zhao, X. Exploring the Metropolitan Correctional Center. Finding Chicago Global Perspectives, November 15, 2023. <https://voices.uchicago.edu/findingchicago/2021/08/23/exploring-the-metropolitan-correctional-center-the-leniency-and-harshness-in-confinement/>.

**Figure 42:** “MCC 2” Zhao, X. Exploring the Metropolitan Correctional Center. Finding Chicago Global Perspectives, November 15, 2023. <https://voices.uchicago.edu/findingchicago/2021/08/23/exploring-the-metropolitan-correctional-center-the-leniency-and-harshness-in-confinement/>.

**Figure 43:** “MCC 3” Zhao, X. Exploring the Metropolitan Correctional Center. Finding Chicago Global Perspectives, November 15, 2023. <https://voices.uchicago.edu/findingchicago/2021/08/23/exploring-the-metropolitan-correctional-center-the-leniency-and-harshness-in-confinement/>.

**Figure 44:** “MCC 4” Zhao, X. Exploring the Metropolitan Correctional Center. Finding Chicago Global Perspectives, November 15, 2023. <https://voices.uchicago.edu/findingchicago/2021/08/23/exploring-the-metropolitan-correctional-center-the-leniency-and-harshness-in-confinement/>.

**Figure 45:** “MCC 5” Zhao, X. Exploring the Metropolitan Correctional Center. Finding Chicago Global Perspectives, November 15, 2023. <https://voices.uchicago.edu/findingchicago/2021/08/23/exploring-the-metropolitan-correctional-center-the-leniency-and-harshness-in-confinement/>.

**Figure 46:** “MCC 6” Zhao, X. Exploring the Metropolitan Correctional Center. Finding Chicago Global Perspectives, November 15, 2023. <https://voices.uchicago.edu/findingchicago/2021/08/23/exploring-the-metropolitan-correctional-center-the-leniency-and-harshness-in-confinement/>.

**Figure 47:** “MCC 7” Zhao, X. Exploring the Metropolitan Correctional Center. Finding Chicago Global Perspectives, November 15, 2023. <https://voices.uchicago.edu/findingchicago/2021/08/23/exploring-the-metropolitan-correctional-center-the-leniency-and-harshness-in-confinement/>.

**Figure 48:** “MCC 8” Zhao, X. Exploring the Metropolitan Correctional Center. Finding Chicago Global Perspectives, November 15, 2023. <https://voices.uchicago.edu/findingchicago/2021/08/23/exploring-the-metropolitan-correctional-center-the-leniency-and-harshness-in-confinement/>.

**Figure 49:** “Finland 1” Moore, Natalie, and Authors. “No Bars, No Chains, No Locks: How Finland Is Reimagining Incarceration.” Pulitzer Center, November 16, 2021. <https://pulitzercenter.org/stories/no-bars-no-chains-no-locks-how-finland-reimagining-incarceration>.

**Figure 50:** “Finland 2” Moore, Natalie, and Authors. “No Bars, No Chains, No Locks: How Finland Is Reimagining Incarceration.” Pulitzer Center, November 16, 2021. <https://pulitzercenter.org/stories/no-bars-no-chains-no-locks-how-finland-reimagining-incarceration>.

**Figure 51:** “Finland 3” Moore, Natalie, and Authors. “No Bars, No Chains, No Locks: How Finland Is Reimagining Incarceration.” Pulitzer Center, November 16, 2021. <https://pulitzercenter.org/stories/no-bars-no-chains-no-locks-how-finland-reimagining-incarceration>.

**Figure 52:** “Finland 4” Moore, Natalie, and Authors. “No Bars, No Chains, No Locks: How Finland Is Reimagining Incarceration.” Pulitzer Center, November 16, 2021. <https://pulitzercenter.org/stories/no-bars-no-chains-no-locks-how-finland-reimagining-incarceration>.

**Figure 53:** Castle, Carlee. “Recidivism- Finland vs U.S” 2023. Self Illustrated Graphic, with Microsoft Excel

**Figure 54:** Castle, Carlee. “Support Group” 2023. Self Illustrated Graphic, with Adobe Illustrator AI

**Figure 55:** Castle, Carlee. “Housing” 2023. Self Illustrated Graphic, with Adobe Illustrator AI

**Figure 56:** Castle, Carlee. “Unemployment” 2023. Self Illustrated Graphic, with Adobe Illustrator AI

**Figure 57:** “MCC 9” “Harry Weese > Campbell U. S. Courthouse Annex.” HIC, June 29, 2023. <https://hicarquitectura.com/2023/08/harry-weese-campbell-u-s-courthouse-annex-chicago-illinois/>.

**Figure 58:** Castle, Carlee. “MCC Existing Interior Breakdown” 2024. Self Illustrated Graphic, with Adobe Illustrator

**Figure 59:** “MCC Building Section” “Harry Weese > Campbell U. S. Courthouse Annex.” HIC, June 29, 2023. <https://hicarquitectura.com/2023/08/harry-weese-campbell-u-s-courthouse-annex-chicago-illinois/>.

**Figure 60:** “WELL Building Standards” “Well Building Standard®.” WELL Building Standard® | WELL Standard. Accessed February 13, 2024. <https://standard.wellcertified.com/well>.

**Figure 61:** Castle, Carlee. “Adjacency Diagrams” 2024. Self Illustrated Graphic, with Adobe Illustrator

**Figure 62:** Castle, Carlee. “Separating Public and Private” 2024. Self Illustrated Graphic, with Adobe Illustrator.

**Figure 63:** Castle, Carlee. “Bubble Diagrams” 2024. Self Illustrated Graphic, with Adobe Illustrator.

**Figure 64:** Castle, Carlee. “Cell Iterations” 2024. Self Illustrated Graphic, with Adobe Illustrator.

**Figure 65:** Castle, Carlee. “Cell with WELL Analysis.” 2024. Self Illustrated Graphic, with Adobe Illustrator.

**Figure 66:** Castle, Carlee. “Cell with Design Principle Analysis.” 2024 Self Illustrated Graphic, with Adobe Illustrator.

**Figure 67:** Castle, Carlee. “Common Area Finish Selections.” 2024 Self Illustrated Graphic, with Adobe Illustrator.

**Figure 68:** Castle, Carlee. “Cell Finish Selections.” 2024 Self Illustrated Graphic, with Adobe Illustrator.

**Figure 69:** “Common Area Furniture” “All Products: Durable Tables, Chairs & Bedroom Furniture.” Norix, April 8, 2024. <https://norix.com/products/>.

**Figure 70:** “Cell Furniture” “All Products: Durable Tables, Chairs & Bedroom Furniture.” Norix, April 8, 2024. <https://norix.com/products/>.

**Figure 71:** Castle, Carlee. “Cell Finish Selections.” 2024 Self Illustrated Graphic, with Adobe Illustrator with Adobe Illustrator AI.

**Figure 72:** Castle, Carlee. “Cell Block First Level Floor Plan.” 2024 Self Illustrated Graphic with Autocad, and Adobe Illustrator.

**Figure 73:** Castle, Carlee. “Cell Block First Level Seating Area View.” 2024 Self Illustrated Graphic with Sketchup, Enscape, Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop.

**Figure 74:** Castle, Carlee. “Cell Block First Level Kitchen View.” 2024 Self Illustrated Graphic with Sketchup, Enscape, Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop.

**Figure 75:** Castle, Carlee. “Cell Block Classroom Isometric” 2024 Self Illustrated Graphic with Sketchup, Enscape, Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop.

**Figure 76:** Castle, Carlee. “Cell Block Group Therapy Room Isometric” 2024 Self Illustrated Graphic with Sketchup, Enscape, Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop.

**Figure 77:** Castle, Carlee. “Cell Block Private Therapy Room Isometric” 2024 Self Illustrated Graphic with Sketchup, Enscape, Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop.

**Figure 78:** Castle, Carlee. “Cell Block Section View” 2024 Self Illustrated Graphic with Sketchup, Enscape, Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop.

**Figure 79:** Castle, Carlee. “Cell Block Second Level Floor Plan” 2024 Self Illustrated Graphic with Autocad, and Adobe Illustrator.

**Figure 80:** Castle, Carlee. “Cell Floor Plan and Isometric” 2024 Self Illustrated Graphic with Autocad, Sketchup, Enscape and Adobe Illustrator.

**Figure 81:** Castle, Carlee. “Cell Block Level 2 Balcony View” 2024 Self Illustrated Graphic with sketchup, Enscape and Adobe Photoshop.

**Figure 82:** Castle, Carlee. “Cell Block Level 2 Security Booth View” 2024 Self Illustrated Graphic with sketchup, Enscape and Adobe Photoshop.

**Figure 83:** Castle, Carlee. “Rooftop Recreation Level Floor Plan” 2024 Self Illustrated Graphic with Autocad, and Adobe Illustrator.

**Figure 84:** Castle, Carlee. “Rooftop Recreation Seating Area View” 2024 Self Illustrated Graphic with sketchup, Enscape and Adobe Photoshop.

**Figure 85:** Castle, Carlee. “Rooftop Recreation Gaming Area” 2024 Self Illustrated Graphic with sketchup, Enscape and Adobe Photoshop.

**Figure 86:** Castle, Carlee. “Rooftop Recreation Workout Area View” 2024 Self Illustrated Graphic with sketchup, Enscape and Adobe Photoshop.

**Figure 87:** Castle, Carlee. “Rooftop Recreation Greenhouse View” 2024 Self Illustrated Graphic with sketchup, Enscape and Adobe Photoshop.



# LITERATURE REVIEW

**Main Subject:** How the design of the built environment impacts individuals in the cell block emphasizing ideas of privacy, social dynamics, and independence.

**Topics:** Understanding why prisons have been built the way they have throughout history. Examining different types of prisons globally. Studying the importance of architecture and interior design as it relates to human comfort in healing situations. Looking at the structure and social dynamics in the cell block.

**Topic: Looking at the issue of mass incarceration- seeing if new prison design can help with this problem**

Fedderly, Eva. "Can New Prison Design Help America's Mass Incarceration Problem?" Architectural Digest, April 1, 2021. <https://www.architecturaldigest.com/story/can-new-prison-design-help-americas-mass-incarceration-problem>.

**Abstract:** Architects speak on whether or not we can rehabilitate prisoners and minimize the cases where repeat offenders come back by creating "more humane" prisons and jails. Emphasizing how pivotal a role architecture and design have in criminal justice reform. Recognizing that architecture and design might not be able to solve all issues within the justice/punishment system.

**Synthesis:** This article is very helpful with looking at both sides of the arguments made when questioning if designing new prisons will really make a difference in restorative justice and mass incarceration. It talks about an example in New York that is current and planned for 2028. One quote I think is worth noting is "environment drives behavior" Jamie Torres first deputy commissioner of NYC's Department of Design Construction said. She looks at design as one of the tools they can use to achieve their criminal justice goals. This article also led me to specific architects to research like Frank Greene who works on "Justice Architecture."

**Topic: The world's most luxurious prison**

Durbin , Cathy. *The Worlds Most Luxurious Prison. United Kingdom: Knickerbockerglory TV* , 2020. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kVEXRth-hJs>.

**Abstract:** "Ann Widdecombe visits Norway's Halden Prison, where inmates share plush flats, dine on sushi and even record their own rap records. While this humane approach to inmates has been praised by some it has been condemned by others"

**Synthesis:** This documentary gave me a ton of perspective on the way prisons in Norway are looked at. This also is not the only prison set up they have in Norway, it's just one type. The speaker criticizes it from an important perspective. Widdecombe worked in Brittan as someone who spoke on the structure of their prisons in a more traditional mindset. The stats speak for themselves in this documentary things like, lower suicide rates and less repeat inmates.

**Topic: How design can help restore humanity lost in correctional facilities.**

Mercurio, Francesca. "Prison Design: How Architecture Can Help Restore the Humanity Lost i n Correctional Facilities." Journal, August 17, 2022. <https://architizet.com/blog/inspiration/stories/prison-design-humane-correctional-facilities/amp/>.

**Abstract:** To create better prison facilities, we need to see inmates as people and look at the buildings as spaces for rehabilitation and restoration rather than sites of punishment. This article looks at wats architecture and design can help restore humanity in these facilities.

**Synthesis:** One main idea that comes from this article that I think is important to note is that dating back to ancient times, the designs of prison have been built on long term punishment of humans who have committed a crime. To transition the design of prisons we need to change the foundation of which we think the purpose of correctional facilities is. Another idea I thought was very interesting was that the design should serve the function similar to a university. Steering away from an institutional feel.

**Topic: Who is in prison? How many people are in prison? What is mass Incarceration?**

Sawyer, Wendy, and Peter Wagner. "Mass Incarceration: The Whole Pie 2023." Prison Policy Initiative. Accessed September 6, 2023. <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/pie2023.html>.

**Abstract:** Examining how many people are incarcerated in the U.S and looking at what they are incarcerated for. Looking at how many people end up back in prison after serving time. This report provides clarity by presenting data on the "systems of confinement."

**Synthesis:** I really just needed to grasp and understand who the "user" for lack of a better word is in these facilities. I needed to get some perspective on what amount of people were there for violent crimes and living in the same spaces as someone there for something small. I also took a lot of information from this about the basics on correctional facilities, the difference between jails and prisons etc. Along with that the information given regarding the impact of COVID.

**Topic: The Human Factor in Prison design, and how it is different in the U.S and Scandinavia**

Fowler , Megan. *The Human Factor in Prison Design: Contrasting Prison Architecture in the United States and Scandinavia. Accessed December 13, 2023. https://www.acsaarch.org/proceedings/Annual%20Meeting%20Proceedings/ACSA.AM.103/ACSA.AM.103.45.pdf?v=2*.

**Abstract:** This dives in to the two types of prison systems in the U.S the Pennsylvania system and the Auburn system. It offers a brief history of modern prison design. It compares these to Scandinavian prisons. It also gives insight on how different justice systems create specific prison environments.

**Synthesis:** This paper is helpful yet again in focusing on the human idea of prisons. It also is really helpful from a historic and a theoretical design perspective as it gives insight into why it is an architect or designers job to have an influence on these projects. I appreciate that this is also sheds light on how we need to decide the goal of correctional facilities- to best serve the individuals who will end up there.

**Topic: The invention of incarceration**

Miller, Greg. "Prison History Explained - Knowable Magazine." *The Invention of Incarceration, March 18, 2022. https://knowablemagazine.org/article/society/2022/prison-history-ashley-rubin-qa*

**Abstract:** This is an interview with a sociologist that goes into the history of incarceration and how it has progressed and advanced in the U.S. It takes a look at how they began and how they are still failing today. It is an interesting bit of information on what the prison abolition movement is as well.

**Synthesis:** This interview has been super helpful in understanding the history of prison development in the United States. Along with that it was really helpful to see how prisons started, and then when stagnant in the way they worked and were run. Overall, this provided a basis for my early research.

**Topic: How the development of prison "skyrockets"**

Lopez, German. "Watch the Number of US Prisons Skyrocket after 1980." Vox, July 14, 2014. <https://www.vox.com/2014/7/14/5898267/prison-America-mass-incarceration-map-gif>.

**Abstract:** This interactive map provides insight and clear demonstration of how the creation of prisons was drastic in a couple different time frames. Between 1811 and 1979 711 prisons were built and then 1980 and 2004 936 were built. The article discusses the reasoning for this.

**Synthesis:** This article and map were so helpful in creating a graphic to depict how the prison system in the U.S works and has grown overtime. It also gave me understanding how the prison system is for profit and how even though there has been years of prison reform recently they have not made a change on the amount of prisons in the U.S.

# LITERATURE REVIEW

## **Topic: The real statistics**

“Correctional Institutions.” Bureau of Justice Statistics. Accessed December 13, 2023. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/topics/corrections/correctional-institutions>.

### **Abstract:**

The Bureau of Justice Statistics has a wide variety of useful information. From definitions to synthesized survey results and data regarding incarcerated individuals. It also has important information on demographic elements of who is incarcerated in the U.S.

### **Synthesis:**

This website helped me to see and understand numerically how many people were incarcerated, where, and who they were. It also helped me to understand a lot of legal terminology that I previously did not know the definition of. All of this helped me to created graphics to convey powerful numbers.

## **Topic: Types of Cell Blocks**

“Prison Security Levels: Inmate Classification Levels.” Law Offices of Grant Smaldone, June 9, 2023. <https://federalcriminaldefenseattorney.com/prison-life/prison-security-levels>.

### **Abstract:**

Though this is a attorney’s website it provides a detailed description regarding the levels of crime and what types of cell blocks coordinate with those. It also gives detailed descriptions as to what the structure of the environment is in different types of cell blocks based on security level. This also covers the other spaces in the cell block, including the individual cells and the amenities.

### **Synthesis:**

From this I learned a lot about how security levels within the prison cell block have a huge impact on the design of the cell block itself. It also provided some needed perspective on what the people inhabiting these places would be like. It gave me many details I needed to created comprehensive day in the lives as well.

## **Topic: Recidivism**

“Recidivism.” National Institute of Justice. Accessed December 13, 2023. <https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/corrections/recidivism>.

### **Abstract:**

The National Institute of Justice defines recidivism in the U.S. This article goes in depth on what types of recidivism are and how they look in the U.S. It also gave references to other helpful articles on recidivism.

### **Synthesis:**

Recidivism was a major point of research for me. I contrasted the amount of recidivism in the U.S with the numbers in Finland. This website helped be to better understand what it was so that I could explain it in the context of my project. Along with that, It provided me with more reliable research and explanations.

## **Topic: Real Story- Minimum Security Prison Inmate**

Metcalf, Jerry. “What 24 Hours in Prison Is Really Like.” The Marshall Project, July 13, 2018. <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2018/07/12/a-day-in-the-life-of-a-prisoner>.

### **Abstract:**

This personal article tells Jerry’s story. It describes a firsthand account of what a day in the life of a minimum-security inmate. This story sheds light on real conditions in prisons from an unbiased perspective.

### **Synthesis:**

This article opened my eyes to the real conditions in prisons. It allowed me to create an accurate day in the life graphic, it also allowed me to include a personal story which I think helps explain fully the situations present in a minimum-security cell block. It also helped me to see how inmates in a minimum-security cell block interact with the space.

## **Topic: Real Story- Maximum Security Prison Inmate**

Nichols, Michael J. “How I Survived a Year in ‘the Hole’ without Losing My Mind.” The Marshall Project, September 30, 2022. <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2022/09/30/how-i-survived-a-year-in-the-hole-without-losing-my-mind>.

### **Abstract:**

This is another personal article. This was written by an inmate living in a maximum-security facility. It is his experience and testimony, and he explains how he survived it. This was a very honest depiction of the conditions of both the facility and the thoughts of the people who experience it.

### **Synthesis:**

This article opened my eyes to the real conditions in maximum security cell blocks or isolated cells. It allowed me to create another accurate day in the life graphic, it also allowed me to include another personal story which I think helps explain fully the situations present in a maximum-security cell block as well as how those individuals interact with the space.

## **Topic: The Prison Abolition Movement**

Gilmore, Ruth Wilson, and James Kilgore. “The Case for Abolition.” The Marshall Project, June 19, 2019. <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2019/06/19/the-case-for-abolition>.

### **Abstract:**

The article talks about why some people want to end the way prisons work. It says we should focus on freedom and fairness instead of just locking people up. It criticizes changes that still keep a lot of control over people in jail. It supports actions like stopping prisons from getting bigger and making sure everyone gets things like healthcare and jobs. The article says we can’t just look at prisons alone, we need to think about how society works overall to really change things for the better.

### **Synthesis:**

Understanding the perspectives advocating for prison system changes is crucial as it challenges the conventional methods of punishment. It highlights the importance of shifting the focus from punishment towards ideals of fairness and liberty within the justice system. Criticizing reforms that maintain excessive control over incarcerated individuals draws attention to the need for more humane and equitable approaches. Additionally, the emphasis on broader societal issues such as healthcare, employment, and social welfare signifies the interconnectedness between systemic problems and the prison system, urging a holistic approach for meaningful societal change.

## **Topic: Space and well-being in high security environments**

“Space and Well-Being in High Security Environments.” National Center for Biotechnology Information. Accessed December 13, 2023. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/>.

### **Abstract:**

The national library of medicine looks at the elements of design that benefit individuals in high security environments. It goes into depth about how certain design strategies are being used in high security psychiatric hospitals and the importance of further implication of these.

### **Synthesis:**

The reading helped me to find examples in real life environments that are benefiting high security interior spaces. Having the research from this article helped me to back claims that tie to concepts in my project regarding the design and elements in interior spaces of cell blocks.

## **Topic: The effects of solitary confinement on the well-being of prison inmates**

Corcoran, Mary. “Effects of solitary confinement on the well-being of prison inmates.” Applied Psychology OPUS. Accessed December 13, 2023. [https://wp.nyu.edu/steinhardt-appsych\\_opus/effects-of-solitary-confinement-on-the-well-being-of-prison-inmates/](https://wp.nyu.edu/steinhardt-appsych_opus/effects-of-solitary-confinement-on-the-well-being-of-prison-inmates/).

### **Abstract:**

This article takes a deep dive on the topic of what solitary confinement really does to the mental health and well-being of the inmate. This gives details on what the inmates live and experience as well as scientific backing of the true effects on the inmates.

### **Synthesis:**

This was helpful on understanding the sensory impacts on inmates. It helped me to analyze what design strategies would be a helpful alternative to better the well-being of inmates in solitary confinement. It gave perspective on where the current prisons are and where they need to go.

# LITERATURE REVIEW

## Topic: Precedent study – Metropolitan Correctional Center Chicago

Zhao, X. “Exploring the Metropolitan Correctional Center: The Leniency and Harshness in Confinement.” *ELI AEPP Finding Chicago Global Perspectives*, November 15, 2023. <https://voices.uchicago.edu/findingchicago/2021/08/23/exploring-the-metropolitan-correctional-center-the-leniency-and-harshness-in-confinement/>.

### Abstract:

The article discusses the Metropolitan Correctional Center (MCC), a federal prison in Chicago. It’s a tall building with 28 floors, designed in a unique triangular shape with special windows and a rooftop yard. The writer wonders why these features were chosen. They talk about how Chicago’s punishment history has changed over time, moving from harsh methods to more rehabilitation-focused programs. The article also mentions how MCC provides both strict supervision for prisoners but also some recreational facilities, highlighting a mix of strictness and leniency in the prison. The writer hopes for better conditions for inmates in the future or maybe a different use for the building but acknowledges MCC’s importance in the neighborhood.

### Synthesis:

Understanding the unique design and historical context of the Metropolitan Correctional Center (MCC) in Chicago sheds light on the evolving approaches to incarceration and rehabilitation within the criminal justice system. It illustrates the interplay between leniency and harshness in prison environments, emphasizing the complexities and contrasts within the system. Additionally, examining MCC’s impact on the neighborhood and its architectural significance provides insights into how the perception of correctional facilities shapes public attitudes and influences the lives of both inmates and passersby. This knowledge is crucial in fostering discussions on reform, reintegration, and potential future adaptations within the prison system while considering the broader societal implications of such structures.

## Topic: Precedent Study 2 – Finland’s Open Prison

Moore, Natalie, and Authors. “No Bars, No Chains, No Locks: How Finland Is Reimagining Incarceration.” *Pulitzer Center*, November 16, 2021. <https://pulitzercenter.org/stories/no-bars-no-chains-no-locks-how-finland-reimagining-incarceration>.

### Abstract:

The article compares the U.S. and Finnish prison systems, highlighting the significant differences in approaches to incarceration. It emphasizes the mass incarceration and punitive nature of the U.S. system compared to Finland’s focus on rehabilitation and open prisons. It details the humane conditions and programs offered in Finnish prisons, demonstrating a shift from punishment towards supporting inmates’ reintegration into society. Additionally, it addresses shortcomings in both systems, particularly the challenges faced by female inmates and the need for improved mental health services.

### Synthesis:

Understanding the contrasting approaches to incarceration between the U.S. and Finland highlights the effectiveness of rehabilitation-centric prison models in reducing crime and promoting inmate reintegration. It offers insights into alternative systems that prioritize humaneness over punitive measures, fostering a debate on the transformative potential of prison reform. This comparison underscores the impact of societal values and policies on criminal justice, emphasizing the importance of a holistic approach that considers rehabilitation, mental health support, and societal welfare in reducing recidivism and fostering positive outcomes for both inmates and communities. Ultimately, it prompts discussions on reshaping punitive prison practices towards more humane and effective rehabilitation-focused systems.

# APPENDIX

## SURVEY RESPONSES

What is your area of expertise?	How old are you?	How many years of experience do you have in your area of expertise?	What is your identifying gender?	Have you ever worked on the design of a prison?	How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "Architecture and Design can impact feelings of safety."	How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "Architecture and Design can impact feelings of privacy."	How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "Architecture and Design can impact social dynamics"	How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "Architecture and Design can be healing."	How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "The conventional or current prison design promotes feelings of inmate safety."	How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "The conventional or current prison design promotes feelings of inmate privacy."	How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "The conventional or current prison design promotes healthy inmate social dynamics."	How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "The conventional or current prison design promotes a healing environment for inmates."	Any further thoughts and comments?
Architecture, Interior Design	18-24	0-4 Years	Female	No	Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree	Disagree	Disagree	Disagree	Disagree	
Interior Design	18-24	0-4 Years	Female	No	Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Disagree	
Interior Design	18-24	0-4 Years	Female	No	Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Disagree	
	55-64	20 or more	Female	No	Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Disagree	Disagree	
Sales	65+	20 or more	male	No	Agree	Agree	Neutral	Agree	Neutral	Neutral	Disagree	Neutral	
Marketing	18-24	0-4 Years	Male	No	Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Disagree	
Engineering	55-64	20 or more	Male	Yes	Agree	Agree	Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Neutral	Disagree	Disagree	The safety of the workers and inmates must be the primary concern.
Architecture	35-44	10-20 Years	Female	Yes	Agree	Strongly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Disagree	Disagree	
Architecture	45-54	10-20 Years	Male	No	Agree	Strongly Agree	Agree	Agree	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	
Engineering	25-34	5-10 Years	Male	No	Agree	Agree	Agree	Agree	Agree	Disagree	Disagree	Disagree	
Engineering	25-34	5-10 Years	Male	Yes	Agree	Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Neutral	Strongly Disagree	
Architecture	18-24	0-4 Years	Female	No	Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Disagree	
Interior Design	35-44	10-20 Years	female	Yes	Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Neutral	Disagree	
Engineering	35-44	5-10 Years		No	Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	
Architecture	35-44	10-20 Years	female	No	Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	
	55-64	20 or more	Male	No	Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree	Disagree	Neutral	Disagree	Neutral	
Architecture	45-54	20 or more	Male	Yes	Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree	Agree	Strongly Disagree	Neutral	Disagree	We love you, Carlee! :)
Project Management	45-54	20 or more	Male	Yes	Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree	Strongly Agree	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Prisons are a tough reality. I do not have a better answer for them but will say that my involvement in the desing of a prison absolutely to prisoner experience in mind with appropriate priorities of inmate safety and staff safety.

# APPENDIX THE ORIGINAL OUTLINE

## Capstone Outline

### 1) Prison vs Jail (correctional institutions)

#### a) How are they similar?

- i) Ideas of confined persons
  - (1) Confine: (verb) keep or restrict someone or something within certain limits of (space, scope, quantity, or time).
  - (2) Confinement: (noun) the action of confining or state of being confined.
- ii) Crime and punishment

#### b) How are they different?

- i) Jail: "confine persons before or after adjudication and are usually operated by local law enforcement authorities" "Persons confined in a jail facility following a criminal conviction are usually sentenced to an incarceration sentence of 1 year or less."
- ii) Prison: "confine persons after they are convicted of a criminal offense and are usually operated under the authority of a state Department of Corrections or the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP)." "Persons confined in a prison are typically serving an incarceration sentence of more than 1 year."

### c) History of "confinement" History of "punishment" (Miller, Greg)

- i) People assume prisons have always existed. It really hasn't- for most of western history long-term incarceration wasn't used as punishment. Many places had rules against it. Coming about shortly after the revolutionary war.
- ii) Jails/short term confinement has had a longer presence in Europe and around the world.
  - (1) Workhouses in England and Netherlands in 16<sup>th</sup> century that held people from criminals awaiting trial to prostitutes and orphans.
- iii) Originally criminals were punished with violence typically capital punishment and to avoid the state from killing everyone authorities granted a lot of pardons.
  - (1) That softened where less serious offense were typically punished with corporal punishment like whipping or branding.
    - (a) DOES THIS LEAD TO SOCIALLY ACCEPTABLE VIOLENCE? CONFINEMENT IS LESS GRAPHIC VIOLENCE? NOT PHYSICAL BUT EMOTIONAL.
- iv) The first prison was in Massachusetts in 1785 just after the American Revolution, then Connecticut in 1790 and Pennsylvania in 1794 Those are the first three state prisons in the world.
  - (1) This came from the views from social reformers, Politian's etc.
  - (2) Capital and Corporal punishment were inhumane.
  - (3) Existing punishment was causing more crime.
  - (4) Rehabilitation was a part of it. Removing people from their bad environments.

### 2) Who is there?

- a) Demographics
  - i) Race
    - (1) [https://www.bop.gov/about/statistics/statistics\\_inmate\\_race.jsp](https://www.bop.gov/about/statistics/statistics_inmate_race.jsp)
  - ii) Gender
    - (1) [https://www.bop.gov/about/statistics/statistics\\_inmate\\_gender.jsp](https://www.bop.gov/about/statistics/statistics_inmate_gender.jsp)
  - iii) Age
    - (1) [https://www.bop.gov/about/statistics/statistics\\_inmate\\_age.jsp](https://www.bop.gov/about/statistics/statistics_inmate_age.jsp)
  - iv) Offences/types of crime
    - (1) [https://www.bop.gov/about/statistics/statistics\\_inmate\\_offenses.jsp](https://www.bop.gov/about/statistics/statistics_inmate_offenses.jsp)
  - v) Citizenship
    - (1) [https://www.bop.gov/about/statistics/statistics\\_inmate\\_citizenship.jsp](https://www.bop.gov/about/statistics/statistics_inmate_citizenship.jsp)

### b) Locations

- i) Urban vs Rural
- ii) State laws (Michigan vs Georgia)
- iii) Globally

### 3) Where they end up? / CELL BLOCK

#### Types of cell blocks

Clusters or groups of multiple cells that are overseen by a specific guard and can be divided up by crime, gender, and inmate behavior

- i) Open air vs Private
  - (1) Open air: large group rooms with bunk beds and little privacy
  - (2) Cells with 1 – 2 inmates per cell
- b) Points of research (Impacts how they live and use the space)
  - (a) Gender
  - (b) Authority
  - (c) Type of crime
  - (d) Sensory

#### Case studies

- ii) Finland's Open Prison
  - (1) How are they similar? How are they different? Public vs private, Zones, Day in the life
    - (a) Work, study, order take out.
    - (b) "Focus on getting them back to society and releasing them ASAP."
    - (c) Work jobs, live in dorms.
    - (d) Open Prisons
      - (i) Lock their own doors.
      - (ii) No bars on windows
      - (iii) Designed to look like a campground. Not scary.
      - (iv) Greenery open space, no cages.
      - (v) Smaller populations to give individual attention.
      - (vi) "Research not politics guide prison not politics"
- iii) U.S Prison
  - (1) How are they similar? How are they different? Public vs private, Zones, Day in the life

#### Goals

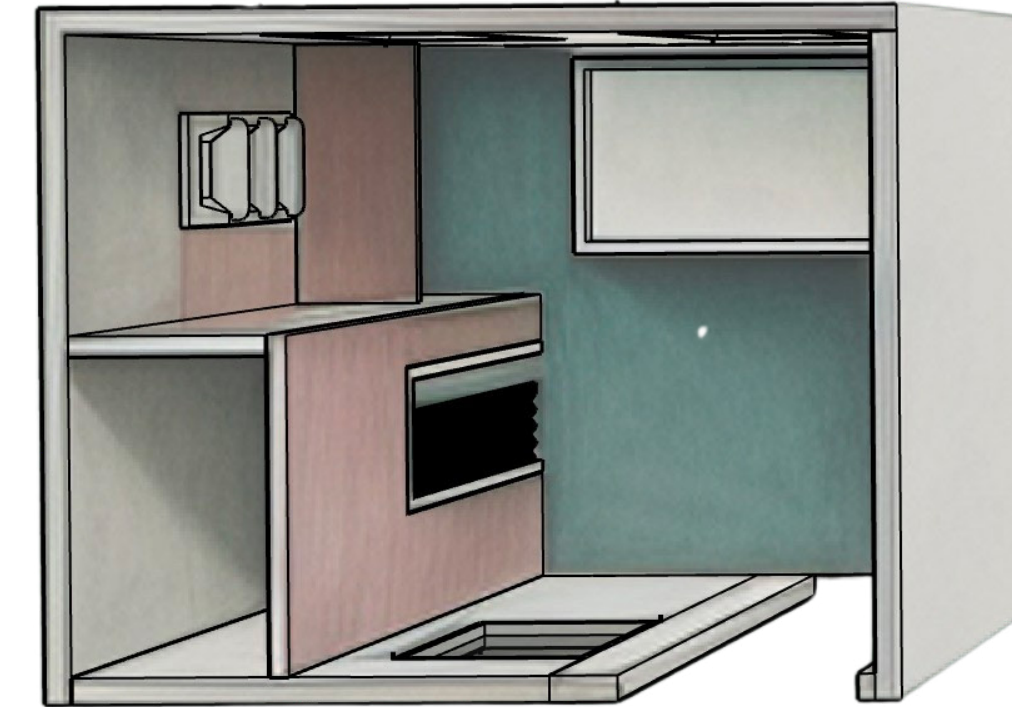
- Speak to Steve Moe about how they designed a cell block.
- Visit a cell block.
- Interview a previously incarcerated individual about their experience in a cell block and the relationships that take place.
- Interview a cell block officer.
- Jackson Prison Cell Block 7

#### Questions

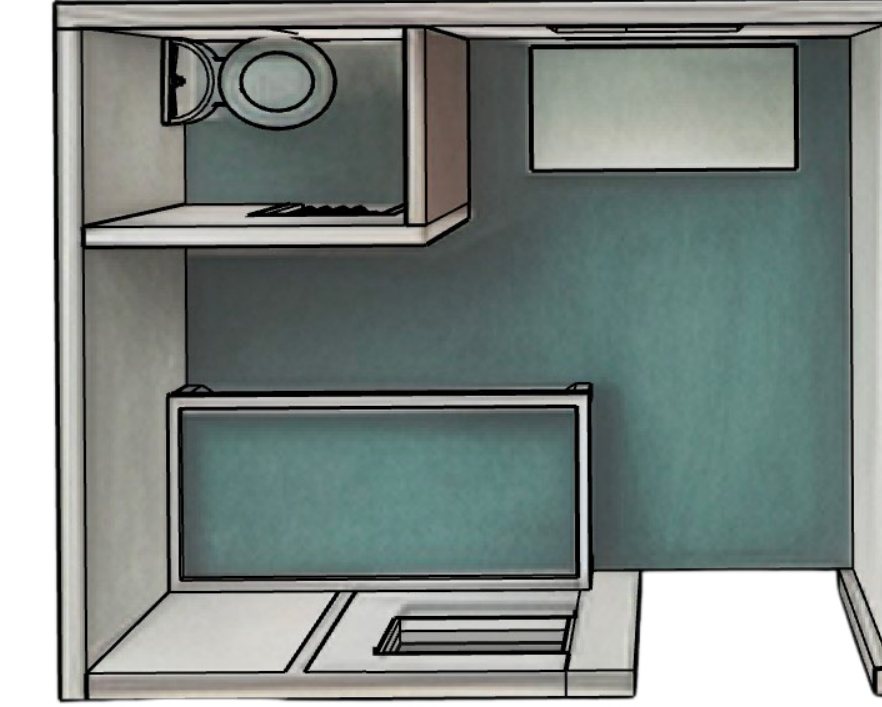
- What does a successful cell block look like?
- How does a lack of privacy impact an inmate's safety?
- How does a lack of privacy impact an inmate's dignity?
- What structural design elements are needed for security? Are they all needed?

# DESIGN METHODOLOGY

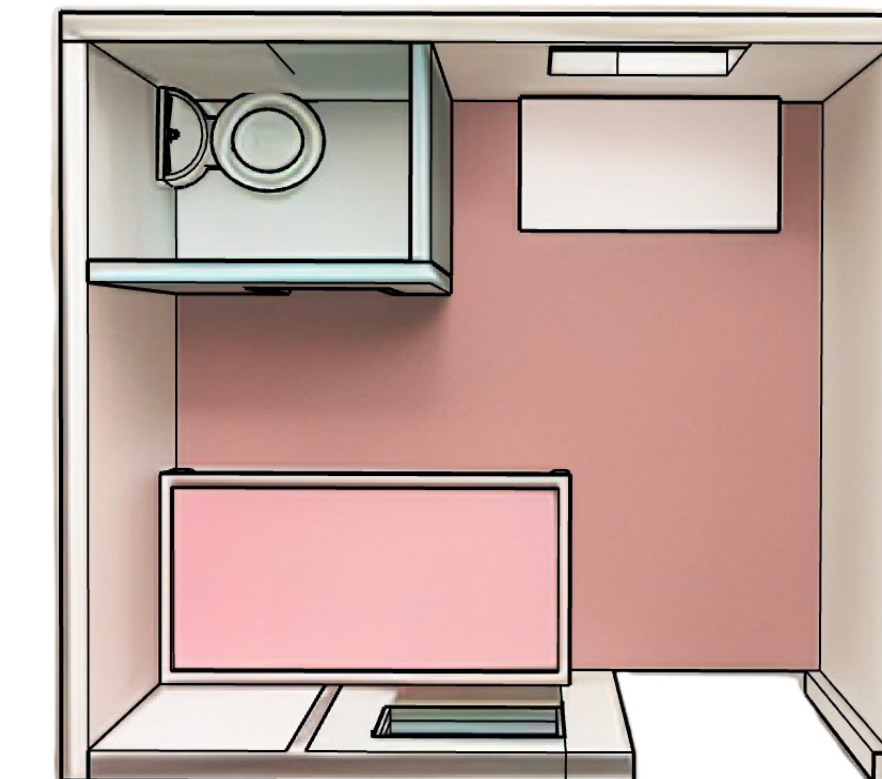
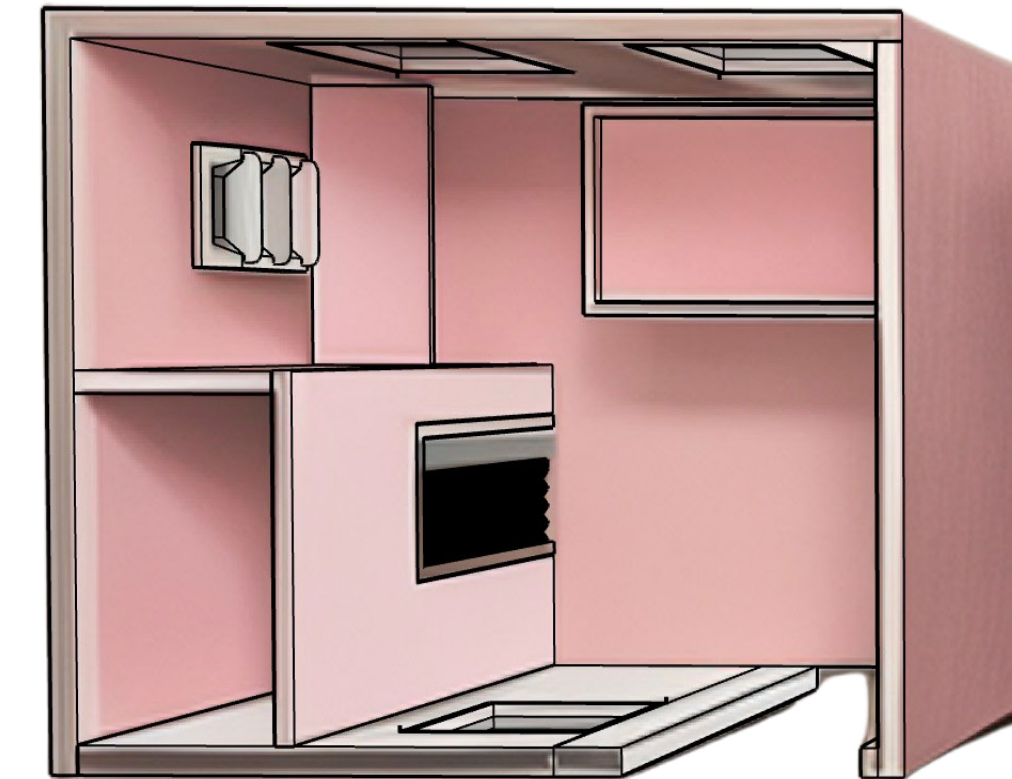
## Cell Design Iteration - Graphic Representation and Style



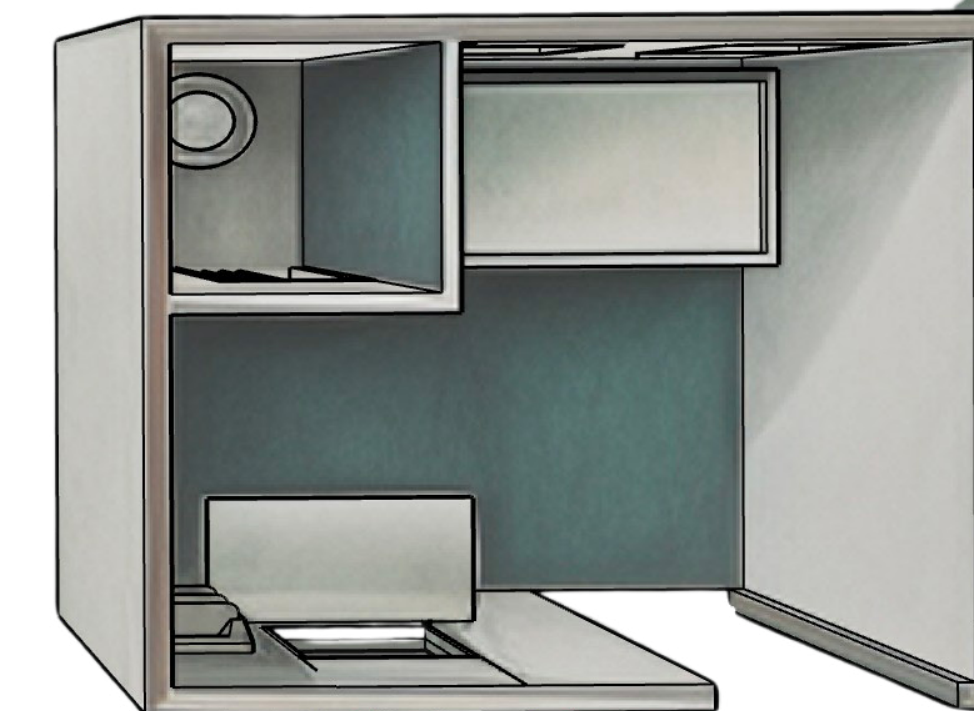
VERSION 1



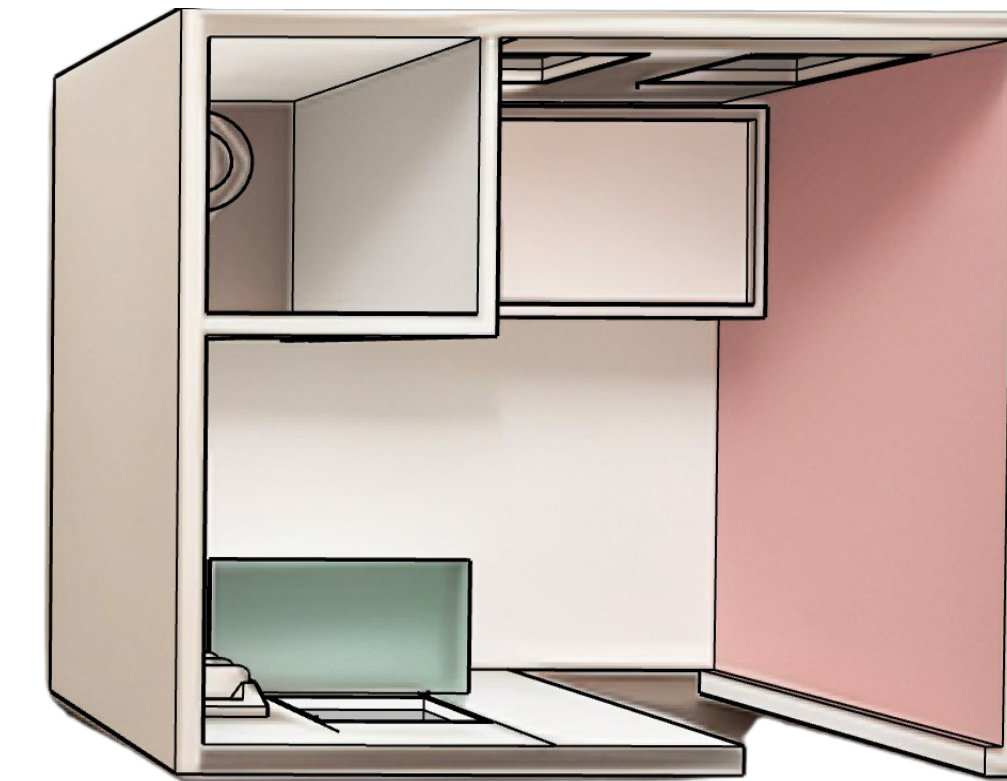
VERSION 2

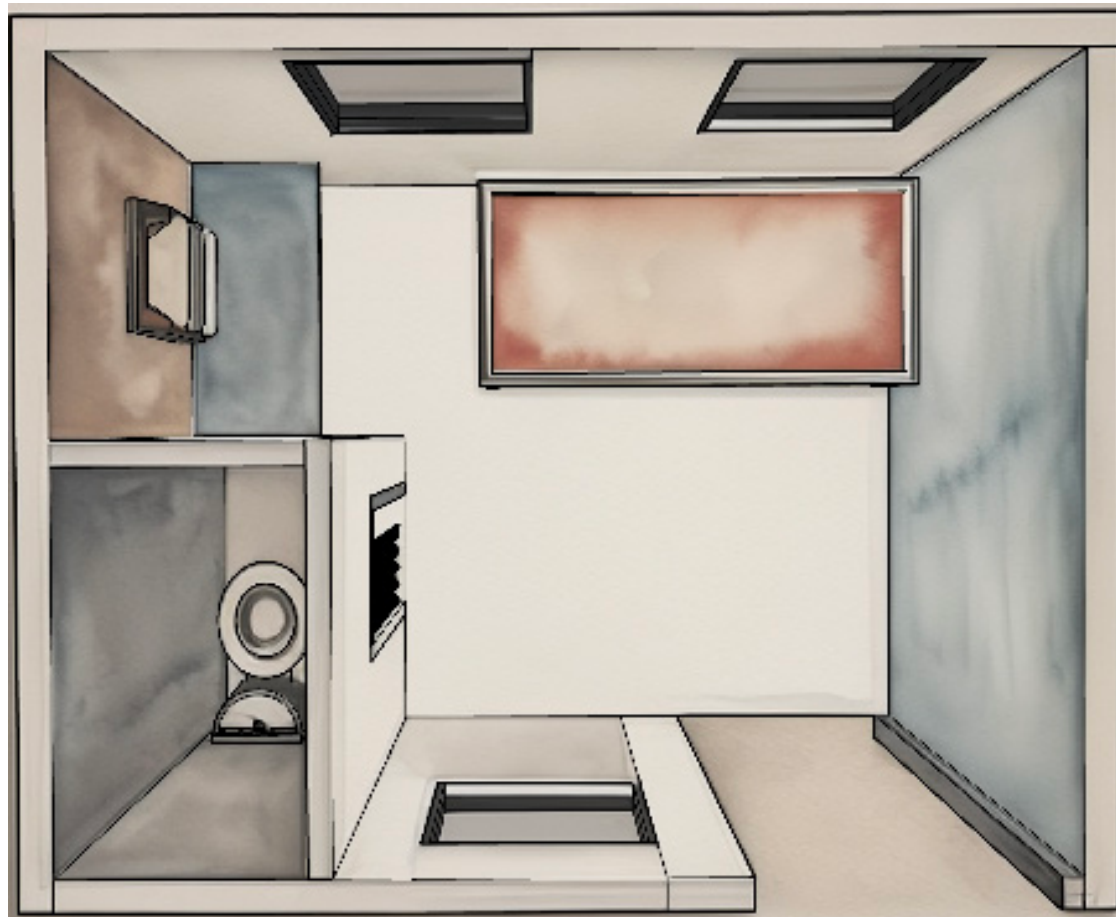


Comparing the visual difference between watercolor and illustrated rendering styles in sketchup diffusion

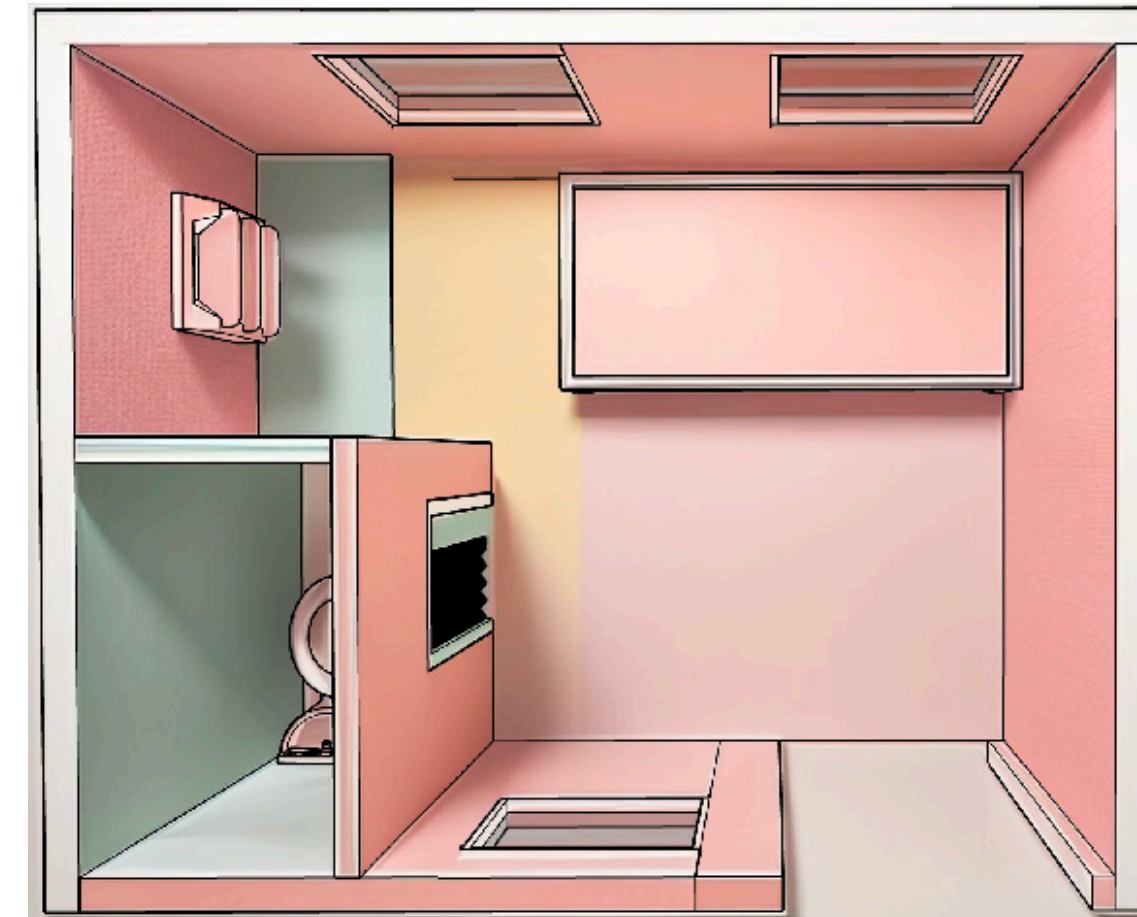


Preferred Iteration  
VERSION 3

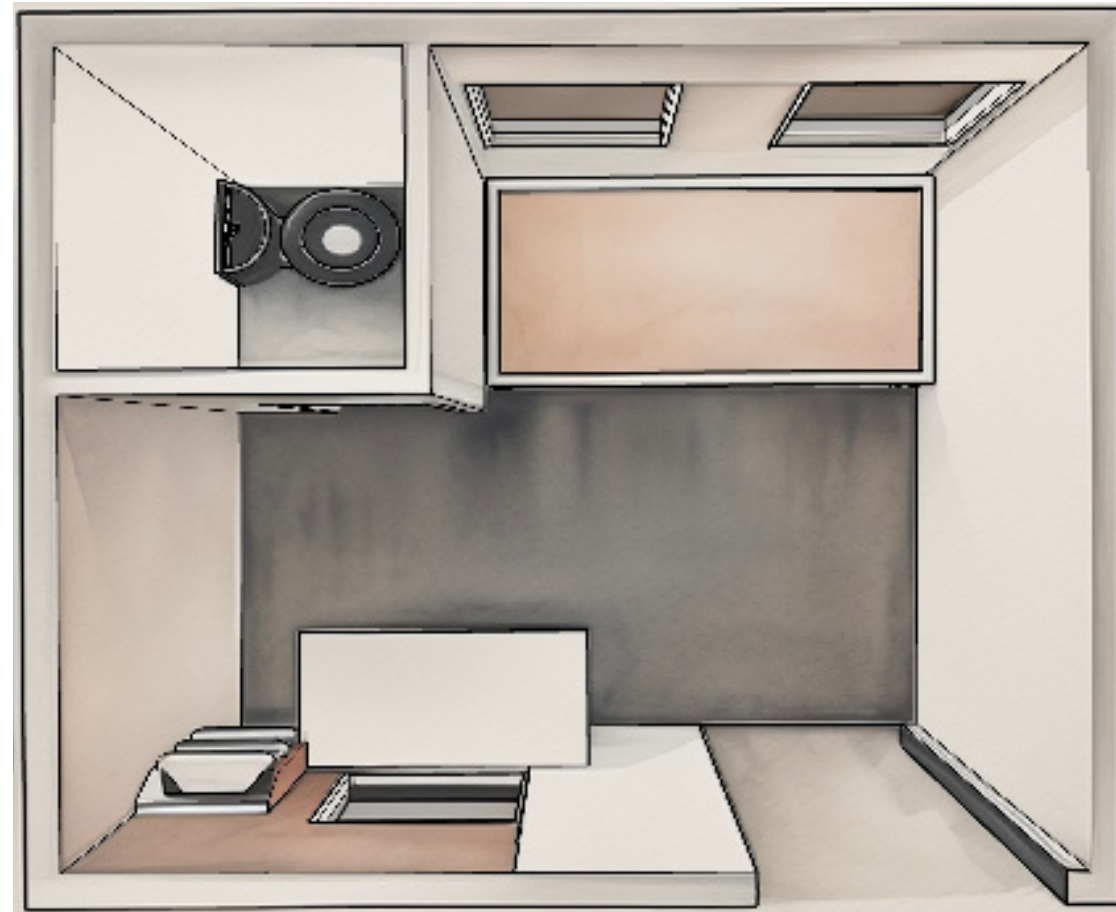




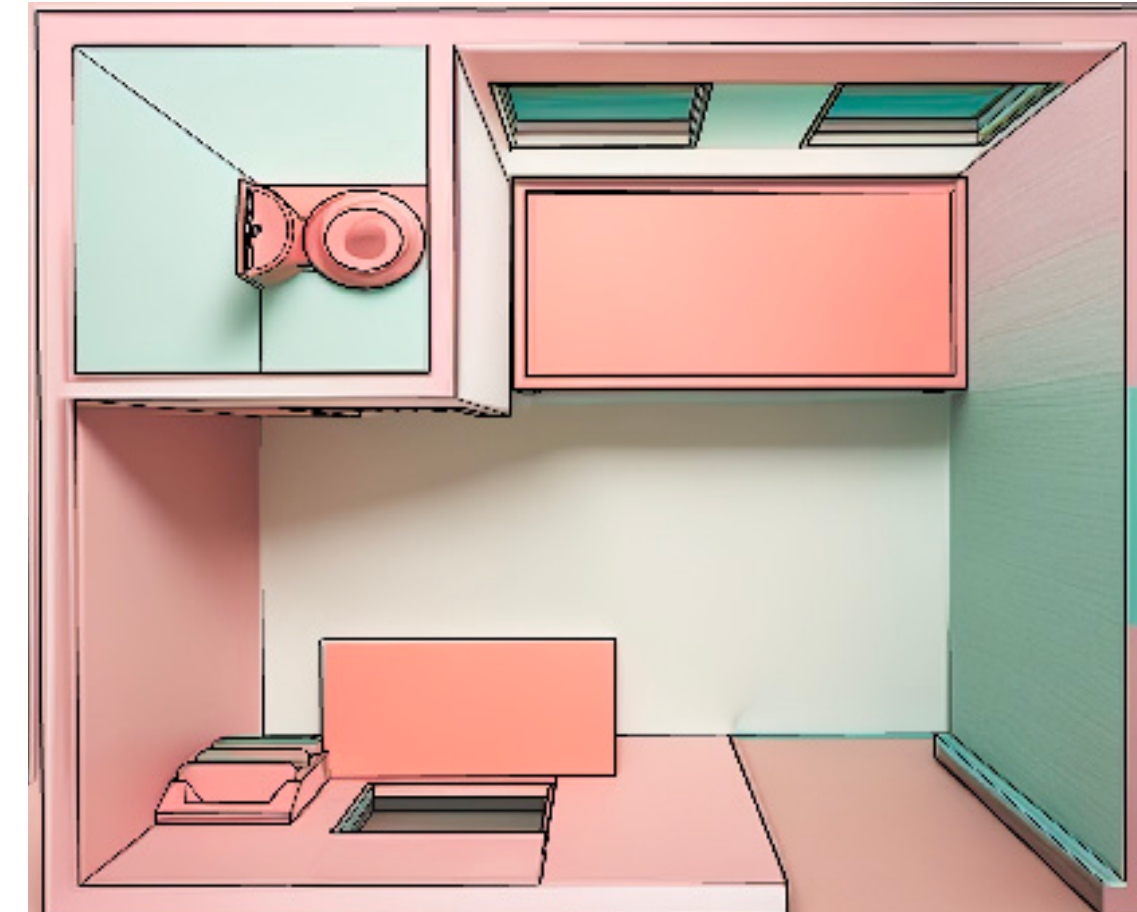
VERSION 1 - WATER COLOR



VERSION 1 - ILLUSTRATED



VERSION 3 - WATER COLOR



VERSION 3 - ILLUSTRATED

# UNBLOCKED

RE-IMAGINING INCARCERATION BY RE-STRUCTURING THE CELL BLOCK



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