

Is There Anything Like Humane Jail Design: Whether the Changes in Design Will Prove Beneficial or Injurious to Society?



Ar. Urvashi Dixit⁶
Prof Keshav Kumar⁷

Abstract

This case is an attempt to draw attention towards the condition of inmates in the prisons of the country. The case revolves around the major experiences of Professor Keshav Kumar, senior architect of Uttar Pradesh Nirmaan Nigam (UPRNN) who to the best of his efforts tried to implement reformative prison design to influence the psychology of the inmates, making him the main protagonist of the case. The case discusses his efforts, attempts and experiences in the form of narration and conversation with different people involved in the design. He advocated the use of well thought architectural strategies as a tool to influence the psyche of prison inmate and also following all the mandatory norms.

It expresses the major concern of Professor Keshav Kumar to provide humanitarian conditions to prison inmates and at the same time highlights uncertainty among the decision makers to accept such design strategies. It also revealed the emotions of the inmates and their preferences in reference to the basic needs they have during their sentence.

Hence the case proves itself to be worth of serious thinking both by the management authorities and prison designers to explore all the feasible options for humane prison design and strategies to achieve positive mindset of inmates and security at the same time.

Keywords - circulation, mental stress, prison architecture, prisoner psychology, security.

Introduction

On a summer day of May 9, 2019, Prof Keshav, professor of School of Architecture & Planning, Babu Banarasi Das University (BBDU) and retired senior architect of Uttar

⁶ Phd Research Scholar, Sushant University, India ¹

⁷ Retired Senior Architect, UPRNN²

Pradesh Rashtriya Nirmaan Nigam (UPRNN), was one of the panelists in the Bachelor of Architecture final year thesis jury, where a final year student was continuously advocating about his aspirations to make a livable jail while designing a District jail. All the jury members were adamant that what new he would be able to do as jail design is a rigid concept following only security norms. Listening to all the conversations Professor Keshav suddenly went back to the year 1999 when he was practically presenting jail designs of various jails like Siddhartha Nagar, Kanpur Dehat followed by Bagpat, Maharajganj and Sonbhadra. He visited many prisons in the country including Tihar for case study and found that their condition needed consideration again. He advocated the use of well-thought-out architectural strategies as a tool to influence the psyche of prison inmates. He worked and reworked spatial design so that prisoners get humanitarian conditions to survive in confinement and follow all the mandatory norms at the same time.

He always believed that architecture could influence its user's psychology. He designed and consistently worked on the designs with discussions with industry experts, police officials, and jail inmates. He wanted to propose a design that was very sound about the security strengthened with monitoring tools and at the same time very user friendly. He believed this type of design would change the thought process of prisoners positively.

Judicial System of India

The study can be discussed as reformative architecture where the criminals are also treated as humans and are not denied of the basic amenities of sanitation and clean drinking water. They should also be allowed to have a social life in their confinement. In prison security, circulation is one of the most crucial parameters so Prof Keshav had to face many refusals and he reworked again and again.

To understand Prof Keshav's concept for reforming the spatial design, understanding the judicial system of India becomes imperative.

The judicial system of India happens to be the oldest (Dhavan, 2014). In 1835, Lord Macaulay, a member of the Indian Law Commission, was the first to introduce prison reform in India. The nation's prison system was governed under the Indian Prisons Act of 1894. India had 68 mixed, 75 criminal, and 43 civil jails at that time. District Magistrates were in charge of these jails. (Odhisha).

The judicial system of India consists of three departments:

- a. Law courts,
- b. Police department and
- c. Prison (Fig 1)

The above figures show that the prison population in India is least but there seems to be a gap in formulation of solution to the problems that prisoners face in the prison is also because of the large population. This also reflects back to the scenario that why most of the prisoners in India are not convicted and are merely on trial.

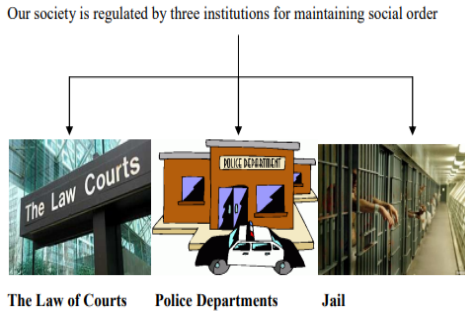


Figure 1: Institutions for social order

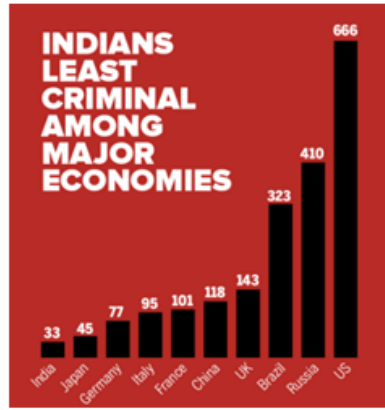


Figure 2: Prison population/1 lakh people (World Prison Brief) Institute for Criminal Policy Research (Mohan, 2018)

As per prison population of India Justice Report prison population increase 1.5% every year and has increased from 4, 81,387 to 4, 88,510 in the year 2020. (Mohan, 2018). Undoubtedly work has been done for the betterment of inmates as Prof Keshav agrees that previous prison mandates were to penalize the prisoner brutally but now reforms are welcomed and implied beginning with the change in name of “Jail Department” to Jail Administration and reform services”.

The analysis of all the above factors renders information about the various issues like staff to prisoner ratio as given below:

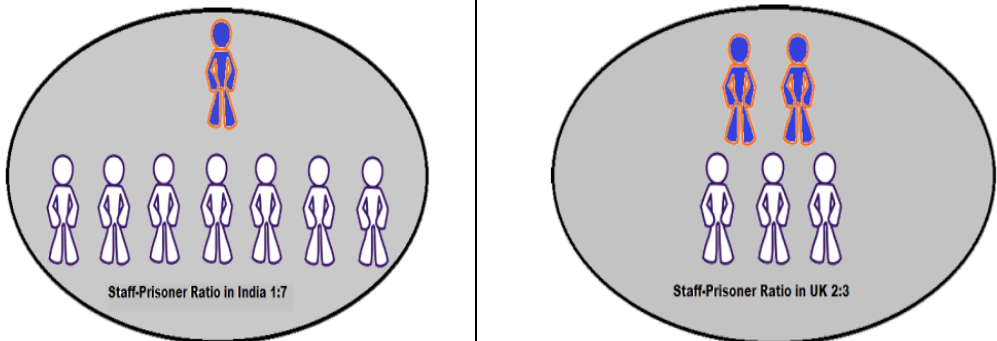


Figure 3: Illustration to explain staff prisoner ratio of India & UK (Kashyap, 2022)

Due to strict mandates the spatial planning of the prison becomes highly monotonous and leads to mental depression and hopelessness. As per the reports every year two inmates commit suicide in Tihar Jail. Prof Keshav believes that human design can

motivate the prisoners towards hope and so decided to formulate a design proposal on the same incorporating all Hi-Tech mechanism installed in the built form itself. He was assured that this was a tough task but not an impossible one. So he requested the authorities and visited Tehri Jail, Shimla, Tihar Jail, Kanpur nagar jail and there interacted with superintendents, jailors and even the prisoners. He realized it was entirely a different world inside the huge, brutal walls, blank corridors.

According to Professor Keshav: “Architecture has the capacity to invoke emotions. Architecture of happiness will surely result in inducing positive mindset in inmates.”

An overview of Jail evolution and architectural development

The custom of imprisonment is, as old as the civilizations whether it was Egyptian, Mesopotamian, Greek or Roman, to detain the people who were potential threat to the society. It was featured as a correctional facility or a temporary stay of criminals. It wasn't until after the 12th century that the prison actually became a form of architecture. Prison architecture started as chambers inside massive brick towers in castles, which were often lightless with only an air shaft and a toilet shaft. These prisons were far from being hygienic; insects and rats were very common. However, unlike our centralized mega-prisons today, the prisons at that time were small in scale. Since the length of imprisonment was relatively short and the number of prisoners remained small, the foul conditions of prisons did not rise to attention.

Bentham was the first one to propose the concept in Prison design where only few guards were required to check the maximum number of prisoners. The concept was called “**Panopticon**”. (Sheridan, 2016). The design was also followed in the New Delhi prison in 1817.

"Habits of Industry" Theory - This theory propagated around 16th century when there was social unrest. Prisons were now planned near the warehouses in the attempt to rehabilitate petty offenders. From there, a new purpose was given to prison through rebuilding new way of life for prisoners, which laid the foundation of today's prison philosophy(Hardman, 2007).Prisons was not standalone architectures until after 1550s. London Bride well prison was one of the first workhouse prisons, converted from a royal palace in 1557.

The real form of prisons developed in 1700's and the San Michele Juvenile prison in Rome was one of the first prisons designed and built for this purpose which was made operational in 1704 to house 60 offenders.

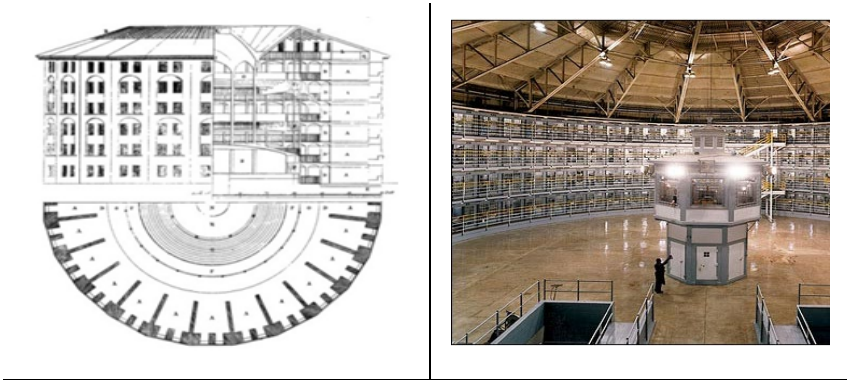


Figure 4: Panopticon Jail

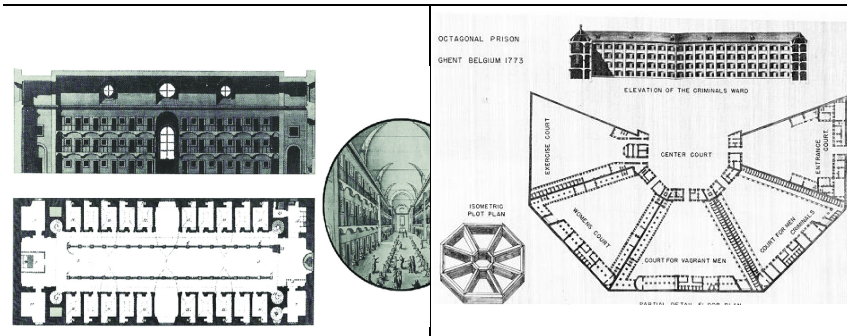


Figure 5: Linear Jail

Figure 6: Court Plan (Ching, 1943)

Jail System in India

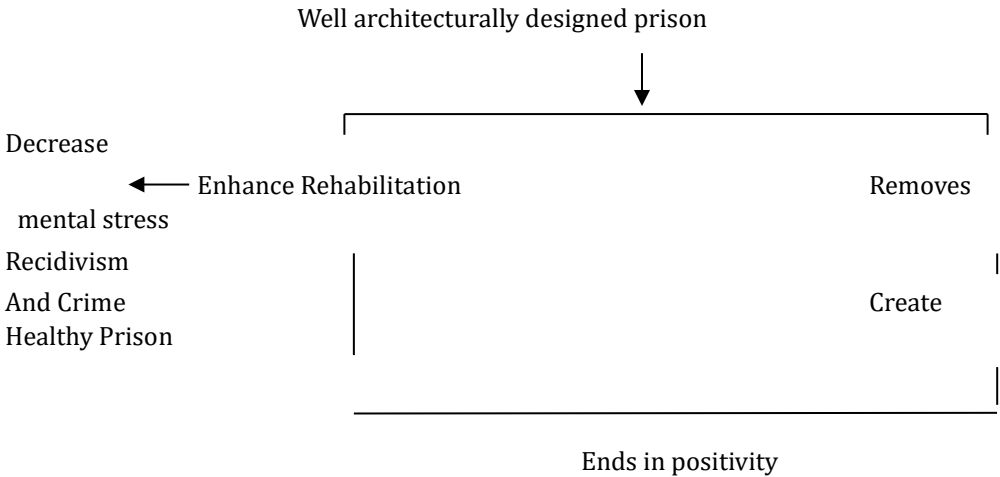
The jail system of India (NCRB, 2018) follows the given mandate:

TYPE	NUMBER
Central Jail	144
District Jail	404
Sub Jail	628
Women Jail	24
Borstal Schools	19
Open Jails	77
Special Jails	41
Others	2

Figure 7: Types of Jail in India

Delhi, the capital city has the highest number of jails (16) followed by Madhya Pradesh (11).

A jail is not only to punish but to reform according to Professor Keshav. It should be able to motivate the person to give up his criminal instincts and move back as an integral part of the society but the bland wall heights, long, dark, narrow corridors and isolation may hamper the psyche of the inmate. The change of architectural design in a highly secure and restricted area was a very difficult task. To propose a design concept he worked out a theoretical framework to discuss with the concerned officials:



Basic element of Rehabilitation

Figure 8: Flow Chart of Design Philosophy⁸

Spatial proposal- architectural design

Prisoners in the prisons were interviewed by Professor. His focus was to get views regarding observations of prisoners about the Impact of architecture on their psychology. It was a general notion that the prisoners were in state of shock due to separation from family members, relatives, friends and outside open and beautiful world is so severe that for a long time they remain in depression. In this period nothing seems to be good, no feeling and sensitivity remained.

There were many committees that spoke off and advocated prison reform but very less has been incorporated. After interacting with prisoners prof Keshav found out many things.

Overcrowding, prolonged detention of under-trial prisoners, unsatisfactory living conditions, lack of treatment programs and allegations of indifferent and even inhuman approach of prison staff have repeatedly attracted the attention of the critics over the years. The list is long but out of the list few important ones are:

⁸ The effect of architectural spaces on the psyche of prisoners is worked out by researchers.

a) **Long bland brutal massive wall** exhibit hardness and same is imbibed by the prisoner. Robust colorless brutal walls seen by the inmates 24x7 develops feeling of anger, irritation, monotony, depression and anxiety .If these walls have murals, moral writings then they can even calm an irritated soul.



Figure 9: Enclosure Wall

b) **View of open fields** – Mostly the area amidst the enclosure of walls is all plain so whenever seen from the window of the cell induces only emptiness. As a reform all open fields shall be kept green with good quality grass & flowering plants with cultivation of indigenous plants to enhance relaxation.



Figure 10: Open Spaces Actual V/S Proposed

c) **Linear/ long / monotonous barracks** with the capacity of at least 30 prisoners. No privacy at any moment of time in the 24 hours. Excessive light in day time in the barracks because of big open windows or no light or diffused light through ventilator if the cell has bunk beds barracks.

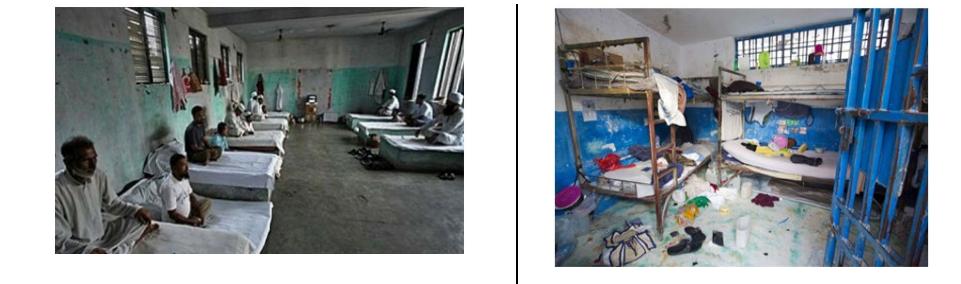


Figure 11: Barrack View

d) Barrack Design - in conversation with Prof Keshav one prisoner discussed that they preferred the older cells as they had pitched roof, high height and very thick walls which in a way kept the cell cool even in summer days.

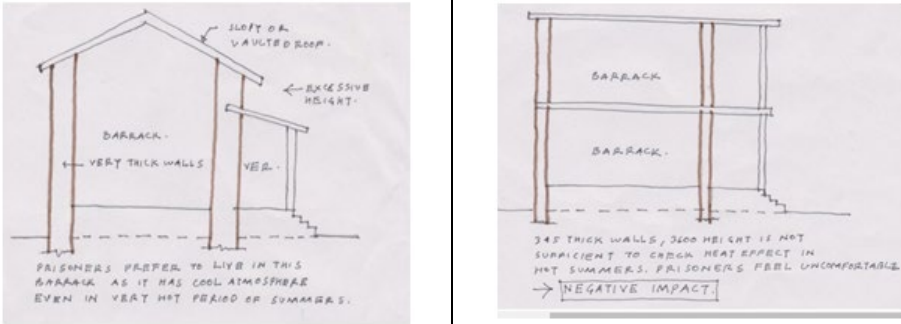


Figure 12: Old Barrack section in comparison to New Barrack section

e) Kitchen – The prison kitchen had to prepare food for a large number of prisoners and so to keep the area clean was a daunting task. He tried to interact with the prison superintendent but in reply he was told food was secondary security, vigilance was important and if he could propose a plan with the trio, they were ready to incorporate.

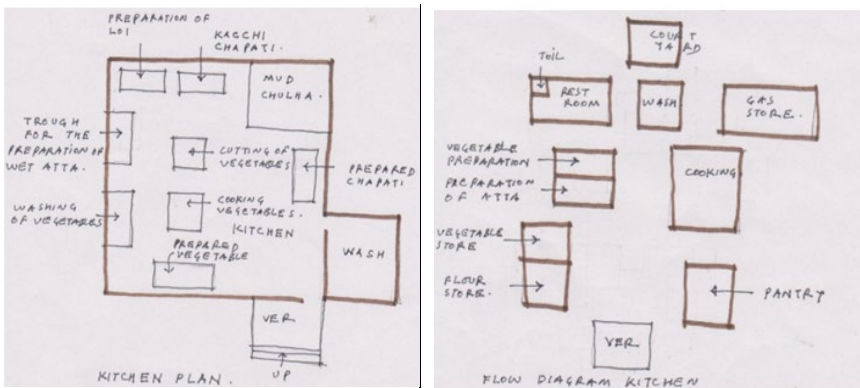


Figure 13: Kitchen Current V/S Proposed

It was always an open kitchen so that every activity could be monitored. The Indian breads were placed into the tandoor with the help of broomstick and thrown from point A to B. The blue colored area was of wash so the water sometimes even came to the place where breads were kept and if by chance the bread fell into the water it was never discarded. Professor was very annoyed with this practice and for next session he came out with a plan which could resolve the issue. He proposed a plan where separate counters were given for separate activities and the wall between (highlighted) them were party walls merely 750mm high.

f) **Meeting Hall (Mulaqat Ghar)** - People get to meet the inmates together and in the usual scenario the guard gallery is in between so all the relatives and the inmates have to shout.

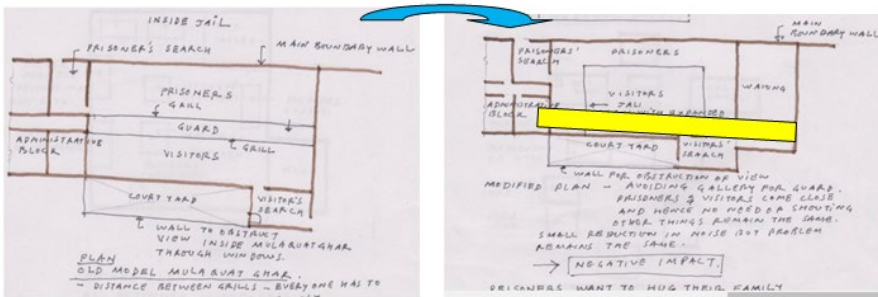


Figure 14: Mulaqat Ghar9

There was a severe noise pollution resulting only in noises and nobody was able to hear. When professor entered the mulaqat ghar of Tihar he was not able to stand there for more than 5 minutes.

He proposed the plan in which he eliminated the guard gallery and created the main U Shape movement and the resultant that the inmates and visitors came close and got more space because if the layout keeping the outside enclosure the same. The proposal was accepted as it had no negative consequences on security measures.

g) **Toilet & Washroom facilities**

Just as food is the fundamental right same way access to toilet and personal hygiene is also the basic right of the inmate. The plan of water closet clearly depicts that the WC were planned on raised door with void both on top and bottom.

The bath was all together an open to sky system with taps that also on raised platform. The slope of the platform was not appropriate and so water clogging was a very severe issue and it was a very uncomfortable affair in extreme hot and cold weather.

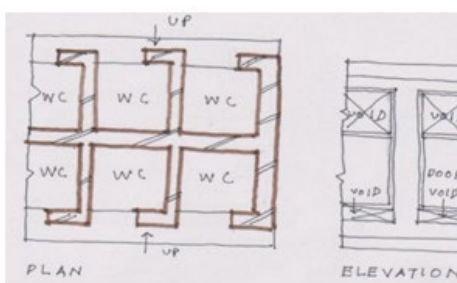


Figure 15: Toilet Plan & Elevation

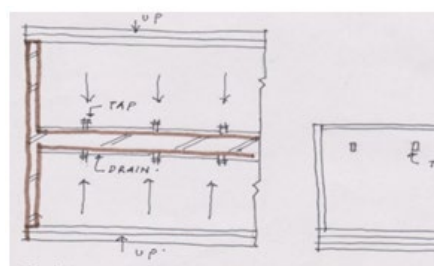


Figure 16: Bathing Area

9 The yellow color in Figure 14 depicts the corridor where prisoners meet the visitors.

After studying Professor proposed to have void only on the top so that the user does not feel inappropriate while using water closet and similarly advocated closed bathing area. He even suggested having latch on the outer surface but all the proposals were denied stating security issues.

The major reason for the stress of prisoners is that their relatives are left outside. All they are left with is the prison staff and the inmates and the spaces and enclosures which form their world throughout their sentence. The pain of confinement is both mental and physical. Actually if the inmates get educational and recreational facility with counseling sessions they may be able to adapt to the surroundings which makes the meaningful world for him. So Professor Keshav proposed a multipurpose hall/recreational hall

for the same but again the design was refused as the jail authorities advocated that this luxury cannot be provided. They have open land for the same and don't need additional built form.

Findings

While a person may sink into depression, apathy and withdrawal, the other might become resentful, angry and rebellious in an attempt to counter the control. The way the two individuals deal with their long sentences could also determine how they are each affected by the environment. While one might cope with the stress of long confinement by avoiding all thoughts of the future, the other may cope by finding a safe and comfortable behavioral niche within the institution. The real challenge is to design architecture that assists the rehabilitation programs by reducing the stress between inmates and prison staff and keeping the inmates calm.

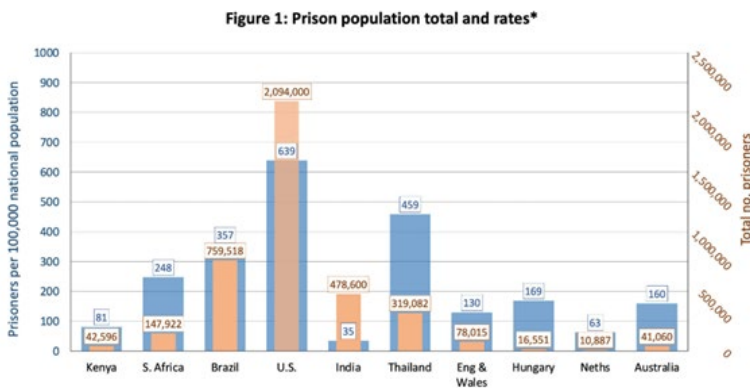


Figure 17: Prison Population Rate (ICPR L.)

The graph represents that total number of prisoners and the no of prisoners per 1 Lakh population. (ICPR, 2021).A new generation of experimental prisons has started to rise in Europe, where prisoners are treated with excellent care, creating living an environment. For example-Justice and Detention Centre in Leoben.



Figure 18: Leoben Centre (GRIDIN, 2008)

Hohensinn, the architect who designed this prison, said: "They are criminals, but they are also human beings. The more normal a life you give them here, the less necessary it is to re-socialize them when they leave." But most of the authorities feel that it is still too early to conclude whether or not this prison would have a positive influence on their recidivism rates, it surely has shown no negative effects on society. The prisons consist of clean room for the prisoners and even facilities like walking yards, fitness centre and games facility.



Figure 19: Leoben Centre-Room & Outdoor facility (GRIDIN, 2008)

Way Forward

At the Tihar Jail in Delhi. Kiran Bedi introduced prison reforms in India in the 1990's with programs that advocated hygiene, medical attention and effective rehabilitation programs. She advocated the importance of community-based reforms, focusing on meditation and encouragement of literacy with the involvement of NGO's and even students who can host street plays for prisoners. Architecturally, however, India is yet to effectively manifest its reformatory prison model but there is a major scope in the same. The jail consists of a claustrophobic and monotonous environment, which has health implications for both prisoners and, to some extent, staff who work in these units. Such health implications are made worse by the lack of opportunities for social, vocational and recreational activities which also characterize these units. Many prisons like the Cellular Jail in Port Blair are model on the historic British system of prison design. If India is to truly implement its rehabilitative prison programs at large in the country to counter the increasing menace of crimes and repeat offences, it must embark on the development of an Indian Prison Model. Much of our Indian philosophy is based on the theory of self-improvement as a way of life. The aim of psychosocially supportive design is to stimulate the mind in order to create pleasure, creativity, satisfaction and enjoyment and initiate a mental process that, by attracting a person's attention, may reduce anxiety and promote positive psychological emotions. But the authorities are still not accepting the prototype of the model and Professor Keshav after retirement is called for meetings to opine on the same issues he had projected once. He still thinks will the humanitarian jail be ever conceptualized in Indian conservative scenario and will the architectural design in terms of light, airy cells; proper hygienic conditions of basic amenities will be able to reform criminal psychology and reduce recidivism or advocating for humane design will be a threat for proper functioning of the society.

Conflict of Interest

The researchers found no conflict of interest.

Acknowledgements

The researchers are immensely grateful to Professor Keshav Kumar for sharing his experiences and work in the field of reforming prisons as an architect.

References

1. Benko, J. (2015, 26 March). *The New York Times*. Retrieved from The radical Humaneness of Norway's Halden Prison: <https://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/29/magazine/the-radical-humaneness-of-norways-halden-prison.html>
2. BiblePlaces. (n.d.). *Mamertine Prison*. Retrieved from Bible Places.com : <https://www.bibleplaces.com/mamertine-prison/>
3. Ching, F. D. (1943). *Architecture Form, Space and Order*. John Wiley & sons.
4. Dhavan, J. S. (2014). *Judicial System in Ancient India*. Retrieved from The Indian Judicial System:A Historical Survey: https://www.allahabadhighcourt.in/event/TheIndianJudicialSystem_SSDhavan.html

5. Gokmen, S. (2020). Homeomorphic architecture:Radial prisons and contracted graphs. *Urban Analytics and City Science* , 15.
6. GRIDIN, L. (2008, July 6). *World's Most Luxurious Prison*. Retrieved from THE LAW SCHOOL BLOG AND PODCAST FROM CANADA: <https://lawiscool.com/2008/07/06/worlds-most-luxurious-prison/>
7. Hardman, P. (2007). The Origins of Late Eighteenth-Century Prison Reform in England. *CORE* , 236.
8. ICPR. (2021). *Prison population numbers, rates and trends in ten countries*. Retrieved from World Prison Brief: <https://www.prisonstudies.org/ten-country-prisons-project/changing-patterns-imprisonment>
9. ICPR, L. (n.d.). *Changing patterns of imprisonment*. Retrieved from World Prison Brief: <https://www.prisonstudies.org/ten-country-prisons-project/changing-patterns-imprisonment>
10. Kashyap, S. (2022, January 1). *Major problems of prison system in India*. Retrieved from Times of India-Readers Blog: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/readersblog/shubham-kashyap/major-problems-of-prison-system-in-india-40079/>
11. Mohan, D. (2018, March 27). *Indians least criminal among world's major economies: Report*. Retrieved from TIMESOFINDIA.COM: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/indians-least-criminal-among-worlds-major-economies/articleshow/63440920.cms>
12. NCRB. (2018). *Prisons – Types and Occupancy*.
13. Odhisha, G. o. (n.d.). *Directorate of Prisons and and correctional services*. Retrieved from History of Jail: https://prisons.odisha.gov.in/history_of_jail/
14. Oliver, T. (2021). Criminal Mental Health. *Liberty University* , 37.
15. Sheridan, C. (2016). Foucault, Power and the Modern Panopticon. *CORE* , 89.

Is there Anything like Humane Jail Design: Whether the Changes in Design will Prove Beneficial or Injurious to Society?

TEACHING NOTE

Synopsis

Professor Keshav is a retired senior architect of UPRNN and feels architecture is not only for a certain class or for exhibiting signature styles or propagating the significance of materials and eras but in at the core architecture is an integral part of everyone's life including those who work for the betterment of society and even those who sometimes become threat for the society that is the Criminals. He worked very hard on Prison design and wanted to formulate a prototype model which is human sensitive and strongly believes that the architectural design is so influential that it can change the perception of people towards life. The case presents how on changing the concept to rehabilitation and reformation the prisoners when released may also stop people from doing crime. This may reduce the crime in the society and also reduce the crowd in jails. The best proof of it can be felt from the change of name jail departments which is now called as "Prison Administration & Reform Services UP, India."

Learning Objective:

The case projects mainly these objectives:

1. To understand the real problems that the prisoners face due to the hard design features and aspects.
2. To explore various architectural design parameters that may render positive attitude in the minds of the users so that so that they may easily & enthusiastically be merged in the main stream when released.
3. To develop a prototype model that with minutest of changes will be applicable to different regions of the country.

Research Methods

The case is written with the help of both primary and secondary data. The section of the case current Indian scenario and evolution of jail and theories is based on the secondary data. The design parameters are derived after personal interview of the prisoners and prison authorities and literature that Prof Keshav read and analyzed throughout his journey of creating the model.

Use of the case

The case can be used to discuss architectural design with the undergraduates and even the post graduate students;

For undergraduate course the area of discussion will enclose the horizontal circulation and zoning, understanding the importance and requirements for creating buffer zones and majorly guide the thesis students to understand the wide scope of work that is there to be done while taking up the Jail design as thesis topic.


For postgraduate students the arena of discussion will be extended from zoning to affect of architecture on Psychology of its users, high security technologies to be incorporated.

Case Analysis

To start with the case the instructor will first elaborately discuss building typology.

According to NBC the buildings are classified into the following categories:-

A	Residential
B	Educational
C	Institutional
D	Assembly
E	Business
F	Mercantile
G	Industrial
H	Storage
I	Hazardous



INSTITUTIONAL BUILDING		
Hospital & Sanitoria	Custodial Institution	Penal Institution

These include any building or part thereof, which is used for purposes such as medical or other treatment or care of persons suffering from physical or mental illness, disease or infirmity, care of infants, convalescent or aged persons for penal or correction, detention in which the liberty of inmates is restricted. Institutional buildings ordinarily provide sleeping accommodation for the occupants. These buildings are further divided into following categories.

1. Hospital and Sanitaria

This sector includes any building or group of buildings under single management, which is used for housing persons suffering from physical limitations because of health and age. Hospitals, infirmaries, sanitoria and clinics come under this category.

2. Custodial Institutions

This sector includes any building or group of buildings under single management, which is used for the custody and care of persons such as children. Convalescent homes and orphanages fall under this category.

3. Penal Institutions

This sector includes any building or a group of buildings under single management, which is used for housing persons under restraint, or who are detained for penal or corrective purposes, in which the liberty of the inmates is restricted. Jails, prisons, mental sanitarium and reformatories fall under this category.

Zoning & Circulation

The prison design pertains to more of horizontal movement that is at a particular level as the built forms are meant to be made high rise due to security reasons. So in the first place the instructor should explain the process of circulation in terms of public and private. If there is a discussion with post graduate students the instructor can take up superficially or even skip the whole topic.

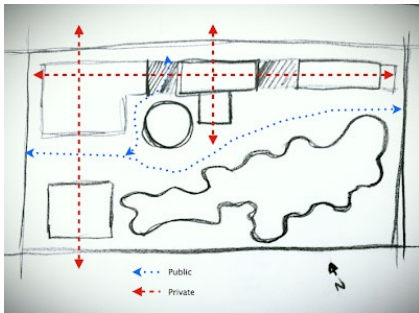


Figure 20: Plan Layout and Direction (Basic)

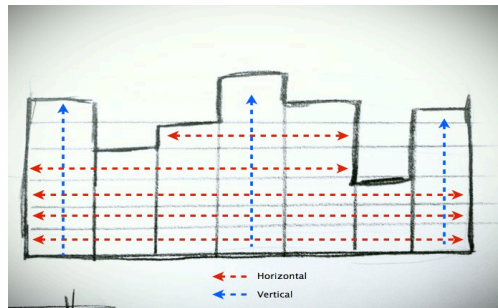
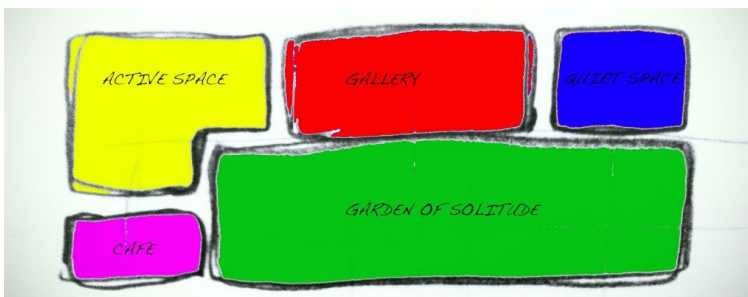


Figure 21: Circulation within the building



After discussing the basics of zoning and buffer and transition zones.

Architecture & Psychology

There is a wide scope to reform the prisoners by architecturally designed campuses of prisons also. The design and environment of the buildings (facilities) and outside may be created such that it appeals to prisoners for recreation.

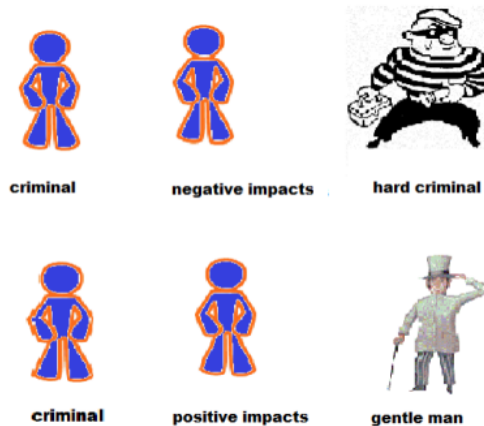


Figure 22: Psychological effect of environment on mental health

Concept & Theories – Prisons in Ancient Time:

In ancient time people were punished as a form of vengeance (the act of doing something to hurt someone because that person did something that hurt you or someone else) often by the victims themselves. This notion of punishment as vengeance or retaliation (to do something bad to someone who has hurt you or treated you badly to get revenge against someone) can also be found in many other legal codes from early civilizations, including the ancient Sumerian codes, the Indian Manama Dharma Astra, the Hermes Trismegistus of Egypt, and the Mosaic Code. A common punishment in Early Modern Europe was becoming a galley slave. Some Ancient Greek philosophers, such as Plato, began to develop ideas of using punishment to reform offenders instead of simply using it as retribution. Imprisonment as a penalty was used initially for those who could not afford to pay their fines.

The Romans were among the first to use prisons as a form of punishment, rather than simply for detention. The **Mamertime Prison** was located within a sewer system beneath ancient Rome, and contained a large network of dungeons (a dark underground prison in castle) where prisoners were held in squalid conditions, contaminated with human waste. Forced labor on public works projects was also a common form of punishment. In many cases, citizens were sentenced to slavery.



Figure 23: Lower & Upper Chamber of Mamertime Prison (BiblePlaces)

Middle Ages to the 17th Century

Another common punishment was sentencing people to galley slavery where they were chained together in the bottoms of ships and forced to row on naval or merchant vessels.



However, the concept of the modern prison largely remained unknown until the early 19th-century. Punishment usually consisted of physical forms of punishment, including capital punishment, mutilation (cause severe damage to the body of person, the act of hitting someone with a whip) and whipping, branding, and non-physical punishments, such as public shaming rituals like the stocks.

Modern Era

The prison reform movement that arose at this time was heavily influenced by two somewhat contradictory philosophies. The first theory often referred to as deterrence (the act of making someone decide not to do something, the act preventing a particular act or behavior from happening) claims that the primary purpose of prisons is to be so harsh and terrifying that they deter people from committing crime out of fear of going to prison. The second theory, which saw prisons as a form of rehabilitation or moral reform believed that prisons could be constructed as humane institutions of moral instruction, and that prisoners' behavior could be "corrected" so that when they were released, they would be model members of society.

Development of the Modern Prison

The theory of the modern prison system was born in London, influenced by the utilitarianism of Jeremy Bentham. Bentham's panopticon introduced the principle of observation and control that underpins the design of the modern prison. The notion of prisoners being incarcerated as part of their punishment and not simply as a holding state until trial or hanging was at the time revolutionary. His views influenced the establishment of the first prisons used as criminal rehabilitation centers. At a time when the implementation of capital punishment for a variety of relatively trivial offences was on the decline, the notion of incarceration as a form of punishment and correction held great appeal to reform-minded thinkers and politicians.

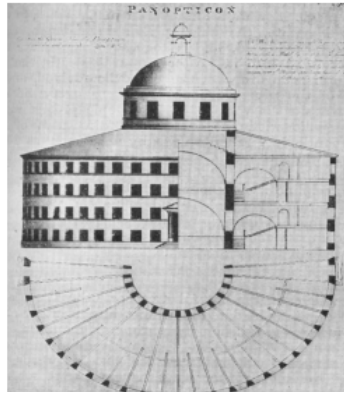


Figure 24: Panopticon Prison Layout

Prison Reforms in India

The history of prison establishments in India and subsequent reforms have been reviewed in detail by Mahaworker (2006). A brief summary of the same is presented below. The modern prison in India originated with the Minute by TB Macaulay in 1835. A committee namely Prison Discipline Committee, was appointed, which submitted its report on 1838. The committee recommended increased rigorousness of treatment while rejecting all humanitarian needs and reforms for the prisoners. Following the recommendations of the Macaulay Committee between 1836 - 1838, Central Prisons were constructed from 1846. The contemporary Prison administration in India is thus a legacy of British rule. It is based on the notion that the best criminal code can be of little use to a community unless there is good machinery for the infliction of punishments. In 1864, the Second Commission of Inquiry into Jail Management and Discipline made similar recommendations as the 1836 Committee. In addition, this Commission made some specific suggestions regarding accommodation for prisoners, improvement in diet, and clothing, bedding and medical care. In 1877, a Conference of Experts met to inquire into prison administration. The conference proposed the enactment of a prison law and a draft bill was prepared. In 1888, the Fourth Jail Commission was appointed. On the basis of its recommendation, a consolidated prison bill was formulated. Provisions

regarding the jail offences and punishment were specially examined by a conference of experts on Jail Management. In 1894, the draft bill became law with the assent of the Governor General of India.

Prisons Act 1894

In the report of the Indian Jail Committee 1919-20, for the first time in the history of prisons, 'reformation and rehabilitation' of offenders were identified as the objectives of the prison administrator. Several committees and commissions appointed by both central and state governments after Independence have emphasized humanization of the conditions in the prisons. The need for completely overhauling and consolidating the laws relating to prison has been constantly highlighted.

Committee & Reformation

The Mulla Committee (in 1980, set up by GOI under the chairmanship of hon'ble justice A.N. Mulla)

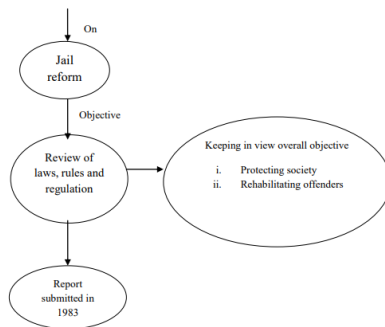


Figure 25: Reforms suggested by Mulla Committee

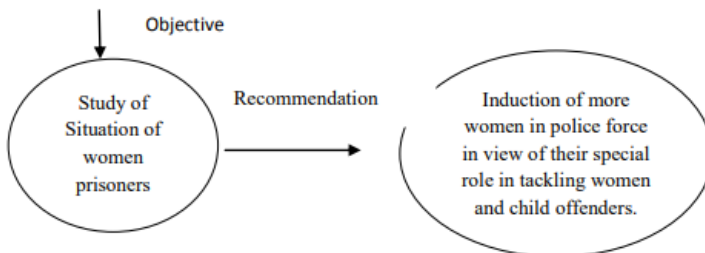


Figure 26: The Krishna Iyer Committee (in 1987 GOI appointed this committee)

Major Problems of Prison Relevant to India

Corruption and Extortion

Unsatisfactory living condition

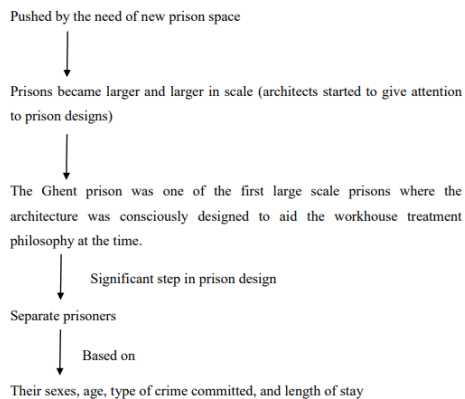
Staff Storage and Poor Training

Inequalities and Distinctions

Inadequate prison programs

Spatial Strategies: Evolution & Development

The majority of prisons built during that time were architecturally characterless, with large shared rooms and exercise yard. The cost to build individual cells for each prisoner with the limited technology and material at the time was unbearable for any government. When not working, prisoners were kept locked up in large rooms unsupervised, and little was done to separate prisoners by their sexes, ages, or even health conditions. Prisons were often overcrowded and filthy. Food and water were only given to those with money. As a result, many prisoners died of abuse and what was called the “jail fever”, or typhus. After the workhouse movement in the 16th century, prisons had become standalone architectures, but despite the few model prisons in the late 18th century, most prisons varied little from other buildings of the same scale.



The chart explains the major factors that lead to the expansion and architectural changes of prisons. At the end of the 18th century, in the effort to improve the effectiveness of prison, three predominant layouts emerged during this period:

- The rectangular layout
- The circular or polygonal layout
- The radial layout

Rectangular or “H” shaped layouts are based on the old prison layout, but with single cell rooms and slightly improved in conditions. However, the appearance of the circular layout and the radial layout was an important step which led to modern prison design.

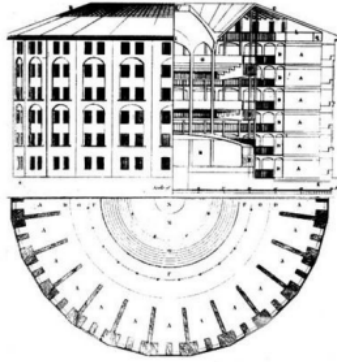


Figure 27: Circular Jail

Although the Panopticon style was popular in continental Europe, it was not in Britain. During this time of reformation, another prison layout was put on trial and became predominant in Britain. The cross layout, which later developed into radial or star-shaped layout. This cruciform layout was first introduced to prison design by a London architect, William Black bum, near the end of the 18th century.

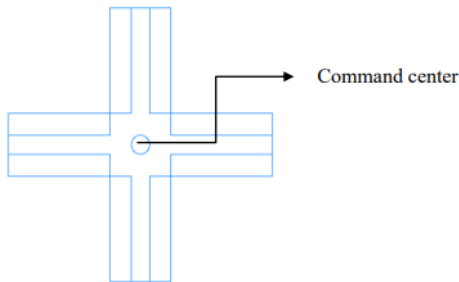


Figure 28: Cross/Cruciform Layout

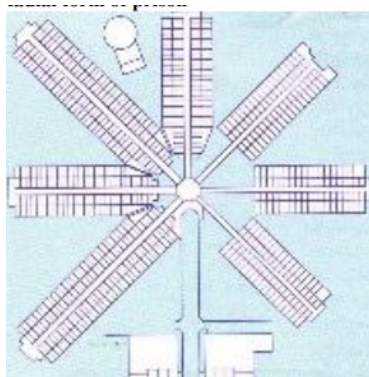


Figure 29: Radial form of prison (Gokmen, 2020)

Rather a development of cruciform style. It became most popular during the 19th century as the prison population continued to rise, and was favored by Americans, especially in the northern states. The Eastern State Penitentiary, opened in Philadelphia in 1829, was one of the first and largest radial formed mega-prisons. It was so famous that it became the "Pennsylvania style", a prototype for 300 prisons later on. Complete isolation was forced in this prison, where talking was strictly forbidden, and prisoners were kept in their own cells 23 hours a day, because it was believed that solitude could bring criminals to their conscience. Prisoners who attempted to break the rule of solitary confinement were brutally punished.

Modern prisons

In the 20th century, prison architecture went through another reformation. The numerous mental illness cases from 19th century prisons caught the attention of doctors and psychiatrists, who had offered their advice after investigating these cases. Needless to say, the forced solitude had no positive effect on prisoners' penitence based on past experiences. Although the goal of prisons was still to reform individual criminals besides punishing them for their crime, the method has shifted from "forcing self-reflection" towards „education and rehabilitation“. A number of different facilities were being gradually added to the prison system, such as vocation training, skill building classes, consultation, gym, etc. These facilities required a lot more movements for the inmates.

In accommodating this need, two other forms of prison emerged: (Oliver, 2021)

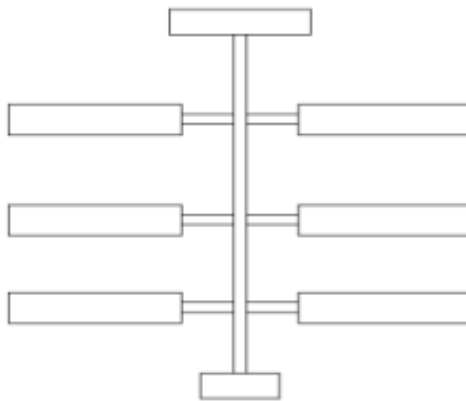


Figure 30: Telephone-Pole layout Campus layout

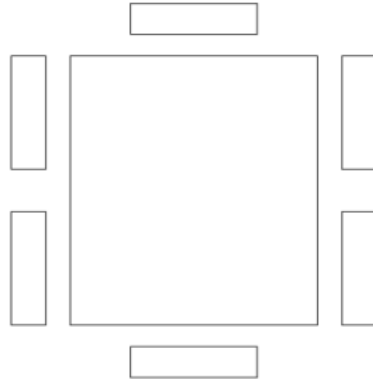


Figure 31: Placement of barracks around open court

Experimental prisons in Europe –More Humanitarian approach with architectural built form to reform the psychology

Our society seems to understand that the purpose of prison has to shift from punitive to rehabilitative. The goal of imprisonment today is to transform and reintegrate offenders. The general underlying desire is that when released, they would be drawn to a stable life, with potential for employment, reducing the potential for a return to crime. However, the physical environment and system structure of today’s prison design does not seem to correspond adequately to this new concept. As society, we seem to want criminals to suffer for their crime, even when we understand excessive or prolonged punishment may lead to mental destruction, and counter the rehabilitative work. Today, Criminals often leave prison in a worse mental condition than when they entered. Records show between 50% - 60% of criminals in both England and U.S. end up back to prison within 2 years after release. A new generation of experimental prisons has started to rise in Europe, where prisoners are treated with excellent care, creating living an environment comparable to that of a middle class society. The belief is that if offenders are treated well, with kindness and care, they will be influenced to become a better person when they are released

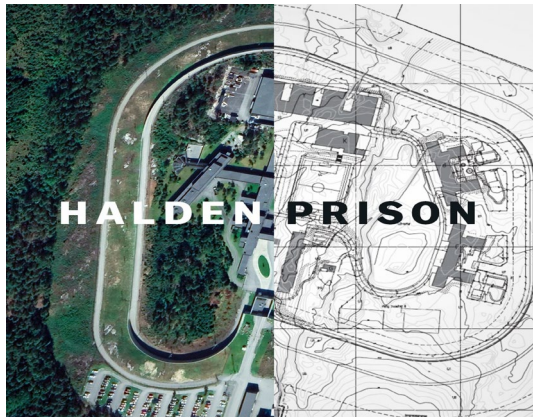
The first evermost Humane prison-Halden Fengsei Prison

The prison has nearly 24 feet high concrete wall but the built form welcomes the visitors as any other building as in there were no razor wires, no lethal weapons, no traces of violence. To give it a human touch the architects designed it with the nature and so inside the prison one will find there are many trees, uneven grounds, blueberries and adders.



Figure 32: Facilities at Halden Fengsei Prison (Benko, 2015)

The prison is no longer a contained building but is done following cluster planning and the prisoners walk out from their cell to go to the library, gym, workshop, leisure facilities and these points keep them insync with the activities they performed and will perform in the real word.



Some people are not satisfied with the leisure the prisoners are provided with and think they are not only offered academic and skills training, but also art and music classes. They have physical trainers, therapists, counselors, and they can play sports with guards. Many may argue that this is not fair to victims. It is not being argued here that criminals should be rewarded, nor crime advocated, but it is suggested that punishment is not the best way to resolve the issue. A prison should not be giving offenders what they want, but what they really need to become better individuals in our society.

After all the discussions the ball goes into the court of the budding architect to decide what should be his/her responsibility as an architect to design a prison as a tight security minimum freedom-built form or to be human to people and give them a fair chance to move back into the society.

Secondly to study and check whether these types of built forms recidivism by not being harsh to criminals and in turn becoming potential threat to the study