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The Anti-Panopticon: Rethinking the Architecture of Surveillance

Darral Tate

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THE ANTI-PANOPTICON

Rethinking the Architecture of Surveillance
The Anti-Panopticon: Rethinking the Architecture of Surveillance

This Final Project is presented to the Faculty of the Department of Architecture
by

Darral Tate

In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of
Bachelor of Architecture
Kennesaw State University, Marietta, Georgia
May 3, 2019

Approved by:

F. lent is Bigen s T h e "Panopticon" developed in the late 18th century. Bentham saw prison reform as a model for how society should function. He believed surveillance was the best way to deter inmates from committing further crimes. Bentham argued for an architecture of surveillance by making every cell visible from one center point with no interaction. Every prison in the U.S. since has abandoned this model-designed to produce a system of containment and punishment, while removing inmate interaction.

With today's technology, we are no longer shackled to the base model of the Panopticon as an expression of power. My thesis seeks to address the architect's ethical role in prison design and how presumptions of design can now be re-addressed. My research and in-depth case-study of at least 200 historic prison forms to create more human-centric spaces that may reverse disturbing trends that plague the contemporary prison system. In a 2014 study, the National Institute of Justice found that 60 to 70 percent of inmates who were released from prison returned within the first three to five years. Further, the United States currently holds the world record for the highest prison population at 2.3 million. My thesis argues for a new prison typology that redesigns the architecture of confinement to positively influence rehabilitation and reintegration.

Within my project, the rehabilitation aspect of the prison will look to define three main aspects: 1) Daily regime, 2) social interactions, 3) self-reflection and reformation. The project proposes new organizational strategies creating more human-centric spaces that will not only rehabilitate, but also question the notion that the ideal prison is not the Panopticon, but the Anti-Panopticon.

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Thesis Title: The Anti-Panopticon: Re-thinking the Architecture of Surveillance

Thesis Advisor: Ed Akins

Thesis Coordinator: Elizabeth Martin-Malikian

Department Chair: Dr. Anthony Rizzuto, PhD

Date: May 3, 2019
**Dedication**

This Thesis is dedicated to

my mom: Erica Harrison
for always believing in me even when at times I did not believe in myself, your strength helped me to push through and complete this project.

My Grandmother: Beverly Cook
for keeping me grounded and reminding me that the sky is the limit.

my family & siblings: Jasmine Harrison, Deionca Simmons, Tequan Simmons, Cierra Simmons
for your constant encouragement.

my Studio Classmates
for your unyielding work ethic and in-studio support through the long days in studio.

& my friends
for keeping me sane through the entire project.

---

**Acknowledgment**

This thesis would not be possible without the counsel of my thesis advisor and other faculty members

Professor Ed Akins
for your encouragement and dedication. Your passion for teaching is what motivated me to do my very best, thank you.

Professor Elizabeth Martin-Malikian
for your insightful critique and review during the process of this thesis.

Professor Katherine Bedette
for your mentorship.

This thesis would not be possible without the counsel of my thesis advisor and other faculty members
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CHAPTER 1: SCOPE
Today, the United States incarceration population is approximately 2.2 million inmates. The facilities that house these inmates occupy over 174 million square feet of space, a number that has tripled since the start of the war on drugs in the 1970’s. Prisons are defined as places of confinement for lawbreakers that offer opportunities for rehabilitation and reintegration, but the design of the facilities themselves do not support that. This Thesis seeks to define an architect’s social responsibility in prison design, and to find architectural solutions to address shortcomings of the current typology.

Currently, there are three aspects that the system is based on: confinement, rehabilitation, and reintegration. The design of prisons today however, emphasize confinement more than the other categories, but with new technology and social shifts, there is an opportunity to focus more on rehabilitation and reintegration of those who are incarcerated.

1.1 Abstract

Today, the United States incarceration population is approximately 2.2 million inmates. The facilities that house these inmates occupy over 174 million square feet of space, a number that has tripled since the start of the war on drugs in the 1970’s. Prisons are defined as places of confinement for lawbreakers that offer opportunities for rehabilitation and reintegration, but the design of the facilities themselves do not support that. This Thesis seeks to define an architect’s social responsibility in prison design, and to find architectural solutions to address shortcomings of the current typology.

Currently, there are three aspects that the system is based on: confinement, rehabilitation, and reintegration. The design of prisons today however, emphasize confinement more than the other categories, but with new technology and social shifts, there is an opportunity to focus more on rehabilitation and reintegration of those who are incarcerated.

"Unless we address those that are leaving prisons, we can’t begin to repair the damage of mass incarceration and make our communities whole and healthy once again."

United States has the highest incarceration rate in the world at 693 per 100,000 people.
The United States prison system has grown significantly in the past thirty years, so much in fact, that we now have the highest incarceration population in the world. A big part of this is that many prisoners do not stay out of prison once they are released. In a 2014 study the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) found that 60 to 70 percent of people who were released from prison in 2005 returned within the first three to five years. More than half of the space dedicated to keeping prisoners behind bars are occupied by those who have been failed by the system. Due to these increasingly high numbers, many states continue to increase funding to expand and build. However, there are some states that cannot afford this approach, as a result the prison becomes overpopulated and unsafe, contradicting many of the state’s individual missions on safety and humane practices within their facilities.

Unfortunately, the issue of overcrowded facilities is not seen as a priority, because the prison is fulfilling its first purpose of confinement. Prison facilities are viewed as places that hold inmates indefinitely instead of fulfilling their goal of rehabilitation and reintegration. On a national level The Federal Bureau of Prisons describes prisons as, safe, humane and cost efficient facilities. As evidenced by high recidivism, there is a disconnect between what the government describes as a prison and what a prison actually is.
In early 2015, the American Institute of Architects, rejected a petition to censor members who design solitary confinement and death chambers. Rajilzada Spence, a Californian architect led the petition, as he believes that architects should be more conscious of the environments that they build in. In a 2015 interview with journalist Michael Kimmelman, he states: “Architects have a basic responsibility to act in the public interest, pointing to the institute’s code of ethics and professional conduct.” As per the AIA, they believe that one’s individual morals should determine whether a correctional institute is humane or not. In the AIA code of ethics and professional conduct they give general obligations within their Code of Ethics, the AIA states: “Members should... respect the body of architectural accomplishment, contribute to its growth, thoughtfully consider the social and environmental impact of their professional activities, and exercise learned and uncompromised professional judgment.” It appears that some architects practicing in prison design have decided that health and safety of the final users of their designs is not their concern, nor does it fall within the remit of the professional organization.
Rethinking the environment of the prison will be explored in this thesis to demonstrate alternatives to current design trends and to propose a potential solution wherein architecture can contribute to the reduction of recidivism, through rehabilitative spaces.

Some architects do not believe this is a design issue, nor do they believe that prisons are a part of architectural inquiry. In an interview with journalist Sheena McKenzie, architect Zaha Hadid talks about an architect’s social responsibility for the wellbeing of people and the spaces they occupy. She continues the idea by stating “As an architect, if you can in any way alleviate an oppressive situation, or elevate a culture, then I think that you should.” Hadid believes that as designers, architects have the capability and resources to positively impact the way people live their day to day lives.

Architects like Frank Gehry believe they have a responsibility to prison design. In the fall of 2017, Gehry organized a studio at Yale, which focused on re-imagining prison design. The goal of the studio was to “examine closely the role of architecture as a means to provide safety, refuge, and facilitate personal transformation.” Gehry wanted students to get past what is typically thought of as a prison and think more about how the spaces created relate to the people in them. As a result, the students focused on education as a way to rehabilitate. Students were able to create many variations of campuses, using elements that you would see in both a prison and university. With this approach, Gehry and his students prove that education should be a programmatic component of this thesis, but this also proves that there is a role that design can play in the betterment of these facilities.
The benefits of prison education go beyond lowering recidivism rates and increasing post-release employment. It can also rekindle a sense of purpose and confidence.

- CLINT SMITH
There is a clear divide in the architecture profession on exactly what is the responsibility of an architect when it comes to prison design. Zaha Hadid believes architects have a responsibility to alleviate oppressive situations except in times of incarceration. Frank Gehry believes architects have the capability to make changes in prison design. However, opinions on prison design outside of the profession should be looked at as well.

Elizabeth Glazer, the director of the New York City Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice and was one of the eight jurors on Frank Gehry review on prison design and has shared her opinions on the topic. She believes that prisons should be looked at as more than just places to hold inmates. Glaser believes the location could have a tremendous impact on the environment and culture developed inside the prison walls. Resultantly, it is not just the design of internal environments but the context of the facilities themselves that must be considered.

“You look at the jails that we currently have and they don’t feel like a part of our urban landscape....either we’ve put them far away, like Rikers, or we’ve made them forbidding, like the tombs...We should try to normalize life inside as much as we can, because people are going to come back.”

- ELIZABETH GLASER
Every need for a building carries its own ontological code within it, and it is the task of architecture to draw out the intrinsic qualities and virtues of that appetite, and by so doing giving form to a form-to-life, a local habitation and name.

-COLIN ST. JOHN WILSON

ARCHITECT

The prison typology supports a system of surveillance and solitude. Prisoners are typically assigned two to a cell, and in extreme cases three to a cell. In solitary confinement inmates are segregated from the rest of the prison and are confined alone in a single cell. Each prison cell typically has a sink and toilet to limit the need for inmates to leave. The general population inmate cells are divided up into pods. Each pod is typically designed in a radial fashion with a guard post in the center. Alternately, the design may organize cells along a corridor with a guard post of either end. This set up allows the prison to impose continuous surveillance and ultimately gain complete control over the inmates. This may be successful in terms of security, however, it has a negative physiological effect on the inmates.

Within this thesis, I will refer to this formal organization of surveillance as “panopticonism,” and will define this term more fully in the upcoming pages. It is important to note that when exposed to years of this type of system, many inmates become institutionalized. This is a state in which an inmate is so accustomed to prison that they can no longer be able to make decisions for themselves. If an inmate is released in this state, the idea of autonomy outside of the penal work can become overwhelming and life behind bars will be more appealing.

2.1 Prison Typology

The Suffolk County Jail located in Yaphank, NY, was recently completed in 2013. In the new design cells are divided into pods. In the image above you can see cells are designed in a radial panopticon.
Elements of linear surveillance exist throughout all variations of prison design with their origins found within the “Panopticon,” a circular typology that allows ultimate surveillance from one center point. This initial architectural design of surveillance, panopticonism.

In the late 18th century, Jeremy Bentham, an English philosopher, proposed the design of an institutional facility that would physically represent a system of power through surveillance. He called this building the Panopticon. The scheme of the building was to allow inmates to be observed by a single guard without their knowing it. This would be accomplished by designing all of the cells facing the same way in a circular fashion. In the center, there will be a guard post with windows on all sides. The windows would be equipped with blinds so that the inmates could not see in, but the guard could see out. Bentham believed that the inmates would follow the rules of society if they felt as though they were constantly being watched. In The Works of Jeremy Bentham describes the Panopticon as “…a new mode of obtaining power of mind over mind, in a quantity hitherto without example (p.39).” Bentham’s Panopticon was not just a prison in the physical sense; it was also a mental prison. Everyone involved played one small part in the fundamental functioning of this larger system of surveillance.

2.2 Panopticonism
The foundational design of surveillance

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Michel Foucault, a French philosopher, analyzed Bentham’s theory of power and surveillance. He identified the mental condition of his system as Panopticonism. Michel Foucault viewed the design of the Panopticon as the physical representation of the system of power and surveillance. He argued that the Panopticon scheme was meant to spread through other areas of society. It was to be the norm. Foucault believed that Bentham used a prison as a primary example but he also observed that the same ideas could be easily compared to other institutional buildings, hospitals, schools, and even office buildings could apply this system to maximize the intended outcome of their program. For the purpose of power and control, the system worked perfectly for all of those programs; however, it was only applied to prisons.

It seems that the direct application of this architecture of surveillance has only been applied directly to the prison facility and it persists to this day. For the purposes of the thesis, however, it becomes necessary to exercise the thoughts of Foucault, regarding other programs, to better understand the role of surveillance in our contemporary society. If we are to expect those leaving incarceration to enter into a functioning life outside of the prison environment then we must understand if elements can translate between these two worlds.

In a hospital the doctor could use the central tower to easily view patients and direct nurses to their destination. With the circular design, doctors could keep an eye on all of the patients from one location. Also, nurses would do their jobs more efficiently because they would always feel as though they are being watched by the doctor.

“He who is subjected to a field of visibility, and who knows it, assumes responsibility for the constraints of power; he makes them play spontaneously upon himself; he inscribes in himself the power relation in which he simultaneously plays both roles; he becomes the principle of his own subjection.”

-MICHEL FOUCAULT

FRENCH PHILOSOPHER
For schools, the prison cells could be replaced by classrooms for students. The guard post would be used as the principal’s office, where he could see all students and teachers. The theory is that the students or teachers will not be able to see the principal, but they believe that they are being watched. Like the Panopticon prison, the idea is that the students will be encouraged to focus on their studies and teachers their lesson plans, in fear that they will be caught not doing so.

The Panopticon as a hypothetical school

In office buildings each room could become an office or area to work. In a factory program, each room could represent a different station in an assembly line. The supervisor or manager could use the center tower to observe all of the workers. This setup could increase productivity because the workers will always feel as though they are being watched, so they will never decrease in production.

The Panopticon as a hypothetical office
Although the typology of prison itself has not changed, the programs within prisons have evolved with the times. Education, Health, and Production have become a huge part in the effort to rehabilitate and reintegrate inmates. Educational programs have been integrated as a way to allow inmates to have more options once they leave prison. Healthcare is taken more seriously to help treat the mentally ill behind bars. With job training, inmates are given various jobs throughout the facility and as a result they learn new trades and skills that could be useful once they leave. However, there has not been much emphasis on these programs, instead facilities are still spending most of their energy confining inmates. The result of this is that inmates do not get the opportunity to be rehabilitated. Instead of coming up with design solutions that focus more on the education, health, and productivity of as a way of reducing the systemic recidivism, we just hire more wardens and guards to oversee the increasing number of inmates.

2.3 Program Analysis
The Current System

Although the typology of prison itself has not changed, the programs within prisons have evolved with the times. Education, Health, and Production have become a huge part in the effort to rehabilitate and reintegrate inmates. Educational programs have been integrated as a way to allow inmates to have more options once they leave prison. Healthcare is taken more seriously to help treat the mentally ill behind bars. With job training, inmates are given various jobs throughout the facility and as a result they learn new trades and skills that could be useful once they leave. However, there has not been much emphasis on these programs, instead facilities are still spending most of their energy confining inmates. The result of this is that inmates do not get the opportunity to be rehabilitated. Instead of coming up with design solutions that focus more on the education, health, and productivity of as a way of reducing the systemic recidivism, we just hire more wardens and guards to oversee the increasing number of inmates.

- 2013 RAND CORPORATION REPORT

Health
Education
Office
Community
Society

Office of individuals who participate in vocational training are less likely to be re-incarcerated, and much more likely to find work.

- 2013 RAND CORPORATION REPORT

36% of individuals who participate in any type of education all program while incarcerated are less likely to return to prison.

- Bureau of Justice

43% percent of individuals who participate in any type of education all program while incarcerated are less likely to return to prison.

25% of individuals with mental health issues are more likely to return to prison after being released.
The Gohar Khatoon School for girls located in Afghanistan, was recently awarded the 2018 AIA its innovative design. The school is praised for innovative passive designs and connection with nature while keeping the culture of the village in which it sits. Many studies have shown that direct access to nature in school buildings have improved students success. The building in particular focuses on maximizing light, connecting of spaces, and prioritizing to achieve the best results.

Operable windows in classrooms allow natural ventilation

Windows allow natural light to enter space reducing the use of artificial lighting

Wall serves as physical boundary and visual safety

Courtyard serves as a place for the children to play and also as a buffer to the context beyond the wall

Figure 2.8
The Story County Medical Center renovation is an outpatient facility located in Nevada, Iowa. Staff will use this building to provide outpatient primary care, therapy, rehabilitation, and wellness. The ability for the patient to have direct access to nature and natural sunlight was most important for the design, because it helps the patient to heal faster. On the interior natural materials, like wood and stone, are used to create warm spaces, not typically seen in a hospital.

Material chosen to reflect natural landscape of the surrounding area. The materials chosen have a warmer feel.

Vegetation near the building allows the patients to have access to nature.

Windows allow spaces to feel open and because they face vegetation occupants feel like there is a direct connection to the exterior.
The Garage and Salt Shed is a six story building that houses offices and also service the city’s garbage trucks on the lower level. The project is located in New York, NY and was not wanted by the community. The designers found creative ways of fitting the design within the urban fabric of the community while also creating spaces that were comfortable for the people that work there. The designers sensitivity to the site heavily impacted the design. The building is wrapped with perforated double skin to respond to solar gain, but has enough openings to let in natural light into the office spaces. On the roof there is a 1.5 acre green roof to reduce heat island effect and give the occupants access to nature.
The Union County Juvenile Detention Center is a correctional facility located in Linden, New Jersey. The facility was completed in 2010 and was designed to hold up to 80 detainees at a time. When completed the facility was known for being innovative because the architects designed a narrow building surrounded by a large green space in the middle. The design particularly allows more light to enter the programs on the inside and also it allows the architect to design a safe facility with no fences, because all of the program faces inward toward the courtyard.

Additional windows are used to bring additional light into the space while also considering confinement of the detention center.

The entire building surrounds a center courtyard, with vegetation and a track. This responds to the restrictions of a confinement program while also allowing detainees to have more access to nature.
Studies have shown that inmate participation in education, vocational and job training, prison work skills development, drug abuse, mental health and other treatment programs, all reduce recidivism, significantly.

—BOBBY SCOTT
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

How can we implement lessons learned from the program analysis into prison design to help reduce the number of people returning to prison?
CHAPTER 3: Experimentation
3.1 Redesigning The Architecture of Confinement

In order to positively impact inmate rehabilitation, this thesis proposes the design of a new prison typology. Jeremy Bentham and Michel Foucault talk about the effects of the Panopticon on inmate rehabilitation; however, this system has a singular purpose of surveillance that does not contribute to rehabilitation of the individual.

With the intention of prioritizing design strategies that originate from a user-based perspective, the design of the anti-Panopticon will prioritize restorative spaces that are beneficial to reintegrating someone to a healthy and normal life. This new prison typology will focus more on the health, education, and vocational training of inmates, rather than surveillance, as a form generator. As a result, creating opportunity for those inmates who will be released a successful reintegration, back into society.
These drawings seek to disrupt the privatization of inmate surveillance as a form giver and to, instead, find the greater opportunities that exist through bottom-up design methods. These images imagine an environment where inmates are housed in units that weave fluidly through and around a zone of support that contains the critical roles of prison functions, identified in chapter 2. The ideal prison is not the Panopticon. These drawings seek to give shape to a more contemporary rationale that challenges our past, embraces technology and presents a new proposition, the Anti-Panopticon.

“The [prison] system didn’t work...it didn’t have outcomes that were acceptable. We had a revolving door. Rather than holistically treating people, we’d just lock them up, they’d do their time and then they’d be right back. It’s difficult to take care of your kids, or your parents, if you’re not there.”

-JIM KENNY
MAYOR OF PHILADELPHIA
The Anti-Panopticon focuses on the needs of the individual first, rather than the collective. As a part of that, the location of the new prison typology becomes an important element of the design. As mentioned in chapter 1.2, the engagement of the community is vital to the rehabilitation process of inmates and may be an effective way to reduce the recidivism of inmates once they do reenter the community.

Justice In Design, a team of architects, designers, planners, social and environmental psychologists, and incarceration reform advocates, recently came up with a study showing the importance of accessibility to jails in a community. This group questioned how these types of facilities could serve the community, instead of being a vacuum in society. The Jail they focused their study on was Rikers Island in New York. Although, the study was based on a Jail, rather than a prison, the criteria they based the study on is similar to some conditions of prisons that house non-violent inmates. This thesis will focus on nonviolent criminals who are expected to be released at some point in their lifetime. The study by Justice In Design could help us look at these types of prisons in a different way. Prisons do not have to be just places of self reflection, but where inmates have the opportunity to serve and engage with the community as a form of rehabilitation.

The result of their study led to the design of a series of buildings scattered around the city. Their location where focused on programmatic needs of both the community and inmates.

3.2 Location

Site Selection

Although, the study was based on a Jail, rather than a prison, the criteria they based the study on is similar to some conditions of prisons that house non-violent inmates. The thesis will focus on nonviolent criminals who are expected to be released at some point in their lifetime. The study by Justice In Design could help us look at these types of prisons in a different way. Prisons do not have to be just places of self reflection, but where inmates have the opportunity to serve and engage with the community as a form of rehabilitation.
In the late 19th century, the United States adopted the same ideas as Bentham’s Panopticon, when the Eastern State Penitentiary was created in Philadelphia. The facility is designed like a fortress and meant to represent safety, control and to some level, power. The guard post was located in the very center of the building. The inmate cells are aligned along corridors and grouped into several wings. All of the wings are attached to the central core in a radial fashion. This design enforced a prison environment that prioritized surveillance and isolation in terms of inmate rehabilitation. Each prisoner was confined to their own cell and had little to no access to natural sunlight. Guards were able to look down every corridor and easily keep an eye on inmates from one location. Every prison in the U.S. since has adopted this antiquated model of power designed to produce a culture of containment and punishment, while removing inmate interaction.

This thesis begins with step by step analysis of the Eastern State Penitentiary, in Philadelphia, as a spatial framework. Because of the direct “design lineage” with the Panopticon, the penitentiary serves as an enriched canvas upon which spaces for rehabilitation and reintegration may emerge.
The Eastern State Penitentiary opened in 1829, was the most expensive American structure of its day, and later became the world’s most famous prison. The prison was built around the ideals of the separate system as a form of rehabilitation. As a part of their punishment, inmates spent their time in isolation to promote self-reflection and change. It was believed that this system would allow the inmates to see the severity of their crimes and as a result become penitent. This is where the word penitentiary derives from.

In the original structure, British architect John Haviland, created seven cell blocks that surrounded a central surveillance rotunda. Each prisoner had their private cell, with heating, running water, a flushing toilet and a skylight. This design was innovative of its time and had never been done for a prison before. There was an exercise yard for the inmates that surrounded by a 10 foot fence. The only light in the cells were through the skylight above in the vaulted ceilings. This was known as the light from heaven, or the eye of God. The exterior of the prison was Gothic and resembled punishment, the interior was inspired by grand architecture vocabulary of churches. The hallways have 30 foot vaulted ceilings, there are tall arched windows with skylights throughout.

The prison was built like a medieval fortress, meant to intimidate and imply that physical punishment took place on the inside. Delegates from around the world came to visit the prison. The geometry and idea of isolation became a symbol of progressive modern principles. More than 300 prisons around the world were based from this plan.

“He [John Haviland] wrote of the penitentiary as a forced monastery, a machine for reform.”

Figure 3.8
Location: Eastern State Penn.
Architect: John Haviland
Completed in 1829
Area: 11 Acres
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Area: 11 Acres
$7.6 million was awarded to the city of Philadelphia in 2015 by the MacArthur Foundation in an effort to reduce jail pop.

$4 million was additionally awarded in 2018 to continue efforts of reduction.

12 inmate reduction per day since the start of the program in 2015.

This thesis contributes to the ideas of lowering recidivism.
3.4 Spatial Analysis

As stated in section 2.3, the system of punishment, confinement, and surveillance that is produced by the architecture of the Eastern State Penitentiary can be directly related back to the Panopticon. The condition of the prison cells is similar despite a fifty-year difference and advancement of technology. A closer look at the conditions of the Eastern State Penitentiary compared to that of the Panopticon is important to understand the effectiveness.

This analysis is also taken a step further by comparing the spatial analysis of the prison cells mentioned before with that of supportive programs like hospital patient rooms, classrooms within schools, and office spaces.
In figure 28, there is a close analysis of the spatial conditions of one cell in the Panopticon. In researching the Panopticon, there was no specified cell size, so for the purpose of this study, it will be assumed as the same size as the Eastern State Penitentiary, 8 x 12.

The size is important as it dictated what the inmate in the cell could do within the cell outside the program of cell reflection. Inmates are typically assigned one to a cell, with little to no human contact creating further isolation. Natural light is used to illuminate the cell, to better help the guards observe the inmates.

The cells within the Eastern State Penitentiary differ in design to that of the Panopticon but are similar in the idea of surveillance. The typical size of a prison cell was roughly 8x12. Similar to the Panopticon, the cell size is important as it determines other programmatic opportunities outside that of cell reflection. Inmates are assigned one to a cell and are not allowed to talk, eliminating almost any human interaction. Natural light is also used; however, it is through a skylight, to enforce the idea of penitence because one feels as though they are always being watched.
As previously mentioned, there is an opportunity to integrate other supportive programs into a prison typology. Figure 30, shows a spatial analysis in comparison to that of an 8 x 12 prison cell. According to the Facility Guideline Institute patient rooms should be roughly 250 sqft. in order to be successful in patient healing.

The size of each room is based on the equipment and spaces dedicated for staff to have the ability to heal patients. Isolation is dependent upon the patient’s health status, the more unhealthy the less human interaction is allowed. Natural sunlight is often introduced into the space as a way of healing. Surveillance here is similar to that of a prison, except instead of guards, inmates are monitored by electronic devices.

Classrooms are typically used to support programs dedicated to learning and teaching. The figure on the right, shows exploration of the spatial conditions of that of a typical classroom versus the prison cells mentioned early on in the chapter. The sizes analyzed in this study are based off of the requirements outlined by the Georgia Department of Education.

The suggest classroom size is roughly 660sqft. of space, roughly 26 sqft per student. Classroom sizes are based on programs that support the success of students learning. Natural light is also used to help enforce productivity in various learning spaces. Surveillance is also enforced in this program, however instead of guards, students are typically closely observed by teachers.
As mentioned in chapter 2, there are some benefits in looking closer at design strategies of office programs and how they successfully support productivity. The figure on the right shows the exploration of spatial conditions of a typical office space within the size constraints of that of the prison cells mentioned before.

There are no federal standards for office spaces however, the typical size of one cubicle for just one person is 5x5. It is suggested that most people in an office setting only need about 25sqft. of space to successfully complete their task. Natural sunlight is typically used in these types of spaces to support productivity. In regards to surveillance, many office buildings use open floor plans with short partition walls to make observation of employees easier.

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“...design has a role to play in creating a re-imagined prison: a place that heals, invests in human dignity, and restores communities.”

-MICHAEL MURPHY, MASS DESIGN GROUP ARCHITECT
CHAPTER 4: The Anti-Panopticon
4.1 Design Development

**Bottom Up**

If we prioritize restorative spaces that are beneficial to reinstating someone to a healthy and or normal life, then we can begin to lower the overall recidivism rate and eventually the prison population. This thesis will begin with a step by step analysis of the Eastern State Penitentiary and use information found in earlier research, to integrate rehabilitative programs as a design element. As a first step these are three things that should be considered in the design process:

1. **Confinement**
   - Change confinement levels to encourage interactions

2. **Community**
   - Engage the surrounding community with supportive programs

3. **Program**
   - Use successes found in program analysis of Hospital, School and Office

![Diagram](image)
The design of the prison itself is not the only reason for the lack of rehabilitation. Due to the high incarceration rates from The War on Drugs, prisons have become large. As a result they are now small communities. The culture of these prison communities defers from that of the next, depending on location and security level. However, every community has similar user groups, the warden, the guard, the high risk inmate, and the low risk inmate. Each user has a specific role that contributes to the function of the prison, and without one the community would collapse. Currently, the prison community has created toxic environments that cripple the people in it. This environment supports a cycle of inmates never rehabilitating and, instead, they serve longer sentences or return after being released.

This section identifies not only the user groups found and prisons, but in education, health, and office programs. With a closer look at all of the user groups there is an opportunity to create a more rehabilitative environment.

2. Community

Figure 4.2

| E1 | Principal |
| E2 | Supervisor |
| H1 | Nurse |
| H2 | Doctor |
| M1 | Manager |
| M2 | Manager |
| W1 | Warden |
| W2 | Warden |
| W3 | Warden |

Creates rules for faculty and students within the building, while enforcing regulations created by district.

Enforces rules created by principle and that students must follow.

Creates rules and oversees all of the day to day activities in and outside of the prison.

Students who have behavioral issues and may need higher supervision throughout the day.

Students who have low behavioral issues, therefore almost all freedoms from others.

Students who have low behavioral issues, therefore almost all freedoms than others.

Patients who may not need intensive care due to low priority health needs.

Employees who are restricted on type of work, due to negligence.

Employees who have committed violent crimes, or serving longer sentence.

Students who have low behavioral issues, therefore more freedoms than others.
Public
Visitor
Admin
Student

School User groups & Confinement

**School User groups & Confinement**

- **E1**: Creates rules for faculty and students within the building, while enforcing regulations created by district.
- **E2**: Enforces rules created by principle and that students must follow.
- **S1**: Students who have behavioral issues and may need higher supervision throughout the day.
- **S2**: Students who have low behavioral issues, therefore aloud more freedoms than others.

**Student**

- **High Risk**
- **Low Risk**

**Teacher**

**Principle**

**Society**

**Community**

**Figure 4.3**

Hospital User groups & Confinement

**Hospital User groups & Confinement**

- **E1**: Creates oversees patient care, also ethic responsibilities for nurses.
- **E2**: Enforces rules created by doctor for patients.
- **P1**: Patient who needs special care due to health condition.
- **P2**: Patient who may not need intensive care due to low priority health needs.

**Doctor**

**Nurse**

**High Risk**

**Low Risk**

**Society**

**Community**

**Figure 4.4**
Office User groups & Confinement

- Warden
  - Creates rules and oversees all of the day-to-day activities within the office.
  - Creates sub-rules that fit the culture of supervised group. Also enforces rules created by manager.
  - Employees who are restricted on type of work, due to negligence.
  - Employees who are given more freedoms due to compliance of rules.

- Guard
  - Inmate who may have committed violent crimes, or serving longer sentence.

- Student
  - Students who have low behavioral issues. Therefore allowed more freedoms than others.

Correctional facility User groups & Confinement

- Warden
  - Creates rules and oversees all of the day-to-day activities in and outside of the prison.
  - Enforces all of the rules set by warden. First in command when dealing with inmate issues.
  - Inmate who may have committed violent crimes, or serving longer sentence.

- Manager
  - Creates rules and oversees all of the day-to-day activities within the office.
  - Creates sub-rules that fit the culture of supervised group. Also enforces rules created by manager.
  - Employees who are restricted on type of work, due to negligence.
  - Employees who are given more freedoms due to compliance of rules.

- Supervisor
  - Inmate who may have committed violent crimes, or serving longer sentence.

- High Risk Worker
  - Students who have low behavioral issues. Therefore allowed more freedoms than others.
3. Program

Within the health, education, and office programs, users having access to nature was a common factor. Users having direct access to nature could improve productivity. According to the World Health Organization people need roughly 96 sq. ft. of outdoor space.

To increase the amount of vegetation on the site, nearly half of the buildings will be demolished as shown in figure 6. The original prison was completed with seven cell blocks. In the last 50 years of operation there were seven additional cell blocks added to meet the increasing demands of the increasing population. Some of these spaces included solitary confinement, and death row. This thesis will not focus on solitary confinement or death row supported spaces.

Figure 7 demonstrates the possibility of green space in absence of the demolished buildings.
Spaces dedicated to meditation were found to be useful in the hospital and office program. It allowed for variety and opportunity for users to have time of self-reflection.

Inmates classified as high risk could potentially benefit from this program the most to allow opportunity of self-reflection.

Figure 8, gives an idea of how the new spaces for meditation could be integrated on the site based on the inmate, community involvement and nature opportunities.

Collaboration spaces were found most useful in the education and office programs, as a way to maximize learning and productivity. People who collaborate are 64% likely to focus on their task according to a 2017 Standford study.

Inmates classified as low risk are expected to benefit the most from this design strategy. For inmates serving time for less serious crimes, or who have shown a want to be rehabilitated. These inmates will make up the majority of the prison population. These inmates will be located in spaces closer to that of the community as shown in figure 10.

Collaboration spaces will then be expanded in various places through out the prison. These spaces will support the opportunity for inmates to learn and interact in a positive way with other inmates, staff, and community members, as shown in figure 11.
To ensure the success of the intended design outcome, the Eastern State will be renovated in three phases. The first phase will focus on the demolishing of additional spaces on the site; these spaces do not contribute to this thesis; therefore, they are not needed (Figure 4.13). Phase two will focus on manipulating spaces on the site; these are not being demolished. This will help to ensure successful collaboration of the user groups, opportunities of meditation, and direct access to nature (Figure 4.14). Phase three shows spaces added to create secure zones for both the inmates and community (Figure 4.15). With addition of new spaces, there will also be opportunities for more programs dedicated to rehabilitation and also courtyards for the inmates.

4.2 Design Outcome
The Anti-Panopticon

What was once a Panopticon, The Eastern State Penitentiary, is now the Anti-Panopticon. The design is no longer focused on confinement and surveillance, but meditation, collaboration and access to nature. All of which have been found in previous research to be beneficial in rehydrating someone to a healthy life. The prison itself is more porous and allows for various community programs as well as inmate programs, while still maintaining secure surveillance through technology. As a result, The Anti-Panopticon becomes a space where inmates find healing and through community engagement, can begin to successfully reintegrate back into society.

In Figure 7 we get an idea of how the site was used when focused on confinement, Panopticon. In Figure 8, we get an idea of how the site will now be used by the user groups of supportive programs mentioned in Chapter 2; once they are implemented.
4.1 Design Development

Neighborhoods of The Anti-Panopticon

The Anti-Panopticon will essentially be broken up into three neighborhoods that are specific to the rehabilitation of inmates during their stay.

Neighborhood 1 is where inmates who are new to the facility will start. This area of the site has supportive programs like inmate intake, mental health programs, and access to nature. Inmates will stay in the adjacent dorms, closest to other supportive programs like the health center and lunchroom. Inmates freedoms are most limited until they become acclimated to the program.

After staying in the facility for some time, inmates will have the ability to move to the Neighborhood 2. Here inmates will get more freedoms and can use programs that support more collaboration. Inmates will have some interaction with the community here.

Neighborhood 3 is the last step for inmates as they prepare to leave the facility. Inmates who move here are at the end of their sentence and have the most freedom, and collaborate quite often with the community. This design supports the idea that eventually these prisoners will be reintegrated back into their community.

The diagram in figure 37, takes a closer look at neighborhood one and the circulation of the user groups. This gives a greater understanding of the programs and where they overlay with the other programs.
Neighborhood 1: Meditation

There are various spaces within the prison where inmates can go to be alone for a short period of time. These spaces are flexible and allow the inmate to do a number of activities including:

- Reading
- Resting
- Studying
- Self Reflection

Neighborhood 1: Access to Nature

Neighborhood 1 has its own courtyard with green space. The inmates have access to this courtyard throughout most of the day, which allows them to have direct access to nature and sunlight. Amongst many other activities, the inmates could do the following:

- Physical Activity
- Access to natural light
- Social Interaction

Inmate Study Space

Inmate Courtyard
Neighborhood 1: Collaboration

In addition to the existing community Garden, the community will have the opportunity to use some of the free spaces around the prison to expand the garden in the space various activities can take place including:

- Garden
- Learn
- Teach

Neighborhood 2

In neighborhood 2, as previously mentioned, inmates have more opportunities to collaborate with each other and the community. The diagram to the right shows the circulation path of the user groups and where they overlap. This helps to clarify the different programs and how they are used.

Numerical Legend

2. Neighborhood 2 Courtyard
3. Neighborhood 2 Free Space
4. Library
5. Study Space
6. Playground
7. Religious Space

Color Legend

- High Traffic Community
- Low Traffic Community
- High Traffic Inmate
- Low Traffic Inmate
- Guard Traffic
Neighborhood 2: Meditation

Within the facility, community members will have access to a library that is shared with the inmates. Community members could also take advantage of the study rooms if they need some time alone. Various activities can be achieved in this space including:

- Reading
- Resting
- Studying
- Self Reflection

Neighborhood 2: Access to Nature

The playground on the north wall of the facility will be extended further into the site to allow more families to use the space. There will be various types of playground spaces for kids and also spaces for picnics. Inmates will not have physical access to these spaces but they will be able to view some of these spaces. In addition to others, a few benefits of this type of space include:

- Physical Activity
- Social Interaction
- Relax
In Neighborhood 2 there are various spaces located around the courtyard dedicated to inmate collaboration. These are identified as Flex spaces. These spaces are beneficial for inmates to be able to freely gather and interact with one another. This type of space has many opportunities in program including:

- Social Interactions
- Learning
- Teaching

Inmate Flex Space

As previously mentioned, neighborhood three is where inmates have the most freedom throughout the facility. The diagram on the right shows opportunities of circulation throughout the various community and inmate spaces, showing the different opportunities for collaboration. Also, there is an idea of how each program is utilized separately from the one another.

Numerical Legend
1. Neighborhood 3 Courtyard
27. Admin/ Guard
32. Farmers Market
33. Inmate Live Work Unit
34. Community Maker Spaces
35. Collaborative Maker Spaces

Color Legend
- High Traffic Community
- Low Traffic Community
- High Traffic Inmate
- Low Traffic Inmate
- Guard Traffic
Throughout the day inmates will be able to freely enter or exit their dorm. Each dorm room could also be used as spaces where inmates could take some time to be alone if they chose to. Various paint colors and materials will be introduced to promote relaxation and also window will be large and have views to community activity. Activities in the dorm could include:

- Reading
- Resting
- Studying
- Self Reflection

Near the main entrance of the site, there will be space dedicated to a community farmers market and open green space for various community events. This will give the community an opportunity to interact with one another and have positive interactions with the inmates. Some benefits of this type of space include:

- Social Interaction
- Teach
- Learn
- Sell
- Buy
In Neighborhood 3 inmates have the opportunity to attend various training classes to learn a skill and better prepare them for successful reintegration back into the community. These spaces are flexible and allow volunteers to teach a variety of classes. Benefits of this type of space include:

- Social Interactions
- Learn
- Teach

The design of the Anti-Panopticon, focused on levels of confinement, community engagement and program placement as a way to positively impact inmate rehabilitation. The site is broken up into three neighborhoods, which together create a new space for both the inmate and community. Each neighborhood provides specific programs, to support the inmates on their journey while allowing additional programs for the community and their needs. As a result the Anti-Panopticon, is not just a prison but small community that supports an environment for healing, both the inmate and community.
5.1 Reflections

The solution of this thesis is a proposal for a new prison typology. In the process of designing this facility, there was debate concerning the level of confinement in regards to safety for both the inmates and community members. The final product is a compromise of both, giving more freedom to the inmates, while integrating more community designed spaces.

Thinking back to the ideas of Jeremy Bentham, the Panopticon only works when confinement is the primary design element. Currently, there is a shift in our society, where people are interested and investing in more rehabilitative programs within the prison. As architects, we can begin to respond to these inquiries by using design strategies that focus on creating supportive spaces.

Prisons are places where people could potentially spend many years of their lives. If we begin to think about prisons as places for rehabilitation, then there is an opportunity to help reinitialize someone to a healthy life and successfully reintegrate them back into society.

During a review with a panel of judges, I was asked if architecture is the solution to the increasing incarceration rates in the United States. As a response, I think back to the ideas of Frank Gehry and his studio on prison design. Gehry demonstrates that while architecture is not the only answer, it can be a huge part of the solution.

5.2 Conclusion

Mass incarceration in the United States has grown to become a major problem, so much so that it can no longer be hidden from society. As a result, there has recently been a shift in the way people think about not only the system itself but the spaces inmates are confined to. Prisons are supposed to be places of rehabilitation, instead they have been used as storage spaces for people that have been deemed unfit to be a part of society.

This is an issue, because with every year that passes more and more people are entering this system. The worst part is that once people enter this system they are not provided the necessary tools, so they continue to return to prison even after being released. It is clear that our current system is not working, but instead has created the largest prison system in the world.

There are many examples of other countries around the world, who have taken a closer look at their incarceration system. As a result, they have been able to create better programs and architectural spaces, reducing their prison populations significantly. These facilities make a huge impact on those both inside and outside, making changes in prison policies and regulations will help, but Architecture still plays a significant role in the inmate’s daily life to stay healthy. Making changes in prison policies and regulations will help, but architecture still plays a significant role in the inmate’s daily life to stay healthy. Making changes in prison policies and regulations will help, but architecture still plays a significant role in the inmate’s daily life to stay healthy. Making changes in prison policies and regulations will help, but architecture still plays a significant role in the inmate’s daily life to stay healthy. Making changes in prison policies and regulations will help, but architecture still plays a significant role in the inmate’s daily life to stay healthy. Making changes in prison policies and regulations will help, but architecture still plays a significant role in the inmate’s daily life to stay healthy. Making changes in prison policies and regulations will help, but architecture still plays a significant role in the inmate’s daily life to stay healthy.
This relation to context and form as well as programmatic challenges in Glaser believes the location could have a tremendous impact on the build for.

"I wouldn't build a prison."
**DESIGN STRATEGY**

The third and final Neighborhood is the last step for inmates as they prepare to leave the facility. Inmates who move here are at the end of their sentence. Inmates in this Neighborhood have the most freedom, and collaborate quite often with the community. This design supports the idea that eventually these prisoners will be reintegrated back into their community.

*Awarded first place in Kennesaw State University Architecture Department's Portman Prize for Outstanding Thesis*
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Figure 4.9 Tate, Darral “Manipulate Diagram.”

Figure 4.10 Tate, Darral “Collaboration Spaces Diagram.”

Figure 4.11 Tate, Darral “Low Risk Inmate Diagram.”

Figure 4.12 Tate, Darral “Connection Diagram.”

Figure 4.13 Tate, Darral “Demolish Diagram.”

Figure 4.14 Tate, Darral “Manipulate Diagram.”

Figure 4.15 Tate, Darral “Collaboration Spaces Diagram.”

Figure 4.16 Diagram partially from Google Earth.

Figure 4.17 Diagram partially from Google Earth.

Figure 4.18 Diagram partially from Google Earth.