THE IMPACT OF ARCHITECTURE ON THE
REHABILITATION OF PRISONERS

J.C. WICKRAMARATHNE.
M.Sc. 2001

University of Moratuwa
THE IMPACT OF ARCHITECTURE ON THE REHABILITATION OF PRISONERS

Contents
List of figures 04
Abstract 06
Acknowledgement 08
Introduction 10

Chapter 01 – Historical and Evolutionary Process of Prisons 15

1.1 Prisons in the days of Yore 16
1.2 The emergence of a new era 20
1.3 The antecedents of the Modern Prison 22

Chapter 02 - Offender, Prison and the Society 36

2.1 Society and the Offender 37
2.2 Prison and the Offender 38
2.3 Theory of Containment 40
2.4 Prison Adaptive Modes 44
2.5 Behaviour in Jail 45
2.6 The Jail Image 47
2.7 Stress in Jail 49

Chapter 03 – Human Factors in Jail Design 51

3.1 Noise 53
3.2 Thermal Comfort 54
3.3 The social Environment 55
3.4 Territoriality 56
3.5 Crowding, Privacy and Stress 57
3.6 Solutions found 58
3.7 Reducing Stress in Jail 61
  3.7.1 Direct supervision design 62
  3.7.2 Indirect supervision design 64
  3.7.3 Dormitories 66
  3.7.4 The hard exterior, soft interior 67
  3.7.5 Size of institution 71
  3.7.6 Sleeping accommodation 75

Chapter 04 – Evaluation of Prisons Generation with the
Generational Concept 79

4.1 Selected Western Jails 80
  4.1.1 Successful prison of new generation 81
  4.1.2 Lessons learned 85
4.2 Fourth generation jails 86
4.3 Selected Sri Lankan Jails 96
  4.3.1.a Case Study 1 111
  4.3.1.b Case Study 2 107

Conclusion 119

Bibliography 124
List of figures

Fig. 01 An old version of a prison cage 18
Fig. 02 An early way of punishment 18
Fig. 03 Federal penitentiary Alcatraz 20
Fig. 04 Silentium of san Michele, Rome, 1704 22
Fig. 05 Maison de force, Ghent, 1773 25
Fig. 06 Benthan’s panopticon design, 1791 26
Fig. 07 Stateville Prison, Illinois, 1919. 27
Fig. 08 Eastern penitentiary at cherry hill, philadelphia, 1829 28
Fig. 09 Everthope hall prison, 1958 32
Fig. 10 Blundeston prison, 33
Fig. 11 The decorated exterior of federal correctional institution, Pennsylvania. 68
Fig. 12 The used of coloured interior 69
Fig. 13 A modern cell 69
Fig. 14 Replacement of bars with iron mesh. 70
Fig. 15 The outer rigid wall have turn in to a rain forced mesh fencing. 71
Fig. 16 Clark county detention centre 72
The bld. Scale match with the sounding environment.
Fig. 17 Lighted interior of the central lobby 73
Fig. 18 Furnished smooth interior 73
Fig. 19 Furnished smooth interior 74
Fig. 20a Non monolithic nature of modern prison 74
Fig. 20b Grand valley institution, Ontario 90
Fig. 21 The main building grand valley 91
Fig. 22 The main building grand valley 92
Fig. 23 Lay out 92
Fig. 24 The main entrance of Mecklenborg county jail, North Carolina 94
Fig. 25 Homely interior 95
Fig. 26 Direct supervision pod
Fig. 27 Main entrance façade at Bogambara
Fig. 28 Layout plan, Bogambara
Fig. 29 View of the main building.
Fig. 30 A typical cell at Bogambara
Fig. 31 Entrance façade of Welikade prison
Fig. 32 Layout plan of Welikada prison
Fig. 33 Main lobby of the chapple building
Fig. 34 Plan of the chapple building
Fig. 35 The location of gallows in the chapel building
Fig. 36 Main entrance of the chapel
Fig. 37 Main detention buildings at Welikada prison
ABSTRACT

The rehabilitation of the individual - the universally accepted goal of modern penology - constitutes the basis on which correctional programmes are conceived. As in any evolutionary process, these correctional programmes are not only continually changing, but changing along varying lines in different parts of the world. This reflects the particular type of society, and the inherited background which affects the legal and penal system.

Rising populations have traditionally led to increasing need for prisons. None the less, it is to be hoped that the number of these walled institutions will eventually decrease, for this is one of the objectives of sound preventive and correctional policy. If, through improvements in human adjustment, education, greater understanding of human problems, and the like; something can be done to reduce the rate of criminality in society, as well as to solve some of the many problems involved in the treatment and rehabilitation of offenders, many of the walled institutions now used for the confinement of offenders can be abandoned.

Prisons are inherently wasteful, and the expense of duplicating many of the facilities of the free environment behind a fence or wall is great. Under present conditions, however, institutions for the confinement of offenders are required. The nature of the judicial process, the requirements of public security, the diverse programmes for the treatment of offenders themselves, and other such considerations make inevitable the construction of institutions. But the institution itself
must be conceived in terms of the ultimate objective, which is the rehabilitation of the confined inmate; and experience has shown that the effectiveness of a rehabilitation programme is greatly assisted when the spirit and goal of the programme are reflected in the design of the institution. It is important that, even in a maximum security institution, the symbols of defeat and confinement should be reduced to a minimum while maintaining the necessary degree of control.

The planning of buildings for correctional and detention purposes presents, therefore, very specialized problems in architectural design. The architect has to reconcile the basic problems of ease of supervision of the inmates, their security and control, with those of the usual architectural problems of function, circulation, ventilation and orientation, while at the same time he has to ensure that the building itself will reflect a spirit of enlightenment and humanitarianism which can contribute to the effectiveness of treatment programmes for the inmates. They are examples of how institutions may be designed and constructed so as to preserve the paramount objectives of supervision, security and control, while avoiding the traditional grimness of the older institutions.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am deeply indebted and profoundly grateful to all who guided me in the proper way and assisted me at my occasion sacrificing their valuable time exclusively for me during the course of preparing this dissertation. I offer my heartiest gratitude towards,

- Prof. Nimal de Silva, Head of the Dept. for giving me permission to carry out investigations within this high security prison premises
- Dr. M.S. Manawadu for guiding me throughout the course of preparing this dissertation.
- Dr. L.S.R. Perera for providing me valuable advices for the commencement of the project in a proper path.
- Archt. H. Prasanna Silva for giving his valuable ideas, and
- Mr. Upali Samaraweera – Commissioner General Prisons, and Mr. T. Kasigre – Commissioner of Prisons for giving me permissions to do case studies in Welikada and Bogambara Prisons,
- Mr. Ranasinghe – ASP – Training Centre at Welikada for allowing me to use the library documents for written materials.
- Mr. Priyantha Kulasekara – Librarian Traing Centre Welikada for the continuous assistance given me in search of library materials relevant data for the compilation of this document.
- Mr. Rjakaruna – Chief Jailor, Prison of Bogambara for giving me permission to carry out the case study on Bogambara
prison complex and the assistance provided to do the survey within that security premises.

- Mr. Kulatunga – Jailor at Bogambara, Mr. S.A. Jayalath – Jailor at Prison Head Quarters at Welikada
- Mr. Lai Perera – Jailor, Prison Head Quarters, Welikada.
- Mr. Danasinghe – SP at Welikada Prison.
- Mr. Dinuka Rajapakshe and Mr. C.A.M.D. Jayathilaka and Mrs. Meththa Ekanayake for their generosity rendered
- My dear parents who gave their valuable support and advices for the fulfilment of my anticipation in a triumphant way.

J.C. WICKRAMARATHNE.
Introduction

TOPIC ; The Impact of Architecture on the Rehabilitation of Prisoners.

Topic Explanation ;

Prisoner is a person who has done an offence against the prevailing law of the society. Therefore it is considered as an offence and the wrongdoer is kept away from the society, imposing an imprisonment upon him/her. Since the days of yore, prisoners were treated brutally as they were considered to be punished severely. They were detained in constricted gloomy spaces unabling them to make connections with the outer world, offering harsher sanctions, such as forced labour, death penalty, or other forms of corporal punishments.

This punitive approach became disregarded when European and American prisons became filled with youngsters, due to the economic revolution occurred after the world war II. As most of the prisoners are used the relevant governments brought reforms to the prevailing punitive concepts of the prison designs. The youths are considered to be released to the society again. Therefore the concept of rehabilitation was put into being practiced. Therefore the inhumane treatment pattern of the local prison environment became out dated and more humanitarian approach been adopted. Therefore the prisons in those countries recognized the prevailing prison environments to suit with the new generation prison community. As far as the present Sri Lankan prison generation is concerned this situation has become crucial. So a new generation prison that suite with the new prison community has become a must.
As the Built environment affect upon the behavioural pattern of ones life style it can make changes upon both moral and physical characteristics of the human body, in positive or negative manner. So, the built environment of a prison has the capacity of being the prisoners life style.

As the prisoner is forcibly detached away from his loved ones and kept imprisoned, it is a formidable task for him/her to bear the sudden change of the atmosphere. This mental stress always evoke the feeling of escaping from the barricaded environment. When further this environment becomes more aggressive or punitive oriented, the detainee becomes more worse in behaviour. The surrounding built environment is the only remedy to shape the prisoners life towards a reformatory one, to achieve a well rehabilitated young generation.

Need of the Study;

In Sri Lanka, the present day prison generation is entirely different from socio-cultural aspects from the old prison generation. With the economic upheaval and the current ethnic problems, many young ones have been attending the prison daily. Due to the youth unrest and less employment opportunities have made them Drug addicts, Robbers, rebel gangs, underworld gangs etc. These activities have changed the attitudes of the younger generation in a bad manner. So the rehabilitation of these has become urgent. With the insurgency activities and the LTTE rebel acts another big crowd attended the prison. Therefore new detention camps have to be erected due to the incensement of the young prisoners.
As the reformatory punishment is the government’s new approach, the reformation in both moral and physical behaviour should be happened. Whenever the young ones are happened to be released to the society these young ones should have to accept challenges of the future generation. This orientation should be done within the imprisonment, period. As the prison should act as an institute between the prisoner and the society this intermediate environment should possess the required qualities.

Although the intension is a punishment with a reformatory process it has to be implemented within the out dated prison environments that has designed only for the punitive approach. This prison environments evoke the harsh emotions and make the imprisoned ones more aggressive than making more humane. As the spaces of these jails have been designed towards a more punitive approach, the achievement of rehabilitation within these premises have become more critical.

Therefore the present Sri Lankan prisons are badly in need of re-arrangement of spatial organizations within them, or added new facilities. So a productive spatial organization should be found out to suite with the present Sri Lankan prison generation.

Intensions of the study ;

This study intends to find out the functional and spatial organizations within the selected overseas and Sri Lankan prisons and how it contributes to achieve the current rehabilitation procedure.
Thereby the adaptability of new prison concepts in new generation prisons and design solutions to be sought out considering the present socio-economic background of the prison community of Sri Lanka.

Further the design recommendations to be prepared which will denote the required qualities for the creation of environment for the purpose of rehabilitation and it will act as a base for the future reorganization of Sri Lankan prisons.

Scope and Limitations:

Social forces, Economic forces and Physical forces are the factors affecting upon the life style of a prisoner. This study confines only to study the impact of physical forces upon the rehabilitation of them. To do this selected representative overseas and local prisons and their contribution upon the rehabilitation of prisoners are going to be evaluated.

Methodology:

Selected representative Sri Lankan prisons environments are to be studied in terms of their physical setting and the contribution of those built environments to the ongoing rehabilitation, procedure.

The modern way of penal reform procedure is to be examined by studying the reputed western correctional institutions and how they have adopted the built environments to suit with the modern way of rehabilitation.
Then the selected representative Sri Lankan prisons are going to be studied to check whether the aforesaid qualities of the built environments are satisfied with the present Sri Lankan prisons and the impact that generate upon the prison community. This is done by studying the main Sri Lankan prisons called, Bogambara and Welikada and interviewing the inmates of so called prisons by using an open type questionnaire.

After considering the present socio-economic backgrounds of the country and the present prison community, suitable recommendations for the built environments of the Sri Lankan prisons are going to be prepared.