

# design development

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### Aims toward a design concept

How to deal with juvenile delinquency is an issue on which there are diverging views. The restoration of law and order is a common political slogan, but at the same time many people who deal with youth offenders are coming to believe in a different philosophy, that youth offenders should not be seen as lawbreakers in need of punishment and deterrence, but as children with social and psychological problems in need of treatment by social workers and other professionals.

- The design will focus on the Functional Core of a youth prison facility.
- Designing an environment, which is “transactional” investigating the closeness or the relationship between a person and their prison environment.
- Designing to improve the lives of people (juveniles) in the prison environment.
- The facility is meant, not to necessarily to prevent crime but to create a place of holding for youth offenders, at the same time rehabilitating and educating the youth for the period which they are remanded.
- The design should be adaptable and seen a model for future youth correctional facilities.

*“The children of now live in luxury, they have bad manners, contempt for authority, they show disrespect for adults and love to talk rather than work or exercise. They no longer rise when adults enter the room, they contradict their parents, chatter in front of company, gobble down food at the table and intimidate their teachers”*

Socrates (469 - 399 BC)

### **The client**

Key stockholders in the establishment of the facility would be:

- Integrated Justice System (IJS)
- Police Justice Correctional service
- Department of Correctional Services
- South Africa Government.

The client's requirement is to design a youth prison facility that focuses on rehabilitation of juvenile prisoners and the interrelationship between a prisoner and their environment. This facility must be self-sufficient, train prisoners in life (school education) and labour skills (vocational training), and at the same time create a prison that is self-sustainable.

### **The financing**

South African Government under the management of the Department of Public Works and private organizations will sponsor the funding of the youth prison facility.

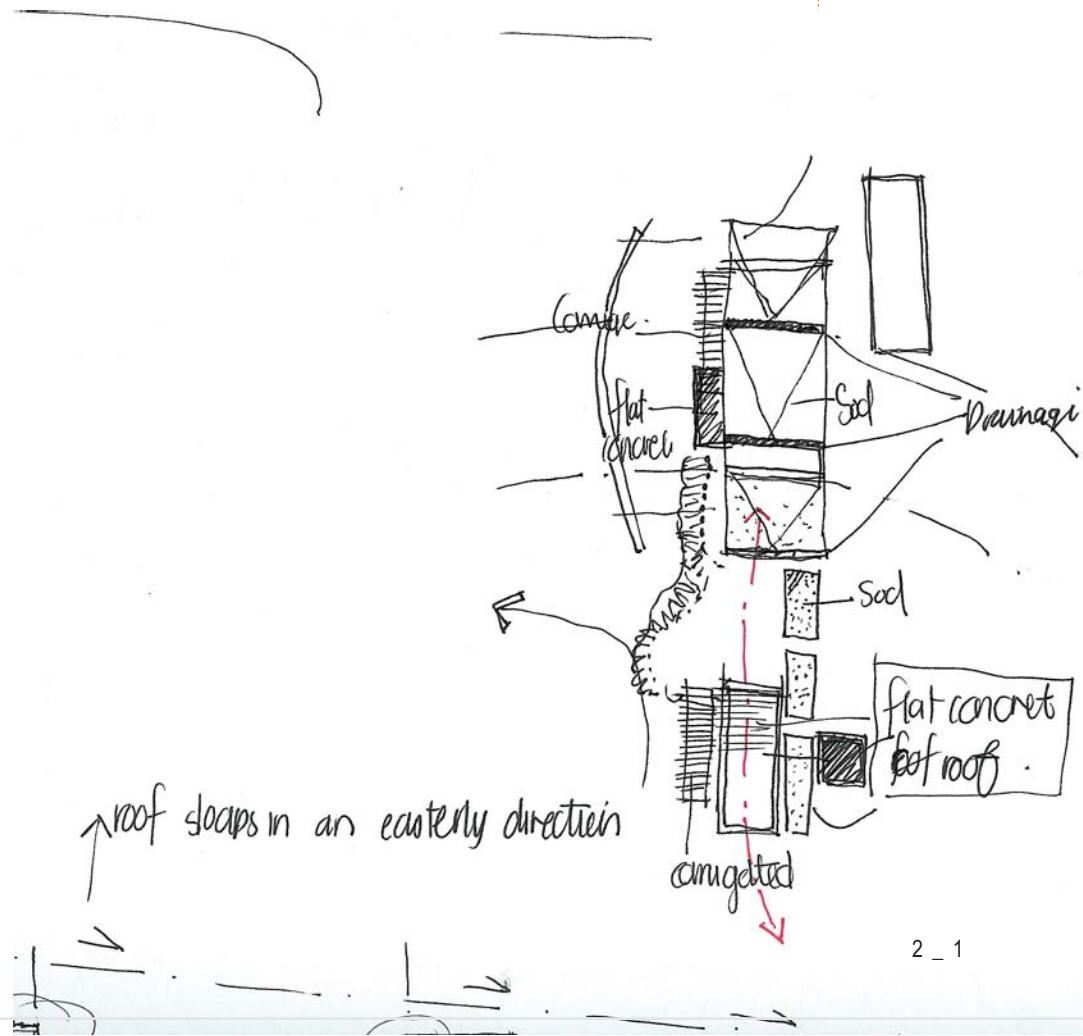
*“Architecture is conceived, designed, realised and built in response to an existing set of conditions may be purely functional in nature, or may also reflect in varying degrees the social, political and economic climate. The act of creating architecture is a problem-solving or design process.”*

(Ching, D.K. 1996.)

Any prison design has to accommodate certain pragmatic technical requirements that relate to a complex series of security issues and regulate every aspect of prison activity. These specifications form the basis for every prison design.

The project takes its ideological starting point from the hypothesis that the architectural environment can have a positive, stimulating influence upon inmates, by means of confronting them with environmental conditions that they may have never have experienced or been conscious of. This hypothesis supports the view that an architectural environment that stimulates, if you like, the higher senses, makes concepts such as education, motivation and integration easier to engender. A repressive environment kindles rebellion and stifles creativity. An awareness of nature and the discovery of new horizons, inspires hope and a desire for change. These positive stimulants are integrated into the scheme in the form of nature and light. The site and its topographical and botanical characteristics are assimilated into the language of the building so as to interface with its direct environment. Gabion walls provide security, dignity and authority and massing. The clear, highveld light is brought into the spaces to inspire positivity.

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The structure and site are designed via an organic, hierarchical process, as follows:

- Security - focal advantage and lines of clear vision to all areas: linear, horizontal spaces.

- Movement- the hierarchical functions of movement through threshold and holding areas into communal spaces relating to:

- a) Inmates

- b) Visitors

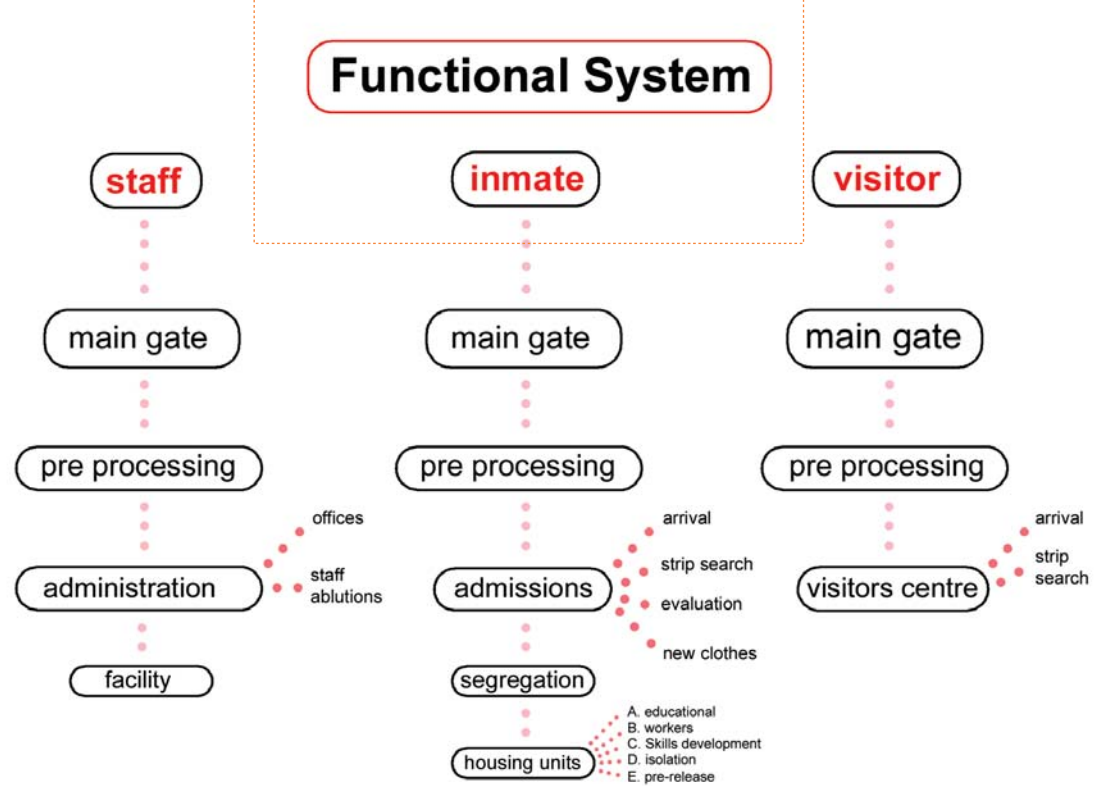
- c) Staff

- d) Combination of all three

- Sustainability of services: heating, cooling & ventilation, lighting inspire the choice of materials and technical development. Good day lighting assists in security and lifts the spirits. Artificial light sources, low energy, high performance. Rock bins and a roof-stack ventilate and cool.

- Environmental interface - bringing the outside in, the application of natural daylight, allowing the exterior of the building to recede into the landscape. The traditional materials of prison security, bars and cages are substituted with stone and glass. This is a youth facility. Imprisonment without exclusion. Exclusion breeds revolt. Punched metal screen, articulated slot openings, glass screens.

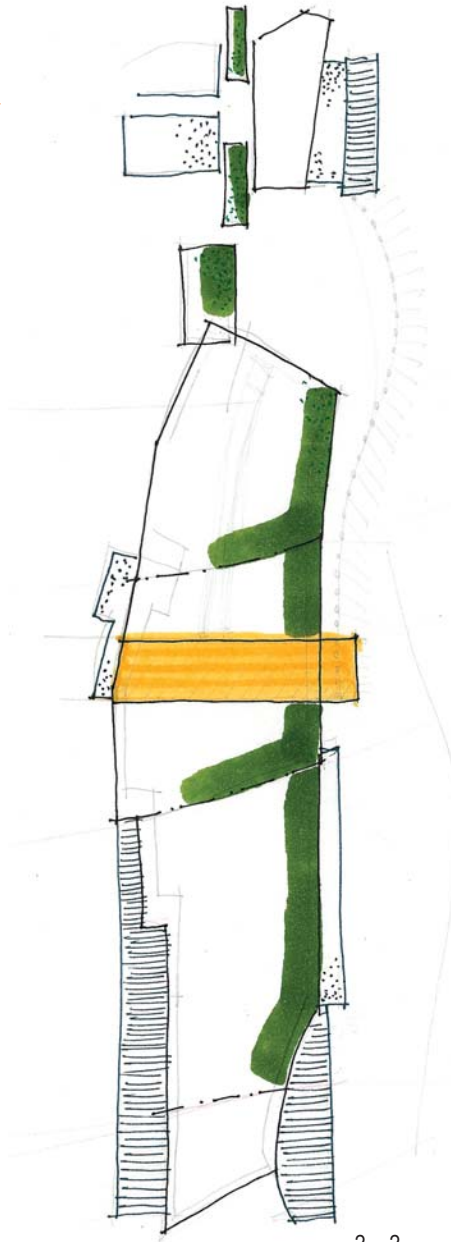
- Site design - the organic relationship between different buildings, each characterized by its own function. The school stands in a central position at the top of the site. An ever-present symbol of hope; the key to a new life.



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- 1 *To accommodate youth prison inmates already living in overcrowded conditions in the Leeuwkop youth prison facility.*
- a. It is expected that the facility will result in approximately 500 additional youths for which additional services capacity may be required.
  - b. Must be born in mind that further expansion of the facility may be required in the medium and long-term.
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- 2 *To improve the effectiveness of rehabilitation and quality of live in a youth prison facility.*
- a. Provide spaces which are “transactional” and investigate the closeness or the relationship between a person and their environment.
  - b. Build the character and perceptions of the prison facility.
- 
- 3 *To transfer the whole piece of existing correctional service owned land into functional peri-urban fabric which is sustainable and self-sufficient.*
- a. Integrate the landscape around the proposed designed facility. Do not just design only the buildings but the spaces in between.
  - b. Integrate all the services and generate a recycling system. Recycling rain water, grey water and organic waste.
  - c. Design the buildings, the landscape and in between spaces in such a way that it deals with and resolves the problems such as over heating, high energy consumption, erosion and rainwater drainage etc.

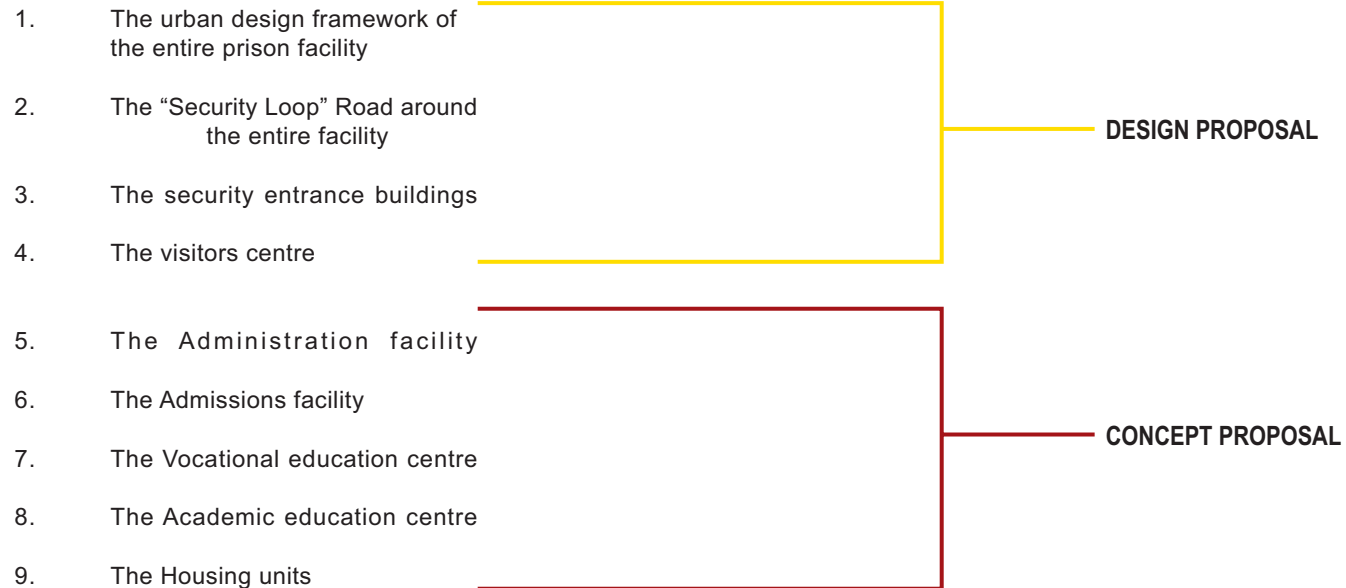


- 4 *Design the prison facility as a peri-urban island that is cut off and removed from the rest of society and its surroundings (as a security measure) yet once inside you feel the connection with the outside and strive towards freedom and the only way you can reach out is through self improvement and rehabilitation.*
- a. Establish a double security fence around the entire facility.
  - b. Place the facility in an area which is removed physically by rivers, ridges or roads.
  - c. Design the building in such a way that you are always reminded of your surrounding landscape. (Views out)
  - d. Create spaces which investigate
  - e.
    1. Physical orders of solids/voids, interior/exterior and the systems and organization of space, structure, enclosure and machines.
    2. Sensory perceptions and recognition of the physical elements by experiencing them sequential in time such as Approach/Departure, Entry/Egress, Movement through the order of spaces, functioning of and activities within spaces, qualities of light, colour, texture, views and sounds.
    3. Conceptual orders. The comprehension of the ordered or disordered relationships among a building's elements and their systems and responding to the meaning they evoke. Through images, patterns, signs, symbols and the context (form, space and functions) of the buildings.



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**The proposed design can be divided into nine sub-areas:**

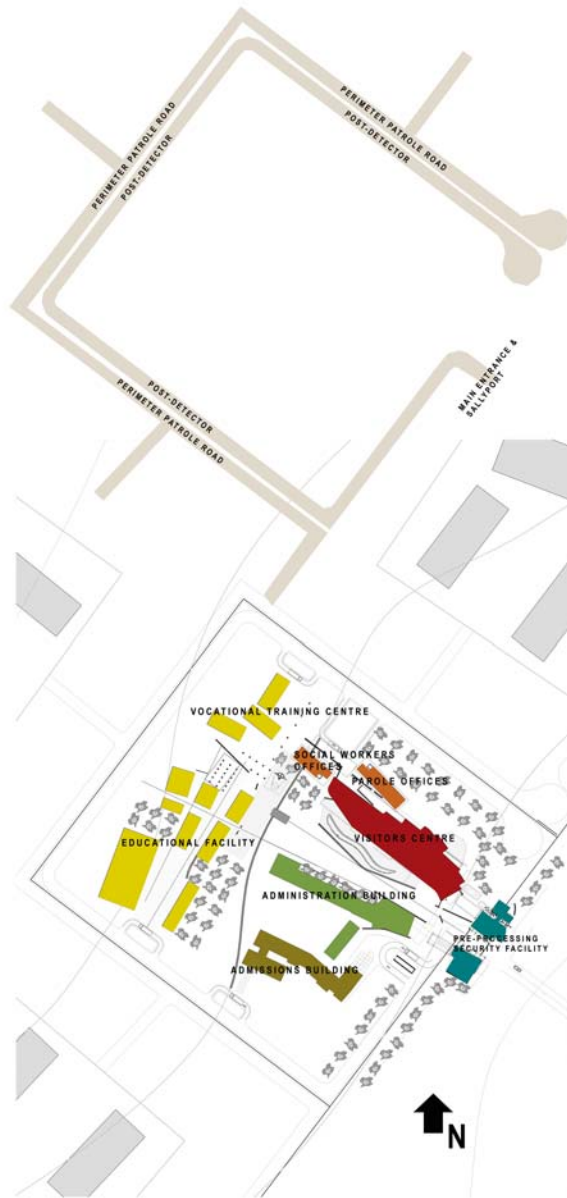


Although distinguishable, these areas interact and overlap in an attempt to achieve a "transactional" approach towards a site design. (Previously identified as one on the design objectives)

Illustration showing the relationship between these areas

The sub-area one through to four combines to form the overall experience of the entire facility. All three groups of people interact in these areas; the staff, inmates and visitors.

The sub-areas five through to eight is a conceptual proposal for the rest of the youth prison facility.



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## Approach

To achieve maximum security, the youth prison facility is sited in already existing prison grounds. The facility is surrounded by a double security fence and parole road, thereby creating free movement within the facility.

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## Approach

As security is so important, the need for separation of functional systems becomes the leading design tool. This resulted in dividing the entire facility in two four main zones.

1. The Staff zone
2. The Inmate/Youth prisoner zone
3. The Visitors zone
4. The Housing units zone

Through creating these different zones, movement and security is controlled and monitored in a successful, ordered manner.

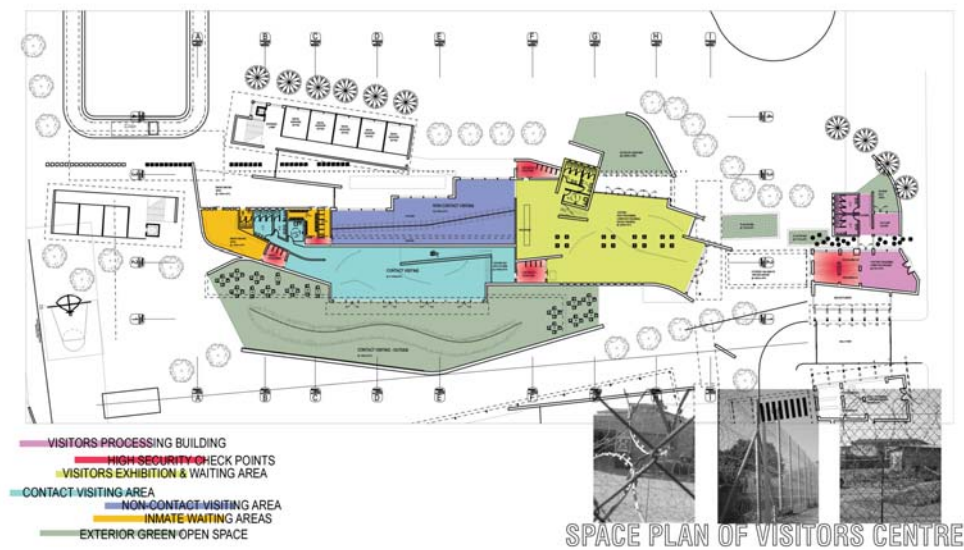




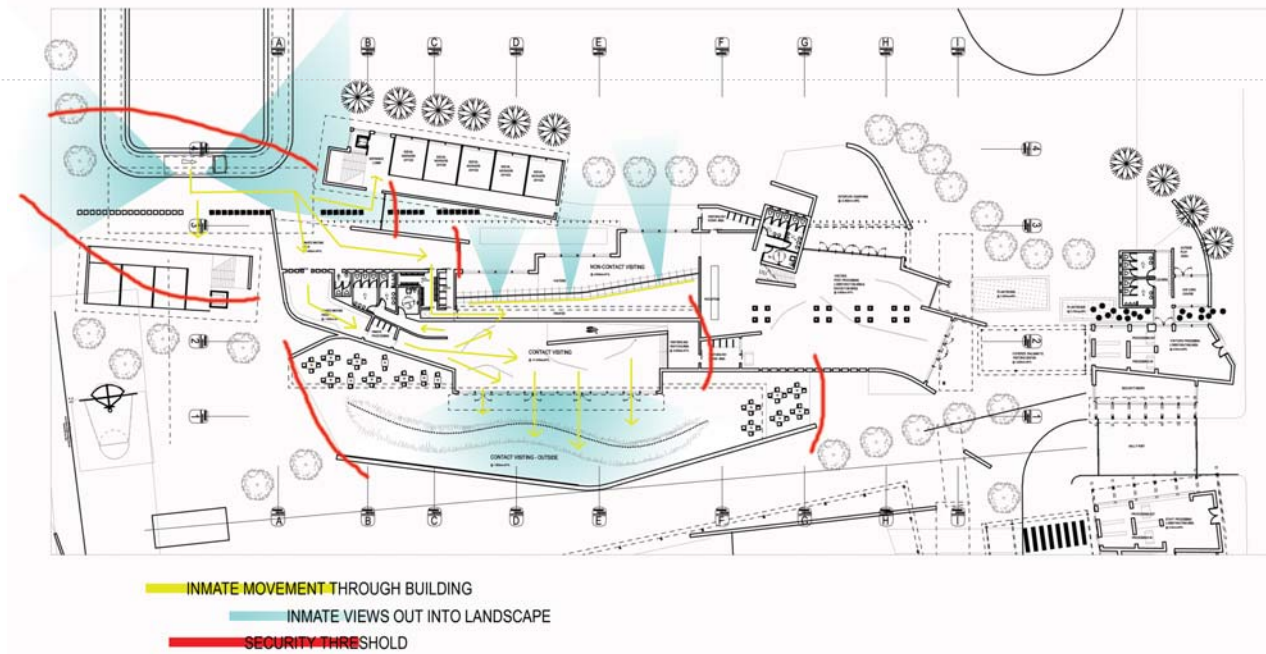
### **Approach**

Designing a visitors centre which provides spaces which can have a positive influence on its occupants, spaces which are able to stimulate as well as rehabilitate and space which are “transactional” and investigate the relationship between the occupants and their environment.

The design of the visitors centre has to be strongly influenced by security measures, this will be visible in layout of the plan, with strong linear and horizontal lines vision and movements, as well as the attention to vandal proof details.

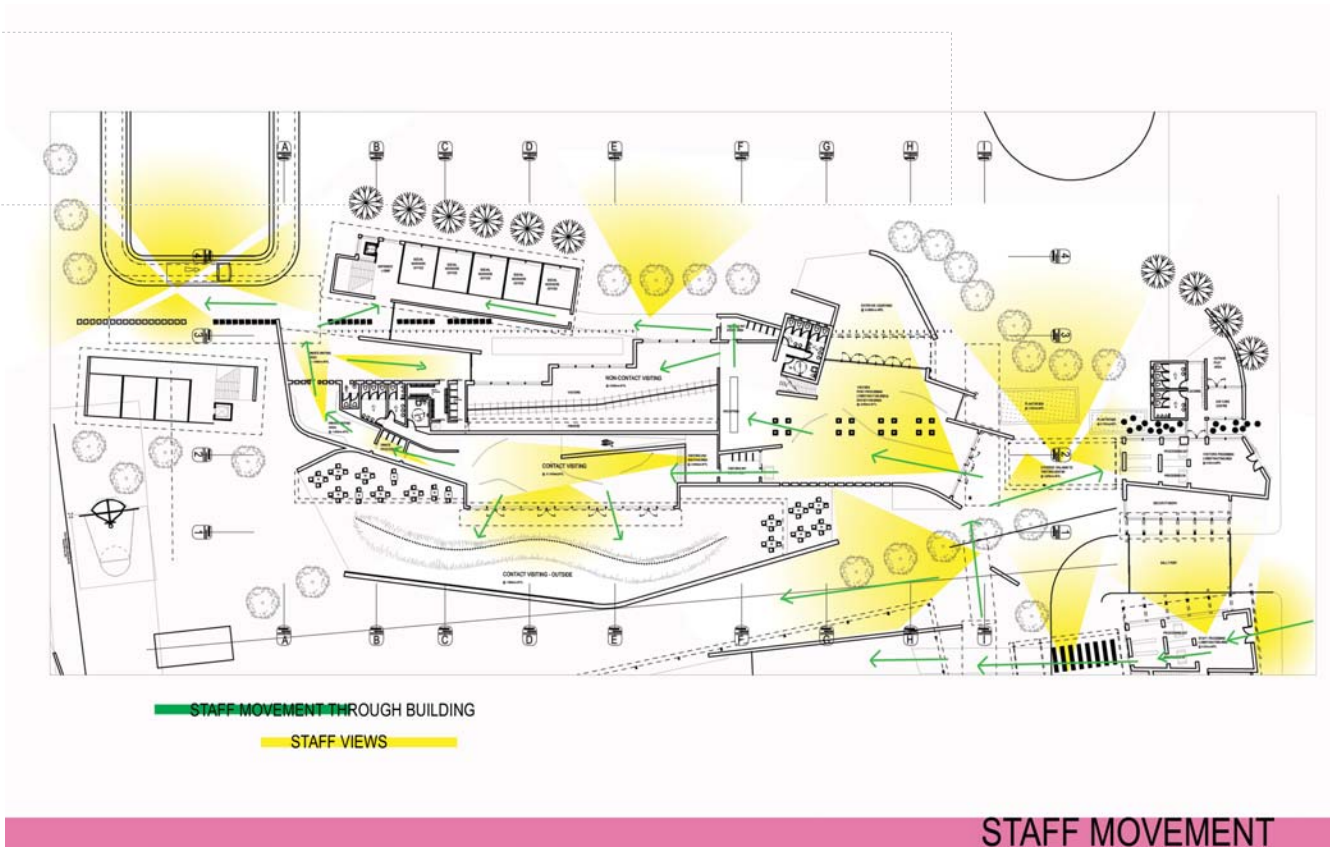


# movement & views

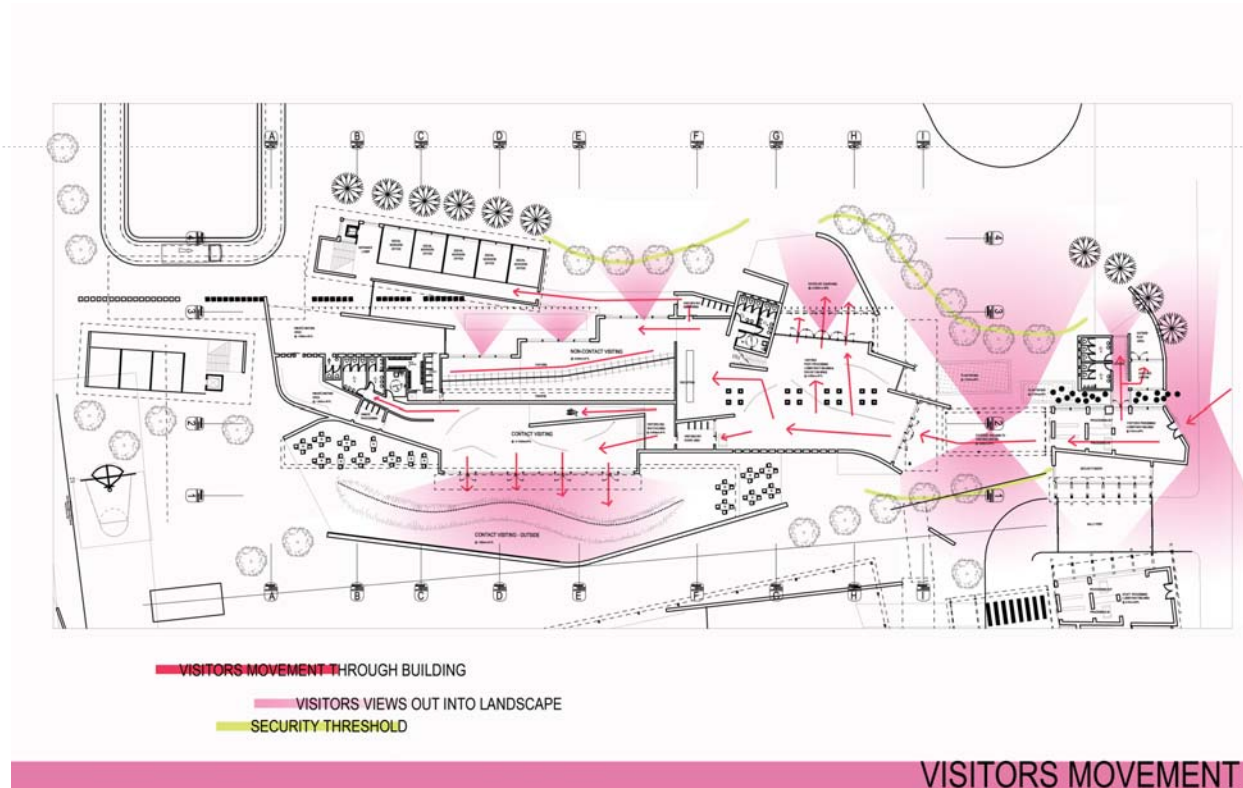


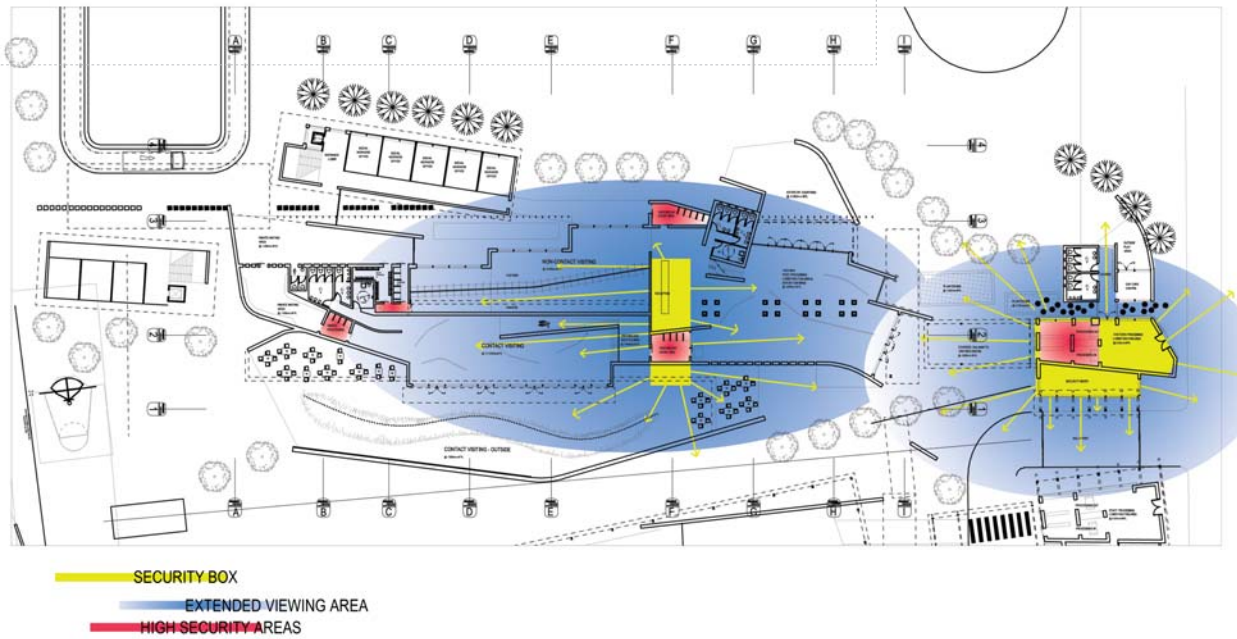
INMATE MOVEMENT





# movement & views





SECURITY POINTS AND VIEWS