

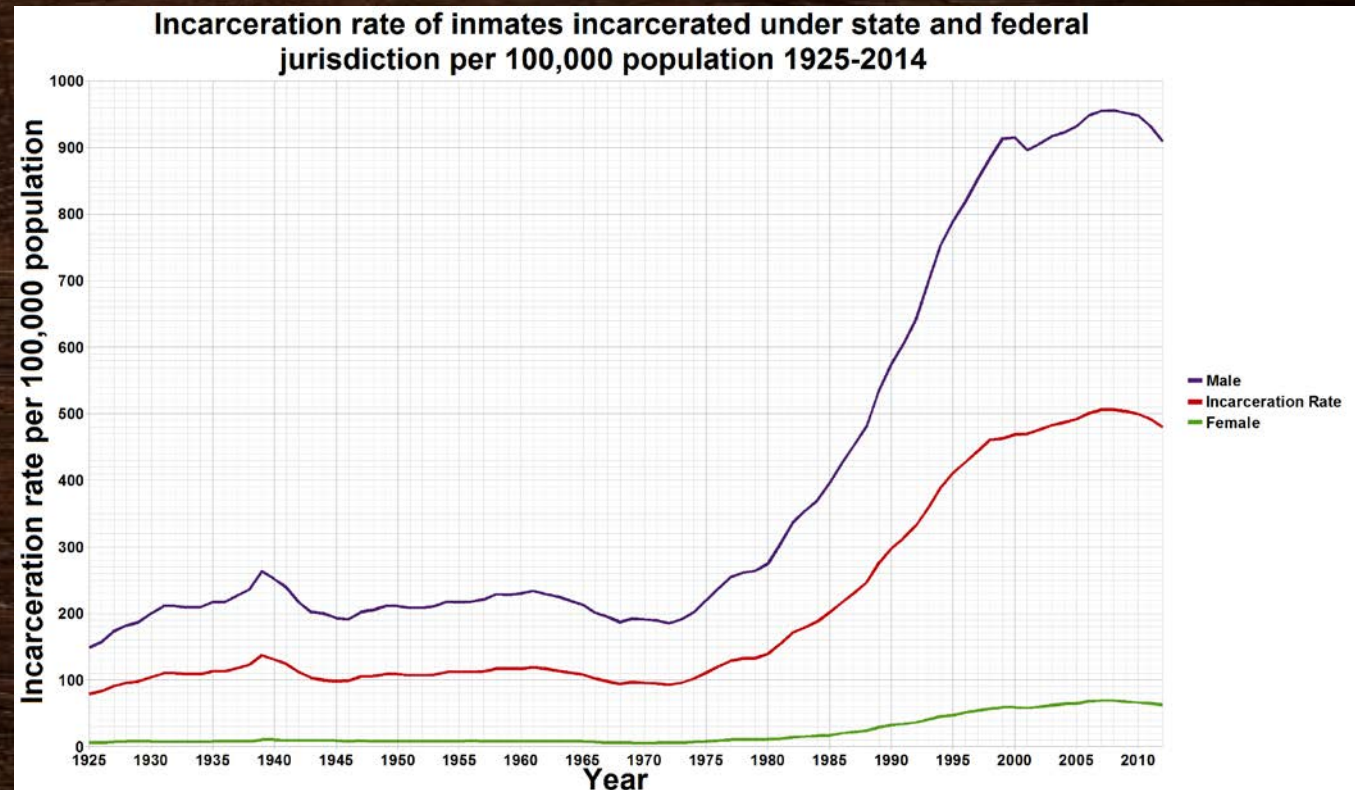
Reinventing the Prison Yard:

Creating Healthier Prisons Through
Landscape Architecture and Sociology

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The American System

- Goal:
 - Protect society by confining offenders
- Foundations:
 - Retribution
 - Incapacitation (major)
 - Deterrence
 - Rehabilitation



- 1.51 million state and federal prisoners (2016)
- 1% of US adult males

The American Prison Yard: Best Case



San Quentin State Prison - California

Reuters/Robert Galbraith

The American Prison Yard: Worst Case



Pelican Bay State Prison - California

Los Angeles Times

Effects

- Harmful to prisoners
 - Isolation
 - From human contact
 - From nature
- Increased recidivism
 - Earning potential is decreased post-release
 - 76.6% of released prisoners in Bureau of Justice Statistics study group rearrested within 5 years

An Alternative: The Norwegian System

- Goal:
 - Protect society by rehabilitating offenders
 - Restorative Justice
- Foundations:
 - Retribution
 - Incapacitation
 - Deterrence
 - Rehabilitation (major)
 - Humane treatment
 - Exit preparation
 - Design



Halden Prison - Norway

The Norwegian Prison Yard



Halden Prison - Norway

New York Times / Knut Egil Wang

The Norwegian Prison Yard



Bastøy Prison - Norway

Getty Images / Marco Di Lauro

Effects

- Healthier inmates
- Reduced recidivism
 - Programs to prepare prisoners to re-enter society
 - Norwegian reoffending rate reported at 20%
 - Bastøy Prison reoffending rate reported at 16%

Landscape Architecture

- Prison design
 - Ethical design
 - Architects/Designers/Planners for Social Responsibility
 - Village format (Halden, Bastøy)



Halden Prison - Norway

Eric Møller Arkitekter

Landscape Architecture

- Natural and designed spaces for good health
 - Halden designed to blend with landscape and avoid conflict
 - Access to natural environments has positive effects on health
 - Daily viewing of nature imagery improved mental health of inmates (Nadkarni study)



Snake River Correctional Institution - Oregon

Beth Nakamura



Halden Prison - Norway

Eric Møller Arkitekter

Landscape Architecture

- Outdoor programming
 - Outdoor programs for inmates
 - Growing food
 - Outdoor recreation
 - Pre-release training



Bastøy Prison - Norway

Espen Eichhöfer

Conclusions

- Potential for Norwegian-style concepts in American prisons
 - Need to be adapted
 - Many prisons already have similar programs
- Interdisciplinary collaboration
- Potential to help inmates
 - “If we treat people like animals when they are in prison they are likely to behave like animals. Here we pay attention to you as human beings.”
 - Arne Nilsen, Bastøy Prison Governor