UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL

INYUVESI YAKWAZULU-NATALI

PHYSIO SOCIAL REFORM THROUGH RESTORATIVE ARCHITECTURE:

Towards the design of a pre-release centre for female offenders in Durban.

BY

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Dissertation submitted to the School of Built Environment and Development Studies, University of KwaZulu-Natal, in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master in Architecture

Durban 2019

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this dissertation is my own unaided work except where it has been otherwise acknowledged. It is being submitted to the School of the Built Environment and Development Studies, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Howard College campus, in partial fulfilment of the requirements towards the degree of Masters of Architecture. This dissertation has not been submitted before for any degree or examination at any other university.

Signed

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Lauren Gonzalez Pons

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to thank to the people whom without, this dissertation would have not been possible

Bridget Horner

I thank you for providing me with your patience, advice and extensive knowledge which as been vital. I am extremely grateful for all that you have done.

Julie Eneman

I can not begin to express my gratitude for your, dedication, mentoring and most of all unconditional friendship. I will always be grateful.

The South African Department of Correctional Service

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to carry out this research, your knowledge has been crucial to this dissertation. I thank all who participated.

Lizette Pons & Pedro Gonzalez

I'm forever grateful to having you in my life. I owe all that I am to you. Thank you for your never-ending love and support. Los quiero mucho

Daniel Ricardo Rios

Thank you for being my rock and source of strength then I needed it the most. I'm sorry for always keeping you up while I worked, but your company meant the world to me. Te amo Gordi

DEDICATION

To my loving parents, Lizette Maria Pons Herrera & Pedro Luis Gonzalez Duharte for your endless love and support.

To my late grandmother and guardian angel Mimi, I hope I made you proud.

ABSTRACT

This dissertation has been conducted to investigate the need for prison environments to redefine reform through the introduction of post punishment prisons which cater beyond punishment and responds to user specific needs. This research will explore the interrelationship between architecture and its users, through behaviourism, restorative processes, and gender sensitive design approaches which could redefine the reform of female offenders as a holistic process.

Past and current prison environments have been explored in this dissertation in order to motivate for a new post-punishment model which would focus on promoting reflection and initiate offender reintegration, in the hopes of closing the gap between incarceration and reform, and ultimately reducing the high rates of recidivism in South Africa.

Using an exploratory study that fully relies on a qualitative constructivist methodology, allows the researcher to gather insightful information regarding the female offenders' needs, their experiences within the prison environment as well as their current process for reform. This, along with the analysis of the existing literature, and various precedent studies, case studies and a series of in- depth interviews with staff officials from the Westville Female corrections centre and offender advocates from grass-roots NGO's, established various themes which responded to the research concepts of gender sensitive architecture, restorative environments and post punishment reform.

Furthermore, as a result of the findings from the fieldwork component, this research concludes that despite the Department of Correctional Services attempts to promote offender reform within current prison environments, the outdated prison models, along with the lack of understanding regarding the post punishment phases of reflection and reintegration, has resulted in the current prison environment not being conducive towards the holistic reform of offenders.

This dissertation concludes that for prison environments to facilitate the holistic reform of offender must incorporate the tripartite solution of:

1. **Gender sensitive architecture** – responds to female offender needs
2. **Restorative environments**: facilitates the processes of reflection and reintegration
3. **Post punishment reform** – redefines reform so it is physio socially holistic

Key words: female offenders, gender sensitive architecture, restorative architecture, prison environment, environmental psychology, redefining reform, post punishment reform

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART ONE

BACKGROUND RESEARCH ON ISSUES

LIST OF FIGURES

CHAPTER 1

Background

REVIEWING THE LIMITATIONS OF PRISON ARCHITECTURE IN SOUTH AFRICA

1.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter focuses on the background of the research study, highlighting the underlying issues pertaining to the current state of South African prison environments, its limitations and the perceptions of the female offenders incarcerated within these facilities.

The motivation and justification for the research expresses the increasing concern regarding the effectiveness of South Africa's current prison architecture in terms of (a) promoting post punishment reform and reducing recidivism, and (b) exploring the need for gender sensitivity within the prison environment.

The definition of the aims, objectives, and the research questions then follow, providing an understanding of the problem pertaining to the current prison environment, offender reform, and gender sensitivity, and exploring how these could be addressed through the built environment.

1.1.1 BACKGROUND

It is a known fact that South Africa has alarmingly high crime rates (SAHRC, 2015). Recent statistics from the South African Police Services reflect that South Africa has one of the highest crime rates in the world, with the crimes committed ranging from minor cases of theft, to aggravated assault, rape and murder (SAPS, 2017). But what is most disturbing is both the proportion of crimes perpetuated by repeat offenders, and the apathy towards the increasingly high rates of female incarceration (Agomoh, 2016).

This is arguably because of both the country's current political and social circumstances, and the fact that South African prisons remain entrenched in the Apartheid era, reflecting a punitive military approach that solely caters for male offenders. Despite the government's continuous attempts to reform female offenders through the male orientated prison environment, the rate of female recidivism continues to rise (SAPS, 2017).This evidently alludes to a critical flaw

within the operations of the criminal justice system, and more importantly, the understanding of female offenders needs within the prison environment.

In fact, South Africa's prison environments have been referred to in the media as "universities of crime" where overcrowding, intimidation, rape, violence and criminogenic consequences dominate DCS (2005:10).

In 2005, as a possible solution, the Department of Correctional Services introduced the White Paper, which implemented "reformation over punishment" as part of an anti-recidivism strategy in prisons (DCS, 2005). Within this ninety-page document, only a few paragraphs were dedicated to the needs of female offender as a "special category". Despite the document emphasising that "rehabilitation processes must also be responsive to the special needs of women" (DCS, 2005:64), it provides little understanding as to what these specific needs are and how these should be catered for.

As a result, the majority of South Africa's prison architecture, continues to show little to no thought on any form of restorative environments and post punishment reformation which directly responds to the gender specific needs of female offenders. Arguably, it is this limited implementation of the "reformation over punishment" policy in the built environment, which has hindered the physio- social reform of female offenders, and has exacerbated the high rates of recidivism (Motole, 2016).
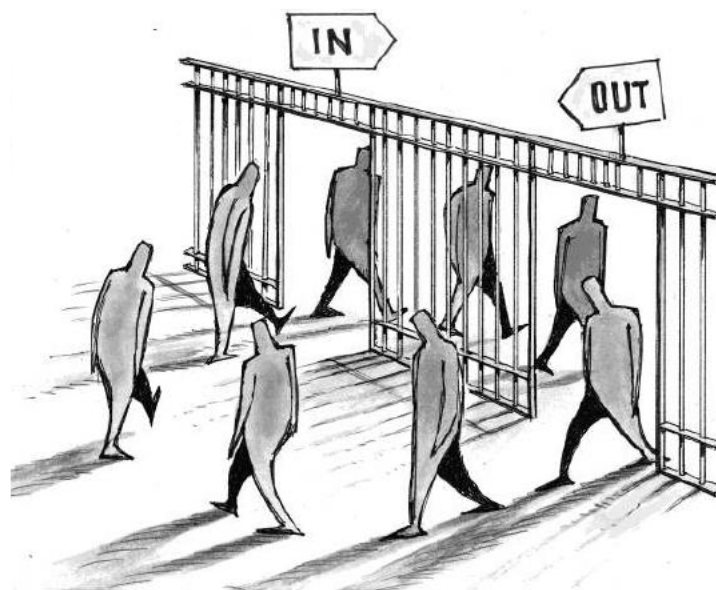
Figure 1.1. Expressing the cycle of recidivism (source: D. Granlund, 2016. http://www.youthleadership.net/econgress/demo/research_criminal_justice?_yli_session=qcoxjsem)

1.1.2 MOTIVATION/JUSTIFICATION OF THE STUDY

Historically, society has always conceived prisons as dark and dreadful institutions (Johnson, 1973). There are very few studies that have investigated the physio social impact of these types of prison environments on offender behaviour and wellbeing. However, environments for human wellbeing should be always be carefully designed to fulfil the needs of the intended occupants, and there should be no exception when addressing correctional institution design. After all – environments which do not meet the needs of the users, will not meet the needs of society.

Despite the changing context of Post-Apartheid South Africa, and the many socio- political changes that have been implemented in the justice system, the actual physical prison environments remain one of the largest factors contributing to the rates of recidivism in the country. This is supported by several authors and organisations who frequently write on the topic (Bloom, Owen, & Covington, 2004; Karimm, 2018). A case in point is the fact that whilst prisons aim to "cure" criminals of crime, one can debate whether these prison environments do inmates more harm than good, based on the fact that the country has an alarming recidivism rates of as high as 90 %(Karimm, 2018).

Ultimately, there needs to be a profound understanding of the spatial experience in incarceration environments, and how they affect the user, in order to establish a relationship between architecture and the holistic and effective reform of offenders. The current state of South African prisons does not reflect this line of thinking. The study therefore sets out to not only explore "punishment" but also the importance of implementing "post punishment reform" through the design of the built environment.

Unfortunately, the specific needs, backgrounds and rehabilitation requirements of the prison environment users are generally not fully considered. In South Africa there are two hundred and forty-one active correctional centres, of which eight are for women only (NICRO, 2014). Due to the low ratio of female offenders to male offenders, these women are seen as the minority, and have been termed "the invisible women". There is limited literature exploring the needs and perceptions of these users within the prison environment.

In reality, the current prison environments which female offenders are incarcerated in are merely adaptive models from the male offenders. These environments do not acknowledge that females have their own specific needs (Bloom, Owen, & Covington, 2004). Despite their minority status, female offenders have specific needs with regards to health care, pregnancy, and privacy, which completely differ from those of their male counterparts, and which should be respected and incorporated into the design of prison environments (Currie, 2012).

Currently, prisons are largely defined by negative environmental characteristics, such as overcrowding, excessive control, and expressions of "hard punishment". There appears to be little understanding for the need for either gender sensitive, or restorative environments to promote reform and prisoner wellbeing, beyond the required norm of humane punishment. The need to understand and resolve these limitations within the country's prison environments is essential if there is to be any possibility of achieving the holistic reform of offenders, and consequentially reducing the country's high recidivism rates.

1.2. DEFINITION OF THE PROBLEM, AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

PROBLEM STATEMENT

The high rates of recidivism amongst female offenders in South Africa suggests that there is a lack of understanding of post punishment reform, restorative processes, and gender-based needs in South Africa's prison architecture. Based on this, there is a need for this study to establish a deeper understanding between restorative architecture and human behaviour – specifically in the search for "post punishment" physio social reform and prison environments which respond to the specific needs of female offenders.

1.2.1 DEFINITION OF THE PROBLEM

Based on several reports from the Department of Correctional Services regarding the ongoing high crime rates and recidivism rates in South Africa, one can surmise that despite there being other various socio-political factors contributing to these rates, the countries prison system is arguably a leading contributor, due to its limited changes in infrastructure (SAPS, 2017). Hesselink (2012) suggest that these high levels of crime and recidivism are a direct result of South Africa's social political circumstances of poverty, unemployment and insufficient

prisoner reforms, which remain embedded in the Apartheid regime.

This is arguably because current South African prison environments do not consider the fluid interrelationship between the environment and its user. Prison environments psychologically affect offenders in adverse ways and despite current efforts to rehabilitate and reintegrate prisoners back into society many South African prisons are failing to prepare prisoners to adjust to environments and society after leaving prison.

This is arguably because the sole focus of current prison environments is in implementing punishment as a means for reform. There is no further understanding of the restorative processes required to promote the holistic reform of an offender, nor is there any appreciation for the gender specific needs of the users (Luyt, 2003).

The need to explore the role of "post punishment" reform and restorative architectural spaces that allow for individual reflection and reintegration, remains a largely unexplored topic. Hence, there is a need to conceptualize a new prison typology that responds to both the female offender's needs and perceptions, and redefines post punishment reform as a holistic process. Reform through gender sensitive and restorative architecture is essential to resolve the problem of recidivism, which currently stems from the lack of prison architecture and infrastructure that effectively responds to the physio social needs of female offenders.

1.2.2 AIM

This research study aims to promote the holistic physio-social reform of female offenders in South Africa through the inclusion of gender sensitive design through restorative architecture.

This study will ultimately focus on establishing principles which inform the design of how restorative built environments can facilitate post punishment reform through the design of a pre-release centre designed for the specific needs of female offenders.

1.2.3 OBJECTIVES

1. To understand the current needs and perceptions of female offenders in prison environments in South Africa.

2. To explore the history and characteristics of prison architecture in South Africa, through a selected case study evaluating how these facilities respond to the needs and perceptions of female offenders.

3. To explore how architecture could cater beyond 'punishment' and promote the post punishment reform of female offenders:
   - To explore the role of restorative environments in redefining 'punishment' and post punishment reform of female offenders.
   - To understand the role of gender sensitive design as a means of contextualising post punishment reform of female offenders in South Africa.

4. To ultimately conceptualise a new prison typology which promotes the holistic physio-social reform of female offenders in South Africa.

1.3. SETTING OUT THE SCOPE

1.3.1 DELIMITATION OF RESEARCH PROBLEM

The research intends to investigate the current limitations within South African prison environments regarding the post punishment reform of female offenders, as well as emphasising the need to conceptualize new prison environments which cater for gender sensitivity. The research does not intend to rectify the current correctional services in South Africa, but merely analyse their limitations within the built environment, and society's perceived image of these facilities.

The research acknowledges that the prison system is one factor amongst many in reform but it only focussing on the architectural component not the socio-economic issues. Furthermore, as an architectural discussion, the research will not provide any solutions or recommendations for the psychological therapies or non- architectural related treatment, for these female offenders during their process of incarceration.

1.3.2 DEFINITION OF TERMS

Behaviourism– an approach to psychology based on the proposition that all behaviour is determined by the environment either through association or reinforcement.

Built Environment – the combination of architectural elements relating to a physical built structure, which will include the context and urban placement

Correctional Centre – a penal institution maintained by the government used to hold sentenced and awaiting trial offenders with the primary aim of rehabilitating them.

Environmental psychology - interrelationship between the environment and how it affects its users' experience, perceptions and behaviours.

Holistic reform – physical, social, psychological and spiritual restoration within an individual

Incarceration - the act of holding a person in captivity for a period of time.

Offender - a person who commits an illegal act. The new term used by the South African Department for an incarcerated individual. A Female offender subsequently refers to all women that have been incarcerated in prisons. This excludes juvenile females and women who are held for a short time in local jails or police stations.

Physio Social – a humanistic approach looks at individuals in the context of the combined influence that psychological factors and the surrounding social environment have on their physical and mental wellness and their ability to function.

Reform - refers to the reformation of a person, i.e. to change them to improve / positively develop them. Subsequently, post punishment reform refers to the processes that follows after punishment, allow for individual reflection and reintegration towards holistic restoration.

Reintegration -The processes that are employed by the correctional services department to integrate the prisoner back into society.

Rehabilitation - the act of restoring something to a better state, to facilitate the process of recovery from a lawbreaker to a productive citizen of the law

Rehabilitation facility – A facility where people can go to receive help to rid themselves of their previous bad behaviour, bad habits and their way of life: Whether drug and alcohol, crime, psychological, or life skill related.

Recidivism – It is the act of repeat of bad behaviour or repeating of criminal activity.

Restoration – an experience of psychological and physiological recovery processes, as triggered by an environment

1.3.3 STATING THE ASSUMPTIONS

The primary assumption is that architecture has an influence on an individual, whether it is physically, socially, psychologically or all three. It is subsequently assumed that most of South Africa's prison facilities were built before the apartheid era were designed with the sole purpose of punishment, without much understanding or effort placed on "post punishment reform" or restoration.

It is also assumed that prison architecture in South Africa does not respond to the gender-specific needs of female offenders, as evidenced by the lack of female specific facilities and the minority status of this user group. Finally, it is assumed that if female offenders are in a prison environment that positively guides their behaviour through restorative architectural qualities, holistic reform could be achieved, and the national recidivism rate could decrease.

1.3.4 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Primary Question

How can the inclusion of gender sensitive design and restorative architecture promote the holistic physio social reform of female offenders?

Secondary Questions

1. What are the current needs and perceptions of female offenders in prison environments in South Africa?
2. What spatial characteristics have evolved from the history of prison architecture in South Africa, and how do these respond to the needs and perceptions of female offenders?
3. How could architecture promote the post punishment reform of female offenders?
    - What role could restorative environments have in redefining 'punishment' and post punishment reform of female offenders?
    - What role could gender sensitive design have as a means of contextualising the post punishment reform of female offenders in South Africa?
4. How could a new prison typology promote the holistic physio-social reform of female offenders in South Africa?

1.4 CONCEPTS AND THEORIES

Using the approach of holistic reform of offenders through restorative architecture and gender sensitive design, the first part of the theoretical framework for this dissertation aims to understand the interrelationship between the built environment, the user and their needs and behaviour. The studied theories will examine how architecture can positively contribute to making a difference in people's lives both physically and psychologically (Kerr, 2006: 1).

In order to understand the incarceration environment, one must concurrently understand its users. "The relationship between the built environment and human agency is mediated by meaning" (Moffatt, 2008).

The dissertation's theoretical framework then, focuses on understanding the need to look beyond "harsh punishment", and incorporate gender sensitive design and restorative environments into prison architecture, in order to promote holistic physio social reform. The framework will explore this line of thinking through 3 key points:

- Encouraging recognition of behaviour through positive psychology of space.
- Accommodating the process of reflection through the reflective properties of nature.
- Promoting reintegration and reform through a renewed sense of place and purpose.

THEORIES

1.4.1 BEHAVIOURISM

The theory of behaviourism falls under the framework of environmental psychology, tying back to the bio directional relationship between the user and the environment. Understanding the essentials of human behaviour, helps to understand their relationship with the environment. This theory is used to argue the need for environments to promote reform by influencing the way people think and behave.

Behaviourism theory explores the interrelationship between the built environment and its influences on human behaviour (e.g., personality, dispositions, attitudes, views, experience) explaining that they are closely linked, almost to the point where they cannot be separated.

Barker (1986) argues that there needs to be an in-depth understanding of an environment's physical characteristics and attributes as these will be reflected in human behaviour. As such, in order for there to be a positive conversation between the environmental context and the personal context, there needs to be a positive environment.

The theoretical framework will hence use behaviourism as a tool to argue that when designing prison environments which incorporate positive restorative, reflective and rehabilitative spaces, there is a greater potential to promote positive reform of offenders.

CONCEPTS

1.4.2 GENDER SENSITIVE ARCHITECTURE

The exploration of gender consideration in the field of architecture is a recently developed term which focuses on understanding and design both built and unbuilt spaces that are desired and corresponding for the female gender as a specific user group. Due to females experiencing and perceiving space different from males, meeting female needs becomes essential to promoting a restorative environment for them (Beall, 1996, 2).

Gender sensitivity becomes a common theme throughout the dissertation as a means of responding to the need for a female sensitive environment within prisons that cater for their gender- specific needs. The absence of this in current prison design models creates a gap in the knowledge between prison architecture and the female offender. When designing architectural spaces for the holistic reform of female offenders, one must consider the relationship between architecture and user, where sensitivity towards gender is essential.

1.4.3 RESTORATIVE ENVIRONMENTS

The term restorative environment is generally referred to environments- both built and natural, that foster the successful process holistic of "restoration" whilst minimising biological and psychological events that effect human well-being of an individual (Steg; Van den Berg; De Groot, 2012).

There is a growing need for individual restorative environment frameworks to specify some condition from which a person needs to be reformed will be argued through the exploration of this concept. For any individual to be holistically reformed there needs to be both a cause, and an individualised process of restoration. Whether the cause is physical, social, and physiological or a combination of these, should be considered when designing restorative environments that will aim to promote the holistic reform of an individual. The theoretical framework will argue that within current South African prison environments, there is a need to incorporate spaces that facilitate the process of "post punishment restoration".

1.5   RESEARCH METHODS AND MATERIALS

To successfully understand the interrelationship between the prison environment and the female offenders, the above-mentioned theories will be interrogated through a distinct research approach and data collection method. Although the essence of the research methodology will be laid out below, a full exploration of the research methods, the methodological approach and the collection of primary data will be expanded on in chapter 4.

RESEARCH METHODS

The research will be centred on gaining an in-depth understanding of the perceptions of incarcerated women, and their ultimate experience of prison environments and re-integration into society. To support this type of perceptive, in-depth study, the research approach will be qualitative and constructivist, and will be informed by in-depth interviews of a specific prison, its users, and its systems.

RESEARCH MATERIALS

Primary Data: In depth interviews and case studies

The use of in-depth interviews, and case studies are compatible with constructivist theory. As such, the research will involve an in-depth case study and observation of the Durban Westville Female Correctional Centre, located in the suburb of Westville, Durban. The case observations study will focus on understanding the current female prison environments operations, limitations, and its evolution in responding to the female offender's specific needs.

The research will also involve communication between the researcher and the Correctional Centre officers, social workers, criminology experts and organizations that deal with offender reintegration. These individuals will serve as both a "lens" into the experiences and perceptions of a larger collection of female offenders, and as "gateways" to contacting released and rehabilitated female offenders, who would be willing to participate in the research.

The triangulated comparison of the (1) case study, (2) a minimum of 8 interviews with selected officers, social workers, criminology experts and 2 different organisations which work directly with both currently incarcerated and released female offenders will provide the necessary research saturation and allow for a comprehensive constructivist analysis.

Secondary Data: Literature and precedent studies

To further support the research, and create a broader understanding, several secondary sources of data underpinning the research will be gathered in the forms of a literature review and the critical analysis of several precedent studies.

The literature review will focus on investigating the relevant concepts and theories surrounding the topic of current female prison environments and the way in which architecture responds to offender reform. Three precedent studies will also be analysed which similarly explore the architectural themes surrounding the topic. The selection of these three precedent studies will be based on the emerging architectural criteria for environments that promote physio social reform from the literature review.This form of research will be composed of various secondary sources such as: Journal articles by various authors; books, academic papers, documents; and the World Wide Web. This research will provide the theoretical framework from which the primary data will later be interrogated and analysed.

1.6   CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the research sets out to understand the current state of South African prison environments and their limitations, with the intention of conceptualizing a new prison environment that is supportive of the gender- specific needs of its users, and the holistic reform of female offenders.

"The ongoing high crime and recidivism rates in South African prisons evidentially reflects
that our current system is limited and not working"

(SAPS; 2017)

Exploring the gender sensitive needs of female offenders along with restorative environments – towards the holistic reform of offenders.
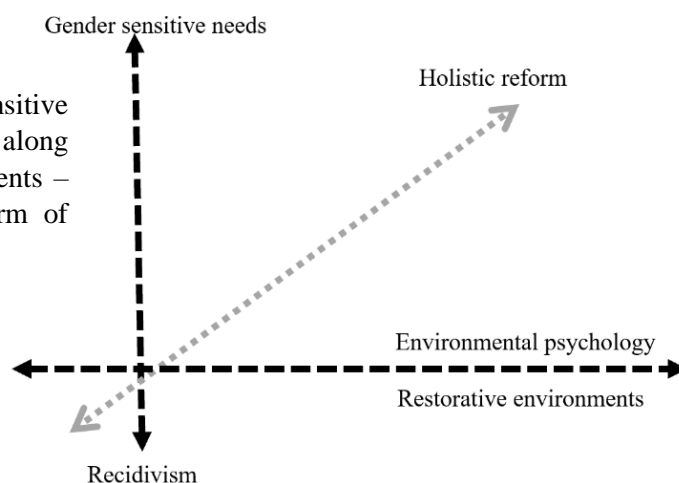
Figure 1.2. Establishing a Research framework (author)

1.6.1 DOCUMENT OUTLINE

This dissertation is composed of eight chapters:

CHAPTER ONE: Explores the research background and motivation, and defining a research problem. It explores the current prison environment in South Africa highlights the need for the inclusion of gender sensitivity, restoration processes, and holistic reform.

CHAPTER TWO: Focuses on the existing frameworks and discussions surrounding Restorative Environments, and highlights the need for the frameworks to be adapted and modified to suit the needs of specific users. The aim is to highlight the need to review the role of restorative architecture in defining holistic prison environments for female offenders. This chapter also focuses on the "who" and "why" by discussing existing prison architecture in South Africa and how these facilities currently cater for the needs of female offenders. A review of the specific needs and perceptions of female offenders explores the necessity to acknowledge and incorporate these into the design of prison environments.

CHAPTER THREE: Explores the potential to redefine prison environments so that they cater for holistic, gender sensitive post punishment reform. Subsequently, this chapter aims to establish a link between environmental psychology and the built environment by exploring the users' needs and environmental responses through the theory of behaviourism (including perception), and the concepts of restorative environments, and gender sensitive design. This part aims to redefine the concept of restoration and restorative processes in relation to prison environments.

CHAPTER FOUR: Explains the methodology of the research as being a constructivist exploratory study that fully relies on a qualitative methodological approach. It also expands on the various ethical considerations which created the constraints for the data collection, and breaks down the coding systems used to explicate and analyse the data.

CHAPTER FIVE: Explores the concept and theories discussed in chapter four through the systematic analysis of three precedent studies. The selection of these precedents is based on their representation of the post punishment themes highlighted in the theoretical discussions–repercussion, reflection and reintegration.

CHAPTER SIX: Discusses and analyses the data collected from the case study of Westville Correctional Centre, in addition to the in-depth interviews with offender advocates. This section focuses on the perceptions and experiences of female offenders within the prison environment, the prison environment itself and the current efforts being made towards offender reform.

CHAPTER SEVEN: Presents the conclusions of this study, in the form of a holistic, post punishment approach to offender reform. The chapter explores how the tripartite solution of incorporating gender sensitive architecture, restorative architecture and post punishment reform could create a positive prison environment that is conducive to the holistic reform of offenders.

CHAPTER EIGHT: Compiles a design for a proposed pre–release centre for female offenders in Durban. This chapter ultimately explores and details how restorative architecture can accommodate and satisfy the numerous specific physical, psychological and spiritual needs of female offenders within the prison environment. Ultimately the design report sets out guidelines that promote holistic offender reform, cater beyond the process of punishment, whilst at the same time respond to both the basic and complex needs of female offenders within a new best practice model. The chapter explains the choice of site, presents a proposed client brief, accommodation schedule, conceptual development and design principles.

CHAPTER 2

Literature Review

EXPLORING THE NEED FOR A NEW PRISON TYPOLOGY FOR FEMALE OFFENDERS

2.1 Introduction

The literature review in this chapter will aim to argue that there is a growing need to understand and acknowledge the gender specific needs of female offenders within the current prison environment. This will assist in designing restorative environments that will effectively respond to the holistic reform of the female offender.

The review of the literature will focus on two main aspects.

REVIEWING THE EXISTING FRAMEWORKS ON RESTORATIVE ENVIRONMENTS

The discussion of the literature will aim to argue that there is a growing need to understand restoration and restorative environments in the hopes of effectively reforming the "hard" prison environment through restorative architecture towards the holistic reform of female offenders. This section will discuss the existing frameworks surrounding restoration processes and the definition of restorative environments. It will also focus on establishing a link between restorative environments & the physio social reformation of female offenders. Key writers that will be explore through this part of the literature include Coyle 2001, Hartig 2004, Tolstrub, 2002, Ulrich's 1983.

EXPLORING THE NEEDS OF FEMALE OFFENDERS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Thereafter, the discussion will focus on the "who" and "why" by exploring the experiences of the female offender within the current prison environment. This section will discuss the existing frameworks on the role of prison architecture as a form of punishment, both then and now. The review will then focus on introducing the female offender within the prison environment and explore the need to design gender sensitive prison environments for female offenders that cater beyond "punishment". This part of the literature will also focus on identifying the needs and perceptions of the female offenders and evaluating how the current prison environments have responded to these needs. Key writers that will be explored through this part of the literature include Carlen (2002), Covington (2004) Dissel (2002), Johnston (2000), Morris & Rothman (1995) Muntingh (2001), Van Zyl Smit (1992) and Werner (2012).

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┌─────────────────────────────────┐
│ PROCESS: RESTORATION            │
│                                 │
│     o  Existing framework       │
│     o  Restorative processes    │
│     o  Restorative environments │
│                                 │
└─────────────────────────────────┘
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2.

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┌─────────────────────────────────┐
│ USER: FEMALE OFFENDER           │
│                                 │
│     o  Existing framework       │
│     o  Female incarceration in  │
│        South Africa             │
│     o  specific needs &         │
│        perceptions              │
└─────────────────────────────────┘
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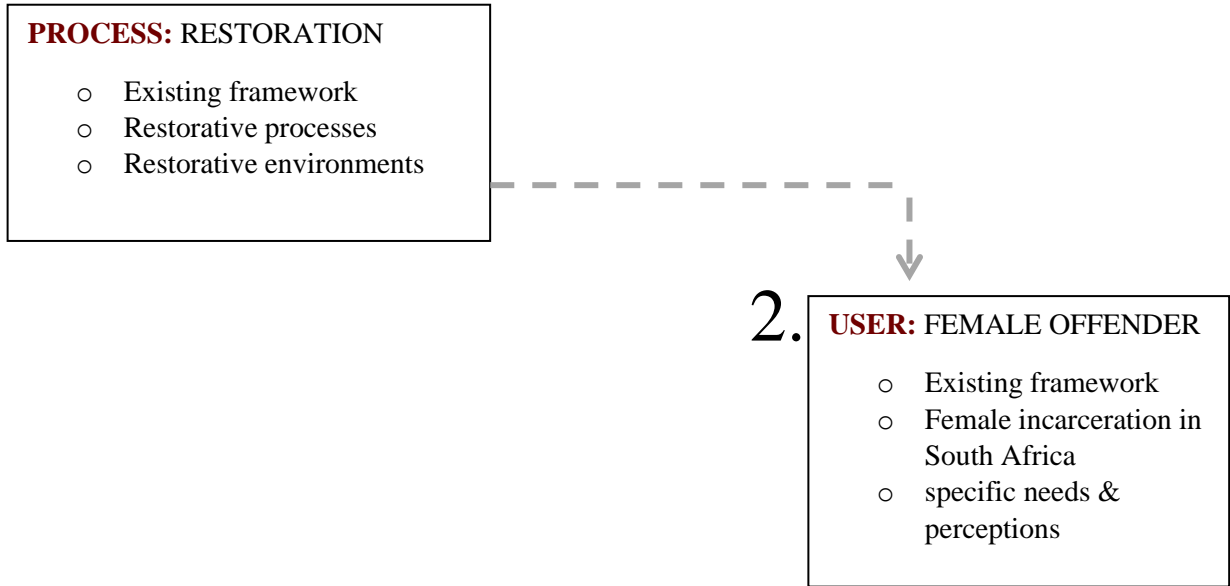
Figure 2.1. Diagrammatic breakdown of chapter 2 (source: author)

2.2 REVIEWING THE EXISTING FRAMEWORKS ON RESTORATIVE ENVIRONMENTS

The growing need for restorative environment frameworks to specify some condition from which a person needs to be reformed will be argued in this section. Whether this is physical, social, and physiological or a combination of these, should be considered when designing restorative environments that will aim to promote the physio social reform of an individual.

In order for one to get a holistic understanding of how the process of restorative environments can potentially contribute towards the physio social reform of female offenders, one needs to first understand its existing definitions and framework.

According to T. Hartig, (2007), the process of restoration can be defined as 'the renewing of physical, psychological and social capabilities that have become diminished. Restoration is generally identified and utilised as an umbrella term under the field of environmental psychology with reference to an experience of psychological and physiological recovery processes, as triggered by an environment (Steg, Van den Berg, & De Groot, 2012).

The term restorative environment refers to environments that foster the successful process holistic of "restoration" whilst minimising biological and psychological events that effect the well-being of an individual (Steg, Van den Berg, & De Groot, 2012).

When theoretically looking at the process of restoration through restorative environments, three aspects need to be considered (Hartig, 2004):

1. The conditions from which a person becomes restored: According to Hartig (2004) restoration cannot be achieved unless there is an existing possibility for such restoration. Thus, before an individual can achieve restoration, they must have some diminished capability of the necessary physical, social and psychological resources needed to function optimally.

2. The process of resource restoration: This concept was initially explored and brought forward by Rachel and Stephen Kaplan in 1989. As mentioned before, "restoration" represents a set of processes involving the renewing of resources, whether physical, psychological and social that have become diminished after undergoing efforts to meet a certain environment's adaptive demands.

3. The character of the environment which promotes the process of restoration: All the activities that take place during the restoration process should be entirely dependent on its environment and context (Hartig, 2004). Environments that tend to promote, rather than just permit wellbeing through physical, social, psychological and spatial interactions, are regarded as "restorative" environments.

Based on the above 3 points, it becomes evident that the framework surrounding restorative design aims its processes mostly towards the contexts of an individual's holistic wellbeing and health. These processes are intended to mitigate the repressiveness and stress of the user's experiences (Steg, Van den Berg, & De Groot, 2012). Kaplan and Kaplan (1989), supports this by stating that an environment contains certain characteristics that assist in renewing depleted mental resources which as a result allows for affective restoration to occur

Despite there being various works of literature within the field of Environmental Psychology to describe restorative process in relation to People-Environment relationships, the necessity to explore beyond the two guiding theories put forth by Stephen and Rachel Kaplan's (1989) Attention Restoration Theory and Roger Ulrich's (1983, 1984) psycho-physiological Stress Recovery Theory, still persists.

With the aim of expanding on the existing frameworks, this dissertation will explore 3 key principles within the field of Restorative Environments research:

STRESS AND COPING: According to the Attention Restoration Theory model set forth by Kaplan and Kaplan (1989), stress is triggered by 2 factors: (1) possibility of harm and (2)

depleted attention and psychological adaptability (Kaplan, 1995). Alternatively, stress can be simply defined as prolonged stimulus overload, uncertainty, and lack of predictability. Ulrich (1983) is currently the protagonist in understanding and disseminating this definition of 'stress' - particularly in institutional environments such as hospitals, prisons and asylums. Restorative environment should hence avoid triggering stressors through the design of legible, coherent environments, which avoid stimulus overload and offer a sense of sanctuary (Ulrich, 1983); (Kaplan and Kaplan, 1989 and Kaplan, 1995).

ATTENTION AND FATIGUE: According to Kaplan and Kaplan (1989), there are two main types of stimuli in an environment: stimuli which involuntarily claim human notice, and stimuli to which people must cogently and voluntarily direct their attention to.

Excessive use of this directed attention is seen as either a cause of stress (as per the ART model), or something which exacerbates stress (as per the SRT model). Restoring one's capacity to willingly direct their attention is a key factor in maintaining human effectiveness and psychological poise (Kaplan and Kaplan; 1989). And so, a restorative environment should encourage involuntary attention and soft fascination (a soothing enthrallment with elements of the environment), in order to allow for recuperation from directed attention fatigue (Kaplan and Kaplan, 1989 and Kaplan, 1995).

COMPATIBILITY AND PREFERENCE: According to Korpela, Hartig and Kytta (2002), people tend to actively look for places where they feel self-reliant and capable. Research studies by Kaplan and Kaplan (1989) have similarly highlighted that preference for an environment requires that the environment has: (1) complexity: where the environment contains enough variety to make it worth learning about; and (2) refuge and mystery: the prospect of acquiring more information within a secure environment. Consequently, a restorative environment should balance complexity, with refuge and mystery (Kaplan and Kaplan, 1989) in order to establish positive spatial experiences.

However, the application of these 3 key principles to prisons remains largely unexplored in the literature. Even the terms "restoration" and "imprisonment" still seem somehow discordant. Several authors argue that it is a delusion to picture such a thing as a restorative prison (Coyle 2001b:7). Nevertheless, Coyle, in his paper 'Restorative Justice in the Prison Setting' (2001b:8) states that, 'in the interests of prisoners, prison staff and of civil society one has to set one's ambitions higher than that'. As such, for there to be any change amongst the prevailing negative

perspectives surrounding prison culture and offender reform, transforming the punitive prison environment into a restorative environment becomes crucial. It can then be argued that elements of restorative environments design should be introduced and implemented, as a response to the alienating the stress and corrosion of the female offender's psyche and wellbeing, currently characterized by prison environments.

"If each prison can be a problem-solving prison, within a restorative and therapeutic environment, then we may just be on the road to successful offender rehabilitation."

Brian Steels (2008: 212)

2.3 EXPLORING THE NEEDS OF FEMALE OFFENDERS IN SOUTH AFRICA

For the purpose of this research, the process of restoration will be associated with female offenders within the prison environment, on the basis that these individuals require physio social restoration during and after the event of incarceration. Unfortunately, prison design has always been regarded as a controversial topic in the field of architecture. Research on the prison typology reveals that prisons are the epitome of hard architecture, by forcing isolation and high levels of surveillance (Sanyal, 2014). This "hard" design approach is used to hypothetically achieve behavioural reform through deterrence and fear but does not consider the need for post punishment reform.

In South African prisons these claims are no different. Since the end of Apartheid, although significant reform of the incarceration system have been put in place, the countries crime rate only seems to increase. Currently South Africa has an alarming imprisonment rate of 340 per 100 000 of the population followed by recidivism rates of as high as 90%, making it one of the highest in the world (Muntingh, 2001; 41, Karrim, 2018).

Margaret Tabaka, 1964
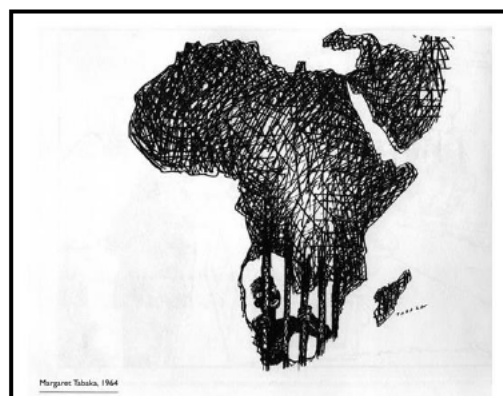
Figure 2.2. Political cartoon - expressing incarceration in South Africa during apartheid

(M. Tabaka, 1964)

Over the decades, despite the government's attempts to improve the country's prisons environment it has remained an instrument of retaliatory punishment rather than an instrument of rehabilitation (Dissel, 2002; Muntingh, 2001; Singh, 2005). Whilst there has been a drastic transition in South Africa's political context towards democratic governance in South Africa, there are still many vulnerable groups of people in our society who are not yet reaping the benefits of our Bill of Rights – in this case – female offenders within South African prison environments.

As discussed, these current "hard" prison environments are failing to meet the needs of the prisoners within it. According to Foucault (1975) these past disciplinary systems diminished individuality and freedom whilst inhibiting offender socio physio reformation. It is hoped that an inmate's experiences whilst in prison will leave such a lasting impression that an ex offender will do whatever it takes to avoid ending back in prison.

Unfortunately, there is extensive evidence in recidivism rates showing that spending time in prison simply being punished, does not successfully reform most offenders, and most of them return to a life of crime almost immediately after release. Globally, as a result of this failure, there was been a growing interest in introducing a more humanistic approach by establishing the need to connect restorative environments to the design of holistic prison environments.

Sechrest and Price (1985) suggest that the prison environment, user needs, security and offender restoration should be considered when planning for the design of a correctional facility. Unlike earlier models, new generation prison designs were conceptualized on normalization of environment, openness, and reform and prisoner responsibility (Tolstrub, 2002).

This new approach also challenged the notions of "hard architecture" vs "soft architecture", "isolation vs interaction" and "control vs freedom of movement" (Gettinger, 1984). This new line of thinking encouraged wardens to have continuous contact with inmates to positively guide their behaviour. This eliminated social barriers between staff and offenders, creating better relationships, and peace co-existence of both.

Since the introduction of these new generation prisons in Norway, Scandinavia and other European countries, the recidivism rates in these places have significantly decreased to approximately 20% making them some of the lowest in the world (Coyne, 2015). As a result of the success of this merging typology, it becomes evident that in order for there to be holistic

reform of offenders in prisons there needs to be a consideration of the restorative processes required for holistic reform, and the incorporation of restorative environments.

However, as mentioned previously, female offenders remain a minority in the criminal justice system. Various authors (Bloom, Owen, & Covington, 2003, 2004) admit that the current reform and reintegration methods for female offenders, which are based on the male model for reform, fails to respond to women's needs. In penal and criminal literature, the recent awakening interest in female offenders is due to the growing concern of prison institutions not catering specifically for this group.

Sadly, the literature reflects minimal focus on female related problems surrounding incarceration (Brodsky, 1974; Carlen; 1990, Heidensohn; 1996). The general assumption that justifies the neglect of female offenders is that men commit more crimes than woman. (Boom & Covington; 1998,). The lack of knowledge and concern surrounding gender specific needs has left many questioning the validity of prisons in responding to the needs and rehabilitation of female offenders.

PRISON POPULATION 162 875	
Female Offenders	**Male Offenders**
2.6%	98.4%
4234	158 641
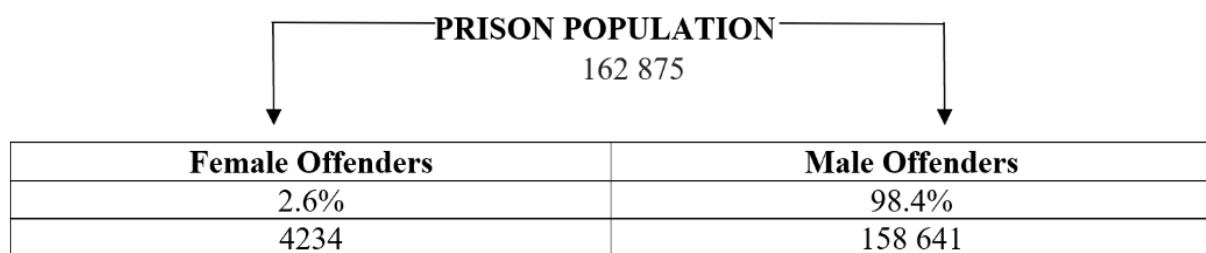
Figure 2.3. Table showing ratio between male and female incarceration in South Africa (DCS, 2019. adapted by author)

Belknap (2007) supports the argument that prison environments that were designed for males fail to meet the needs of their female counterparts. Female criminology rapidly established that this was rooted in the fact that equality for female offenders does not necessarily mean that women require the same treatment as men (Bloom, Owen, & Covington; 2003, 2004). After all, women are different from men in many aspects - including the ways in which they use and perceive space.

According to Hopkins, (2017) and Luyte (2010) one of the major needs that current prison environments fail to respond to is the specific health provisions for mental illness among female inmates in South Africa. Overcrowding in prison environments also forms the root of many

problems in South African prison such as poor living conditions, inadequate facilities and inmate hostility.

Prisons tend to not provide gender appropriate rehabilitation services for females such as victim counselling for sexual abuse, lack of reproductive and mental health services (Meek, 2013). The need to provide these facilities for female offenders is important, as shown by studies which highlight that many of the females that enter prison have been victims of either abuse or trauma (Hopkins, 2017).

Although female offenders are likely to suffer from similar problems to their male counterparts after release, they are more likely to be discriminated and stigmatized by their families and communities. Current prison environments haven't done much to change this, as prison environments continue to be isolated and uninviting, and do not engage with surrounding communities.

Female prisoners also deal with the concern of inmate pregnancy and family responsibility. The impact of imprisonment can be extremely severe if the female offender is the primary caretaker of the children. The fear of family separation is something that current prison environments have failed to solve. This is due to prison facilities being long distance from city centres or places of accessibility. The special provisions for mothers in prison has also been neglected as most prisons don't provide child safe environments.

Female prison facilities need to be able to cater for these groups of females as a means of providing healthy restorative environments that respond directly to female inmates. Research in this niche becomes essential in the hopes of reducing female recidivism rates whilst improving offender's overall wellbeing and quality of life (Sorbello, Eccleston, Ward 2002).

A revision of female-specific needs and wellbeing involved with the enhancement of current prison models therefore needs to be outlined, including issues of physical and sexual abuse, mental health, children and families, education, basic skills and substance abuse.

Although much research exists on the concept of wellbeing, and subsequently environments that promote wellbeing, very little connection has been drawn between these concepts and the needs of female offenders. However, in order to understand the needs of a specific user, it is worthwhile to first understand the common hierarchy of needs that all users need to have met in order to achieve a state of wellbeing.

The holistic well- being of an individual is defined by Day (2002) as "a state of renewal, development and balance in relation to the world". This consists of the basic balance of human needs such as water, air and safety within their physical environment (Maslow, 1962).

Within modern society there is a hierarchy of greater human needs that goes beyond the basic needs of shelter, food and security extending to more complex psychological and social needs were individuals seek a sense of belonging, self- esteem and self-actualization.

According to Keeling, Clements-Croome, Luck and Pointer (2012), architecture should facilitate beyond concepts of dwelling and promote positive environments that actively contribute to the user's psychological well-being. Hence the built environment needs to be redefined in order to respond to the complexity and hierarchy of mankind's contemporary needs. (Maslow 1954).

Figure 2.4. Maslow's Hierarchy of needs. (source: Wilson, 1984: 163)

It is evident that various individuals have differing needs that the built environment needs to respond to. As a result of this, any characteristics of positive environmental psychology developed need to be optimized to directly relate to the experiences and perceptions of the particular users (Keeling, Clements-Croome, Luck, & Pointer, 2012).

In the specific case of the female offender; the prison environment requires reconsideration in order for it to respond to the inmate's gender specific needs that goes beyond their basic physical needs (McLeod, 2007). The need to understand and identify the needs and perceptions of women becomes essential in designing restorative environments that specifically promote reform for them.

The following table consists of a summary of the literature brought forward by various authors such as (Covington, 2004 Brodsky 1974; Carlen 1990; Heidensohn; 1996) on the gender specific needs of female offenders within the prison environment, relating them to Maslow's Hierarchy of needs. This will assist in understand what needs the built environment would have to address in order to promote restoration and ultimately reform beyond punishment.

Physiological needs	**The need:** Basic elements for survival – food, water, sleep, air **How prison environments affect the need:** Harsh overcrowded prison environment restricts providing of basic needs
Safety needs	**The need:** to feel safe & secure – physical & psychological security **How prison environments affect the need:** prison environment eliminates all perceived securities – feeling helpless & vulnerable
Social needs	**The need:** belonging, healthy interaction – attachments & social groups **How prison environments affect the need:** Social stigma surrounding imprisonment stresses relationships between inmate, family and friends.
Self-esteem needs	**The need:** to have good self-image & sense of accomplishment **How prison environments affect the need:** An inmate's self – worth & utility diminishes – feelings of shame and being a burden
Cognitive & aesthetic	**The need:** elements of distraction & soft fascination to promote restoration **How prison environments affect the need:** Inmates in harsh prison environments experience impaired cognitive abilities & psychological stress & fatigue
Self-actualization	**The need:** to be self – aware & to fulfil our full potential **How prison environments affect the need:** Imprisonment diminishes inmates' capabilities of self-sufficiency, derails their life & changes their life vision

Figure 2.5. Relation between Maslow's Hierarchy of needs to the gender specific needs of female offender within the prison environment. (author)

"The special problems of the delinquent woman have at all times been neglected – or glossed over by sentiments and unreliable male intuition."

Ann Smith 1965: 32

Based on the discussions in this chapter, one could argue that gender responsive architecture for prisons should focus on establishing appropriate and restorative environments through careful site selection, staff selection, program development content, and materials which reflect an understanding of the female needs and perceptions, thus addressing the issues in the most effective way.

"Much more remains to be done to identify and address the pathways to women's incarceration; to establish better, safer and more gender-sensitive conditions for women prisoners; to ameliorate the negative consequences of women's imprisonment."

R. Manjoo, (2014)

Furthermore, if women in the system are to change, grow, and recover, they must be involved in programs and environments that encourage relationships, restoration and mutuality - both with staff and with one another (Covington, 2004).

According to Bloom and Covington (2000, 11), for there to be a successful journey towards rehabilitation and reform, it is essential that woman surrounded by restorative culture and environments that make them feel safe and secure. Haigh (1999) suggest that these environments consist of five elements:

1. Attachment: culture of belonging
2. Containment: culture of safety
3. Communication: culture of openness
4. Involvement: culture of participation and citizenship
5. Agency: culture of empowerment

Unfortunately, although the current correctional centres claim to function differently from models of the past, focusing more on reform and catering beyond punishment, most architectural design of these facilities have not changed with the change in program.

PRISON ENVIRONMENT
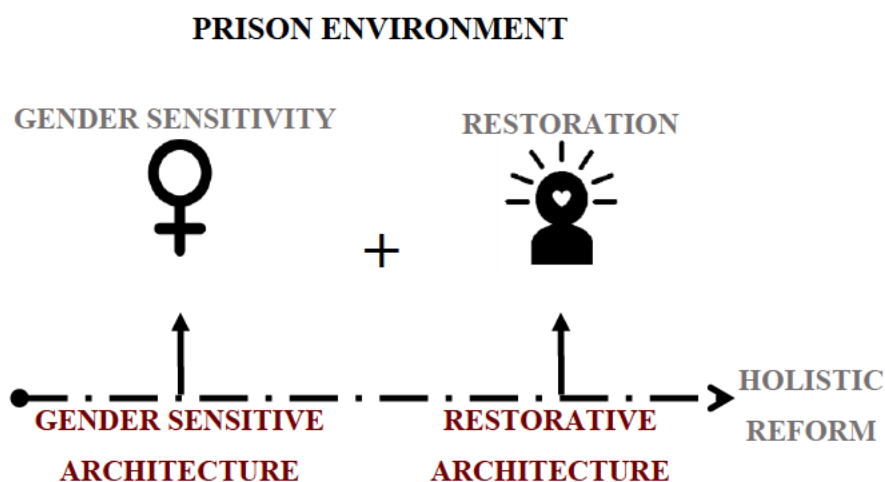
Figure 2.6. Proposed way forward: Linking gender sensitivity and restoration to prison environments (author)

2.4 Conclusion

Architecture has an influence on the human mind and the behaviour of offenders; thus, it is important that the behavioural consequences of design approaches be deeply analysed when designing prison environments. Prison architecture should aim to become restorative places that base their design on promoting humane environments which support high quality care spaces for inmates to strive towards holistic reform (Fraser, Gatherer, Hayton, 2009). It can be argued that humanised restorative environments which allow for various forms of self-expression will influence and provide inmates with a positive attitude towards personal rehabilitation. Similarly, the basis of the design of various new generation prisons relies on the prisoner's interactions with the surrounding environment- nature, people, and objects. However, the design of effective restorative environments which support behavioural change in female offenders and ensure effective rehabilitation, remains largely unexplored. This then becomes the niche which this research will aim to explore in the chapters to follow.
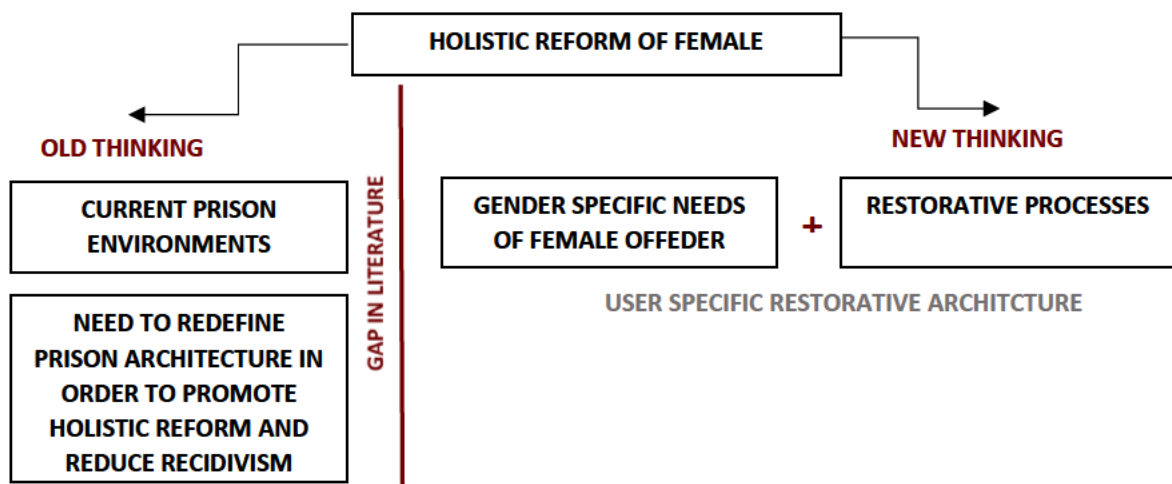
Figure 2.7. Graphic Summary of literature & Gaps driving the research

Source: (author)

CHAPTER 3

Theoretical Perspective

REDEFINDING RESTORATIVE PROCCESES WITHIN PRISON ARCHITECTURE

3.1 Introduction

Based on the review of literature in the previous chapter, it has become evident that in order for there to be holistic reform of female offenders, prison environments need to evolve beyond punishment and "hard" architecture and generate truly 'lived' experiences of restorative environments. Furthermore, there is a need to incorporate gender sensitive environments into prison designs that effectively respond to the gender specific needs of female offenders. Subsequently, this chapter aims to establish a link between behaviourism and the successful physio social reform of female offenders, by exploring the users gender sensitive needs and, and using restoration as an environmental response to meet these needs.
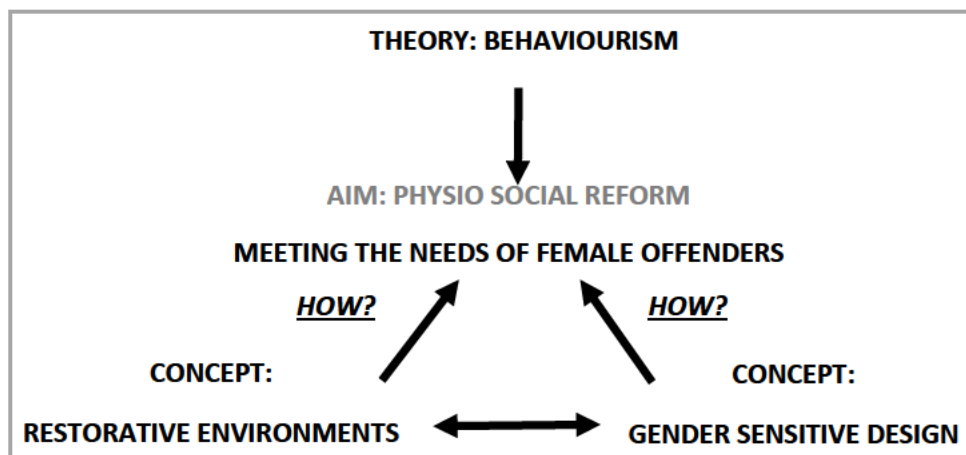
Figure 3.1. Graphical Summary of Proposed Theoretical Analysis (author)

This chapter also focuses on how to connect the needs of female offenders to a redefinition of "restorative environments" for prison architecture, in order to create a behaviourism which promotes the holistic physio social reform of female offenders. This will be achieved by exploring Maslow's hierarchy of needs and connecting them to the gender specific needs of female offenders, and determining how architecture could promote restorative environments that actively contribute to the user's psychological reform.

Key writers that will be explored through this chapter include Norberg Schulz;1965, Pallasmaa; 2005; Kaplan and Kaplan; 1989; Rapoport; 1995 Zhao; 2016) Charehjoo; 2018, Ulrich; 2002, Skinner; 1971, Watson, 1913 and Maslow: 1962).

3.2 REDEFINING BEHAVIOURISM TO MEET THE NEEDS AND PERCEPTIONS OF FEMALE OFFENDERS

"It is a truism to say that the environment influences us and determines our 'mood'. That architecture is a part of our environment is just as evident. If we take this point of departure, architecture has not only an instrumental purpose, but also has a psychological function."
-Norberg-Schulz (1965: 22)

As previously discussed, the architectural design of spaces has a direct psychological impact on an individual's daily experiences with their surroundings, affecting welling and behaviours. According to Zhao (2016) humans spend approximately 80 – 90% of their day interacting with the built environment. Therefore, in order to understand the psychological and subconscious impact of architecture, one needs to also explore the co-dependent relationship between people and their surrounding environment. (Nesbitt, 1996: 412-414).

According to Resnick & Chi, (1992: 80), by understanding these relationships, and enhancing the physio social and physical aspects of an environment, architecture can promote positive learning, experience and behaviour.

Similarly, in environmental psychology, researchers explore the interrelationship that exists between an individual's human psyche and their physical environment and seeks to understand how and why our environment influences and affects us (Proshansky et al 1970; Holahan, 1982, Charehjoo, 2018). According to Ruoxi (2016) environmental psychology is a concept that reinforces the human response in relation to a particular context. Ruoxi (2016) suggests that when spaces are designed with environmental psychology in mind, they have the potential to evoke certain behaviour from the user, as expressed in the diagram below.
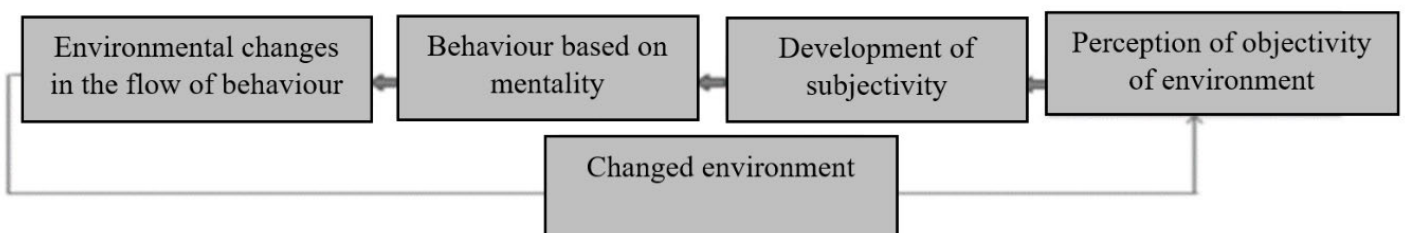
Figure 3.2. Diagrammatic process of relationship between man and environment

One of the main questions that lies within the heart of environmental psychology is: *how* do certain environments affect us? (Spencer & Gee, 2009). Within the field of Environmental psychology there are various revolutionary authors such as Norberg Schulz (1965), Pallasmaa (2005), Holman and Stokol (1994), Kaplan and Kaplan (1989) and Rapoport (1995) who have presented a theoretical framework emphasising the need to understand the user's perception of an environment in order to effectively design positive architectural experiences for them. After all, the environment, whether it be natural or built, has a tremendous influence on feelings, behaviours, general well- being, and productivity.

Figure 3.3. Illustration shows positive Environmental psychology's effect on positive human behaviour. (G. Vural, 2016)

According to Ruoxi, (2016), different buildings can generate different psychological feelings for an individual. Ulrich (2002), asserts that positive environmental psychology consists of contact with nature, promoting psychological well-being and physical health. Joye (2007), similarly argues that particular features and attributes of nature have proven to have positive effects on human functioning, behaviour and can reduce stress caused by modern built environments that surround us. According to Spencer & Gee (2009), ideal environments where an individual's positive behaviour and functioning thrives are characterized by four factors:

1. **Unity**: the idea that objects/ features function in an environment work coherently.
2. **Legibility**: the idea of easy navigation and accessibility through space
3. **Complexity:** allowance for diversity in an environment, making it worth learning about.
4. **Mystery**: the idea of being able to acquire more information about an environment

Unity   **Legibility**   **Complexity**   **Mystery**
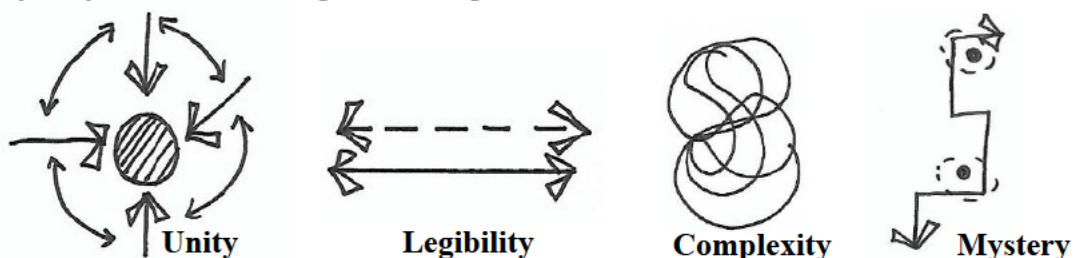
Figure 3.4. Design factors that influence human behaviour. (author)

In architecture, designing interactive and positively engaging environments that incorporate these four factors can improve an individual's relationship with the world around them as well us positively influencing human behaviour (Canter, 1970). This would require the consideration and incorporation of natural lightm and ventilation, textures and materials, colours, vegetation and interaction with natural environment. These factors compose the common attributes to human welling and behaviourism (Pallasmaa; 2005).

The theory of behaviourism falls under the field of environmental psychology, and was formally introduced by John B. Watson in 1913. Behaviourism theorists define this theory as the acquisition of new behaviour through conditioning based on environmental features. (Hull, 1943). Behaviourism focuses on context, arguing that both the context of place and context of person (experiences, views, attitudes, and dispositions) are essential in determining behaviour, and how environments influence these behaviours.

Behaviourism is a learning theory based on the concept that all behaviours are acquired through conditioning (Mills, 2000; Watson, 1913). Thus, it explores human learning – individual experience within the daily environment, with the aim of understanding the effects of the physical environment on human behaviour (Watson, 1913).

According to Watson (1913) conditioning occurs as a result of an individual's interaction with the environment. He argues that that our responses to environmental stimuli shape our actions in behaviourism there are various forms of conditioning.

These consist of:

1. **Operant conditioning:** Operant conditioning, which is also known as instrumental conditioning, explores the methods of learning through reinforcement and punishment. This type of conditioning occurs when an association is made between a behaviour and a repercussion for that behaviour (Skinner, 1971). Skinner argues that when a desired result follows an action, the behaviour becomes more likely to occur again in the future. Contrarily, when an unpleasant result occurs, the behaviour leading to that result is less likely to be repeated. This is arguably the form of conditioning which current prison models have adopted. The previous chapters have argued that this strategy lacks long term efficiency, as seen by the statistics relating to recidivism rates.
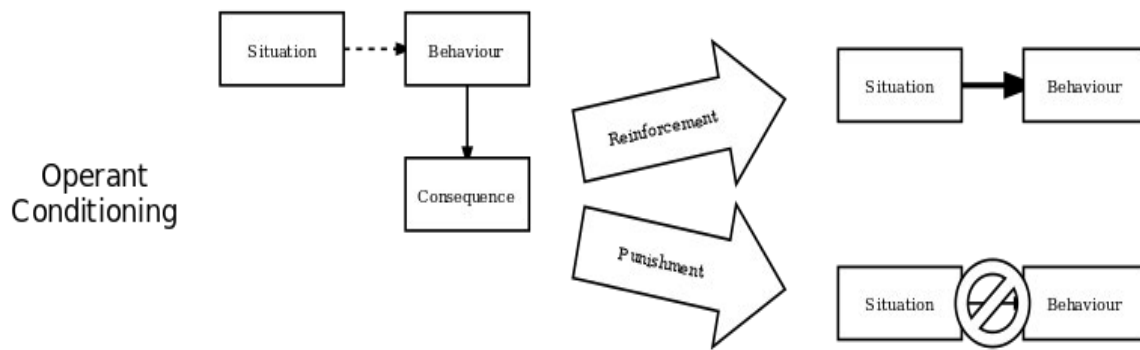
Figure 3.5. Illustrating Operant conditioning. (source:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Classical_vs_operant_conditioning.svg)

2. **Classical conditioning:** Classical conditioning, which is also known as learning through associations, is typically used in behavioural training and works by developing an association between a neutral environmental stimulus and a naturally occurring stimulus. Eventually the neutral stimulus becomes influenced to behave or respond in the same way as the naturally occurring stimulus, simply through association (Skinner, 1971). This dissertation argues that this form of "passive" conditioning could be incorporated into restorative environments by encouraging positive behaviour and promoting holistic physio social reform.
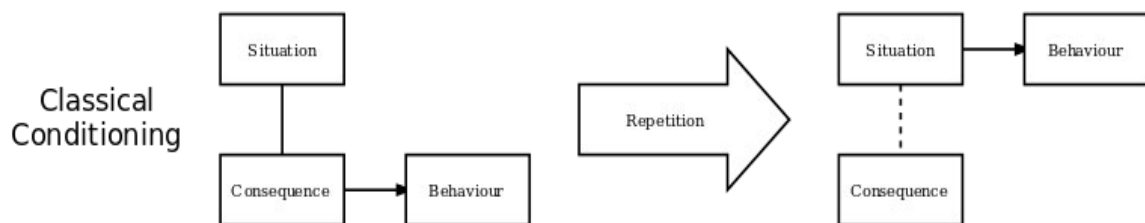
Figure 3.6. Illustrating Classical conditioning. (source:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Classical_vs_operant_conditioning.svg

According to Watson and Skinner (1971), these approaches of conditioning often become essential in altering negative behaviours whilst encouraging positive actions. In the field of architecture, this is no different, as certain environmental attributes in spaces provide cues for human behaviours (Skinner, 1971). This is further supported by several authors who argue that architecture consists of manipulations of space, light, proportion, texture, and material in order to effectively meet the psychological needs of its user (Zhao, 2016).

Pallasmaa (2005) further explores the idea that connecting the body and mind to a space, gives architecture the power to evoke and establish associations through memory and imagination (Pallasmaa, 2005). The experience of understanding these experiences through the senses of sounds, sights, smells and tastes, as well as the haptic sense/touch, is essentially what is known as perception (Hesselgren, 1975). It can then be inferred that architecture has less to do with the aesthetic of a building, but more with how it interacts with all of our senses, and stimulates a lived experience. According to the psychologist James J. Gibson, the 5 sensory systems can be categorized as 5 perceptual systems (Gibson, 1966), as shown in the below.
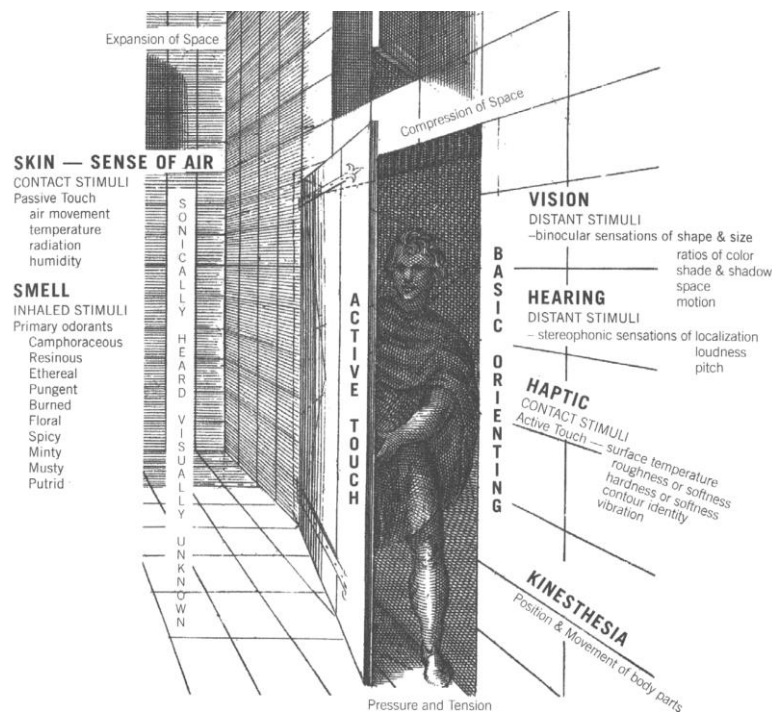
Figure 3.7 Range of senses. (Malnar and Vodvarka., 2004: 151)

Peter Zumthor (2006) proposes that experiences be created through the harmonious composition of light, form and space, as well as materials and structure. This research argues that this then allows for a form of classical conditioning to take place - where the body and mind subconsciously learns and experiences its environment. The senses of sight, sound, smell, elements of aesthetic qualities, privacy, and control are also said to influence the psychological wellbeing of a person through the physiological systems of the human body (Zumthor, 2006). However, the ability to create these experiences are rarely used to respond to the needs of offenders, and even less so to the needs of female offenders. This chapter will hence aim to connect the needs of female offenders, to a proposed restorative environmental response that connects with all the senses, in order to evoke classical conditioning.

Wilson (1984) described the built environment as a physical response to meet the needs of individuals. Wilsons's (1984) description challenged previous definitions of the built environment brought forward by Heidegger, Merleau-Ponty and Bachelard, who merely described dwelling as the basic principle of human existence (Pearson & Richards, 1994).

As discussed previously the need to understand and acknowledge the gender specific needs of female offenders becomes essential in designing restorative environments that specifically cater for their holistic reform and well- being. The integration of these gender specific needs into a reformation framework conceptually based on restorative processes and environments as means of redefining restorative environment within the current prison model is proposed.
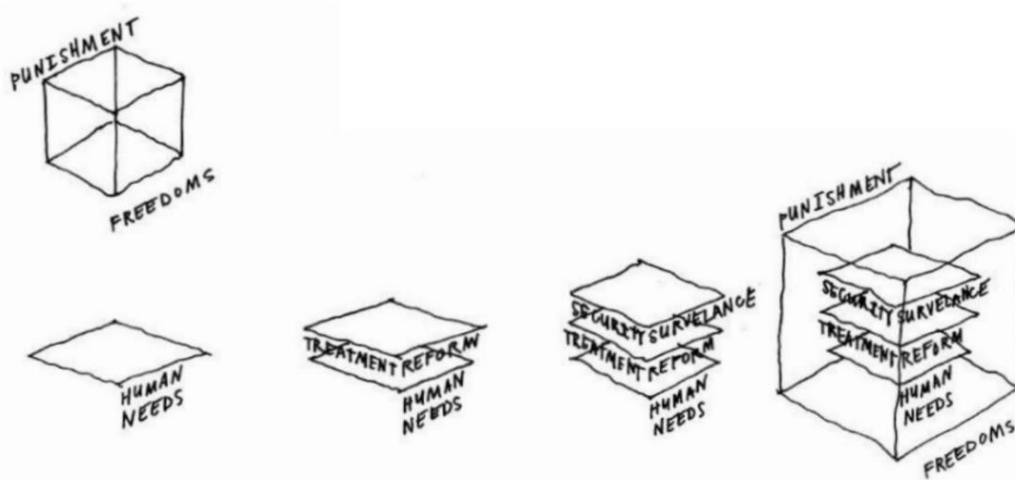
Figure 3.8. Redefining restorative prison environments (source: Emily Lodato, 2015:4)

As explained in Chapter 02, female offenders have additional gender specific needs that differ from those of male offenders. These needs go above and beyond those outlined in Maslow's typical hierarchy of needs and need to be incorporated into environments catering for the reform of female offenders Covington (2000).

These include the following gender and user specific needs:

Maternal conditions:

One of the major gender specific needs of female offenders that differentiates them from male offenders is motherhood, prison pregnancies and family relationships (Bloom, Owen, & Covington, 2004). According to Barlow (2014), when a man gets arrested, he comes to prison as a breadwinner, the primary financial provider for the family and suffers mostly from about the inability to provide for his family.

However, when a woman gets arrested, she comes in as a mother and suffers mostly form separation from her family (Barlow, 2014; Carlen & Worrall, 1990). The parental imprisonment of female offenders causes extensive effect on the individual which range from complex health and social issues (Epstein, 2014). Parental incarceration also has extensive long-term detrimental effects for the children also known as "the unintended victim" (Murray et al., 2012). Thus, to avoid this, prison environments should cater for the needs and behaviourism of incarcerated mothers, allowing them to keep a relationship with their children and not suffer complete isolation from them (Goshin, 2010).

In the late 1960's, the establishment of Mother and baby units, also known as MBUs, formally acknowledged that the best place for a child to be is with its mother. In South Africa the Correctional Services Act No. 111 of 1998, allows female offenders to live with their children until they are 2years old (DCS, 2008). Spaces that cater for the needs, perceptions and behaviourism of these mothers and children need to be incorporated in prison designs. These spaces could consist of playrooms, breastfeeding rooms and general childcare spaces which create a welcoming environment for children whilst they are visiting their mothers (Barlow, 2014).

Healthcare conditions:

Females and males have different psychological and physiological needs when it comes to healthcare (Dolan, Wirtz , Moazen , Galvani, 2016). Typically, female inmates require more specific health needs and conditions than male prisoners. According to Anderson (2006) and Barlow (2014) females tend to have higher chances of having a chronic illness than the male population. Incarcerated women also tend to face significantly higher rates of mental health issues as compared to woman in the general population. This needs to be taken into consideration when designing environments that promote classical conditioning for the reform of female offenders.

James et al. (2007) argues that 73% of female offenders show symptoms of mental illness as compared to the 53% of male offenders. James et al. (2007) adds that generally females manifest various types of mood disorders – depression & anxiety instead of personality disorders. This implies that women are more responsive to their surroundings (Voohris et al, 2010). Most prison facilities fail to acknowledge these healthcare needs for female inmates as most of them are inadequately staffed and lack faculties for the treatment of patients.

Other major needs with regards to specific female offender healthcare is the treatment to abuse and trauma in prison environments. Research shows that woman have a higher background rates of abuse and trauma than men (Holtfreter et al, 2004).

Because a female offenders' wellbeing is highly dependent on the conditions of her surroundings, prison environments should reflect a nurturing and restorative characteristic in the hopes of improving their general reform whilst in the prison facility (Bloom et al, 2003; Holtfreter et al, 2004).

Contextual Conditions:

As mentioned before, one of the main concerns of a female offender once in prison is the feeling of separation from her family. The contextual location of a prison facility becomes extremely critical with regards to facilitating integration between the offender and their family (Covington, 2004).

Generally, prison facilities are sited in locations far out of city centres (Johnston 2000; Werner 2012). This results in families having to travel long distances from home to visit incarcerated female offenders, ultimately reducing the number of visits. This again places negative effects on the wellbeing, behaviourism and subsequently the reform of the inmate, as family ties are among the best ways to reduce recidivism (Pollock-Byrne, 1990 & Foster, 2014).

Social conditions:

Generally, when a woman gets arrested for committing a crime there is a greater family stigma that follows them. Simply being aware of and perceiving stigma from a family member effectively reduces the psychological and social functioning of an individual (Link, 1987). Research regarding the effects of incarceration show that stigmatized female offenders are more likely to suffer from depression, poor social abilities, low self-esteem and negative coping mechanisms (Perlick et al., 2007; Kleim et al., 2008).

During and after incarceration, female offenders suffer the consequences of incarceration by experiencing social degradation and a sense of neglect by both the community and her family (Carlen, 2002). Prison environments should ensure community and family participation in the reform and reintegration of female inmates by providing spaces for interaction, social development and self-reflection.

Occupation & educational conditions:

According to D Van Zyl Smit and F Dünkel (2001) productive work is essential to a person's sense of self-worth and has been proven to contribute to general physical and mental health. Providing inmates with occupational and educational training during their incarceration provides them with emotional stability (Van Zyl Smit, 2001). Research also shows that by providing literacy, adult basic education, post-compulsory schooling, vocational education and training in prison environments there has been a reduction in recidivism of 16% to 62% (Withers, 1984).

Currently most female prison environments do not have enough spaces that facilitate the need or demand for vocational and educational program opportunities. Many facilities only provide generic "sexist" skills such as cooking, cleaning and bead-making. Most of the female offenders do not participate in these programs as they don't find it important to learn these skills. As a result of this negative behaviourism, once the females are released, the collateral consequences of incarceration make finding work, housing, and financial support even more difficult.

For prison environments to successfully respond to the vocational needs of females in prison there needs to be a focus on the development of vocational skills which go beyond the generic domestic training. These skills should then become an advantage to female offenders once they are released. Architectural facilities such as workshops, computer laps, lecture rooms and libraries should be incorporated in the prison design. Reisig, and Morash (2004), Reisig, Holtfreter, and Morash (2002), and Salisbury and Van Voorhis (2009) all conclude that improving the social and economic state of female offenders improves their chances of desisting from criminal behaviour.

Based on the above analysis, it is clear that responding to the needs and perceptions of female offenders within prison environments, is essential in promoting positive conditioning, and ultimately promoting both wellbeing and holistic reform.

With this in mind, the next section of this chapter will aim to redefine reform as a stepped process, where the environment (and in the case of this research, restorative environments) can promote holistic physio social reform of female offenders as a restorative conditioning experience.

3.3 REDEFINING REFORM AS A 3 STEP RESTORATIVE PROCESS SUPPORTED BY THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The previous section (3.2) has explored the maternal, health, contextual, social, occupation and educational needs of female offenders.

This analysis has suggested that reform could be redefined as a process which follows 3 main phases – the stage of punishment and consequence for their actions, coming to terms with how and why they have wronged, and ultimately aiming to repent and make amends for those actions, in the hope of reintegrating into society. Arguable, a holistic restorative environment which aims to reform offenders should aim to facilitate all of these stages, in an iclusive gender sensitive manner.

The research has highlighted that there is a gap in the current literature with regards to the fact that most South African prison environments are based on operant conditioning and only focus on punishment for crimes committed, and not post punishment reform. Furthermore, based on the previous review of the literature regarding current prison environments, and the evaluation of the gender specific needs of female offenders, it becomes clear that there is an immediate need to incorporate aspects of restorative environments into prison designs in order to promote restoration and holistic reform.

There is now a clear need to redefine restorative environments as both a gender sensitive approach, and as an application to prison architecture in order to cater for holistic post punishment reform. This redefinition would need to combine the old and new ways of thinking, particularly in terms of recurrent themes such as control versus flexibility, and hard versus soft architecture. These themes are relevant as by balancing these paradoxes one can still implement the punitive purpose of a prison - yet in a more human restorative environment which promotes positive offender reform. This research will propose that the process of holistic reform could be redefined through 3 essential steps process facilitated by the use of gender sensitive restorative environments.

Step 1: Punishment & Acknowledgment:

Once an individual commits a crime, they are sentenced to prison to face the consequences of their actions. The process of repercussion should form the first step in offender reform and

focus on the need for offenders to acknowledge their actions through humane punishment. This phase of reform within the prison environment should only provide offenders with the most general needs, such Maslow's (1954) description of physiological and safety needs.

During this phase, offenders need to be penalized through the use of operant conditioning, to ensure that they begin to acknowledge that their actions were wrong (Skinner, 1971). This would arguably be the most difficult phase for the inmate, as they now must adjust to their harsh new environment and the new individuals that surround them.
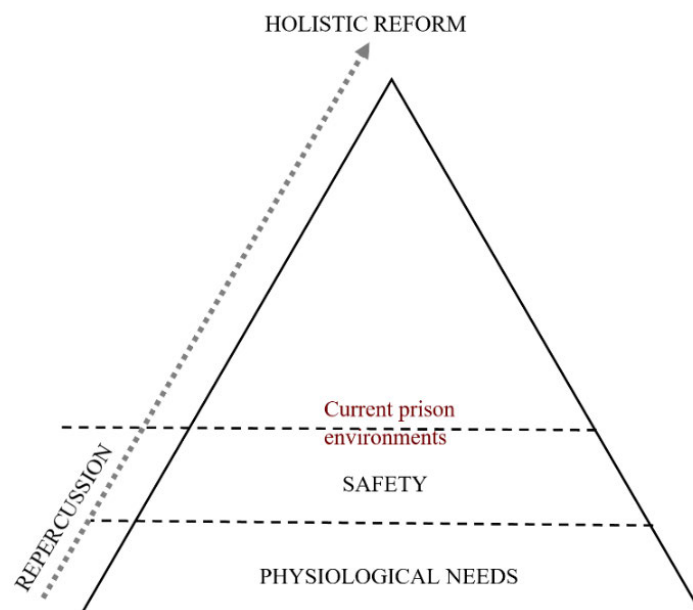
Figure 3.9. Linking repercussion to Maslow's hierarchy of needs.

(Adaptation by author)

Due to this phase of adaptation and confusion, most offenders experience high levels of stress, depression or aggravation. These effects should be mitigated through the use of spaces that provide orientation and safety whilst still ensuring operant conditioning.

Conceptualising an environmental response:

Hard > Soft Environment: Due to the focus on punishment in the stage of repercussion, the prison environment should emphasise hard architecture instead of soft architecture. The purpose of this is to remind the offender that their actions were wrong, and that they need to face the reality that they are now in a controlled environment, which limits and challenges their

comforts. Hard architecture makes large use of hard textures and materials such as concrete and steel paired with large scale features that transmit a sense of authority (Sanyal, 2014). The aim here is to create an environment in which an inmate wouldn't want to be placed in again.

Control > flexibility: This part of the process focuses on implementing control instead of user flexibility, again to ensure that the new inmate acknowledges that they are in prison and have lost their freedom due to the crime they have committed. In this phase the prison environment should make use of highly supervised spaces that control most of the offenders' movements and patterns of interaction. During this phase the offender should be almost entirely reliant on the institution and its staff.

Step 2: Instoration & Contemplation

Reflection should arguably be the next step towards holistic reform, forming part of the "post-punishment" phase of offender reformation, currently neglected in most prison architecture. After the offender takes responsibility for their actions through punishment it is necessary that they have time and space to reflect. As previously mentioned, adjusting to a new prison environment causes great levels of stress and anxiety amongst offenders, and as such an instorative phase, which provides serenity, peacefulness, and incorporates the soothing aspects of nature should be included. This would address the need for the prisoners to be on their own and adapt to their current situation, and to ultimately contemplate their future behaviour and actions. In this phase of restoration, the more complex needs of belonging and self- esteem should be met (Maslow; 1954).
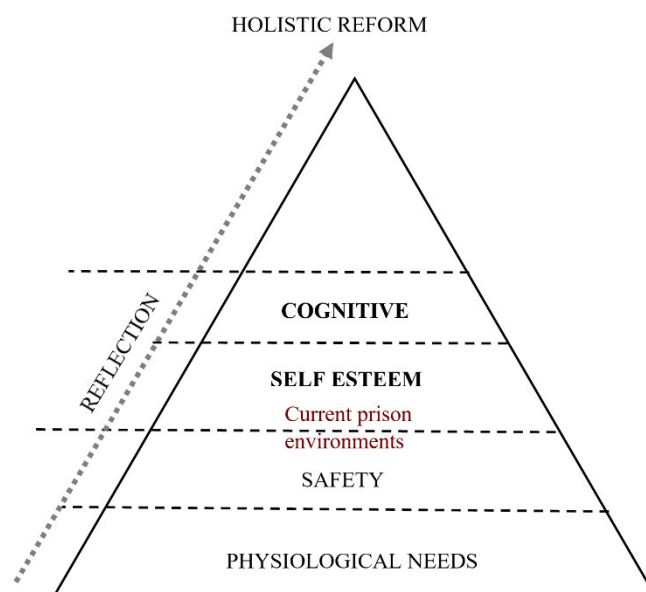
Figure 3.10. Linking reflection to Maslow's hierarchy of needs. (source: author)

Conceptualising an environmental response:

The earlier review of the existing literature on restoration established several connections between restoration and nature. Research by several authors such as Kaplan & Kaplan (1989), Ulrich et al. (1991) Hartig et al. (2003), and Roe, (2008) demonstrate that environments that contain properties of nature promote an increase capacity for recollection processes; exploratory behaviour; and social cohesion. According to Roe (2008) nature assists and forms part of the reflective and instorative process, which is needed for restoration. 'Instoration' can explained as the strengthening of one's individual capabilities to meet demands and reduce stress through improved self-identity and self-esteem.

As a result, an offender's long-term exposure to natural environments can help positively improve their behaviour, mood and social interaction. In this phase of reform, it becomes clear that nature forms an important aspect of restorative and reflective environments as it introduces the offender to a space of calmness and serenity, providing space for reflection and allowing one to connect with their inner thoughts and reflect on their actions.

Hard < soft: The psychological process of reflection requires a soft nurturing environment, that allows for contemplation and self-exploration. In this phase spaces for counselling, meditating and self-discovery need to be implemented. As a result, this "post punishment" phase of reform focuses on implementing soft architectural features as opposed to hard architecture. This involves the use of natural light, ventilation, using natural materials and surfaces, and incorporating plants into the building structure.

Soft architecture also makes use of smaller user relatable scale as a means of reducing intimidation. The use of nature's conceptual schematics and fractal patterns can also be implemented to represent restorative elements. Joye (2007) argues that many psychological factors show that these patterns can be as effective as real natural elements, and serve as a generator for restorative responses. These fractal patterns may be used means for exploring the "soft" restorative aspect of nature within the built environment (Joye, 2007).

Control < flexibility: The reform process should focus on implementing (or rather introducing) flexibility instead of control. In this phase, offenders should have more freedom of movement, as a means of taking back a sense of self responsibility and increasing self-esteem. The spatial hierarchy in this phase should allow for inmates to have the opportunity to choose to be alone or socially interact with others. The establishment of spaces that range from small group areas that offer privacy and solitude, to larger areas that encourage contact with

the public and other inmates, constitute the major components of spatial hierarchy within a built form (Alexander, 1972; Zimring, 1982).

Step 3: Rebuilding self-esteem & self-efficiency

The phase of reintegration should form the final step within the process of holistic offender reform. Because this is the final step before the offender is released into the community, it is essential that this phase should holistically prepare them for the realities of the outside world. As previously discussed, female offenders face many social stigmas, even after being released. Many of these released inmates are not prepared to face this, and do not know how to reclaim their self-efficiency. As such, this step in achieving holistic reform is crucial.
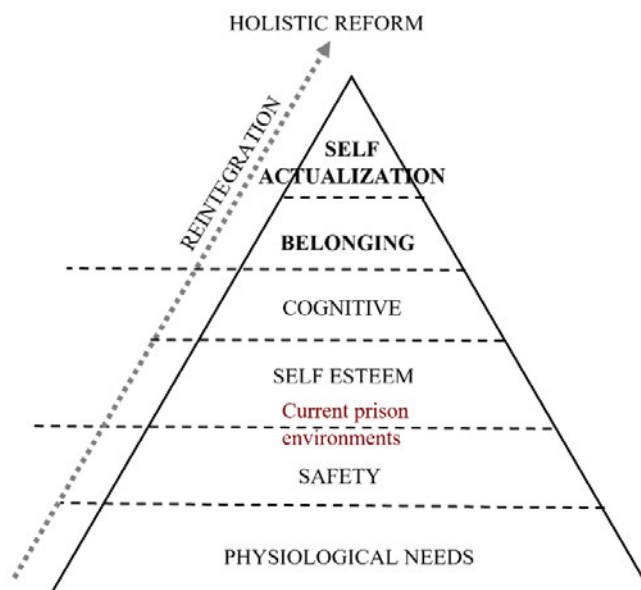
Figure 3.11. Linking reflection to Maslow's hierarchy of needs. (source: author)

Conceptualising an environmental response:

During this phase the offenders have already acknowledged and reflected on their actions, and should now be given an opportunity to rise above their past mistakes, and better their lives. The phase of reintegration caters for this by promoting spaces that encourage self-regulation and holistic wellbeing (Hartig, 2002). Research in the field of environmental psychology suggests that environments have the potential to promote self-regulation through positive relationships with ones environment and the cognitive understanding that a place is compatible with the physical, social and psychological needs of the individual (Scannell and Gifford; 2009).

Hard < soft : The physical and psychological process of offender reintegration requires architectural spaces which are soft and meet the more complex needs of the offender - namely

self- actualisation and self-efficiency. It is during this phase that inmates should be provided with vocational spaces and facilities that encourage them to regain the control over their lives once they are released.

The architectural expression of this phase should consist of inviting elements, provide easy way finding and orientation, and allow for a sense of place attachment. The architecture should be relatable to the offenders and promote a sense of normalcy, emulating the real world that they will soon be released into.

Control < flexibility: In this phase the allowance for flexible spaces becomes essential as it not only allows the offender to regain their independence from the institution, but also begins to prepare them with responsibility and capacities for self-regulation that will have a long-term effect after they are released. It is assumed that by this phase towards holistic reform, the offender understands right from wrong and they can be trusted to make the right choices in a space that offers flexibility.

3.4.Conclusion: Towards a holistic offender reform experience.

Based on the research into female offender reform, there are arguably 3 clear phases required to set out a holistic process for reform. This chapter has also highlighted that there are several key architectural themes and theories that can facilitate these steps, and redefine the process to be both restorative and more sensitive to gender needs.

1. **Repercussion –** punishment, consequences, penance
2. **Reflection –** instoration, self-regulation, contemplation
3. **Reintegration –** reconstitution, empowerment, involvement

As discussed in this chapter, various environmental characteristics can create or encourage positive psychological experiences, which stimulate and engage people, and support individual restorative processes. The understanding of classical conditioning and operant conditioning expressed through the theory of behaviourism assists in the design guidelines for how to encourage the positive behaviour of inmates and promote holistic reform.

Throughout the exploration of this chapter it has become clear that there is a need to redefine restorative environments in relation to prisons for female offenders. This redefinition should incorporate:

- Both the basic and complex needs of female offenders as brought forwards by Maslow's hierarchy of needs.

- Conceptualize an extended 3 step process towards holistic offender reform that caters beyond Repercussion, incorporating Reflection and Reintegration.

START	3 STEP PROCESS TOWARDS OFFENDER RESTORATION THROUGH	END
INDIVIDUAL COMMITS		INDIVIDUAL HOLISTIC REFORM

1. **REPERCUSSION**	1. **REFLECTION**	1. **REINTEGRATION**
- PUNISHMENT & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	- INSTORATIVE, CONTEMPLATION	- REBUILD SELF ESTEEM & EFFICIENCY
- CONDITIONING	- RESTORATIVE	- HOLISTIC WELLBEING
- HARD > SOFT	- HARD < SOFT	- HARD < SOFT
- CONTROL > FLEXIBILTY	- CONTROL < FLEXABILTY	- CONTROL < FLEXABILTY
- SENSORY DESIGN	- BIOPILIC DESIGN	- CONCEPT OF ATTCHEMENT

Figure 3.12. Diagram explaining 3 step process of offender reform through restorative environments. (source: author)

Based on this argument, it can be concluded that the current framework involving restorative environments can be expanded to include environmental design guidelines that promote holistic offender reform, catering beyond the process of punishment, whilst at the same time responding to both the basic and complex needs of female offenders within the prison environment.

The tentative conclusion of this chapter regarding the 3 step process for holistic reform – repercussion, reflection and re-integration – forms a structure through which to analyse the precedent studies, case studies and primary interview data in the chapters to follow. Ultimately, it is within the structure of these themes that the methodology for creating new restorative and gender sensitive prison environments will be tested.

CHAPTER 4

Research Methodology

A METHODOLOGY SENSITIVE TO FEMALE OFFENDERS AND THE IDEALS OF THE
RESEARCH.

4.1 Introduction

This chapter of the research sets out the research approach and methodology and explores the
ethical considerations that need to be considered owing to the sensitive nature of the research.
The chapter will focus on defining the procedures for data collection and identifying the
methods used to gather both the primary and secondary research information. Lastly this
chapter will define how the collected data was analysed and contextualized.

4.2 Research approach & analysis

As briefly introduced in Chapter One, the research was based on gaining an in-depth
understanding of the needs and perceptions of incarcerated women in South Africa. The
research sought to understand the experiences of these women in current prison environments
and their process of reform and re-integration into society. As a result, the research approach
is a fully qualitative and constructivist one and was informed by the observational study of a
specific prison and its systems.

The research consists of an exploratory study that fully relies on a qualitative approach. This
type of approach allows the researcher to gather insightful information regarding the female
offenders' needs, their experiences within the prison environment, as well as their currents
process of reform. Qualitative analysis also allows the researcher to identify other important
aspects such as the social norms of the environments, including the female offenders' views on
punishment, the reform process, and the staff's daily interaction with the offenders.

Due to the sensitivity of the research, the female offender experiences will be explored through
the "Lens" of Correctional Centre officers, advocates such as social workers, criminology
experts and organizations which primarily deal with these offenders. Despite getting granted
access into the prison environment and permission to gather information from the staff entry
to particular groups, information was restricted due to the fact that offenders are identified as
a vulnerable population.

Finally, it is important to note that although the data collected from this qualitative research may be applied and extended to individuals with characteristics comparable to those in the study population, the results obtained from such a small group could not be generalised. Gaining a rich, multi-layered understanding of the specific social context of the female offender and culture of incarceration is an essential aspect of the primary data collection.

4.3 Ethical considerations

The research of sensitive topics such as the one presented in this dissertation creates various ethical challenges for the researcher. Firstly, any research project which involves an offender or staff of SA Department of Correctional Services is subject to a formal application, review and approval process (DCS, 2019). This means that that application had approved in order to obtain a gatekeeper's letter into the requested correctional service selected in the Case study. Once this was approved, the DCS arranged a visit to the centre, in order to conduct the case study analysis, and the implementation of interviews which took place. This process was carried out under the supervision of an appointed area manager.

Working with female offender advocates

Due to the sensitive subject matter and the aim of the researcher to understand the daily needs and experiences of female offenders without making them experience victimization or social stigma, none of the inmates were interviewed by the researcher. Instead, the research and data collection involved communication between the researcher and the Correctional Centre officers, social workers, criminology experts and organizations that deal directly with offenders and offender reintegration. The benefits of liaising with various NGOs and NPOs that work directly with offender are as follows:

1. These organizations provide a bottom up approach and first-hand knowledge of offender's daily experiences within the prison environments

2. Similarly, these organisations understand the various challenges which they themselves experience in assisting victims in such environments. This will assist in establishing a deeper perspective on the context of prison environments and female offenders.

3. Collaboration work with advocates is particularly important to understand rehabilitation and reform potentially co- exploring improved restorative prison environments.

Anonymity and administration

The consideration of anonymity and confidentiality with regards to this research becomes extremely important as a means of protecting the identities of the female offenders which interact with the advocates participating in the research. Each volunteering participant was provided with an informed consent form, which confirmed that they were willing participants of the research conducted, that they understand the purpose and procedures of the interviews as well as their right to stop it at any time conducted for the research. They were also provided with an interview break down before hand, so they were aware of the questions and subject matter. Once theses consent forms have were signed by the participant, each set of interview notes was assigned an anonymous code and date of interview e.g. Interview 1; participant 1; 30 August 2019. In addition, after the interviews were conducted, participants had all the interview notes and recordings available to them as means of ensuring currency of information as well as respect for the participant and their contribution.

4.4 Primary Research data - In-depth interviews and case study

The primary collection of research data was done through the use of in-depth interviews and a selected case study which directly analysed the needs and perceptive of female offenders within current prison environment. The selected location for the researches case study was Westville Female Correctional Centre, located in the suburb of Westville, Durban.

This correctional centre was selected due to its large population of female inmates within the area. The case study focused on understanding the current female prison environments operations, the experiential qualities of the current settings, its limitations, its evolution in responding to the female offenders' specific needs as well as the prisons outlook and implementation on offender reform.

In-depth interviews were chosen as a research tool to ensure flexibility, and the collection of intensive knowledge of the topic. These interviews consisted of communication between the researcher and the Correctional Centre officers, social workers, criminology experts and organizations that deal with offender reintegration thus providing a "lens" into the experiences and perceptions of a larger collection of female offenders.

Sample Population

The study population consisted of purposive sampling of correctional service stuff and NGOs, based on their regular contact with female offenders and their expected ability to assist in answering the research questions.

Respondents within the research sample must meet the specific criteria of:

1. Having experience with female offenders
2. Currently working in or with a prison environment

This creates a concentrated sample population of 8 interviewees which consists of prison officers, social workers, criminology experts and 2 different organisations which work directly with both currently incarcerated and released female offenders

Facility/ Organisation	Personal	Code	Quantity	Interview Sheet
1. **Westville Correctional Centre**	1. Warden 2. Facilitator	**P1.1**	1 1	1: Corrections
2. **Dpt. Of Correctional Services**	1. Social worker 2. Police officer	**P1.2**	2 1	1: Corrections
3. **CRIMSA** - Criminological society of South Africa	1. Criminologist	**P2.1**	1	2: Criminology
4. **NICRO** - South African National Institute for Crime Prevention and the Reintegration of Offenders.	1. Organisation facilitator/ volunteer	**P3.1**	1	3: NGO's
5. **KHULISA** – Social Solutions	1. Organisation facilitator/ volunteer	**P3.2**	1	3: NGO's

Figure 4.1. Interview Schedule (source: author)

The choice of an appropriate sample, as well as an adequate sample size ultimately assisted in ensuring that the research displayed elements of saturation and replication, thereby adding to the validity and rigour of the findings. The research content validity greatly relied on the appropriate sampling of the experts- in this case prison staff members, social workers and criminologists who provided first-hand knowledge regarding offender's physical and social needs within the prison environment.

Development of the research interview

The semi structured in depth interviews consisted of a series of questions which assisted in better understanding both the participants and the female offenders reported experiences of the restorative environment required for the holistic reform offenders within prison environments. The interview questions were based on the themes discussed in the Literature and Theoretical Analysis.

Section 01: the prison environment

This section assisted in understanding the current ideology and daily operations behind the prison environment. It aimed towards comprehending the new global social thinking about prison environments and contextualize this new thinking to specific users – in this case female offenders in South Africa

Section 02: the female offenders

This section dealt with the reported experiences, needs and perceptions of female offenders in prison environments as well as explored how current prison architecture in south Africa have responding to these needs and perceptions.

Section 03: physio social reform & restorative architecture

This section aimed to understand the need for physio social reform for female offenders within the prison environment through architecture and how these restorative environments can further contribute towards the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders.

4.5 Secondary Research data – Literature and precedent studies

The gathering of secondary data consisted of a literature review relating to the experiences of the female offender within the prison environment and the potential role of restorative architecture in defining new holistic prison environments for these females. This form of research was gathered from various published media such as: Books, Journal Articles, Academic papers, Television Broadcasting, and the World wide web

This research was used to create an argument which focused on the female offenders, their needs, and the potential role of restorative environments in establishing holistic reform. This argument was then tested through the analysis of the selected precedent studies, and later through the analysis of the interview data.

4.6 Data Explication Methods: Codes and Coding

As a means of formulating a broader understanding, the researcher focused on finding commonalities of meaning within the gathered data, in order to highlight similar patterns of experience. Raw research data from the in-depth interviews underwent a method of coding to assist in generating themes. To compact these themes into a manageable size, they were arranged into specific groups based on their similarities. Each group was then labelled and described for its variations. Later, throughout the process of coding, themes presented were refined and extended as more data was processed and analysed.

The method of comparative analysis was used to identify differences and similarities. The data gathered from both the Department of Correctional service staff and the NGO's was placed side by side, analysed and then compared with the existent literature, with the aim of arriving to a conclusion with regards to the prison environment, the female offender and holistic reform.

4.6 Conclusion

In conclusion, this chapter has outlined the framework through which the selected Case study, precedent studies and research interview data will be gathered and analysed. This chapter concludes that the underlying purpose of the research considered of undertaking a qualitative approach which assisted in determining the importance of gender sensitive restorative environments in promoting holistic reform of offenders in prison facilities. This was with the aim of adding to the existing knowledge framework, and determining a means through which restorative environments can assist female offenders in achieving holistic reform, and ultimately reducing the country's current crime and recidivism rates.

CHAPTER 5

Precedent Studies

INTERROGATING THE APPLICATION OF OFFENDER RESTORATIVE PROCESSES THROUGH ARCHITECTURE

5.1 Introduction

Within the typology of incarceration, there has rarely been an architectural exploration which extends to all the key themes explored in the literature, combining them into a single architectural response. As a result, the precedents analysed in this chapter will serve as a "tool kit" for introducing a new architectural typology that holistically considers all the phases of gender sensitive offender reform. These precedents reflect the ideologies of contemporary prison designs which support the argument that the deprivation of freedom from the outside world is punishment enough. Thus, prison architecture itself, should focus on the holistic rehabilitation and reform of offenders rather than punishment.

As previously mentioned in Chapter 3, the three important phases towards the holistic reform of offenders consists of 1. Repercussion, 2. Reflection, 3. Reintegration. The three precedent studies that will be explored in this chapter, exemplify these themes, subsequently providing evidence of the "best architectural practice" that supports holistic reform within prison environments. Although each precedent is not completely limited to one of the themes, they were placed under the one the researcher considered to best represent it. In this chapter, each of the precedent studies will be analysed through the framework set out in Chapter 3's theoretical argument such as ideological design approach, hard vs soft environment and control vs flexibility, all explored as means for creating holistically restorative environments.

Figure 5.1. Summary of themes to be analysed through precedent studies. (author)

5.2 PRECEDENT STUDY 1: REPERCUSSION

Boronia pre-release centre for women

"gender sensitivity, conditioning and reform"

5.2.1 Background

Located in metropolitan Bentley, Western Australia, the Boronia pre-release centre for women sets out to establish a new standard of prison architecture that focuses on recognizing the services, treatment and needs of female offenders. This minimum- security, pre-release center for woman opened in 2004 and was designed by Paterson Group Architects.

The facility houses 71 offenders (near the end of their sentence), sent from Bandyup Women's Prison. The facility includes 17 shared accommodation houses which accommodate the offenders and some of their children in a community which reflects the surrounding suburban setting. Located within the suburb of Boronia, only eight kilometres from Perth CBD, the centres site is surrounded by a variety of amenities such as aged care residences and tertiary education facilities, as well as several public transportation nodes.

The pre-release centre model has become well known due to its alternative approach to female incarceration: to positively condition each female to their full potential. Due to its operational approach focusing on female philosophy, the Boronia pre-release centre for women capitalizes on four principles (OICS, 2018):

1. Personal responsibility and empowerment
2. Family responsibility
3. Community responsibility
4. Respect and integrity

The architectural response was to create a prison environment that supported the philosophical requirements of the approach through the design of a non-threatening environment that implemented punishment but also allowed for reform.

Figure 5.2. Boronia Pre-release centre for woman, Australia. (source: https://acea.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Carol-Lee_Borona-
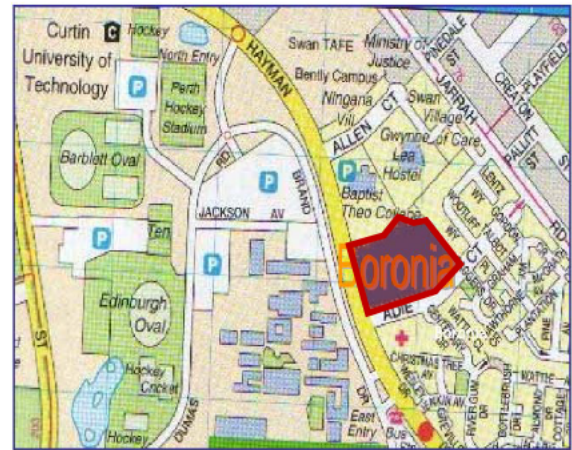
Figure 5.2. Boronia Pre-release centre for woman, Australia. (source: https://acea.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Carol-Lee_Borona-

5.2.2 Motivation & justification

The design and operations of Boronia endeavour to reflect the responsibilities faced by women in everyday life, as such, they support a strong community/family focus.

The approach implemented in the design of the centre focuses on the maternal needs of the female offenders and their children, preparing them for release by providing effective rehabilitative environments and programs. Furthermore, the centre focuses on reducing the stresses caused by being incarcerated and provides spaces and facilities for both physical and mental health issues.

Differing from other 21st century prisons, Boronia sees imprisonment as an opportunity to positively condition the offender towards holistic reform with the involvement of not just the prison officials, but their families and the community. By doing so, it promotes community participation and interaction, allowing the offender to adjust to the outside world, and slowly closing the gap between imprisonment and reintegration.

5.2.3 The building design: Implementing repercussion through the theory of **behaviourism**

5.2.3.1 Conditioning

"Operant conditioning, also known as instrumental conditioning, explores the methods of learning through reinforcement and punishment. This type of conditioning occurs when an association is made between a behaviour and a repercussion for that behaviour" (Skinner, 1971). Boronia's pre- release centre carries out this approach by acknowledging the need for

punishment, but also sees incarceration as an opportunity to change the life of the offenders. In the hopes of achieving this reform, the centre creates an environment that influences positive environmental psychology and behaviourism through operant conditioning

5.2.3.2 Hard vs Soft Environment

Capitalising on the approach of implementing repercussion for actions whilst at the same time facilitating reform, the Boronia pre- release centre incorporates both hard and soft architecture. The architectural approach was to create an environment which supported the operational and philosophical needs of the centre. This was achieved by designing a non-institutional, non-threatening environment, consisting of a "village" or campus concept were multiple buildings establish a sense of community.

Figure 5.4 Boronias campus layout. (source: Google earth map)
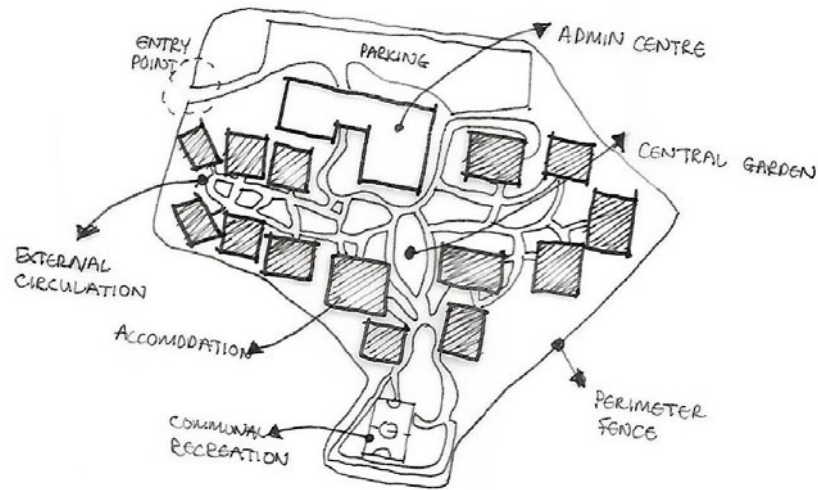
Figure 5.5. Bornias facilities composition. (source: author)

The prisoner cells (which in the centre are called units), are clustered into a campus layout consisting of a front garden, pitched roofs and even letter boxes. The facilities incorporation of soft architecture is expressed mostly through the lush landscape that surrounds the layout of buildings, collectively forming the centre. The vast incorporation of plants and trees ensure that the building engages with nature and its therapeutic qualities. The pathways provide the offender with a choice of movement within a control environment, again reflecting the ideas of punishment and reform.

Figure 5.6 Sense of normalcy through residential setting, (source: https://acea.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Carol-Lee_Borona-Pre-Release-Centre-1-to-27.pdf

Figure 5.6 Sense of normalcy through residential setting, (source: https://acea.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Carol-Lee_Borona-Pre-Release-Centre-1-to-27.pdf

The incorporation of the hard architecture (representing the approach of repercussion) is reflected in the robustness of the material and experiential choices such as lighting and colours. Most of the Boronia pre- release centre is constructed of face brick, which serves as a hard material. The use of corrugated metal cladding and roof sheeting intentionally soften the building, again emphasising the incorporation of both hard and soft architectural approaches.

The sense of permeability between the centre and the community is clearly expressed through the invitingness and non-confrontational approach of the architecture using shaded wide walkway and clear glass doors.

5.2.3.3 Control vs flexibility

Within the Boronia pre- release centre there are twelve housing units that accommodate up to five offenders each. Within the secure perimeter of these units, the female offenders are motivated to take responsibility for themselves and their actions, participate in household responsibilities like preparing their own meal, and assisting in their reintegration back into real life and the outside society.

The design of the centre also caters for the gender- specific need to allow the women to foster a relationship with their children. Within the facilities there are various play spaces provided in front of the units. This allows the offender to regain her maternal responsibility and watch over her own children.

Conclusively, the Boronia Pre- release centre for females despite promoting repercussion through the use of hard architecture allows for flexibility of the centre and its facilities to respond and accommodate for the specific needs of female offenders

Figure 5.7 & 5.8. Boronias child friendly facilities. (source: https://acea.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Carol-Lee_Borona-Pre-Release-Centre-1-to-27.pdf)

5.3 PRECEDENT STUDY 2: REFLECTION

Halden Prison

"Prison, Nature and Social structure"

5.3.1 Background

In Norway, the low recidivism rate of 20% within the penal system, reflects their prioritization of human rights and offender rehabilitative efforts within the prison environments (Leung, 2014). Halden prison located in Østfold, Southern Norway is a max- security prison, yet it differs entirely from the old generation prison design. Located within the lush Scandinavian forest, Haden prison uses the reflective properties of nature as one of the primary elements towards offender reform.

Figure 5.9. Façade of Haden prison, Norway. (source: https://www.archdaily.com/154665/hald

Figure 5.10. Site Plan of Haden Prison, Norway. (source: https://www.archdaily.com/154665/hald

Established in April 2010, the prison was designed by Erik Møller Architects and HLM Architects after an invited architectural competition. The motto for the competition, "I'll have both, please" was based on the concept of the paradoxes between hard and soft, precise and organic, punishment and reform. *"An iron hand, a silk glove.* "was the Slogan under which Halden Prison was built in 2010.

Holding approximately 250 prisoners, Halden is referred to as the most humane prison in the world, and follows the Norwegian penal philosophy, which focuses on offender rehabilitation, human dignity and creating spaces that simulate life outside the prison (ArchDaily, 2011).

Every aspect of the prison was designed to eliminate psychological stress, mitigate conflict and minimize interpersonal friction (Møller Architects, 2010).

5.3.2 Motivation & justification

As part of the Norwegian penal philosophy, focusing on offender restoration was the prisons primary design principle. This design philosophy makes great use of the natural restorative properties of nature to assist in prisoner rehabilitation by promoting psychological wellbeing and reflection. According to authors such as Wilson (1960), nature, sunlight and fresh air assist in treating depression, stress and anxiety.

The design of Halden, views this positive offender connection to nature as far more personnel. By incorporating reflective properties of nature, both in the internal and external prison design, inmates can focus on their psychological growth through. The motivation for choosing this precedent consists of the prisons use of Biophilic properties thereby emphasizing the restorative and instorative benefits of nature, whilst also promoting the conservation of the surrounding landscape.

Figure 5.11. 3d representation of Haden's prisons layout. (source: https://www.archdaily.com/154665/halden)

Figure 5.12. Courtyards – elements of nature at Haden prison. (source: https://www.archdaily.com/154665/halden)

5.3.3 The building design: Promoting reflection through restorative **properties of nature**

"Being in prison is the punishment, the architecture doesn't have to be"

5.3.3.1 Restoration

The key principle of providing a sense of normalcy and restoration for the offenders, is most evident in the prison layouts, facilitation of daily activities and its use of natural elements. Many of the prison spaces and programs are designed to represent life outside the prison. Nature – vegetation, sound, natural ventilation and sunlight, - plays an important role in the daily life of prisoners as it not only improves cognitive performance, reduces stress, but also allows the prisoner to experience the passage of time. Natural views can be restorative and may be implemented when individuals seek to restore calm and reflection, after experiencing threatening or, difficult events such as the pressures of the prison environment (Wener, 2012).

Figure 5.13. Natural landscape in relation to build form. (source: https://www.designindaba.com/articles/creative-work/can-architecture-prison-

Figure 5.14 & 5.15. Offenders utilizing green spaces for socializing. (source: https://www.designindaba.com/articles/creative-work/can-architecture-prison-contribute-

5.3.3.2 Hard vs Soft Environment

Scandinavian prisons are proof that punishment does not need to be diminishing in order to be effective. Halden prisons main concept emphasises on the mutual dependency and contrast between "hard and soft" architecture, restoration and reflection through many aspects of its design. Firstly, the prison breaks away from the conventional "old prison" layouts such as the

courtyard, telephone pole, radial and rather adapts a campus layout which consists of a group of buildings which house different amenities. This allows the inmates the flexibility to move around from one building to the next as they would in the outside world.
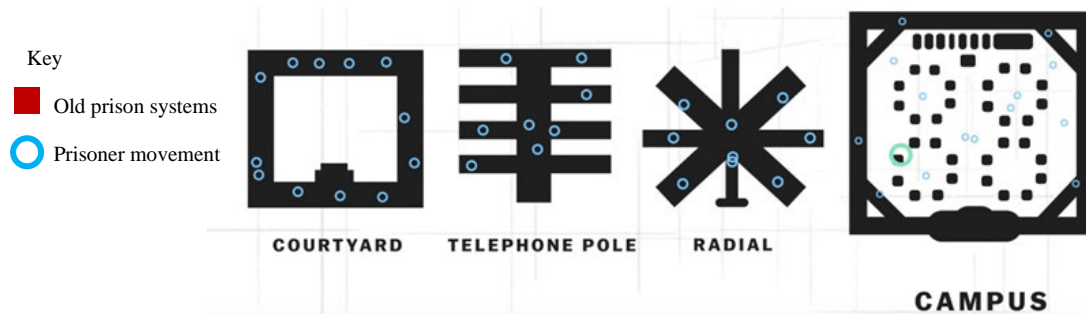
Figure 5.16. Diagram comparing old prison layouts to campus layout. (source:
https://www.designindaba.com/articles/creative-work/can-architecture-prison-contribute-

The main bulk of the prison, the administrative functions and high security units are grouped together in one system connected to the main gate whilst the sports facilities and park are located on the lower level. The organization of the sleeping blocks are separated from leisure and work. The functions of each building are distinguished by their material selection and connection with the surrounding landscape. The main objective of this was to influence the offenders to move around during the day giving them time to reflect on their actions. The prison is also divided into public and private zones which are each characterised by different modes of expression.
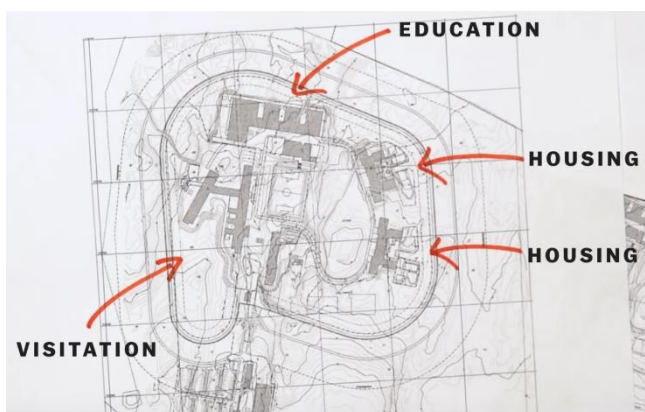
Figure 5.17. Sketch of Haden prison zoning. (source:
https://www.designindaba.com/articles/creati

Figure 5.18. Haden prison facilities and zoning. (source:
https://www.designindaba.com/articles/creati

The hard implementation of dark brick walls, galvanised steel and concrete, and the distribution of windows, create a sense of precision. On the contrary, softer materials and textures such as glass, cork, and timber are used to break the harshness, by creating a warm transparent feel. The use of openness and natural light throughout features of the building create a restorative, reflective environment providing a new perspective on prison architecture.

Figure 5.19. Exterior materiality – combination of hard &
soft architecture. (source:
http://www.thestoryinstitute.com/halden)

Figure 5.20. Internal corridor. source:
http://www.thestoryinstitute.com/halden

Figure 5.21. Haden prison chapel.
source:
http://www.thestoryinstitute.com/halden

Throughout the exterior of the prison one can find many artworks created by KORO (Public Art Norway). These artworks assist in softening and humanising the environment. It playfully gives the prison environment (usually characterised by control), a relaxed and relatable feel.

Figure 5.22. & 5.23 Artwork found around the prison – elements of distraction &
playfulness. (source: http://www.thestoryinstitute.com/halden)

Internally the architecture focuses on the fundamental need of offenders, restoration and efficiency. Internal spaces establish a sense of community between the inmates and the staff due to them sharing some of the same facilities, reduces the perception of "them vs us". Again, the use of softer materials such as timber and glass are used in the interior of the building. The

internal spaces boast well-lit spaces with large safety glass windows, framing the outside landscape, allowing for self-reflection. Inmates make use of singular cells that look very similar to dorm rooms. They have a bed, a desk and an en suite.

Figure 5.24. Communal play areas that exemplify the use of light to create a holist calming experience. (source: http://www.thestoryinstitute.com/halden

Figure 5.25. Communal lounge areas that exemplify the use of light to create a holist calming experience. (source: http://www.thestoryinstitute.com/halden

Figure 5.26. Single offender cells with views to the gardens and ample lighting. (source:

http://www.thestoryinstitute.com/halden

5.3.3.3 Control vs flexibility

By creating an environment that prioritises the prisoner's flexibility, Halden Prison operates on the principle ideology that deprivation of freedom is the punishment, and the punishment should not be more burdensome than is necessary on the grounds of security. Halden prison in many ways' challenges old prison security approaches of static and dynamic security. Static security includes conventional elements such as the surrounding perimetral wall, locked doors, cell intercom systems, unbreakable glass, surveillance cameras etc. Throughout the prison there are different levels of security required depending on the area. These levels of security determine the design and materiality of the space. The avoidance of obstacles, hidden corners to assure clear sightlines become extremely important in the design of Halden prison as means of passive surveillance.

The prisons use of static security is paired with the more humane approach of dynamic security, which consists of establishing mutual respect relationships between the offenders and prison staff.
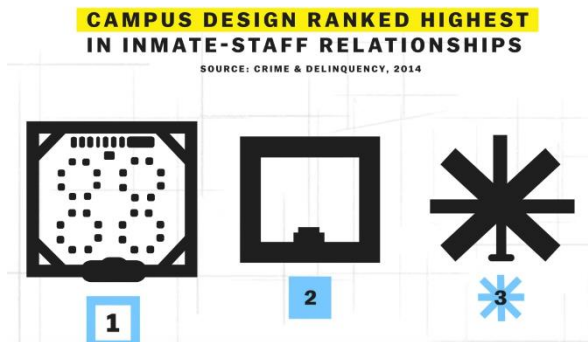
Figure 5.27. Diagram explaining the campus design encourages inmate- staff relationships. (source: https://www.designindaba.com/articles/cr
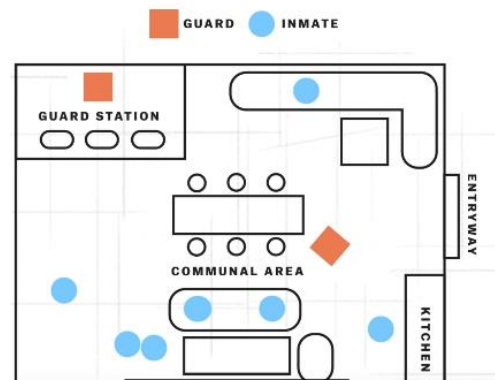
Figure 5.28. Diagram depicting inmate – staff interaction in communal spaces. (source:https://www.designindaba.com /articles/creative-work/can-

In Halden Prison the environment is composed of many communal spaces, friendly staff, privacy, respect and vocational programs. Prison inmates can participate in leisure, cultural, religious, educational and work based activities. Although the facility has strict security, aided by its design and organization, prisoners have a degree of freedom, helping the prisoners gain a sense of self responsibility and self-value. Within the prison there are many positive restorative spaces/ facilities for the inmate to use such as:

1. **Communal lounge spaces** with communal kitchens
2. **Communal recreational rooms** with board games, tv, music rooms
3. **Exercising facilities** – indoor & outdoor
4. **Religious spaces** – chapels, prayer rooms which allow for reflection & meditation
5. **Therapeutic rooms** – these are used for counselling, relaxation and reflection
6. **Outdoor courtyards & gardens** – quit oases for reflection through nature
7. **Health clinics** – responding to the health needs of offenders
8. **Children parents' quarters** – spaces for family visits and childcare
9. **Workshops, libraries, LANS and lecture rooms** – spaces for vast vocational programs offered by the prison, ranging from secondary education modules to carpentry, pottery, mechanics and technology.

Conclusively, Halden Prison promotes the process of reflection through its incorporation of natural elements and sense of normalcy.

5.4 PRECEDENT STUDY 3: REINTEGRATION

Hilary Cottam – The Learning Prison

Self-realisation, regulation and reintegration – The 21st century prison model

5.4.1 Background

The Learning prison is a proposed prison concept brought forward by British designer and social entrepreneur, Hilary Cottam in 2015. Although it has not been tested to work, Cottam's prison design challenges the notion of prisons as a form of punishment and rather implements 21st century prisons, designed for reform. Cottam believed that current prisons weren't working due to little direct evidence that there was any correlation between prison environments and offender reform. The realization was that in most countries, the prison population is illiterate and lack vocational skills. Without education and skills, very few offenders can build meaningful lives after they are released, thus resulting in them reoffending to survive. Cottam viewed this as a new architectural opportunity that allowed for a new prison regime based on learning. Thus, the planning, operation and concept of the prison is orientated to promote an intensive environment for learning.

5.4.2 Motivation & justification

"6 out of 10 offenders are uneducated, 6 out of 10 re-offend within two years. Providing vocational training is a radical agenda for change: a new prison architecture supports and makes affordable a transformative, learning regime"

Hilary Cottam

Considering that the last phase of offender reform is reintegration, being able to give offenders a second chance at life after release and equipping them with the necessary vocational skills becomes extremely important. In this design, prison architecture and the prison regime collaborate as an integrated whole to optimise offender reintegration through self-regulation. The learning prison capitalises on the 21st century approach of securely imprisoning the offender yet giving them the freedom of moving from a system of external control to one of internal discipline, enabling the offender with responsibility, self-regulation and self-efficiency.

5.4.3 The building design: Initiating Reintegration through **place attachment**

5.4.3.1 Holistic wellbeing

The design approach of the prison focuses on introducing three new aspects in the hopes of successfully reintegrating offenders:

1. **Learning** – lies at the heart of the prison model.
2. **Prison Architecture** – new approach that maintains security but allows for freedom to exercise responsibility, access human resources and support the learning regime.
3. **Offender reintegration** – assisting the offender in the transition from prison environment to back to society.

In the learning prison, offenders gradually learn to take responsibility and discipline for their own life. With this new acquired sense of self responsibilities, offenders can now learn to better themselves and their lives. The learning prison, which is based on a learning regime provides a variety of spaces, facilities and programs that assist the whole being – physical, emotional, intellectual, social, spiritual and vocational towards reintegration.

- **Physical** – communal spaces for exercising and team sports and healthcare clinics
- **Emotional** – peer to peer support, buddy systems, therapy rooms, meditation rooms, family visit rooms
- **Intellectual** – educational classrooms, basic skills learning, communal learning halls, skills workshops, individual study cells
- **Social** – organization of domestic activities, cooking, cleaning, laundry, spaces for interaction with family and friends
- **Vocational** – training courses, workplace learning activity, work opportunities with community

5.4.3.2 Hard vs Soft Environment

The architecture of the learning prison focuses on establishing a secure, productive environments that assist in offender reintegration. In the effort of adapting to the normalcy of life outside, the prison layout introduces an innovative house system that allows for new activities without compromising security (Cottam et al., 2002).

This housing system consists of eleven units, which are identical and repeated throughout the site. Each house accommodates approximately thirty-six offenders who form a small community. The grouping of mixed offenders also assists in quicker offender reintegration as they learn to understand one another as well as learn from each other.
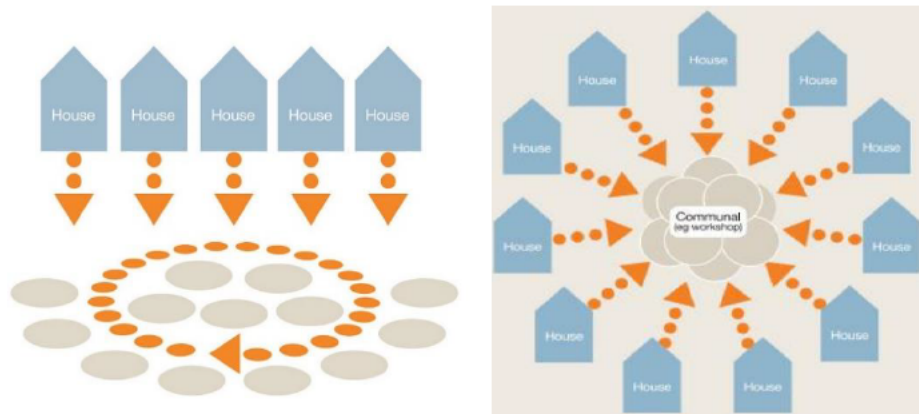
Figure 5.29. &5.30. Illustration how each offender unit forms part of small community. (source: H. Cotton, 2015. http://www.hilarycottam.com/?page_id=23)

Whilst not only providing a sense of normalcy, these houses allow prisoners to work in a community setting with other prisoners. Within these housing units, the prisoner's cells are grouped on three floors, which surround a central atrium. This establishes a secure internal and external space allowing for passive surveillance, where the offender is always visible. Holistically, the composition of the houses forms a checkerboard pattern, implementing a sense of community, which allows each house to have an outdoor garden for which they are responsible.

Figure 5.31. & 5.32 3d model of house composition forming checkboard pattern. (source: H. Cotton, 2015. http://www.hilarycottam.com/?page_id=23

Building on the principles of live and work, these housing units accommodate most of the prisoner activities. The prison model encourages the grouping of communal spaces to reduce the distance between the houses and other facilities. With this model, the architecture plays a physio social role by creating humane, secure spaces that encourage prisoner involvement.

Throughout the design, aspects of both hard and soft architecture can be found. An example of this is the incorporation of hard and soft architecture in the landscaping. The hard basketball court surface texture is then softened by the lush adjacent gardens which boast a range of flowers and trees.

The materiality of the prison design conceptualizes on easy maintenance, and this is reflected through its choice of materials. Externally hard materials such as precast concrete is used due to its durability and robustness. The lowers levels of the house units and garden walls are made up of steel cladding. The upper levels of the house units which host the 'live and learn' activities are made up of softer materials such as timber and large windows that enable visual connections to the gardens and outdoors.

5.4.3.3 Control vs flexibility

The Learning prison focuses on movement and densification by analysing the conventional arrangement of prison architecture in order to improve it. Challenging the past prison designs, this 21st century prison offers freedom of movement within a secure prison perimeter, encouraging the offender to gain more control over their own lives. The proposed prison model influences the offender to spend certain amounts of time within the house and the communal areas, as they normally would in the outside world. (Cottam et al., 2002)

Figure 5.33. Ground floor plan of the Leaning prison. (source: H. Cotton, 2015. http://www.hilarycottam.com/?p
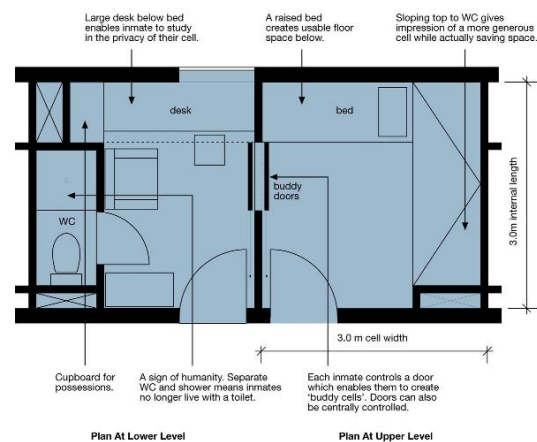
Figure 5.34. Detailed plan of units showing "buddy door" feature. (source: H. Cotton, 2015.

The Learning prison model also differs from the conventional cell placement, in terms of improving circulation and delivery of services. Instead of the cells being located deep within the building, creating barriers of accessibility, the Learning prison is designed to have the cells close to centralized areas.

The cells, which accommodate single prisoners allow for both a sense of privacy and social flexibility. The design of each cell includes a neighbouring buddy cell which consists of a centralized door placed between two cells that can be open or closed allowing for flexibility of interaction between the two inmates when desired. Since this buddy cell feature is controlled by the offender, it fosters the element of choice and allows offenders a sense of freedom and self-dependency with regards to their environment.
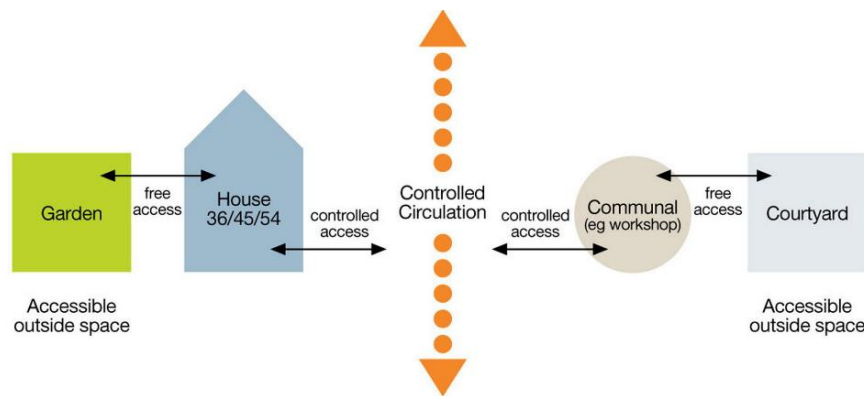
Figure 5.35. Diagram of flexibility vs control between & circulation. (source: H. Cotton, 2015. http://www.hilarycottam.com/?page_id=23)

Figure 5.36. 3d cut away of house showing communal spaces on lower floors & living units on upper floors. (source: H. Cotton, 2015. http://www.hilarycottam.com/?page_id=23

Figure 5.37. Site section of house unit composition on site. (source: H. Cotton, 2015. http://www.hilarycottam.com/?page_id=23)

67

The prisoners house "units" are configured within a U shape arrangement on the higher floors, placing most of the communal spaces, such as dining and recreational spaces, on the lower floors. Each house "unit" has communal facilities, almost representative of family life in the outside world. Offenders would be expected to work an eight-hour day and partake in community activities such as cleaning, cooking and budgeting. (SIX, 2010).

5.5 Conclusion

Based on these key precedent studies, it is clear that there are several "architectural tools" which contribute to the design of prison environments that promote holistic physio social reform. These "tools" , however, remain largely unexplored within the South African prison system, but could arguably be combined to define a new prison typology suited to the needs of female offenders in South Africa.

RESTORATIVE PHASE	LAYOUT & CONTEXT	SPATIAL PLANNING	MATERIALITY
1. **REPURCUSSION** Boronia Pre- release Centre for woman	- campus layout - within city centre - Reflects surrounding suburban setting	- Sense of normalcy - free-flowing organic shape - single-story	- Hard & soft - non institutional - Robustness - face brick - corrugated metal
2. **REFLECTION** Halden Prison	- reflective properties of nature - Campus layout - Reflects surrounding suburban setting	- Openness & natural light - integrates landscape -Direct supervision	- Hard & soft - natural material - artworks assist - warm colours - playful
3. **REINTEGRATION** The Learning Prison	- Community units - Check board pattern arrangement	- Sense of normalcy - housing system - Live & work - Allows freedom of movement - buddy cells	- Hard & soft - low maintenance - External – concrete - Internal – warm colours

Figure 5.38. Summary of elements analysed in precedent studies**.**

(source: author)

CHAPTER 6

Field work - Case study & Analysis

CONTEXTUALISING RESTORATION THROUGH THE OFFENDER ADVOCATES

6.1 Introduction

The "principles of best practice" established in the previous chapter, illustrated a methodology for the design of new prison typologies which holistically respond to the needs and perceptions of female offenders. This chapter focuses on understanding and contextualising how current prison environments in South Africa, especially in Durban have attempted to respond to the gender specific needs and perceptions of female offenders.

There continues to be a lack of staff, facilities and support resources, as well as post-punishment reform efforts within current South African prison environments (Dissel, 2002; Muntingh, 2001; Singh, 2005). The situation is exacerbated for women, as only 9 of a total of 236 operational prisons in South Africa are for female offenders. In Durban there is currently only one prison t for female offenders - Westville Female Correctional Centre.

Like most other early prison architecture built during the 19th century, Westville prison embodies the typical aesthetic inherited from the apartheid government. The first part of this chapter analyses the case study of Westville Correctional centre, through the themes of hard vs soft architecture, flexibility vs control.

The Westville Correctional centre holds the largest prison population within the Southern hemisphere, imprisoning a diverse range of offenders from all different backgrounds - including female offenders. Through the case study analysis of Westville prisons reform and reintegration processes, one will gather an understanding of how it currently caters for reform, offender needs and to what extent it achieves it.

The various interviews discussed and analysed in the second portion of this chapter, then serve as a sounding board for the information derived from the case study.
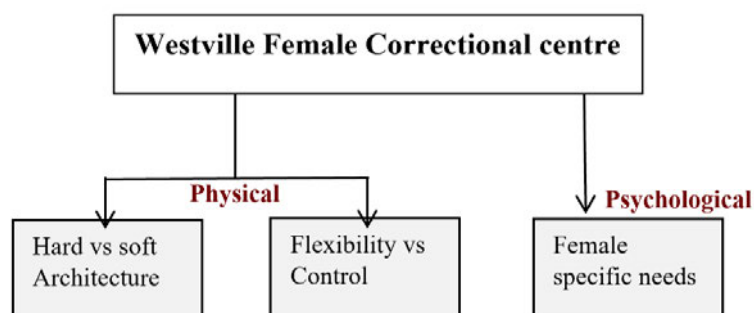
Figure 6.1. Diagrammatic Analysis of Case Study Selection Criteria**.** (source:)

6.2 Part 1 - Case study

Westville Female Correctional Centre

6.2.1 Justification of case study

6.2.2 Background

The Durban Westville Female Correctional Centre is one of the largest correctional centres in South Africa and was established in 1985 as a result of the unification of the Central and Point prisons. Costing R67 million to construct, the prison was designed to incarcerate an approximate of 5000 offenders of which approximately, 1200 are female. Collectively the prison centre consists of five sections:

1. Durban Correctional Centre A housing offenders waiting trial
2. Durban Correctional Centre B housing max security male offenders
3. Durban Correctional Centre C housing medium security offenders
4. Durban Youth Correctional Centre housing youth delinquents
5. Durban Female Correctional Centre housing both sentenced and unsentenced female offenders.
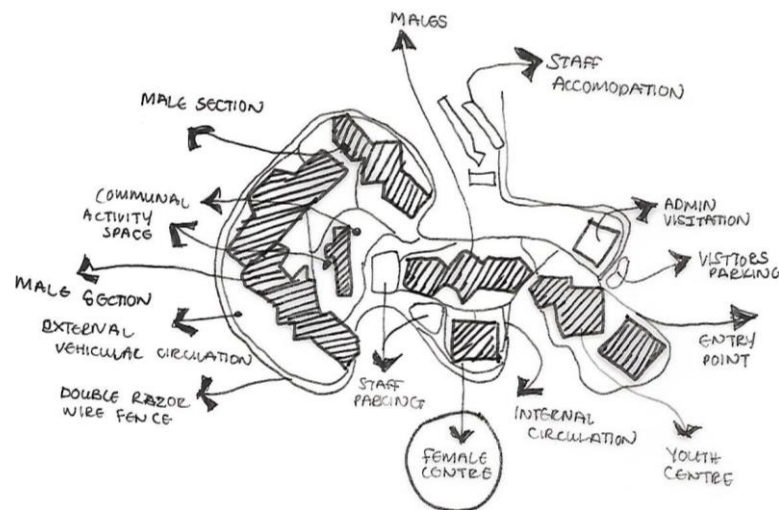
Figure 6.2. Diagram showing Westville Correctional Centre composition**.**

(source: author)

Under the apartheid regime, the prison was segregated, accommodating different race prisoners in different blocks. During this time the white offenders were imprisoned in single cells, whilst the black offenders shared communal cells that housed twenty offenders.

Within the prison composition, each block had its own facilities, but they all shared the common herringbone layout plan. Before its construction, the idea of a prison in the "white suburban' area of Westville caused tremendous controversy.

6.4 Location and urban site characteristics

Figure 6.3. Locality of Westville Correctional centre with surrounding context, Westville**.** (source)

Located within the suburb of Westville, on the West side of Durban, it is the only prison centre located in the greater Durban metro. Within its context the prison building is situated close to the main National Road (N3), yet it has no direct access route from this road. Access to the prison building one must drive a distance from the main road which is densely surrounded by vegetation. Upon arrival the prison is an isolated development, independent of its surrounding context.

Figure 6.4. Road & entrance used to access Westville Correctional centre**.** (source: Google earth)
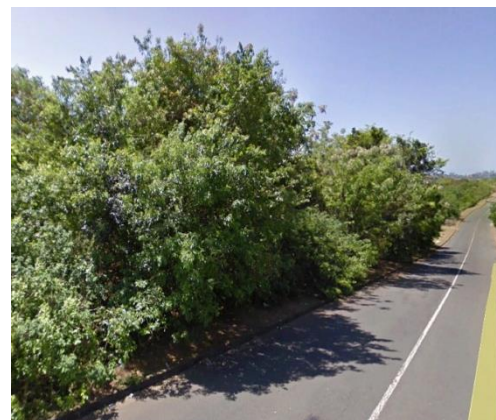
Figure 6.5. Natural vegetation surrounding site. (source: Google earth)

The prisons surrounding context is composed of an extensive natural reserve, The Westway Office Park, Chesterville township, Westville hospital, the Pavilion Mall and Westville's residential area. Within its urban location the prison still maintains a high level of security due to it being almost engulfed by lush vegetation and high steel fences.

6.5 Analysis

6.5.1 The physio socio needs of female offenders

The prison is a high security facility, where the buildings of prison complex are identical mirrored and rotated "modules". The fact that the female centre is a mirror of the male centre highlights the lack of acknowledgment for the gender specific needs of the female offender.

In addition, many of the prison's facilities, such as the sporting grounds and classrooms, are situated at a distance from the female centre, making it difficult for them to have regular or easy access to them. As a result of this the female offenders remain confined within the limited spaces and resources available within the female block. The female offenders need for family ties and mother and child relationships are also overlooked within the prisons spatial planning. Although family relationships and support promote holistic reform, within Westville prison, visitation remains a luxury that is limited.

6.5.2 Hard Architecture vs Soft Architecture

Westville prison was constructed with the old generation prison ideology that focused solely on punishing offenders through detention and isolation. This is clearly reflected through its architectural language and internal configuration. The building retains a hard-institutional feel, with bland façades composed of vast red face brick walls and small vertical windows. The element of maximum security is also enforced by the heavy use of steel bars and grilles in various parts of the building from the prisoner's cells to the surrounding perimeter fence.

Figure 6.6. Prison external façade & language – face brick, grill windows & high fences.

(source: N. Goga, 2015)

In relation to building form, the prison exerts a sense of authority through its heaviness, bulk and compact form. The arrangement is strictly designed so that most of the spaces are visible from different angles in the hopes of reducing criminal activity. The composition of identical housing blocks clustered around the shared sporting facilities form an expansive layout, housing the different categories of offenders. Closer to the prison complex perimeter, one finds the female and youth centre as they are considered lower security risks. These two centres are also the only ones that distinguish from the others due to art murals on their entrance façade, which attempt to soften the appearance of the bland bare walls standard throughout.

Figure 6.7. art murals at entrance façade**.** (source: N. Goga)

The administration block is the area where prisoners attend offender counselling and where vocational lecturing takes place. However, there are no dedicated areas in which to house these functions. Despite this, several underutilised spaces have been adapted to accommodate these activities.
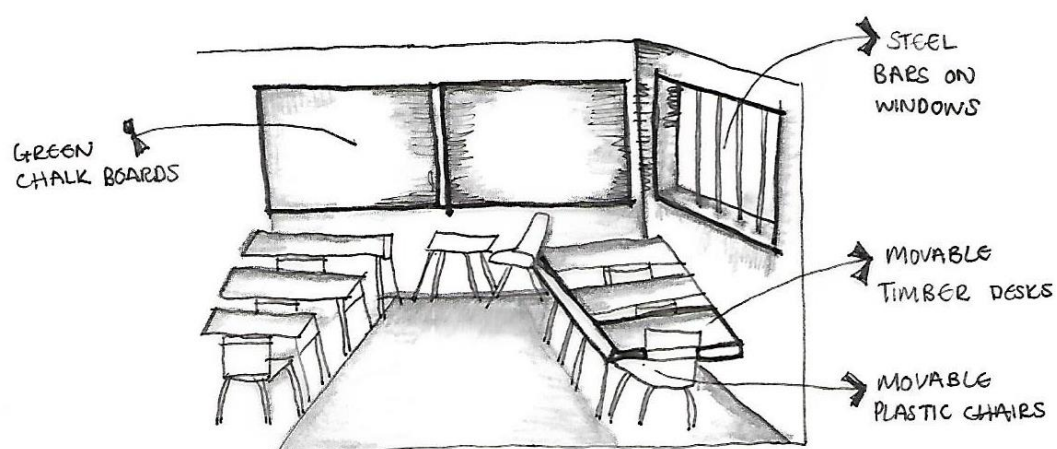
Figure 6.8. Former cells adapted into classrooms – poorly lite & ventilated**.**

(source: author)

The centre has seen ongoing transition since the new legislation towards correctional services. As a result, the centre has shifted is focus from implementing physical punishment, yet the building itself can be described as a passive instrument for maintaining control. The prison still has many features such as steel bars on windows, grille gates and large-scale fences with razor wire which still reflect punishment though architecture.
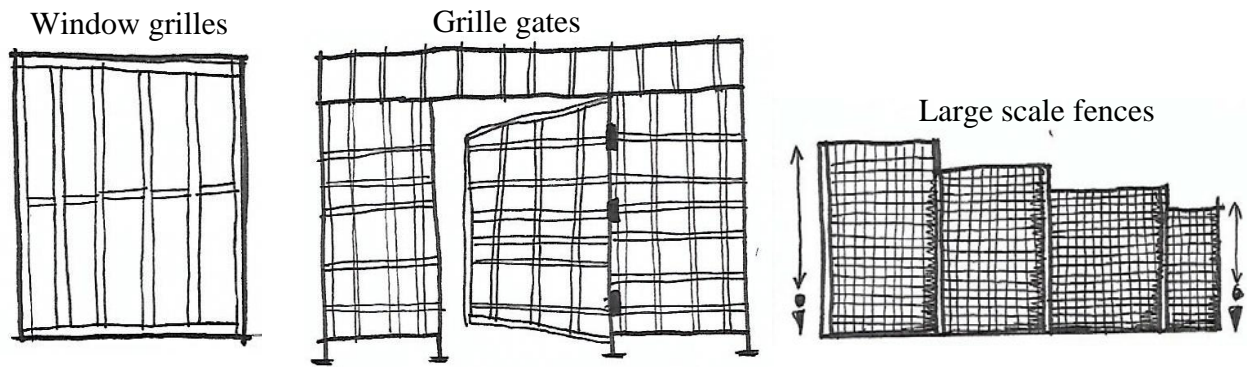
Figure 6.9. Illustration depicting various architectural elements translating punishment. (source: author)

Through use of soft coloured paints – yellow, blue and green on some of the internal walls, the prison has attempted to create a calming environment. However, the interior spaces cannot cater for the overcrowding population.

Within the female centre there are two types of offender housing cells, one being the single cells housing two to three offenders and mother and baby units housing the offender and her baby. To access the offender's cells, one must go through a small corridor that links all the cells. This corridor is poorly lit, unventilated and overcrowded.
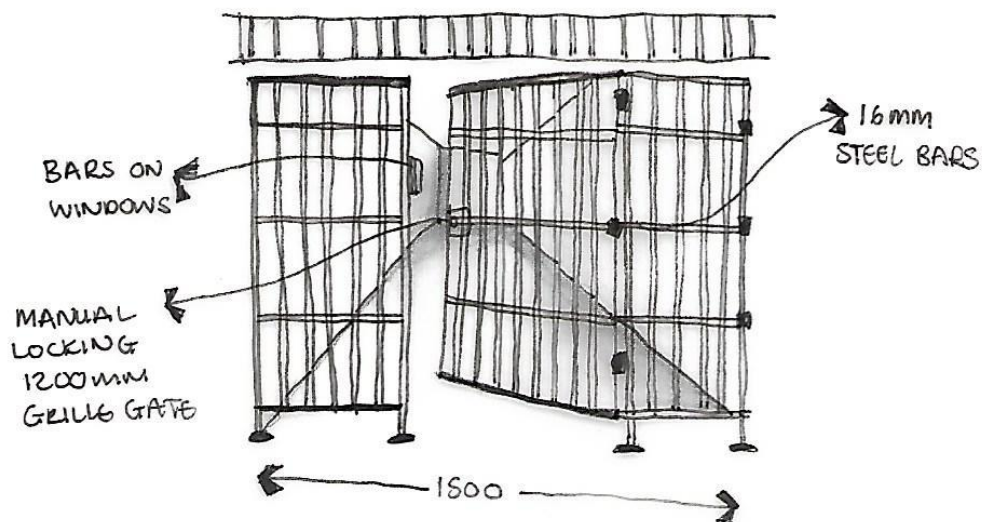
Figure 6.10. Prison Centre corridor – poorly lit & unventilated (source: author)

Although the prison cells are designed for sole occupation, overcrowding has resulted in up to three offenders per cell sharing one facility. The overcrowded cells are uncomfortably small with the dimensions of 1.8 meters in width and 2.4 meters in depth. (Warden, 2019). Within the cell there is a single toilet and hand basin which is shared among all cell mates. There is minimal light entering the cell through a single small vertical window, covered with steel bars. Cells face the backs of other cells to prevent communication between offenders. Within the cells there is hardly any furniture due to concerns of the furniture enabling self-harm.
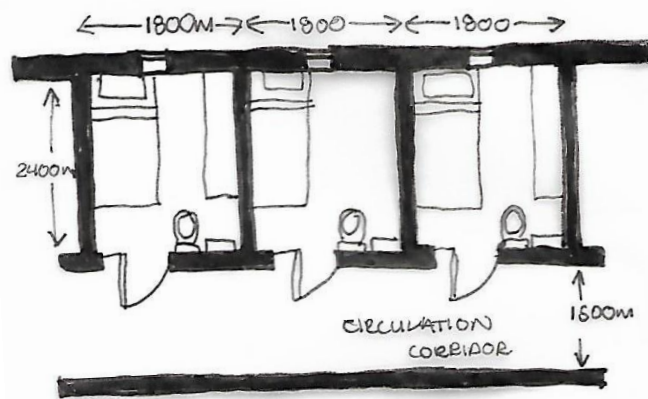
Figure 6.11. Illustration showing plan of female prison cell**.**

(source: author)

On the upper floors of the centre are the mother and baby units which reflect a less institutional feel by using soft furniture – cots, desk and shelves mostly made from timber. In an attempt to soften the maternal environment, the cells have regular doors that are painted as opposed to the standard grille bars. There are also communal spaces for the woman and a childcare centre where the offenders can leave their babies whilst they attend prison programs.

Figure 6.12. Mother baby units with softer finishes and furniture**.**

(source: N.Goga, 2015)

75

6.5.3 Control vs Flexibility

The design of Westville Correctional Centre is solely determined by a rationale of control and security - keeping the offenders from escaping and serving the punishment for their crimes. Limited flexibility and freedom of movement is clearly reflected throughout features in the centre. Once one enters the centre through the main entrance, there is a small winding road that takes you to a parking lot which visually leads you to the visitors waiting area. Adjacent to this are security boom gates operated by prison security. As mentioned, the female centre is located near the entrance (as a low security risk) and is surrounded by low scaled walls which divide it from the other centres.

Within the centre, grille gates divide the offenders in each section, confining their movement as well as placing dependence on the prison staff to access other facilities. However, the offenders have been given slight flexibility over their space through the allocation of minor responsibilities - such as manually locking their own grille gates to the entrances of their cells -thus giving them a sense of self-reliance and responsibility over their lives and surroundings.

6.5.4 Conclusion

Noted in the 2013 – 2017 Strategic plan brought forward by The Department of Correctional Services, the three aspects towards offender reform in South Africa are:

1. Correctional programs
2. Offender development
3. Physio socio and spiritual services

Unfortunately, Westville Correctional Centres harsh prison environment lacks the physical infrastructure to encourage the offender reform set forth by DCS. Although several programs have been introduced, Westville prison is unable to adequately support these programmes because of its inflexible nature in design. Overcrowding, and lack of facilities also become a major issue, creating hostile environments that discourage rehabilitation.

Part 2 – Interviews

6.4 Introduction & motivation

For this dissertation the main sample source was taken from the Social workers and warden officials at Westville Correctional Centre, and volunteers at NGOs such as NICRO and Khulisa, which provide social solutions and support for offenders re-entering society. The sample was taken from these sources due to their daily contact with female offenders, and their experiences and interaction with the prison environment. This helped to create a deeper perspective on the context of prison environments, and the need for a restorative design approach that responds to the gender specific needs of female offenders.

Facility/ Organisation	Personal	Code	Quantity	Interview Sheet
1. **Westville Correctional Centre**	1. Warden 2. Facilitator	**P1.1**	1 1	1: Corrections
2. **Dpt. Of Correctional Services**	1. Social worker 2. Police officer	**P1.2**	2 1	1: Corrections
3. **CRIMSA** - Criminological society of South Africa	1. Criminologist	**P2.1**	1	2: Criminology
4. **NICRO** - South African National Institute for Crime Prevention and the Reintegration of Offenders.	1. Organisation facilitator/ volunteer	**P3.1**	1	3: NGO's
5. **KHULISA** – Social Solutions	1. Organisation facilitator/ volunteer	**P3.2**	1	3: NGO's

Figure 6.13. Interview Schedule Table**.** (source: author)

6.7 Explication and Data analysis of interviews

As mentioned in chapter 4, all data gained through the eight semi structured interviews was analysed inductively with the goal of deriving information that would concurrently shape the lens through which the theories and literature were analysed by methods of cross analysis.

The data obtained was analysed and placed into three main interview sections that were identified throughout the dissertation's literature, theory and concepts. These main sections (interview categories) consist of:

1. **The prison environment**
2. **The female offender**
3. **Physio social reform & restorative architecture**

Within these sections the data was further analysed and grouped according to a central theme

1. The prison environment -

   - **Theme 01. Hard Vs Soft Architecture**
   - **Theme 02. Control Vs Flexibility**

2. The female offender -

   - **Theme 01. Perceptions of females in the prison environment**
   - **Theme 02. Gender specific needs**

3. Physio social reform & restorative architecture -

   - **Theme 01. Promoting reflection**
   - **Theme 02. Initiating reintegration**

Eventually the goal of the data analysis was to ensure that all the research followed a central theme. It is through this process that the core themes of Repercussion, Reflection and Reintegration were incorporated in Chapter 3. All concepts and theories, and discussions eventually correlate with these central themes.

6.8 General analysis

The interviews conducted provided a first-hand perception regarding the current prison environment in which female offenders are incarcerated, supporting many of the facts brought forward by the secondary research data. Throughout the conduction of interviews at Westville correctional centre, it was found that both wardens and social workers expressed a sense of pride and enthusiasm with regards to the prisons approach towards offender reform. It was noted that these efforts relied on rehabilitation programs and social works as opposed to the centre's architecture itself.

SECTION 01: THE PRISON ENVIRONMENT

This section will assist in understanding the current ideology and daily operations behind the prison environment. It aims to comprehend the new global social thinking about prison environments and contextualize this new thinking to specific users – in this case female offenders in South Africa

Theme 01. Hard Vs Soft Architecture

Intimidating, depressing and deteriorating, were one of the main key themes brought up by the current centres staff when describing the prison environment. It was noted that most of the staff

interviewed have worked at the centre for no less than 10 years and have expressed that it is a very frustrating environment that can at times become very depressing.

P1.1. *"On a daily basis we see woman suffer behind bars, not seeing their families and with very little sense of hope. But the sad part is we are used to it this way. "*
This statement was given by a warden that has been working in the centre since 2002.

P1.1. "*When I first started working here it was hard to adjust to the surroundings. When you enter the centre you are faced with a big, hard building that feels lonely and intimidating. The high walls, reinforcement of security, all these things make you feel as if you are entering another place very different to what you are used to on the outside".*

Through personal observation and data gathered through the interviews, it is noted that the centres internal structure is complex and not friendly towards newcomers and visitors. It was noted that the corridors and cells were dark, with very little natural lighting and ventilation. The staff have adapted to this environment, but they all noted that new offenders suffer when adjusting to their new surroundings as the prison implements isolation and deterrence.
 Most of the participants interviewed recommended that more attention needs to be paid to the centres aesthetic by promoting softer spaces where offenders can regain hope and obtain a sense of distraction from the negativity imposed by the incarceration itself.

P1.2. *"We do the best we can to provide the females with a better second chance, but we do wish the facilities also allowed for more to be done. A more nurturing environment without sacrificing security."*

Limited space and inadequate facilities also emerged as key issues when discussing the current prison environment. It was expressed that the current prison's old generation punitive design that has not undergone much change throughout the years and cannot support the need reform programmes.

A social worker at the centre expressed the following:
P1.2. *"Rehabilitation is done in most phases of offender reform; the environment partly supports this, but in its majority it doesn't."*

This was also expressed by another participant, the founding director of the Non-profit organization, Khulisa, who stated that:

P3.2 *"The majority of the older prisons were built during the military regime and were designed as punitive institutions not allowing for much reform to take place"*

It was noted by all participants that current prison models are outdated and don't go hand in hand with the departments new approach towards reform. An example given was that to provide classrooms for educational programs to take place, some cells were converted into impromptu learning spaces.

P3.1. *"Adapted cells have been transformed into classrooms for offenders, but these spaces are not enough for the inmate population and they do not provide positive environments for learning. They are not well lit and after a while inmates get uncomfortable due to the heat and lack of ventilation. I do recommend the implementation of more learning spaces."*

The need for other facilities for recreation, and physical exercise was also expressed by most participants as currently there is only one communal. It was noted that the female offenders played a variety of sports, including rugby, soccer and netball. These activities are closely supervised, with sports areas are out of bounds outside of the hours allocated to sport each week.

A general request amongst the staff was that there also needs to be an incorporation of their needs into prison designs as the current facility does not provide any staff lounge or recreational space for the staff to utilize during their lunch or personal time.

Theme 02. Control Vs Flexibility

According to the centre's wardens the physical security features and measures applied to the female centre were identical to those in the male centre, although they acknowledged that a minor relaxation of control was allowed by the warden in charge.

P1.1. *"We like to treat the offenders with a sense of self worth and give them a sense of responsibility over their space as much as is allowed."*

P1.2. *"Although under supervision, offenders have the flexibility to operate their grill gates, clean and maintain their own cells as well as decide who they prefer to room with"*.

As a result, it was noted that the offenders were offered a generous amount of flexibility within a controlled area. The warden assures that the entry to the female centre is properly secured at all times and upon entry visitors are searched and monitored throughout the various spaces.

According to the warden's, offenders are given a controlled schedule of their day which doesn't give them much of flexibility with their time.

P1.1.1 *"Throughout the day the woman needs to participate in activities. Although some of the activities aren't compulsory, they need to be doing something. Some of them choose to undertake educational programs whilst others prefer the skills programs such as sewing instead."*

SECTION 02: THE FEMALE OFFENDERS

This section deals with the reported experiences, needs and perceptions of female offenders in prison environments and explores how current prison architecture in South Africa is responding to these needs and perceptions.

Theme 01. Perceptions of females in the prison environment

As noted by all participants, females committing crimes is on the rise not just in South Africa but all over the world. According to the social workers and participating NGO's, females mostly commit crime for financial gain with the most frequent motive of providing for their family. It was also noted that a large number of women were incarcerated for more serious crimes such as murder mostly crimes of passion.

P2.1. *"Most of the woman in this centre are imprisoned for crimes such as theft with the intention to supply for their families as in most cases reported to me, the woman was the head provider for the household."*

P2.1. *"there is a large number of females incarcerated for murder of their partners. This offender normally acted out of impulse when the crime was committed..."*

Furthermore, according to the social workers, there is a very high rate of recidivism:

P1.2. *"I would say that there is about an 80% recidivism rate amongst offenders. I can recall that there is a woman I first counselled back in 2005, which has been out about three times and returned. To this day I see her. It becomes a norm".*

Almost all participants explored the theme that female offenders experience extensive negative effects adapting, living in prison, as well as facing stigma and rejection after release.

P1.2. *"Many of the woman that are imprisoned suffer from depression and mental health issues as they are not ready for what awaits them in here. This environment does that. Challenges them and puts them in situations where they have to depend on the institution for almost everything. This makes them feel hopeless in most cases. Adding to that, when they are released they are looked down upon by their communities."*

P1.1. *"When a female offender is incarcerated, they experience a great sense of isolation from the community... On visiting weekends, we always see large buses of visitors, specially partners heading towards the male centre yet here we see one gogo and a small child. The female's husband or partner rarely visits. Female offenders are affected by this greatly".*

It was expressed by all participants that efforts to rehabilitate and reform offenders is done during incarceration, but a large majority of these woman return due to rejection or stigma from the family system they return to.

P1.2. *"Once they are released the family has already suffered sufficient damage and there begins to be a break in the family system. Most of the offenders aren't prepared for this and fall back into the cycle."*

According to the warden in charge, once an offender arrives, they try make them feel as comfortable as possible in the hopes of making their transition into the prison environment smoother. It was noted that once an offender arrives, they are sent to the admission centre (B1). Once they are admitted they are sent to the in-house clinic for an individual screening. It was noted that in some cases this is not always carried through in extensive detail due to staff shortages and the high volumes of inmate population.

P1.1. *"Individual screening assists us in identifying the needs of offenders once they enter the facility but sometimes these are done and not much attention is given to each individual due to the lack of staff within the centre".*

P1.2. *"Currently the centre is about 50% overpopulated and the ratio of prisoner to warden is much above 25:1".*

Throughout all the interviews it was recommended that more stuff was needed in order to attend to offenders on a more detailed, one on one basis. Another recommendation was for more adequate clinic and hospital facilities.

P1.2. *"Currently the in-house hospital is very far from the female centre. When ever there is a serious health issue, especially a transmittable one it becomes a problem as many people and areas come in contact with the offender before we can get her to the hospital. This increases the changes of diseases spreading".*

Theme 02. Gender specific needs
It was clearly noted by all participants interviewed that the most important need for the female offender is her need for family interaction and representation.

P1.2. *"By far the greatest psychological consequence suffered by female offenders is the separation from their family.*

Despite family relations and support having many rehabilitation benefits, family visitation is restricted to a few hours on the weekends, and is considered a luxury in the centre.

P1.2. *"Currently most of the woman in here face breaking family systems. In here they hardly get to interact with their families. Visitation in the centre is done through non friendly environments that doesn't accommodate for children coming to see their parent. More needs to be done in this aspect."*

P1.1. *"there is no rooms for the mothers to hug or play with her children. The children are seen through bars or glass. It is not the best experience. There is no sense of nurturing space that is welcoming".*

According to the social workers, the families of the offenders also experience the pains of imprisonment through their loved ones being incarcerated. There is currently not much space for children to just run around and be "happy". One of the social workers explained that this negatively affects both the children and the mothers.

P1.2. *"Many of the offenders have children that are taken care of by their grandparents…it becomes extremely difficult for them to bring the children and go through the whole process."*

Another gender specific need identified by all participants is with regards to offenders which have their children in the centre with them in the allocated MBU (mother & baby units). Currently there are approximately ten women with babies in the female centre.

According to the social worker, in the time of labour, the pregnant female offender is transported to the nearest hospital – Chesterville. Within these MBU, it was noted that conditions were better than in the regular cells, thus many of the female offenders didn't want to leave after their children had turned two and left the centre.

P1.1. *"in the MBU the environment is more pleasing, the cells are painted in soft pastel colours and the mothers & babies are provided with wooden furniture with the hopes of creating a softer, more nurturing environment."*

It was noted that within these units more care was given to maintenance and the female offenders took pride in making their space as nurturing as possible. Toilets were found along the passage and not inside the cell, creating a more humane environment that was normalised in appearance. It was recommended that some of the principles applied here in terms of creating a softer more receptive environment be translated to other areas of the centre.

SECTION 03: PHYSIO SOCIAL REFORM & RESTORATIVE ARCHITECTURE

This section aims to understand the need for physio social reform for female offenders within the prison environment through architecture and how these restorative environments can further contribute to the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders.

Theme 01. Promoting reflection

It was noted by all participants that incorporating offender reform initiatives within the centre is extremely important. As part of the reflective process leading toward offender reform, the incorporation of nature and spaces which distract from the hard realities of the prison environment were repeatedly cited as conducive to self-adaptive, and self-calming processes. All participants noted that various properties of nature, which are not generally associated with prison environments, should be considered beneficial to offender reform.

Distraction and reflection

P1.2. *"Sometimes the offenders just need an alternative environment which allows them, at least for a while to get away from the stresses of imprisonment".*

P.1.2. *"In my opinion it would be of benefits to the inmates if the centre provided more outdoor spaces where the inmates can interact with nature and the world outside their four walls".*

According to the head social worker, the female centre once had a greenhouse that proved very successful amongst offenders.

P1.2.. *"A few years back the centre introduced gardening to the offenders. They really enjoyed this as they got to go outside and take care of their own plants in the greenhouse. It was clear this interaction with nature and self-production positively encouraged the inmates. Sadly, due to external matters the greenhouse was closed."*

Natural light and ventilation

Light, airy, and clean environments which are soothing and tranquil were similarly mentioned as being favourable spaces that encourage reflection. It was noted that currently the interior of the centre was poorly lit and due to little ventilation, there was a great level of thermal discomfort.

P.1.2. *"The offender cells are very small with hardly any access to natural light. There are windows, but these are obstructed with hard steel bars. Most of these windows also face to utility courtyards and not the gardens. The whole atmosphere is very gloomy."*

P.1.1. *"When offenders come to my office they are really drawn towards the larger windows as in their cells they are very narrow. The light and view to the outside fields gives them a sense of upliftment. The light and cheerful colours in my office make these the offender feel calmer and more comfortable."*

P3.1. *"Offenders, just like everyone else respond better to bigger spaces with lots of ventilation and lighting.*"

Theme 02. Initiating reintegration

All participants mentioned that facilitating offender reintegration back into society forms an important part of the holistic reform of offenders.

P1.2. *"When offenders leave prison, they are extremely institutionalized and don't really know how to adjust back into normal society. This is why you see many of them return."*

P3.1. *"This is why it is important that prior to release, offenders have access to pre-release programs and opportunities that will assist them once they leave."*

Self-realisation

According to the social workers, approximately 85% of the females in the centre are illiterate.

P1.2. *"the majority of them don't stand a chance out there. No education, no job, this is what leads them to a life of crime. This is why its important that in the centre we provide the women with opportunities to get an education or learn new skills."*

In the centre there are currently various courses and programs which the women can partake in. According to the warden these include – primary, secondary and tertiary education. Skills training such as sewing, beadwork and even hairdressing.

P1.1. *"there are plenty of different courses and skills training offered for women. We even have exterior parties come in and give hairdressing classes. The women enjoy this very much and are very enthusiastic to learn."*

Normalcy

According to all participants it has become clear that prison environments are very stressful, and offenders have difficulty adjusting, thus, according to the social workers, once they are released, they don't know how to act.

P.1.2. *"The offenders forget how to go to a restaurant and eat, as they didn't have this normalcy in prison. They don't know how to act at a grocery store and buy their own groceries as in prison they had to depend fully on the staff."*

This is why all participants recommended that allowing for a sense of normalcy is critical.

P1.1. *"offenders should be able to have some responsibility for themselves; they should be allowed to make some decisions over their space and chores. This will not only make them learn responsibility and self-dependence but also prepare them for when they are on their own"*

Community

Finally, community involvement and external system support were addressed as key themes when it comes to potentially enabling holistic offender rehabilitation and reform.

P1.2. *"offender reform is a cycle with many dependant factors, the community is a key factor and needs to be part of the process/cycle."*

6.8 Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the case study and the discussion of the key recurring themes, it becomes clear that a restorative prison environment can and should aim to meet the specific perceptions and needs of female offenders – both immediate and long term - to assist in holistic reform. The data gathered in this chapter is similarly supported by the literature, theoretical framework and precedent studies discussed in the previous chapters.

The current hard architecture found in prison environments is not favourable to offender reform, nor does it foster successful reintegration into society, despite the intentions being clearly noted through the prisons social work.

The acknowledgment and importance for offender reform was clearly expressed though the variety of programs offered. Sadly, the current architectural infrastructure does not support this, and still reflects the punitive properties of prison designs implemented under Apartheid.

Although it is clear that The Department of Correctional services have made various efforts to improve offender reformation, intentions fall short as the outdated prison model is unresponsive to this.

With regards to the consideration for gender sensitivity in the prison design, it was noted that the female centre was a replica of the male model, reflecting the lack of consideration for the gender specific needs of female offenders.

Throughout the fieldwork it became clear that understanding the user and their needs was important, yet this understanding falls short as it is not translated in the architecture. Although some attempts have been made to accommodate the needs of the women e.g. The MBU, it has been done within the same male prison layout.

Current prisons also leave an undesired gap in transition between incarceration and reintegration into society. Despite the implementation of pre – release programs in the centre, there should a link between these programs and the outside world. All systems should form part of offender reintegration in order for it to be considered more successful and provide the offender with a lower chance of re-offending.

Ultimately, these aspects are not typically considered in the outdated designs of prisons environments in Durban. Hence, this chapter has concluded that it is essential to understand the user specific needs of female offenders, and respond to these needs in the form of gender sensitive, restorative spaces which promote positive reform.

CHAPTER 7

Conclusion, Principles & Recommendations

PRINCIPLES FOR A RESTORATIVE PRISON ENVIRONMENT

7.1 Introduction

Based on the research's findings, it has become clear that most prisons currently in operation in South Africa are outdated architectural models which reflect the old generation ideology that prisons should solely provide for punishment and not reform. Despite the evident attempts of prisons to incorporate rehabilitation and re-integration into their facilities, they failed to achieve this goal due to a lack of infrastructure that directly responds to both the specific needs of female offenders, and which promotes restoration as a tool for reform.

The previous chapters have stressed that current prison environments are not fully conducive for offender reform. Overcrowding, excessive systems of control, limited visitation hours, strained family relationships, mental illness and an overall state of self-deterrence amongst inmates are proof that the current prison infrastructure is not meeting the needs of female offenders. This may be exacerbated by the fact that most prisons are located in remote, suburban areas, making it hard for the family of offenders to visit regularly, and entrenching the stigma of incarceration, ultimately hindering inmate reintegration once they are released.

Hence, there is a need to redefine restorative processes within prison architecture that caters specifically for post punishment reform of female offenders. The conclusive analysis of the reviewed primary and secondary data allows for the research to outline a 3 phased design solution with recommendations for the design of a pre-release centre for female offender.
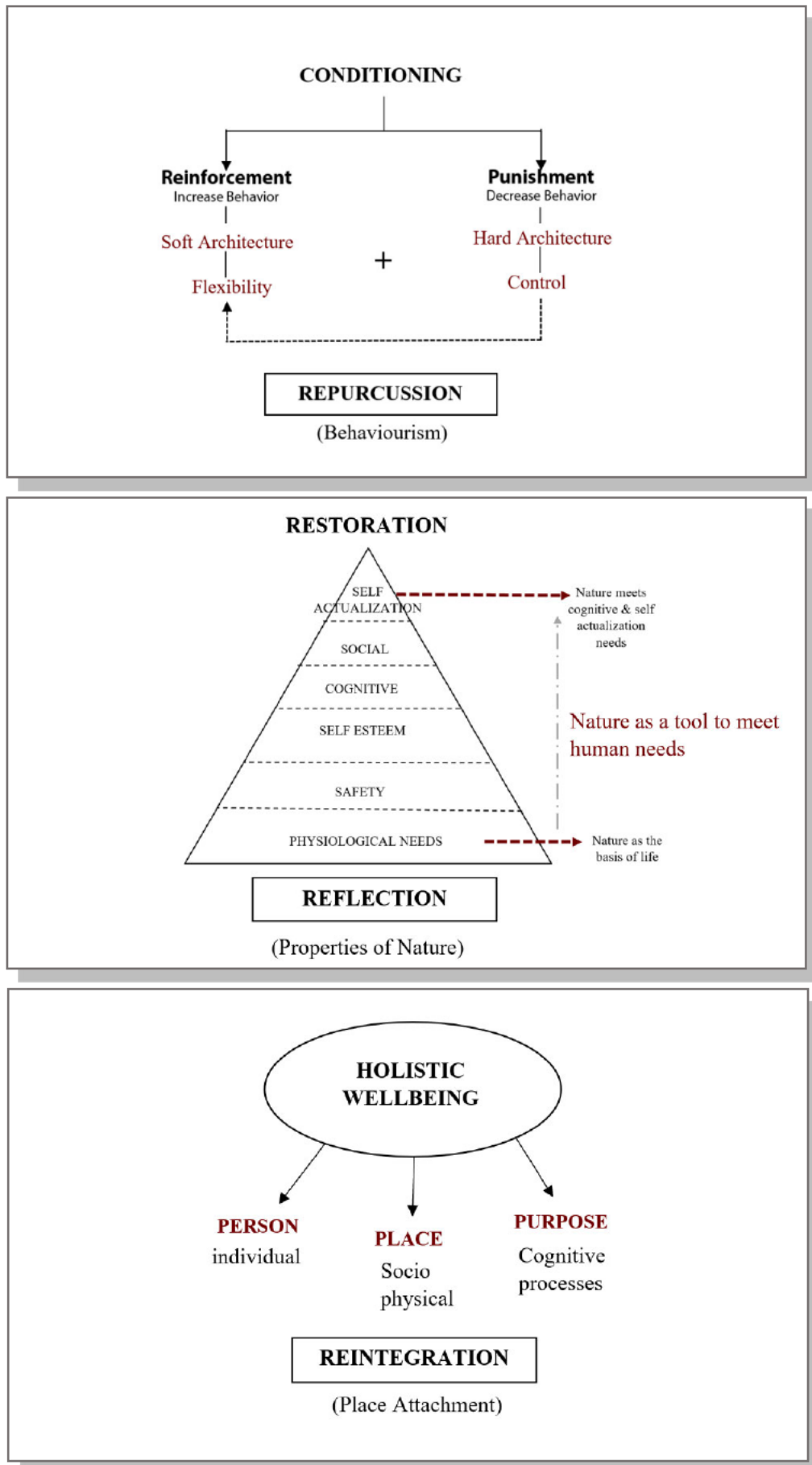
Figure 7.1. Redefining the process of Restoration in relation to female offenders. (Source: author)

7.2 Principles and Recommendations

Based on the theoretical analysis of environmental psychology and restorative processes, the research supports the notion that the incorporation of restorative architecture in a prison environment, together with gender sensitivity would ultimately facilitate the holistic reform of offenders. The adopted themes of gender sensitive architecture, restorative architecture and post punishment reform are used to classify the solutions and recommendations aligned with successful rehabilitation and reintegration. This chapter will therefore aim to recommend how this conclusion can be translated into design guidelines that can be applied through an architectural response for reform.

7.2.1 PRINCIPLE : GENDER SENSITIVE ARCHITECTURE

The introduction of a gender sensitive design methodology within the prison environment is would provide female offenders with spaces and facilities that respond to their specific needs and acknowledge their perception and use of space.

7.2.1.1 Recommendation 1: Understanding the female user

Since female offenders have different needs to those of male offenders, in terms of security, services and facilities, a "female only" centre should be designed independently from a "male centre". This way more attention can be dedicated to the immediate needs of the woman, and eliminates the need to schedule the sharing of facilities between male and female offenders, mitigating security risks, and promoting a sense of safety for the female offenders.

When designing a place of incarceration, facilities should also be provided for offender assessment upon admission to the centre. These assessments allow for the development of a personal "journey" to ensure maximum support towards their process of reform. These facilities may be included within the administration block and can consist of: Psychological check-up rooms; physical health examination rooms and personality and character development rooms. The need for these assessments is stated within the section 38(2) of the Correctional Services Act, 1998 (act 111 of 1998), but the lack of supporting infrastructure does not allow for these assessments to take place.
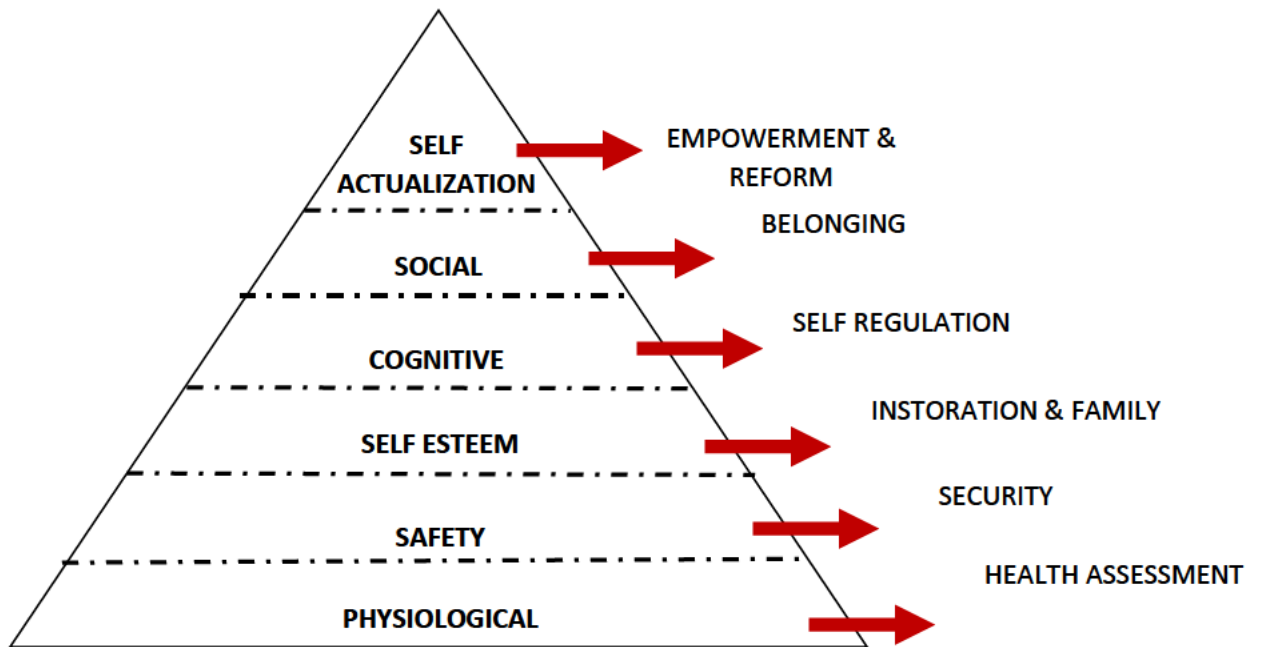
Figure 7.2. Table showing the relation between Maslow's human needs and the gender- specific needs of female offenders. (Source: author)

7.2.1.2 Recommendation 2: Centralizing the facilities location
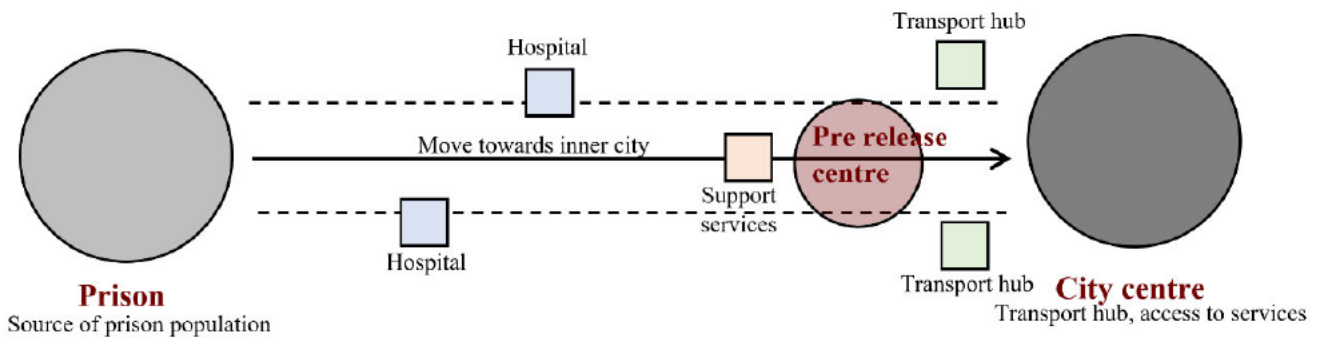
Figure 7.3. Diagram explaining centralization of facilities location. (Source: author)

It is recommended that prison centres be located in centralized locations with easy access to the city centre and its services, as well as inner-city transport networks. This allows female offender's greater accessibility to local education, training, and employment prospects, community-based health services, supporting NGO's and public transportation for easy family visitation.

Thus, the site selection for this type of development should consider:

1. The accessibility of the site to existing support services such as hospitals and offender support organisations
2. The connection of the site to the surrounding community – education, religious facilities and various cultures
3. The overall 'empowerment potential' of the site – allowing for future employment and skills opportunities.

7.2.1.3 Recommendation 3: Facilitate family ties

Throughout the research it has been noted that maintaining family ties and relationships is extremely important for the female offenders with regards to psychological wellbeing and motivation towards reform. Thus, it is recommended that prison centres and environments facilitate easy, comfortable visitation and family interaction. The designing of an appropriate visitor's centre that allows for various levels of privacy, comfort and accessibility, as well as transparency and normalcy should be included to allow for this. Within the visitation centre supportive amenities such as semi-private meeting lounges, cafeterias and natural spaces may be included to emphasis the sense of normalcy and comfort in facilitating family ties.

As acknowledged in the research, many incarcerated women are the sole or primary provider for their children and being forced to be away from their children has an enormous impact on the female offender and their family. Therefore, prison designs should focus on providing family friendly environments where the children of these offenders can visit regularly. The facility should also provide for appropriate Mother and child accommodation for inmates who give birth during incarceration. Pregnant female offenders should also have access to appropriate prenatal care within the facility, as well as access to nearby government hospitals if need be at the time of labour.

7.2.2 PRINCIPLE: RESTORATIVE ARCHITECTURE

As extensively proven in the literature, most current prison environments are not conducive to positive offender reform due to their punitive, authoritarian approach. Prison environments need to incorporate elements of restorative architecture to promote the process of holistic "restoration".

7.2.2.1 Recommendation 4: Alternative methods of imprisonment

To reduce the volume of stress on both offenders and staff, prison environments need to move away from a solely punitive approach and provide alternative methods of incarceration - especially for medium to low classified offenders. Minimum security prisons should focus on providing alternative correctional, rehabilitation, pre- release centres to house their offenders. This way the offenders can be placed in a centre that focuses more on the spaces, facilities and programs, than on excess security and punishment.

These alternative pre- releases, rehabilitation centres should accommodate for offenders that are closer to their period of release assisting with their reintegration into society. The overall scale of these alternatives should be smaller than regular prisons to allow for individual attention to be paid to each offender, and promoting a stronger sense of community amongst the offenders.

7.2.2.2 Recommendation 5: Elements of normalcy

Restorative prison architecture should focus on creating normalized environments that reflect life on the outside of prison as much as possible, normalizing the prison environment through design characteristics such as:

1. Outdoor spaces for personal reflection
2. Residential layouts with easy wayfinding – sidewalks, landscapes, benches etc.
3. Campus layout – encourages movement from one amenity to the other as in normal life
4. Allow for personal flexibility & control – encourages self-dependence & responsibility as in normal life

The design of restorative prison architecture should reflect a more stimulating residential character that diminishes the sense of institutionalization. To combat the general stigma surrounding the overwhelming prison appearance, the centre should create a non-intimidating image and character encourages the process of offender reform as well as an inviting appeal to visitors and the community. This becomes important in relation to both the centres exterior and interior choice of materials, scale and language.

7.2.2.3 Recommendation 6: Responds to basic & complex needs of restoration

When designing a restorative pre-release that encourages rehabilitation, Maslow's Hierarchy of basic to complex needs, in relation to female offenders, needs to be responded to in the accommodation schedule and the overall architecture:

Needs	What it includes	Architectural response
1. Physiological needs.	Basic elements for survival – food, water, sleep, air.	- Humane & comfortable holding cells. - Appropriate kitchen/cafeteria
2. Safety needs.	To feel safe & secure – physical & psychological security.	- Health & clinical centre – provide for need of offender's wellbeing. - allowance of privacy - Unobstructed views across facilities - Administration centre - Easy access to staff response
3. Social needs.	Belonging, healthy interaction – attachments & social groups	- Flexible space, movement, environment for interaction - Recreational Centre – socialization by communal recreational spaces - Visitor centre – allow family interaction - Counselling and group theory rooms
4. Self-esteem needs.	To have good self-image & sense of accomplishment	- Connection, views, materials, nature, interaction. - Community involvement within centre to reduce offender stigma. - Religious centre – allow for spiritual uplifting.
5. Cognitive & aesthetic	Elements of distraction & soft fascination to promote restoration.	- Natural outdoor spaces that provide distraction from incarceration stresses - Cultural centre – art workshops, reading clubs, art performances
6. Self-actualization	To be self – aware & to fulfil our full potential.	- Time, hierarchy, journey - Education Centre – workshops, classrooms, studios - Vocational training.

Figure 7.4. Table showing different basic and complex needs in relation to architectural responses. (Source: author)

95

7.2.3 PRINCIPLE: POST PUNISHMENT REFORM.

As established through the research, there is an immediate need to initiate restorative processes which cater beyond punishment. The idea of promoting reflection and initiating reintegration as key processes towards holistic reform has been explored in both the primary and secondary data. It can be concluded that in order for holistic reform to be successful, each phase should directly respond to the more complex psychological needs of female offenders through a restorative architectural response.

Restorative phase	Human Need	Female specific need	Restorative Architectural response
1.	Physiological	Physiological	1.1 **Hard vs Soft Architecture**
Repercussion	Safety	Safety	1.2 **Flexibility vs Control**
2.	Self Esteem	Instoration	2.1 **Elements of Nature**
Reflection	Cognitive	Self-regulation	2.2 **Spaces for distraction**
3.	Social	belonging	3.1 **Place Attachment**
Reintegration	Self-Actualization	Empowerment	3.2 **Wayfinding**

Figure 7.5. Table showing different restoration phases and how the needs of female offenders are meet through restorative architectural responses. (Source: author)

In the following section, the recommendation for each phase will be analysed through the two architectural paradoxes identified in the previous chapters.

7.2.3.1 Recommendation 7: Implementing repercussion

This first phase of the restorative process focuses on the need for offenders to acknowledge their actions through humane punishment. This is the phase that is currently implemented in most prison centres. It is recommended that when designing for this phase, spaces need to reflect a balance of paradoxes:

- Hard versus soft architecture to encourage conditioning but also reform, and
- Flexibility and control to encourage security but also enable a smoother adaptation.

Hard & Soft architecture

The architectural response should be dependent on the level of security, and correlate with the theoretical framework surrounding operant behavioural conditioning through acknowledgment and rewards. This means that when an offender behaves in a desired way, they have access to 'softer' architectural spaces, but if they behave undesirably towards reform, they get these privileges taken away and only have access to spaces with harsher architectural character (e.g., isolation cells). To allow for this sense of repercussion and authority the centre should incorporate hard materials that reflect confinement, such as concrete, steel and face brick, contrasted with softer spaces and softer materials, such as timber and glass to convey a sense of transparency and trust. Solid, securely mounted or built-in furniture should be used for harder, more robust spaces e.g. offender cells, whereas areas where the offenders have greater independence, should allow for movable, softer furniture.

Flexibility & control

Since the typology is still a place of incarceration, access control at entry and exit points and the building perimeter need to be enforced. However, it is also recommended that the woman be trusted with securing and managing their own spaces (within restricted areas) in an effort to encourage positive conditioning and responsibility. The design of the centre should promote passive control as much as static control using open planned spaces that allow for easy supervision and circulation. Open planning allows for better sightlines and eliminates the stresses and uncomfortableness created by cramped and crowded spaces.

Within the offender housing units, the security system of "direct supervision" can be created through design planning. This can be achieved by strategically placing the wardens watch station inside the living area with direct visual lines to communal areas. This type of supervision allows offenders more freedom of movement and flexibility of space as they are not restricted to their rooms all day and instead, they can participate in communal actives that assist in their reform. Direct supervision promotes security and also allows offenders and prison staff to interact and establish relationships at an equal level. Similarly, designing adaptive/flexible cell walls that can be transformed into single cells for privacy or "buddy" cells, where inmates can share a room with another inmate encourages responsibility and reclaims a sense of self dependence.

7.2.3.2 Recommendation 8: Promoting reflection

Following the phase of repercussion comes the first phase of "post punishment reform"-reflection. As previously discussed, the incorporation of reflective processes within the prison environment is important as it allows the offenders, to adapt to their new reality in a cognitive and physical calming way. In this phase of restoration, the more complex needs, that cater beyond the physiological and safety of offenders are met. Through the incorporation of softer architectural responses such as elements of distraction and the reflective properties of nature, which support the females need for instoration and reflection within prison environments.

Hard vs Soft Architecture

The incorporation of natural elements in architecture has the ability to respond to the cognitive, aesthetic (need for instoration) and self-esteem (need for self – regulation) needs of female offenders. Nature should serve as an integral tool for "softening" hard prison architecture and promoting offender reflection. Elements of nature can be incorporated in the design of prison environments through:

1. Courtyard spaces
2. Communal gardens (greenhouses)
3. Green roofs
4. Green walls
5. Rooms with external views
6. Internal – external spaces

Flexibility vs control

Prison environments have been proven to diminish psychological resources and generate stress for the offenders, visitors and staff alike. Incorporating flexible spaces which offer a "change of environment" can reduce these stresses, by promoting self-adaptation and instoration. Examples of such design aspects include:

1. elements of soft fascinations through nature
2. optimization of lights and views
3. introduction of fractal patterns to the architecture

This allows the offender the flexibility of escaping from the typical prison environment to a softer more reflective space.

7.2.3.3 Recommendation 9: Initiating reintegration.

Following the phase of reflection comes the final phase in "post punishment reform" – reintegration. This final step before the offender is released into back the community, should holistically prepare them for the realities of the outside world. It is in this phase of restoration that the most complex needs of social empowerment and self-actualization need to be met. Designing architectural spaces which ensure a sense of normality encourages de-stigmatisation and improves the offender's self-worth. Good wayfinding and simple, organised design layouts can assist offenders in improving their self-esteem and promoting a renewed sense of connection with themselves, the community and their environment. This phase is ultimately essential to holistic reform and offender empowerment.

Hard vs Soft Architecture

At this phase of offender reform, the woman should be able to feel more comfortable, stable and secure within the prison environment. Thus, the design of prison environments should allow for a sense of belonging by:

1. Promoting place attachment through softer architecture.
2. Creating spaces which express a symbol of self-identity.
3. Provide different levels of privacy in design.

The overall evolution from "committing offender" to "reformed offender" should be acknowledged in the prison design. The architecture should promote a sense of movement: a journey through the building which provides the offender with a sense of hope and achievement as it tracks their journey and shows how far they have come.

This journey can be introduced from the point of entry to the centre –during the repercussion phase - through hard architecture, which eventually starts softening towards the phases of reflection and reintegration. This allows for the integration of both hard and soft architecture which responds directly to the offender's journey to holistic reform.

Flexibility vs control

Within the phase of reintegration, spaces should be designed to allow the offenders degrees of flexibility and personalization in the hope of preparing and empowering them for when they are released. This could be achieved by:

1. Creating a sense of clear wayfinding
2. Clear central axis with ample visual connection

This way offenders can also move more freely throughout the control areas without being escorted, enabling them to be self-actualized and dependant.

7.3 Conclusion

In line with the original research questions and objectives, the conclusive goal of exploring how restorative architecture can be introduced into prison environments to encourage the physio social reform of female offenders was answered thought the following findings:

1. **Person - Understanding the female offender**: The female offenders despite being the minority within prison environments have gender- specific needs that need to be identified and responded to through the implementation of gender sensitive architecture.

2. **Place - Providing a platform for restorative processes:** The prison environment needs to be conducive towards reform, providing a positive environment that meets all needs of offenders and encourages positive environmental psychology and conditioning.

3. **Purpose- Redefining offender reform:** The reform of offenders needs to be redefined in order for it be holistic. Reform in prison environments need to cater beyond repercussion, to include for the promotion of reflection and the initiation of reintegration.

Conclusively, the research has demonstrated that by combining a response to female offenders' needs and perceptions, with restorative architecture, as well as post punishment reform, into the design of prison environment, one can promote positive physio social reform.
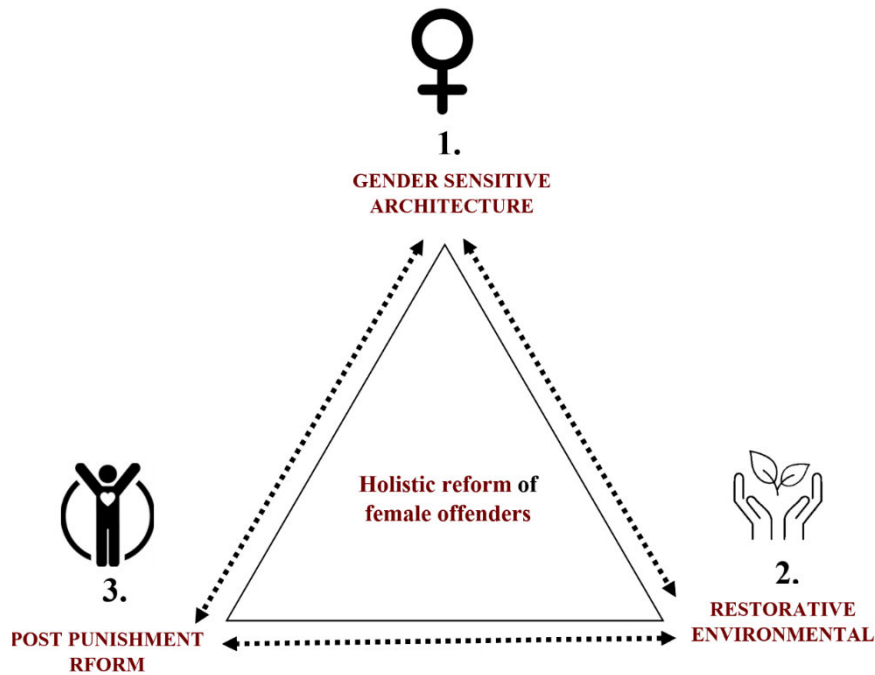
Figure 7.6. Triangulation of research solutions. (Source: author)

Despite the Department of Correctional Services' intent to promote offender reform through the incorporation of new programs and external facilitators, it falls short due to outdated prison environments which do not reflect the architectural response needed to promote the programs. Thus, the solutions and recommendations underpinned by the research will establish a guideline for designing restorative prison environments that reduce the gap between imprisonment and the reintegration of offenders into society. This would ultimately contribute to reducing recidivism rates and breaking the cycle of the "invisible woman"

		HARD VS SOFT ARCHITRCTURE	**FLEXABILITY VS CONTROL**
Psych need	**1.**		
Architectural response	**Implementing Repercussion**	Existing	Existing
Psych need	**2.**	Instoration	Self-regulation
Architectural response	**Promoting Reflection**	**Properties of nature**	**Spaces of distraction**
Psych need	**3.**	Sense of belonging	Sense of Empowerment
Architectural response	**Initiating reintegration**	**Place attachment**	**Wayfinding**

Figure 7.7. Table relating female psychological needs to architectural responses through the themes of hard vs soft architecture and flexibility vs control. (Source: author)

CHAPTER 8

Design report

TOWARDS THE DESIGN OF A PRE-RELEASE CENTRE FOR FEMALE OFFENDERS IN DURBAN

8.1 Introduction

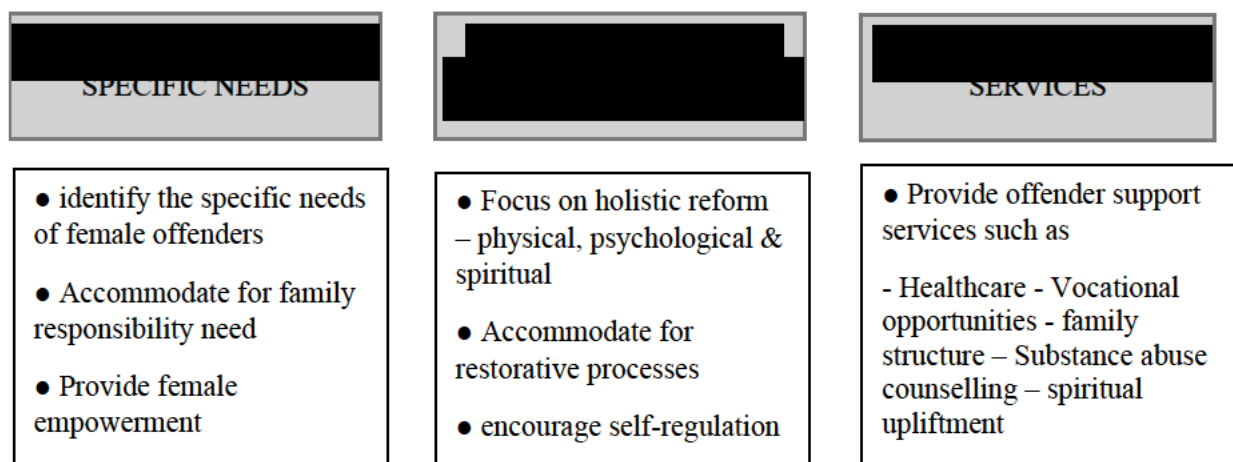Through the data acquired from the literature, precedents studies, case study and interview responses, it is evident that architecture holds an important yet undervalued role in facilitating the process of offender reform. In the following chapter, the design report aims to illustrate how the various aspects identified throughout the dissertation could be applied through architecture towards the design of a pre-release centre for female offenders in Durban.

This chapter aims towards understanding how restorative architecture can accommodate and satisfy the numerous specific physical, psychological and spiritual needs of female offenders within the prison environment. Conclusively the research acknowledges that the design of prison environments should be extended to include restorative environmental design guidelines that promote holistic offender reform, cater beyond the process of punishment, whilst at the same time respond to both the basic and complex needs of female offenders. The following choice of site, client brief and accommodation schedule will wholly reflect the results presented by the research.

8.2 Project briefing, Client & Typology requirements

8.2.1 Proposed project description

The proposed project consists of designing a pre-release centre for female offenders which facilitates the process of holistic reform through restorative architecture. The project aims to create a centre that caters beyond punishment whilst concurrently acknowledging and satisfying the gender- specific needs of female offenders.

SPECIFIC NEEDS		SERVICES
● identify the specific needs of female offenders ● Accommodate for family responsibility need ● Provide female empowerment	● Focus on holistic reform – physical, psychological & spiritual ● Accommodate for restorative processes ● encourage self-regulation	● Provide offender support services such as - Healthcare - Vocational opportunities - family structure – Substance abuse counselling – spiritual upliftment

To ensure practicality and efficiency, the design proposal for the centre should collaborate concurrently with existing offender reform and reintegration systems, including NGO's which sustain existing support systems and services to ensure that all the needs of the offenders are met. This will ultimately make the realisation of any best practice model for the pre prelease centre more grounded and user- responsive.

8.2.2 The Clients

In correspondence with the dissertation's aims of designing a pre-release centre which fully identifies and acknowledges the experiences and needs of female offenders, it is recognised that government facilities, such as police departments, hospitals and vocational facilities, would benefit from a closer relationship with the organisations supporting offenders. As a result of this, the proposed client group consists of a combination between the governmental Department of Correctional Services and the Non-profit organization of NICRO.

DOCS - The Department of Correctional Services – Westville Correctional Center

Figure 8.1. Logo for The Department of Correctional Services. (source: http://www.dcs.gov.za/)

The Department of Correctional Services is a governmental department which functions contributes towards a safer South Africa by promoting humane imprisonment and the social reintegration of offenders. The mandate basic of the DCS is laid out by The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa (Act No. 108 of 1996) which focuses on offender's rights to Equality, Human dignity, Right to health care services, Children's rights, education, Freedom of religion and right to humane treatment. Incoherence with this, the department offers programs and services such as formal education, community corrections, social work and healthcare provisions. The primary aim of effectively correcting offender behaviour through these methods soundly formulates the basis of the project brief with the intention of reducing recidivism.

NICRO – National Institute for Crime Prevention & the Reintegration of offenders –
Durban Branch

Figure 8.2. Logo for NICRO (National Institute for crime Prevention & the reintegration
of offenders. (source: https://www.nicro.org.za/)

Founded in 1910 and formally known as the South African Prisoners Aid (SPAA), NICRO is
a non- governmental organization that aims towards providing offenders and their families with
support services. The organization focuses on aspects involving crime prevention, diversion
from crime and offender reintegration. Counselling services, both individual and group
sessions typically form part of their services to the community. NICRO also provides offender
with programs such as life skills programmes, substance abuse programmes, anger
management with the hopes of providing the offender with a better second chance at life.

**In conclusion, these clients will, therefore, require an architectural development which
offers:**

- An inner-city pre-release rehabilitation centre for female offenders in Durban which
  ultimately responds to both the offenders basic and complex needs.
- Restorative environments that allow for reflection and reintegration.
- Improved access to services and programs for education, healthcare, spiritual and
  individual uplifting of offenders.
- Opportunities for community engagement and awareness surrounding imprisonment.

8.2.3 The Brief

The design brief is ultimately aimed towards creating a pre –release that allows for the holistic
reform of offenders through the incorporation of restorative architecture. The proposed design
should consist of a minimum-security pre- release centre that caters for a maximum of 80
female offenders above the age of 18.

This centre should be easily accessible and open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. The
centre's facilities should offer core spaces for administration, inmate housing, education,

healthcare, recreation, culture and mother-child facilities which should be constantly available. Furthermore, to these requirements the centre should aim towards creating a secure yet flexible environment which goes beyond catering for the basic needs and concentrates on the holistic post punishment reform of the offender's terms of environmental restoration and gender sensitivity. The pre-release centre should be accommodating for three main users, the female offenders, the prison staff and the community. Community engagement becomes important; therefore, the centre should also create spaces for community and offender symbiosis, that although separate from the offenders, still allows engagement.

8.2.3 The Proposed Accommodation Schedule

Function	Description	Estimated size
1. <u>Administration Centre</u>	**Offender orientation**	**Total:** 300 sqm
	• Admin reception	
	• Offender registration	
	• Examination rooms	
	• Waiting cells	
	• Staff offices	
2. <u>Offender Housing A</u>	**Phase A - Single cells**	**Total:** 1600 sqm
	• 50 cell rooms	
	• Communal kitchen	
	• Recreation rooms	
	• Courtyard	
	• Counselling rooms	
3. <u>Offender Housing B</u>	**Phase B – Community Units**	**Total:** 600 sqm each
	• 5units complex housing 6 offenders	
	• Communal kitchen	
	• Recreation rooms	
	• Commissary	
	• Courtyard	
	• Community Garden	
4. <u>Health Centre</u>	**Offender Healthcare**	**Total:** 650 sqm
	• Reception	

	• Waiting room	
	• Clinic	
	• Consultation rooms	
	• Pharmacy	
	• Child clinic facilities	
	• Maternal care rooms	
5. <u>Education Centre</u> 	**Vocational training** • 4 Classrooms • 2 Workshops • Library • 1 Kitchen (cooking classes) • Computer Lan • Music room • NGO offices • Garden farm facilities	**Total:** 1000 sqm
6. <u>Cultural Centre</u> 	**Recreational spaces** • Incarceration Museum • Sports Hall (Multipurpose) • Art gallery • Restaurant/ Cafeteria • Craft Store • Open Air theatre • Reflection park	**Total:** 2000 sqm
7. <u>Religious Centre</u> 	**Spiritual up lighting** • Chapel • Meditation rooms • Prayer rooms	**Total:** 600 sqm
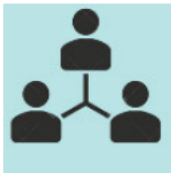
	• Outdoor garden (meditation/yoga)
8. Visitors Centre	**Family Visitation** **Total:** 800 sqm • Welcoming area • Cafeteria • Communal visitation lounge • Private visitation lounge • Outdoor area – picnic
9. Mother & Child Centre	**Maternal facilities** **Total:** 500 sqm • 10 Mother & child accommodation • Childcare facilities • Breastfeeding rooms • Family counselling rooms • Outdoor Kids playground

Figure 8.3. Table showing proposed accommodation schedule. (source: by author)

8.3 Site selection & analysis

As recommended by the dissertation research, the location for the proposed pre-release centre needs to be a center point for restoration, optimise service delivery and community engagement. Since most of the female offenders using the pre-release centre will be sent from Westville prison, the need for easy accessibility in all aspects – family visitors, basic services, healthcare and spiritual uplifting is required.
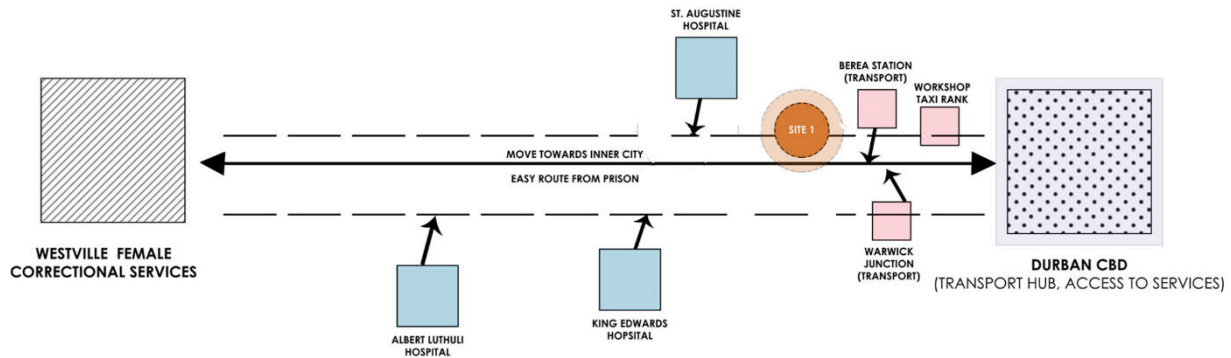
Figure 8.4. Diagrammatic representation of proposed site in relations to Westville prison, amenities and the city centre. (source: by author)

The site criteria for the proposed pre-release center, therefore consists of:

1. **Easy Access from Westville Prison**

   Site to be along easy route from Westville Prison towards inner city for easy movement of inmates.

2. **Proximity to city center**

   Challenging notion of most prisons' environments being out of town. Makes it easier for female offenders to be closer to necessary services, transportation routes & community.

3. **Easy Access to public transport**

   Proximity to public transportation routes for accessibility to center. Needed for female offender to have easy access to family relationships and visits

4. **Sufficient services**

   Site to be on route or near to facilities such as hospitals, police stations & open sporting facilities that contribute to inmate wellbeing

5. **Nature**

   Site needs to be in a tranquil environment that has natural calming features that contribute to inmate restoration & sensory experience

6. **Community**

   Site needs to be within active community neighbourhood with facilities such as schools, churches and support organizations which assist in offender reform.

8.3.1 Site Selection – Percy Osborn & Innes road – Windemere, Durban

The site selection for the proposed centre is located on the corner of Percy Osborn and Innes road, within the metropolitan area of Windemere, in inner city Durban.

Figure 8.5. Contextual plan of proposed site in Windemere, Durban**.** (source: Google earth map)

Figure 8.6. Micro context surrounding proposed site in Windemere, Durban**.** (source: by author)

Criteria	Description of site response to criteria	Response rating
Easy access from Westville prison	• 15 min drive from Westville prison through N3 then Umgani road then onto Innes Road.	**7/10**
Close proximity to city center	• 5 min drive into CBD – close to all amenities & services	**10/10**
Easy access to public transport	• 100m walk to Umgeni Station • Easy access to main roads – Umgani road • 100m from Taxi stop on Umgeni Road • 500m from Old fort Taxi rank • 5min drive from Warwick transportation hub	**10/10**

Sufficient services	• **Hospitals:** City Hospital – 3km
	      : St Aiden Provincial Hospital – 2.5km
	      : Cure Day Clinic – 1km
	      : Nicola Buhr psychologist clinic – 1.5km
	• **Education:** Clifton prep school – 1.5km
	      : Durban education centre – 1km
	      : Gordons Girls school – 550m
	• **Religious:** Lambert Road Baptist Church – 800m
	• **Police station:** SAPS Berea – 600m
	• **Retail:** Windemere Centre – 550m
	      : Game city – 2km
		8/10

Nature	• Site currently vacant • Foliage provide noise barrios • Light: Good exposure to Natural Light from all orientations • Natural space provides positive influence towards offender reform	**5/10**

Community	• Many supportive organizations & facilities in area including: Green camp Gallery - 500m
	      : NICRO – 1km
	      : Childline: 800m
	      Lifeline: 800m
	
	• Childcare facilities: Prestige baby – 500m
		10/10

Figure 8.7. Table evaluating site in relation to the required site criteria. (source: author)

8.3.2 Urban & Site analysis

The vibrant city of Durban is situated on the East Coast of South Africa within the province of KwaZulu – Natal. The suburb of Windemere, found in the heart of the city is where the propped pre-release centre will be sited. From Westville Correctional Centre, the site is easily accessed through the N3 towards the Durban CBD then by going North on Umgani road and then left on to Innes road, corner of Percy Osborn, where the site is located.
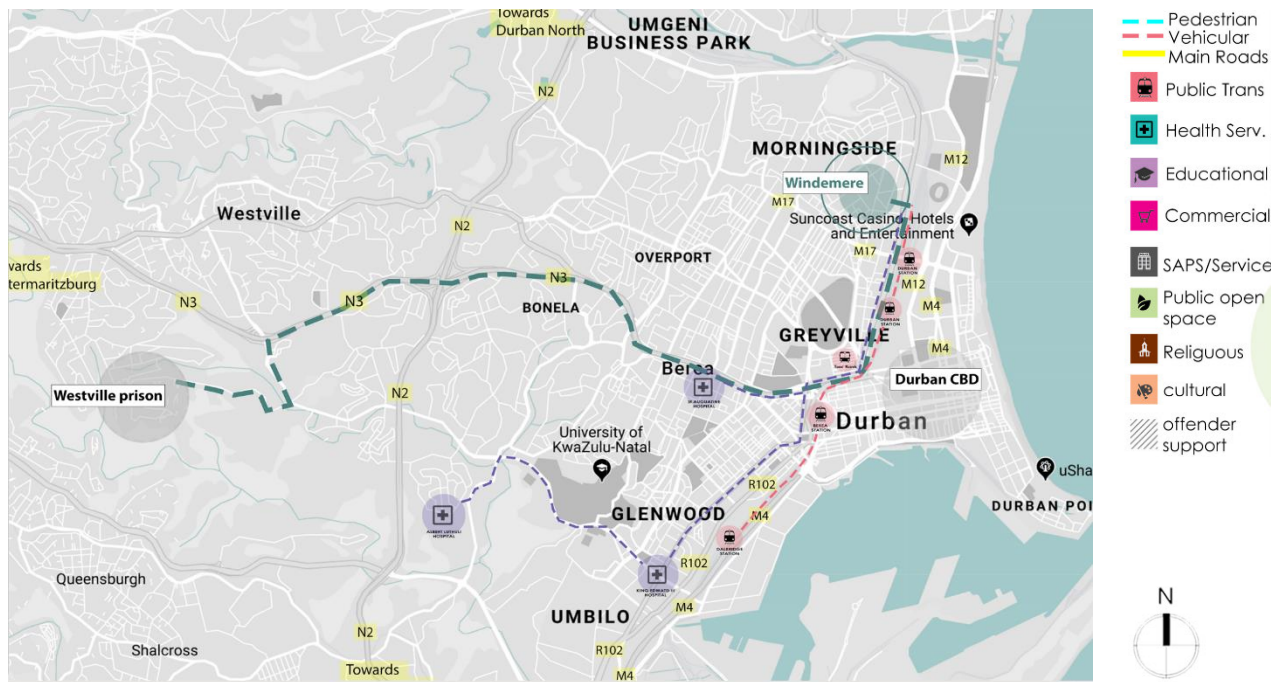
Figure 8.8. Macro site analysis – accessibility, amenities and locality.

(source: author)
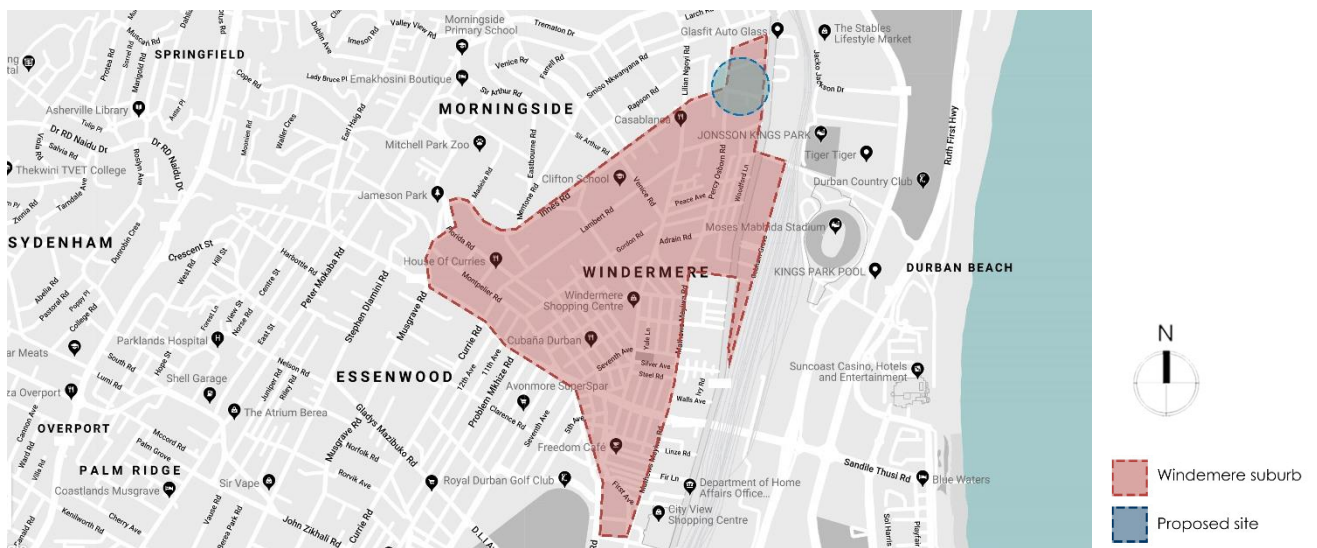
Figure 8.9. Macro map showing area of site – Windemere.

(source: author)

Windemere is well known for its vibrant metropolitan character. The suburb is majorly characterized by its commercial and recreational facilities, which invites a lot of pedestrianized community activities. The selected site – Corner of Percy Osborn and Innes road is surrounded by various zoning including residential and general business with medium density. Around the perimeters of the site, there is a residential building and the Ellie's trade centre on the East, The Ford car dealership and Grange Garden Hotel on the South, whilst on the West and North perimeter, there are residential houses. Within proximity to the site one also finds the lion Match office park, Moses Mabhida stadium and Virgin Active off Umgani road.
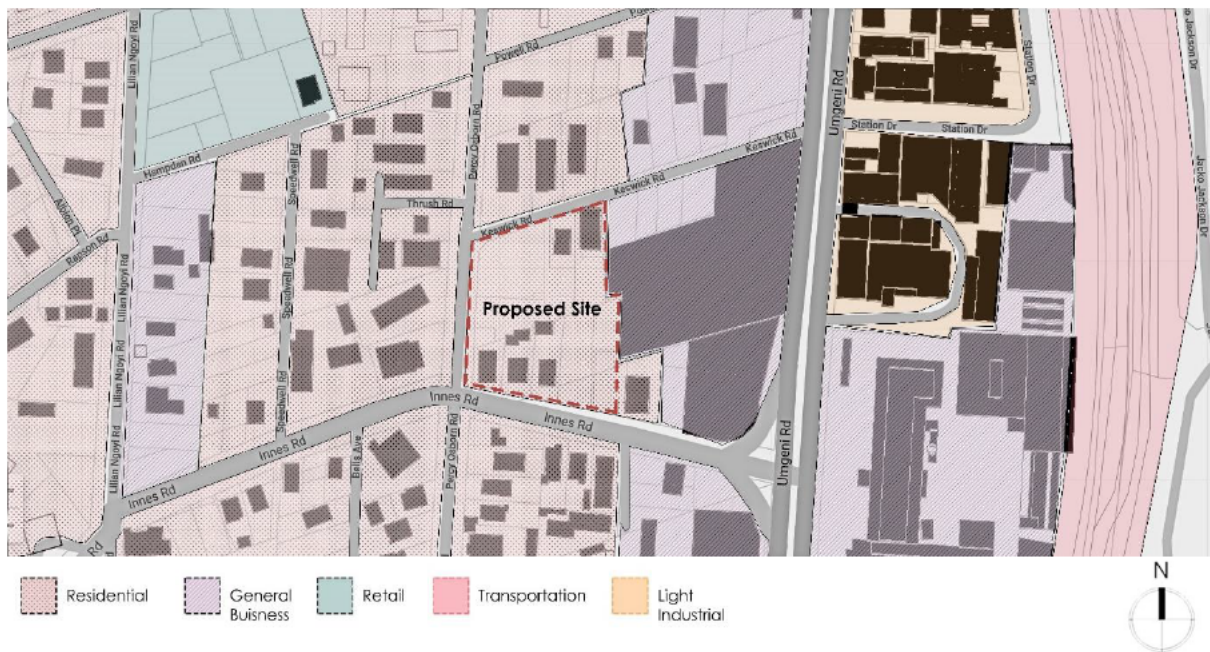
Figure 8.10. Contextual map showing the neighbourhood – Zoning.

(source: author)

Figure 8.11. Figure ground showing landmarks & surrounding architectural.

(source: author)

112

Figure 8.12. image showing western views onto Innes road. (source: Google earth)

Figure 8.13. image showing aerial view of site. (source: Google earth)

Figure 8.14. image showing Grange Hotel on Innes road. (source: Google earth)

Figure 8.15. Google earth image showing Lion match office park on umgeni road. (source: Google earth)

The site is analysed within its proposed context and is expanded on depicting orientation, climatic conditions, accessibility and figure-ground studies towards the proposed site boundary.
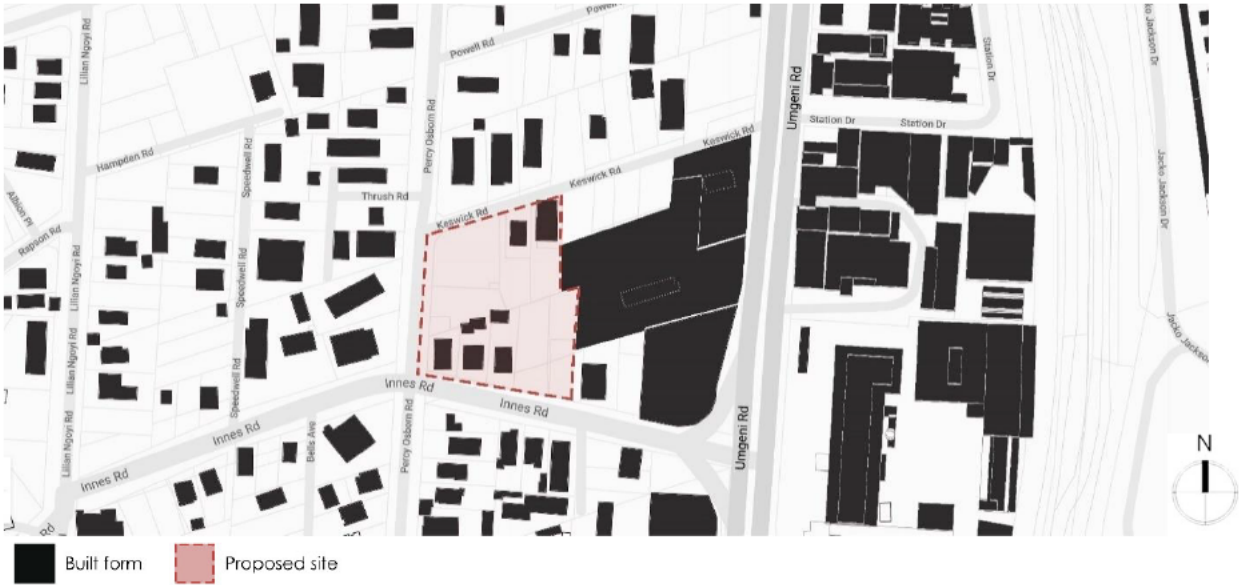
Figure 8.16. Figure ground of site and surroundings showing density. (source: author)

113
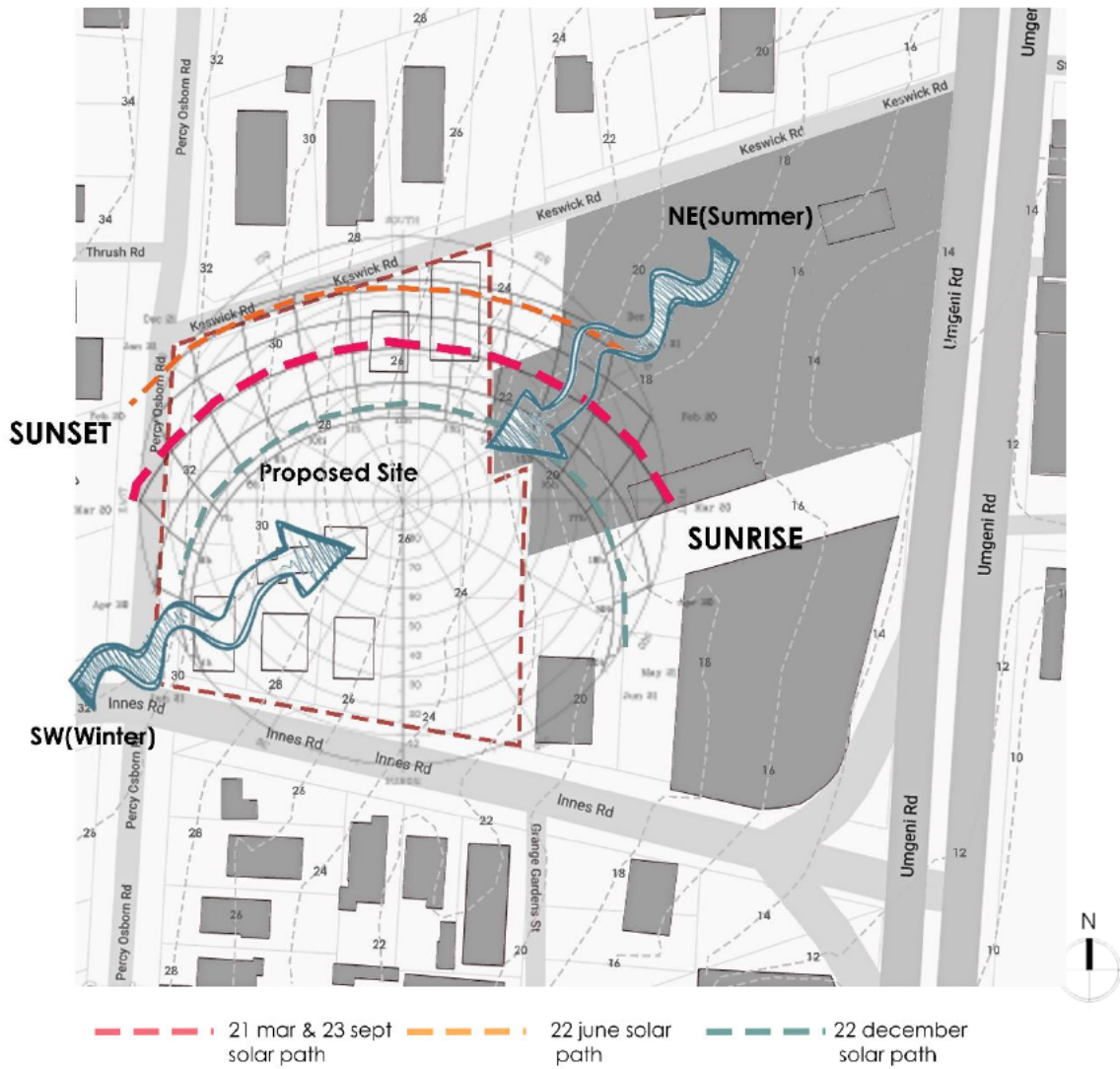
Figure 8.17. Solar analysis of proposed site. (source: author)

Legend:
- — — 21 mar & 23 sept solar path
- — — 22 june solar path
- — — 22 december solar path
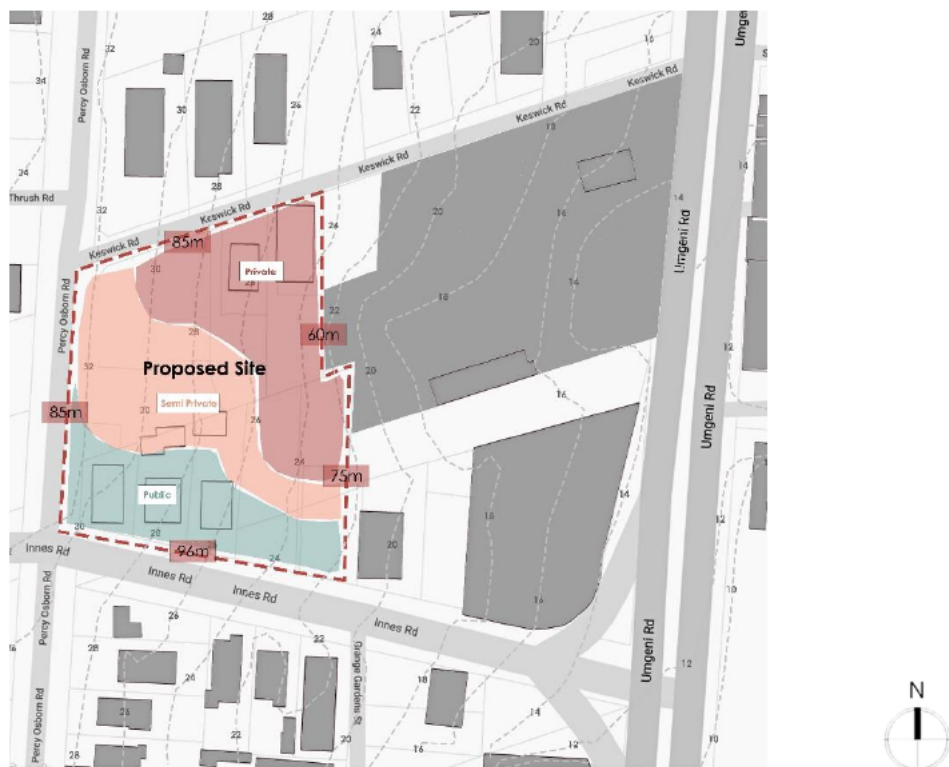
Figure 8.18. Site Zoning analysis. (source: author)

114

| Two Way access | One Way access |
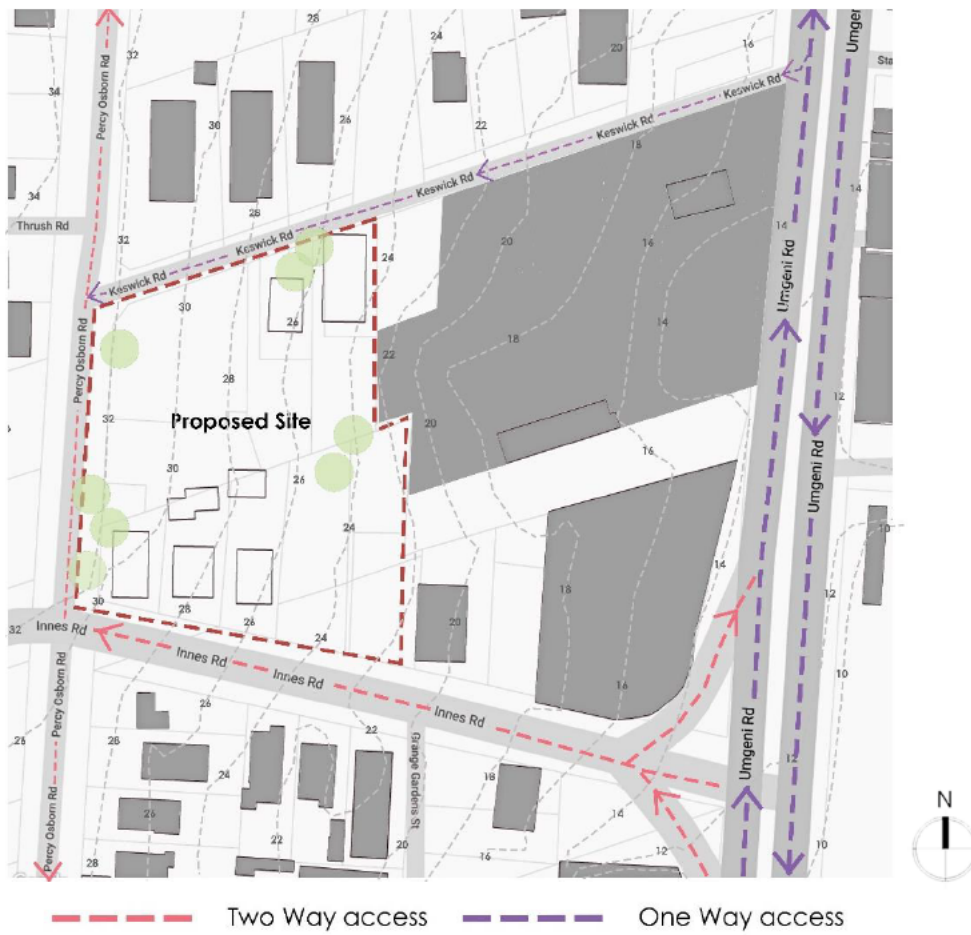
Figure 8.19. Vehicular movement of proposed site. (source: author)

••••••••• Pedestrian Movement
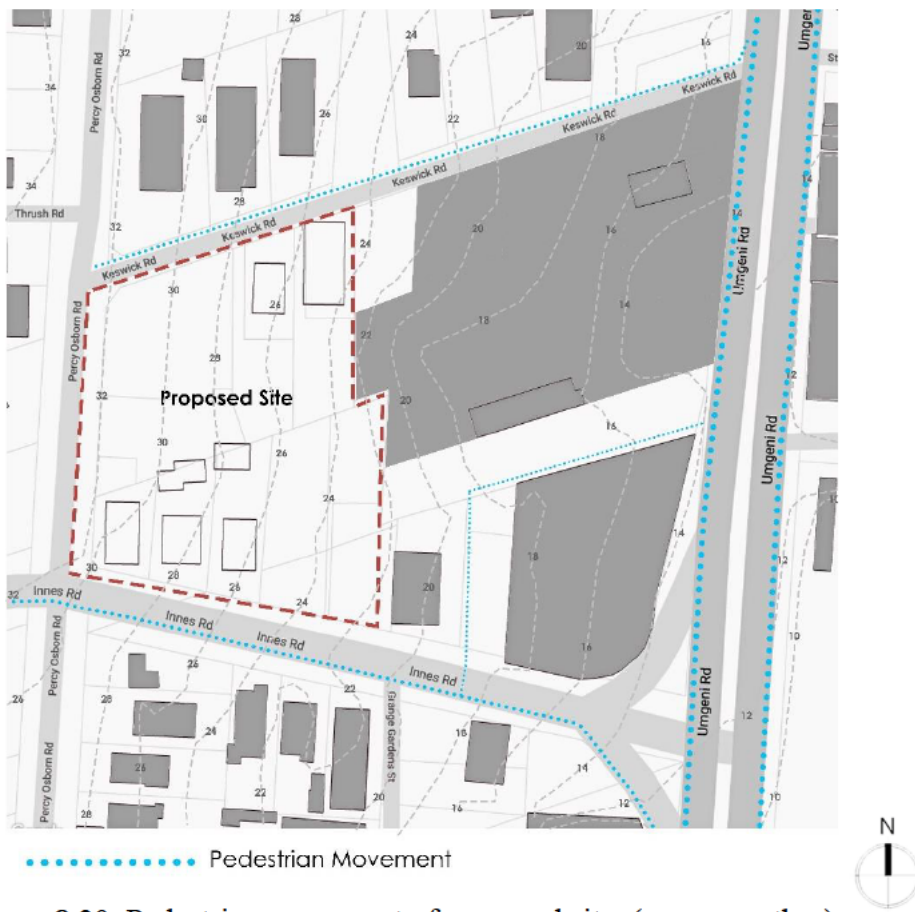
Figure 8.20. Pedestrian movement of proposed site. (source: author)

8.4 Conceptual & contextual response

8.4.1. Theoretical and Conceptual Framework

Drawing from the overall conceptual and theoretical recommendations brought forward in Chapter 7, this part of the design report focuses on contextualising these through an architectural response grounded in the site discussed previously in 8.3.

Throughout the dissertation the dominant themes of gender sensitivity, restoration and post punishment reform were noted. Understanding the responses of place, person and purpose called for a restorative prison environment that despite enforcing a sense of repercussion also promotes for reflection, initiates reintegration and ultimately holistic reform.

Connection to key theories: Behaviourism Theory

In line with the theoretical analysis set out in chapter 3, behaviourism theory, provides an understanding of how the physical environment affects and influences (both positively and negatively) the mental, physical, and emotional well-being and behaviour of users. Thus, Behaviourism theory which directly relates to environmental psychology can be applied to the design of prison environments to create positive spaces that foster operant condition and ultimately the reform of offenders.

Since behaviourism is a learning theory based on the concept that all behaviours are acquired through conditioning, this will be used in the design of the pre-release centre through the implementation of positive restorative environments that enable positive condition simultaneously responding to the complex needs of female offenders.

8.5 Conceptual development

As determined by the research, for the holistic reform of female offenders, prison environments need to simultaneously cater for both, post punishment reform and the gender-specific needs of female offenders. Throughout the research it became clear that prison environments need to redefine reform to cater for the post punishment phases of promoting reflection and initiating reintegration, phases which simultaneously respond to the more complex need of female offenders – self-esteem, cognitive, social and self-actualization.

In line with the research, the conceptual development focuses on refining reform so that it is holistic, by merging the three solutions brought forward in chapter 7.

1. **Gender sensitive Architecture**

Creates a gender- specific architectural response to the needs of female offenders.

+

2. **Restorative architecture**

   Creates positive spaces which enables conditioning and allows for all restorative processes

+

3. **Post punishment reform**

   Creates spaces which cater beyond punishment, thus, not just focusing on repercussion but also on reflection and reintegration – redefining reform

=

Redefining reform

The concept of redefining reform derives from the development above, the merging of the three solutions into an architectural response aimed at breaking the cycle of crime and ultimately reducing recidivism. Firstly, to redefine reform, one needs to acknowledge the gender-specific needs of female offender with relation to Maslow's hierarchy of human needs. Secondly, these identified needs will be met throughout different phases of post punishment reform - repercussion, reflection and reintegration and finally implemented through an architectural response.

1. Identify the **needs of female offenders** in relation to **Maslow's hierarchy of needs**

MASLOWS NEEDS	**ASSOCIATED FEMALE OFFENDER NEEDS**
• Physiological	• Same (currently existing)
• Safety	• Same (currently existing)
• Self esteem	• Instoration
• Cognitive	• Self-regulation
• Social	• Belonging
• Self-actualization	• Empowerment

Figure 8.21. Table Identify the needs of female offenders in relation to Maslow's hierarchy of needs. (source: author)

117

2. Identified **female offender needs** in relation to **post punishment reform phase**

FEMALE SPECIFIC NEED	MET IN POST PUNISHMENT PHASE
• Physiological (currently existing)	• Implementing **Repercussion**
• Safety (currently existing)	• Implementing **Repercussion**
• Instoration	• **PROMOTING** REFLECTION
• Self-regulation	• Promoting **Reflection**
• Belonging	• **INITIATING** REINTEGRATION
• Empowerment	• Initiating **Reintegration**

Figure 8.22. Table identifying female offender needs in relation to post punishment reform phase. (source: author)

3. Identified **female offender needs** within associated **post punishment reform phase,** meet through **architectural response**

POST PUNISHMENT REFORM PHASE	FEMALE SPECIFIC NEED	ARCHITECTURAL RESPONSE/ DESIGN PRINCPLE
Implementing **Repercussion**	Physiological (currently existing) - **Humane cells**	1.1 **Hard vs Soft Architecture**
Implementing **Repercussion**	Safety (currently existing) - **Healthcare centre** - **clinics**	1.2 **Flexibility vs Control**
Promoting **Reflection**	Instoration - **Outdoor facilities** - **Natural environment**	2.1 **Elements of Nature**
Promoting **Reflection**	-Self-regulation - **Cultural centre** - **Outdoor spaces**	2.2 **Spaces for distraction**

Initiating **Reintegration**	Belonging - **visitors centre** - **recreational centre**	3.1 **Place Attachment**
Initiating **Reintegration**	Empowerment - **Vocational centre**	3.2 **Wayfinding**

Figure 8.23. Table identifying female offender needs within associated post punishment reform phase, meet through architectural response. (source: author)

8.5.1 Design Principles

<u>**Implementing Repercussion**</u>

1. Hard & Soft Architecture

To encourage repercussion and reform, there needs to be a balance between hard and soft architecture. This balance of the paradox is expressed through the breakdown of the institutional, standardized "hard" and replaced with a unique non-institutional composition which alternates hard, soft materials and expression. The softer architectural spaces, facilitating offender rehabilitation are characterized by glass, timber, bright colours, natural elements and appropriate human scale. Harsher architectural spaces emphasising repercussion are characterized by robust, concrete, steel finishes, and barriers.

Proposed site response:
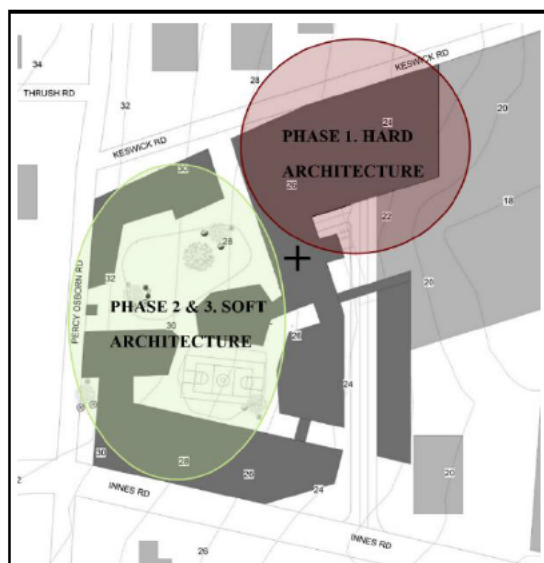
Figure 8.24. Implementing repercussion – Hard & soft architecture site response.
(source: author)

119

2. Flexibility & control

The balance of flexibility and control are expressed through the controlled axial circulation on the Western perimeter which then starts to loosen up in rigidity, becoming more flexible as it approaches the areas of reflection and distraction. As a means of maintaining safety and control the design of the centre consists of a simple design which creates clear sightlines throughout the facilities. This promotes passive control but allows offenders to move around the different facilities without being constantly escorted. Within the offender housing units, the security system of "direct supervision" is created through the designs planning. This is achieved by strategically placing the warden's watch station inside the living area with direct visual lines to communal areas. This type of supervision allows offenders more freedom of movement and flexibility of space as they are not restricted to their rooms all day and instead. Freedom of movement is also expressed in the upper floors of the centre, as offender have the flexibility of circulating from one facility to the other.

Proposed site response:
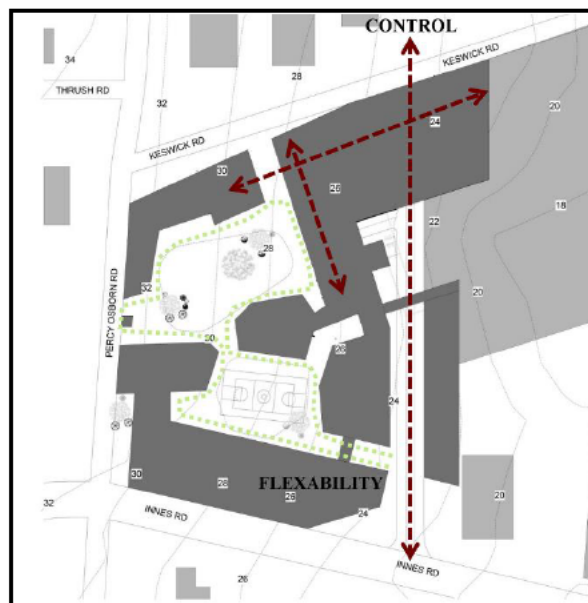
Figure 8.25. Implementing repercussion – Flexibility & control site response.

(source: author)

Promoting Reflection

3. Properties of nature

As previously mentioned, nature has many reflective and restorative properties. Throughout the building design, this is expressed through the use of open planning that allows for the optimization of natural lighting, ventilation and views to the outdoor environment. The use of courtyards are highly present throughout the composition. They can be found in spaces of reflection and instoration such as the health centre, religious centre and offender living units. All offender cells are arranged around either a courtyard or double volume that permits natural light to penetrate. Natural elements are also incorporated through the use of communal planting gardens and skylights. There is also a series of transitional spaces - between indoor and outdoor spaces – which provide more options for offender therapy and rehabilitation. The building itself also makes use of good orientation (North - East) placing all the reflective spaces facing them for desired sunlight.

Proposed site response:

Figure 8.26. Promoting reflection – Properties of nature site response.

(source: author)

4. Elements of Distraction

As prison environments are proven to diminish psychological resources and generate stresses for the offenders, incorporating flexible spaces which offer a "change of environment" can reduce these stresses, by promoting self-adaptation and instoration. The design expresses these

reflective elements through the incorporation of external and internal courtyards at centre of facilities which create a green "for positive distraction from the stressful prison environment. Elements of distraction are also created by the hierarchy of spaces provided which create reflective niches that provide for both inverted or extroverted interaction and user engagement.

Proposed site response:

Figure 8.27. Promoting reflection – Elements of distraction site response.

(source: author)

<u>Initiating Reintegration</u>

5. Place Attachment

At this phase of offender reform, the woman should be able to feel more comfortable, stable and secure within the prison environment allowing for self-actualization. Thus, the design of prison environments should allow for a sense of belonging and attachment to place. This is expressed in the design through the incorporation of softer architecture – transparency, non-rigid flexible, spaces which express symbols of self- identity and provide different levels of privacy.

The overall process from committing offender to reformed offender should be acknowledged through the prison design. By the architecture promoting a sense of movement and journey through the building, it provides the offender with a sense of hope and achievement as it tracks their journey and shows how far they have come. This journey is expressed in the design from point of entry of offender to the centre – phase of repercussion through hard architecture, then

eventually start softening up towards the phase of reintegration – when the offender is almost ready to re-enter society.

Proposed site response:

Figure 8.28. Initiating reintegration – Place Attachment site response.

(source: author)

6. Wayfinding

Within the phase of reintegration, spaces should be designed to allow the offenders degrees of flexibility and personalization in the hope of preparing them with reasonability and empowerment once they are released. The design also provides and defines clear privacy gradients due to the main access being the only semi-public space, were as the breakaway spaces are clearly defined as private.

Proposed site response:
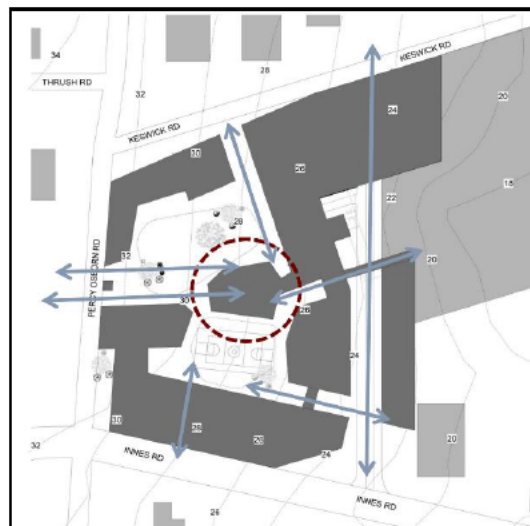
Figure 8.29. Initiating reintegration – Wayfinding site response.

(source: author)

8.5 Conceptual arrangement and form development

The conceptual arrangement of form, function and zoning on site strongly reflects the different phase of post punishment reform.
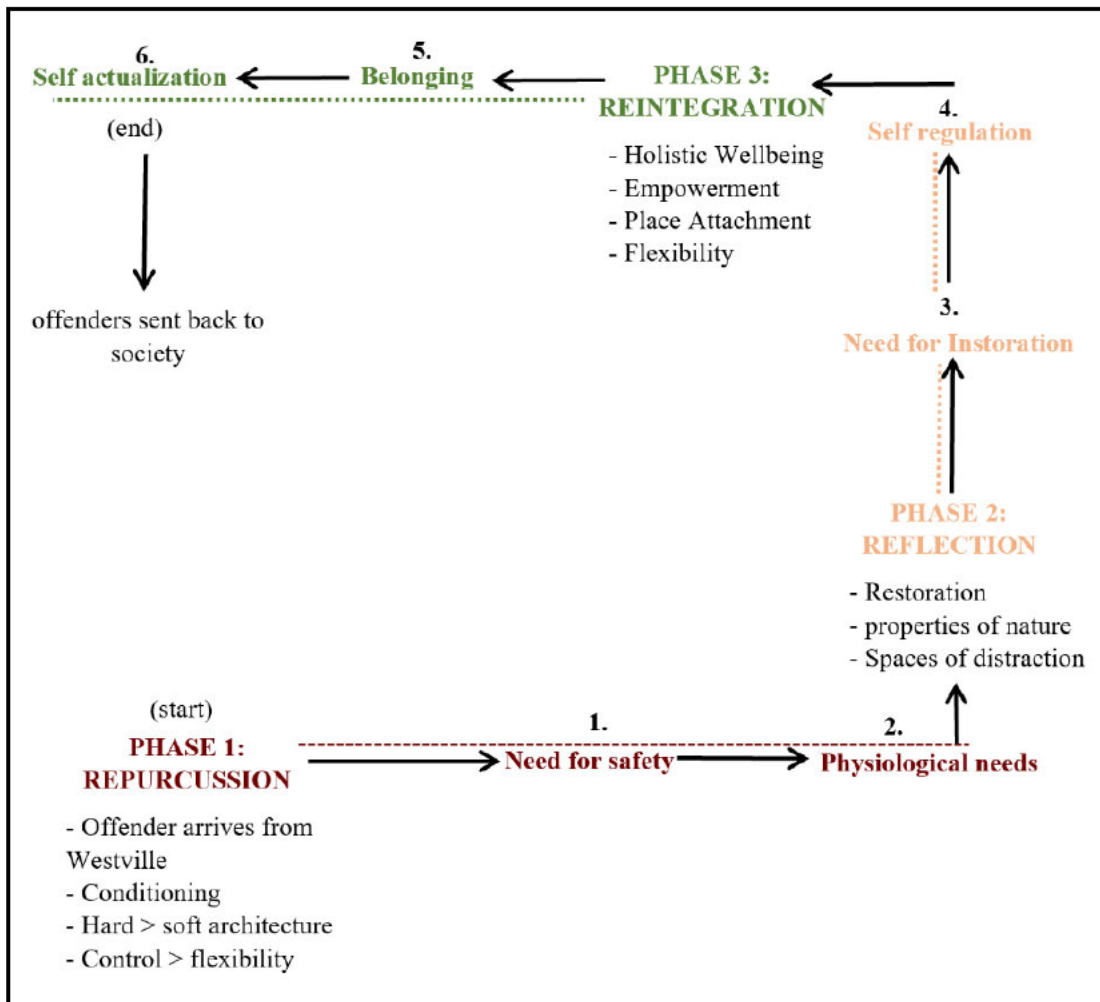
Figure 8.30. Journey of offender towards holistic reform. (source: author)

As per the phasing and specific needs of female offender, initiating repercussion, being phase one towards offender reform, becomes the starting point of the site for offenders. The offender's journey through the site reflects their actual journey towards holistic reform through the phases of post punishment reform. The offender journey through the site thus begins by implementing repercussion, reflecting a balance of hard, soft architecture flexibility and control, ending in the phase of reintegration focusing on place attachment, empowering and preparing them for release.
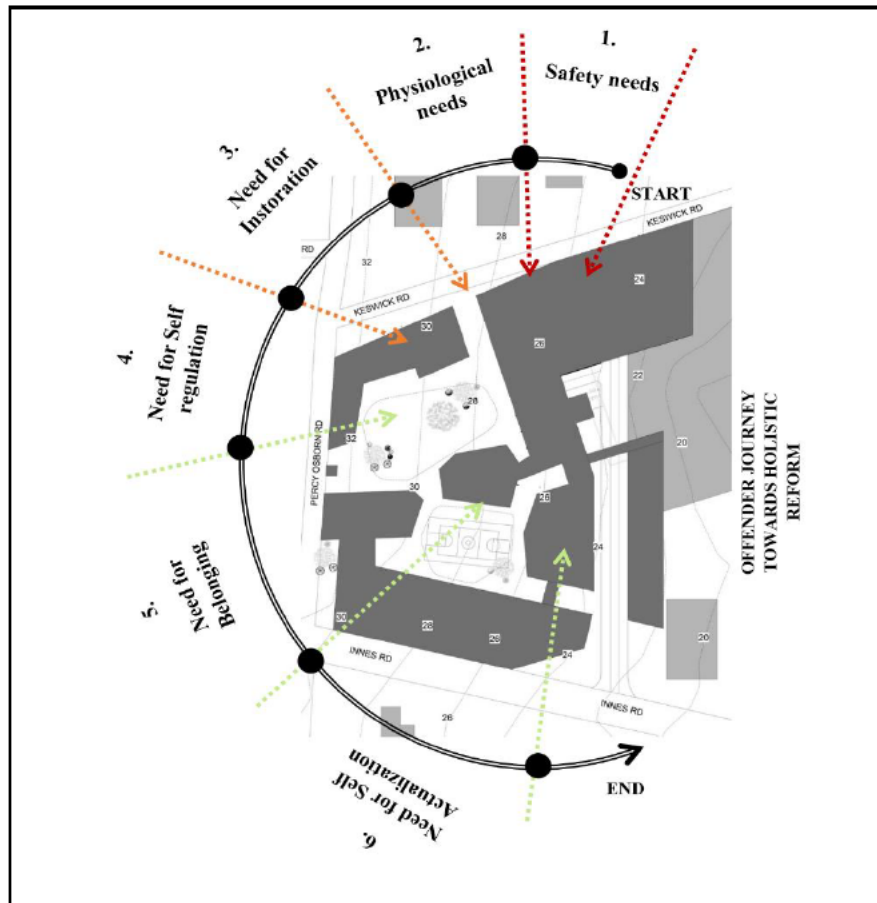
Figure 8.31. Conceptual diagram explaining post punishment phases in relation to site
. (source: author)

1. Implementing repercussion

This phase is the entry point of the offender's journey. Once they arrive from Westville prison, they are welcomed at the Admissions area centre, checked and placed into the waiting cells till there are sent to the health centre. Within this Admissions centre is all the controlled areas commissions and staff offices. On the floor above this, one finds the health centre, where offenders are sent to for their arrival check-ups after they leave the waiting cell, upon arrival. This phase is characterised by a combination of hard and soft architecture which lets the offender know they are in a controlled prison environment, yet it is welcoming and nonthreatening. This phase is composited on the northern perimeter of the site, facing Keshwick road as it is the most private with less public activity.

- Needs: Psychological and Safety
- Accommodation Schedule: Admissions centre, Healthcare centre, Housing cells phase1
- Design principle: Hard vs Soft Architecture, Flexibility vs control

125
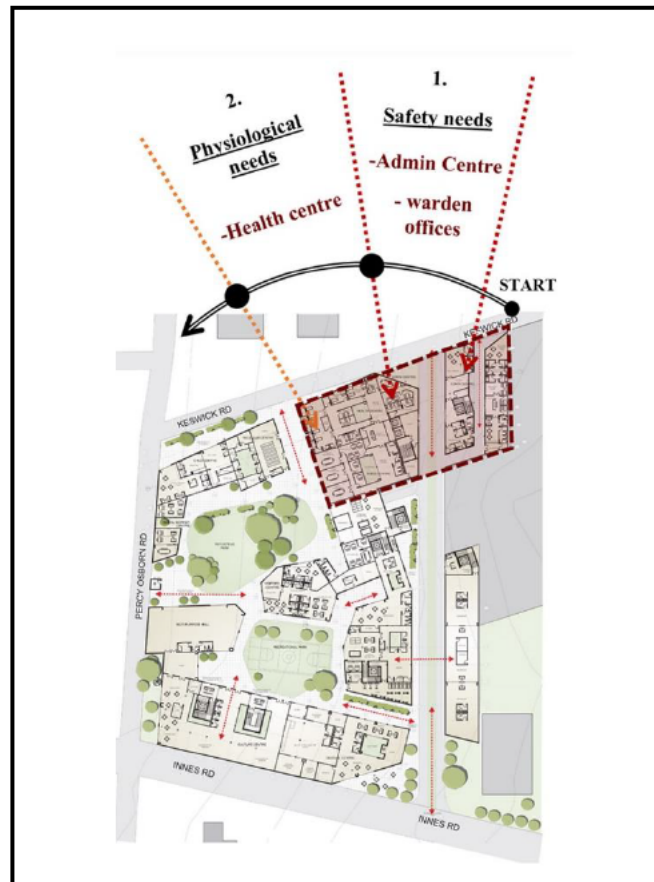
Figure 8.32. Repercussion – site allocation. (source: author)

2. Promoting reflection

Promoting offender reflection is the intermediate phase towards holistic reform and the first in post punishment. In this phase, one finds the softer more restorative spaces such as the religious centre, reflection park and outdoor courtyard spaces which allow for distraction. It is in this phase that the architectural spaces show more flexibility in both access and form. It starts to allow for more offender freedom by providing a variety of spaces where they can choose to reflect alone or with others. In this phase, the facilities are composited on the Northern and Eastern perimeter of the site (Percy Osborn & Keshwick road) not only because it is more tranquil but also because of the desired orientation which assists in creating restorative spaces.

- Needs: Instoration and Self-Regulation
- Accommodation Schedule: Religious centre, Reflective park, Outdoor recreation area
- Design principle: Elements of Nature and Spaces for distraction
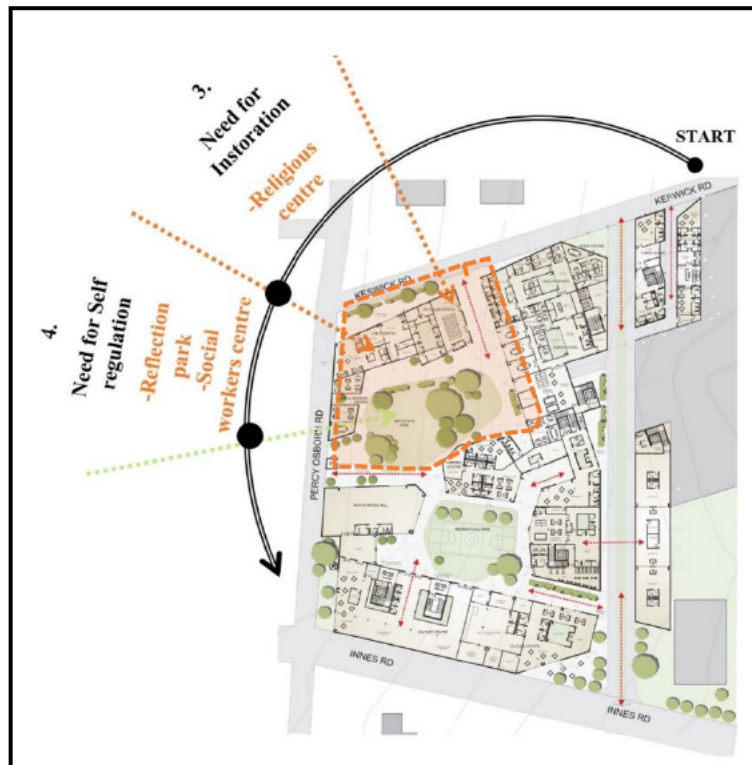
Figure 8.33. Reflection site allocation. (source: author)

3. Inciting reintegration

Inciting offender reintegration is the last phase of the offender's journey towards holistic reform, thus the most important one as it assist in closing the gap between incarceration and integration back into society. Within this phase, one finds the vocational centre along with the workshops which focuses on teaching the offender skills that they may use once they are released. As previously mentioned, community involvement is also included, and it is done so through the use of the cultural centre which composes of the incarceration museum, cafeteria and multipurpose hall. The community living centres are also located here, whereas opposed to the housing cells, these give the offenders more freedom of choice and more flexibility over their living spaces. This emphasises the sense a sense of normalcy which they will encounter once they are released.

As it is the last phase, the facilities associated with it are located at the end of the site – Southern perimeter, which conceptually represents the end of the journey. Thus, phase was placed on this perimeter as it is the one that encounter the most community interaction and this is the exposure offenders that the end of the journey towards reform need. Thus, community involvement through the cultural centre and visitor's centre becomes important. The visitor's

centre is also placed at the centre of the composition as it represents the" heart" of the pre prelease centre due to families being a main source of hope for the female offenders.

- Needs: Belonging and Self actualization
- Accommodation Schedule: Vocational centre, Cultural centre, Visitors centre, Community living units.
- Design principle: Place attachment and wayfinding
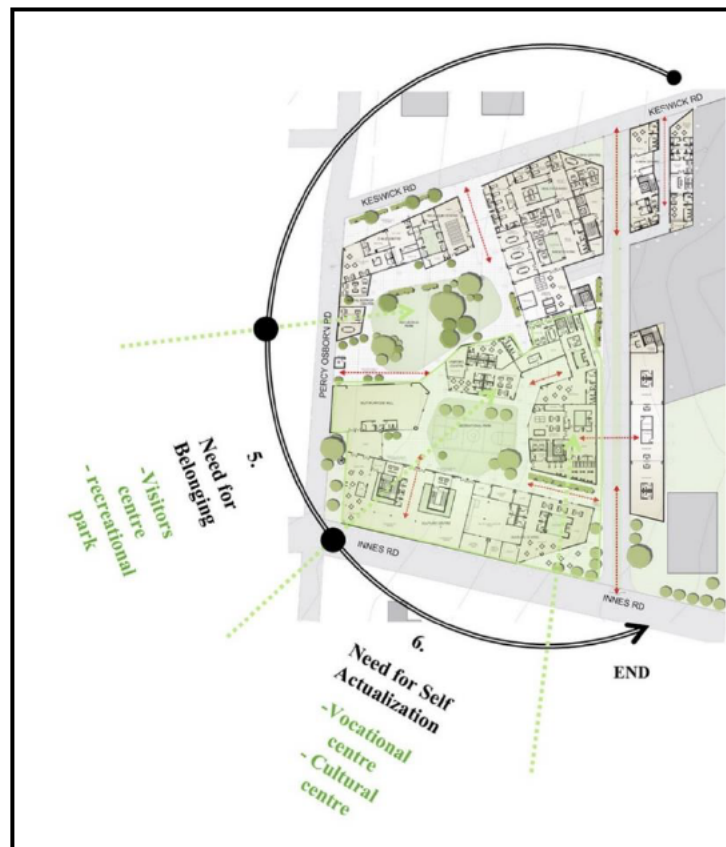
Figure 8.34. Reintegration – site allocation. (source: author)

Holistically the design of the centre does not only cater for the female offenders but also the staff workers and the community. As various of the facilities in the centre can be utilized by both the offenders and the community, due to security, there will be a schedule allocating usage times. Despite this, the community and offenders share the same facilities. This concept emphasises the notion that "there is no us versus them". Instead, it identifies that at the end we all have the same needs - need for healthcare, social wellbeing and self-actualization. the centres Thus focuses on creating a symbiosis between the offender and the community, reducing social stigmas and allowing for a smoother reintegration.

8.6 Conclusion

The design approach adopted provides a response to the specific needs of female offenders and aims to serve as a guideline towards an understanding of how these offender needs can be incorporated in the future design of prison environments to facilitate for holistic reform. As concluded by the research and design considerations, discussed in this chapter, for a prison environment to holistically cater for the holistic reform of offenders, there needs to be a tripartite architectural response that caters for **1. The needs of female offenders, 2. The process of restoration** and **3. Post punishment reform.** Through the design of a pre – release centre that includes and interlaces these three solutions, one can potentially create a support centre that conceptually and contextually responds to the needs of female offenders, assists in reintegration and ultimately reduce recidivism.

Figure 8.35. Summary of conceptual design drivers. (source: author)

THE POST|PUNISHMENT PRISON

PHYSIO SOCIAL REFORM THROUGH RESTORATIVE ARCHITECTURE:

Towards the design of a pre-release centre for female offenders in Durban

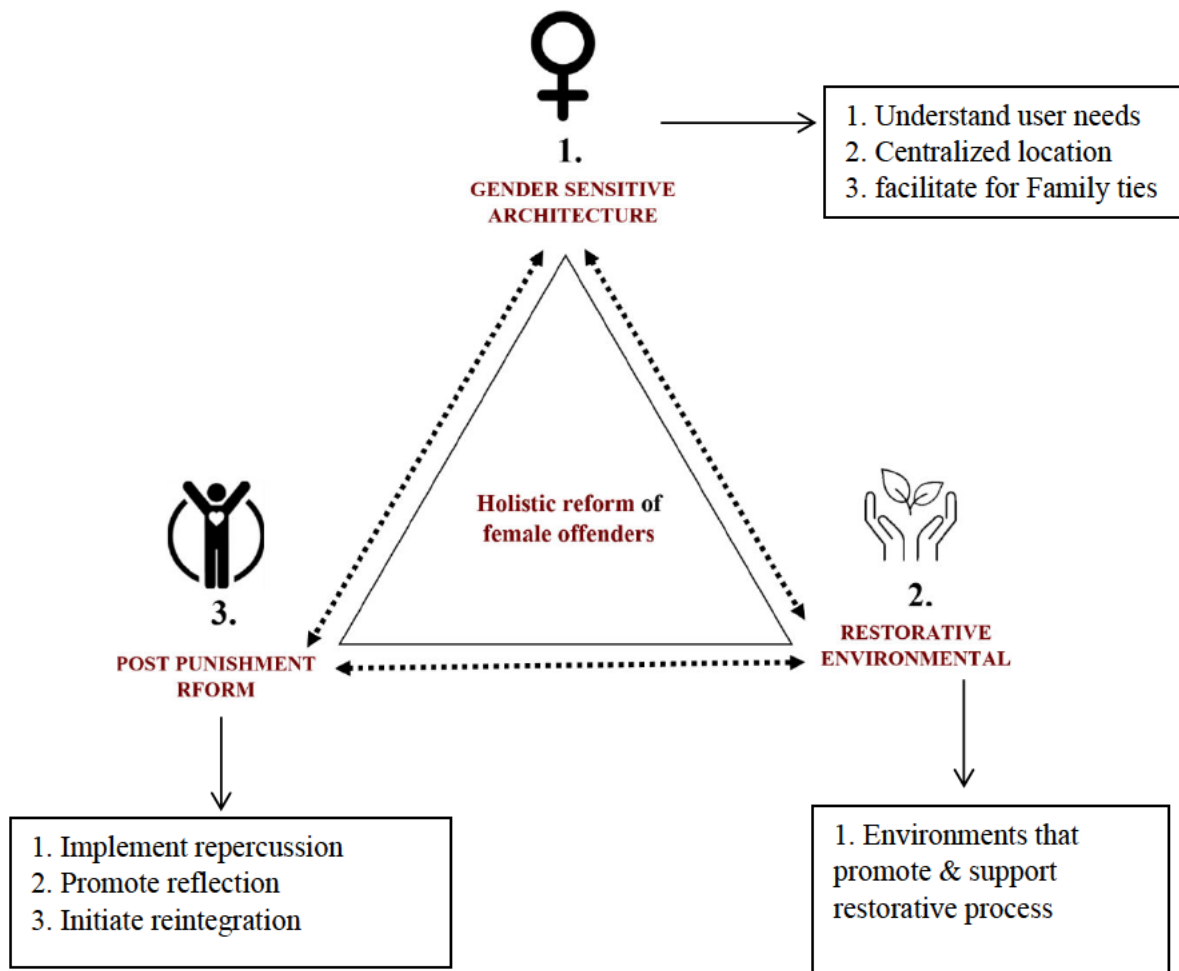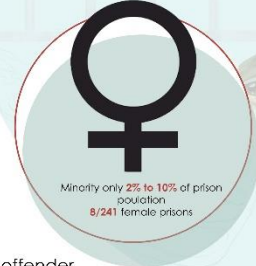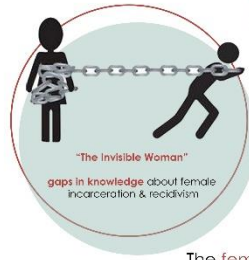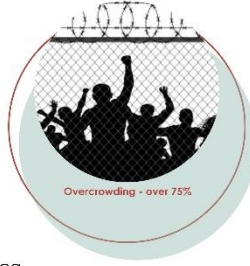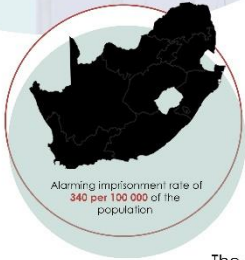Current prison environments soley focus on enforcing punishment and deterioration. The growing need to incorporate gender sensitive design & environmental psychology along with restorative architecture catering beyond punishment becomes essential in the hopes of redefining the holistic refom of female offenders in South Africa

Offender reform | Gender sensitivity | Restorative Architecture | Environmental psychology

Alarming imprisonment rate of **340 per 100 000** of the population

90% one of the worlds highest **recidivsm rates**

Overcrowding - over 75%

"The Invisible Woman"
gaps in knowledge about female incarceration & recidivism

Minority only **2% to 10%** of prison poulation
8/241 female prisons

The current **state** of prisons in South Africa
current system is **limited** & **not working**

The **female** offender
current system not catering for **gender specific needs**

BREAKING THE CYCLE

The Cycle

Cause **1.**
CRIME

4.

Effect **3.**

What?
REPERCUSSION

POST PUNISHMENT REFORM

Who?
REFLECTION

Why?
REINTEGRATION

HOLISITC REFORM

01.

02.

03.

PLACE
Focus has been on punishment & harsh envirnment

PERSON
Reform needs to focus more on individual

PURPOSE
Reform needs to focus more on giving sense of purpose

- Existing
- Phase of aknowlodgment & conditioning
- **Hard Vs Soft Architecture**
- **Control Vs Flexability**

- New
- Phase of Instoration & Self regulation
- **Properties of nature**
- **Elements of distrsction**

- New
- Phase of belonging & Self Empowerment
- **Place Attachment**
- **Wayfinding**

Therefore, there is a need to **redefine "prison architecture"** so that it facilitates for the **post punishment, holistic reform of female offenders**

CONCEPTUAL APPROUCH

GENDER SENSITIVE ARCHITECTURE
" Closing the gender gap"

01.

ENVIRONMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY
"The Power of Place"

02.

RESTORATIVE ENVIRONMENT
" renewing of physical, psychological & social capabilities"

03.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

BEHAVIOURISM THEORY
Bridges gap between physical environment & human psychology

- Explores human learning & behaviour
- Operant conditioning

Positive architectural experiences, needs of the users, &how they experience environments

Self Actualization
Self Esteem
Love and Belonging
Safe and Security
Basic Physioloyical

REDEFING REFORM
" Connecting the links of the cycle "

RESTORATIVE PHASE	FEMALE NEEDS	ARCHITECTURAL RESPONSE
01. REPURCUSSION - PLACE	Safety, Privacy	Hard & Soft ; Flexability & Control
02. REFLECTION - PERSON	Instoration & Self regulation	Elements of Nature & Distraction
03. REINTEGRATION - PURPOSE	Belonging & Empowerment	Place Attachment & Wayfinding

02. REDEFING REFORM

Design Principles

correctional services
Department:
Correctional Services
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

" Development + Justice + Equality "

nicro
FOR A SAFE SOUTH AFRICA

" Offender reintegration + Social work services"

PHASE 01 : REPURCUSSION
CURRENT

PLACE

HARD & SOFT ARCHITECTURE

FLEXABILITY & CONTROL

PHASE 02 : REFLECTION
POST PUNISHMENT REFORM

PERSON

PROPERTIES OF NATURE

ELEMENTS OF DISTRACTION

PHASE 03 : REINTEGRATION
POST PUNISHMENT REFORM

PURPOSE

PLACE ATTACHMENT

WAYFINDING

The Brief

01. **minimum security** pre release center for 80 female offenders

02. allow for the process of **holistic reform** through incorporation of **restorative environments**

03. should cater for the **gender specific needs** of **female offenders**

Create a **pre release center** for **female offenders** in **Durban** that caters beyond punishment

Accomodation Schedule

● Female offenders ● Prison Staff ● Visitors / Community

Administration Centre

Housing units (cells)

Cultural Centre

Health Centre

Education Centre

Religious Centre

Visitor Centre

Mother & Child Centre
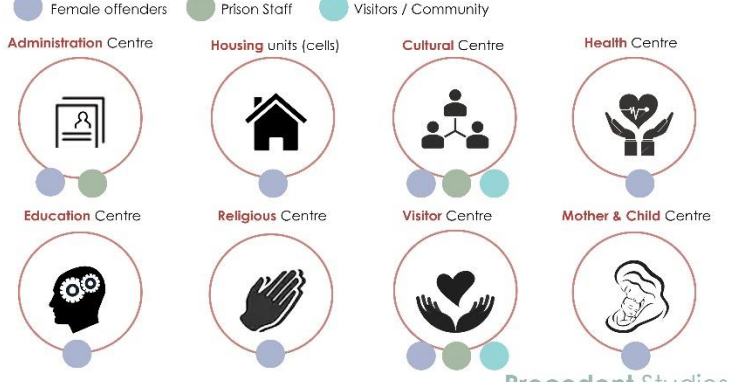
Precedent Studies

Precedent study 1: Repercussion
Boronia pre-release centre for women
Location : metropolitan Bentley, Western Australia
"gender sensitivity, conditioning & reform"

● focuses on need of female offenders

● **Inner city center** close to transport facilites & services

● focuses on **normacy - community style layout** that reflects the surrounding context

Precedent study 2: Reflection
Halden Prison
Location : Østfold, Southern Norway
"Prison, Nature and Social structure"

● reflects prioritization of **human rights & offender rehabilitative** efforts

● uses **reflective properties of nature** as one of the primary elements towards offender reform

● designed to reflect life outside its walls - sense of **normacy**

Precedent study 3: Reintegration
Hilary Cottam – The Learning Prison
"Self-realisation, regulation and reintegration – The 21st century prison model"

● Challenges notion of prison as a **form of punishment** & rather 21st century prisons **designed for reform**

● **learning works design** that focuses on preparing offender for **reintegration** into society

● **innovative house system**

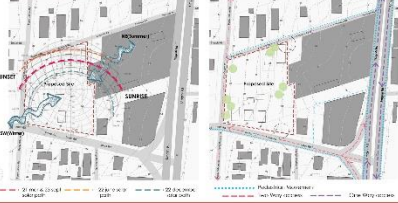## Site Analysis

▦ **Easy access from Westville Prison**
to be along route from Prison towards inner city for easy movement of inmates

🏙 **Close proximity to city center**
challanging notion of most prisons environments being out of town.

🚌 **Easy Access to public transport**
close proximity to public transportation routes for accessaciity

✚ **Sufficient services**
to be on route or in close proximity facilities

🌿 **Nature**
needs to be in tranquile environment that has natural calming features

Community
Site needs to be within active community neigbourhood

Locality: Windemere

Site Area, access, **Solar & Wind** Movement **Vehicular & pedestrian M** **Neigbourhood** - Zonning & landmarks

Case Study

Westville Correctional Centre
Location : Westville, Durban
"Old generation Prison"

● **largest** correctional centres in South Africa

● prison feels like an **isolated** development, **independent of its location**

● **lack** of acknowledgment for gender specific needs of female offender

● building it translates a **hard-Institutional feel**

● element of **maximum security** is enforced

REDEFING **REFORM**

Design **Principles** related to site
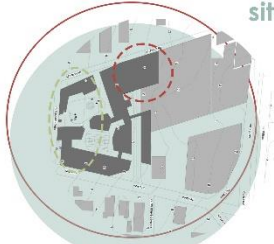
HARD & SOFT ARCHITECTURE
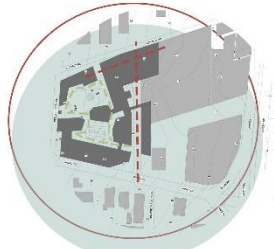
FLEXABILITY & CONTROL
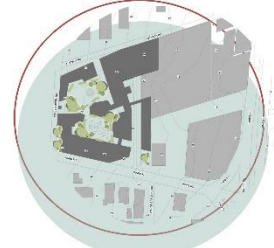
PROPERTIES OF NATURE
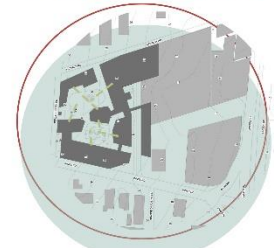
ELEMENTS OF DISTRACTION
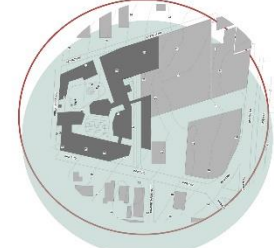
PLACE ATTACHMENT
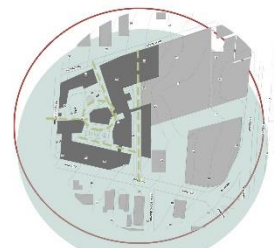
WAYFINDING

SITE PLAN
Scale 1:500
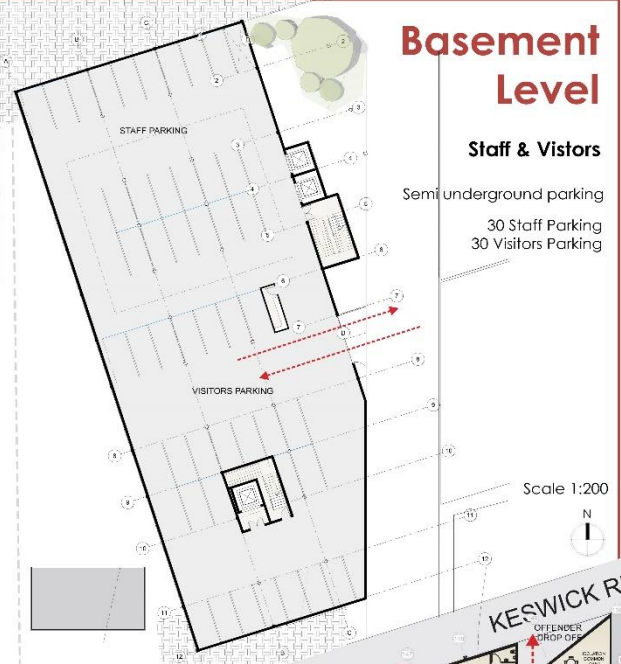
Basement Level

Staff & Vistors

Semi underground parking

30 Staff Parking
30 Visitors Parking

Scale 1:200

STAFF PARKING

VISITORS PARKING

N

KESWICK RD

ADMIN CENTRE

HEALTH CENTRE

ADMIN CENTRE

RELIGIOUS CENTRE

CHILD CENTRE

NGOS CENTRE

SOCIAL WORKER CENTRE

REFLECTIVE PARK

VISITORS CENTRE

MUTI PURPOSE HALL

RECREATIONAL PARK

CULTURE CENTRE

CULTURE CENTRE

PERCY OSBORN RD

KESWICK RD

INNES RD

INNES RD

Ground floor Plan
Scale 1:200

N

REDEFING REFORM
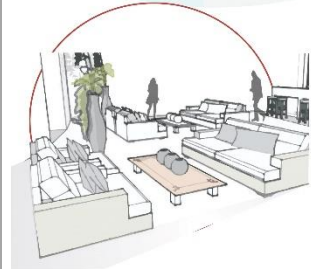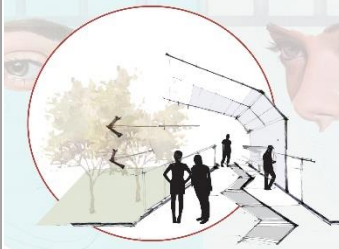
First Floor
Offender only

Vocational centre
1 lecture hall
2 classrooms
10 Study rooms
12 Community units

Scale 1:200

N
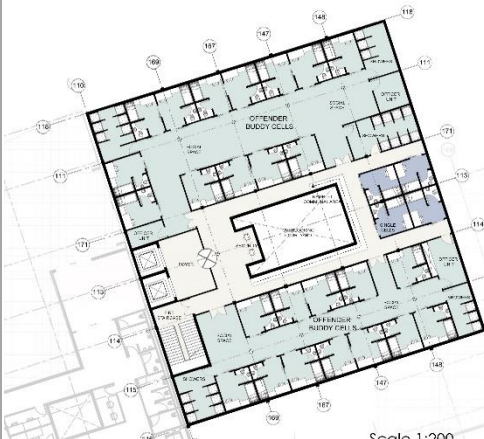
Second & Third Floor
Offender only

25 Rooms per floor
21 buddy cells
4 single cells
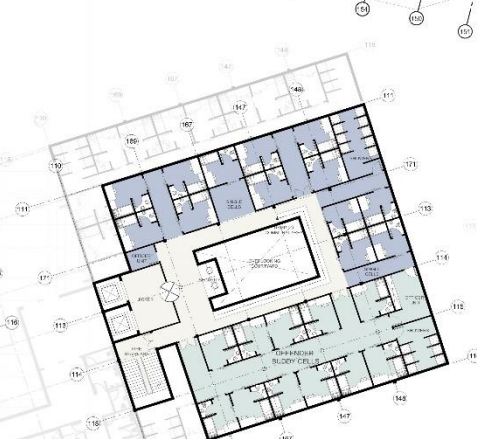
Scale 1:200

Fourth Floor
Offender only

20 Rooms per floor
8 buddy cells
12 single cells
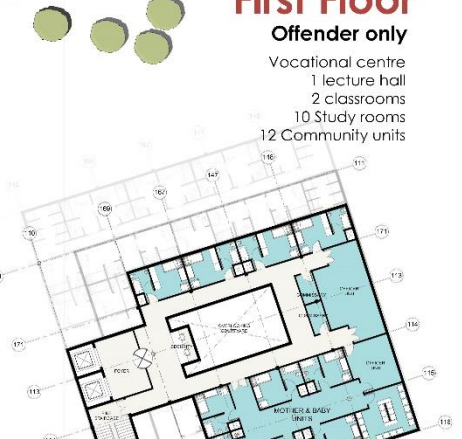
Scale 1:200

Fifth Floor
Mother & baby only

20 Rooms per floor
8 buddy cells
12 single cells

Scale 1:200

133

Section A-A labels: CHILD PLAY AREA, MOTHER & BABY UNIT, RECEPTION, SHOWERS, BUDDY CELLS, LIFT CORE, SHOWERS, BUDDY CELLS, COMMUNAL DINING, RECREATIONAL AREA, COMMUNAL LOUNGE, COMMUNAL FARMING, FOYER, VOCATIONAL CENTRE, OFFENDER COMMUNITY LIVING UNITS, OFFENDER COMMUNITY LIVING UNITS, CONSULTATION ROOM, WAITING AREA, COURTYARD, LIFT CORE, COUNSELLING ROOM, NGOOS CENTRE, GROUP COUNSELLING ROOM, CULTURAL CENTRE, SOCIAL WORKER CENTRE, MULTIPURPOSE HALL, OFFICER OFFICE, PROPOSED ROAD (OFFENDERS DROP OFF), OFFENDER ADMIN, CHRIGRK OFFICE, PROPOSED ROAD, BASEMENT PARKING, REFLECTIVE PARK, BOARDROOM, COUNSELLING

SECTION A-A
SCALE 1:200

Section B-B labels: OFFENDER COMMUNITY LIVING UNITS, CORRIDOR TO OFFENDER UNITS, ROOF GARDEN, STUDY ROOM, VOCATIONAL CENTRE, STUDY ROOM, MUSEUM, COURTYARD, MUSEUM, RECREATIONAL YARD, GYM, LIBRARY, COMMUNAL RECREATION, COURTYARD, COURTYARD, OFFICER UNIT, LIBRARY, VISITORS RECEPTION, NGOS OFFICE, CONSULTATION ROOM, COURTYARD, CONSULTATION ROOM, CAFETERIA, CAFETERIA, BASEMENT PARKING

SECTION B-B
SCALE 1:200

SOUTH ELEVATION
SCALE 1:200

134
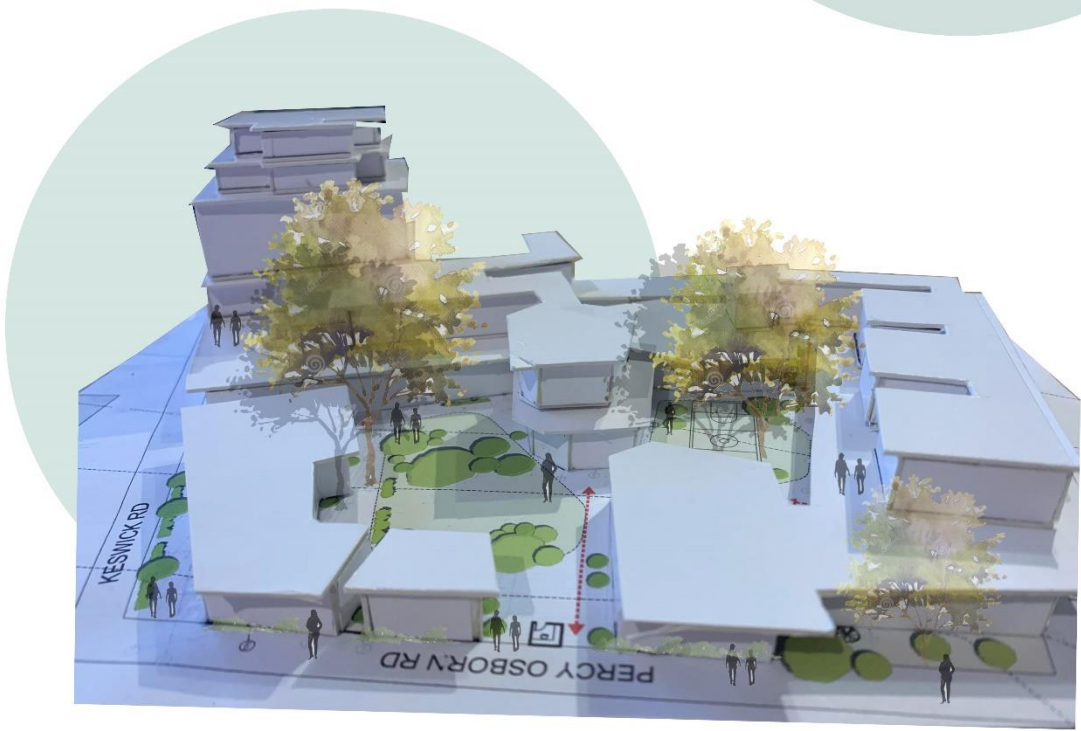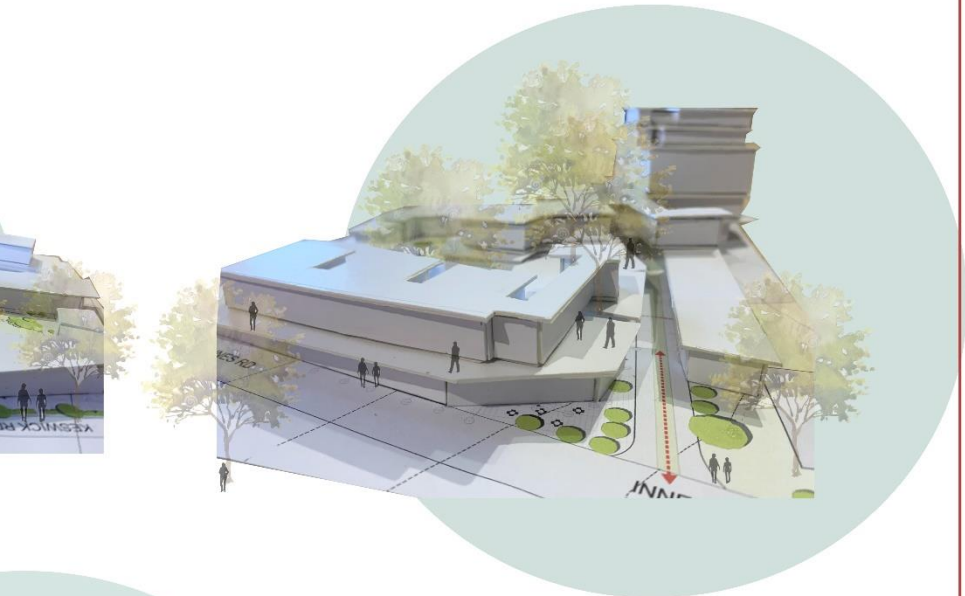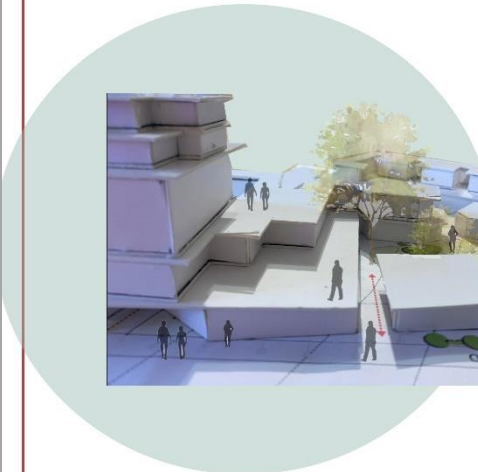
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19 September 2019

Ms Lauren Gonzalez Pons (213509241)
School of Built Environment & Development Studies
Howard College Campus

Dear Ms Gonzalez Pons,

Protocol reference number: HSS/0301/019M
Project title: PHYSIO SOCIAL REFORM THROUGH RESTORATIVE ARCHITECTURE : Towards the design of a pre-release rehabilitation center for female offenders in Durban

Approval Notification – Expedited application

With regards to your response received 21 August 2019 to our letter of 18 June 2019, the Humanities & Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee has considered the abovementioned application and the protocol has been granted **FULL APPROVAL.**

Any alteration/s to the approved research protocol i.e. Questionnaire/Interview Schedule, Informed Consent Form, Title of the Project, Location of the Study, Research Approach and Methods must be reviewed and approved through the amendment/modification prior to its implementation. In case you have further queries, please quote the above reference number. PLEASE NOTE: Research data should be securely stored in the discipline/department for a period of 5 years.

The ethical clearance certificate is only <u>valid for a period of 1 year</u> from the date of issue. Thereafter Recertification must be applied for on an annual basis.

I take this opportunity of wishing you everything of the best with your study.

Yours faithfully

....
Dr Rosemary Sibanda (Chair)

/ms

cc Supervisor: Ms Bridget Horner
cc Academic Leader Research: Professor Oliver Mtapuri
cc School Administrator: Ms A Msomi

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES: MASTERS/PHD RESEARCH

INFORMANT CONCENT FORMS

PHYSIO SOCIAL REFORM THROUGH RESTORATIVE ARCHITECTURE:
Towards the design of a pre-release rehabilitation center for female offenders in Durban.

By

Lauren Gonzalez Pons

213509241

Student Contact details

Lauren Gonzalez Pons. School of the Built Environment and Development Studies. University of KwaZulu- Natal, Durban. **Cell**: 0714134043, **Email**: laurenglez101@gmail.com

Supervisor Contact Details

Bridget Horner. School of the Built Environment and Development Studies. University of KwaZulu- Natal, Durban. **Tel**: 031 2601415, **Email**: horner@ukzn.ac.za

HSSREC contact details

Phumelele Ximba. Human Social Science Ethics. University of KwaZulu- Natal, Durban.

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COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES: MASTERS/PHD RESEARCH

INFORMED CONSENT FORM - TO BE SIGNED BY THE PARTICIPANT AT THE START OF EACH INTERVIEW

One copy of the form to be left with the respondent; one copy to be signed by the respondent and kept by the researcher.

My name is Lauren Gonzalez Pons. (student number 213509241). I am currently doing research on a project entitled**:" Physio social reform through restorative architecture."** Ultimately the research will guide the design of a pre-release rehabilitation centre for female offenders in Durban. This project is currently being supervised by Mrs. Bridget Horner at the School of the Built Environment and Development Studies, University of KwaZulu-Natal.

- **Student Contact Details**: Lauren Gonzalez Pons. School of the Built Environment and Development Studies. University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban. **Cell**: 0714134043; **Email**: laurenglez101@gmail.com
- **Supervisor Contact Details**: Bridget Horner. School of the Built Environment and Development Studies. University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban. **Tel:** 031 2601415; **Email**: Horner@ukzn.ac.za
- **HSSREC contact details:** Phumelele Ximba. Human Social Science Ethics. University of KwaZulu- Natal, Durban. **Tel:** 031 260 3587, **Email:** HssrecHumanities@ukzn.ac.za

Firstly, I would like to thank you for agreeing to take part in the project, and I would like to emphasize that:

- your participation is entirely voluntary, and you are free to withdraw at any time.
- you are free to refuse to answer any question; or refuse to discuss a topic, without judgment or prejudice.
- you will be given access to all interview notes for verification, and all findings will be made available to you.

Your name, and position within the organisation, or	
Your organisation or type of organisation	
Your pseudonym	
None of the above	

Voice recording of interview with audio device	
None of the above	

Please sign this form if you agree to the above, and are willing to participate in the research:

Participants' signature: --------------------------------------- (signed) ---------------- (date) ---------------------------------- (print name).

Interviewer's signature: --------------------------------------- (signed) ---------------- (date) ---------------------------------- (print name).

(Interviewer to keep signed copy and leave unsigned copy with respondent)

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES: MASTERS/PHD RESEARCH

INFORMANT CONCENT FORMS & INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

PHYSIO SOCIAL REFORM THROUGH RESTORATIVE ARCHITECTURE:
Towards the design of a pre-release rehabilitation center for female offenders in Durban.

By

Lauren Gonzalez Pons

213509241

WESTVILLE FEMALE CORRECTIONAL CENTRE

&

THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

SHEET 1

Student Contact details

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INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Interviewer: Lauren Gonzalez Pons (213509241)

Interviewee :

SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEW QUESTIONS:

Introduction: "Hello, my name is Lauren Gonzalez Pons. I am currently studying Masters in Architecture at UKZN and am conducting research around the topic: **" Physio social reform through restorative architecture."** Ultimately the research will guide the design of a pre-release rehabilitation centre for female offenders in Durban.

"Firstly, I would like to thank you for agreeing to this interview - your time and expertise in this area is invaluable. During the interview, I would like to explore the current needs and perceptions of female offenders in prison environments in South Africa. I would also like to gain an understanding of what you think a restorative environment for these offenders would include, and how you feel architecture could contribute to the process of offender rehabilitation."

Outline of Interview Questions:

In order to initiate the discussion and to serve as an opening for future questions:

1."Can you tell me a little about how long you have been working with inmates or in particular, female offenders?"

2."Please could you confirm that you are currently working with inmates or female offenders that are in a prison environment?"

3. Could you tell me a bit about your daily experiences working with female offenders in the prison environment?

SECTION 01: THE PRISON ENVIRONMENT

This section will assist in understanding the current ideology and daily operations behind the prison environment. It aims to comprehending the new global social thinking about prison environments and contextualize this new thinking to specific users – in this case female offenders in South Africa

1. **Based on experience - What are your thoughts on the Department of Correctional services approach to incarceration in South African prisons?**
2. Would you consider this approach to focus more on offender punishment or rehabilitation in the prison environment?
1. Working closely with/in these environments, would you consider that prisons are doing the female offenders more harm than good?
2. **How would you describe the physical prison environment and how it makes you feel?**
3. Do these environments enable reintegration of offenders into society or do they inhibit it?
4. If they do enable/ or inhibit, how do you think they do so?
5. Can you describe the process of incarceration from the point of the female offender's entry into prison following to the point when they are placed in their cells?
6. **Based on experience, what are your thoughts on prison facilities/environment/architecture that would assist in prisoner rehabilitation?**
7. Currently what facilities/environment & architecture are available or implemented within the prison environment?
8. How in your opinion could these environments be improved or enhanced to benefit offenders?

SECTION 02: THE FEMALE OFFENDERS

This section deals with the reported experiences, needs and perceptions of female offenders in prison environments as well as explore how current prison architecture in South Africa is responding to these needs and perceptions.

1. **Based on your knowledge on criminal behaviour what are the various and most common motives behind crimes female offenders in South Africa?**
2. How common is it to see recidivism amongst these offenders and why?
3. **How would you describe your staff relationship with the inmates?**
4. What would you say are the prominent effect/consequence/challenges that female offenders face during imprisonments?
5. **Based on observation, what are the current gender specific physical and mental needs of female offers in the prison environment?**
6. How does current South African prison architecture respond to these needs and perceptions?
7. To what extent would you consider that current prison environments meet the physical and emotional of needs female offenders?
8. How in your opinion could these environments be improved or enhanced to meet these needs of female offenders?

SECTION 03: PHYSIO SOCIAL REFORM & RESTORATIVE ARCHITECTURE

This section aims to understand the need for physio social reform for female offenders within the prison environment through architecture and how these restorative environments can further contribute towards the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders.

1. **Based on knowledge and experience how important would you consider offender reformation?**
2. How are prison environments currently contributing towards reform and rehabilitation?
1. What rehabilitation facilities/programs are available and how do prisoners gain access to them within the prison?
2. **How many social workers are available for the number of prisoners currently imprisoned?**
3. What treatment is available for prisoners that have psychological damage and how much access do they have to counsellors and treatment?
4. **Based on your observations, and interactions with female offenders, can you describe a physical environment where the inmate feels comfortable?**
5. In your opinion what do you consider a healthy prison environment that encourages offender rehabilitation. Eg more open spaces, greenery, light etc.?
6. How in your opinion could these current environments be improved or enhanced?

Conclusion: "Before we end this interview, is there anything else you would like to say or contribute?"

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES: MASTERS/PHD RESEARCH

INFORMANT CONCENT FORMS & INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

PHYSIO SOCIAL REFORM THROUGH RESTORATIVE ARCHITECTURE:
Towards the design of a pre-release rehabilitation center for female offenders in Durban.

By

Lauren Gonzalez Pons

213509241

CRIMSA

SHEET 2

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COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES: MASTERS/PHD RESEARCH

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Interviewer: Lauren Gonzalez Pons (213509241)

Interviewee :

SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEW QUESTIONS:

Introduction: "Hello, my name is Lauren Gonzalez Pons. I am currently studying Masters in Architecture at UKZN and am conducting research around the topic: **" Physio social reform through restorative architecture."** Ultimately the research will guide the design of a pre-release rehabilitation centre for female offenders in Durban.

"Firstly, I would like to thank you for agreeing to this interview - your time and expertise in this area is invaluable. During the interview, I would like to explore the current needs and perceptions of female offenders in prison environments in South Africa. I would also like to gain an understanding of what you think a restorative environment for these offenders would include, and how you feel architecture could contribute to the process of offender rehabilitation."

Outline of Interview Questions:

In order to initiate the discussion and to serve as an opening for future questions:

1."Can you tell me a little about how long you have been working with inmates or in particular, female offenders?"

2."Please could you confirm that you are currently working with inmates or female offenders that are in a prison environment?"

SECTION 01: THE PRISON ENVIRONMENT

This section will assist in understanding the current ideology and daily operations behind the prison environment. It aims to comprehending the new global social thinking about prison environments and contextualize this new thinking to specific users – in this case female offenders in South Africa

1. **Based on experience - What are your thoughts on the Department of Correctional services approach to incarceration in South African prisons?**
   1. Would you consider this approach to focus more on offender punishment or rehabilitation in the prison environment?
   2. Working closely with these environments, would you consider that prisons are doing the female offenders more harm than good?
   3. Do these environments enable reintegration of offenders into society or do they inhibit it?
   4. If they do enable/ or inhibit, how do you think they do so?
   5. **In your opinion, would you consider current South African prisons/ prison environments as "breeding grounds for criminals?**
   6. If so, how do you think they do so
   7. How in your opinion could these environments be improved or enhanced?

SECTION 02: THE FEMALE OFFENDERS

This section deals with the reported experiences, needs and perceptions of female offenders in prison environments as well as explore how current prison architecture in South Africa is responding to these needs and perceptions.

1. **Based on your knowledge on criminal behaviour what are the various and most common motives behind crimes female offenders in South Africa?**
2. How common is it to see recidivism amongst these offenders and why?
3. What recommendations with regards to changes within the prison environment/ operations would potentially reduce these recidivism rates?
4. **What would you say are the prominent effect/consequence/challenges that female offenders face during imprisonments/in prison environments?**
5. Do these challenges affect the offender post imprisonment?
6. If so – how do you think they do so?
1. In your opinion how could these environments be improved or enhanced to reduce or limited these challenges?

SECTION 03: PHYSIO SOCIAL REFORM & RESTORATIVE ARCHITECTURE

This section aims to understand the need for physio social reform for female offenders within the prison environment through architecture and how these restorative environments can further contribute towards the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders.

1. **Based on knowledge and experience how important would you consider offender reformation and why?**
2. What is the most efficient way of implementing physio social reform for female offenders?
3. How are prison environments currently contributing towards the reform of offenders?
4. To what extent in your opinion are these environments successful in doing so?
5. **In your opinion what do you consider a healthy prison environment that encourages offender rehabilitation. Eg more open spaces, greenery, light etc.?**
1. How in your opinion could these current environments be improved or enhanced?

Conclusion: "Before we end this interview, is there anything else you would like to say or contribute?"

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES: MASTERS/PHD RESEARCH

INFORMANT CONCENT FORMS & INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

PHYSIO SOCIAL REFORM THROUGH RESTORATIVE ARCHITECTURE:
Towards the design of a pre-release rehabilitation center for female offenders in Durban.

By

Lauren Gonzalez Pons

213509241

NGOs -
NICRO & KHULISA

SHEET 3

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155

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

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Interviewee :

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"Firstly, I would like to thank you for agreeing to this interview - your time and expertise in this area is invaluable. During the interview, I would like to explore the current needs and perceptions of female offenders in prison environments in South Africa. I would also like to gain an understanding of what you think a restorative environment for these offenders would include, and how you feel architecture could contribute to the process of offender rehabilitation."

Outline of Interview Questions:

In order to initiate the discussion and to serve as an opening for future questions:

1. "Please may you tell me a bit about your organisation and what it does?"
2. "Can you tell me how long you have been working for this organization?"
3. "Please could you confirm that you are currently working with inmates that are in or have been in a prison environment?"

SECTION 01: THE PRISON ENVIRONMENT

This section will assist in understanding the current ideology and daily operations behind the prison environment. It aims to comprehending the new global social thinking about prison environments and contextualize this new thinking to specific users – in this case female offenders in South Africa

1. **What are your thoughts on the Department of Correctional services approach to incarceration in South African prisons?**
2. Would you consider this approach to focus more on offender punishment or rehabilitation in the prison environment?
1. Based on prisoner reports/ experiences – how would you describe the physical prison environment in South Africa?
2. **Dealing with released prisoners, would you consider that the prison environments they were in provided facilities/ programs/ staff that contributed towards their rehabilitation?**
3. Would you consider that these environments / facilities were successful?
4. How in your opinion could these environments be improved or enhanced to benefit offenders?

SECTION 02: THE FEMALE OFFENDERS

This section deals with the reported experiences, needs and perceptions of female offenders in prison environments as well as explore how current prison architecture in South Africa is responding to these needs and perceptions.

1. **What are your perceptions of the environment that female offenders are incarcerated in**?
2. Do these environments enable reintegration into society, or do they inhibit it?
3. If they do enable/ or inhibit how do you think they do so?
4. **Based on observation and experiences with these offenders – what are/were the most common effects both physically and mentally that they faced during and after imprisonment?**
5. Where any of these effects treated or dealt within the prison environment?
6. If so, in what way?
7. **Based on reports, what are the current gender specific need of female offers in the prison environment?**
8. To what extent would you consider that current prison environments meet the needs of female offenders?
9. How in your opinion could these environments be improved or enhanced to meet these needs of female offenders?
10. What are various challenges faced dealing with a released female offender and trying to reintegrate them back into society?

SECTION 03: PHYSIO SOCIAL REFORM & RESTORATIVE ARCHITECTURE

This section aims to understand the need for physio social reform for female offenders within the prison environment through architecture and how these restorative environments can further contribute towards the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders.

1. **How important would you consider offender reformation and why?**
2. Do you consider that during incarceration offenders received counselling or any related form of rehabilitation?
3. Based on your observations, and interactions with female offenders, can you describe an environment where the inmate feels comfortable?
4. In your opinion what do you consider a healthy prison environment that encourages offender rehabilitation
5. How in your opinion could these current environments be improved or enhanced?

Conclusion: "Before we end this interview, is there anything else you would like to say or contribute?"