



CITIZEN INFORMED CUSTODIAL DESIGN: AN EXPLORATION THROUGH DESIGN AND PRACTICE

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Certificate of Original Authorship

I, Kevin Bradley declare that this thesis, is submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the award of Doctor of Philosophy in the School of Design, Design Architecture Building Faculty at the University of Technology Sydney.

This thesis is wholly my own work unless otherwise referenced or acknowledged. In addition, I certify that all information sources and literature used are indicated in the thesis.

This document has not been submitted for qualifications at any other academic institution.

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Abstract

In many places around the world, prisons are places of mass incarceration (Crook 2017b). It has been argued that the nature of a society can be judged on how it treats its criminals (Dostoyevski 1911, p. 229). Wener argues that 'prisons are the physical manifestation of a society's goals and approaches for dealing with convicted men and women, and is a stage for acting out plans and programs for their future' (Wener 2012, p. 7). The contemporary prison in many liberal democracies is described as 'warehouses' suggesting voluminous spaces of opaque penal practices under the mandate of justice agencies (Garland 1990, p. 30). Others describe the modern prison as 'non-places' for 'non-people' (Jewkes, Slee & Moran 2017). The opaque penal practice extends to commissioning the design of prisons (Consoli 2012) and there is a sense of an inevitable trajectory for increasing segregation of the warehoused prisoner and the rest of society in the outside world (Bauman 2000).

I am a registered architect and having practiced design and research in prison environments for 10 years with Designing Out Crime University of Technology Sydney Australia, an emergent unease led to questioning whether the path we are taking as a society is in fact the one that we desire. My concern is whether there was, or could be, an alternative viewpoint that would inform prison architecture and how it could manifest in practice. This practice-led thesis is a vehicle to explore an alternative design and practice approach to prison architecture. It offers new design knowledge about prison design through a particular lens and a model for future architectural practice.

This thesis takes a constructionist epistemology to develop knowledge and, a phenomenological perspective across a diverse demographic of stakeholders in prison environments to receive knowledge. Conducted across three prisons and with external participation (all within the state of New South Wales, Australia), the research develops a collective description of concerns pertaining to the topic of 'citizenship' and 'justice' and its meaning in the custodial built environment. The research employs phenomenological methods and a descriptive mechanism called 'scripts' that articulate the collective concerns of the stakeholders. It then employs a practice mechanism, 'design scenarios' to evoke a vision of the concerns as they relate to prison environments. Combined, the scripts and design scenarios that address the meaning of citizenship in prison environments are a contribution to custodial design specific to this thesis. The research design employed through the research is formalised into a practice model and presented as a second contribution of the thesis to architectural practice at the completion of the thesis.

The "Embedded Social Knowledge Model" (ESK) is the second contribution of this thesis as it contributes to custodial design practice knowledge. The ESK model

centers the lived-experience voice as a driver of conceptualising environments. It has the capacity to respond to collective concerns from a diverse participant cohort on an array of issues. The model offers a trajectory into future design practice beyond this immediate PhD study. Its potential lies in its capacity to bring into the center of the design process the voices that are often cast to the periphery by an architectural design procurement processes (Farrely 2021).

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List of Abbreviations and Terms

Abbreviations

CSNSW	Corrective Services New South Wales
ILC	The Intensive Learning Centre
ESK	Embedded Social Knowledge Model

Terms

Penal environment

The penal environment refers to secure environments that come under a justice jurisdiction. It speaks to the whole of the prison environment both physical and sociological. It is the whole of the prison and justice environment as it appears to the rest of society. It is the prison and its interactions beyond its immediate surrounds.

Custodial environment

In this research the custodial environment refers to any space that is within the secure zones of a prison. Custodial environments are predominately experienced by staff, prisoners, official visitors, health services, legal services, visiting family and friends.

Custodial environments can be known by people external to the outside even if they have not personally experienced them. This experience is most likely informed through different forms of media (news, web, podcasts, movies), word of mouth, or advocacy organisations.

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