Prison Landscapes: A landscape prototype in a transitional facility for the reintegration of prerelease inmates in Thailand

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Abstract

Prison Landscapes: A landscape prototype in a transitional facility for the reintegration of prerelease inmates in Thailand

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This thesis investigates landscapes in the minimum-security correctional setting and proposes a landscape prototype in a transitional type of prison in Thailand. Through public collaboration and rehabilitative programs, this landscape prototype aims to be a venue that supports the reintegration process of prerelease inmates while serving their sentences in the transitional prisons (also known as “temporary prisons”). The landscape adopts the characteristics of a public park encouraging social participation, nurturing ethical mindset, offering educational opportunities, and developing vocational skills among the prerelease inmates as a way to reduce recidivism and help alleviate prison overcrowding in the higher-security prisons.
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Chapter 1: Introduction

Background of interest

There are two main concerns in the Thai correctional system: prison overcrowding and the successful rehabilitation of the prisoners after they are released. There are 480 prisoners per 100,000 people in Thailand (2015)\(^1\) (tables 1 and 2)—the largest prison population rate and ratio in the Southeast Asian countries (2013)\(^2\). Alphabetically, the countries include Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar (Burma), Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam. This statistic suggests that the number of those incarcerated exceeds the capacity to accommodate more sentenced prisoners within the existing Thailand’s Department of Corrections facilities, resulting in prison crowding.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Prisoner</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) Convicted Prisoner</td>
<td>214,878</td>
<td>36,482</td>
<td>251,360</td>
<td>77.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) Remand Prisoner</td>
<td>58,525</td>
<td>9,657</td>
<td>68,182</td>
<td>21.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1) Pending-Appeal Prisoner</td>
<td>32,640</td>
<td>4,714</td>
<td>37,354</td>
<td>11.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2) Awaiting-Trial Prisoner</td>
<td>10,138</td>
<td>2,044</td>
<td>12,182</td>
<td>3.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3) Awaiting-Investigation Prisoner</td>
<td>15,747</td>
<td>2,899</td>
<td>18,646</td>
<td>5.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) Juvenile Delinquent</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4) Intern</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5) Detainee</td>
<td>4,084</td>
<td>803</td>
<td>4,887</td>
<td>1.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total (as of January 8, 2015)</strong></td>
<td><strong>277,681</strong></td>
<td><strong>46,953</strong></td>
<td><strong>324,634</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00</strong></td>
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</table>

Table 1: Prison demographics in Thailand

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of Population in Thailand (2014)(^4)</th>
<th>No. of All Prisoners</th>
<th>No. of Convicted Prisoners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>67,223,000</td>
<td>324,634 (0.48%)</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Table 2: Number of Population in Thailand in comparison to the number of prisoners

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The department of Corrections has been employing a number of alternatives to incarceration to reduce overcrowding. For example, a reduced prison term is considered when a prisoner maintains a good disciplinary record. A prisoner can also be released on parole (early release from prison under supervision and the conditions of parole). Convicted prisoners, especially those who are charged with drug possession (small amounts) and/or drug use, can be transferred to a different prison type/facility that focuses on substance abuse rehabilitation and improving the quality of life.\(^5\)

However, prison crowding is not the only concern. Considering that a majority of prisoners will eventually be released back into society, the establishment of minimum-security, transitional facilities with an emphasis on rehabilitation is also crucial. This thesis addresses the importance of rehabilitation offered within these facilities by proposing a landscape design, as an alternative model, where rehabilitative programming can take place through public collaboration in the hope of improving the quality of life of prerelease inmates and preventing recidivism after release.

When literally translated from the Thai language, these minimum-security facilities are called “temporary prisons.”\(^6\) The name “temporary prison” is widely known and spoken among the Corrections officers and refers to a facility that “transitions” the “prerelease” inmates from prison to society. It also implies a short period of stay (see the “Criteria for the eligibility” section in Chapter 2 for how long the inmates can stay). Transitional facility, prerelease facility/center, and temporary prison will be used interchangeably throughout the thesis.

Rehabilitation is the main purpose of temporary prisons and I will look at how the lives of prisoners could be enhanced through rehabilitation after release from the tradition prison. It will explore the physical setting of a temporary prison type with a focus on the landscape. This thesis will explore how rehabilitation could be supported by the landscape in terms of spatial organization, programs, the relationship of the programs, and how well these components could contribute to the reintegration-into-society process.

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\(^5\) Thailand’s Department of Corrections Annual Report 2013 (28-29)

\(^6\) Because “temporary prison” is directly and literally translated from the Thai language, it does not mean that such a prison operates as a prison only temporarily, but it is a permanently-established correctional institution. The word “temporary” refers to a temporary stay of an inmate.
This thesis offers a landscape design as a prototype in the minimum-security, transitional setting to support the reentry of prisoners to society and the concept and the design framework described later in Chapter 4 will be applied to a real temporary prison site in Thailand. The programs recommended for this prototype will adopt the philosophy of sufficiency economy (its ideology and the agricultural model) introduced by King Bhumibol Adulyadej: the ideas of social exchange, the equality of citizenship, and the reintegration model. These topics are discussed further in this chapter and in the later chapters. The prototype will also put forth the significance of cooperation among the public, the prerelease inmates, and the staff as the representatives of the Department of Corrections as a way to accomplish successful reintegration and reducing recidivism. Further explanations appear later in this thesis in the sections entitled “Reintegration model” in Chapter 2, “Sufficiency economy and self-reliance” in Chapter 3, and “Philosophical framework” in Chapter 4.

The anticipated outcome of proposing a landscape prototype in the transitional facility is to offer an alternative landscape and set of programs to help prerelease inmates realize that they have the potential to improve their lives, have healthy relationships and to function capably outside of prison. The proposal wishes to benefit the inmates’ physical and psychological health, that is, being in a “supportive environment” (see Chapter 4) and participating in rehabilitative activities to improve their ability to control impulsive behavior, increase calmness and confidence, and lead lawfully as ethical members of the society. It also aims to inspire and give insights into how life outside of prison can be full of opportunities to prosper.

My interest in exploring the benefits of a landscape in correctional settings derives from the fact that I have received a scholarship from the Royal Thai Government to study landscape architecture. After graduation I will be employed by the Department of Corrections to work as a landscape architect/architect for the government. It is an invaluable opportunity for me to gain a background in the realm of corrections such as in the fields of criminology, criminal justice, inmate rehabilitation and environmental psychology apart from the field of landscape architecture itself. To create a built environment that functions successfully, it will require an interdisciplinary approach to solving the design challenges. This thesis is the start of a larger endeavor in the application of landscape within the correctional setting.
Defining a landscape prototype in a transitional facility

A transitional facility is a place where prerelease prisoners have the opportunity to learn and practice vocational skills in order to be economically self-reliant after their reentry. At the same time, it is a place where they learn about morality, ethics and social order in an effort to reduce recidivism. They can also use the landscape within the transitional facility to reflect and assess themselves through counseling and on their own. This proposal targets three groups of potential users: the prerelease prisoners, the officers working at this prison type (and the Corrections officers in general) and those from the neighborhoods/communities.

Operated under a system of trust, the landscape prototype that I propose in this document would be a place for social exchange that contains the characteristics of an interactive outdoor learning space and a public park combining education with recreation. While striving to achieve the educational and recreational characteristics, security protocol will not be compromised because it is still a correctional institution. The prerelease people are to respect the trust they are receiving and value the fact that being in this particular setting is considered a privilege.

Conventional access and proposed access to a transitional facility

In addition to providing skills for enabling inmates to re-enter society, this prototype expands the facilities function further including the community into the reintegration process. Figures 1 and 2 show three color-coded areas— the green areas are publicly accessible, the grey areas are internal activity areas and the red area is off-limits to visitors. Figure 1 shows a conventional situation in most transitional centers where visitors are allowed entry, but are only allowed into designated area (visitor meeting point—represented as a green area). Entry beyond this point will require an official approval for security reasons. (This is why I would like to propose that the regulations in Thailand regarding public access be adjusted or similar to Khao Kling Temporary Prison (see Chapter 3) in order to promote the reintegration process through

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7 Social order n. (a) orderliness within society; (b) the way in which society is organized, the network of human relationships in society. It is also “a method according to which things act or events take place; the fixed arrangement found in the existing state of things; a natural, moral, spiritual, or social system in which things proceed according to definite, established, or constituted laws.” Oxford English Dictionary

8 See section “Critical Stance” later in Chapter 1
public participation). In this situation, visitors can visually observe the activities inside the transitional center, but cannot physically participate (see "Why would the general public want to participate?" later in this chapter). It is more of a public display and less an interaction.

Figure 2 illustrates a two-way collaboration between the public (visitors) and the transitional facility (prerelease inmates and corrections staff) in order to create a venue for social participation as part of the inmates’ rehabilitation. It shows how the landscape prototype would permit more public access (represented as the green areas) to reinforce the idea of social exchange between visitors and inmates/residents. The visitors would have access to the activity areas/work stations (previously the grey areas in figure 1) and converse with the prerelease residents about what they are doing. To ensure security, areas such as the housing units, dining and kitchen areas, would remain inaccessible.

![Figure 1: Conventional access in most transitional centers](image1)

![Figure 2: Proposed access to create social porosity](image2)
The primary target group for public participation is the local, surrounding community which is aware that the facility is minimum security. Many prisoners in temporary or transitional facilities receive visitors from community members and on different occasions, students are brought in to learn about horticulture. Corrections staff from the Headquarters visit and attend seminars and guests are invited to give lectures on different trainings. These people come in as a group from well-established public/private organizations. In addition to the group visitations, the landscape prototype proposed in this thesis encourages individuals to visit and use the space for their own purposes (their own use of the park) without having to obtain permission.

The landscape strategies proposed in this document also covers the following aspects: social aspect (public perception of prisons/prisoners and psychological enhancement of inmates).

**Social aspect (public perception)**

Arguably, not every member of the surrounding community would positively change their image of the prisoners. Some may believe that those who commit crimes, are involved in drugs or hurt others should be removed from the society and not reintegrated. There is another perspective that posits that those who break the law deserve a second chance (they have met the eligibility requirements to enter a prerelease center) and that prisons can do more than confine humans. This proposal explores the optimistic perspective that the image of prisoners and prisons can change: prisoners can be law-abiding citizens after release and prisons can also be perceived as a place for rehabilitation for prisoners.

With the collaboration of all parties (inmates, officers, Corrections, and community) and innovative rehabilitation programs and a change of the physical setting in which the inmates are placed, the public’s perspective may change from that of hopelessness to hopefulness. The inmates, the most important player, would have to prove that they can change because it is their only chance and that the community is willing to give them a second chance.
Psychological enhancement for prerelease inmates

Another important purpose of the project is to strengthen the psychological health of inmates. Even though the inmates may go back into the same impoverished environments that have negatively influenced them and consequently had a part in their breaking the law, they are expected to stay strong because they have been given the skills learned through the rehabilitative programs offered in the temporary prison. If they go back to the same environments, they could effect and be a model for change. If some people they know in the community were about to repeat the same kind of mistake, then their experience in prison could be shared as a way to deter future crimes.

Life behind bars should not, and must not, be made an option for a presumably “better life condition” than the life on the outside (free meals, not having to struggle to make a living, not to mention the fact that they might befriend other prisoners with the same mindset). As David Farabee states in his Rethinking Rehabilitation, “Crime is a choice, not an unavoidable response to a hopeless environment.” For this reason, the idea of self-reliance and self-esteem, as well as the ability to refrain from reoffending is key to successful rehabilitation. The proposed thesis project aims to offer an environment template where rehabilitative programs geared toward enhancing skills and self-esteem are offered by means of social participation and exchange.

Why would the general public want to participate, and how?

The following are the explanations for why this is a plausible and effective strategy.

- Transitional facilities are safe places to visit that are properly monitored to ensure this safety;
- The landscape in a transitional facility is normally a more pleasant environment than those in high-security prisons. The landscape features in the transitional facility such as lush green areas, more vegetation, and comforting atmosphere make the place more inviting, resembling a public park that the community would enjoy. This would increase social participation.

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- It is not mandatory that visitors engage exclusively in the rehabilitative activities with the prerelease inmates when they visit; they can also enjoy the landscape for their own personal purposes (normal use of a public park).

- The landscape in a prerelease center (the landscape proposal) emphasizes education and recreation and other functions such as economic activities. It would include shops, selling local produce and/or crafts—trading and sharing products. In this way, it is a place where prerelease residents and visitors can learn something new from each other in an informal way. The landscape can be a venue for visitors to casually learn and practice horticulture and cultural arts & crafts making through presentations from prerelease inmates and exchanging ideas.

- The landscape within a transitional facility is a good place for public volunteering. People can volunteer to help out with prison horticulture and other rehabilitative programs.

- Religious observances, local and national festivals throughout the year can be held in the landscape. Therefore, the space will be activated by different activities and a variety of users.

Access would be permitted during the day; however, night access may only be possible in cases where the landscape does not occupy the entire area of the facility, only a portion of it. Note that night access does not necessarily mean that the open space is accessible to the public all night; the hours could be the same as those of traditional public parks. Off-limits areas (housing) must be clearly defined and located in an appropriate distance away from the publicly accessible landscape. The inmates are to stay in their housing at night according to the rules.

**Why is community involvement important?**

This section discusses why the outside community is a crucial component in the reintegration process. It takes into account the definitions of “citizen” and “community” and the relationship between the two. The significance of social capital and inclusion, and the roles of the state and citizens will be discussed. The idea of changeability of prisoners and the preventive measures for crime prevention and reduction will also be addressed as these can lead to the desirable outcome of rehabilitation and the crime reduction. How offenders are recognized by the public (either as offenders or citizens) can, in part determine the directions of rehabilitation.
“Citizen” by definition in the Macmillan Dictionary, is “someone who has the right to live permanently in a particular country and has the right to the legal and social benefits of that country as well as legal obligations toward it.” “Community” as a group of individuals, by definition, is “the people who live in an area,” and “a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common.”

Being a citizen (citizenship) has two distinct aspects. On the one hand, when citizenship is emphasized as a “status”, it suggests the “liberal perspective.” Whether or not citizens contribute to their community, it does not affect their status as equal citizens; “one does not have to contribute in order to enjoy full citizenship.” On the other, when citizenship is viewed as a “practice”, it signifies civic or “communitarian position.” Citizenship in this viewpoint “requires the acceptance of responsibilities and duties toward the wider community, as well as the enjoyment of rights.”

Since citizens as well as inmates are individuals in a collective community, everybody is considered “social capital” and is part of social inclusion. Organisation for Economic Co-operation (OECD) defines social capital as “networks together with shared norms, values and understandings that facilitate co-operation within or among groups,” and is refers to as resources stored in human to achieve a “collective good.” Social capital comprises of the following aspects: “citizenship, neighbourliness, trust and shared values, community involvement, volunteering, social networks and civil and political participation.” Such social networks have value in the context of the prison situation because social networks can increase productivity of the inmates in the rehabilitative environment due to increased social contacts. Social networks can also build up public confidence in helping out prerelease inmates to reintegrate and it is less likely that inmates feel deterred. Even though criminal justice policy may deny the citizenship of offenders, entitling offenders as citizens and “prioritizing citizenship and supporting people to return to active membership of society would encourage desistance from crime.” For this reason, the transitional facility, in partnership with the community, will be the means to which the barrier to social inclusion is diminished.

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10 Macmillan Dictionary
11 Oxford Dictionary
16 Ibid. (57)
Both the state and citizens have their own social roles to ensure the welfare of the community/nation. As for the role of the state, prerelease centers (the Department of Corrections) are the state entity that provides assurance of safety for the general public. Part of the state’s responsibility is law enforcement and maintaining social order by means of detaining and correcting (rehabilitating) prisoners, so that when released, inmates will resume their role as law-abiding citizens, and will seek to do better instead of reoffending. The general public, likewise, should also play their part in supporting the state by considering that they can contribute through, for example, volunteering and community involvement. The public may contribute because the public may benefit from participating in inmates’ rehabilitation because it will help ensure a smoother reentry of the inmates into society, and that it can increase awareness and understanding.\(^\text{17}\)

In the minimum-security transitional setting, community involvement is important because it is a form of preventive measure or “preventive partnership” against crime and recidivism. Preventive partnership addresses the responsibility among different groups of people and professions in the society to control crime. As “responsible citizens”, members of the larger community have to be vigilant and take necessary actions against criminal activities. Preventive partnership is different from “punitive segregation” which sees “harsher penalties, fewer opportunities for early release, harder prison conditions” as the necessary approach.\(^\text{18}\) Such segregation approaches are normally seen in higher-security prisons where there is less attention to community involvement with a focus on designing programs that manage and control the prisoners’ behavior. The transitional facility is therefore a place that promotes crime prevention by having the community as a partner in the rehabilitation process as opposed to the punitive segregation option.

Community involvement is also important because the “communitarian position” can provide a more tangible result in achieving success in rehabilitation. The communitarian position means that everybody takes care of their society. This way, the public can also assume more role in the criminal justice process, not only the court, thus it is beneficial to the society at large.

\(^{17}\) The public may contribute also because the prerelease population can be receptive to change and tractable. However, this does not mean that other prison populations are not changeable because rehabilitation is prioritized in higher-security prisons too, but the prerelease type of facility is said to be the most progressive.

In sum, citizenship and social inclusion connote social equality which forms a basis for the inmate’s ability to rebuild community connection. Preventive measures take into account the willingness of citizens to engage in a larger responsibility toward offenders to maintain public safety and prevent crime. With social participation, the inmates would recognize and resume their role as active, law-abiding members of community. It is neither the sole responsibility of the government (the correctional and justice institutions) nor the burden of the society to prevent crime and rehabilitate prisoners; it is instead, collaborative.

**Critical stance**

Prisons serve a number of purposes. Usually the first thing that intuitively comes to mind for many people is to separate individuals acting against the law and morality. It is logical for us to think that those people deserve to be incarcerated. However, apart from removing these offenders from society, another function is to increase public awareness around rehabilitation. This thesis promotes this particular view of rehabilitation and argues that rehabilitation can be a tool to help change the behavior of prisoners and reduce recidivism. This stance advocates for prisoner rehabilitation in all types of prisons.

From the behavioral perspective, the prerelease prisoners acting in accordance with what corrections officers feel is appropriate is not the most important goal in the setting of transitional facility. The goal of rehabilitation in a transitional facility is to provide rerelease inmates with an environment that helps build ethical mindset, vocational skills and knowledge as the preparation upon and after release of the inmates. Inmates are well aware of the rules and the consequences of violation. At the same time, the officers know that the facility is operated under the trust system; therefore, prisoners are regarded as average citizens. The transitional facility is no longer a place where people are constantly monitored and told what to do (aside from what they do on a daily basis). The reentry programs are not forceful programs; they rather encourage inmate’s willingness to participate. This, however, is different from higher prisons where the trust system is not the best form of operation due to the inmates’ histories, severity and types of crime and current judicial status. Inmates in higher-security prisons still need to be under constant, direct supervision. Above all, the officers are to strictly follow the set of rules and procedure regardless of which types of prisons they are working at, and the inmates are to be treated equally and humanely.
Given that this thesis focuses on creating a landscape prototype for a minimum-security, transitional type of prisons, rehabilitation and its associated programs should be in a place where they can provide the best performance to benefit the prisoners, the staff, and the community. The prototype will be applied to an actual site through iterative design schemes that explore the programs, physical features and how they would increase social interaction while providing level of privacy.

This proposal of a landscape in this thesis project is based on a premise that transitional facilities would dedicate a portion of their entire land area for a landscape promoting the reintegration of the prerelease inmates, through public collaboration and participation. Public access to the rehabilitative programs would increase social interaction, knowledge and vocational skill development. This landscape would also be a place for recreation and respite.

The landscape should resemble the character of a public park with features such as free movement (free use of space), adequate seating, a variety of plant species and forms as opposed to limited plantings, and flexible areas for multipurpose use.

The landscape would benefit the prerelease residents, staff and visitors and the environment would feel less restrained and participants would become more productive in their daily work. The landscape interactions would increase well-being and self-reflection. Both prerelease residents and visitors would build trusting relationships and a positive attitude toward the inmates would be fostered. With compassion, the community members would take part in the activities and the inmates would realize that they are not abandoned or shunned.

This thesis therefore explores the role and design of the physical environment specifically of the outdoor environment in temporary prisons suitable for rehabilitation. In terms of the rehabilitative model, the scope of the design in this thesis will be based upon the principles of the adjustment model in which offenders learn and realize that unruly behavior will see undesirable consequences and that there are alternatives to offenses, and especially the reintegration model involving social cooperation (see “Pursuit of rehabilitation” in Chapter 2). The scope of the design also includes the landscape as an outdoor environment itself and its programmatic planning. Attention will be given to the landscape design in
details such as the required sizing for a particular activity, planting, seating circulation, the relationship among the different programs and anticipated user behavior. The architectural component, i.e. buildings (existing and proposed) will also be part of the landscape depending appropriateness and function in order to support the proposed landscape prototype.

In conclusion, the design proposal I offer in this thesis creates a landscape that serves multiple functions simultaneously. It is a place to educate and recreate—to spend time with oneself and others. Apart from social and personal interest, cultural and economic activities will take place in the landscape strengthening the relationship between the people and the community.
Chapter 2: Literature Review

This chapter discusses the history of prison and imprisonment, justification for punishment, rehabilitation and the history and missions of the Thai Department of Corrections which are categorized into the following sections. First, “the evolution and reformation of imprisonment” examines the literature on the history of prisons primarily focusing on European prisons, the physical conditions within the prisons and how the physical structures changed over time. The first section also covers the transformations from makeshift prisons to permanent prison structures and their purposes as well as the ideologies of how prisons were reformed. The second section discusses detention and its purpose to detain, not to remediate or punish until the case is tried. “How punishment is justified,” the third section, discusses imprisonment as punishment, including “retribution” and “justice model.” “The pursuit of rehabilitation”, the forth section, addresses the rehabilitative models in the correctional setting which are the medical model, the adjustment model and the reintegration model. The latter half of the chapter focuses on the Thai correctional context: the history of Thailand’s Department of Corrections, the missions and authorities of the department for rehabilitation and reducing prison crowding, roles and objectives of the temporary prisons in Thailand and the criteria for the eligibility for transitioning prisoners to temporary, transitional prisons.

The evolution and reformation of imprisonment

The philosophies of incarceration vary historically resulting in a diversity of the physical structures of prisons over time, thus prison architecture and environmental design reflect the ongoing social change of the periods. From the Middle Ages to the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries in Europe, for example, imprisonment consisted of being chained and tortured. Corporal, capital punishment and executions were common. The state exercised its power primarily over the physical body, but later shifted to controlling
behavior and mind through rigid routines and constant surveillance, which influenced prison design at that time.\textsuperscript{19}

Early prisons through the Middle Ages into the seventeenth century in Europe made use of preexisting structures, primarily castles and other civic buildings where the inmates’ quarters were located in the subterranean parts of the buildings. Inmates were not separated in terms of offenses, genders and ages. The prison conditions were harsh—food, water and utilities such as light and sanitation were minimal. There is some evidence that rehabilitation was a goal, though it appears to be a minor one. For instance, in China there were Buddhist temples located near prisons to help prisoners lead a better life.\textsuperscript{20} Even though it was not specified that imprisonment was actually punishment, “incarceration was used regularly for detention and sometimes as a form of punishment.”\textsuperscript{21}

A systematic form of church imprisonment appeared in the Catholic monastic church between the seventeenth and the late eighteenth centuries. As opposed to the use of imprisonment as pure torture and a deprivation of liberty, the Christian establishments used detention as a way to resolve disciplinary problems of the wrongdoers. It was hoped that those imprisoned would show penitence by means of meditation, solitude and misery. These church prisons were therefore different from the secular prisons and it was also the church that granted “asylum or sanctuary to fugitives and criminals, except those accused of treason”.\textsuperscript{22} The church approach gave civil authorities an alternative to death penalties, mutilation or exile as the death penalty or punishment that spilled blood was prohibited by the religion.

To increase the success of solitude and contemplation, the inmate’s quarters were located close to or as part of religious sites. The living quarters were either physically integrated into the thickness of the wall of a building as secluded cellular chambers or excavated underground. Not only were the church prisons intended for criminals, but also for recluses and hermits who voluntarily secluded themselves from their

\textsuperscript{20} Ibid. (5)
\textsuperscript{21} Ibid. (6)
\textsuperscript{22} Ibid. (17)
worldly connections to uplift their spirits to find salvation.\textsuperscript{23} For the first time, the church had a position to influence how criminals should be treated using “both punitive and corrective goals.”\textsuperscript{24}

During the early modern period in Europe (late 1600s), the number of prisoners sentenced increased and overcrowding became an issue. However, despite the increased numbers of new inmates, the population of those incarcerated then began to decline due to “jail fever” (typhus, caused by masses of people, lack of physical comfort, dampness, poor diet and sanitation).\textsuperscript{25} Prisons continued to use the preexisting structures of fortresses, convents and monasteries, which ultimately were converted fully into prisons. There were prisons designed from the start as prisons, but the conditions were not any better. Clergymen and occasionally the incarcerated protested. A group of concerned citizens (local prison society) advocated for reform, for example, the Christian Knowledge Society was formed in 1699 in England to improve the prison conditions, yet despite their effort, the environment remained untenable and unlivable.\textsuperscript{26} This may be the first evidence of a reform movement.

With the reform movement,\textsuperscript{27} the advent of the construction of buildings specifically as prisons raised new consideration, particularly based on design principles. The Italian architect Leon Battista Alberti (1404-72) found that there were three types of prisons: one for untutored men to receive nighttime training from the learned and those experienced in arts and moral ways of life, the second, for debtors and those in need of tedious work to set forth their lives right, and the third, for those who had committed severe crimes. With this last category, there were no indications regarding cure, rather, such prisoners deserved ultimate penalties and to be placed in the most secured prisons.\textsuperscript{28}

Alberti then discusses the treatments prisoners in each category received. However, his comments on the last category reveal his strong view that the criminals “deserve the ultimate of all penalties for their

\textsuperscript{23} Ibid. (17-18)
\textsuperscript{24} Ibid. (27)
\textsuperscript{25} Ibid. (28)
\textsuperscript{26} Ibid. (29)
\textsuperscript{27} Reform movement can be categorized into prison reform and prisoner reform. The prison reform considers primarily the prison design principles (changing from provisional confinement to permanent, purpose-built prisons), such as physical structures that separate types of criminals, severities, age and sex of offenders, prison layouts that allow surveillance and inspection, structures that prevent escape and a humanitarian design approach to maintaining the physical health and sanitation of offenders. Prisoner reform still includes the separation of prisoners and offenses and staff inspection. What is more to the prisoner reform is that it is human-focused. The prisoner reform builds on the idea of rehabilitation through working and industrious habits and prison architecture that accommodates religious instruction and education.
\textsuperscript{28} Ibid. (29)
crimes.” He suggests prisons should be designed so that escape is difficult, however, all other necessary utilities, latrines, fireplaces and smell and smoke-free spaces should be present, and people who committed minor crimes would be separated from those sentenced for major offenses.

Prison locations and conditions were proposed by a number of theorists and architects. For example, prisons were recommended to be sited in town centers near government buildings where the living quarters for inmates were divided based on the levels of severity of crimes. Good behaviors may be rewarded and inmates would be moved to better units. Prisons must be properly equipped and regarding the use of materials, prisons included the use of stone, terra cotta to increase structural soundness, prevent dampness and ensure surveillance. There were also proponents for the separation of men and women and seriousness of the crime.

The exteriors of a prison might be different from the interiors, for instance, “the jail has to be formed out of rough stones in order to appear fearsome, but in such a manner that the prisoners are not deprived of the light of the sky.” Civil prisons were differentiated from criminal prisons. “Melancholy will be seen in the civil prisons” but the criminal prisons were designed in the form of “high and thick walls with savage appendages that throw forth the most horrible shadows, uninviting and cavern-like entrances” to convey darkness, threatening, ruins, terror”, which would deter crime among the citizens. As opposed to the formidable exterior, most of these early architects viewed the interior differently as a place to be “comfortable and well-ordered.”

Prisons had been compared to and took precedents from other institutional archetypes and counterparts such as monasteries, hospitals and other public buildings, in part because these institutions faced similar problems including the increasing numbers of users. The idea of separation was considered in hospital architectural forms, for instance, the need to separate patients who may infect others while hospital staff would still be able to tend to the patients.

29 Ibid. (29)
30 Ibid. (29)
31 Ibid. (30)
32 Ibid. (30)
33 Ibid. (31)
34 Ibid. (31)
From the late eighteenth century, rationalism rose and reformers demanded that prisons not simply detain and punish criminals, but that "imprisonment was now expected to reform the prisoner."\(^{35}\) This spawned a rethinking of incarceration where criminals were separated from most to less severe offenses, male from female, and adults from children, and the physical layout allowed surveillance or inspection. Separation helped facilitate reform so as to minimize contacts among prisoners and prevent them from influencing each other while surveillance helped facilitate control so that unruly behavior, assaults, riots and escapes would be prevented because staff could directly inspect and observe the prisoners. There were also demands for prison architecture that promoted the humanitarian aspects of reform such as religious teaching, education and utilization of constructive labor.\(^{36}\)

In addition to improving the physical conditions inside prisons and reforming the prisoners, the causes of crime are also taken into account such as, "lack of education, drunkenness, and a rapid increase in wealth" and urbanization with less emphasis on the "sinful nature" of criminals,\(^{37}\) officials tried to avoid death penalties and physical punishments resulting in confinement for long periods of time and leading to crowding and poor sanitation. The result was a need to build more prisons, replacing the old, converted preexisting structures, and also increasing the space.

There is also an advocate for "two places of confinement" and a prison design in which the "correction of bad behavior would come through discipline." The two places of confinement include one for men and one for women based on the principles of non-intercourse of prisoners by means of solitary celling at night and supervision by day." Discipline can be learned through intense labor, regimented routines and religious services while maintaining sufficient diet and no other luxuries. This advocate aims to deter crime, reform and teach the prisoners "the habits of industry."\(^{38}\)

Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832), another legal reformer who opposed death penalties, placed emphasis on surveillance, which led to the design of the Panopticon. Continuous surveillance and inspection was favored to prevent the "failure to effect the reform" because lax supervision may lead to misconduct of the inmates, putting the prison in jeopardy. This continuous surveillance would effectively allow wardens and

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\(^{35}\) Ibid. (42)
\(^{36}\) Ibid. (42)
\(^{37}\) Ibid. (42)
\(^{38}\) Ibid. (43)
corrections staff to supervise inmates, at the same time, would allow the government to inspect the management within correctional institution.\(^{39}\)

The solution to how prisoners should be placed can entail either the separation of prisoners from each other (in individual cells) or prisoner classification according to certain characteristics e.g. sex, offense and age, though which grouping method was more effective was still debated. There were pros and cons for each, for instance, classification of prisoners may cause confusions for the architects with too many categories and poor sanitation whereas individual cells can cause overcrowding and be costly. Nonetheless, solitary confinement was somehow favored over classification according to the “contemporary American systems.”\(^{40}\) In terms of prisoner reform, it was, in part, impeded due to a disagreement whether work should be unpleasant or educational and training-oriented.

The historical evidence documented above indicates that the physical conditions of prisons were a priority for reformers regardless of the differing classification systems: the homogenous types or solitary confinement. Most reformers agreed that the levels of punishments should be based on seriousness of crime, and prisoners be separated (i.e. sex, age and types of crime). The reform would be less likely to succeed should the inmates be placed together because “jails and prisons were hotbeds of physical and moral disorder. Behavioral influence and criminal propensity could be spread by contact between people across groups (that is, youth with older inmates, violent with nonviolent felons).”\(^{41}\) In conclusion, the current set-up of most prisons internationally follows Plato’s ancient model that there should be different kinds of prisons accommodating different offenses and severities with an “ability to correct the behavior of the criminal.”\(^{42}\)

\(^{39}\) Ibid. (45)
\(^{40}\) Ibid. (45-46)
\(^{42}\) Ibid. (20)
Detention and punishment

According to various architects through the centuries, detention is not punishment in and of itself because “[prisons] were intended to hold people in place until the real punishment could be administered for whatever stated purpose was intended.” For this reason, intention to change behavior during the detention was not intentionally pursued until the nineteenth century. Richard E. Wener remarks that if we accept that a jail is a place that holds people before they are officially tried and a prison is where “people are sentenced for punishment, then we can say that jails have a long history and the prison is a relatively recent invention.”

As this background information indicates, jails are distinct from prisons; jails are for temporary pretrial detention while prisons are for punishment after conviction. Jails and prisons are therefore two separate facilities that support consecutive procedures. However, detention can be understood as a form of punishment because persons are being detained and therefore, deprived of some liberties. Wener indicates that “prison time as punishment is particularly appealing because of the ease with which time in prison lends itself to a seemingly rational and quantifiable metric of degree of punishment—the worse the crime, the longer the term.”

How punishment is justified

When imprisonment is meant to punish, there are several different ideologies of how punishment is justified. These includes: 1) retribution; 2) justice model.

Retribution

The retribution model of punishment is based upon the notion of a “balance of reciprocity”; punishment is justified because it is deserved and “in proportion to the harm they have willfully inflicted on the victim and

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43 Ibid. (16)
44 Ibid. (15-16)
45 Ibid. (20)
on society.” It is referred to as “an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth.” Doing wrong should encounter consequences while doing right should be rewarded. Retribution is not intended to be utilitarian as its ultimate purpose is to punish wrongdoers for reasons of morality, especially when a crime is premeditated. However, some may argue that retribution is utilitarian or beneficial to society because it deters offending behavior and incapacitates those imprisoned.

Justice model

The justice model or "just deserts" model of punishment differs from retribution. The justice model is for the purposes of utility and does not focus on moral duty. Utility means that punishment is justified due to “its presumed social advantages” and public assurance that lawbreakers are deterred. Utility/utilitarianism also refers to that "rules of conduct, including the criminal laws of society, should be formulated with regard to what will best serve the general welfare of society.” It is obligatory in its specific reaction to criminal behavior and is based on the belief that public safety/satisfaction is ensured when lawbreakers are removed from society. The justice model therefore lies between the duty of the state and public utility, both to achieve a social "good." This may be flawed as the amount and level of penalty must be proportionate to, and not exceed the severity and blameworthiness of the criminal act. Offenders should also be "treated with respect and dignity." The purposes of both approaches are not rehabilitation, only achieving a physical separation between criminals and society. Retribution focuses on individual punishment on a moral basis while justice provides public safety for the broader society.

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47 Ibid. (164-166)
50 Ibid. (149)
51 Ibid. (166)
52 Ibid. (166)
Pursuit of rehabilitation

The philosophy of rehabilitation and treatment

The intention of rehabilitation is to make prisoners “not ‘just’ good prisoners, but good citizens...[and] fit them for the free life to which, sooner or later they [were] to return.”

The above quote can be thought-provoking, particularly among the correctional staff engaged in rehabilitation. It suggests that the goal of rehabilitation is obvious. As Andrew von Hirsh wrote in his text *Doing Justice: The Choice of Punishment* (1976): “the goal of rehabilitative philosophy is to change an offender’s character, attitudes, or behavior patterns so as to diminish his or her criminal propensities.”

Even though the effectiveness of correctional rehabilitation has been challenged, there is a counterargument and explanation about why and how rehabilitation should be carried on in the justice system.

Furthermore, if we believe that people are changeable, then the inmate’s time in prison can be a period for change and an alternative to corporal sanctions. Imprisonment would allow inmates a second chance to reflect on themselves instead of facing execution. Regarding specifically the purpose of the transitional facilities in Thailand, the notion of changeability is important because it gives way to rehabilitation (especially for the social reintegration of inmates). After having spent a certain period of time in central, higher-security prisons, some inmates meet certain qualifications (see “Criteria for the eligibility” later in this chapter) set by Thailand’s Department of Corrections which may transfer them to prerelease facilities. One of the qualifications other than duration of time served in the central prisons is the inmates’ behavior. Good behavior in central prisons is rewarded, implying that the inmates are reflecting on themselves and their behavior.

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54 Ibid. (9)
55 Ibid. (21)
56 Ibid. (21)
The following are three major rehabilitation models used in prisons while prisoners serve their sentence.

**Medical model**

While progressives thought that “biological limitations” were the root cause of crime, psychiatrists believed that crime originated from psychological factors, and it was this perspective that was widely accepted.\(^{57}\) The medical model of rehabilitation fostered the idea that prisoners were “sick rather than bad” people. Because crimes were due to this sickness that limited offenders from exercising their “freedom of choice or to use reason,”\(^{58}\) they deserved a cure rather than blame or punishment. Usually, such sickness is thought to be scientifically identified and treated through counseling. The prison was run similarly to a hospital or a treatment center where psychiatrists and nurses replaced prison staff. The rehabilitative focus was on the individual, their own problems versus framing them amongst social and economic factors.

There are three main reasons this perspective did not endure. First, there was no evidence that criminals stopped reoffending. Second, the success of the treatment was overrated and the effectiveness to impact change within the inmate questionable. Third, the prison environment was not a place for medical focused treatments.\(^{59}\)

**Adjustment model**

The adjustment model of rehabilitation validates the medical model and extends beyond its pathological cure. The model is built upon four assumptions. First, offenders must learn that their inappropriate behavior and attitudes led them to crime. Second, there are ways to stay crime-free and become law-abiding citizens and they are responsible for their actions and must face the consequences. Past emotional problems and social deprivations are not an excuse for misbehavior. Third, there is a strong relationship between the social environment and individual interactions, a root cause of antisocial behavior and that other alternatives will help them disassociate with criminal activities. Lastly, punishment

\(^{57}\) Ibid. (7-10)  
\(^{58}\) Ibid. (26)  
\(^{59}\) Ibid. (8-10)
could make things worse and “increase offenders’ alienation and behavior problems.”

In contrast to the medical model, the adjustment model avoids the use of institutionalization while helping offenders adjust to society.

**Reintegration model**

The reintegration model of rehabilitation proposes that because offenders’ problems begin in the community, they should be solved by the community. The basic logic behind this idea is that if the community is part of the problem, then it is part of the solution. The reintegration model requires high levels of “meaningful community contacts” of which the community offers opportunities to offenders in order to reintegrate and similarly, the offenders must learn how to “utilize these opportunities.” In order for change of attitude of inmates and self reflection to take place, rehabilitative options must be presented to the inmates such as education, employment, recreation and other activities so that they have “alternatives to their criminal behavior.” Regardless of whether the community is part of the problem or not, the assumption is that society must be responsible for “helping law violators [re]integrate themselves back into the social order.”

Society provides opportunities for offenders to assume and restore their roles as moral citizens. While offenders still serve time in prisons, this model is employed through a community-based corrections reintegration process. It is believed that the inmates’ change process is likely to be successful when community-based programs are used.

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60 Ibid. (27)
61 Ibid. (27)
62 Ibid. (28)
History of Thailand’s Department of Corrections

The development of corrections in Thailand has been shaped by a number of various factors including social, political and economic factors. Prior to the reign of King Chulalongkorn—King Rama V (reign from 1868-1910) prisons and jails were located in major provinces under the authority of the governor in each province. These facilities were under the administration of different governmental agencies such as the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Defense.

During the period of King Rama V, the correctional system was categorized into two segments based on location. The first segment was the correctional facilities located in the capital city Bangkok which was comprised of two types of facilities: the Khuk and the tarang. The Khuk was designed to house prisoners whose sentence was 6 months or longer while the tarang was for prisoners whose sentence was less than 6 months. These facilities in Bangkok were administered by the Ministry of the Metropolitan. The second segment was the correctional facilities outside of the vicinity of Bangkok. The tarang was the common correctional type of facility in the provinces outside of Bangkok and under the administration of the governor within the particular province. Prisoners with a sentence of more than 6 months were sent to a Khuk in Bangkok. Today, in the contemporary corrections, Khuk refers to the felony division and tarang refers to the misdemeanor division.

In 1901, the Correctional Act was established in order to improve the Thai correctional system. Until 1915, during the reign of King Vajiravudh (King Rama VI), the Department of Corrections Act was instated to officially establish the Department of Corrections. During the reign (1925-1935) of King Prajadhipok (King Rama II), the country faced major political turmoil which resulted in the reorganization of the government. The Department of Corrections was downsized and placed under the Ministry of Justice and a few years after, it was downsized into the Division of Corrections under the Ministry of Interior.

In 1932 during the Siamese Revolution, Thailand changed from absolute monarch to constitutional monarchy. The Thai corrections system was again promoted and renamed the Department of Corrections.

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Corrections. This was followed by the new Correction Act of 1936. This act outlined the role and function of prisons and jails, the procedures and guidelines for the correctional practice in the country. This also included the establishment of juvenile detention facilities and rehabilitation, provincial prisons and district prisons.

**Missions and authorities of Thailand’s contemporary Department of Corrections**

The Thai Department of Corrections has set the missions and has the authorities both to control and correct offenders. The department aims to be an institution that provides rehabilitation, physically, mentally and vocationally in an effort to ensure that prisoners will become law-abiding, productive citizens and not reoffend after release. The Department of Corrections has the following responsibilities:

- “To ensure that all the procedures for detaining prisoners in custody are consistent with laws, regulations, government policy, and the principle of criminology and penology as well as the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Offenders and other recommendations
- To manage prisoners according to individual background, risk factors and individual needs
- To equip prisoners with lawful earning skills through various vocational training programs
- To provide a safe, secure and humane environment whereby prisoners are able to have access to social services, recreation facilities, education, vocational training, religious, health care and other forms of welfare
- To coordinate and cooperate with other criminal justice agencies in order to achieve maximum protection of society”

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Thailand’s Department of Corrections in rehabilitation and reducing prison crowding\(^6\)

There are a number of approaches to prisoner rehabilitation and simultaneously easing prison crowding. One prominent approach is through **community-based programming** which functions as an incentive to motivate the prisoner’s good behavior by means of mobilizing community resources rather than exclusively relying on the authorities. Community-based programming takes into account that offenders are still members of society who are to return, therefore, the community should be available to accommodate and support the reintegration of the offenders appropriate to their needs.

Community-based programming is based on the principle that by permitting prisoners to serve their sentence in the community, they would have more time to readjust into their family and community. In addition, sentencing outside of prison is also an alternative to incarceration which would be able to alleviate prison crowding. The methods for this approach include: **parole and good-time allowance** which encourages inmates to behave during their incarceration and enables them to be on a conditional release under supervision until their actual sentence is terminated, these methods where prisoners engage in public work outside of prisons do not shorten the sentence period. **Public-work allowance** is a community-service method on a condition that the remainder of the sentence is less than 2 years. The number of days spent for the service is accumulated and will be counted as remission days. In addition, the prisoners earn 80 per cent of the net profits from their work. Prisoners must meet the eligibility as stated in the rules and conditions and these privileges can be revoked anytime if prisoners breach the rules and regulations or fail to comply with instructions. **Royal pardon**: the King, as the head of the state and as part of the sovereignty, may grant a pardon to anyone, to commute, reduce or terminate sentences with or without conditions. There are two types of pardon: the collective pardon and the individual pardon. Committee will be set up to make selections and prisoners must meet certain qualifications. **Boot camp** is a military-style treatment specifically for drug offenders. Prisoners will be educated about the harms of drugs and provided with counseling.

\(^6\) Ibid.
Probation is an alternative to imprisonment applicable to both juvenile and adult offenders. Thailand’s juvenile system has a special court proceeding with objectives to rehabilitate. It does not confine juveniles with adults or place them in cells due to child rights protection. Juvenile delinquents will be placed in a training institution or a minimum security detention facility and non-institutional treatment is discouraged.

For adult probation, considerations are given to the offenders’ backgrounds such as previous records, behavior, intellect, education, physical and mental health, habit, occupation and environment of the offender together with the nature of their offences and other extenuating circumstances. Investigations into the following will help officers understand more about the offenders and suggest what kind of rehabilitation can be given:

- Understand their personalities and temperament;
- Whether or not they want probation;
- Whether or not they will be dangerous to society if they are placed under probation; and
- What type of treatment will be suitable for them, considering the safety of society and the benefit to the offender.66

Probationers will be supervised by the probation officers with the following elements: surveillance, service and counseling. Surveillance is that probationers must report themselves periodically while officers visit their homes. Service means that officers will make sure that the probationers meet the living standards in terms of food, shelter, education, vocational skills, medicine, employment and so forth. Counseling is when the officers help the probationers and their families understand the problems and give advice on possible solutions.

In conclusion, community involvement and volunteerism play an important role in offender rehabilitation in the Thai correctional system. Not only is the community-based programming/treatment an alternative to imprisonment to ease prison crowding, but also a potential way to help offenders reintegrate back into society. This community approach also increases public awareness of the significance of participation which can be adapted into the design for the landscape prototype in the temporary prisons. For the

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66 Ibid.
purposes of this thesis project, even though prerelease inmates serve their sentences on the prison grounds, they can be outside for social services and at the same time the community is invited into the temporary prisons for the exchange of knowledge and skills.

Roles and objectives of the “temporary prisons” in Thailand

As mentioned in the Introduction chapter, a transitional facility is a correctional institution that prepares “prerelease” inmates for reintegration into society and provides rehabilitative activities. Inmates must first have been in the central prisons for a certain period of time and are required to meet the qualifications set by the Department of Corrections in order to be eligible for transfer.

Based on the research conducted as part of this thesis project, specifically from the interviews and discussions with corrections staff, the major roles and objectives of temporary prisons in Thailand are as follows:

- Preparing prerelease inmates for reintegration into society through the adjustment model and the reintegration models;
- Providing life skill trainings i.e. educational and vocational training programs in horticulture, industry-related work, handicrafts and the service industry based on ethical and moral principles;
- Promoting and putting into practice the philosophy of self-reliance and self-sufficiency that provide reciprocal benefits for prisoner, officers and communities;
- Increasing communities’ receptivity towards prisoners;
- Increasing productivity that reinforces self-esteem and meaningful life;
- Alleviating crowding in central prisons by transferring qualified inmates into prerelease facility;
- Utilizing the already-available properties (land) and adopt features of normalized environments/landscapes for stress reduction and self-reflection.
- Following the notion of working (being productive) during the day and being well-rested at night in order to maintain security and surveillance.

The reintegration model, along with the adjustment model, matches the roles and objectives of temporary prisons mentioned earlier, that collaboration between the prison rehabilitation programs (including the
prisoners and staff themselves) and community involvement would be one of the promising approaches to developing a landscape prototype of a temporary prison.

Criteria for the eligibility for transitioning prisoners

The Thai correctional system has set the criteria for transitioning inmates from main prisons to temporary prisons.

There are six (6) classes of convicted prisoners in Thailand: 1) Excellent, 2) Very good, 3) Good, 4) Moderate, 5) Bad, and 6) Very bad. When a prisoner first enters prison with their first offense, he/she is classified as a “Moderate Class Prisoner” (Class 4). This class can be promoted or retrograded. For reoffending prisoners returning to prison, he/she is classified as a “Bad Class Prisoner” (Class 5). The Excellent Class is eligible to be transferred to a temporary prison.

Inmates from a main prison must be in compliance with the following qualifications to be considered for a transitional facility:

- Be in the Class 3 (good) or above;
- Have been sentenced for a first offense;
- Have been sentenced for no less than ¼ of the prison term counting from the latest court order;
- Depending on the type and amount of drugs in a drug possession case, and not be a major dealer/cartel member;
- The remaining sentence being more than 1 year, but less than 5 years;
- Have met the parole qualification and not committed the following crimes: fraudulent crimes, kidnapping, rape, being a hired gunman, contract killing and other socially-unacceptable crimes e.g. dreadful, ruthless murder;
- Must not carry contagious, transmittable diseases, mental illness;
- Have been classified as a prisoner of good conduct and discipline, no records of violation of the rules.

http://www.correct.go.th/eng/correcteng/?page_id=175
In addition to the criteria above, the procedure for final selection includes, but is not limited to, meetings among the administrative staff from both the main prison and the receiving temporary prison, considerations for suitability after background checks, mentality/personality checks and interviews with family members and relatives, and observations from staff. The Department of Corrections makes the final approvals.

**Summary**

The literature review on the history and reformation of imprisonment and prisons provides a background in the design ideologies for the purposes of crime deterrence. For instance, the physical structures, the scale and the materials for the exteriors represent the power of state while the interiors are to be relatively comfortable and well ordered. Prisons were transformed over time. Makeshift prisons were integrated as a part of the existing civic buildings to house detainees and later, the number of prisons increased due to the increasing number of offenders and to improve the living conditions. The prison and prisoner reformation began when there were proponents for the separation of genders, types and the severities of crime to prevent criminal propensities and influences from spreading. Prison design in the later period called for prisoner rehabilitation in correctional institutions as an alternative to physical punishment through learning and training. At the same time, prisons also incorporated designs that allow staff supervision for effective surveillance.

This chapter also studies the inmates rehabilitation models (the medical model, the adjustment model and the reintegration model). For the minimum-security, transitional prisons in Thailand, the adjustment model and the reintegration model will be a basis for the landscape design proposal in this thesis because these two models tie back to the Thai Department of Corrections’ pursuit of rehabilitation in regarding the community-based programming. The above two models also meet the roles and objectives of the temporary prisons by promoting social interaction and collaboration between the public and the correctional institutions. The models provide opportunities for inmates to assess themselves while the community can get involved in the reintegration process through several activities. The next chapter on the precedent study will explore prison landscapes and rehabilitation in different contexts with the above models integrated.
Chapter 3: Precedent Study

This chapter introduces prisons and rehabilitative prison landscapes with the integrated adjustment model and the reintegration model. The first section includes three prison landscape precedents worldwide that informed the design proposal made in this thesis project: the GreenHouse program on Rikers Island in New York, in the United States, West Kimberley Regional Prison in Australia and the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women, the United States. The second section, “Thailand Precedents,” is geared toward the principles of sufficiency economy and self-reliance relevant in the Thai context and culture which are translated into an agricultural model. This section also presents, from the author’s site visits, four transitional facilities/temporary prisons in Thailand which adopt the sufficiency economy agricultural model in the facilities’ landscapes as a basis for the prisons’ horticultural activities, cultural arts and crafts and tourism. The first and third sections are accompanied by analysis and key takeaways.

Precedents of prison landscapes worldwide

The map below shows the locations of the three prisons: the GreenHouse program on Rikers Island in New York, in the United States, West Kimberley Regional Prison in Australia and the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women, the United States.

Figure 3: Locations of international precedents
The GreenHouse Program

![Image](http://www.gardenista.com/files/styles/733_0s/public/fields/2-rikers%20greenhouse%20program%20lindsay%20morris-gardenista.jpeg)

Figure 4: The gardens in the GreenHouse program

![Image](http://www.healinglandscapes.org/blog/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/rikers-flags1.jpeg)
“Statistics in the criminal justice system reveal that offenders who leave jail with job skills and/or education and are given a modicum of after-care services are more likely to break the cycle of recidivism than inmates simply released.” James Jiler (2006).

One of the most prominent and progressive rehabilitative programs in United States prisons is the GreenHouse project, dubbed “jail-to-street” program, on Rikers Island, New York. It was initiated in 1997 through a collaboration between the Horticultural Society of New York (HSNY), the New York City Department of Corrections and other governmental and non-governmental organizations. The objectives include providing inmates with education and vocational training in horticulture and landscape architecture, easing the reintegration into society, increasing self-esteem, a sense of purpose and empowerment, reducing recidivism, and ultimately “creating profound connection to both nature and their community.”

The GreenHouse program places an emphasis on the active participation of inmates in designing and building gardens and landscapes. The participants in the program are referred to as “students” and are treated as such. The program offers hands-on experience in horticulture and landscaping through a combination of classroom-style teaching and physical work. The physical setting and the garden-constructing activities have rehabilitative qualities—"the deep mystery of nature, a force that in many circles is seen as a powerful vehicle for individual growth and development."

The plants themselves used in the GreenHouse program are ornamental and edible and the produce from the gardens are enjoyed among the growers while the rest is distributed to the community. Students have opportunities to learn about plants, herbs, ecology, landscape construction and carpentry. Once the project is completed, students have fundamental knowledge and skills necessary to be employed in horticulture and landscape architecture-related field. It is also well received among inmates because they enjoy the outdoor work, fresh air, sunshine, responsibility and being out of their cells.

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69 Ibid. (22)
70 Ibid. (34)
71 Ibid. (144)
To reinforce the effectiveness of the training and provide jobs after release, a transitional aftercare program called the GreenTeam is incorporated into the inmate's supervision. After the inmates are released, the former GreenHouse students can join the GreenTeam aftercare program. The former students, now called "interns" are paid while enrolled in the GreenTeam.

To reflect the competitive workplace with other landscape competitors, GreenTeam is operated like a landscape company. John Canizzo, the program director, secures gardening/landscape projects and contracts with clients mostly within the state of New York by bidding on projects, and designing and working with interns. They also receive projects through word-of-mouth based on past successes. The interns both construct new gardens and maintain them. Both GreenHouse and GreenTeam programs represent a holistic approach to rehabilitation. The aftercare program serves as a follow up supervision for those who have been released.

72 Ibid. (150)
West Kimberley Regional Prison

West Kimberley Regional Prison is significant as it recognizes the importance of the Aboriginal culture that defines the area in which the prison is located. West Kimberley Regional Prison is located near the town of Derby in the northern region of West Australia. It was designed by TAG Architects in collaboration with Iredale Pedersen Hook Architects (IPH), and opened in November 2012. It houses 150 prisoners, of which, 30 are female (separated). Because this prison houses groups of prisoners from very diverse indigenous origins with differing backgrounds, cultural practices and traditional languages, the philosophy
of the Aboriginal cultures and values is emphasized in the design and practice within the facility. The philosophy includes the “recognition and acceptance of cultural, kinship, family and community responsibilities as well as spiritual connection to land.”\textsuperscript{73} It is a minimum to medium-security prison with day programs for the prisoners.

In addition to the Aboriginal culture-related principle, the design is flexible and promotes social interaction among prisoners. One purpose is to provide the indigenous prison population (making up 95% of the total prison population) proximity to their family and community while meeting their cultural and environmental needs. Prior to the facility’s inception, the indigenous prisoners served their sentences in places with unsanitary and crowded conditions located “outside their own country,” which decreased the contact with their family and community, causing emotional and spiritual distress.\textsuperscript{74}

In the master plan of West Kimberley Regional Prison, a central oval-shaped outdoor space serves as a primary gathering space (known as Australian Rules oval)\textsuperscript{75} with clusters of 42 shared-program buildings and housing units surrounding it. The central outdoor space is primarily used for recreational activities. The shared amenities, which are vocational and educational buildings, meeting areas, program areas, kitchen and laundry building, medical center and a courtroom, are located near the front gatehouse to reduce walking distances for visitors. Twenty two out of forty two buildings are “self-care” housing units. The housing units are splits into small groups based on the prisoners’ origins. Prisoners from the same country/tribe can live together in one unit, while another unit houses another group to reduce conflicts. The design (and management) permits freedom for the prisoners to move about within their clusters allowing control over their own immediate environment.\textsuperscript{76}

To create a continuous view of the landscape, the use of solid barriers is minimized and few existing trees were removed. The materials of the buildings are obtainable in the region and connect the prisoners to their cultures and environments whereas the colors of the landscape inform the exterior colors of the

\textsuperscript{74} Architecture Au July/August 2013. Pg. 76.
\textsuperscript{75} http://architectureau.com/articles/west-kimberley-regional-prison/ (access date: June 8, 2015)
\textsuperscript{76} Architecture Au July/August 2013. Pg. 78.
buildings and reflect “the seasonal changes of the subtropics, increasing prisoners’ sense of connection to country.”77

From an aerial view, the environment resembles a typical prison that features a double wall delineating rigid boundaries—“a savage scar on this magnificent landscape.” However, because of the plants hiding the wall, it seems more welcoming when approached from the ground. As Peter Hobbs, an architect based in Perth puts it: “it makes one wonder whether the fence is really keeping people in, or protecting the prisoners and giving them respite from the troubling influences of the outside world.”78

77 http://architectureau.com/articles/west-kimberley-regional-prison/ (access date: June 8, 2015)
78 Architecture Au July/August 2013. (82)
Iowa Correctional Institution for Women (ICIW)

The majority of offenders (95 percent) at ICIW will eventually be released, so offering them activities and therapeutic interventions is important. The Department of Landscape Architecture at Iowa State University, in collaboration with ICIW designed and built a therapeutic landscape to help ensure the wellbeing, improve attitude and life skill development, so that when the offenders return into the society, they are equipped to succeed. The landscape was designed by a landscape architecture professor and a group of students in the summer 2013. The design includes a series of multipurpose spaces for outdoor classrooms to accommodate counseling and vocational training sessions. The project was part of the $68 million total expansion of the institution.

The idea behind the design was to provide offenders and staff an outdoor therapeutic and restorative space that would be softer than most prison environments. Through the interaction, it is hoped that the inmates’ attitudes and metal health would improve.
The design features five consecutive spaces including a visitor courtyard, a deck for the staff, a tiered-bench outdoor classroom with a stage and other flexible spaces for group and private counseling. The project also recruited six offenders from the Newton Correctional Release Center-Minimum Security to assist in the construction. This project offered new experiences for both the students and the offenders.⁷⁹

The project is a great example of a unique partnership between the correctional institution and the academic institution to design and build a meaningful project that promotes the purposeful participations across organizations.

⁷⁹ http://www.news.iastate.edu/news/2013/08/08/prison-landscape (access date: May 2, 2015)
Analysis and key takeaways

The common interest that all of the above three case studies have is that they recognize the importance of outdoor spaces in the custodial environment as well as the significance of the activities that prisoners can do in such outdoor spaces. By encouraging and allowing prisoners to engage in landscaping and gardening work or simply spending some time outdoor, it is hoped to empower inmates, reduce stress and increase self-esteem. Through working and being outdoor during the day time and resting at night resembles what most people do in the outside world, so one can say that the prisons have been trying to create an environment that is mimicking the outside environment. Beyond mimicking, however, working in the gardens is a "meditative process rather than a series of dreary tasks."  

Gardens at Rikers comprise areas that are more public such as the greenhouse, the classrooms, the workshops, and the pond-garden with a gazebo, and those that are more private, such as the large gardens around the greenhouse and the pagoda area. One of the benefits of having both is that staff and inmates can perform different tasks simultaneously. For example, some prisoners can learn how to grow edible plants in the greenhouse, while others may observe the behaviors of different bird/butterfly species in the landscape. Gardens also create microclimates from which the prisoners can learn. The workshop encourages skill building in carpentry for instance, and teaches patience, a skill we use when working with clients as we go through many changes and iterations to meet their expectations. Areas that are more private allow for personal, discreet consultation between staff and an inmate.

Public and private outdoor spaces are also distinguished in the design for West Kimberley Regional Prison similar to the GreenHouse project. The arrangements of programs and the hierarchy of programs are taken into account in the design. Public functions such as the vocational and educational buildings, the cultural meeting areas, the kitchen, laundry facilities and the administration building are placed closer together and closer to the front entrance. The more private areas (the housing units) are sited towards the central oval-shaped outdoor space and back of the prison.

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81 Ibid. (71, 120)
82 Ibid. (61, 63)
83 Ibid. (71)
In terms of the locations of the gardens and prisoners’ access to the gardens, at Rikers Island, it is evident that horticulture and gardening rehabilitative programs are inserted into the existing available spaces allocated in the prison compound where access is only permitted during the day under staff supervision. However, at the West Kimberley Regional Prison, the Australian Rules oval area serves as a focal point of the entire campus integrated as part of the master planning of the prison. There are also individual gardens in each of the housing unit cluster where outdoor sleep-outs are permitted.\textsuperscript{84}

Regarding the performance of former inmates after discharge, one concern is that, even though prisoners perform well while in prison, it does not necessarily mean that everybody will thrive outside. Some may relapse and return to jail partly because they have gone back to the same community and environment that influenced them to commit crimes previously. They need “skills and enough support to maneuver past” what Jiler calls “those hazards.”\textsuperscript{85} However, as he was quoted earlier, those who have gone through some kind of training in prison compared with those who have not, are less likely to reoffend. What Rikers, the City of New York, and the outside community (who have been willing to supply projects for the released and thanks to the organizers from the prison) have in common are hopes that the former inmates can sustain themselves both in short and long term.

Rikers Island prison and West Kimberley Regional Prison are valuable precedents for a therapeutic approach to the physical landscapes of prison. Rikers Island prison is set amidst the highly urbanized areas, but is a physically-isolated island whereas West Kimberley Regional Prison is located in a remote area of Australia. The prison populations at both places are also different. Though located in different contexts, it is fortunate that these two prisons continue to receive support from society. For instance, Rikers Island prison has a supply of new landscape projects and garden maintenance projects whereas West Kimberley Regional prison is recognized by the corrections authority the need for establishing a facility to accommodate culturally sensitive groups of prisoners. The therapeutic quality of the garden in Rikers Island prison can be applied in the landscape design proposed in this thesis by means of creating an ornamental garden and edible/herb garden across the design site. Having these two types of garden would benefit the design site programmatically, mentally and ecologically. The prerelease inmates would

\textsuperscript{84} http://architectureau.com/articles/west-kimberley-regional-prison/ (access date: June 8, 2015)
learn and practice horticulture through the edible garden and crop-growing area while enjoying the different forms, colors and fragrance of ornamental plants in the site. Different groups of planting may also create a small habitat for birds and butterflies to pollinate the plants. The context of the site is also an important factor in the proposed landscape design. Because the proposed site is located in a hot and humid climate, to support the horticulture program, suitable types of crops, water availability and local produce market will be taken into account so that the crops/edibles harvested in the proposed site meet the local demand and supply in the surrounding community. In terms of local culture, the hospitality and the arts & crafts programs will correspond to the culture and tradition in the region (see Chapter 5).

The Iowa Correctional Institution for Women exemplifies a successful partnership between an academic institution and the correctional institution. Such collaboration is an important component for the social reintegration of inmates as it increases the awareness of the public about the rehabilitative role of the correctional institution and the public’s capacity to be part of improving the prisoners’ lives after release. It is hoped that the proposed landscape design in this thesis will achieve this same public awareness from the surrounding community which will encourage public contribution within the site. The proposed design can be created using landscape elements such as vegetated area, gathering plaza for social activities and shady seating to invite visitors to the site.

The GreenHouse program and the landscape project at the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women are similar to design-build programs in academic institutions such as the design-build programs from the Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Washington supervised by Professor Daniel Winterbottom. One similarity is its role as a successful supplement to traditional classroom learning and teaching and to the rest of the academic program. Learning through “making” is particularly important in landscape architecture because it forces the designer to realize while constructing real physical spaces and this pedagogical method gives students an opportunity to gain theoretical and practical/technical knowledge simultaneously. The significance of teamwork and interpersonal collaboration is also realized through the program. The prerelease inmates could benefit from this approach to teaching and training in their rehabilitative programs within the proposed landscape in this thesis.
Thailand precedents

This section introduces the ideology of sufficiency economy and self-reliance advocated by King Bhumibol Adulyadej as a way of sustainable living. The king also translates this sufficiency economy principle into an agricultural model which is widely accepted and adapted for use by Thai people who are in the agricultural sector. Similarly, all of the transitional facilities or temporary prisons discussed also in this section are functioning on the principle of sufficiency economy and self-reliance with an emphasis on training for horticultural practice (agriculture, fishery, livestock and biofuel energy generation), hospitality-related, and industry/practice of cultural handicrafts.

Sufficiency economy and self-reliance

In Thailand, the industry and service sectors are expanding, agriculture remains the major economic generator because land is fertile and the climate is suitable for agriculture. However, in the era of rapid globalization, some people find it difficult to keep pace economically. The idea of a sufficiency economy and self-reliance has been introduced by King Bhumibol Adulyadej—King Rama IX (reigning from 1946 to present). Philosophically, the principle is the "middle path" or moderation. It is mainly about knowing when to have enough of something and how to maintain it. The feeling of hardship occurs when there is not enough of something and the anxiety is increased when there is too much. It is important to know when to start producing, to pause and stop, when/what to spend and when to be frugal. The initiatives on self-reliance highlight sufficiency on various scales from the individual (i.e. self-realization and actualization) to the community/neighborhood-size i.e. community-based engagement.
Sufficiency economy also aims to combat poverty through self-reliance. For example, in terms of production, external production materials can be replaced when they can be substituted by local manufacturing. It is recommended to utilize local expertise and knowledge before going elsewhere to create income-generating activities and to rely on local funding sources than external borrowing—“community self-management in lieu of reliance on external support, hands-on and take-charge actions instead of waiting for government assistance, as well as more emphasis on building social capital along with economic capital”.\textsuperscript{86} Another poverty reduction strategy is to “opt to produce commodities that are readily marketable…focus on reducing expenses rather than increasing income.”\textsuperscript{87}

\textsuperscript{87} Ibid. (56)
Sufficiency economy in an agricultural model

King Bhumibol Adulyadej translated the philosophy of sufficiency into a practical agricultural model that can be adopted to sustain oneself and one’s family and any abundance will be shared or traded. Community empowerment is created through this understanding and sharing.

A piece of land can be split into different parts for different agricultural purposes. 30 percent is dedicated to water storage, 30 percent for rice fields, 30 percent for the cultivation of other edibles, and the remaining 10 percent for residential use. This ration can be used as a guideline and adjusted to fit within a particular context and household preferences.  

Figure 8: Sufficiency economy adapted into an agricultural model

Image source: https://natee29932.files.wordpress.com/2013/01/economy-5.jpg

88 http://www.chaipat.or.th/chaipat_old/ntheory/eng/nthe3.html (access date May 2, 2015)
Precedents of transitional facilities (temporary prisons) in Thailand

The following are prominent precedents of horticultural and occupational therapy found in temporary prisons in Thailand. All the prisons presented in this section are all-male transitional facilities. The descriptions and details are obtained from site visits, direct observations and interviews of administrative staff and inmates. There are four temporary prisons that I visited located on the map below.

Figure 9: Locations of temporary prisons in Thailand
Khao Kling Temporary Prison

Figure 10: Khao Kling Temporary Prison
Khao Kling Temporary Prison, Petchaburi province, was established in 2007 and is under the jurisdiction of Petchaburi Central Prison. It is a minimum-security prison with a state-owned land area of approximately 230 acres (600 Rai\(^8^9\)), 10% of which is utilized for prison operation. The prison has a capacity of 150 inmates, and as of November 2014, the prison housed 139 inmates and 8 staff (17:1 ratio).

One of the unique characteristics is their philosophy of sufficiency economy (see “Sufficiency Economy and Self Reliance” in Chapter 3) introduced by King Bhumibol Adulyadej that incorporates the development of horticulture, cultivation and animal husbandry skills through an agricultural model. It is themed as an operating resort which is open to the public. Visitors can take guided tours of the projects from which explanations and demonstrations are conducted by the tenant inmates. The prisoners at this prison are of the Excellent Class and there is no record of assaults or attempted escape according to the staff.

The main features include the guest houses that were built of clay structures by inmates. It also features sheep farms, a small library as well as vocational training “stations” such as carpentry, edible farms, clay brick production, sculpture and animal farms. The stations demonstrate how a self-sustaining homestead can be created that inmates can adapt and employ after release.

\(^{89}\) “Rai” is a Thai unit, widely used in measuring land area. One Rai is approximately 0.395 acre.
Khao Bin Temporary Prison

Figure 11: Khao Bin Temporary Prison

Khao Bin Temporary Prison is the second precedent worth investigating due to its design simplicity. The overall landscape and horticultural programs are sited following the existing landform to minimize excavation. Materials used for the domestic-scale buildings are obtainable locally, thus economically. The architectural design itself is straightforward. The buildings are constructed as a one-storey structure. A publicly accessible area such as the administrative office and the visitor pavilion are in the form of a semi-outdoor structure under a pitch roof suitable for natural ventilation, light and drainage.

Khao Bin Temporary Prison, Ratchaburi province, is under the correctional administration of Ratchaburi Central Prison. The temporary prison utilizes 4.5 acres (12 Rai) of the 30 acres (80 Rai). The number of
inmates was 87 at the time of my visit (2014). There is a plan to construct 2 new accommodation houses that would increase the capacity to 200 inmates.

The rehabilitative goals at this prison are the same as those of Khao Kling Temporary Prison adopting the philosophy of sufficiency economy. It has vegetable-growing plots and livestock areas, but is not a resort. The appealing component is the recreational area for the inmates, which is a group of one-story pavilions that function much like a living room of a house. There are ten pavilions located in two rows, five on each side separated by a central road/walkway like a small village.

The recreational pavilions were constructed by the inmates. Each pavilion can house approximately 5-10 prerelease tenants. After daily assigned work is done, they spend time here to rest and socialize. The members of each house are responsible for its upkeep.
Riang Hong Temporary Prison

Riang Hong Temporary Prison is located in the southern part of Thailand in Trang Province, and is under the administration of Trang Province Prison. The temporary prison accommodates inmates transitioning from Trang Province Prison. As of December 2014, there were 42 inmates and 7 staff, representing a 6:1 inmate-staff ratio. The facility can house up to 80 inmates once the existing accommodation house is expanded.

The prison currently occupies an area of 104 acres (262 Rai) and is at full capacity. The majority of the area is used for a rubber tree plantation and the trees are approximately 25 years old. The plantation is run and managed by the staff and inmates for latex production.

The remainder of the grounds, especially the front area near the main entrance is the most active. This area serves as the educational and training ground for the inmates, and on occasion, is open to the
general public to attend seminars on local horticulture and other vocational trainings for the prison and local teachers and practitioners.

An interview conducted by the author with the head staff revealed that the front area is designed and referred to as a model for horticultural training, taking up approximately 2 acres (5 Rai). Rubber plantation, fish ponds, and poultry farms are the main components of the front area of the prison grounds.

Because the rubber trees are normally grown in a series of well-organized gridded rows, there are linear spaces between the rows. Consequently, special attention has been given to making use of these abundant spaces, which are up to 15-18 feet wide. In 2014, around 10 acres (25 Rai) with existing 6,000 rubber trees were designated also for growing coffee trees as a demonstration project. This is a good example of how a space can be fully utilized for horticultural purposes to achieve the most productivity. In other words, the layout of the rubber trees is the key player that determines how the spaces below them can be used. As the coffee trees branch out over time, the rubber trees will be either be cut down or pruned to allow sunlight for the coffee trees below. The fish ponds and poultry farms are also located under the rubber trees for the shade.

The coffee plantation is being implemented in three phases: the growing phase, the production phase and the marketing phase. The growing phase is currently underway and is the foundation for the project and requires extensive training on how to successfully grow coffee. The production phase will be carried out in the following year, and in this phase the coffee beans are dried. The existing spaces will be converted into drying grounds. The marketing phase includes distributions, packaging, and advertizing as well as prison coffee shops.
Krabi Agricultural Prison

Krabi Agricultural Prison, also known as Krabi Noi Temporary Prison, is located in southern Thailand in Krabi province. It is under the jurisdiction of Krabi Province Prison. The prison covers 18 acres (45 Rai) of land and is fully developed. As of December 2014, there are 45 prisoners and 4 staff for an 11:1 inmate-staff ratio. This small facility is a fully functioning horticultural prison requiring the participation of both staff and inmates and the size is an advantage for competent manageability.

The layout of Krabi Noi is similar to that of Riang Hong Temporary Prison. The trees are planted in linear rows, leaving usable spaces in between. The difference is the type of trees; rubber trees at Riang Hong and palm trees at Krabi Noi. The programs are comprised of both agricultural and livestock-related training. There are some cultivated areas between the palm trees with banana trees, lemongrass and trenches for irrigation and drainage. The irrigation water is supplied from the ponds on site that harvest and store rainwater. There is an herb farm, a coconut-nursery farm, an area for growing banana trees as
well as marketable, edible fish ponds, chicken farm and pig farm. Leftover food from the main prison—Krabi Province Prison is transported to Krabi Noi daily for feeding the pigs. The food is boiled for the purpose of animal hygiene prior to feeding. Apart from the leftover food, pigs also get normal pig food.

The area next to the main entrance is open to the public and it is operated as a car wash serviced by inmates with affordable prices, ranging from 100 to 180 Baht (USD3-6). Family members or visitors can also meet with inmates at the visitor pavilion. Another landscape architecture highlight is the raised pavilion above the pond. It is a semi-outdoor meeting place for in-house staff and visiting government officials, as well as an occasional assembly point for inmates (fig 13). It is located with a 360° view of the farms and other areas. There is also a small stall near the main entrance from which customers and passers-by can buy fresh produce. With a substantial amount of rainfall, sunlight throughout the year and a variety of crops grown, the yields of produce in the prison are promising.

**Analysis and key takeaways**

While all temporary prisons presented above follow the key concept of sufficiency economy largely through horticulture/agriculture, each one has adapted their own approach to implementing progressive projects that are appropriate and responsive to the local context, both physical and social. Khao Kling Temporary Prison is located closer to Bangkok, and also to Kaeng Kra chan Dam and Kaeng Kra Chan National Park, famous tourist attractions, thus an ideal destination from Bangkok (2-3 hours ride). The development is focused on creating an expanded tourist attraction complementing the national park. This will result in tourists having more excursion choices, and being able to interact with and learn about the occupational training as presented by the inmates. It is a good example of the prison “approximating” society while offers inmates the opportunity to integrate and adjust to the outside world, through interactions with the community in a normalized, civilian-like environment.

While Khao Kling Temporary Prison is located closer to Bangkok and other adjacent provinces benefitting from an influx of visitors, Riang Hong Temporary Prison is further south. Southern Thailand is known for its fertility for growing rubber trees and palm trees due to the tropical climate and suitable soil conditions. Apart from the geographical attributes that provide a horticultural advantage, the southern region of the
country is also famous for beaches and other natural wonders which attract domestic and international tourists. Riang Hong Temporary Prison (Trang province) and Krabi Noi Temporary Prison (Krabi province) can benefit from their locations. Because these two prisons are sited on the national highways leading to the administrative downtown Trang and Krabi, it is possible to draw a number of visitors along the way. The landscapes in Riang Hong and Krabi Noi could also be turned into tourist destinations by introducing cultural arts & crafts program promoting the local traditions. The landscapes could be both the final tourist destination and a stop-over for a travel break.

Another point learned from Riang Hong and Krabi Noi is that though they are not operated as a resort like their Khao Kling counterpart, they make use of the available spaces under the existing trees in an effort to be multi-functional and maximize agricultural production. More diverse activities mean more engagement with the work for the prisoners. This idea could be applied in the landscape design proposal.

Plants

Unlike central prisons where the number and types of plants are restricted resulting in homogenous landscapes defined by bleak lawns, the types of plants grown in the temporary prisons are less strict and more diverse. While having clear sightlines is still an important design concern, the landscape is not designed primarily for close surveillance but to improve foot traffic and facilitate easier access within the temporary prison perimeters. Tropical plants are common in this region and edible plants/herbs also play a major role in temporary prisons. The edible plants and herbs could be integrated into the design for the horticultural program to demonstrate how they can be grown for in-prison consumption and for sale. Visitors would learn how to grow edibles and adapt the growing methods in their own gardens at home.

Benefitting from a variety of tropical plant species and their physical forms, the design proposal could feature different plants to create a heterogeneous landscape. Within the design site, plants may be grown in different arrangements suitable for specific rehabilitative programs. For example, tall trees could be placed in rows to provide shade for the workshop area and smaller trees or fragrant, colorful shrubs could be planted in the flower beds in the seating areas to create an inviting atmosphere. Each particular area within the site could also have its own unique character through the use of plants, colors and textures.
Layout and planning

The zoning in transitional facilities can be categorized into two general zones—work zone, and restricted zone. The work zone also referred to as a demonstration zone or a visitation zone is intended to be more open to the public. The demonstration/visitation zone is where prisoners perform and showcase their routine work to the public when they pay a visit.

The “public” here means two particular groups of people. The first is the personnel who work in the Department of Corrections (but are not exclusively in-house personnel at a particular temporary prison), and other personnel are from various other governmental departments and ministries. The second group is the general public—civilians. Normally, official letters/memorandums must be filed and approvals obtained prior to visiting from both groups.

The restricted zone is the living quarter of the inmates, namely the accommodation buildings, utilities buildings, and private recreation areas within the quarter. It is off-limits to civilians, general visitors, and family members. This zone is to remain restricted where the location of the landscape design proposal in this thesis should keep a certain distance from the zone.

The Thailand precedents described in the previous section offer insights into how to address the layout of the site I have selected for this thesis project. Because vocational training in horticulture is widely practiced, the landscape could be divided into adjacent “learning stations” in either simple rectangular or trapezoidal shapes. For example, edible growing areas could be next to a storage pond and a poultry farm so that irrigation water would be instantly transported or piped. The harvest-storage area could also be placed near the growing plots for convenience. Placing horticultural learning stations together would demonstrate well the horticultural sequences.

The size requirement of each station varies relatively to its activity/training. For better wayfinding, the stations could be connected by a network of small foot passages branching out from the main internal road or the main pedestrian path so they accommodate both foot and vehicular traffic. The property line would be delineated by low (2”-3” high) shrubs instead of high walls. Because the living conditions are
pleasant and incarceration is relatively short, the inmates are less likely to risk escaping from the institution or violating the rules.

At Riang Hong and Krabi Noi Temporary Prisons, the existing rubber trees and palm trees planted in rows create a lot of spaces that can be used for other purposes simultaneously, for example, to support horticulture and husbandry training among the inmates. By following the preexisting linear lines of the “big trees” that have already formed a grid pattern of layout, it permits the optimal usage of space, making it clearer and easier for the future spatial arrangements for various crop plantings and crop rotations, i.e. in geometrical, square and rectangular forms. As for the visual aspect, this linear layout pattern results in neat, predictable and unobstructed sightlines.

**Common programs**

There are common features in all four of the temporary prisons in Thailand in terms of purposes and programs. These are comprised of both architectural and landscape architectural features. These are administrative building, car parking, accommodation house, guest pavilion for family and friend visits, recreational area including sport field for multiple sports (normally soccer), tool & equipment storage and learning/work stations including horticulture and animal husbandry, and spirit house and other assembly spaces for social and religious use.

Importance is also given to the family members in all of these prisons, and friends who come to visit at temporary prisons. Visitors cover all ages ranging from small children, teenagers, adults to the elderly. It is therefore necessary to provide the guest pavilion/area that is equipped with convenience items and landscape furniture, for instance, seating, tables, restrooms, and a playground that can be integrated into the landscape. Most structures are built from the inmates’ physical labor and local materials.
Summary
The international case studies: the GreenHouse and the GreenTeam programs, West Kimberley Regional Prison and Iowa Correctional Institution for Women provide useful insights for consideration for the design proposed in this document (see Chapter 5). The GreenHouse and the GreenTeam programs reveal the importance of a holistic approach to rehabilitation. They show a combination of therapeutic horticultural activities during incarceration and job securement upon release, demonstrating how these programs can create a smooth transition from jail to society. West Kimberley Regional Prison takes into account the cultural identity and needs of the indigenous Aboriginal inmates. The master plan is designed strategically to avoid conflicts among the tribes through architecture (individual clusters of residences) and landscape architecture (the Australian Rules oval for recreational activities). Iowa Correctional Institution for Women addresses the potential for public participation and collaboration between an academic institution and a correctional institution. University students learn to apply the knowledge in landscape architecture to a design-build project while inmates and staff benefit from the landscape socially, physically and psychologically.

My visits to the four temporary prisons in Thailand offered valuable experience and insights into how actual minimum-security prisons are operated. Khao Kling Temporary Prison makes use of its proximity to the capital city and the national park to invite visitors and successfully turns the rehabilitative programs into a tourist destination. Inmates have the opportunity to showcase their work and the public can see the positive image of prisons. It is an excellent example for social reintegration of prerelease inmates through collaboration between corrections and the public. Khao Bin Temporary Prison represents an economical way to build a landscape and its architecture through the use of local material and structural simplicity. The recreational pavilions designed to resemble a small village suggest the neighborliness and shared ownership of the place. Riang Hong Temporary Prison shows that there are opportunities to grow different crops by sharing the same space as the existing rubber plantation maximizing productivity. At the same time, the tenant inmates gain experience with different kinds of crops. Krabi Noi Temporary Prison, with the compact land area, fully utilizes its space for the agricultural and animal husbandry purposes. Landscape features, especially the pond and the semi-outdoor pavilion above the pond add a welcoming atmosphere within the prison grounds to the green foliage of edible crops.
Chapter 4: Design Process

This chapter introduces the design development of the landscape prototype through three iterative design schemes. The schemes are fundamentally based on a philosophical framework that highlights three major aspects: a supportive environment, a place of protection, and social acceptance. Under this philosophical framework, there are four other elements that serve as the programmatic direction of how reintegration can be operated: 1) education & knowledge, 2) practical skills & technical skills, 3) sports & recreation, and 4) culture & tradition. The design also adopts two correctional rehabilitation models—the adjustment model and the reintegration model. Along with the philosophical framework and the two rehabilitation models, the programs for the landscape prototype were established based on the existing activities that Thailand’s Department of Corrections has been practicing for its rehabilitation of inmates (horticulture, service, and cultural arts & crafts). These programs are placed within the different design iterations explored in this project. The three design schemes described in this chapter demonstrate how the programs can be arranged spatially and the programs complement one another.

Design approach

Philosophical framework

The correctional institution consists of high-medium-low security prisons with the environments of each being different. For instance, in higher-security prisons, circulation is more controlled, access and prisoner routine more restrictive and there are longer visitor screening procedures. Consequently, architectural and landscape features inside each prison are dictated by the security levels and the types of prisoners.

For prerelease facilities where security level is minimal, the architecture and the landscape are considered more flexible and less regimented. This framework is developed in the belief that pleasant landscapes can greatly contribute to the success of rehabilitation. Pleasant landscape refers to an outdoor environment that minimizes physical and psychological pressure. It is a landscape where users do not feel intimidated or threatened. Rather, it is a place where prerelease residents are able to
concentrate on what they are working on without environmental distraction. Being in a non-disruptive environment, they are more productive and their productivity is valued which increases self-esteem. The goal of this design proposal therefore is to build a landscape with activities that the prerelease individuals look forward to every day. Thoughtfully-designed correctional environments can also create a friendly atmosphere that encourages participation and social contribution.

There are three aspects/goals in the framework: the prison should 1) be a supportive environment, 2) be a place of protection, and 3) advocate for social acceptance (fig 14). A “supportive environment” addresses how the character of the physical setting positively affects the dweller’s feelings and needs. It also provides spaces for both social interaction and privacy. A “place of protection” suggests that transitional facilities offer preparation for the inmates that allows them to take part in vocational skills and job knowledge on the principle of morality. “Social acceptance” refers back to the section “Why is community involvement important” in Chapter 1. It allows the changeability of the prerelease inmates which could lead to the willingness of the public to be part of the reintegration.

**A supportive environment**

One of the missions of the Department of Corrections is to establish prerelease centers built in an environment that supports the rehabilitative programs. In order to support such programs and for the programs to perform well, it is important to first discuss the relationship between physicality and psychology—how built environment affects the emotion/feeling of users, as this will guide how the reentry programs are placed and function in the landscape.

Physical structure/infrastructure is one of the fundamental elements in corrections (also in other settings) as it plays a role in determining what the overall environment will be like. This environment, then, creates a sense of place that could shape or influence how users (inmates, officers and visitors alike) will feel and act in response to the environment. In other words, the reaction to the environment is partly a product of the feeling catalyzed by the physical setting. For instance, as opposed to a space that is more open, being in a tight space for a certain period of time can cause physical discomfort which may cause stress (psychological)—and the body starts to react in an attempt to lessen such discomfort.
Since the physical design in correctional facilities has effect upon behavior, the landscape proposed here gears toward building the so-called supportive environment using physical design features that create an atmosphere that improves the physical and psychological wellbeing of the users—so that they react positively to the environment. As one consideration, the physical design attributes in this thesis are concerned with the climate in Thailand which is usually hot and humid (fig 15). Throughout the country, mean temperatures range from 22°C-30°C (72°F-86°F) and highest temperatures range from 35°C-44°C (95°F-111°F). Empirically, oppressive heat and high humidity cause physical discomfort and excessive sweating can be a nuisance. The physical design attributes of the proposed design include, but are not limited to, ample daylight with mild temperatures, adequate shade, good ventilation, seating, water features and view of nature and trees. Other considerations regarding the spatial organization include public-private relationship of space (spaces for interpersonal interaction and intrapersonal reflection).

With appropriate physical design features, the socially-interactive programs that I propose (horticulture, service, and cultural arts & crafts) are likely to perform well—the programs will be inviting. The physical structure in the landscape is one contribution in creating a supportive rehabilitation setting alongside the administrative structure, namely, management and policy.

Not only does the landscape prototype for this thesis emphasize reintegration through social interaction and social exchange, but inmates’ privacy is also valued; it is the levels of privacy, as one factor, that differentiate prerelease facilities from other types of prisons. In transitional facilities, it is permissible and easier for inmates to have moments of privacy, although they will be under respectful, minimal supervision of the officers.

In most total institutions or higher-security prisons, however, privacy rarely happens because there is little free choice. Control of privacy is given over to the authorities that legitimately determine where, when and with whom privacy is permitted (if that’s still called privacy). In this sense, “privacy concerns the ability to make adjustments to a place to match as closely as possible available and the desired levels of contact
with others”, and does not always mean being alone all the time.\textsuperscript{90} There are different types of privacy: solitude, isolation, intimacy, anonymity and reserve.

Solitude is “the state of being alone by choice” and is different from isolation, “which refers to being alone at the directive of others.” Intimacy is another form of privacy and refers to “close contact with others for emotionally charged interchange.” Intimacy is generally prevented from happening in correctional institution as it usually indicates “sexual exploitation.” Anonymity is “achieving aloneness by not being recognized in a crowd”, while reserve is “withdrawing into one’s self.”\textsuperscript{91}

A supportive landscape in the transitional institution can incorporate the concept of solitude for contemplative purposes. An inmate who offered me an informal guided tour during my visit at Khao Kling (the resort prison) explained and showed me that there is a separate housing unit available where prerelease residents are allowed to spend the night with their spouse/girlfriend up to twice a month. However, this kind of intimate privacy will not be the focus at the thesis study site.

The failure to establish privacy in prisons is caused by two factors: crowding and isolation. Crowding is when one has to be in contact with more people than he/she desires (forced community) while isolation is a situation where one wants to socialize with other people, but interaction is prevented by various restrictions—social, organizational, architectural restrictions. This proves that high-security prisons are not great places for privacy.\textsuperscript{92}

Crowding and lack of privacy is another factor that partly determines the quality of living of inmates in prisons; less crowing and a greater level of privacy in the transitional setting distinguishes the prerelease institutions from other types of higher-security prisons. The number of inmates per unit area is normally lower in transitional facilities, thus more space for privacy. Overcrowding and lack of privacy are known to cause stress in humans that leads aggression. Especially in prisons, inmates may spatially and symbolically extend their personal boundaries to increase territoriality, or claim areas to express

\textsuperscript{91} Ibid. (117)
\textsuperscript{92} Ibid. (116)
dominance over those who are stronger. Violence could ensue if personal space is contended or invaded.  

It is important to take into account inmates’ privacy and social interaction for reintegration when planning for reintegration because the development of self-reflection, understanding, and personal growth could be impeded without privacy. Privacy allows inmates to “take a step back in order to review and make sense of” the incident(s) that has caused strong emotions as well as to make sense of what has led them to prison. Privacy also helps with self-evaluation and rejuvenation because being able to self-assess is part of the rehabilitation process.  

Greater choice of space can reduce stress because it is less restricted for movement, thus prerelease inmates have more control over their privacy with a degree of spatial ownership. More expansive space (less density) also benefits the inmates psychologically; depression, suicide rate and assaults tend to decline as crowding decreases. In contrast, high densities can result in “more difficult and oppressive institutional environments.” Therefore, the provision of passive spaces is important for creating a supportive environment of rehabilitative institutions. These will be explored in the design process.  

A place of protection  

A place of protection in this context means that transitional centers prepare prerelease inmates for their lives outside in the near future, thus they have actively engaged in the preparation/rehabilitative programs. Creating a place of protection takes into account the idea of good conduct and behavior and how such good conduct is beneficial for inmates, their family and society. It refers to the fact that the prerelease individuals will come out well equipped not only with vocational skills and knowledge for their (secular) lives ahead, but also with moral sense. Knowledge and skills must be rooted in ethics and morality so that they can distinguish right from wrong. It is hoped that, with an ethical mindset and necessary life skills, prerelease inmates will do well and be able to stay crime-free after incarceration. A place of protection does not mean that the general public is protected from the prisoners, but rather, the ex-prisoners are protected from relapsing into past behaviors.

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93 Ibid. (120)  
94 Ibid. (117-118)  
95 Ibid. (150, 155)
The landscape prototype proposed in this thesis can adopt the character of a boarding school where necessary academic subjects are conveyed and vocational skills are learned along with morality. The school subjects can be taught using traditional classroom teaching methods and hands-on, pragmatic training for vocational skill building. Sports and recreation are also a basic component in the boarding-school environment. A wide range of rehabilitative programs could be designed within a landscape rather than focus exclusively on labor-intensive activities. Counseling for job placement, opportunities and for other personal issues such as adjustment into society is available along the course of the prerelease journey as well as post-release follow up. A place of protection is thus where current prerelease residents and former residents can seek advice whenever they need.

Social acceptance

Because the prerelease residents are also members of the community (based on the “citizenship” ideology—see “Why is Community Involvement Important?” in Chapter 1), the key stakeholders, which are the inmates, the officers: the Department of Corrections, and the society, will be both givers and takers as they try to rebuild the law-abiding, quality citizens.

Social acceptance is an outcome of the public’s belief in the changeability of prisoners. Based on this belief, I propose in the programming of my design that public volunteerism and contribution would take place. With such contribution, prerelease inmates could reintegrate more promptly as they continue building up confidence for their lives on the outside. Public contributions could help with reintegration because inmates would realize that they are not being segregated, and as a result, confidence is regained. At the same time, the public would be more positive about the success of the programs—that the inmates can stay crime-free, and are willing to make amends.

The programmatic directions under the framework for which I advocate will revolve around the four components: 1) education & knowledge, 2) practical skills & technical skills, 3) sports & recreation, and 4) culture & tradition. These are the tools that will be embedded in the three rehabilitative programs (horticulture, service, and cultural arts & crafts.)

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96 Thailand’s Department of Corrections Annual Report 2013 (66)
Figure 14: Philosophical framework
Figure 15: Thailand climate, topography and land use

Application of the rehabilitation models

There are three major rehabilitation models for prisoners in correctional facilities: medical model, adjustment model and reintegration model. The landscape prototype proposed in this chapter is based on the principles of the adjustment and the reintegration models to achieve the reintegration for the prerelease inmates. (Refer to “Rehabilitation models” in Chapter 2)

Programming and scenarios

Thailand’s Department of Corrections has been employing three main categories of rehabilitative programming in both higher-security and lower-security prisons: horticulture, hospitality (service-oriented training), and training of cultural arts & crafts as appropriate. In the case of minimum-security prisons, not all temporary prisons use all programs. Riang Hong Temporary Prison, for example, practices more of the horticultural activity and focuses less on service industry or handicraft making whereas Khao Kling Temporary Prison (the resort prison) makes use of horticulture by turning it into a marketing tool to attract the general public with activities that cover a wide range of interests for different age groups. With a relaxing atmosphere and small-scale shops, the prison counters the look and fear of the conventional prison setting such as high walls, barbed wires, smaller number of trees/less vegetation, watch towers and highly-guarded buildings.

The following scenarios are based on the programs that will be employed in the design proposed in this thesis: horticulture, hospitality and cultural arts & crafts training. The selection of programs is primarily determined by the local context and the focus of each temporary prison. Local context includes considerations for economic activities and opportunities, tradition and cuisine, and geographical characteristics that determine the types of crops grown (soil conditions, amount of rainfall, transportation, availability of resources).
The following are the four scenarios that can be adopted in the final landscape design that I propose in the next chapter.

**Scenario 1: Horticulture**

Figure 16: Clear sight line by following the existing tree layout / road and circulation hierarchy

Figure 17: Horticulture scenario
**Program focus:** Horticulture and animal husbandry (fig 17)

**Method and goal:**

- Achieve self-reliance through the application of the sufficiency economy agricultural model;
- Vegetables grown are suitable for soils and water availability to minimize or zero out the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, making own humus/organic fertilizers from naturally-decaying leaves and animal waste;
- Lectures/demonstrations by local growers and scholars for the purpose of exchanging ideas and sharing agricultural techniques.

**Potential context:** The program of horticulture can be developed with the community’s production/marketable local produce as complimentary and substitute goods.

**Suitable target group:** Those prerelease inmates with land properties back at home (families that own land whose main occupation is farming), those who prefer physical work, and those looking for employment in the field of agriculture

**Proposed features and activities:**

- Simple geometric layouts for cultivation area (square, rectangular, trapezoidal) for easy access, watering and harvesting;
- Clear sight line, may follow the existing tree layouts (grid) and use available spaces between the trees to create new growing areas or animal areas (fig 16) (may require trimming and pruning of the canopy branches for the understory vegetables to receive adequate amount of sunlight);
- Distinguish vehicular circulation from pedestrian circulation by means of materials, textures and size (fig 16);
- Activities include a public zone for demonstration purposes and convenient access, such as main visitor pavilion, growing area, retention pond and storage, drainage, seed nursery, animal incubation shelter, sale stall;
- The private zone such as housing units to be clearly demarcated (off-limits)
Scenario 2: Hospitality (service industry)

**Program focus:** tourist-oriented service industry (fig 18)

**Method and goal:** Iterative skill building, hands-on practice and theory, in collaboration with the prerelease residents, the officers, and the contributing business owners or local practitioners

**Potential context:** Ideal for a location in proximity to existing major tourist attractions or urbanized areas, temporary prisons can either be a stop-over place before going to other final tourist destinations or a final destination itself

**Suitable target group:** This can be practical for former prerelease inmates and people from the community who have received the service-career training and wish to set up a small business startup.
Proposed features and activities:

- Design ideology: This site design can adopt the characteristic of a family room or a living room of a home that allows for informal education and recreation;

- Architecture within a landscape: indoor, semi-outdoor and outdoor spaces defined by architectural structures that interact with the landscape to create an uninterrupted user movement and a diversity of activities to take place;

- Activities may include coffee and bakery shop, small-scale restaurant either temporary or permanent, (massage, spa services, manicure/ pedicure—these are more practical at a women’s facility), hairdressing, small library, resource center for horticulture, car care service, playground and family area, meditation space;

- The hospitality program can either opt for café or small restaurant or gravitate toward the education & entertainment-related activity such as library, playground, or a combination of both, depending on the available workforce, location and size of the facility.
Scenario 3: Cultural arts & crafts

Figure 19: Cultural arts & crafts scenario

**Program focus:** Making cultural arts & crafts (fig 19)

**Method and goal:** Iterative skill building, hands-on practice and theory, in collaboration with the prerelease residents, the officers, and the contributing business owners or local practitioners, requires concentration, therefore a meditative process, self-motivation, patience, creativity, learning through making

**Potential context:** Ideal for a location in proximity to existing major tourist attractions/city areas, temporary prisons can either be a stop-over place before going to other final tourist destinations or a final destination itself
Suitable target group: This can be practical for former prerelease inmates and people from the community who have received the service-career training and wish to set up a small business startup.

Proposed features and activities:

- Design ideology: Adopt the characteristic of a family room or a living room of a home that allows for informal education and recreation;

- Architecture within a landscape: indoor, semi-outdoor and outdoor spaces defined by architectural structures that interact with the landscape to create an uninterrupted user movement and a diversity of activities to take place;

- Activities may include demonstrative and hands-on workshop spaces (such as for carpentry), tool storage, exhibition area, installation arts, gallery and souvenir shop.

Scenario 4: Combination

Figure 20: Combination scenario
**Program focus:** Combination of scenarios 1 to 3 (fig 20)

**Potential context:** Suitable for a prerelease center that has an adequate land area with a manageable inmate-staff ratio (less than 10:1), may be a tourist attraction itself or close to other major tourist attractions.

**Method and goal:** Combination of scenario 1 to 3

**Suitable target group:** The combination scenario covers all target groups because there are a wide range of occupations, namely those prerelease inmates whose families own land and have been working in the agricultural field for a living, those that are service-oriented wishing to continue practicing craft making and own a small business and then expand their business when appropriate, and suitable for people with different personalities i.e. introversion and extraversion.

**Proposed features and activities:**

- Flexible spatial utilization in a facility with a larger land area, and number of staff proportionally to the number of prerelease individuals;
- The activities categorized in the same scenario should be in the same area or close together with their own sub-circulation for simplicity, ease of management, security and order;
- The circles in figure 20 represent different activities and how they are connected in different layouts or configurations. The layouts from left to right are: 1) radiating, 2) linear or branch, 3) grid, 4) contained, and 5) disperse or node. Each layout can be used as a planning guide with regard to the land shape, size, existing programs and circulations, to minimize unnecessary modifications and reduce cost of construction.
Site selection

Riang Hong Temporary Prison is selected as a study site to explore how the programs would be placed spatially. This temporary prison is chosen based on the location, the existing rehabilitation program, and the anticipated plan of development in the future. The relationship among the programs and how the prerelease residents, staff and people from the community would use the space will be tested out in the “Design iterations” section appeared later in this chapter.

This site is located approximately 20 minutes by car from the administrative downtown of the Trang province; it is situated in a medium-density suburban area where the local community is as vibrant as the downtown in terms of social activities and access to amenities. With this location, the prison could reach out to the community and ask them to participate. The study site is located on the main public road that is highly visible and convenient.

The existing prerelease program at Riang Hong is mainly horticulture, including raising livestock. Thus it is more practical to keep this program and further adapt it toward a direction that allows for social, two-way interaction between the prison and the community. The hospitality and arts & crafts programs would also be integrated to promote local culture, and at the same time, educate younger generations about the culture and tradition.

Riang Hong Temporary Prison is one of the pilot prisons in the southern region of the country that has applied the philosophy of sufficiency economy for its operation. In response to the interview conducted by the author with the prison’s supervisor (the chief staff), the development plan includes retrofitting the existing inmate housing and building more units to alleviate crowding and improve sanitation. There is currently one housing unit accommodating 42 residents. With more housing, Riang Hong aims to house 8-10 people per unit. A residence hall would also be constructed for the royal family members when they preside over various occasions (the rehabilitation programs are under the royal patronage). A demonstration garden also part of the development plan would allow the cultivation of edibles, animal husbandry and fisheries.
With the above three main reasons, Riang Hong is considered an appropriate study site and a demonstration of appropriate activities for future development.

**Land sizing application**

![Figure 21: Entire facility and partial allocation](image)

Since transitional facilities in Thailand vary in size depending on where they are located and their focus on certain kind(s) of activities also varies, a landscape prototype for reintegration can vary in size accordingly— it can either occupy the entire prison or a section of the total land area (fig 21). The study site takes up a section of the total area.

**Site conditions**

Riang Hong has 104 acres (262 Rais) in total. A portion that fronts the public road is chosen for the study site with an area of 1.835 acres (79,950 square feet/7,500 square meters). The site provides a convenient public access while the proposed programming and activities would highly be visible. Other existing features such as the storage pond, crop area, the uniform flatness (with a noticeable grade change of approximately three to four feet) also help inform the design. The administrative buildings, the housing and assembly hall are located in a cluster east of the study site. The buildings are surrounded by a vast rubber plantation. One of the challenges, however, is the existing internal vehicular road that splits the site into two halves. According to the observation and the interview with the staff, the road has light traffic,
so it is used as a pedestrian walkway as well. The diagrams below show the site location and images (fig 22), the site profile, the pond and crop area, existing buildings and circulation (fig 23).

Figure 22: Study site location and images
Site generally flat with two distinct grades.
Figure 23: Existing site conditions diagrams
Design iterations

Design iteration 1

The site described here explores the “Combination” scenario that consists of horticulture, service training (hospitality) and cultural craft-making areas. The design takes into account the existing features and the adjacent context on site e.g. site profile, pond and crop area, buildings and circulation (fig 23). With the existing crop area and a pond on the north side, the horticulture program will likely be on the north side by following the existing lower elevation to avoid unnecessary cut and fill. This program is intended to offer a space for horticultural demonstration and productivity based on the sufficiency economy agricultural model. The residents would grow edibles/herbs and tend the manageably-sized poultry farm on a daily basis, and give conversation-like presentations to visitors. A wooden deck and an outdoor amphitheater next to the pond are added to create a gathering space overlooking the pond and to observe the cultivation activity.

The southern half of the site will accommodate the hospitality and craft-making activities (workshop) by means of an outdoor, multipurpose space. In order to distinguish these programs from the horticulture one, the outdoor space is designed as a raised platform with a few steps leading up to it. The existing rows of rubber trees on this side have formed a grid-like structure in layout, so this pattern would still be kept in order to maintain a clear view line. Some trees would be removed to provide room for the above mentioned outdoor activity area while some are kept to provide shade.

The requirement is to still keep the road function, at the same time provide safety for pedestrians crossing it. Since traffic is very light and with a preference to keep the site contiguous, the idea is to share the road with pedestrians—the road also becomes a walkway connecting the two halves of the site. Two rows of trees are planted to clearly define the road space. Using the same material (fine gravel) for the road and for the gathering area in front of the raised platform also helps demarcate the road boundary. The trees and the material used would prompt drivers to slow down.

Another social function and exchange—a market (temporary or permanent) is also proposed and located toward the entrance, facing the public road. The produce from the crop area in the study site as well as
from the rest of the temporary prison could be sold here. Sellers from the community would also be welcome to set up their stalls. In the layout below, the dotted-line squares represent the stalls.

In this design iteration, a semi-outdoor pavilion spanning the middle road links together the horticulture program and the hospitality & craft programs (illustrated in the dotted-line rectangle).

Figure 24: Design iteration 1 layout
Design iteration 2

This iteration keeps the same arrangement of programs as Iteration 1—cultivation toward the north side and hands-on activity on the south side—and there are new features in this scheme to accentuate further the interactions among the users and to provide a variety of activities in the programs. The road still functions as a shared pedestrian walkway. While the road is said to be a strong east-west axis leading to the rest of the prison complex, the north-south axis is created as a series of parallel paths to highlight the north-south connection between the horticulture program and the hospitality-craft programs.

The new features include: 1) the “edible backyard”, 2) a passive green area and 3) parking. The first feature is the existing square-shaped crop area at the southeastern corner near the head staff housing. According to the interview with the head staff, this space is an edible backyard where he grows different crops with the prerelease residents.

The second feature is an addition of a green area adjacent to the hospitality and craft-making platform/plaza with a secondary meandering path. The purpose of the green area is to offer the users a passive space aside from its active counterpart. This could also be used for group or individual therapy/consultation sessions in a naturalistic setting. More rubber trees would be kept in this scheme for the provision of shade, and at the same time, mild sunlight can still penetrate through the canopy. Understory plants would also be planted in the lawn to create an atmosphere suitable for contemplative use.

The marketplace, represented in small square boxes, is in the front part of the site adjacent to the parking area (fig 25). The marketplace can be occasionally shared with the passive area. The third attribute in this design iteration is the parking area that works as a buffer between the public road and the market. The buffer would help lower the traffic noise from the public road. The existing bus stop is also integrated into the design with an experimentation of a curvilinear roof form for both the bus stop itself and the workshop pavilion.
Figure 25: Design iteration 2 layout
Design iteration 3

Iteration 3 builds on the previous 2 iterations. The arrangement of the three programs remains as shown in the earlier schemes. However, this iteration takes into account the group of existing buildings east of the study site particularly the greenhouses and the crop area (refer to fig 23 “existing buildings”), so that the study site is not performing as a stand-alone area without any interactions with the rest of the facility. Part of the hospitality-craft making workshop plaza close to the road intersection is angled. This is to lead the user toward the existing greenhouses and the crop area as a way to make the visitors realize that there are also other ongoing activities outside of the study site and to invite them to explore more. The north-south connection is also emphasized to achieve the same purpose of creating a spatial connection with the rest of the rubber tree plantation and livestock areas beyond (fig 26).

Figure 26: Relationship between the study site and context
A new storage pond on the southern side is added for rainwater harvesting and for irrigation to the edible backyard (fig 28 “pond and inundation”). A vegetated swale, combined with a wooden path, is also introduced to give the passive, contemplative area a naturalistic character for repose—the landscape not only promotes interpersonal interactions, but also provides a kind of personal space for privacy (refer to the section entitled “Supportive environment” about “privacy” in Chapter 4). The swale links this new pond with the existing one in the horticulture area. A network of water feature is then created within the site, not only for the aesthetic purposes but also for the hydrological and agricultural roles.

In this design iteration, the parking lots are moved to a new location (to the southwest corner) and the former parking location is replaced with a few rows of trees planted following the grid, lineal structure. The trees are to create a green buffer that would help block off traffic noise while maintaining clear visibility.

All the programmatic zones encourage both visual observations and hands-on, interactive participation of the users. The design intervention aims to provide a place for social exchange through informal ways of learning as well as recreation. The residents could present what they do and adapt the role of a tour guide.

In addition to the civic-like landscape in the correctional setting, security is still a fundamental. Regular, daily counts are still in effect. The residents’ routine is expected to remain the same for the most part (i.e. tending crops and animals and other tasks at their assigned/agreed positions) but, their timetable could be flexible. The landscape also encourages the rotation of residents’ work positions and training every once in a while to be exposed to a wide range of skills. The site would be open to the public primarily during the “business hours” in the day time. On special occasions or religious holidays where social events take place, the open time could be flexible and longer.
Figure 27: Design iteration 3 layout and sections
Pond and inundation

Vehicular and foot circulation

Crops area
Figure 28: Design iteration 3 diagrams
Figure 29: View from main entrance

Figure 30: View of workshop plaza
Figure 31: View of existing pond and deck

Design iterations summary

The first design iteration attempted to pull together the programs (horticulture, hospitality and cultural arts & crafts) and integrate the existing features on site to minimize extra construction. Based on feedback, designing a massive outdoor amphitheater and a wooden deck facing the existing pond was questionable as these elements could create a sociofugal space to direct inward attention toward the pond (this kind of space discourages social interaction—"the way the occupants distribute themselves so as to increase psychological and social distance.")\textsuperscript{97} If the design intent was to encourage movement and interaction, then a sociopetal space would be more appropriate; a deck design should allow for more interaction. The issue about whether or not it would be necessary to provide a space or spaces for therapy (such as one-on-one and/or group counseling) was also brought up in critiques of this design iteration. The therapy space(s) were not present in this design but they could be incorporated beside the interactive zones.

The second iteration was built on the first one; the locations of the programs remained the same (horticulture on the north section while the hospitality-craft is on the south side). As another important component in the landscape, a passive area for contemplative use and counseling was created in addition to the active programs. The design for this area was experimented using the existing rubber trees and their canopy to provide shade, but this design could be developed further because the function of the passive space had not been well illustrated yet. The existing edible backyard on the southeastern corner was also integrated into the study site because it has been active and could be a complement the horticulture demonstration area.

With a lot of programs and zones occupying the site, pedestrian paths/connections were developed and more distinguished than those of the first design. North-south connections were formed by means of straight lines. Landscape features such as stairs and ramps were used to create a flow of pedestrian movement.

The pedestrian connection was an important feature for the design to establish a network of circulation. The feedback suggested that, apart from connecting the programs within the site alone, this connection could function as nodes to create a relationship with the rest of the facility.

The existing bus stop was considered an important architectural component that complemented the workshop pavilion; therefore, it was retained in the site design. The bus stop serves as another pedestrian entrance to the site. Curvilinear lines were experimented for the shape of the roofs. Viewed from the layout, the roof of the bus stop mirrored that of the workshop pavilion. The pavilion roof, then, dictated the building form under it. However, the form of the curved building and its location had left an incomplete, triangular-shaped area which could result in an underutilized “leftover space.”

The third design attempted to balance all the rehabilitative programs in terms of functions, space organizations, and circulation. The contemplative area was more established than the previous version. This design scheme addressed the vocational aspect of the landscape, social exchange and communication (engaging hands-on activities) as well as the physical and psychological health of the users.
The three schemes were helpful in developing the preferred landscape prototype described in the next chapter. This final design proposal will consider the anticipated outcome of the project with regard to health benefits, social and psychological benefits of the users, for example, how inmates’ confidence is regained through active programs and how the landscape helps to achieve that. The idea of having individual and group therapy and privacy within particular spaces is also one of the considerations—how the contemplative area could be designed to accommodate such activity. For example, the design encourages people to find their favorite space(s) when using the landscape. The final design in the next chapter will try to investigate how the landscape prototype could contribute to what people, especially the prerelease individuals, would learn about opportunities for their new lives outside of prison and what could further inspire them to prosper.
Chapter 5: Final Design

Placements of programs

The final design draws upon the location, form and scale of the elements in the previous design iterations with the inclusion of three programs: horticulture, hospitality and cultural arts making. The horticulture program occupies the entire north section of the study site whereas the hospitality-cultural arts workshop programs are sited on the southwestern portion (facing the public road) and a passive area is located on the southeastern portion in order to promote the idea of voluntary privacy and personal space (fig 32-33).

Figure 32: Placement of programs
From the entrance, visitors would proceed through two gathering areas: one, to the north overlooking the horticulture zone that is three feet lower, and the other to the south leading to the hospitality-cultural arts workshop plaza. The location of the workshop plaza in the final scheme is different from the previous schemes. In the previous two designs, the plaza was located in the inner part of the site (southeastern) whereas the passive area was in the front, closer to the public road (southwestern). The plaza is now switched to the front and the passive area is located in the back.

In the final design, the plaza is relocated in order to receive visitors arriving for different events and directly serves as a large assembly area/platform as they first enter the site. The hospitality and arts & crafts plaza contains active programs with many social interactions and conversations. Placing this area toward the front would suggest that the facility is fully activated, which in turn, creates a lively and friendly atmosphere easily seen from the public road.

Even though the workshop plaza is toward the front which may raise a concern about the noise from the public road, there is a set-back area. The workshop plaza is planted with a few rows of trees in a grass
lawn to serve as a green buffer (approximately 40-50 feet wide) from the traffic and noise of the abutting road and maintain clear lines of visibility into the site.

The other half of the south portion of the site is the passive area placed in the inner, quieter area that creates more personal space and offers a degree of privacy. This contemplative zone provides an option for inmates, staff and visitors to have respite from other activities.

Plant selection would consist of tropical/equatorial species that are well-adapted to this climate. The plant inventory shows some of the ubiquitous species used in Thailand, including trees, shrubs, vines and grasses (Appendix A).

The following sections describe the landscape features of the programs and are categorized into the following zones: horticulture, hospitality and arts & crafts programs, contemplative area, and construction and maintenance.
Landscape features of the programs

Horticulture

Figure 34: Horticulture zone on the north section of the site

The horticulture zone consists of the storage pond, a wooden deck, rows of growing beds, rice paddies, a poultry farm, and a kitchen area. It demonstrates a sufficiency economy agricultural model.

The storage pond, an existing landscape feature, is used primarily for crop irrigation and rainwater harvesting. The pond also has a hydrological function, the cooling of the surrounding spaces as the water evaporates. For this reason, a wooden deck surrounds the pond that also serves as part of the pedestrian walkway network and a gathering space.

Taking into account the sociofugal aspect of space discussed in the summary in the previous chapter—the outdoor amphitheater as it appeared in the earlier designs and the wooden deck surrounding the pond may create hyper attention to the pond, resulting in less interaction among the users elsewhere in the gardens. In response, the amphitheater has been removed and the deck has intended functions that
are sociopetal (encouraging social interaction). One solution: include a temporary or permanent harvest market to be held on the deck.

Built-in seating is another important sociopetal feature to encourage more interaction on the deck. On the northernmost side, groups of benches are proposed with one of two benches being fixed, the other is rotatable in 180°. The rotatable bench could, for example, form a bigger L-shaped bench (fig 35). The seating is located on the northernmost side facing the pond so people can view the water in the foreground and the workshop platform located in the background.

![Figure 35: Fixed and rotatable seating](image)

For the horticultural activities, a variety of edibles can be grown in the beds year round using water from the pond. Rice is cultivated for domestic consumption with the rice paddies offering a unique aesthetic to the horticulture zone. A small-scale poultry farm is located on the northwestern corner of the study site for inmates to raise chicken and ducks. The farm is comprised of a poultry shelter or an incubator and it is protected from strong sunlight by clumps of bamboo.

The "kitchen" area represents the residential use in the sufficiency economy agricultural model. The concept of a kitchen is used because in Thailand, the kitchen represents family. In the Thai language,
Family is literally a combination of two words: to cover, and kitchen, thus the word family gives a sense of protection, sharing and fullness. As food is one of the most distinguishable components of the culture, the idea is to use the kitchen function of a house to create a home-like atmosphere.

The kitchen is a place where harvested produce can be stored, cooked and shared. On special occasions such as religious observances and local/nationwide festivals, this area can be an actual kitchen for all landscape users where food would be distributed (both for sale and charity). The actual cooking space can be covered or an open-air structure allowing unobstructed, natural ventilation, a consideration for traditional Thai kitchens. Ventilation and adequate size are important because Thai kitchen is normally a “heavy” kitchen due to the cooking methods, ingredients (herb/spice-based) and a relatively large space requirement.

There is a staircase directly connecting the kitchen with the lower wooden deck surrounding the pond. With convenient access, activities such as culinary and eating competitions can be hosted. These are popular events that can also increase the sociopetal quality of the deck.

The kitchen is where everybody would be invited and treated as family members. Food is actually embedded in the way Thai people greet each other, instead of saying “how are you?”, a lot of people would ask “have you eaten (rice) yet?”

The horticultural program is intended to strengthen the family-like relationship among people and adopting the kitchen and family concept is a way to help inmates in their reintegration process. It would promote the value of sharing and demonstrate how the horticultural landscape is used for multiple purposes including:

Horticultural landscape = Growing crops and raise animals as a food source⇒harvest and storage area⇒cooking in the kitchen⇒distributing and dining at the shared wooden deck in a family/peer environment
Hospitality and arts & crafts programs

The hospitality and cultural arts programs (workshop plaza) are designed to be a shared, multipurpose space on a raised platform. The platform has a semi-outdoor pavilion and large outdoor exhibition space which could be used as a workshop. There is a row of trees with seating on the platform to provide shade during the day. The plaza can be accessed from all directions and is connected to the contemplative area.

A variety of social activities would enhance the vocational skills, ranging from labor-intensive to sedentary passive activities, for example, from masonry construction demonstration or carpentry to painting or t-shirt screening. On various occasions, local bands or performance groups could be invited to entertain the prerelease residents as well as the visitors. The Department of Corrections has been progressive in promoting the handicraft program to create marketable products. Every year, the Department would schedule inmate arts & handicrafts fairs in Bangkok and other provinces throughout the country for public purchase. The products range from high-quality hand-made furniture and wood-carved objects to drawings and paintings such as portraits and caricatures. The fairs receive favorable feedback and support from the public. This workshop plaza could serve the similar function. It is a successful strategy to make the public realize more about the capability of the inmates and appreciate their intellect.

“Temple fairs” are another popular social event. In most communities, there is a Buddhist temple in the neighborhood (as well as church/chapel and mosque for other religious beliefs and practices). The
concept of a temple fair is that, on a religious holiday, a neighborhood temple will be a venue for the celebration of that particular observance. It is an occasion and a place where people visit the temple and make merits (merits refer to making good deeds, for example, through meditation, offerings to monks, donation/charity, morality preaching and so forth as a way to calm the mind and reflect on oneself).

Along with the religious significance, the temple becomes a social gathering space. The temple fair holds a number of activities such as food shops, hand-made souvenir shops, local performance, concert, and a children’s theme park (similar to a state fair in the United States, but the temple fair is smaller). The fair usually runs from the late afternoon until late at night (because people set up their sale booths during the day and it would be too hot for activities on the open temple grounds) and will be open to the public for at least a few days, attracting families and friends for multiple visits. While it is more appropriate for the temple fair to host night activities, the concept of this event could utilize the outdoor workshop plaza for daytime activities with the use of existing trees for sunshade. Hence, both religious and correctional institution could host social events at different times of day appropriate to the setting at each location and to the convenience for the fair’s participants/sellers.

Behind the workshop plaza toward the southernmost part of the site, a shallow, vegetated wetland is proposed. In the middle of the wetland, there is a small wooden deck protruding from a path to serve as an outdoor classroom. The deck can comfortably receive a small group of people of no more than 20 at a time. It is designed as a more secluded space (semi-active) within the active zone to encourage peer discussions where everybody has an opportunity to express their thoughts and opinions about various topics. Lectures and counseling sessions could be held there.

The wetland itself also supplies irrigation water to the edible backyard (the existing crop area behind the head staff’s house). The wetland and the pond in the horticultural zone are linked together by a narrow water channel, creating a hydrological network within the site. Following the existing elevation (the horticulture area is three to four feet lower than the workshop area), water would flow from the wetland to the existing pond. Located behind the wetland on the southernmost part of the site is a one-story building for male & female restrooms and the workshop storage. The wetland and the aquatic plants with an upright form partially screen this amenities building.
Contemplative area

Figure 37: The contemplative/passive area on the southeastern section of the site

The contemplative area is a garden with a continuous wooden path that, together with the wooden deck in the horticulture zone, forms a circulation network of pedestrian pathways. Similar to the third scheme, the wooden path is angled (diagonal), oriented toward the greenhouses and the crop area east of the study site; it creates a physical and visual connection to the immediate surroundings. A free-form secondary dirt path is added to provide a circulation option. The contemplative area is intended to be a flexible space, similar to the workshop plaza. It could be used as a quiet reading area, study area, counseling space or for day napping.

From the layout, the entire contemplative area is split into a few smaller individual plots by the diagonal wooden path. These plots provide opportunities for residents to design gardens using their creativity. Prerelease residents could decide for themselves what they want their plots to be like. They could embellish the plots and choose the plants that they see as appropriate. The planting design in this area would be flexible. For example, they could design sensory gardens with a focus on birds and butterflies as pollinators or with a focus on fragrant plants. The exposure to nature would help a person to refresh and energize. The small gardens also give ecological benefits. For example, a microclimate and a small habitat within each plot are established.

The gardens are to be designed and constructed in teams, and could be redesigned and replanted as needed to give the entire passive zone a new appearance and character. The garden-building activity is considered part of rehabilitation where the residents have an opportunity to express themselves through
plants, learn to listen to other people’s opinions, know when to lead and follow, and be able to express reasonable point of views. The activity would make them realize that decision-making and teamwork are an important part of the successful garden design and construction.

Seating is available throughout the site. Apart from the fixed and rotatable seating on the wooden deck in the horticulture area and the seating in the green buffer zone, modular boxes could be made for seating. The boxes would be moveable and configurable into many shapes and forms. Because some of the rubber trees would be removed, the wood harvest would be used in the carpentry workshop for furniture and bench making (fig 38). By building the benches from the rubber tree wood, the residents would learn about the value of recycling and upcycling by making the best use of available resources.

![Figure 38: Wood harvest](image)

The pedestrian circulation is contiguous throughout the site and has no dead ends, thus all the programs are interconnected. Gently-sloped ramps are also used in the site to provide friendly access to all areas for those in wheelchairs or with special needs.
Construction and maintenance

The workshop pavilion is designed as a simple structure, consisting of a series of coated black steel columns (pipes) and a gently-sloped flat roof clad with wood planks for the ceiling. The main entrance is another smaller covered area built of the same materials in order to maintain consistency. The raised platform itself (the workshop plaza) occupies nearly one quarter of the site’s total area (fig 36). The material for the pavement would be brick pavers which can quickly be installed (and removed) in a dry construction process. The pavers themselves may be impervious, but the seams between them would allow for permeability, expediting the rate of rainwater infiltration into the soil.

The workshop pavilion, main entrance pavilion, paths, and rest of the landscape could be built by prerelease residents and officers. The construction would be a worthwhile opportunity for the inmates to work in teams, learn about construction precision, effective communication, practice on-site problem solving skills, construction techniques as well as how to use tools and materials. Volunteers from community could also be invited. The project would be overseen by the architects and engineers from the Department of Corrections. Outsourcing is also possible when the level of expertise required is not available within the facility. When the project is completed, the residents would maintain the landscape on a daily basis as part of their routine. This construction activity, however, is not intended to be perceived as hard or forced labor. The intent of the construction of the landscape is to encourage the rerelease residents to participate and learn construction skills, team building, and interpersonal skills to achieve the communal goal for the benefit of the transitional institution and landscape users at large. The project would offer an opportunity for the resident builders to realize their potential to benefit others and themselves. External expertise needed for certain construction techniques is to expand their skills either by doing or observing or both. They could either volunteer in the construction or be remunerated or be rewarded in other approved forms.

In sum, the landscape prototype works as a gateway and a vehicle that, on the one hand, invites the public into a normalized landscape within the correctional setting. On the other hand, inmates show to the public that they can pursue better life choices through the programs instead of reoffending. The landscape prototype in this thesis is a public park available for various uses by different groups of people,
at the same time, it provides a social value (inmates' transition into society, reduction of recidivism). Making use of the fact that the minimum-security correctional setting allows for more flexibility in landscape design as opposed to the tighter-security setting, this design proposal explores such flexibility through the philosophical framework discussed in Chapter 4 (the supportive environment, the place for protection and social acceptance) and different rehabilitative programs. The design and the anticipated outcome are probabilistic rather than deterministic because landscape architecture, in association with other related fields, is one possible solution to helping prepare and improve the quality of life of the prerelease population after they are released.
Figure 39: Layout plan and immediate context
Figure 41: Section 1

Figure 42: Section 2
Figure 44: View from the main entrance

Figure 45: View of the horticulture zone
Figure 46: View of the workshop plaza

Figure 47: View of the contemplative area
Figure 48: Final design diagrams
Chapter 6: Conclusion and Reflection
Revisiting the background of interest and rationale

This thesis has offered me a valuable opportunity to explore the rationale, the framework and the design of a landscape within the correctional milieu. Landscape architecture can certainly contribute to improving the physical and psychological wellbeing of both the inmates and the staff who work in prisons. Landscape also paves the way to adjusting the public image of prisons and prisoners by increasing public awareness that the correctional institution is not only a place for imposing penalty, but also for rehabilitation. Transitional facilities or the so-called temporary prisons are now a major component of the larger correctional system and provide venues for rehabilitative landscapes to support the rehabilitation process.

Revisiting the two concerns in the Thai correctional situations: prison crowding and the lives of prisoners after they are released (regarding rehabilitation), these temporary minimum-security prisons can partially mitigate crowding by providing alternative accommodations for a number of qualified inmates in higher-security prisons. However, simply transferring inmates into a new place does not resolve the impending second concern: the lives of prisoners after they are released and how they can be rehabilitated while serving time.

Therefore, it is necessary for the temporary prisons to be able to initiate rehabilitative programs for the residents (prerelease inmates). This thesis proposes a landscape prototype that will accommodate rehabilitative programs through the concept and framework of incorporating public participation and collaboration. The landscape encourages interpersonal interactions while valuing privacy and contemplation.

The design approach adopts the characteristics of a public park to create an inviting atmosphere where different users can exchange ideas and vocational skills and ethical wisdom. It is not obligatory for the visitors who come into the landscape to interact exclusively with the prerelease inmates and be involved in all of the rehabilitative activities. Rather, they can use the landscape for their own personal purposes in
their own time and one aim of the proposed design is to create an attractive environment that would motivate people to visit.

Apart from alleviating prison crowding, the brief rationale above also concludes that the Department of Corrections, with the collaboration of society, can help improve prerelease inmates’ attitude toward their lives and show them that there are crime-free opportunities outside of prisons that they can pursue.

**Development of concept (framework) and advocacy for landscape architecture in corrections**

The concept and design approach advocated here embraces a philosophical framework that understands the landscape as having the potential to be a supportive environment, and a place of protection and social acceptance. It also supports reintegration model that encourages community involvement, the idea of social exchange, and the equality of citizenship. I developed the above components based on the belief that prisoners who show that they can change deserve a second chance, especially those that have met the eligibility to be transferred to transitional facilities. These prisoners should also receive public support and understanding because society as a whole plays an important role in the reentry of prisoners.

However, simply because the landscape in prerelease facilities is the focus of this thesis, it does not necessarily mean that convicts in high-security prisons are not changeable or are unwilling to change. I realize that rehabilitation occurs in most prisons because it is one of the Corrections’ missions and that landscape is still one of the most important components in the correctional context regardless of prison types and security levels. To fully benefit the rehabilitation process, the physical outdoor environment should be equally prioritized and financially supported along with other prison developments and expansions such as architecture, staff competency programs, and other organizational enhancement programs.

There is a need for a good quality built environment (both landscape architecture and architecture) in all prison types in order to offer and maintain appropriately the quality of life for prisoners as well as the
quality of work environment for the officers. The incarcerated populations ought to be in an environment that is humane and meets their basic needs.

**Reflection on the critical stance**

Regarding the need for creating a rehabilitative landscape, I would still advocate that a section of the land area within a transitional facility be dedicated for rehabilitative programs involving public participation. Regardless of the scale, the landscape, either large or small, should have at least one public program depending on the appropriateness and available land area, the existing rehabilitative programs, and the site context.

Having a landscape within the minimum-security setting would be an instrument for the Department of Corrections (staff) and the inmates to communicate with the general public. At the same time, the public would realize that prisons hold prisoners only temporarily because most will be released after their sentence ends. Therefore, it is important for the public to support all kinds of corrections and rehabilitation offered by Corrections, not only for the public safety in general, but also for other long-term social benefits such as the country’s reduced crime rates, and the declining number of lawsuits related to drug usage and possession.

However, the Department of Corrections is not the only organization that can initiate rehabilitation, but also other social groups. The landscape proposal in this thesis also encourages the public to be part of the correctional and rehabilitative process and methods. The public opinions and suggestions would help move rehabilitation forward and they would create new directions and alternatives to successful rehabilitation. For this reason, rehabilitation is not someone else’s responsibility, but a mutual collaboration and effort for societal benefits.

Since the prerelease facilities are operated on the trust system with rules and regulations that are different from those of other prison types (e.g. more freedom of physical movement and privacy and scrutiny less intense), I believe that this system can continue to be the most suitable method of prison operation. On the one hand, prerelease prisoners recognize that they are in a rewarding environment as
a result of their decent behavior and that they have spent some time in higher-security prisons until they met the eligibility for transfer.

The staff, on the other hand, would not expect that the inmates would seriously violate any of the rules. The rules set for the prerelease facilities are generally not against the inmates’ will as they are primarily meant to keep the institution in order. For example, inmate counts happen periodically 7-8 times daily to ensure that everybody is present, and the inmates are to be in their residence at the designated hour. However, the trust system does not mean that the officers become more lenient or less cautious. According to the conversations I had with the staff during my visits, due to the small inmate-staff ratio, the staff know the inmates well including their background and family. The staff are in contact with the family members of inmates in a timely manner so that they can report and inform the family about how the inmates are doing in the prison. Keeping in touch with the families also helps in cases where there is an emergency.

**Precedent study (site visits in Thailand)**

Due to the distinctiveness of the topic on the landscape in the corrections environment, direct observation, photo documentation and interviews are important research methods along with the literature review. In the Precedent Study chapter, I visited four temporary prisons after obtaining official approvals, with an exception of Khao Kling Temporary Prison (the horticulture/resort prison) where it is open to the public.

Prior to visiting these four prisons, I have also been to a few other higher-security prisons in Thailand. The outdoor environment of higher-security prisons is noticeably different from that of the temporary prisons. For instance, the number of green areas and vegetation available in higher-security/maximum-security prisons is significantly less due to security concerns. There are gardens in these facilities, but mainly for decorative purposes and they are sometimes located where prisoners have limited use and access e.g. at a main entrance and/or along a pathway outside of the confinement area. Large trees can be planted, but the upper part of the trunk of some trees is removed, the branches are trimmed and the number of trees is kept at a minimum. In high-security institutions, it seems that the emphasis is on the
use of hard, lifeless materials that is different from minimum-security institution where the materials are softer.

Site visits to the four prerelease prisons and interviews offered insights into how they are operated. Physically being in the landscapes allowed me to absorb the sense of place and realize that the overall environment was more calming than intimidating. I had a chance to see the prerelease residents work with tools for their agricultural work that could otherwise be hidden for escape or used as life-threatening weapons if available in the hands of those who are not yet ready to work with tools. I was also able to observe the landscape elements, the user movement and the sizing of different areas and circulation. The direct observation helped me greatly in the development of design framework and process.

Design iterations

In the first scheme, I began arranging the programs primarily by following the existing conditions and the current use of the area. For the horticulture program, not only did the existing pond and the existing crop area in the study site determine the placement of the horticulture program, but also the rubber plantation and the existing, low-key meeting area and tool storage area next to it (to the north). I then considered that the north section of the site could be an ideal location for the horticulture program—water is available for irrigation and it is adjacent to other agriculture-related areas.

Because both of the hospitality and the arts & crafts programs are interactive activities and require an adequately-sized open space to accommodate crowds of people, these two programs could share the same space or platform. Considering that the south portion (opposite to the horticulture program) has rows of rubber trees that had been providing some shade, it would be suitable for the hands-on, interactive programs to occur outdoor while being protected from the strong sun. It is necessary that some trees be removed in order to create a continuous open space for activities while some be saved to provide shade and to create clear sight lines. The two programs were located here in the south portion also because the users can enjoy the view of the horticulture zone that is three feet lower in elevation.
In the first design scheme, I focused almost exclusively on the concept of social exchange, social porosity and how the study site could accommodate that concept. At this point, the site was still treated as a stand-alone site. Other existing programmatic elements such as the edible backyard behind the chief staff’s house (southeastern), the existing bus stop and a contemplative area had not yet been realized.

In the second iteration, the feedback raised an important point about whether or not the landscape would need an area where counseling could take place. I realized that this component was, in fact, necessary because the landscape should also provide a kind of passive space where staff could conduct both one-on-one and group counseling sessions. I imagine that the sessions would be held in a discussion-based manner, daily or weekly, depending on what the staff and the inmates agree on. Prerelease inmates would have a chance to informally report on their work and activities during the day, and discuss what problems or challenges they encountered and how they resolved those challenges.

The counseling sessions would create an atmosphere where work experiences are shared and heard. Convening in a group after a day’s work would help prepare for the next day. Informal peer review/discussion among inmates and staff could be entertaining, thus reduces boredom. Individual or one-on-one sessions could also take place in the passive area where staff and inmates have conversations in relative privacy about matters not meant to be shared in a larger group.

The elements previously absent in the first design scheme, namely, the edible backyard and the bus stop were also integrated as part of the final site design. The edible backyard would be a complement to the horticulture demonstration zone even though they are located on the opposite sides. The backyard resembles a small-scale, domestic edible garden. It is a place where the staff and inmates work together and experiment on growing different crops and observe if the seeds are viable in certain soil and water conditions. It is also a place where inmates can learn about how different crops propagate. Introducing the edible backyard in addition to the main horticulture zone suggests that edible gardening can take place anywhere within the site to be productive and make the most out of the available spaces.

The edible backyard could serve as both an active space and a passive space. It is active when presentations on the crops grown are given to the public. It is passive when it adds a nature scene or a
green scene to its surrounding areas where landscape users can enjoy it visually. The second scheme began to incorporate more existing landscape features into the new design.

After the second design, based on feedback, I reworked the study site to connect to the rest of the transitional facility. Since the study site is intended to invite people from the community, it could work as a visitor-receiving node or a gateway where people converge, then begin to explore other parts of the facility. These other parts could be developed in the future, into programmatic nodes that exhibit different areas of knowledge and vocational training. The programmatic nodes would create a network of learning and training throughout the temporary prison (fig 49-50). Consequently, the third design scheme attempted to create a number of nodes within the study site itself first (refer back to fig 32). These nodes are where people gather for certain rehabilitative activities in their designated zones.

Figure 49: Study site as a gateway  
Figure 50: Future programmatic nodes
The final design

The relocation of the workshop plaza (for the hospitality and the arts & crafts programs) and the contemplative area was considered a sound approach. Placing the plaza and a lot of seating toward the front (facing the public road) would effectively welcome visitors because it directly serves as a large assembly point upon entry. It is where people begin to move and attend to their interests throughout the landscape whereas the contemplative area placed in the inner part of the site (southeastern) is quieter and more private.

The wooden deck around the pond in the horticulture area, besides the kitchen use, could be a place for a market that sells coffee beans—Riang Hong Temporary Prison is now growing coffee trees in their prison grounds between the rows of the rubber trees (see Chapter 3). With continuous supply of harvested coffee, it is possible that other manufacturing processes such as roasting and packaging could take place on the deck as part of the demonstrative activity. A coffee shop could likewise be established to further make the deck more sociopetal.

Adding the wetland with an outdoor classroom on a deck to the workshop plaza had both aesthetic and programmatic values. The wetland was to be vegetated with aquatic plants such as sedge and water lily. With the upright form of sedge, it would partially conceal the restrooms and tool storage building/shed, while other species, namely water lily, would provide an exotic seasonal inflorescent color such as magenta lotus. The wetland could create a small underwater habitat. In terms of the programmatic value, a quieter class could be held among other interactive workshop activities. For example, a lecture could be given at the deck area then the hand-on workshop would follow at the plaza.

However, as the diagram below illustrates, the straight, narrow water channel that connects the pond in the horticulture area with the wetland could have been more integrated or meandered into the contemplative area because a water feature is considered helpful for creating a soothing atmosphere.
In terms of plant density, overall, the trees in the landscape are planted in a rather low density, in rows of uniform spacing in relation to the existing grid structure of the rubber tree plantation. These trees can provide sufficient amount of shade while allowing enough open space for activities.

In the master plan, the intent of the contemplative area was to allow prerelease inmates to design their own gardens. Thus this area is represented in the form of individual plots of lawn without introducing any vegetation at this stage (fig 52). The plants species, for instance, medium-sized trees, shrubs and groundcovers, could be taken from the plant inventory presented in Chapter 5.
the approach to design could always evolve and has many potential avenues to consider. For example, the horticulture demonstration area could be on the south section whereas the workshop plaza is on the opposite side, or all of the three programs could spatially be intertwined. The landscape elements such as the wooden deck surrounding the pond, the workshop plaza/platform, the wooden path in the contemplative area, and the wetland could be in organic forms rather than rigid or straight. The road in the middle of the site could be designed differently, or moved to a new location, so the site becomes one large space with less concern about the vehicular traffic cutting across the site.

Overall, the final design illustrates, as one design solution, the application of a rehabilitative landscape that calls for the partnership among the public and the corrections institutions. The prerelease inmates and the staff are the key determinants that decide if rehabilitation is successful.

**Landscape opportunities in higher-security prisons**

Apart from applying landscape architecture in minimum-security prisons, the design work proposed in this document can certainly be beneficial to the wellbeing of prisoners and officers in other higher-security prisons as well. The approach to design, however, would be different due to the tighter security levels, the types of prisoners convicted of severe offenses and their court orders. Nonetheless, it would be worthwhile to explore a landscape or an outdoor environment in the higher-security setting.

The following topics could be studied: what could be added to or subtracted from the traditional design of bleak lawn and what landscape elements could be used concerning the fact that any object can be turned into weapon or tools for escape at any time. Plant choice would also be another issue in all security levels, even in the minimum-security setting—certain types of plants are poisonous. Because prisoners are those with different backgrounds, high survival skills and knowledge, their action may be covert or furtive and their behavior may be unpredictable and abrupt. Landscape is an essential element in the correctional context regardless of types of prisons if an institution were to provide rehabilitative benefits.
There may be “institutional and physical constraints on the site, but these [landscape] projects are still needed and should be pursued.” 98

Interview for the government scholarship
Working on this project, a prison could have a home-like environment. During the interview prior to receiving the Government scholarship, one of the interviewers asked me: “how would you design a prison?” and “what would a prison be like?” Unprepared for the questions, I paused for a short while. With little knowledge in corrections at the time, I said that a prison could be designed like a home. I suddenly thought to myself, “Do you really want to make a prison like a home?” somewhat contradicting with my own feelings that wrongdoers should somehow be punished. Unsure of the answer, at the time I thought perhaps I should not have answered in that way.

However, there was a reason for the “home” answer. If I had answered that prisons should be designed for the sole purpose of punishment, then it would not have been possible to make the corrections situation any better because there would have been no change and no hope. To the interviewers’ surprise, they asked me how. I said that some prisoners could have a second chance to correct their mistakes, at least partially. There are many reasons and causes that put them in jail. For instance, being misguided or misled coupled with lack of careful judgment was one of those reasons. Thus, there could be an environment that helps inmates reflect on themselves and helps with change—some are not innately born to be criminals. Fortunately, the interviewers also helped me out in my answer that this idea could be possible in certain prisons for certain groups of prisoners.

This thesis has provided me an opportunity to explore the “home” concept in the correctional milieu. The design proposal in this thesis may not exactly be like “home”, but adopting the “park-like” concept that I propose makes it a more humane and productive environment for more effective rehabilitation. In closing, as I will be employed at the Department of Corrections, I am looking forward to applying what I have learned and appreciating the fact that landscape architecture and the field of built environments can contribute to the benefits for corrections. I am grateful that some people think that working for Corrections in the “builder” position is indeed an exceptional opportunity.

Side note

It is clear that the design proposal and the anticipated outcome in my thesis are optimistic and generous rather than hopeless and punitive because I sincerely hope that all prerelease prisoners can lead their better lives upon release. I also hope that their lives will continue in a manner that is at least satisfactory to them without going back to reoffending. However, to avoid being unrealistic about the possibility for recidivism, even with the best landscape or built prison environment (if one exists) or other rehabilitative approaches; there is no absolute guarantee that recidivism will completely be erased or reduced. Therefore, the design outcome is probabilistic instead of deterministic.

Landscape architecture is one among many ways to deter crimes, prevent and reduce reoffending. The significance of landscape architecture and architecture is immense too. This is because the built environment is a physical place that the users inhabit and spend most of their time. It is also this physical place that can create different emotions and influence behavior.

To reiterate, the goal of the landscape proposal is to offer a physical space supportive of the reintegration process. The landscape itself is considered to offer a second chance for the inmates to ponder among themselves in the hope that they will have a better life, stay away from illicit activities, and hence away from jail. Being transferred from higher-security prisons to minimum-security ones reflects that they have been in good discipline which will continue to be rewarding when they are released.

The Department of Corrections (as a governmental institution to directly incarcerate and correct) and the society are intending to help, and have been helping, prisoners change. Both have been active in their roles. It depends on the prisoners themselves whether they wish to play their part.
Bibliography
List of references


- Department of Corrections, the Ministry of Justice. *Department of Corrections Annual Report 2013*. Thailand.


### Future readings


Appendix A: Tropical landscape plant inventory
Appendix A shows the botanical names of the plants corresponding to the plant columns (left to right).

**Column 1**
1. *Terminalia ivorensis*
2. *Cassia fistula*
3. *Cochlospermum regium*
4. *Tabebuia rosea*
5. *Lagerstroemia floribunda*
6. *Jacaranda filicifolia*
7. *Cassia bakeriana*
8. *Terminalia catappa*
9. *Hevea brasiliensis*
10. *Wrightia religiosa*
11. *Artabotrys siamensis*
12. *Pseudogynoxys chenopodioides*
13. *Pyrostegia venusta*
14. *Jasminum adenophyllum*

**Column 2**
15. *Epipremnum aureum*
16. *Desmos chinensis*
17. *Gardenia jasminoides*
18. *Syzygium australe*
19. *Heliconia psittacorum*
20. *Heliconia psittacorum*
21. *Jasminum*
22. *Allamanda cathartica*
23. *Melampodium divaricatum*
24. *Bauhinia acuminata*
25. *Codiaeum variegatum*
26. *Alpinia purpurata*
27. *Dracaena cincta Bak. ‘Tricolor’*
28. *Dracaena loureiri*

**Column 3**
29. *Hibiscus*
30. *Adenium obesum*
31. *Dracaena reflexa*
32. *Cosmos sulphureus*
33. *Tagetes erecta*
34. *Spathiphyllum*
35. *Lawsonia inermis*
36. *Hymenocalis littoralis*
37. *Excoecaria cochinchinensis*
38. *Dracaena fragrans*
39. *Schefflera arboricola*
40. *Thunbergia erecta*
41. *Pandanus sanderi*
42. *Syngonium podophyllum*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Column 4</th>
<th>43. Philodendron</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>44. Nephrolepis biserrata</td>
<td>45. Platycerium bifurcatum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46. Ophiopogon jaburan</td>
<td>47. Chlorophytum bichetii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48. Chlorophytum comosum</td>
<td>49. Pilea nummulariifolia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50. Ophiopogon japonicus</td>
<td>51. Cuphea hyssopifola</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52. Phyllanthus myrtifolius</td>
<td>53. Pandanus amaryllifolius</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54. Streblus asper</td>
<td>55. Ficus altissima</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56. Ficus annulata</td>
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<tr>
<td>Column 5</td>
<td>57. Cyperus imbricatus</td>
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<tr>
<td>58. Cyperus alternifolius</td>
<td>59. Thalia geniculata</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60. Nymphaea pubescens</td>
<td>61. Nelumbo nucifera</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62. Acrostichum aureum</td>
<td>63. Canna</td>
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<tr>
<td>64. Bacopa caroliniana</td>
<td>65. Rhapis humilis</td>
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<tr>
<td>66. Bismarckia nobilis</td>
<td>67. Roystonea regia</td>
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<tr>
<td>68. Saribus rotundifolius</td>
<td>69. Pritchardia pacifica</td>
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<tr>
<td>70. Wodyetia bifurcate</td>
<td>71. Syagrus schizophylla</td>
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<tr>
<td>72. Ptychosperma macarthurii</td>
<td>73. Cyrtostachys renda</td>
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<tr>
<td>Column 6</td>
<td>74. Veitchia merrillii</td>
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<tr>
<td>75. Dypsis lutescens</td>
<td>76. Phyllostachys sulphurea</td>
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<tr>
<td>77. Thrysostachys siamensis</td>
<td>78. Bambusa multiplex</td>
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<tr>
<td>79. Phyllostachys lithophila</td>
<td>80. Cymbopogon citrates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81. Asplenium nidus</td>
<td>82. Pennisetum purpureum</td>
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