



Design Working Group Meeting #5

March 21, 2018

Justice Implementation Task Force

Agenda

1. **Introductions and meeting goals**
2. Guiding Principles for the design of borough-based jail facilities
3. Examples of design strategies by space type
4. Next steps

Meeting goals

Our charge

To create a set of ambitious, innovative design and programming *principles, attributes, and values* that reflect what New York City aspires for its jails.

Goals for today

Gather feedback on the subcommittee's draft *Guiding Principles for Design*. As we review the principles, please consider:

- Do you agree with the spirit of each principle? Why or why not?
- Is there any specific language you would add, change, or remove?
- Are we missing anything?

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Guiding Principles for Design

1. Strengthen Community and Family

The building should serve as a catalyst for change in communities and the criminal justice system. Facilitating connections to courts, attorneys, service providers, community-based organizations, families, volunteers, and public transportation enhances the network of support systems for incarcerated people. The building should provide community services and amenities within the facility to enhance connection to the neighborhood.

Guiding Principles for Design

2. Create Engaging Civic Institutions

The facility is part of a neighborhood, and should be perceived as a vibrant and transformational community asset. Outside areas and entrances, as well as interior spaces such as lobbies, visiting spaces, and intakes, should consider all potential users and feel inviting, safe, and normative. The building should be community-facing—with public entrances on multiple sides that encourage safe and easy access to services and amenities on the ground floor.

Guiding Principles for Design

3. Ease and Broaden Access to Resources

The building should provide a range of programs and services, and design should encourage and facilitate access to these opportunities. Education, job training, health care services, substance abuse and mental health counseling, and recreation are some of the critically important programs and services that support diverse groups of incarcerated people. Connection to community-based programs and health care services within and around the facility should facilitate smooth transitions back into the community.

Guiding Principles for Design

4. Promote Safety and Security

The building design should safeguard the health and well-being of all and provide for secure ease of movement to programs, services, and outside areas through clear sight lines, wayfinding, and well-lit spaces. Normative, restorative, and therapeutic design elements will reinforce positive and respectful interactions between staff and incarcerated people. Buildings should also include spaces that facilitate prevention or de-escalation of conflict.

Guiding Principles for Design

5. Design Dignified and Normalized Environments

Creating more pleasant and normalized internal and external environments can lessen stressors and improve the working conditions for staff, service providers, and others working to support incarcerated people. The design should provide spaces with materials, furnishings, and building elements that are residential rather than institutional in appearance and feel, and increase safety and produce positive behavioral, health, and development outcomes.

Guiding Principles for Design

6. Foster Safe and Positive Social Interaction

The design of building spaces can augment the effectiveness of programs and services by setting the stage for appropriate behavior, encouraging interaction among incarcerated people, as well as with staff, caregivers, caseworkers, and educators. Communities with naturally high levels of positive social interaction can grow to be stronger, healthier, and more resilient.

Guiding Principles for Design

7. Support Physical and Mental Well-Being

Design can support the physical health and mental well-being of staff, incarcerated people, visitors, and the community. Increase in daily physical activity lessens health risks and improves overall well-being. Access to daylight, views, and nature has therapeutic benefits, reducing stress and anxiety and improving overall mental well-being.

Guiding Principles for Design

8. Consider the Unique Needs of Individuals

Design can recognize and address the varying needs of individuals, including both staff and incarcerated people, and flexibly adapt to ever-changing demographics and evolving therapeutic approaches. Spaces should support individuals with differing social, cognitive, mental, and physical abilities.

Guiding Principles for Design

9. Offer Empowering Choices

Design can encourage safety, autonomy, and movement, providing choices that allow for a greater diversity of living, recreation, and learning environments that encourage positive behavior. Providing some autonomy over movement for incarcerated people can limit the need for staff-intensive movements of people within the facility throughout the day.

Guiding Principles for Design

10. Create Positive and Sustainable Environmental Conditions

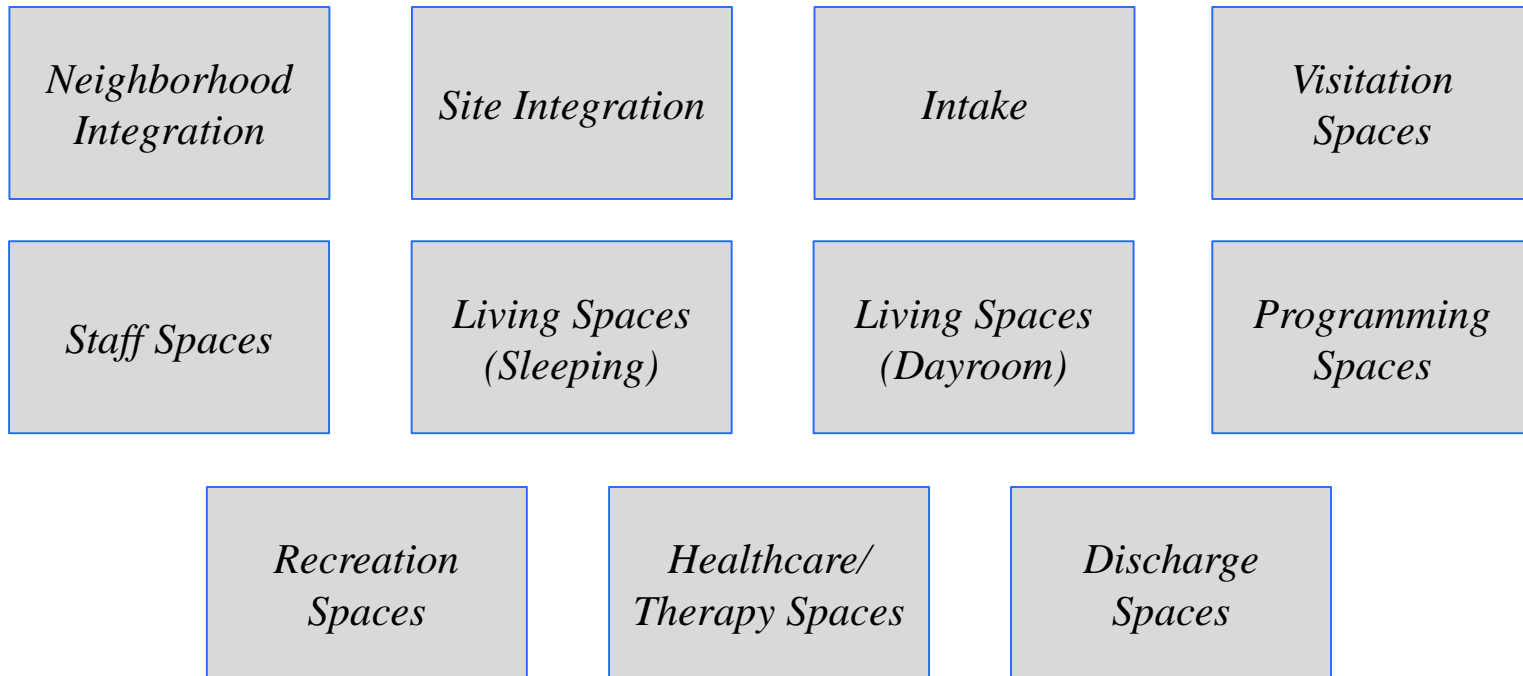
The facility design should use natural resources responsibly and reduce environmental footprint, including minimizing greenhouse gas emissions and water use. Thermal comfort, good acoustics, durable, healthy materials, and well-lit spaces create positive environmental conditions. Material and system choices should also consider giving individuals control over stress-causing conditions such as excessive light and noise.

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Proposed structure of final document

Strategies for achieving the 10 Guiding Principles will be spelled out across 11 different spaces in a jail facility:



Example

Visitation spaces

[Intro paragraph outlining key goals]

- **Strengthen Community and Family**
 - Provide a child friendly play area.
 - Provide normative furniture and materials.
 - Provide areas to allow privacy in the safest feasible way.
- **Ease and Broaden Access to Resources**
 - Provide access to support services.
 - Provide access to information about visitation.
- **Offer Empowering Choices**
 - Provide different areas for families to meet.
 - Provide options for seating types and locations of visits.



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Next steps

- The Design Principles subcommittee will refine the Guiding Principles for delivery to the CPSD consultant in early April.
- A short “vetting phase” will allow a small group of outside experts to review and provide feedback on the Guiding Principles.

Next steps

For discussion:



Optional session

April 18, 2018

Review design strategies by
space type



Meeting 6

April 19, 2018

Combined Design and
Culture Change meeting
focused on visits



Meeting 7

To be scheduled

Focus to be confirmed