

# BE Studio Winter: 2019

## INTERVENTIONS IN THE JOINT

Coping on the Inside: Design for Therapeutic Incarceration

6- credit studio BE 405B (SLN 10946), BE studio 505B (SLN 10950 ), 3 credit studio seminar BE 498 (SLN 10948), BE 598 (SLN 10954)



Incarceration in the United States is a complex and evolving narrative, one defined by periods of laudable, but maybe unrealistic aspirations and more recently, run more like a commercial private factory using mass jailings to ensure greater profit margins. We will discuss these, and other issues surrounding and defining incarceration but the fundamental studio goal is to investigate environmental change and how through design we can improve the well-being, potential growth, and coping mechanisms of those serving time in the Washington Correctional Center for Women (WCCW). Often called Purdy State Prison, WCCW is located in Gig Harbor, Washington and houses approximately 750 women. We will learn more about WCCW during a site visit and presentations at the beginning of the studio.

WCCE administrators are seeking ideas for the grounds that may help to reinforce their therapeutic programs. This class will focus on creating therapeutic prison environments to help the women reduce stress, increase focus and attention, improve social interactions, develop vocational skills and reduce violence and anxiety. Many of the users have mild to intensive mental illnesses and/or have experienced substance abuse and violence. One unit at Purdy is for women with chemical and/or alcohol addiction and design of a 12 -step garden has been discussed as a preliminary idea. We will use input from those incarcerated, staff and administrators, findings from independent research that students will conduct, and the expertise of others on campus to inform the master planning process.

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