



# The New York City Correctional Institution For Women

The use of Rikers Island as a site for this institution made it possible for the Department of Public Works and Department of Correction design teams to develop a horizontal scheme as opposed to the present vertical House of Detention for Women in Greenwich Village. The plan is predicated on a closed campus design which will offer internal freedom and circulation. Two closed circulating corridors on the institution periphery will offer a natural partial ground enclosure affording privacy, control and security.

One of these circulating corridors will be used for the segregation of all the City's sentenced female prisoners. From this corridor facing the interior of the campus will be four chevron shaped two-story housing buildings of 80 capacity each. The wings of the chevron buildings are designed for the segregation of twenty female prisoners each, developed so that one Correction Officer stationed at the center can observe two wings, or a total of forty prisoners. Three of these structures are designed for exterior room housing and the fourth for squad-room type dormitories.

The other circulating corridor will be for the segregation of detention prisoners. Also from this corridor facing the interior campus will be two chevron shaped buildings. The units of these buildings are designed so that 30 prisoners will be segregated in one wing, making it possible for one female Correction Officer to supervise 60 prisoners. One of these buildings is three stories high for a total capacity of 180. The other will be two stories high for a capacity of 120 with provisions for the addition of a third story. The corridors are designed with two levels. The lowest level will be for institutional services, such as laundry pick-up, delivery, refuse collection, paints and other maintenance and housekeeping supplies. The upper level of the corridors will be for mainline circulation for all traffic in the institution. The levels of the housing units and the circulating corridor are developed split-level fashion so that prisoners will not be required to walk up or down more than one flight of stairs.

All housing wings are provided with separate day-rooms and laundrettes. Each of the rooms are provided with plumbing. Each wing contains separate shower rooms.

In developing various components in the design,

those units that are predominantly used by sentenced prisoners are located on the stem of the sentenced prisoners circulating corridor. Those services used by the detention prisoners are located on the detention prisoners circulating corridor. Located at the apex of the two circulating corridors are three levels of the institution which will contain the institution administration and service programs.

The lower floor is at the identical level of the lower portion of the mainline corridors. This level contains the Maintenance Shops, the lower portion of the institution Storehouse, the Linen Room and Institutional Clothes Box which will be directly under the Receiving Room, the Locker Rooms for all the staff in the institution, mechanical equipment room, telephone equipment rooms and trash and refuse storage.

The middle floor, which is on the level of the upper mainline circulating corridors, contains the executive administrative offices, business offices, master control, receiving room, upper level storeroom, mainline kitchen, employees kitchen, dining room for sentenced prisoners, dining room for detention prisoners, staff dining room, lower portion of family visiting facilities, attorney visits, commissary, multi-purpose chapel auditorium, vocational, commercial and academic school, library, gym, laundry and sewing room. The main entrance to the institution is located at this level. Separate entrances are provided for family visiting, receiving room and institution supplies.

The upper level will contain the upper part of the family visiting facilities, office space for private organizations, diagnostic unit, institution clinics and a 59-bed infirmary.

In developing the plans, concentration has been placed on the development of an interior environment which will offer natural light, sun and air by the extensive use of light courts, clerestory windows, areas and window walls.

The department feels most fortunate that the new bridge has eliminated the island's isolation, making it practical to locate this new institution on this island. In addition to a site which is described in acres rather than lots, it is located close to the geographical center of New York City.

# Groundbreaking Ceremonies

for the

## New York City

### Correctional Institution for Women

was held at

### Rikers Island

April 11, 1967



Mayor John V. Lindsay officiates at the groundbreaking ceremony for the New York City Correctional Institution for Women, Rikers Island.



Mayor John V. Lindsay officially breaking ground for the New York City Correctional Institution for Women. From left to right: Commissioner George F. McGrath; Mayor John V. Lindsay; Commissioner Eugene E. Hult; and Commissioner Edward R. Cass, Vice-Chairman, New York State Commission of Correction.



Guests at the groundbreaking ceremony endure frigid open air blasts. For many who had worked hard and long for the establishment of this institution, it was a personal victory. Representatives of civic organizations, volunteer groups, and religious organizations interested in the welfare of prison inmates were on hand.

CITY OF NEW YORK  
JOHN V. LINDSAY  
*Mayor*

MARIO A. PROCACCINO  
*Comptroller*

FRANK D. O'CONNOR  
*President of the Council*

HERMAN BADILLO  
*President, Borough of Bronx*

NEW YORK CITY CORRECTIONAL  
INSTITUTIONS FOR WOMEN  
CAPITAL PROJECT NO. C-73 RIKERS ISLAND, N.Y., N.Y.

Designed and Constructed  
for the Department of Correction

GEORGE F. McGRATH  
*Commissioner*

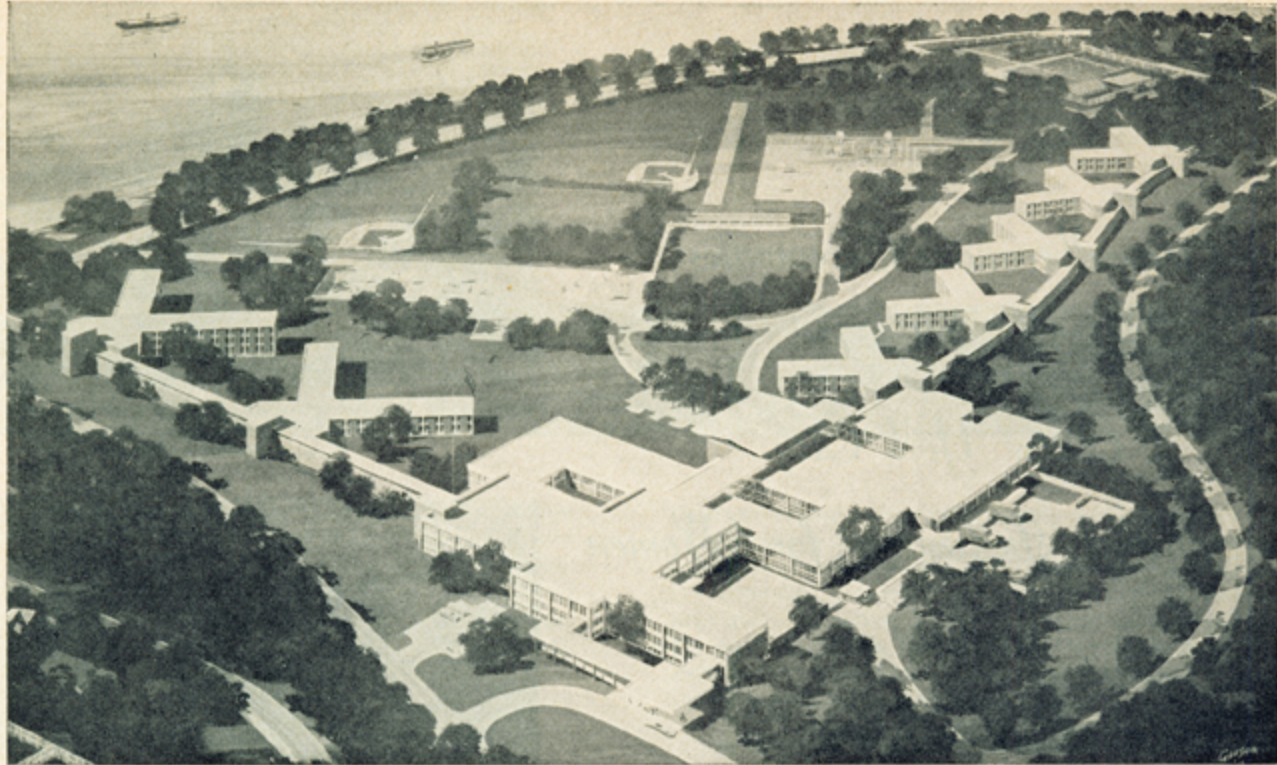
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By The DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
EUGENE E. HULT  
*Commissioner*

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KAHN & JACOBS      *Architects*  
FARKAS & BARRON      *Structural Engineers*  
JAMES MONGITORE & HARRY HANDWEGER ASSOCIATES  
*Mechanical & Electrical Engineers*  
ROBERT S. MALKIN      *Landscape Architects*

1967



*Architects Rendering of the NEW YORK CITY CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION FOR WOMEN, Rikers Island*

**CAPITAL PROJECT C-73**

New York City Correctional Institution for Women  
Rikers Island, N. Y.

**DESIGN TEAM**

KAHN & JACOBS, Architects  
JOSEPH MULLETT, A.I.A.

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

HENRIETTA HARNEY, R.A.  
Project Architect  
LUCILLE MURAWSKI, R. A.  
Project Architect

**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION**

JOSEPH BATKA, R.A.  
Chief Architect  
HAROLD WEITZ, R.A.  
Senior Engineer

**COST**

\$22,130,000

**HOUSING CAPACITY**

TOTAL: 679

Detention 300      Sentenced 320      Infirmary 59

**FUTURE EXPANSION CAPACITY**

Detention 60      Sentenced 160

**SITE AREA**

55 Acres

**DESIGN PLAN**

- Separate Functioning Detention and Sentence Institutions
- Closed Campus Design
- Chevron Shaped Housing Wings
- Centrally Located Service and Program Facilities
- Closed Circulating Corridors

# An Environmental Approach to Rehabilitation

On October 31, 1967 a presentation of suggested interior decoration solutions, prepared by graduate students of the Parsons School of Design took place at the House of Detention for Women, 10 Greenwich Avenue, New York City.

Departing from conventional correctional procedures the department took the opportunity to avail itself of the professional talent of the students of the Parsons School of Design to assist in seeking new ideas and techniques for a modern environmental approach to rehabilitation, to be incorporated in the new \$23,652,000 Correctional Institution for Women being constructed on Rikers Island.

Although the proposed design submitted by the Design Team does not necessarily have to be adopted in toto, their recommendations will receive serious official consideration as to their suitability. This public and cooperative service of the Parsons School of Design is most appreciated by the administration and the department welcomes the proposed ideas as a guide line in designing the interiors of the new Correction Institution for Women on Rikers Island and similar correction facilities of the future.



*IT IS BECOMING A REALITY ... The New York City Correctional Institution for Women, to be built at a total estimated cost of \$23,652,000, is moving towards its completion date in 1969. Photo taken December 1967.*