Huntington County Municipal Center

A facility which contains Police and Sheriff Departments, Jail, Governmental Offices, Courtrooms and Support facilities, and Kitchen.

Location: Huntington, Indiana
Author: Brent E. Kline
Thesis Professors: Paul Laseau, and Bob Kingsley
There are three people I would like to acknowledge: my mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. Don D. Kline, and my grandmother, Mrs. Ralph Tyner. Without their money, encouragement, and most of all their love I would have never made it.
Abstract

Name of Project: Huntington County Municipal Center

Facility Contains: Police and Sheriff's Departments, Jail and Support Facilities, Court and Support Facilities, Kitchen, and Governmental Offices

Location: On the northeast side of Warren Street between Franklin, and Market Streets, in Huntington, Indiana.

Project by: Brent Kline during the 1980-81 school year

Design Professors: Paul Laseau, and Bob Kingsley

Outside Faculty Critic: Bruce Meyer

Outside Critics: Dan Gagen and Earl Mears of Archonics, Fort Wayne, Indiana, and Sergeant Lipskin of the Delaware County Sheriffs Department
Huntington County Municipal Center

Introduction

Huntington County Municipal Center is a catchall title for a facility which houses the Police Department, Sheriff’s Department, Jail, License Bureau, Welfare Office, Unemployment Office, Courtroom Support Facilities, and Criminal Courtrooms. The facility would be located on the main traffic loop, which encircles Huntington’s Downtown Business District, just catty-cornered, (south), from the Courthouse.

The entire site is bordered by vehicular circulation paths. Along the long sides of the site lie Warren Street, (part of the main traffic loop), and an alley, which cuts through the block. The short sides of the site are on Market Street, and Franklin Streets. At the corner of Warren, and Franklin Streets there is a three way stop, (Warren Street is one-way heading northwest), which is a major traffic problem at certain times of the day.

The busiest times for the facility would be on days that the court’s were in session, Friday and Saturday nights, and end of the month Governmental Offices waiting lines.

There are several reasons for picking the thesis project that I did, one of these is the need for improvement on many jail facilities all over the country. The poor conditions of jails everywhere cause problems in processing criminals by causing interference in courtroom matters, and costing the local government more to process these people than necessary. Increasing costs are due to capacity problems, and mixing of people of different sex, age, or type of crime problems.

Another thing this type of project had to offer was the challenge, and the learning experience of doing a project of this type.

I am going to try to explain my thesis in three pieces. First will be what I call The Problem, which means all of the different aspects, or problems involved in doing this project. Following that I will try to explain My Philosophy, which is exactly what it says, my philosophy on how prisoners should be treated to be psychologically constructive to that person. The last section is what I call My Answers, which consists of the concepts I have used, and the drawings I ended up with.
The Problem

Mixing of Functions

By Mixing of Functions I mean a mixing of prisoners, law enforcement officers, judges, other court personnel, and the public. Because these functions all have different needs several different zones must be set up. The first zone I would like to talk about is that of the jail. The needs of the jail is to provide security for everyone involved with it.

The zone which is most closely related to the jail is the law enforcement zone. This zone has many special requirements. It must house the Sheriff's Department, the Uniformed and Detective Divisions of the City Police Department, and the City Police Administration. In addition these different departments must share garage areas, communications equipment, and intake & holding areas of the facility.

Another zone is that of the governmental offices such as the License Bureau, Unemployment Office, and Welfare Offices. These functions should have easy access, and an area for waiting.

The last area to mention is the Court Room, and it's support facilities. This area is especially important because this is where all the different functions converge on specially committed days.
## The Problem

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Sq. Ft.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jail</td>
<td>41,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Enforcement</td>
<td>21,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Court Areas</td>
<td>30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitchen</td>
<td>5,640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Govermental Offices</td>
<td>3,600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mechanical Space</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking</td>
<td>33,800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 156,040 Sq. Ft.
The Problem

TRANSITION FROM DOWNTOWN TO RESIDENTIAL AREA

By this I am referring to a transition of atmosphere, and scale. The block which I chose to use for this project is between a block, which is use for commercial office buildings, and one which is strictly residential. The two adjacent blocks also contrast in profile of a four and a half story block compared to a two story block.
The Problem

Huntington County Municipal Center

Business District along Market Street
The Problem

Huntington County Municipal Center

Telephone Company behind Project on Market Street
The Problem

REACTION TO WARREN STREET

I feel that because of the busy Warren Street traffic that there should be some type of response by the front of the building along the Warren Street edge. This reaction should not be one of a drastic nature, but instead should be one that could reinforce the street's image, and the image of the downtown district. Also zoning of functions should respond to this problem, because of noise, and vehicular circulation problems on that street.
The Problem

Huntington County Municipal Center
The Problem

REACTION TO AND INTERACTION WITH THE COURTHOUSE

This part of the problem can be divided into a reaction to the Courthouse, and interaction with the Courthouse. The first item is the manner in which this facility should react to the center of the county, and the city which is the Courthouse. This building is in fairly good shape, and has historically housed the governmental facilities by which the county is run. Some how I would like the facility that I am designing to react to that in a positive, and visible way.

The other part of this problem is concerned with the interactions of the courthouse to this facility. First of all the role of the courtrooms in the Courthouse would continued to be used, but used for civil proceedings, and not for criminal proceedings. Prosecuting lawyers, court clerk's, and other governmental employees whose offices are in the Courthouse, from time to time would be need in the facility that I am proposing, so the trip across the street should be made as easy as possible. This point is exactly the reason for pocking this site.
The Problem

SECURITY OF THE FACILITY

There are many different types of security that must go on here. The surrounding community must be protected from the possibility of escaped prisoners. The public user of this facility must also be protected in the same manner.

In the case of the judge, jury, witnesses, and court personnel, they all need special security. For the judge, and jury security from the public can be as important as security from the prisoners. As for the witnesses, they often require security from each other especially after testifying. Often the court personnel is responsible for part of the security for the judge, jury, and the witnesses.

Yet another person whom needs security is the law enforcement officer himself. This type of security should still allow him to move freely from his, or her job well, without intimidating the prisoners.

Last of all is the security of the prisoner. Often a particular prisoner might be dangerous to combine with another batch of prisoners.
LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The last need is that of meeting legal requirements. The law requires several things of such a facility. First the separation of prisoners of different types, (see break-up diagram), secondly fair and equal treatment of all prisoners, and last of all meeting special building codes for such a facility as this. Often if these requirements are not met then the person's case maybe thrown out of court.

The last point includes mechanized operated security walls, doors, sensors, and viewing equipment. It also requires special security devices in the mechanical chases going to the cell units. These devices in the mechanical chases causes the use of doors to the mechanical chases between every other cell, on all levels.
My Philosophy

When working with a facility involving the containment of people you undoubtedly have to ask yourself what is my philosophy on how those persons should be treated. In my cases I feel that an exposure to what is going on in the world around him should be easily accessed. The reason for this is so that person can keep track of time, and the changes in life. This I hope might give that person a reason to not want to come back there.

Exposure to the outside world would be by means of viewing, and reading. The major way in which I intend to expose them to the outside world is by the use of windows in all the cells to allow that person to see what time of day it is, what season it is, and any other things that he or she would be interested in viewing. Also by the use of a ventilating system in the window unit would allow that person to control his, or her climate slightly.

The use of windows also brings up the chance of the prisoners trying to expose themselves to the outside world. This I intend to handle by the use of a mirrored surface on the exterior of the window for daytime protection, and at night down lighting outside the window to increase the light level outside the window to create the same mirrored affect. These down lights would be turned on at the master controller's discretion.

Spaces where prisoners are allowed to congregate should be well lit by natural light, and should be psychologically non-damaging spaces. Several hours of outdoor recreation should be provided for daily.

To wrap this up in a county jail such as this project the prisoners or of the majority weekend drunks, and even at the worst there for up to a year. These people in most cases are good people, and deserve to be treated like human beings. Although an occasional more serious offender of the law will have to be kept there for a short period of time.
Making a Special Space Out of the Courthouse Section

This idea is what generated the rounding of the corner of the building at the corner of Warren and Franklin Streets, and the creation of a mass of glass which covers the atrium that attempts to appear as a force which is engulfed in the mass of brick which covers the courtroom's support space. This was done to try to get across the idea that the special purpose of that end of the building is in the back corner. The forty-five degree angle that the terracing forecourt areas, stairs, courtroom entrance, and the atrium cover are organized by was generated from the need to react to the existing Courthouse.
My Answers

COMFORT ZONE

This comfort zone is my reaction to the Warren Street traffic problem, by providing an atrium space along Warren Street. It also preserves the profile of a business district from the exterior. From the interior it is a waiting space for the governmental offices occupying that area, and a place to socialize, or discuss business.
 CREATION OF A GOOD PSYCHOLOGICAL ATMOSPHERE FOR THE PRISONERS

I hope to do this by the use of offset curvilinear walls which are different in each section of the jail, aiding of plants in controlled places, (on ceiling trellises, and in outdoor recreation areas), and by giving the congregating spaces plenty of natural light. With the use of the curvilinear walls which differ from one section of the jail to the next, the confusion that the prisoners are likely to experience when being moved back, and forth with in the facility should be held to a minimum. Another reason for the use of the curvilinear walls is that they are non-prison like.
Huntington County Municipal Center

My Answers

Dayroom and Cell Area
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My Answers

[Diagram of a building or structure]
My Answers

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Municipal Center
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Courtroom Design, James MacGregor Smith, National Clearinghouse for the Criminal Justice, Copyright 1976