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JUXTAPOSING ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS WITH SOCIO-EDUCATION TO REFORM YOUNG OFFENDERS.

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ABSTRACT

This article explores the juxtaposition of architecture and socio-education with the bid to adequately reform young offenders in our society. Since Architecture is primarily about the ordering of spaces, the architecture of any building (reform centers inclusive) should be a reflection of the purpose the building is meant to fulfill. Reform Centers was introduced into the fabrics of society to ensure that deviants are transformed thereby have a fulfilling future and henceforth add responsibly to the society. In recent times, socio-educational approach has equally been introduced into the arena of rehabilitation; placing emphasis on the need to create suitable environments that go beyond punishing offenders to influencing a change in their behavior and re-introducing them into the society. The built environment is one important environmental variable that determines activity and behavior of young offenders. Through research, it is observed that youngsters developed most delinquent behaviors in environments hostile to their nature. Family disturbances and problems (such as parental quarrels, parental addiction, parental unemployment, a history of a criminal conviction, and parental imprisonment) play a significant role in juvenile delinquency. Dropping out of school, unemployment, and poverty of parents, peer group, and neighborhood are essential reinforcing factors in delinquency. Sometimes, the behaviors are traced to areas where ingenuity is not appreciated; right moral education and observation are lacking. This study encapsulated the use of architectural elements of landscape, interior design, lighting, spatial arrangement, plants, color in juxtaposition with socio-education as reformatory tools. The study combined both quantitative and qualitative methods of research with visual surveys, observations and case studies to determine the suitable environment of reformation for young offenders. Findings from the study recommends environment capable of inducing positive perception in young offenders which are educational facilities, sporting facilities, landscape elements and recreational spaces. In summary, it is noteworthy that an investment in providing a suitable socio-educational environment for reformation of young offenders will lead to a healthy growth of the society.

***Keywords**: Reform center, Socio-education, Built environment, Behaviour, Architecture, Reformation, Young offenders.*

Introduction

Delinquency has been a problem since the existence of man. At a certain age young people tend to be on the edge and act unruly. This actions and behaviors spring up as a result of the economic, social, behavioral, biological and psychological factors and problems in the society. Youthful exuberance

is also is a condition that fuels delinquency and unacceptable behaviors among young persons; this factor can be biological and is quite normal. But proper guidance is needed at this stage for every young person so that the activeness is channeled into the right places. Juvenile delinquency poses a great challenge to the sustainable development of many nations. This is due to the large number of potentially productive children and youths who are incarcerated at one time or another. It is a pressing social problem which has detrimental, emotional, physical and economic effect (Tarolla, et al, 2002).

According to UNICEF, the current generation of young people is the largest in history. One out of every six people on the planet is between 10-19 years of age (Hoge, 2006). In Nigeria, the proportion of this young people is significantly high with the assertion by Idris and Ejikeme (2005) that 'young people aged 10-19 years, account for a major proportion of Nigeria's population thus making them force for profound change'.

According to an article by Folorunsho Fatai (2017); in every society, the youth are the greatest asset that any community can possess; potentially they are the greatest investment for a society's sustainable development and future. The youth population of any nation represents the driving force for development. However, for the youths to become useful resources, they must be gainfully employed and active. The youths are also the most volatile when their energies are misdirected or channeled into wrong endeavors.

A report in Adebayo Anthony, (2013) "Youths' unemployment and crime in Nigeria: revealed a "training school" for jobless youths as armed robbers at Ajegunle area of Lagos. The said training school includes planning strategies of co-operation, launching an attack and escaping with loots. Their ages range between eighteen and twenty – eight years. The training school also conducts interview for the recruit. It was also revealed that the training school is where the bandits prepare programmes on which area to raid and plan how to operate different types of fire arms and ammunition. Suspects were nabbed during their morning training session where they were working out modalities on a number of houses to be raided for the week (Daily Sketch, 1990; Aremu and Ahmed, 2011). Sadly, there are reports of crimes committed mostly by the youths at virtually every corner of the country. The family and society as a system of order have quite failed in their roles of shaping the lives of youth. Such that youthful exuberance overpowers rational thinking and the end result was not so pleasant.

The correctional facilities for young people have quite become a centre for brooding criminal and social miscreants in the society instead of a centre for rehabilitation and direction as these offenders are treated in such a way that they become hardened and angry. But the harsh realities remain in the large population of juveniles detained in adult prisons and the decrepit state of juvenile rehabilitation centre across Nigeria (Adetula, et al, 2010) while Tenibiaje (2010), adds that in spite the fact that rehabilitation centers are supposed to be a place for reformation and rehabilitation, these centers in Nigeria have become a place for punishment with little attention given to rehabilitation.

The environment in correctional facilities is considered as the least favorable. It aims at preparing inmates to come back to society at the same time isolating them from the outside world. Consequently these facilities damage the lives it is meant to repair. Most young

people are victims of these problems and for some; a deviant attitude is the reaction to these. Youth delinquency rates are growing higher also institutes for juveniles are being more demanded. This growth in the rate, as well as the absolute number of crimes has been accompanied by considerable public concern and the demand for new programs of prevention and treatment.

The enormity of this challenge calls for a sensitive approach which restores the young offenders to normalcy, rather than one which condemns them to final destruction. While some studies have looked at social, cultural and economic roots of this phenomenon (United Nations, UN, 2003; Hunte, 2006; Green et al, 2008; Simoes et al, 2008), others have advocated the abolition of detention or incarceration of young offenders in favour of community and family-based interventions (Holman and Ziedenberg, 2006) and residential placement (Schubert and Mulvey, 2013).

This is due to the unfriendly image and character of many of the juvenile rehabilitation centers, and the fact that many young offenders come out of these centers more hardened. However, while these centers still exist, it is important to pursue interventions that will help them to achieve their objectives. It is therefore vital to make juvenile rehabilitation centers truly rehabilitative rather than punitive. The built environment affects the actions of individuals and their subsequent behavior and attitudes (Villanueva, 2006), and the character of the built environment has the potential to exert either positive or negative pressure. Therefore, if the goal of juvenile rehabilitation centers is to instill positive attitudes and behaviors, towards reintegration into the society, more attention needs to be given to the character of their built environment. The built environment includes all structures created by people, including infrastructural elements (McClure and Bartuska, 2007). The built environment denotes the integrated built context in which individuals live and affects people in many ways in their attitude and behavior (Mazumdar, 2000). Pandey, et al (2010) summarized the built environment to be the physical attributes of colonies mainly the structural, environmental, proximity, infrastructure and service dimensions that make the primary component of built environment. Therefore both the good or bad environment will adversely affect the normal development of individuals (Malekpour, 2007).

Society will always try to correct bad behavior and try to bring abnormal behavior back to normal. Environmental interventions are proactive and culturally sensitive in nature and seek to prevent juveniles from engaging in problem behaviors by changing the environment in which the behaviors occur and teaching pro-social behaviors (Duda & Utley, 2005). Positive environmental interventions can also employed to help juveniles acquire the behavioral and social skills that they will need to succeed in an inclusive environment (Choutka, Doloughty & Zirkel, 2004; Lane, Pierson, & Givner, 2004; Lane et al., 2006). The built environment should be able to influence the behavior of juveniles positively and help in re-inserting them into the society as reformed individuals.

Furthermore, it has become a concern that the creativity, talents and vitality of young persons be properly harnessed through the right guidance.

Crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) is “the proper design and effective use of the built environment” which

"can lead to a reduction in the fear and incidence of crime, and an improvement in the quality of life" (Crowe, 2000).

The Architecture of Reformation emphasizes rehabilitation instead of punishment, prevention rather than retribution as the principle goals of the Juvenile Justice System (Partnership for Prison Reform, 2006). It preaches the replacement of youth prisons with a network of community based programs for empowerment, skill acquisition and proper knowledge and mindset change.

Among different penalty institutions that are in dispose of penalty and justice system for minors, the juvenile detention centers are the least effective, it comes about as a result of its isolated environment. The attempts to improve the process of rehabilitation have been undertaken already for a long time. Nonetheless its results are far from what is intended.

The role of the architect and even architecture itself in society today is changing. A lack of interest in critical social issues from a profession that holds such high responsibility within a community is a problem that should no longer be avoided.

Chase (1999) mentioned that the primary goal of corrections is safety for the community and for those housed and working within the facilities. Ekland-Olson (1986), stated that the increasing violence in prisons is as a result of poor prison management and control and more often than not this significant factor contributes to and promotes both individual and collective prison violence.

There is an urgent need therefore to rethink the underlying principles that governs and shape the prison infrastructural system and redevelop an effective architectural response that reflects a strong orientation towards the needs of the individual, with prominence placed upon rehabilitation rather than punishment. According to a British Politician and Prime minister of the United Kingdom of the 20th century, "We shape our buildings and afterwards our buildings shape us" (Winston Churchill, 1943).

Fairweather & McConville (2000), said that buildings affect people in so many ways. While some people are deeply influenced by their surroundings, others hardly will even notice their surroundings. They further stated that the physical, social and environmental conditions of the correctional facility can be improved by an understanding of the psychology of the users of the facility.

Bechtel & Churchman (2002), stated that environmental irritants such as noise, lack of privacy and territory, crowding, and lack of color can lead to aggressive behavior, particularly in individuals already prone to violence. Well-designed buildings are those which are fit for purpose. The design of buildings can impact directly and indirectly on health (De Young, 2013).

Aim of study

The study aims to highlight solutions resulting from integrated environment of architecture and socio-education serving as a tool to adequately bring about reformation of young offenders in their neighborhood and society.

Study Area

Anambra State is located in the South-East geo-political zone of Nigeria. Awka being one of the urban centres in the State also serves as the administrative hub and seat of power in the State. Awka is geographically located between latitudes 6°06` N and 6°15` N and longitudes 7°05'E and 7°15'E. The population of Awka was stated as 189, 654 thousand (96, 902 males and 92, 752 females)

in the National Population Census of 2006 (Samuel, O.I., et al, 2019).

Population

The use of census population figures in Nigeria has its problems shrouded with inconsistencies and controversies over the figures. For years, many have contested the accuracy of the census data for different parts of eastern Nigeria. Nevertheless, this study relied on the official population figures declared for 1991 census and 2006 to determine the population growth as well as other variables taking into account some of the reservations about the use of these data.

Awka Territory has witnessed one of the fastest population growths in the country. The annual growth rates witnessed in the area for the past sixteen years vary from 2.20% per annum for Orumba North to 6.47% per annum for Njikoka LG. The average rate of growth per annum for the area is 2.63% per annum. Both Awka North with its figure of 5.34% and Njikoka recording 6.47% are experiencing faster population growth rates when compared to the other LGs in the Planning Area (Table 1.1).

According to the 2006 census, the population of the six local Government Areas that make up the Awka Capital Territory is 1,003, 911, with an average annual growth of 3.17% per annum recorded during the past sixteen years.

Table 1.1: Population Growth of Awka Territory

Source: UN-HABITAT, 2009 (retrieved May 6, 2021)

Local Government	1990	2006	% Annual growth
Awka South	130,664	189,049	2.79
Awka North	60,728	112,608	5.34
Dunukofia	73,473	96,323	1.95
Njikoka	72,948	148,465	6.47
Orumba North	127,476	172,405	2.20
Anaocha	200,607	285,002	2.63
Total	665,896	1,003,911	3.17

Research Method

The study employed integrative design research which is a methodology for conducting research that involves collecting, analyzing and integrating quantitative (e.g., experiments, survey) with qualitative (e.g focus groups, interviews) research and description. Wilson (1998), opines that most of the issues that vex humanity daily – ethnic conflict, arms escalation, overpopulation, abortion, environmental destruction and endemic poverty, can be solved by integrating knowledge from the natural sciences with that from the social sciences and humanities. Data was studied from existing borstal institutions in the country, existing juvenile court cases in Nigeria, architectural elements evident in school environment. Case study of Special Correctional Center for Boys, Oregun-Ikeja, Lagos was studied and appraisal made on the architectural presence. Studies were equally made on various architectural elements (like landscape, interior design, light, space, plant etc) as architectural reformatory tools.

Case Study
SPECIAL CORRECTIONAL CENTRE FOR BOYS OREGUN



Plate I: Security Post and Main Entrance Gate of Special Correctional Centre for Boys.

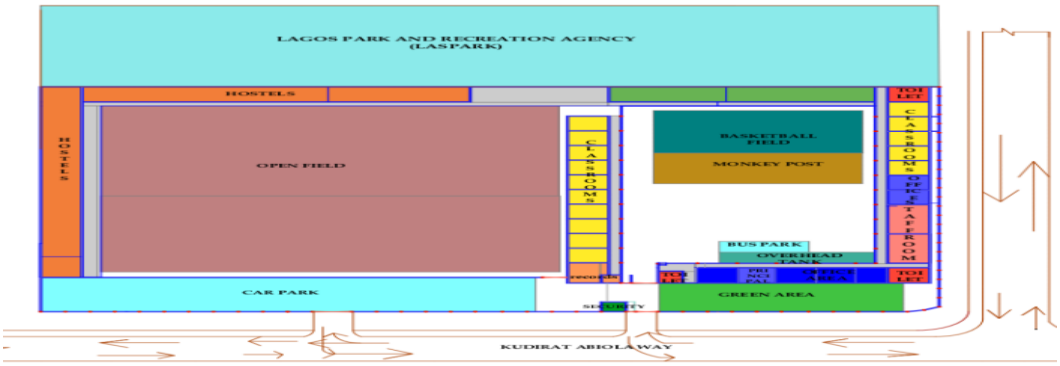


Figure 1: Layout Plan of Special Correctional Centre for Boys.

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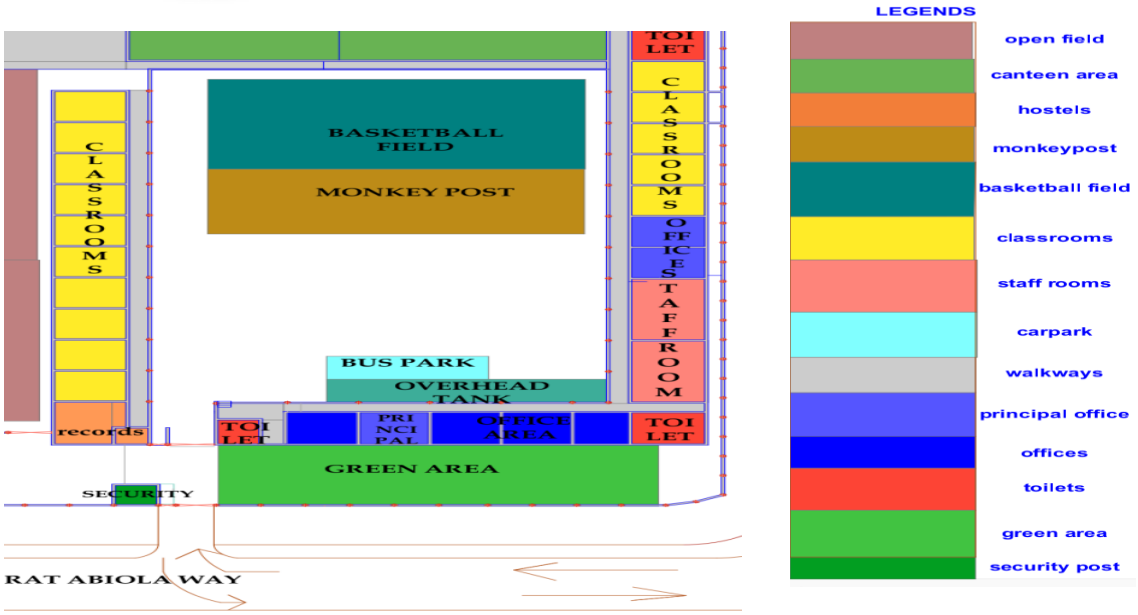


Figure 2: Space Partitioning of Special Correctional Centre For Boys.

LOCATION: The facility is located at no. 75a Kudiratabiola way and Opebi bye-pass, oregun-Ikeja Lagos.

CLIENT: Lagos State Government.

OVERVIEW: The Oregun Juvenile Corrective Home (Plate IX), formally called The Special Correctional Centre for Boys has over the years provided social services to children in Lagos. Its isolated entrance betrays the human presence and activities going on in the massive two plots of land which house thee home. The 39-year old corrective centre was designed to house and correct 'troublesome' children before they are allowed to rejoin the larger society.

The issue of a corrective home for delinquent children was mooted during the colonial era and was actualized in Lagos with the establishment of the remand home in 1942 on Lagos Island. The home was later moved to Sabo, Yaba and then to Oregun in 1976 where it is still situated and managed by the Lagos State Government through the Social Welfare Department. The centre was called a remand home until 2007 when the Lagos State government adopted the Child Rights Act and changed the nomenclature from remand home to special correctional centre.

”There was no school or vocational training at the centre when it was a remand home. Then, there was no intervention at all; the wards were just kept here. But now, any child that is brought to the home has to be in school, learn vocations and attend computer classes. All these interventions now make the home a special correctional centre so that if the wards leave the centre, they can be free of delinquent attitudes.” A senior official of the home told 'daily trust' correspondents.

The serenity, orderliness, positive attitude to learning and exhibition of decorum by students in the home are manifestations that their delinquency has not only being worked on by the authorities, but the society may have saved from a looming menace.

Also, most documents used in the school are produced at the printing section in order to deepen the knowledge of the students in printing and minimize cost. The school also

has a store, kitchen, dormitory, basketball and handball courts (Figure 1 and Figure 2), all of which re-creates and enhances the skills and abilities of the students.

Besides, the home boasts of a multi-purpose hall and a common room which sometimes serve as praying grounds for the Christians and Muslims among the students.

Admission into the home is through the courts in Lagos State, also admission into the home is guaranteed under the Child Rights Act. "Any ward that has to be admitted into the centre must have a legal backing with what is called Care Order which is gotten through the courts.

FACILITIES:

- 26 indoor learning spaces positioned around a central open court
- Series of outdoor learning areas
- Teacher's administration building
- Dormitory
- Store
- Kitchen
- Vocational Training
- Social Counseling Unit
- Record Unit
- Welfare Unit
- Common Room which sometimes serves as praying ground for Christians and Muslims among the students.
- Multi-purpose Hall
- Printing Sections
- Tailoring Sections
- Sporting facilities (basketball and handball court, football and soccer field).

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS: The building was constructed with largely block work, concrete and mortal work and the roof is of a gable, dutch roof wooden truss and was assembled on site. The interior and exterior walls were painted with text coat with tiled floor; most of the site was interlocked safe for the open field which has some green area and sand.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS: The simplicity of the building form in the centre makes it functional, non-institutional yet secure. It creates an environment conducive to reform, rehabilitate and educate. Great care was taken to select the best construction type, materials, wall and floor finishes to create an ambiance environment with low maintenance cost.

The centre is well equipped with facilities that enhance reformation, rehabilitation and possibly reintegration back into the society.

APPRAISAL:

i. Properly zoned.
ii. Presence of drainage gutter.
iii. The building is functional.
iv. Each of the building is connected with walkways (Plate II)
v. Lack of green area, the site is covered more with interlocks which reduces the natural beauty (Plate III).
vi. Absence of some ancillary facilities like Swimming pool, shops and business centers.
vii. Poor clinic or health centre facility for treatment of sick child.
viii. Poor landscaping and lack of clearly indentified connecting walkways.

CAPACITY: The number of children in the home at a particular time fluctuates, but there are currently 138 students with 10 social workers at the home.

The area of the site is 900 square meters which is 2 plot of land.



Plate II: Classroom Area for Learning at Special Correctional Centre For Boys.

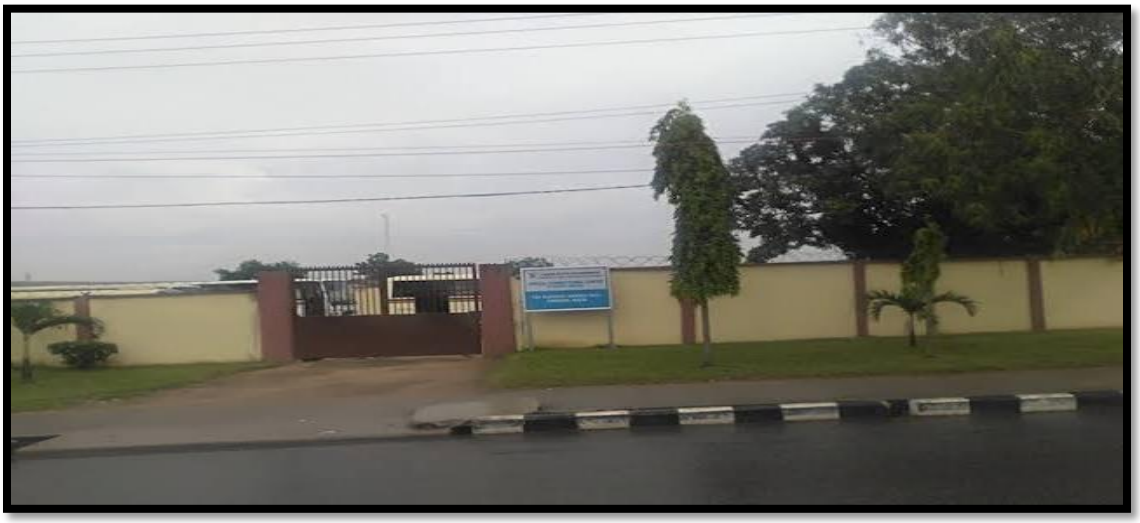


Plate III: A View showing from the Access Road of Special Correctional Centre For Boys.



Plate IV: Gate to Hostel Area of Special Correctional Centre For Boys.

Findings of the Study

The need for social rehabilitation for young offenders accounts for the establishment of Reform Centers that today serve as behavioural correctional institutions for boys (minors) who violate state laws. Reform Centers serve as mini-prison for young offenders between the ages of 16 and 21 (Ogundipe, 2011). Reform Institutions around the world have dual objectives. First, they are established to use education as an instrument of behavioural change or modification and secondly, to achieve a deviant free society (Haralambos & Holborn, 2008). Thus, rather than condemn the juvenile delinquents, they are referred through legal proceedings for treatment (Conklin, 2007).

The main philosophy behind the establishment of Borstal Institutions and Reform Centers is that children who are offenders can be reformed and prevented from getting involved in serious crimes if given a chance to change and not co-habit with hardened criminals. The idea is that if young offenders are housed in the same prison with adult criminals, they tend to learn more crime and become worse (Conklin, 2007).

As such, students of Reform Centers are often exposed to series of educational, skill acquisition and counseling programmes. The effectiveness of such exposure is derived from the built environment of the reform center, socio-educational values encapsulated in the architecture of the reform center. Architectural values studied and manifested in this study include the use of Landscape, Interior Design, Light, Space, Plant, Colour as tools.

Landscape as an architecture tool

In recent years, a great public awareness of the environment has strengthen the role of landscape design, hence, providing incentive for the creation of places where people can escape the ordinary relieve tired minds or block out distractions. The oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary refers to Landscape as "A Land therefore could be define as the art and science of arranging land and the Objects upon it for human use and enjoyment through the utilization of natural, cultivated and or

constructed element. It is an art insofar as it creates for people experience that uplifts their spirit, expand their vision and invigorate their lives. It is a science insofar as it deployment precise knowledge of its processes and materials. And it is directly related to an expression of nature, insofar as it incorporates nature materials and scenes.

- **The Elements Of Landscape Include:**

Topographical features like hills valleys and water bodies

Cultivated feature such as trees, grasses flower scrubs

Constructed feature like building, roads bridges fountains and statues

- **Functions of Landscape**

The function of the landscape are several and very important in the context of its design. Its function includes;

i. Landscape is used to enhance nature and to create natural settings for buildings, towns and cities.
ii. It can be used to enhance comfort, convenience and health within the Surrounding.
iii. It can be used to create microclimate within the landscape areas or surrounding.
iv. It can be used to control soil erosion in areas where the topography is irregular.
v. It can be used to break excessive wind flow, provide screens and demarcate areas of different functions.
vi. It can be used to create a buffer between quiet and noisy areas.

Interior Design as a tool

Many interior design techniques and approaches have been shown to reduce stress and depression. While making the connection between design and emotional stability is not new, recent studies have fortified the validity of these claims. Creating spaces for being together and being apart can increase mental health.

According to Chloe Taylor in Psychology Tomorrow magazine, "Although the bond between interior design and our emotions has gained much attention in the last decade, this form of environmental psychology exists for thousands of years now – the Indian Vastu Shastra, the Chinese Feng Shui, etc. Because of the rise of neuroscience, scientists are doing plenty of research on this topic and finding the most incredible results. They have shown the ability of interior design elements to evoke a positive or negative emotional response in people. These findings open the door to design spaces that consciously manipulate decorative elements with the goal of encouraging creativity, peace, and happiness."

While many elements of interior design have been associated with improved mental health, there are a few components that seem to be mentioned again and again. The effects of light, spaciousness, plants and flowers, natural elements and color have been extensively studied. When used correctly, each of these design elements can create an environment conducive to reducing stress, anxiety, and depression.

Light

A persistent lack of light can trigger sadness or enhance anxiety. Sunlight also seems to energize and motivate humans at home and work. A 2002 t and f online study reported that daylight was one of the most critical factors in increasing sales volume in retail settings.

Space

A sense of spaciousness can also elevate your mood. A study reported that people tend to be

more creative in rooms with higher ceilings, and their mood improves. However, the positive effects of spaciousness can also be achieved in spaces with lower ceilings. It seems that a sense of spaciousness is the one of the key components to happier places.

Clean, open spaces with minimal clutter facilitate better moods. This sense of openness can be achieved in almost any space with the right design, furniture, organization, and lighting.

Decluttering is the first step to creating spaciousness. Room layouts, furniture placement, storage solutions, and color schemes are significant contributors to a space that feels open and airy. Spaces that were easy to navigate and fostered social interaction reduced anxiety and feelings of being overwhelmed. In all room sizes, the use of furniture arrangement and the function of furniture pieces contributed to creating mentally healthy spaces.

Plant

Bringing nature into the home elevates moods, and one of the most effective ways to do with is through the use of house plants and flowers.

Many types of house plants are natural air filters, reducing allergens, and increasing air quality. They also increase the oxygen levels in the air, stabilize humidity, and look great. No wonder they help people feel more relaxed and more centered.

Flowers also provide mood-lifting benefits. In fact, flowers around the home can reduce the likelihood of depression and increase positive feelings. In addition to the aesthetic beauty they provide, flowers have a calming, relaxing effect on people. Of course, flowers are a beautiful addition to any space, but they also make people feel happier.

Colour

One of the most well-documented mood-altering design elements is color. For many people, color is a primary component of our world experiences. Researchers and interior designers have continued to review and revise their positions on the effects of color. In addition to psychological traits and benefits attributed to colors, each color's saturation and brightness are significant components in their emotional powers. Saturation refers to the pureness of the color. For example, less saturated colors have more grey or black in them. Steel blue is less saturated then true blue.

Brightness is based on the amount of white in the color, or how light a color seems. Bright colors are less saturated. These lighter, pale tones can have a relaxing effect. For example, true red is associated with anxiety, but a pale, blush pink, that is both less saturated and brighter, is a soothing color. Colors that is deeply saturated and less bright, such as an emerald green, can feel intense or energizing.

Conclusion

The saying "we shape our buildings and afterwards our buildings shape us" is a reality because architecture surrounds every human being on daily basis or better still it is not out of context to say that architecture is a very important part of life and there is a need to treat every detail of it with care. The influence of architecture on human behaviour could either encourage or discourage the creative or destructive process. One aim of this research is to design different factors in the physical environment that can be supportive psychosocially and as well heath promoting to juvenile delinquents. It is important to note that in making decisions concerning the built environment of an institution as this (socio-educational reform center), it is necessary to work with people

like educators, sociologists, psychologist, architects, landscape architects, doctors, behavioural scientists, health promoters, and other disciplines that are interested in building an environment that will help improve the inmates to be housed within the facility. In summary, it helps us understand that the building we design can impact on human behaviour in a very significant way.

Recommendations

The research established that the adequate integration of the above in reform centre will psychologically affect young offenders which will cause positive responses. Therefore adoption of all the architectural character identified in this research which include: landscape, space proportions, colour, lighting/day lighting, spatial form, material and construction, acoustics and natural environment will improve a young offender's well-being and facilitate her/his reintegration into the society. The study equally demonstrate that the provision of vocational training facilities, use of architectural character, clear sight lines, and adequate circulation within an environment can enhance the psychological and physical well-being of young offenders in our society. The provision of this study will enhance the following:

- **Community empowerment:** Establishing shared community goals and values through community organization and collaboration, collective resident leadership and control, establishing communities' political power and voice, fair and equal share of opportunities and resources, and mutual and shared responsibility and accountability.
- **Workforce development:** Establishing programs and partnering with organization geared towards providing residents with the skills, resources, tools and opportunities necessary to attain adequate employment.
- **Youth Opportunity and Developments:** Establishing programs aimed at youth's educational and personal development for success in school and life, through family involvement and community engagement, as well as providing ample recreational spaces for the youth to engage in leisurely activities in a safe and controlled environment.

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