

BEHAVIOR-BASED DESIGN FOR A  
PRISON LANDSCAPE

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PRISON LANDSCAPE

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
INTRODUCTION . . . . .	1
Format . . . . .	1
Premises . . . . .	2
Goals . . . . .	3
PART I: MAN-ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH. . . . .	4
Chapter I: Background . . . . .	4
Chapter II: Review of Literature . . . . .	9
Chapter III: Goals for Prison Landscape Architecture . . . . .	18
PART II: THE DESIGN . . . . .	20
Chapter I: Introduction . . . . .	20
Chapter II: Conner Profile . . . . .	24
History and the Built Environment . . . . .	24
Population Data . . . . .	30
The Site . . . . .	30
The Climate . . . . .	35
Chapter III: User Surveys . . . . .	37
The Inmate Survey . . . . .	37
The Officer Survey . . . . .	40
The Survey of Community Residents . . . . .	41
Summary and Conclusions . . . . .	42
Chapter IV: The Design Proposal . . . . .	45
The Concept . . . . .	45
Phasing Plan . . . . .	51
Implementation . . . . .	60
Chapter V: Discussion and Recommendations . . . . .	61
BIBLIOGRAPHY . . . . .	63

	Page
APPENDICES . . . . .	66
Appendix A - The Inmate Survey. . . . .	67
Appendix B - The Officer Survey . . . . .	72
Appendix C - Survey of Community Residents. . . . .	76

## LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
I. Design Solutions Chart. . . . .	49

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page
1. The Design Process Flow Chart . . . . .	22
2. Location Map. . . . .	25
3. Campus Plan Schematic . . . . .	26
4. Land Use and Circulation Patterns . . . . .	28
5. Utilities . . . . .	29
6. Contour Map . . . . .	32
7. Site Analysis . . . . .	34
8. Development Concept . . . . .	47
9. Number One Problem: Linking Spaces . . . . .	52
10. Planting Plan: Units A and C/D and F . . . . .	53
11. Planting Plan: Units G and J . . . . .	54
12. Planting Plan: Units K and M/N and Q . . . . .	55
13. Guidelines for Landscaping Unit Courtyards. . . . .	56
14. Planting Plan: Entry Sign. . . . .	57
15. Planting Plan: Entry Courtyard . . . . .	58
16. Planting Plans: Programs Courtyard and Dining Hall . . . . .	59

## INTRODUCTION

Corrections has emerged as an area which is in critical need of innovative environmental planning efforts which can serve as a supportive catalyst to the establishment of positive relationships between the criminal offender and society.

This statement by Bruce Hutchings of the University of Illinois appeared in the 1973 report of the National Student Competition on Correctional Architecture. To date, the "innovative environmental planning" has been addressed primarily by professionals in architecture and engineering.

It is the purpose of this study to focus on the design of the landscape as an integral part of the total prison community. Many of the newer prisons, not only in the United States but also in other countries, are built as campuses with residential and service buildings connected by outdoor spaces. These spaces are as important to the character and operation of the facility as are the buildings.

## Format

The project will be reported herein in two parts. Part I contains the review of literature on the relationship between human behavior and environment, and the implications of those findings for the design of a prison landscape. Insofar as generalizations are possible, the information may be applied to any prison. Part II details the design process and proposal, in text and drawings, for a specific, existing prison, Conner Correctional Center in Hominy, Oklahoma. It is a



medium-security, state-supported, all-male facility designed for 400 inmates in predominately rural Osage County. The nearest metropolitan area is Tulsa, 30 miles to the southeast.

### Premises

Three fundamental beliefs form the bases for the project. One is that any design profession must integrate into design concepts the pertinent information from the sciences of biology, sociology, psychology, and other fields. Knowledge of man and nature as parts of the same whole is essential.

Two, the designer must examine his own values and beliefs about a particular environment in which he has had no living experience of the conditions for which he must design.

Three, to be accountable, the designer must solicit input from the users of the environment, whether it be indoor or outdoor space. The client/user is often more than a single individual or group whose needs and wishes are to be met within the framework of a given site and budget.

When the site is that of a prison, there are three groups to be considered. The inmates are non-paying clients, the largest group of users. It is significant that they are not users by choice. The officers and staff are both paid users and paying clients. Their role in the prison social environment is probably the most critical to the success of achieving the system's goals. The third group are the taxpayers, especially those who live in the community where the prison is located. Their attitude toward the prison and willingness to support the system's goals and objectives is of vital importance. The needs and

wishes of all three constituencies must be ascertained then used as the basis for planning and design solutions.

### Goals

There are two specific goals for this project:

1. To present written goals and objectives for a plan of prison landscape architecture based on recent sociological studies, expert philosophical positions, and needs of the three constituencies: prison inmates, correctional officers and administrative staff, and the community in which the prison is located; by studying:

- a. the literature on the relationship between human behavior and environment;
- b. the theories and supporting programs for criminal corrections/rehabilitation;
- c. existing general characteristics of prison environments;

2. To design the landscape of Conner Correctional Center, as a model, based on the existing facility and the goals and objectives established through the study.

## PART I

### CHAPTER I

#### BACKGROUND

The American correctional system continues to struggle to achieve the goals established by the society it serves. Increasing numbers of dollars and personnel are being allocated at all levels of government to accommodate the correctional arm of the greater criminal justice system. Yet there are apparent diminishing returns on the increasing investment. It seems that only the immediate goal of removing offenders from society to prevent further crime is being achieved, but to a limited extent. It is estimated that only nine in 100 who are caught and found guilty are imprisoned.<sup>1</sup>

The goals of deterrence, correction, and rehabilitation are not being realized at an appreciable level. "The fastest growing segment of the American population is the criminal element," according to the Tulsa World newspaper.<sup>2</sup> From 1972 to 1982 the inmate population, in state and federal facilities combined, more than doubled from 370,653 to 794,933.<sup>3</sup> While this may reflect greater success in apprehension by law enforcement agencies, or higher conviction rates in the courts rather than a real increase in the crime rate or number of criminals, the effectiveness of threat of incarceration as a deterrent remains questionable. Some studies show that the rate of recidivism is also on the rise, which

indicates an apparent failure of correctional programs for many convicts.<sup>4</sup>

The causes of failure of the system to achieve its goals are perhaps as numerous as the repeat offenders. Not only the social history of the individual criminal but also the social climate of the prison may be a contributing factor. Just as criminal behavior is learned in a particular social climate of the home, neighborhood, and beyond, so also that criminal behavior may be reinforced in prison, which becomes the offender's home and community. Ronald Goldfarb, in his article entitled "American Prisons: Self-Defeating Concrete," expresses the opinion, "If the city slum is the high school of crime, prison is the university, and a colossally expensive one at that."<sup>5</sup>

The implication is that the inmate minimally-educated in the ways of crime learns from his more experienced fellow inmates the mastery of crime. The inmate's will to continue criminal activity may be influenced by the treatment he receives both from other inmates and from correctional officers. The latter group is an integral part of the social climate.

All social interaction and individual behavior occur in a physical setting. The physical environment of the prison itself may foster certain kinds of behavior by both inmates and officers. Although a direct and singular correlation is very difficult to prove, prisoners' demands in the wake of most prison riots reflect their perception of impoverished, inhumane living environments.

Since the beginning of the American prison system 140 years ago in Pennsylvania, various architectural designs and management policies have been adopted with the aim of alleviating tensions, achieving

rehabilitation, and reducing recidivism.<sup>6</sup> Even now the traditional facility is harsh, sterile in appearance, impersonal and noisy. In The Human Cage: A Brief History of Prison Architecture, Norman Johnston writes:

The history of prison architecture stands as a discouraging testament of our sometimes intentional, sometimes accidental degradation of our fellow man. Prison structures have continued to be built in a way which manages by one means or another to brutalize their occupants and to deprive them of their privacy, dignity, and self-esteem, while at the same time strengthening their criminality.<sup>7</sup>

While punishment and correction are demanded by society, the kind of environment in which that can best be achieved has not yet been discovered. Surely that varies with the offender. Research into the relationship between environment and behavior has been conducted extensively only in the second half of this century. Results to date have not yielded indisputable conclusions about the positive impact on human behavior of certain environmental characteristics. However, "there is almost universal agreement among researchers that inhumane environments are harmful."<sup>8</sup>

The attitude of the general public is unfavorable toward improving the physical surroundings for those who are incarcerated. The prevailing concept of punishment includes denial of physical, as well as social and emotional needs. Yet, in the words of Holahan, "the central question is not whether human beings can adjust to dire environmental conditions but rather what are the psychic and physical costs over the long run of such accommodations."<sup>9</sup>

It has been predicted that, between 1984 and 1994, \$4.7 billion will be spent on new prison construction in 44 states that have been court-ordered to expand and upgrade facilities.<sup>10</sup> Simple warehousing

will accommodate the growing numbers of convicts, but society's continuing expectations for correction will demand that more than just accommodation be provided. There will be opportunities in the new and renovated prisons to design for "a larger measure of decency that minimum standards require (and with) a dedication to reducing the stress of confinement for inmates and guards alike."<sup>11</sup> Progress toward achieving the goals of the system may be facilitated by proper design.

#### ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup>Eugene H. Methvin, "The Proven Key to Crime Control," Reader's Digest (May, 1986), p. 101.

<sup>2</sup>Tulsa World (February 16, 1987), p. A-8.

<sup>3</sup>"Riot to Riches: Oklahoma Prisons," Tulsa Tribune, tabloid, Summer, 1983.

<sup>4</sup>Stephen P. Klein and Michael N. Caggiano, The Prevalence, Predictability, and Policy Implications of Recidivism, Rand Corporation, August, 1986.

<sup>5</sup>Ronald Goldfarb, "American Prisons: Self-Defeating Concrete," Psychology Today (January, 1974), p. 20.

<sup>6</sup>Norman Johnston, The Human Cage: A Brief History of Prison Architecture (New York, 1973), p. 54.

<sup>7</sup>Ibid.

<sup>8</sup>Bruce Hutchings, National Student Competition on Correctional Architecture (University of Illinois, 1973), p. 25.

<sup>9</sup>Charles J. Holahan, Environment and Behavior: A Dynamic Perspective (New York, 1978), p. 164.

<sup>10</sup>"Slammers," Progressive Architecture (March, 1984), p. 93.

<sup>11</sup>"Jails and Prisons," Architectural Record (March, 1983), p. 81.

## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Early theorists on man-environment relationships supported the idea of "environmental determinism,"<sup>1</sup> a self-explanatory label. The human being was regarded as passive prey to environmental forces. Reaction against that idea led to the theory of "environmental possibilism,"<sup>2</sup> in which the environment was regarded as the medium which offered man both opportunities and limits. More recently, "environmental probabilism"<sup>3</sup> has proposed that environments offer many alternatives for action, and "the range of possible decisions and the probability of his making any one of them can be ascertained."<sup>4</sup>

For those who prefer to reduce theories to equations, Kurt Lewin created  $B = f(P,E)$ : behavior is a function of the person and his environment.<sup>5</sup> Ekehammer calls the same idea "interactionism."<sup>6</sup> The perspective has clearly moved from that of environmental control to environmental influence.

The bulk of research on these theories seems to have been done in the last few decades and on noncriminal populations in "open" settings such as neighborhood parks and recreation areas, high-rise urban housing, college campuses and megadorms, and urban plazas.

A prison, however, is a unique social and physical institution. As a "closed" environment, "it is one that holds the inhabitants on a reconstructed 24-hour schedule."<sup>7</sup> As the inmate's microworld, it must be



equipped to serve all his needs. It is, by program definition, "a total community; the setting is total, absolute, comprehensive, and immutable,"<sup>8</sup> in the words of William Nagel who conducted a team evaluation of the nation's prisons for the Institute of Corrections in 1973.

In addition, the belief in the uniqueness of the criminal character complicates research efforts and prevents the generalization of conclusions to the population as a whole. In exploring reasons for failure of prison rehabilitation efforts, Robert Joe Stout points out that "behavior modification in noncriminals has been achieved to an impressive extent while this has not been the case with criminals."<sup>9</sup> Their behavioral responses do not in all cases conform to societal norms.

Nonetheless, in the dearth of conclusive evidence of the relation between certain inmate behaviors and the environmental characteristics of a prison, and with the belief that not all prisoners have criminal minds, the theories and research findings for noncriminal populations must be explored. While it may not be totally valid to apply those to all prisoners, there is both validity and necessity in applying findings to design of the work setting for correctional officers and support staff.

In Design for Human Affairs, C. M. Deasy cites three primary ways in which behavioral settings are either a help or a hindrance:

1. they influence the stress we experience in accomplishing our group or personal goals;
2. they influence the form and nature of our social contacts; and
3. they influence our feelings of identity and self-worth.<sup>10</sup>

In determining the qualities of environment which exert positive, helpful influence on behavior, it is recognized that a criminal's group or

personal goals may not comply with those deemed worthy by society. The form and nature of their desired social contacts may also be unacceptable to noncriminal society. Yet the stress factor remains when goals and desires are thwarted. Certain behaviors can then be expected.

To further assess the causes of stress that may result from a behavioral setting, Irwin Altman focuses on four key conditions: privacy, personal space, territoriality, and crowding.<sup>11</sup> The first three conditions are satisfied to a very limited degree, if at all, in most prisons. Privacy and personal space may be available to the small number who occupy cells alone. Most often the situation is one of overcrowding and lack of privacy.

Perception of crowding and absence of privacy results as much from the apparent lack of opportunity to choose solitude or contact as from actual numbers and closeness of other people. Rudolf Moos observed that "aggressive behavior may increase as the number of people who are required to interact with each other increases."<sup>12</sup>

An opposite but still common response to undesired crowding is "cocooning," or mental withdrawal from reality.<sup>13</sup>

Other conditions of environment which may influence behavior are temperature extremes, excessive noise, sensory deprivation, absence of order, monotony, and lack of opportunity to control one's own environment. Urban riots in the summer are an example of the hostility and violence that are released in excessive heat. Tensions and greater disagreement may occur under noisy conditions.<sup>14</sup> Inability to concentrate may result from environmental disorder. Paul Keve, in Prison Life and Human Worth, points to psychosomatic illness as a common

by-product of the "colossal boredom," "pettiness," and "repetitive meaningless activities" that are inherent in prison existence.<sup>15</sup>

There appear to be numerous hindrances and a paucity of helps for positive behavior and fulfillment in most prison settings. However, the American Correctional Association published in 1981 Standards for Adult Correctional Institutions which reflect an appreciation for the qualities of environment that may affect positive behavior. Among the "essential" standards for accreditation of a prison by the ACA is sensory stimulation provided by "variety in terms of space, surface textures, and colors."<sup>16</sup> While this is not a "mandatory" standard, it does indicate respect for human behavior-environment interrelatedness.

The quality of prison environment is not to be taken lightly.

What functions poorly in the free world may be inconvenient, uncomfortable, and uneconomic; but what functions poorly inside a prison can be, and frequently is, deadly. A poor light source generates resentment through chronic irritation; a security gate becomes an instrument of repression; a hidden stairwell becomes the setting for rapes and muggings; a long, dank corridor diminishes the aspirations of a new day.<sup>17</sup>

The threat of physical danger greatly compounds the psychological effect of the drab prison environment. In the decade from 1970 to 1980, nearly 100 inmates and correctional officers were killed in California prisons.<sup>18</sup> At the world's largest prison in Michigan, there were seven murders in 18 months.<sup>19</sup> Within the prison subculture, the justice of aggressive, self-appointed inmate leaders seems often to prevail.

While physical security is a necessary element for stress reduction and "normalization" of living conditions as described in Design Guide for Secure Adult Correctional Facilities,<sup>20</sup> a sense of some control over one's own environment is necessary for the fulfillment of a human being in any setting.<sup>21</sup> In prison there is little, if any, freedom to make

changes or choose alternatives in the environment. Alfred Gilbert calls this

. . . overdetermination: the narrow definition of choices, space, movement, and responsibility: a physical setting that is limited and monotonous, with a highly explicit context, through which movement is predictable and regimented.<sup>22</sup>

In the evaluation of a design in terms of its "fit" for the users, there is evidence of a direct relationship between the users' involvement in the planning and implementation and the success of the project. When users are surveyed to determine their needs and wishes, rather than the designer imposing his own values and concepts, then the design solutions are more satisfying to them.<sup>23</sup> Randolph Hester, given a Research Merit Award by the American Society of Landscape Architects in 1986 for his book, Neighborhood Space, argues that "uncovering the unique concerns of a given neighborhood through participatory techniques is the key to designing socially suitable spaces."<sup>24</sup>

If the prison can be considered a "neighborhood," then the participation of prisoners and correctional officers in planning for their own environment may effect positive behavior among them. Robert Sommer notes that "surveys among the underdogs of society are doubly important since they are the ones most likely to feel powerless and alienated from decision-making."<sup>25</sup>

Some broad generalizations have been made about prison environments and both individual and group behaviors within. It is recognized here that some of those generalizations do not apply to some prisons and prisoners. However, the literature to date indicates that the research findings can be generalized to the vast majority.

In reviewing literature specifically on the relationship of man to outdoor environment, in which the unique features are plants--alive,

dynamic, and essential to all of life--there are many articles in which the merits of horticulture as therapy are explored. Human fulfillment and stress reduction are two possible results of people/plant proxemics, the continual association of man with plants.<sup>26</sup> Sociologist Edward O. Wilson believes that gardening "provides a fuller appreciation of one's own potential in life, and a means of communicating deeper values to people in a hostile environment."<sup>27</sup>

Charles Lewis of the Morton Arboretum in Illinois considers gardening as a "readily implemented technique for easing stress, developing beneficial attitudes and enhanced social patterns in human environments."<sup>28</sup>

Robert Meese, a prisoner himself, observed the soothing effect that plants had on both inmates and staff. "When tempers did start to flare due to the tension of constant confinement, a couple hours' work in the garden made pacifists of potential battlers."<sup>29</sup>

Gardening opportunities have the potential not only for emotional and physical therapy but also for sensory stimulation and vocational education. Jackson State Prison in Michigan, largest in the world, has a renowned horticultural rehabilitation program called "Bootstraps" which provides new skills and knowledge to help reintegrate prisoners into the free world.

The directions for design of an "open" setting are clearer than those for a "closed" prison environment. Much is still unknown about the impact of certain environmental conditions on human behavior. Although the number of variables to be considered is overwhelming, the importance of the issue will continue the current momentum in research efforts.

If it is accepted that the purpose of environmental design is to facilitate positive human interaction and individual fulfillment, then it is imperative that designers take into account not only aesthetics but also current theories and expert opinions in areas that will affect, or be affected by, their design decisions. Also important, as the literature indicates, is the involvement of the users in the planning process.

#### ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup>J. Douglas Porteus, Environment and Behavior: Planning and Everyday Urban Life (Massachusetts, 1977), p. 135.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 137.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., p. 138.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid., p. 142.

<sup>6</sup>B. Ekehammer, 1974, quoted in Charles J. Holahan, Environment and Behavior: A Dynamic Perspective (New York, 1978), p. 170.

<sup>7</sup>Clovis Heimsath, Behavioral Architecture (New York, 1977), p. 19.

<sup>8</sup>William Nagel, The New Red Barn: A Critical Look at the Modern American Prison (New York, 1973), p. 177.

<sup>9</sup>Robert Joe Stout, "Why Rehabilitation Hasn't Worked," in David Bender (ed.), America's Prisons (St. Paul, 1980), p. 102.

<sup>10</sup>C. M. Deasy, Design for Human Affairs (New York, 1974), p. 45.

<sup>11</sup>Irwin Altman, The Environment and Social Behavior (Monterey, 1975), p. 3.

<sup>12</sup>Rudolf Moos, The Human Context: Environmental Determinants of Behavior (New York, 1976), p. 404.

<sup>13</sup>Robert Sommer, 1969, quoted in C. M. Deasy, Design for Human Affairs (New York, 1974), p. 31.

<sup>14</sup>Moos, p. 405.

<sup>15</sup>Paul Keve, Prison Life and Human Worth (St. Paul, 1974), p. 15.

<sup>16</sup>Standards for Adult Correctional Institutions (January, 1981), p. 33.

<sup>17</sup>Nagel, p. 177.

<sup>18</sup>David Bender (ed.), America's Prisons (St. Paul, 1980), p. 57.

<sup>19</sup>Ibid.

<sup>20</sup>Design Guide for Secure Adult Correctional Facilities, 1983, quoted in Designs for Contemporary Correctional Facilities (Maryland, 19859), p. 2.

<sup>21</sup>Abraham Wandersman, "Applying Humanism, Behaviorism, and a Broader Social Developmental View to Understanding and Researching the Design Process," in Lawrence Ward (ed.), The Behavioral Basis of Design (Pennsylvania, 1976), p. 16.

<sup>22</sup>Alfred Gilbert quoted in "Pushing Prisons Aside," Architectural Forum (March, 1973), p. 33.

<sup>23</sup>Deasy, p. 138.

<sup>24</sup>Randolph Hester quoted in Landscape Architecture (Sept./Oct., 1986), p. 102.

<sup>25</sup>Robert Sommer, Personal Space: The Behavioral Basis of Design, (New Jersey, 1969), p. 94.

<sup>26</sup>Patrick Horsbrugh, quoted in Charles A. Lewis, "People/Plant Proxemics: A Concept for Human Design," in Lawrence Ward (ed.), The Behavioral Basis of Design (Pennsylvania, 1976), p. 105.

<sup>27</sup>Edward O. Wilson, "Getting Back to Nature--Our Hope for the Future," Household Garden (February, 1976), p. 65.

<sup>28</sup>Charles A. Lewis, "People/Plant Proxemics: A Concept for Human Design," in Lawrence Ward (ed.), The Behavioral Basis of Design (Pennsylvania, 1976), p. 102.

<sup>29</sup>Robert Neese, "Prisoner's Escape," Flower Grower (August, 1959), p. 40.



## CHAPTER III

### GOALS FOR PRISON LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

The following goals for the design of a prison landscape result from the investigation of literature and information from survey research, as noted above.

1. To establish an outdoor environment which
  - a. communicates positive messages to inmates, officers and visitors through "beautification" of the surroundings;
  - b. alleviates stress for officers and inmates by
    - 1) ameliorating climatic extremes, and
    - 2) minimizing barriers to communication, job performance, and social interaction;
  - c. reinforces positive behavior by
    - 1) creating expectations of positive action, and
    - 2) reducing opportunities for negative, destructive behavior.
2. To design outdoor spaces which will facilitate staff supervision and interaction with inmates by maintaining a direct line of sight from control stations.
3. To provide for efficient and easily-controlled movement by
  - a. eliminating blind spots, and
  - b. creating circulation routes within full view of control stations.

4. To accommodate program goals with flexible, multi-use spaces, adaptable to the changing population and its needs.

5. To provide, for individual appreciation, beauty and sensory stimulation through the use of color, variety, and texture in the natural elements of the landscape.

Specific objectives for accomplishing the goals must be determined in respect to the unique site characteristics and design program for each project.

Part II, following, illustrates the application of behavioral research findings reported in Part I, in addition to site-specific and user-survey information, to the design for the landscape of Conner Correctional Center in Hominy, Oklahoma.

## PART II

### CHAPTER I

#### INTRODUCTION

Each project is unique in at least two basic ways: the site itself, its constraints and opportunities for development; and the design program defined by Constance Perin as "the statement of the inhabitants' requirements that have been developed out of research conducted with reference to contemporary theory in personality, culture, and social organization."<sup>1</sup>

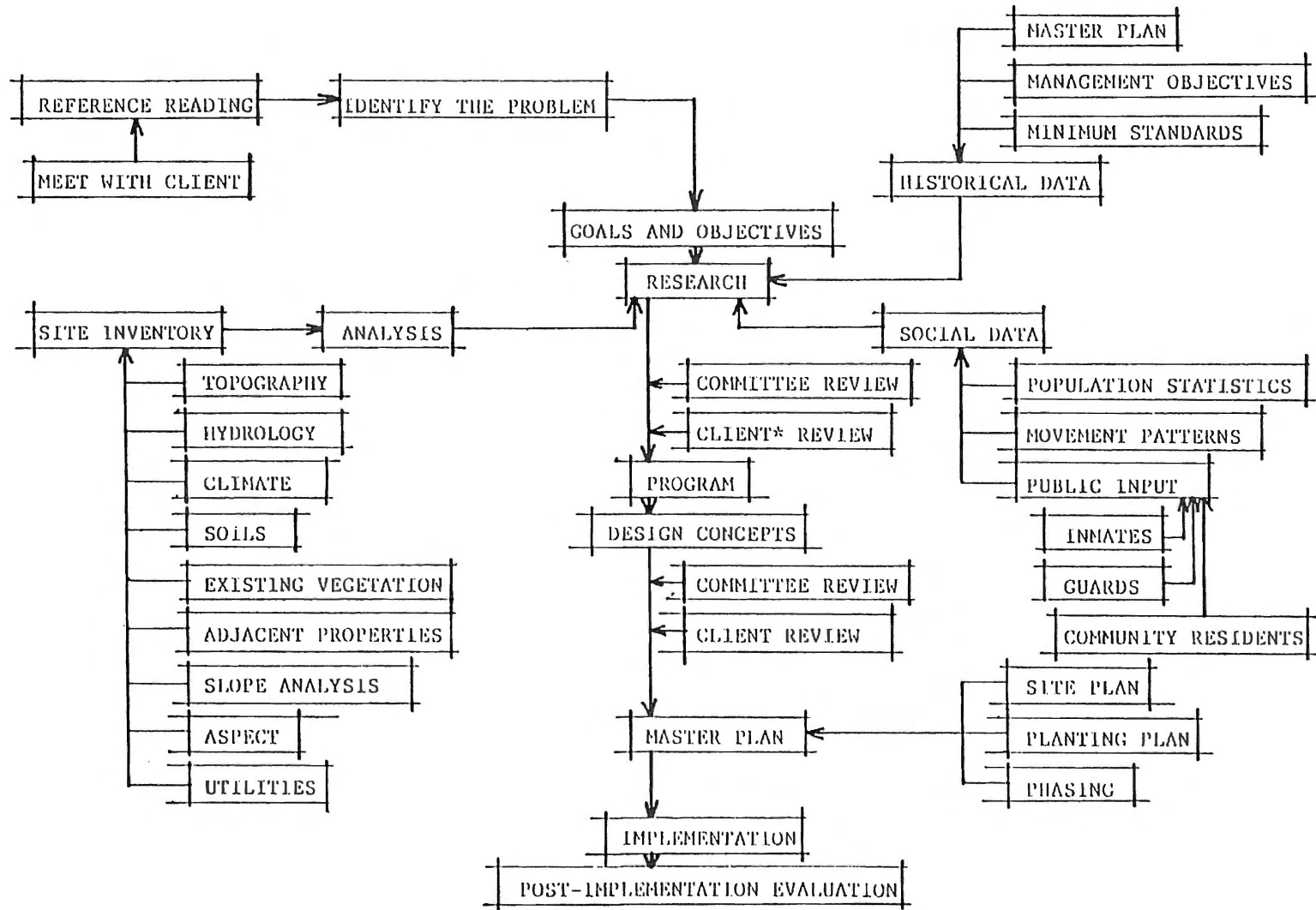
To uncover and assess, in a complete and orderly way, the uniqueness of Conner Correctional Center and its population, the following flow chart, Fig. 1, was developed. It is similar to the process used in reaching any landscape design solution. The critical step of determining the constituencies and involving them in the planning was described earlier.

In the case of prison design, the implementation step may be as crucial to the success as user involvement in the planning. For the inmate population, participation in the planning, implementation, and maintenance may all prove to be part of the treatment component of the contemporary system.

The final step is post-implementation evaluation, often omitted in projects, but very important to determining future goals and objectives. To learn from experience is to first know what the mistakes were.

The evaluation will be conducted in the early part of 1988 in the same way the initial inmate and officer surveys were done. The instruments will be developed with the assistance of the Oklahoma State University Department of Sociology.

# The Design Process



\*Client refers to representatives of three constituencies.

Fig. 1. The Design Process Flow Chart

ENDNOTE

- <sup>1</sup>Constance Perin, With Man In Mind (Cambridge, 1970), p. 63.

## CHAPTER II

### CONNER PROFILE

#### History and the Built Environment

A brief prison history and profile are included for purposes of describing the context in which design decisions were made and of providing means of comparison with other prisons.

Conner Correctional Center is a medium-security facility, one of 11 major institutions under the management of the Oklahoma Department of Corrections. It was built in 1978-1979 on 70 acres purchased from the Osage Indians in the northeast quadrant of the state, three miles north of the town of Hominy. See Fig. 2.

The "campus plan," presented schematically in Fig. 3, was used in the design and layout of the facility. Twelve residential buildings are grouped in pairs with each pair sharing a support building which houses meeting and recreation rooms. Administrative and service areas, including laundry, kitchen, dining hall, programs department, visitors' room, detention unit, barber shop, gymnasium, clinic and canteen, are housed in central buildings at the core of the complex. A greenhouse, athletic field, and training building are situated nearer the periphery.

Three levels of security exist. The first is the individual cell. Second is the unit cluster, including two residences and a support building enclosed by a combination of walls and chain link fence. The perimeter security, which encloses approximately 35 acres, is a double

# CONNER CORRECTIONAL CENTER

## LOCATION MAP

DATA BY EC - OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY (1-17-64)

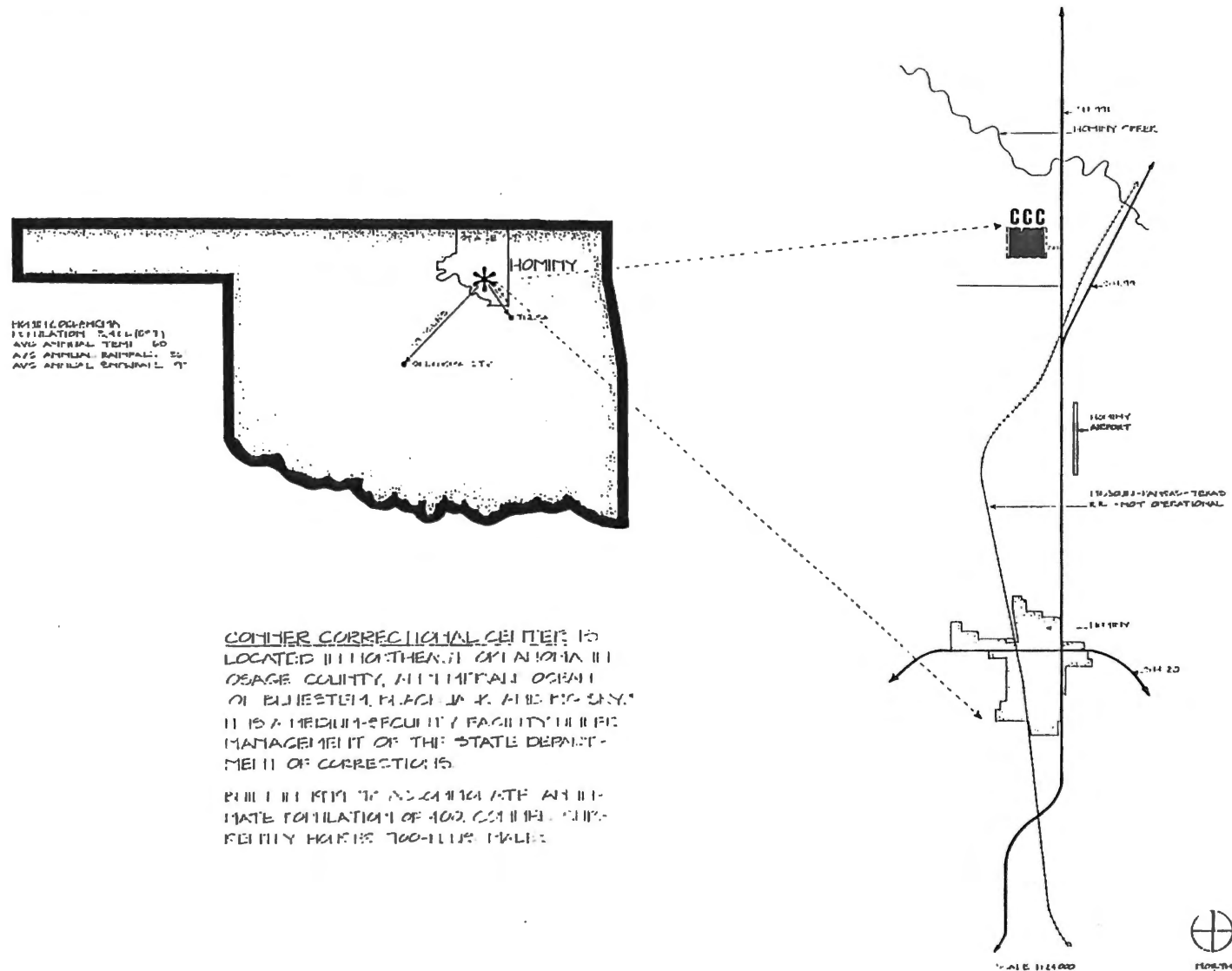


Fig. 2. Location Map



CONNER CORRECTIONAL CENTER  
Hominy, Oklahoma

KEY:

- 1 - Housing Unit "A"
- 2 - Support Building "B"
- 3 - Housing Unit "C"
- 4 - Housing Unit "D"
- 5 - Support Building "E"
- 6 - Housing Unit "F"
- 7 - Housing Unit "G"
- 8 - Support Building "H"
- 9 - Housing Unit "J"
- 10 - Housing Unit "K"
- 11 - Support Building "L"
- 12 - Housing Unit "M"
- 13 - Housing Unit "N"
- 14 - Support Building "P"
- 15 - Housing Unit "Q"
- 16 - Core Administration Building "R"
- 17 - Kitchen & Laundry "S"
- 18 - Gymnasium "T"
- 19 - Dining Hall
- 20 - Tower
- 21 - Warehouse & Cold Storage
- 22 - Storage
- 23 - Metal Fabrication & Warehousing
- 24 - Garment Factory
- 25 - Training Building
- 26 - Warehouse
- 27 - Garage
- 28 - Housing Unit "V"
- 29 - Housing Unit "W"
- 30 - Support Building "X"
- 31 - Refuse Dump
- 32 - Greenhouse
- 33 - Employee/Visitor Parking Lot

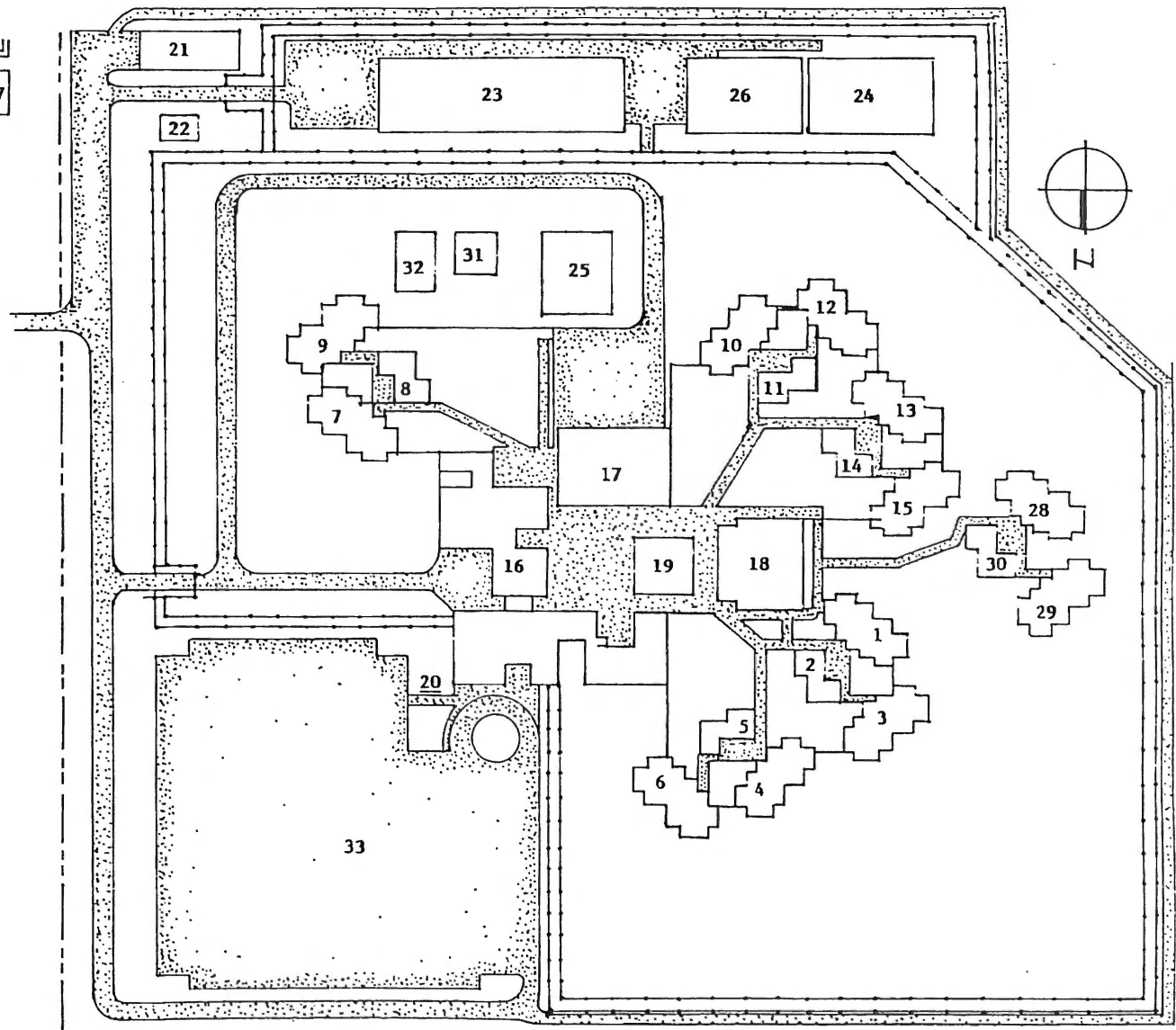


Fig. 3. Campus Plan Schematic

row of chain link fence with razor wire both on top and at ground level in between rows. Microwave movement sensors are also located between fence rows. Twenty-four hour surveillance of the compound is provided from a single guard tower and a mobile unit which patrols the perimeter. Of vital concern are two areas referred to as "blood alleys," out of sight of the guard tower, where violence occurs: to the west of the gymnasium and the kitchen.

A riot in September, 1982, resulted in much destruction. However, repairs and renovations made within the following year, and throughout the system's facilities in the previous ten years, met the requirements for American Correctional Association accreditation. The Oklahoma system was one of only two in the country that had achieved full accreditation by 1983.

For graphic details of existing land use and circulation patterns, see Fig. 4. Note location of utilities in Fig. 5.

# CIRCULATION & LAND USE

**CONNER** CORRECTIONAL CENTER  
HOMINY, OKLAHOMA  
LOGSMECH. 1964 SCALE 1" = 50'

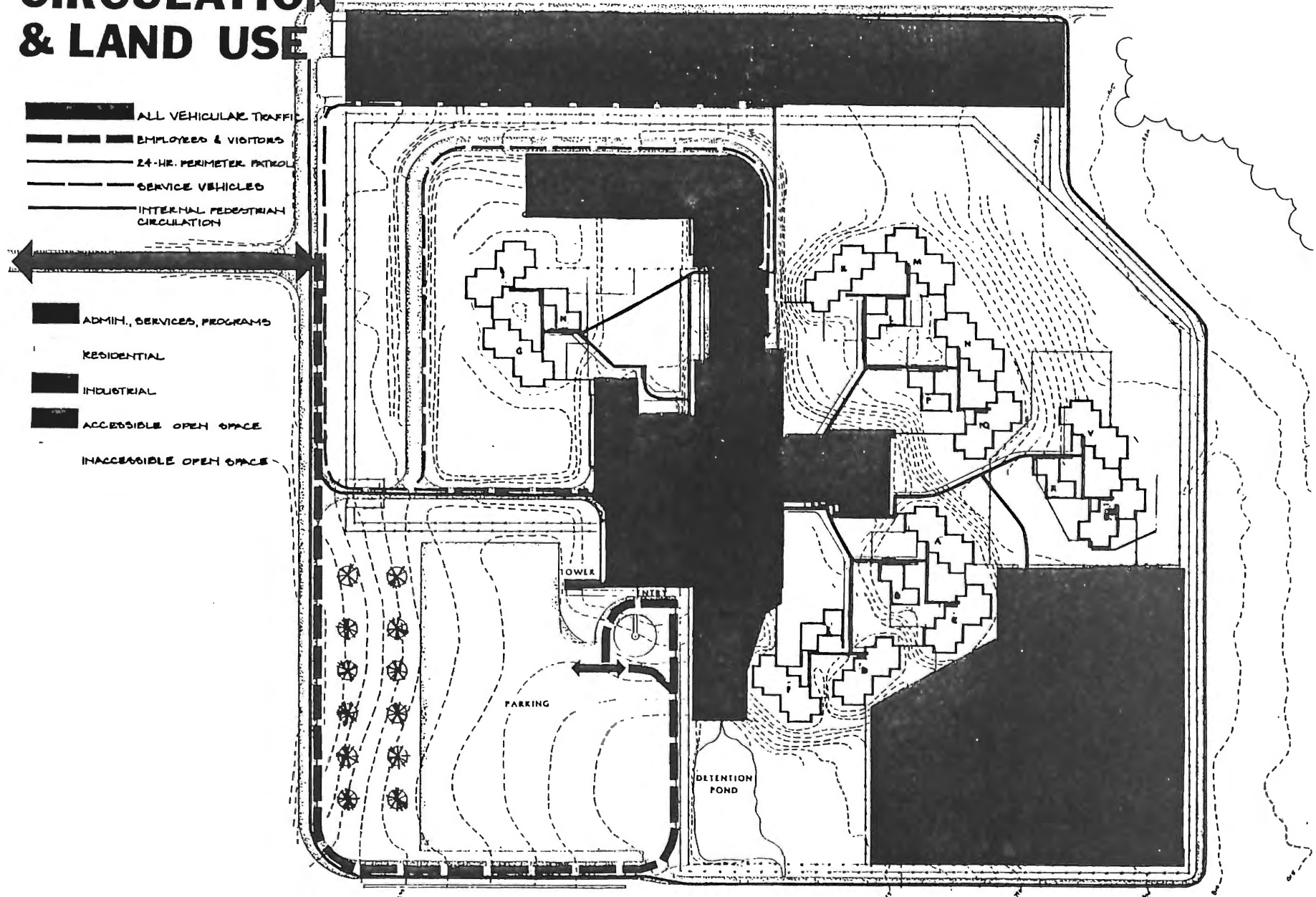


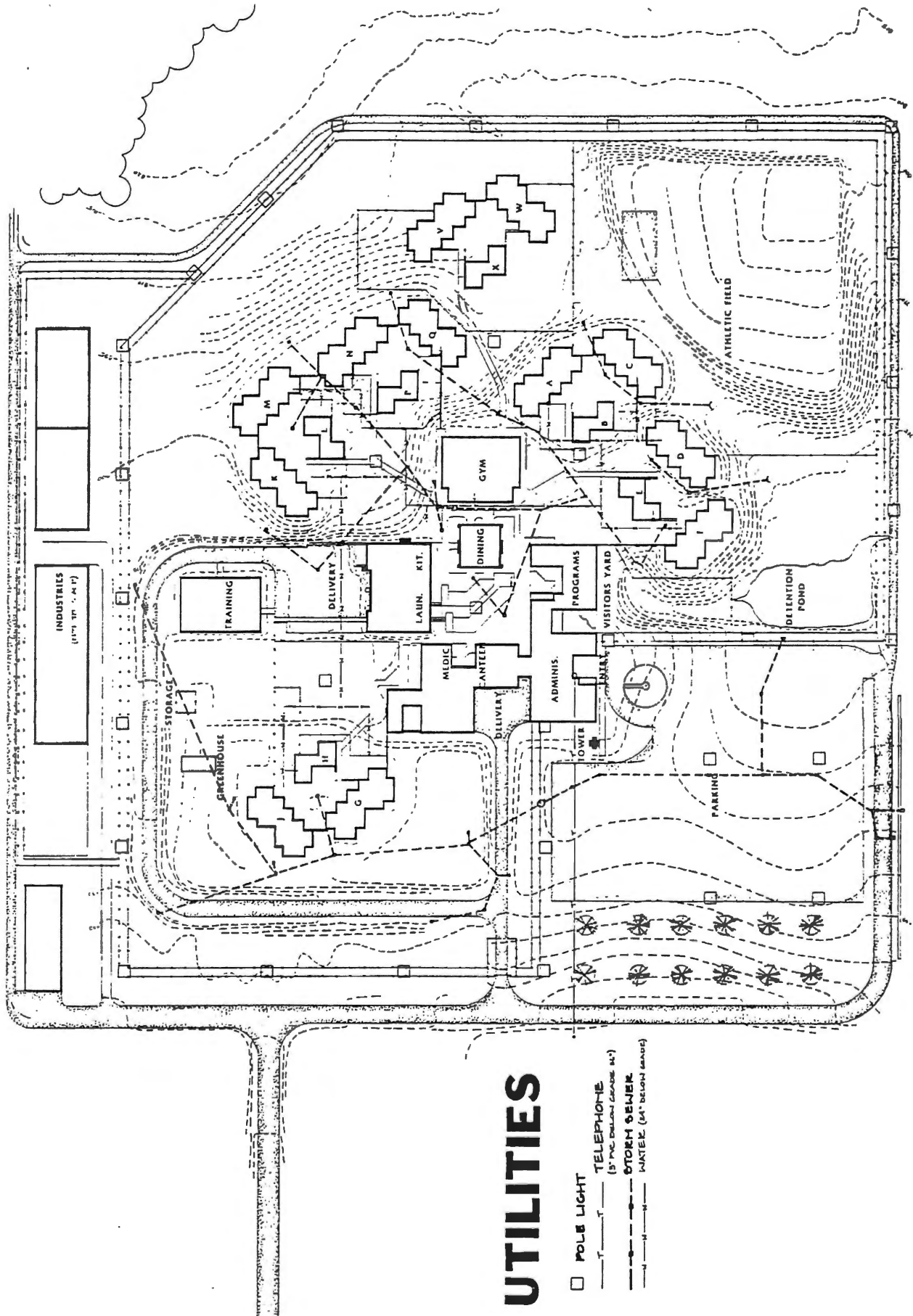
Fig. 4. Land Use and Circulation Patterns

# CONNER

HO-111111 OKLAHOMA



CONNER CORRECTIONAL CENTER  
TULSA, OKLA. 74101  
SCALE 1" = 50'



## UTILITIES

- POLE LIGHT
- TELEPHONE  
(15' BELOW GROUND)
- STORM SEWER  
(48" BELOW GROUND)
- WATER (48" BELOW GROUND)

Fig. 5. Utilities

### Population Data

In 1987 the state scene appears to be much the same as it was in the 1970's before widespread rioting: overcrowding, much idleness, boredom, restlessness. Although Conner was built to accommodate 400 male prisoners, the population at the time of this study was 743. Most are repeat offenders. One hundred twenty-four work in three prison industries located immediately outside the perimeter fence. Many more would like to work there. Sixty-six go to school inside the compound. Seventy-one "trusties" have jobs outside the fence. Approximately 95 participate in regular art, music, and religious programs combined. A large number are enrolled in drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs.

Conner's inmate population is steadily increasing. The governor has recently invoked an emergency law for early release of some prisoners to alleviate the overcrowding.

In the spring of 1987, a new unit management policy will be implemented. According to Warden Tom White,

This management concept is designed to provide better services to the inmates living in the unit by creating a unit team that will have the authority and responsibility to make many of the decisions that impact the inmates residing in the unit.<sup>1</sup>

### The Site

The landscape is rural, a broad open area of grassland bordered on the west by a rise dotted with cedar trees, an oil pump, and abandoned car bodies and other equipment, parts of which are used in repairs and replacements within the prison physical plant. The north field beyond the perimeter security road slopes toward tree-lined Hominy Creek in the distance. A sewage pumping station is situated in the open field.

To the south, immediately outside the security fence, are three industrial buildings which obscure the view beyond, to the proposed Osage Industrial Park. The homes of the warden and assistant warden are situated in a large field to the east and in full view of the prison. Unsightly mobile homes line the access road, on the side opposite the warden's home.

The predominant descending slope, as shown on the contour map, Fig. 6, is to the northeast where a detention pond within the perimeter fence receives runoff from the land and from an underground storm sewer system. Overflow from the detention pond spills onto the perimeter patrol road and into a drainage ditch that borders the north property line.

Ducks and geese inhabit the area of the detention pond. The presence of wildlife is an attribute to the environment. It provides visual interest for the inmates.

The central yard is predominately concrete paving with a few small but pleasant planting areas used mostly for flowering annuals. There is little color variety in the winter.

The outdoor spaces which link the residential units to the core buildings are stark and uninteresting. Within the last six months, extensive excavation has been done to replace deteriorated water pipes, especially in these linking spaces. Therefore, much of the disturbed, ashen-brown, rocky soil has no plant cover. The slope of the land and the pedestrian traffic on the slopes have allowed erosion to occur. The results of a soil test indicate, however, that the levels of individual chemicals in the soil are within normal ranges for a productive soil.

Unit courtyards vary greatly in their landscape treatment from colorful, interesting and well-maintained, to unsightly.

# CONNER CORRECTIONAL CENTER

1101 WEST OKLAHOMA AVE. OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA. 73101

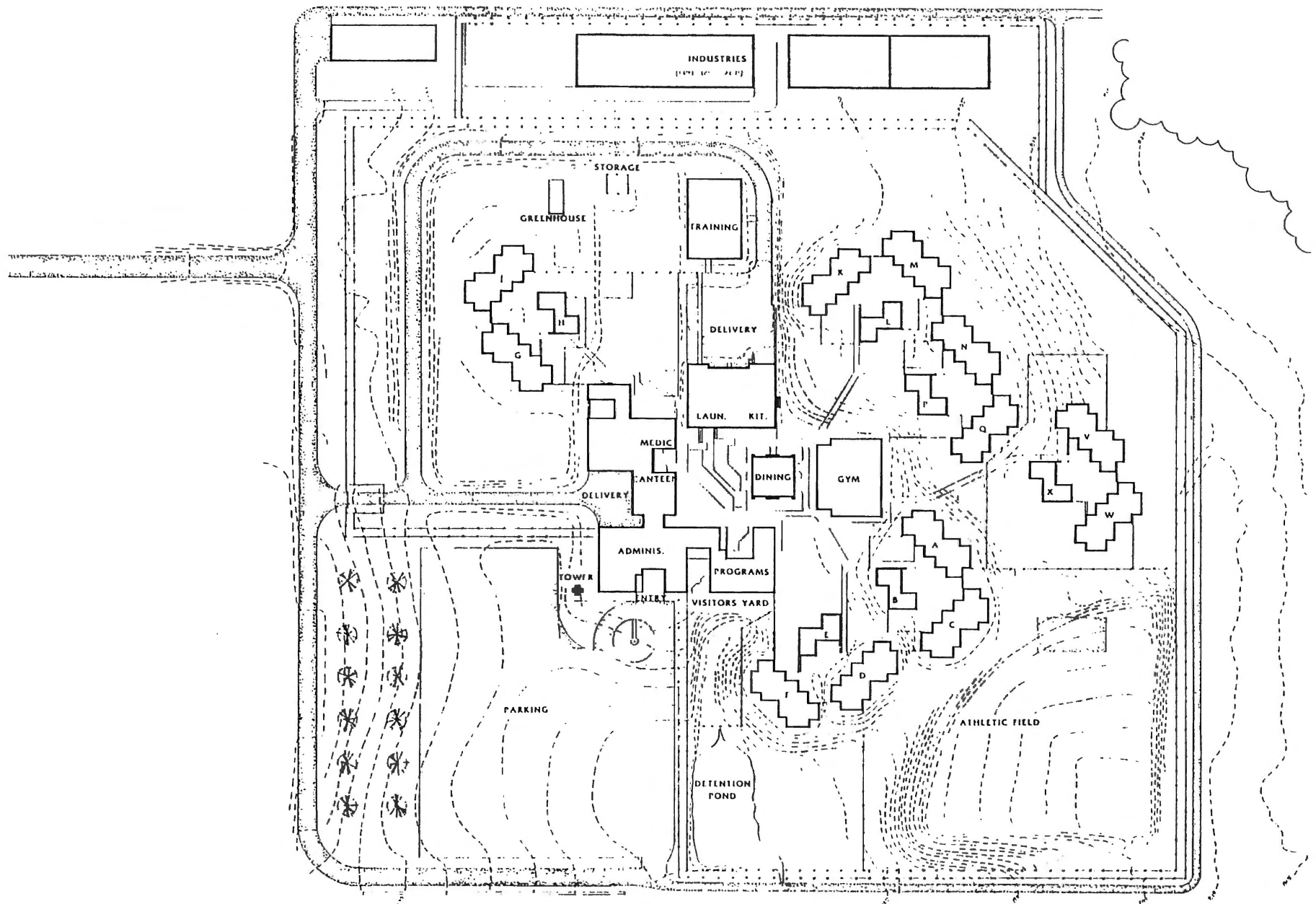


Fig. 6. Contour Map

The athletic field in the northwest corner is fully exposed to chilling winter winds. A 16% slope from the east edge of the field toward the detention pond shows evidence of erosion. Between the field and the units to the southeast is an unsightly and somewhat hazardous drainage ditch which empties into the pond.

The major outlet for the underground storm sewer system is in the visitors' yard where a large culvert empties into an open ditch, leading to the pond. Severe slopes on either side of the ditch make unusable much of the already limited space.

The general appearance from the approach road to within the prison, is stark and institutional with evidence of needed repairs and maintenance. There are scattered native trees and some young evergreen and deciduous trees planted outside the security fence. There are only a few saplings within the compound.

A graphic presentation of the site analysis is shown in Fig. 7.





## The Climate

The general pattern for the area is cold winters and long, hot summers. Prevailing winds are southwesterly. Heavy rains occur in the spring. Tornadoes and severe thunderstorms occur occasionally but are of short duration.

Additional information is listed below.

### Temperature:

Average daily maximum =  $71.8^{\circ}$  F.

Average daily minimum =  $46.8^{\circ}$  F.

Average =  $59.4^{\circ}$  F.

Summer average =  $80^{\circ}$  F.

Winter average =  $38^{\circ}$  F.

Probable first freeze = October 21.

Probable last freeze = April 16.

### Precipitation:

Average annual rainfall = 36"

Average annual snowfall = 9"

66% of rainfall occurs between April and October.

### Sunshine:

Percentage of possible sunshine = 70% in summer, 55% in winter.

ENDNOTE

<sup>1</sup>Tom White, "White's Word," Conners Monthly Insights, (January, 1987), p. 2.

## CHAPTER III

### USER SURVEYS

In order to appropriately involve the users of the site in the planning process, familiarity with the prison, inmates, and officers became first priority. No less than 12 hours of observation were done from the guard tower, at four different time periods on four different days of the week between May and September. Weather conditions and any extraordinary circumstances were recorded. The observation was systematic in that the entire compound was divided into four sections, each of which was viewed intensively for a 15-minute span. Notes were taken on the movement of people, their origins and destinations, the number of individuals alone or interacting in groups, and the kinds of behavior that occurred.

An independent observer spent two hours in concurrent observation with the researcher in order to cross-check.

The primary data collected from systematic observation, in addition to the reference data gathered from a number of sources, became the basis for the design of the questionnaire.

#### The Inmate Survey

Reference data for the inmate survey included information from personal discussions with inmates, prison staff, sociologists, and architects, and from written sources as reviewed in the previous chapter,

on the relation between behavior and environment and the design of survey instruments.

The purpose of the questionnaire for inmates was to ascertain from them: (1) the frequency and kinds of use of the outdoor space at Conner; (2) their perceptions of the outdoor environment at Conner; and (3) their needs and wishes as they relate to the out-of-doors.

It was determined that the standardized interview process would be used, as opposed to a written questionnaire, to reduce the possibility of error due to differences in reading and writing skills of the respondents.

The design of the instrument for survey includes three parts which correspond to the three purposes stated above: first, a group of factual questions calling for simple yes or no answers regarding the kinds of activities ever engaged in while at Conner, and identification of the activities most often engaged in; second, a group of attitudinal questions about perceptions with a simple rating scale; and third, questions about the inmates' needs and wishes. Both open and closed questions were used. Finally, limited demographic information was sought to determine the actual distribution of respondents from the different housing units and the age range represented.

There was no pretesting of the instrument done on the special population; however, the survey was read and evaluated to two independent parties including one researcher and one correctional officer.

From an existing inmate population of 743, it was recommended by the graduate committee that a 10 percent sampling be taken. Since there are 12 separate housing units grouped in six pairs, each pair sharing the same outdoor space, with variation in the treatment of the unit yards but

uniformity in hard architecture, it was decided that equal representation from each unit would be sought.

Eight inmates from each unit (pair of residences) were randomly selected from the unit roster and invited to participate. The following is an accounting of the number of volunteer respondents from each unit.

<u>Units</u>	<u>Respondents</u>
A & C	15
D & F	12
G & H	14
K & M	15
N & Q	14
V & W	<u>13</u>
Total	83 (11%)

The age range was 19-58 years, with the average being 30.

Initially, it was planned that a follow-up survey would be administered to the same respondents in 9-12 months after installation of at least the first phase of the landscape plan. However, after discussion with the warden's assistant, it was decided that no attempt would be made to follow-up with the same respondents for the following reasons: (1) unpredictable deaths within the sampling; (2) possible escapes; (3) early releases due to prison overcrowding; (4) early release due to earned time credits; (5) transfers to other facilities; and (6) possible unwillingness to respond to a follow-up survey. However, a post-test will be done on a stratified quota sampling.

### The Officer Survey

The purpose was to ascertain (1) the attitude and perceptions of the correctional officers and administrative staff to the outdoor environment at Conner, and (2) their needs and wishes as they relate to the out-of-door work environment.

The design of the instrument included a rating scale for 11 pairs of items and two multiple choice questions. A check list of 14 items was presented for registering needs and wishes. One question which asked for a "yes" or "no" answer was presented to determine opinion about behavior-environment relationships. Finally, brief demographic information was requested to evaluate the representation of the sample.

The closed-ended, self-administered questionnaire was filled out during "shift muster" by 34 of the 120 in the population (28%). Volunteers representing each of the shifts between eight o'clock a.m. and midnight were procured. Seventy-eight percent of the respondents were male. More than half had been on the prison yard ten or more times. Nearly half fell into the 30-39 age range. The average length of time at current work position was 31.6 months.

### The Survey of Community Residents

The purpose was to identify (1) the familiarity of Hominy residents with Conner; (2) their impression of the prison; and (3) their opinion of the influence of prison environment on behavior.

A closed-ended, self-administered questionnaire was completed by 16 people in attendance at a service club meeting in a public building. The number was many fewer than expected. Bad weather conditions may have been the cause for the small crowd.

The design of the instrument included two separate pages, one for those respondents who had been inside the prison and one for those who had not. All questions required only a check mark.

No demographic information was requested.



### Summary and Conclusions

A copy of each of the three instruments is included in the appendix. The frequency distributions are reported on each sample. Where the frequencies do not indicate 100 percent response, the question was not always answered in a way that could be recorded on the instrument.

A factor unknown at the time the instrument was designed, but mentioned by several inmates in the interview, was that the prison athletic field had been closed to use for several weeks because of rain. Also, a large area of ground had been excavated for the replacement of piping. The upheaval may well have affected the inmate perception of the prison environment.

The small group of community residents who completed the questionnaire cannot be considered a sampling of any significance (0.4%) but the opinion of the elite. However, the respondents were all active members of the Hominy Rotary Club and, by that affiliation, interested in their community. Information about the plan of landscape architecture for Conner was presented to them at a regularly-scheduled meeting and to the community at large through the local newspaper.

Results of the surveys point to several considerations for design decisions.

There was agreement among officers and inmates on the quality of the prison environment. The majority of both groups felt that the institution tended to be uncomfortable, unpleasant, noisy, dull, dirty, drab, and ugly. Although the response of Hominy residents cannot be considered representative, more felt that a prison landscape should be at least pleasant and clean.

While the majority of officers named specific unit courtyards as the most pleasant outdoor spaces because of their landscaping, most inmates named the athletic field. Reasons cited most often were: able to be alone, nice landscape, openness of the area, places to sit comfortably.

Another point of agreement is the need for play equipment in the visitors' yard. Both inmates and officers explained that visiting children with nothing to do often get into disputes which, in turn, cause anger among the prisoners.

Sixty-three percent of the officers believe that more pleasant, comfortable outdoor spaces might bring about a more positive attitude among prisoners. More than half of the officers felt that additional flower beds would improve the landscape without jeopardizing people's safety, but only two checked shade trees. Yet 95 percent of the inmates expressed a need for shady places. (There are no air conditioners in the residential units or roof overhangs on any of the buildings.) Officers evidently have concern for security where there are trees.

The athletic field apparently serves the needs of a large percentage of the population. Development and maintenance of the area, especially for jogging and weight-lifting, are of prime importance.

The unit courtyards are often used for sitting. Yet less than half the inmates thought there were comfortable places for sitting outside. Portable benches are recommended.

Nearly every inmate who has visitors uses the yard provided. Observation from the tower revealed people crowding into a small area of the visitor's yard. The large part requires development to accommodate the spatial needs of inmates and visitors.

In short, the inmate survey indicated the respondents' wishes for more creature comforts in their outdoor environment. The officers seemed generally supportive of some improvements in the environment, as long as security remains the overriding concern. Among the community residents who were surveyed, a larger number of those who had actually been to the prison, than of those who had not, felt that attitude and behavior were affected by the landscape architecture. The result was the same in regard to the prison as an asset to the community. Clearly, more residents need to become familiar with Conner Correctional Center.

## CHAPTER IV

### DESIGN PROPOSAL

#### The Concept

The compilation of data on the physical site, the population, history and management of the prison, and the input from the user/clients, overlying the goals for prison landscape architecture established in Part I, points to certain concepts for design of the Conner landscape, as shown in the schematic development concept, Fig. 8.

The general concept is for maximum space utilization through the development of currently unused, "off limits" space within a secure perimeter. Included is the development of the following:

1. Active recreational areas for both inmates and visitors, especially the children;
2. Passive recreational areas around the pond and on the southwest corner of the compound;
3. The large open area between the greenhouse and the training building for horticultural therapy and education;
4. The linking spaces between the administrative core and the housing units for visual attraction, pedestrian circulation, erosion control, and greater security;
5. A new access road/pedestrian walk for service and emergency vehicles and for inmates going to work in the industries;

6. Clear directional information and visual enhancement of the setting for visitors and service people; and
7. Unit courtyards which are planned and maintained, according to the design guidelines provided later in this report, by the inmates living within the units.

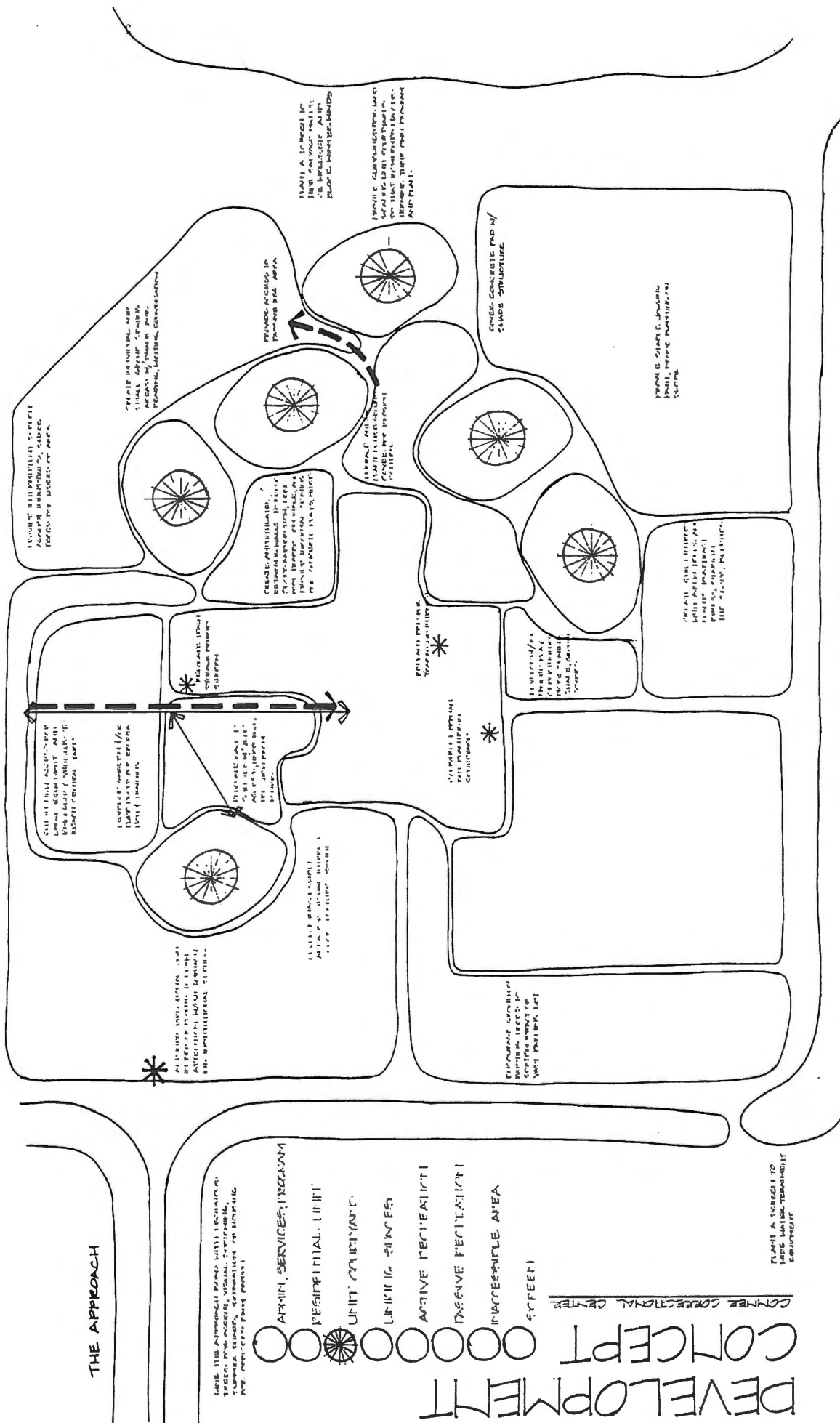


Fig. 8. Development Concept

The following chart on pages 49-50, indicates the specific contexts in which behavioral issues exist and the proposed solution for the landscape design.

Table I  
Design Solutions Chart

THE CONTEXT	BEHAVIORAL ISSUE	PROPOSED SOLUTION
I. Institutional Appearance	Institutional Mentality	Normalization of the Environment
<p>A. Access Road</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Unsightly mobile homes and large utility meter boxes flank the south side.</li> <li>2. Directions for proceeding are unclear at road intersection.</li> </ol> <p>B. Main Entry</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rotting wood planters are set in the corners of the large concrete entry court.</li> </ol> <p>C. Visual Monotony; Light Brown, Brown, Dark Brown</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All living units are of the same material and color and design.</li> <li>2. All service buildings are of the same material and color.</li> <li>3. All paving material the same.</li> <li>4. Large areas of ground are without cover; i.e., more brown!</li> <li>5. Lack of evergreen materials means winter brown.</li> </ol>	<p>Attitude adjustment needed for community residents, visitors, and employees at CCC.</p> <p>Boredom and sensory deprivation leave spiritual and psychological voids.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Screen utility boxes with dense evergreen material. Enforce regulations for skirting mobile homes and screening trash. Line the road with large deciduous trees for interest and softening.</li> <li>2. Add a large, attractive wooden sign at the intersection which names the facility and gives clear direction to visitors and service vehicles.</li> <li>1. Replace the wood planters with a permanent raised planter to give the courtyard a sense of closure and introduce plant materials for interest.</li> <li>1. The sameness creates a desirable unity among the buildings. Promote variety among the individual unit courtyards, in their design.</li> <li>2. Allow inmates to paint colorful graphics on service buildings; e.g., a barber pole outside the barber shop, a Conner Canteen sign, etc.</li> <li>3. Pave new pathways with rock screenings edged with bridge timbers.</li> <li>4. Establish a lawn.</li> <li>5. Add evergreen materials of various sizes, shapes, and textures. Plant deciduous trees and shrubs that will add spring and fall color.</li> </ol>
II. Natural Site Characteristics	Human inconveniences cause annoyances, irritation; e.g., mud and standing water in wet weather; dust in dry weather.	
<p>A. Erosion is evidenced where there is no ground cover.</p> <p>B. Drainage problems occur in low areas.</p> <p>C. The site is exposed to cold winter winds and summer heat.</p>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Control erosion on slopes by planting ground covers and large trees.</li> <li>B. Grade land so the water drains away from buildings and toward existing drain inlets.</li> <li>C. Plant materials whose requirements match the characteristics of the site.</li> </ol>



Table I (Continued)

THE CONTEXT	BEHAVIORAL ISSUE	PROPOSED SOLUTION
III. Security	Stress, fear, anxiety.	
A. "Blood Alleys" exist out of sight of the tower officer.		A. Restrict access to "Blood Alleys" by planting dense shrub beds next to walls to force movement away from the shelter of the buildings. Maintain visual access from control points to circulation routes and perimeter. Maintain distance between buildings and trees to prevent access to rooftops. Maintain raised tree canopies for visual access.
IV. Inmates' Lack of Control Over Environment	Little realization of self-worth or personal identity; aggression.	
A. Any privacy is difficult to realize.		A. Develop a large grassy open area for passive recreation where privacy is possible.
B. Personal space is limited if existent.		B. Encourage residents of each unit to plan, plant, and maintain their own courtyards.
V. Lack of Physical Comforts	Stress, hostility.	
A. There are no trees, roof overhangs, or air conditioning for relief from summer heat.		A. Build shade structures in the visitors' yard. Add shade trees to the compound.
B. The setting is often noisy.		B. Plant materials that will help muffle noise.
C. Many stand in line and wait to get into the dining hall for meals.	Annoyance, anger	C. Cover the walkway outside the dining hall with a clear plexiglass awning to provide shelter without obscuring.
D. There are few places to sit comfortably.		D. Add portable benches in unit courtyards.
VI. Lack of Opportunities for Meaningful Activity	Mental stagnation leads to pettiness, boredom, frustration.	Develop the open area around the greenhouse for horticultural education and experience. Provide planting areas for each residential unit. Lay out and cultivate turf plots for replacement sod on worn and dead areas on the yard.

### Phasing Plan

The areas in need of immediate attention are the linking spaces, Fig. 9. Opportunities and constraints for development are noted on the illustration. Planting plans for those areas follow, Figs. 10, 11, and 12.

The next priority is the establishment of the new emergency and service vehicle road accessing the central yard from the east side of the training building and the laundry. The road will also serve as a walkway for inmates who work in the industries.

Third is the provision of information on plant and construction materials for inmates to design and implement a plan for their own unit courtyards. A set of guidelines is shown in Fig. 13.

Fourth is the enhancement of the main access road and the entry to the administration building. Planting plans appear in Figs. 14 and 15.

Also included, as Fig. 16, are planting plans for the Programs building courtyard and dining hall.

Of critical importance to the success of the phasing plan is, of course, the availability of funds, not only to achieve the plan but to maintain the landscaped areas. There will be no positive reinforcement for work that is done by the inmates if they are not given encouragement and resources to maintain their involvement.

# NO. 1 PROBLEM: LINKING SPACES

## CONSTRAINTS

1. Inmates are not permitted to linger here; i.e., the linking spaces are for passing through only.
2. There is full view from neither the tower nor the unit control stations.
3. "Blood alleys" exist behind the gymnasium and the kitchen.
4. There must be no obstruction to security view along the pavements.
5. Existing pavement does not follow the shortest distance between two points, therefore pedestrian paths have been worn and erosion furthered.
6. Sloping terrain has aided erosion.

## OPPORTUNITIES

1. The spaces can project "friendly" messages through color, visual interest, fragrance, etc.
2. Foot traffic can be encouraged on existing pavement by using plant materials to channel.
3. Retaining walls can be used to decrease erosion.
4. Plant materials can be used to restrict access to "blood alleys."
5. "Controlled lingering" and even active use can be facilitated by building a small amphitheatre in a linking space.

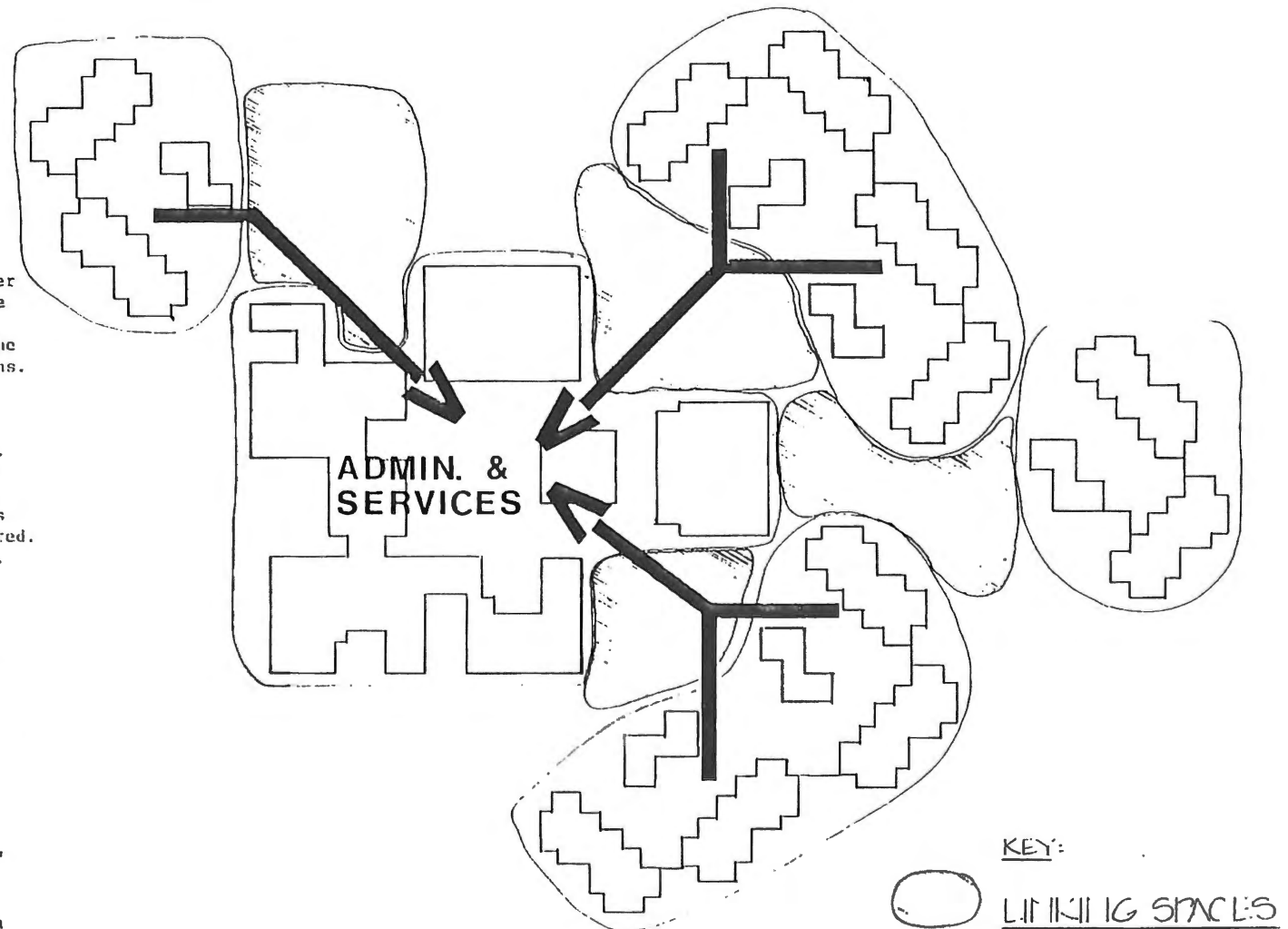


Fig. 9. Number One Problem: Linking Spaces

# PLANTING PLAN

LINKING SPACE : UNITS A AND C/ D AND F

CONNER CORRECTIONAL CENTER. 10' HIGH BY GARLANDS

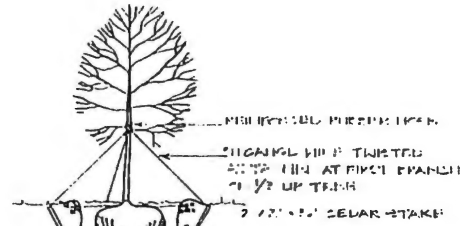
SCALE 1" = 20'

10' NORTH →

## NOTES:

PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS FOR ALL CONTAINER-GROWN TREES, SHRUBS, AND GROUND COVER:

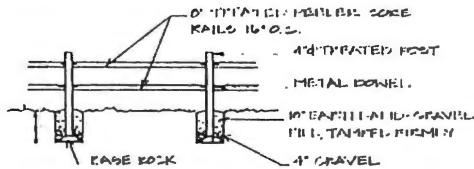
1. PREPARE THE SOIL BY CULTIVATING, REMOVING ROCKS AND DEBRIS, AND TAKING A MOIST.
2. PLACE CONTAINERS ON PLANTING SITE TO OBTAIN PROPER SPACING AND POSITION.
3. DIG PLANTING HOLES SLIGHTLY DEEPER THAN THE ROOT BALL.
4. REMOVE PLANT FROM CONTAINER AND IMMEDIATELY PLACE IN HOLE.
5. FILL THE HOLE WITH SANDY SOIL, FIRMLY TO SUPPORT THE PLANT.
6. FERTILIZE ON SOIL SURFACE IMMEDIATELY AFTER PLANTING. USE A STANDARD FERTILIZER OF 10-10-10 ANALYSIS HAND-BROADCAST AS FOLLOWS: 12-24-12 PLANT, ABOUT 1/4 CUP PER 1 GALLON PLANT.
7. WATER IMMEDIATELY, SLOWLY SOAKING THE SOIL.
8. COVER PLANTING DEL. WITH COTTON BURL. MULCH TO A DEPTH OF 1 1/2" - 2"
9. STAKE NEW TREES ACCORDING TO DETAIL.



TREE STAKING DETAIL  
SCALE 1/4" = 1'

## POST-PLANTING CARE:

1. WATER THOROUGHLY EVERY 5-7 DAYS WHEN RAINFALL IS INSUFFICIENT, THROUGHOUT THE FIRST GROWING SEASON.
2. MAINTAIN A 5' DIAMETER CLEAR UNDER TREE: FREE OF GRASS AND WEEDS.
3. FERTILIZE WITH COMPLETE FERTILIZER SUCH AS 12-24-12 IN APRIL, JUNE, AUGUST, AND OCTOBER AFTER KILLING FROST IN AUTUMN.
4. WATER SLOWLY AND THOROUGHLY DURING DROUGHT.
5. REMOVE TREE STAKING AFTER 2 YEARS.



POST-PLANTING CARE DETAIL  
SCALE 1/4" = 1'

NOTE: ALL CORNER POSTS MUST BE SET IN CONCRETE.

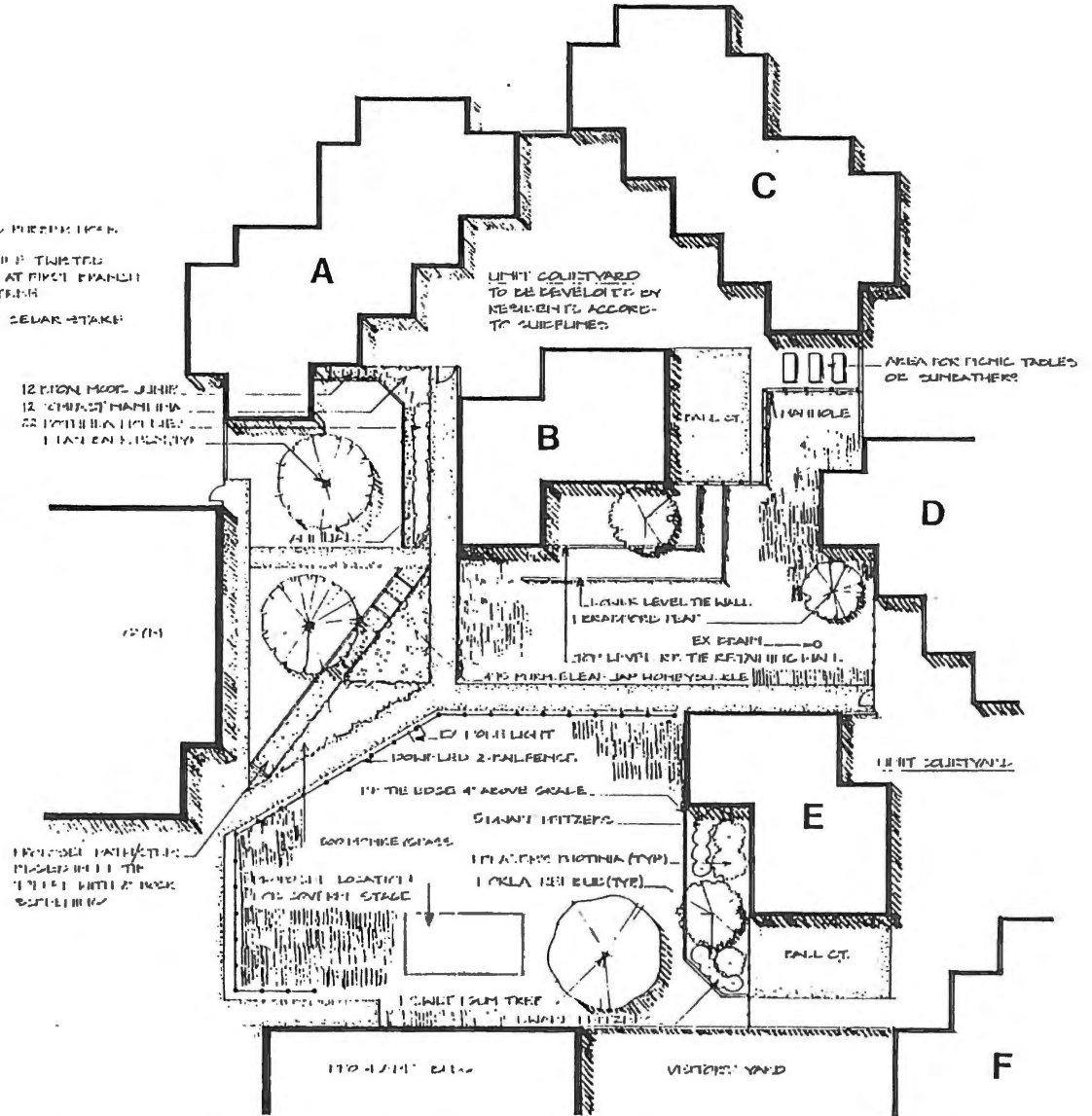
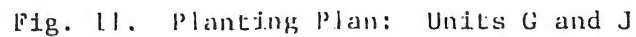


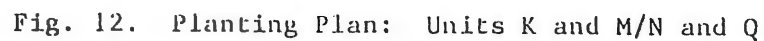
Fig. 10. Planting Plan: Units A and C/D and F

SCALE 1" = 20'       NORTH

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SCALE 1" = 20'

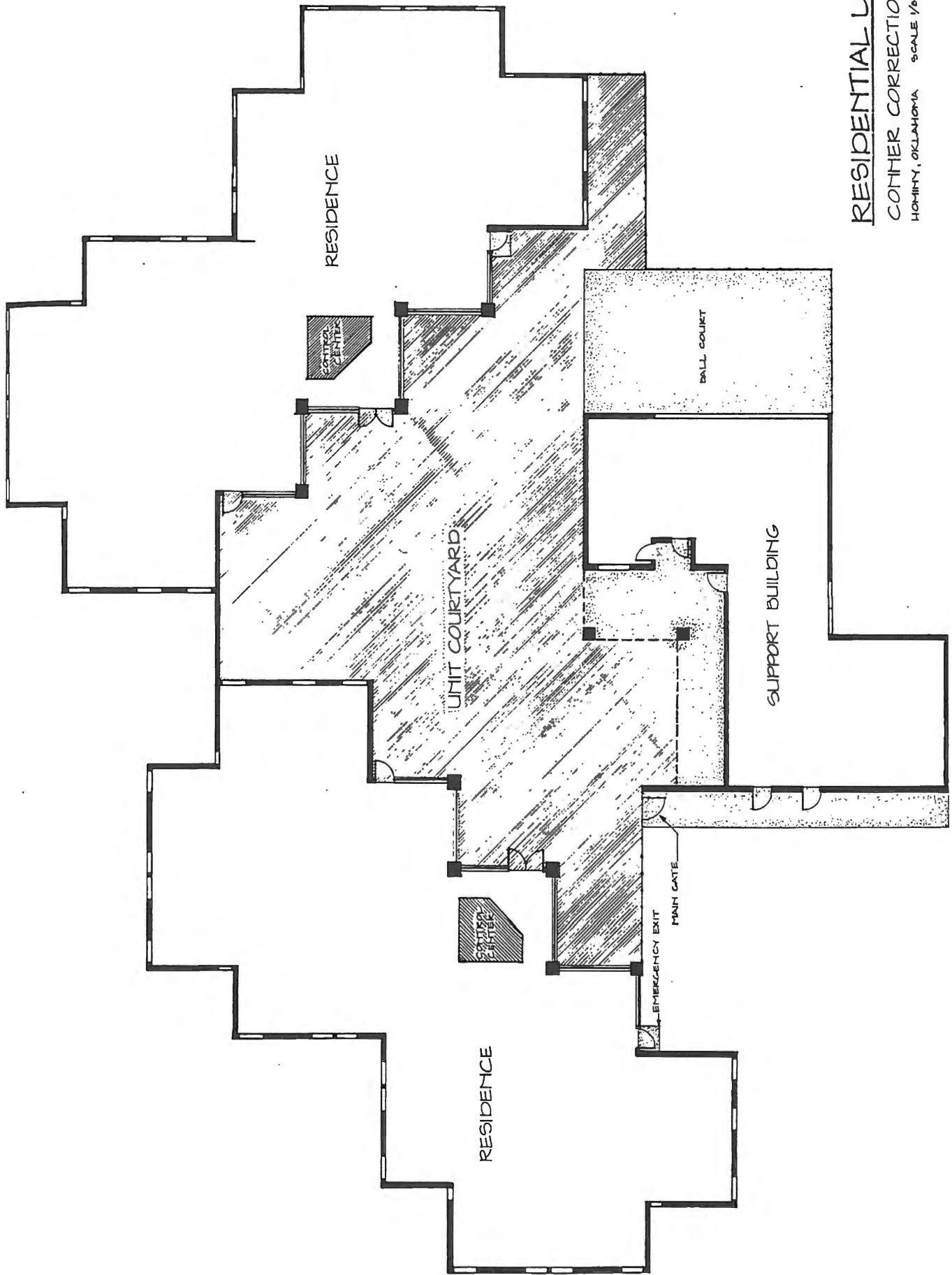


**Figure 13**

**Guidelines for Landscaping the Unit Courtyards  
at Conner Correctional Center**

The following guidelines are for inmates and officers to use in planning the design of their unit courtyard. Each design will be unique because of the slope of the land, the position of the buildings in relation to the sun, and the wishes of the unit residents. A scaled plan of a typical unit courtyard follows for reference.





RESIDENTIAL UNIT PLAN  
COMBER CORRECTIONAL CENTER  
HOMINY, OKLAHOMA SCALE 1/8" = 1'

### Step 1: Program/Activities

Use the chart on the next page as a sample for Step 1 in the design process. Determine which activity needs and wishes are most common and can be met in the available space.

Step 1: Program/Activities

Survey the unit residents and officers to determine how they want to use the courtyard	What outdoor "furnishings" are necessary for the desired activities?	What special considerations are there?	What other activities could be accommodated in the same space? (not necessarily at the same time)
Activity	"Furnishings"	Considerations	Joint Use
Checkers, Dominos, Cards	Tables and chairs or benches	Land must be level for benches to be stable; shelter from the wind.	Sitting, sunbathing, art work, reading
Basketball, volleyball	Concrete court	Locate basket away from windows; net perpendicular to wall. Don't plant shrubs or flowers nearby.	Any except gardening
Reading, sunbathing	Seating, grassy area	Locate away from ball area; in full sun for sunbathing	Quiet games
Growing flowers, herbs	Planting bed	Area must have at least 6 hours of full sun. Keep away from sunbathers because of honeybees.	Sitting

etc.

## Step 2: Site Considerations

### 1. Microclimate

- Cooling summer breezes come from the southwest. Do not block.
- Summer sun is almost directly overhead at midday. Provide for "people space" in the shade of the building's north side.
- Winter sun is lower in the sky. Provide for "people space" in the warmth of the building's south side.

### 2. Slope

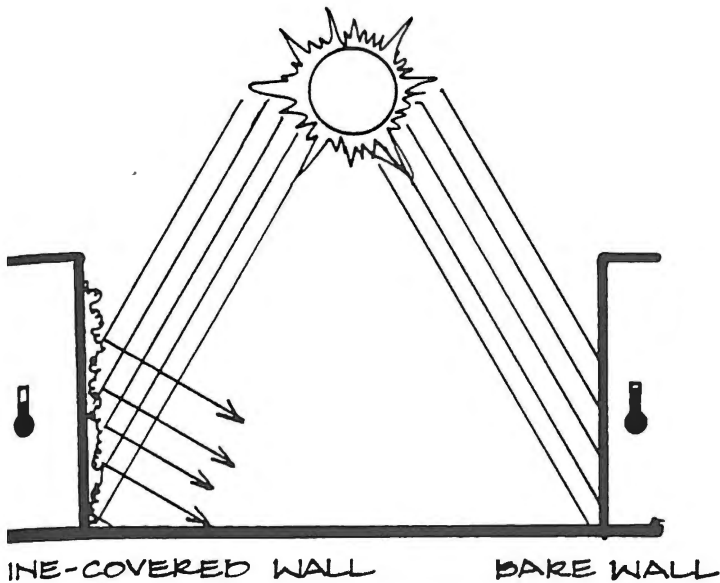
- Soil should be sloped away from buildings.
- If soil and gravel are washed downhill during rain, steps and/or retaining walls may be necessary.

### 3. Soil

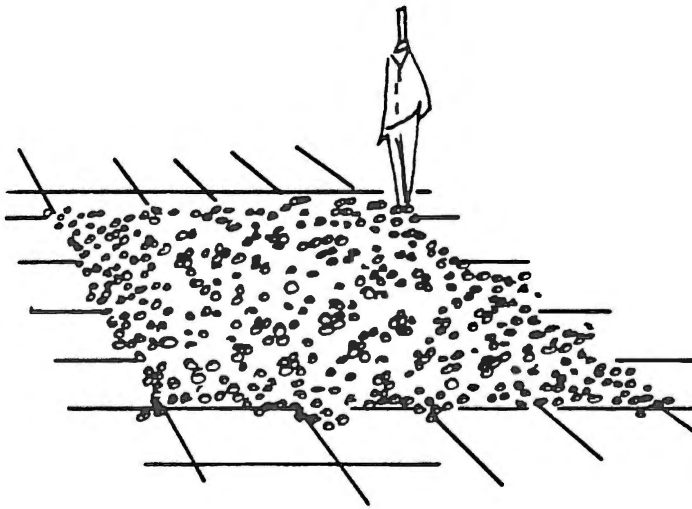
- If the soil is washed downhill during rain, it should be densely planted with grass or other ground cover to prevent erosion.
- If there is a rock slab close to the ground surface, plant only ground covers such as grass.

### 4. Infrastructure

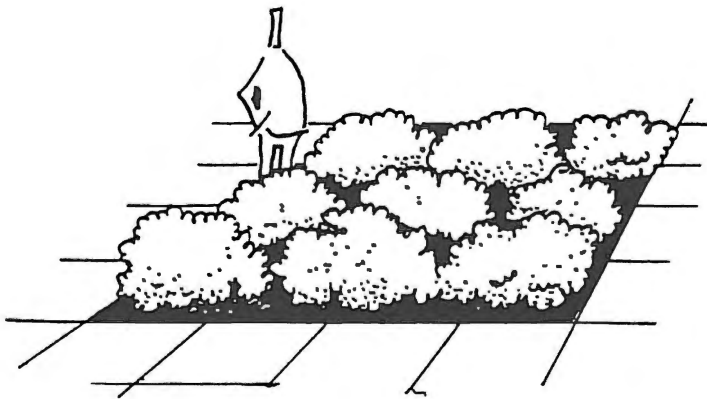
- Check the location of underground wiring and piping before digging deeper than 18".



PLANTS MAY BE USED FOR TEMPERATURE CONTROL. THE LEAVES OF A VINE WILL ABSORB SOLAR RADIATION AND SHADE THE WALL BEHIND IT.



AN AREA PLANTED IN GRASS OR OTHER GROUND COVER IS 10-14° COOLER OVER THE SURFACE ON SUNNY SUMMER DAYS THAN AN AREA OF EXPOSED SOIL.



PLANTS AID IN MOISTURE RETENTION. THEY LOOSEN AND MAINTAIN SOIL POROSITY WHICH HELPS IT RETAIN WATER. THEY PROTECT THE SOIL FROM SUN AND WIND THEREBY REDUCING EVAPORATION.

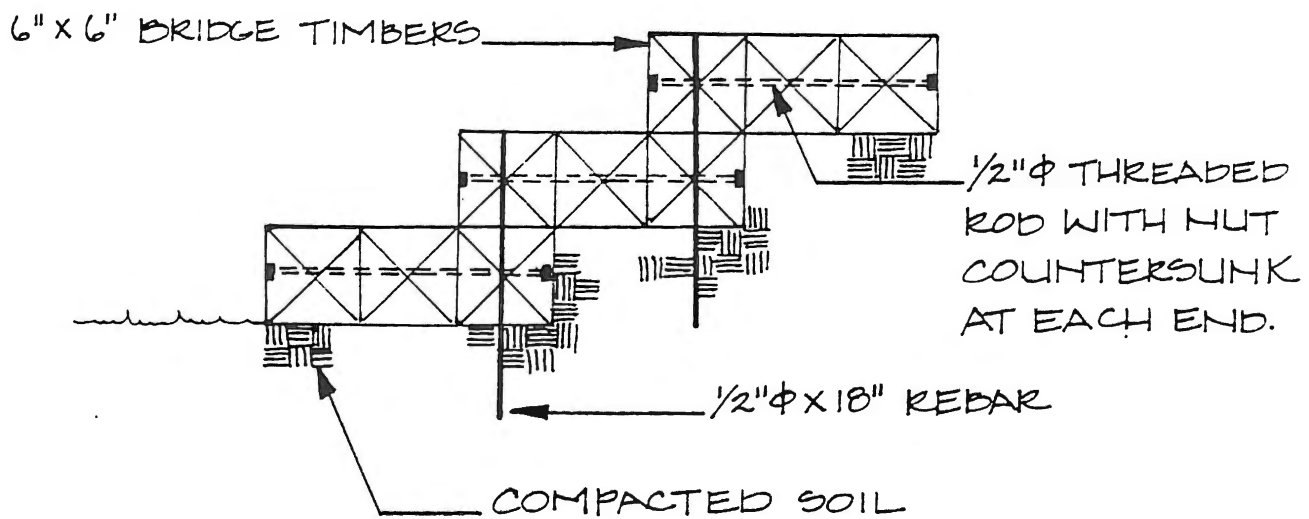
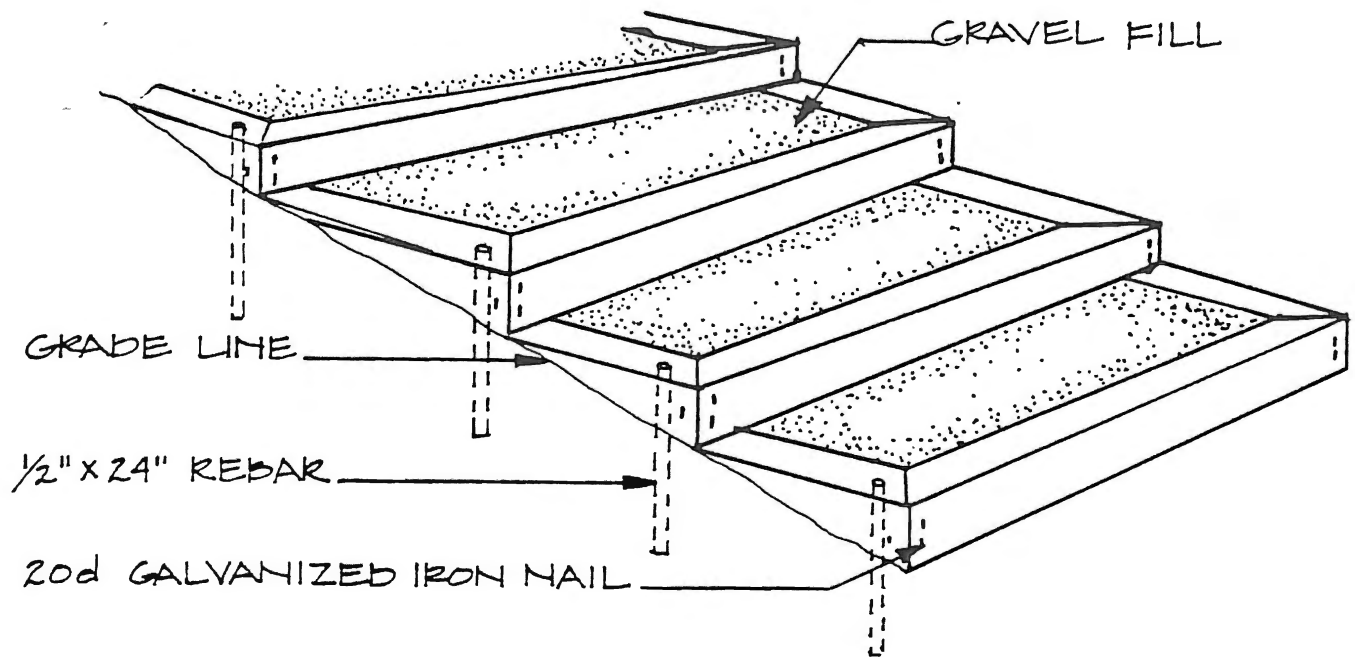
## SOME ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF PLANTS<sup>1</sup>

### Step 3: Design Guidelines

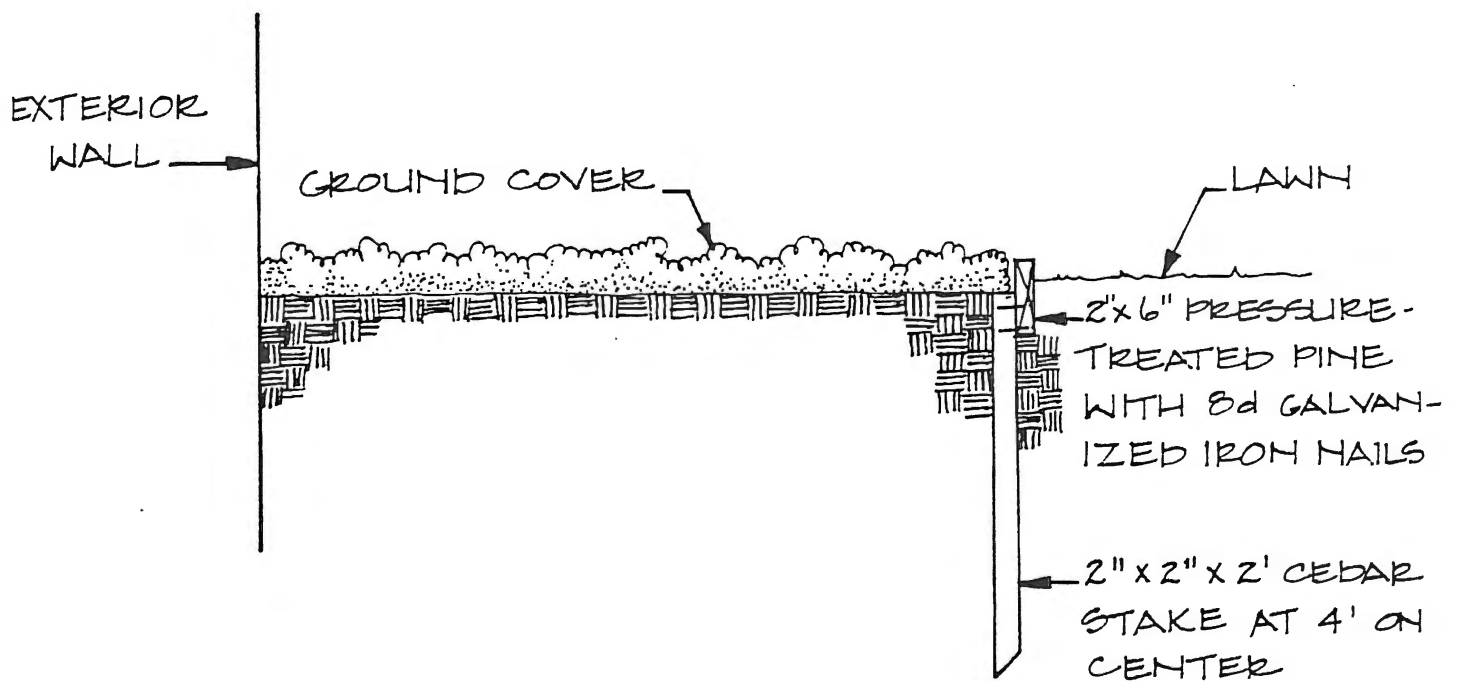
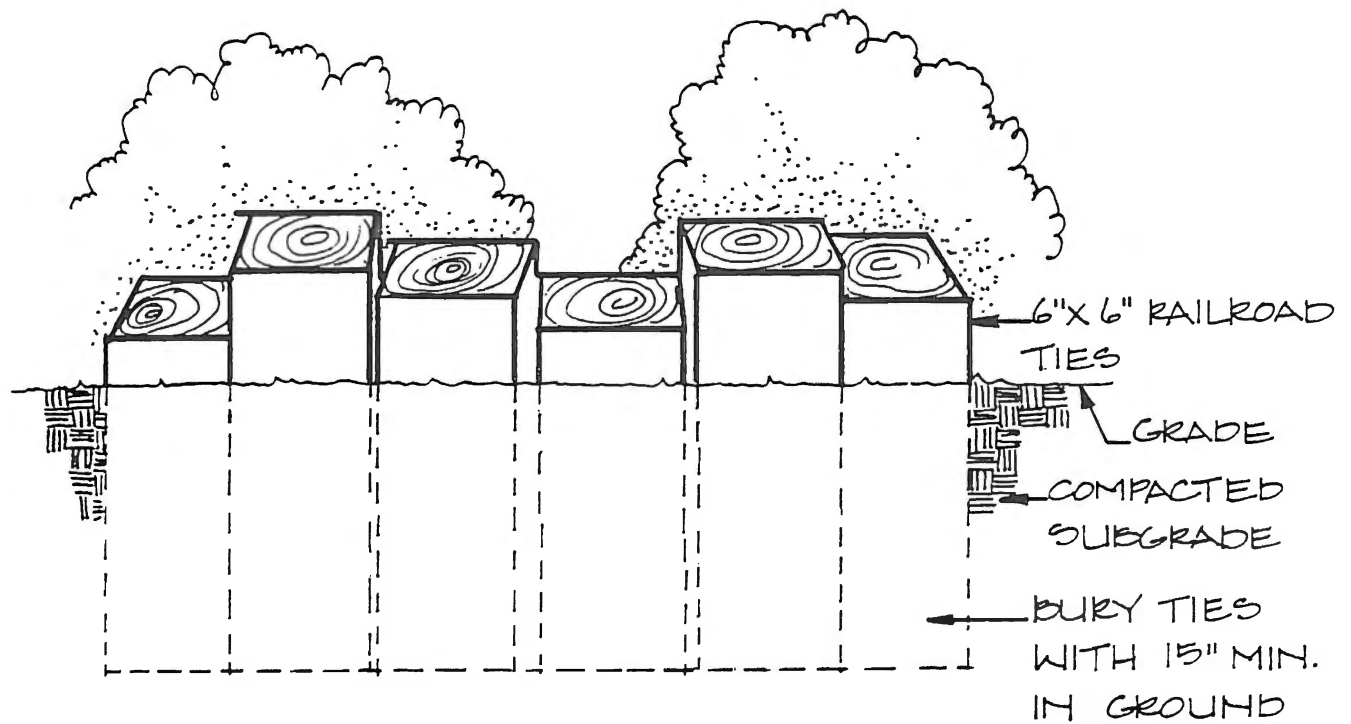
- Establish a focal point or center of interest. For example, a piece of sculpture, a windsock, a specialty garden such as herbs or roses, a seating area.
- Locate the center of interest so that the view and access are available to all residents from dayroom of residence.
- Consider the effects of seasonal changes on the landscape and provide for interest in each season. For example, plant both evergreen and deciduous plants; plant flowers that bloom in the spring and others that bloom in the summer.
- Plan for different uses of the same space. For example, the basketball court may be used for volleyball, shuffleboard, or even quiet activities. Benches should be portable to allow for grouping and relocating in response to the position of the sun, direction of the wind, and residents' social needs.
- A mass planting of one kind and color of plant is more effective visually than several different single specimens grouped in one area.

### Step 4: Practical Considerations

- Maintenance: Plant only as much as the residents are willing to care for and have supplies to so do: fertilizer, water, mulch.
- Select plants that fit the site in terms of size, water, and light requirements, seasonal hardiness.

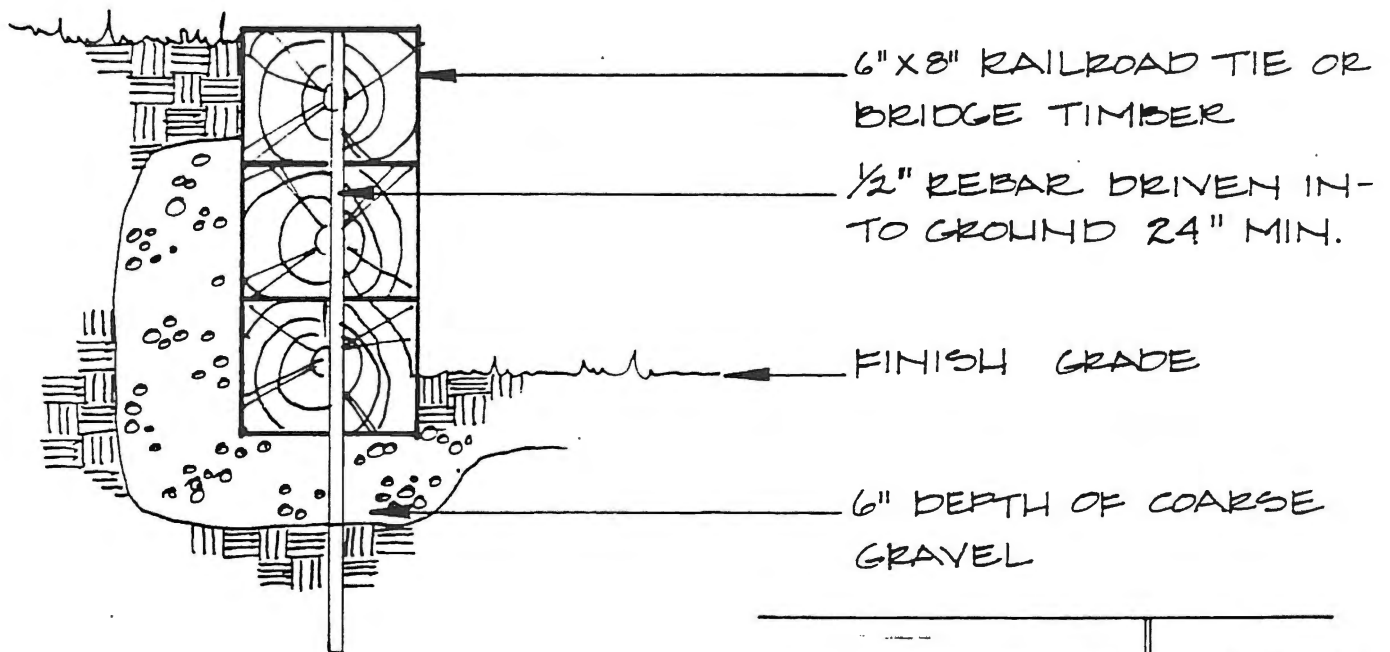
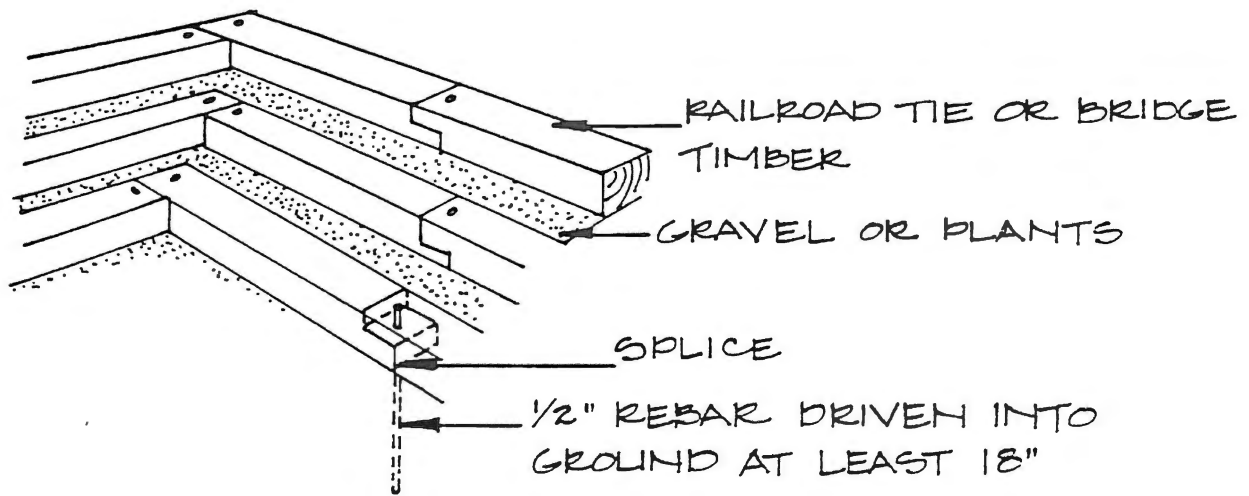


2 KINDS OF  
RAILROAD TIE OR TIMBER STEPS<sup>2</sup>

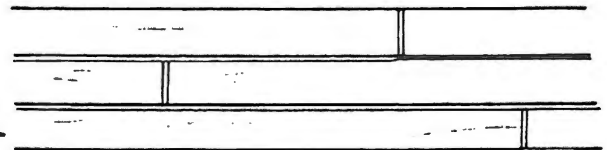


2 KINDS OF  
EDGING FOR WALKS/PLANT. BEDS<sup>3</sup>

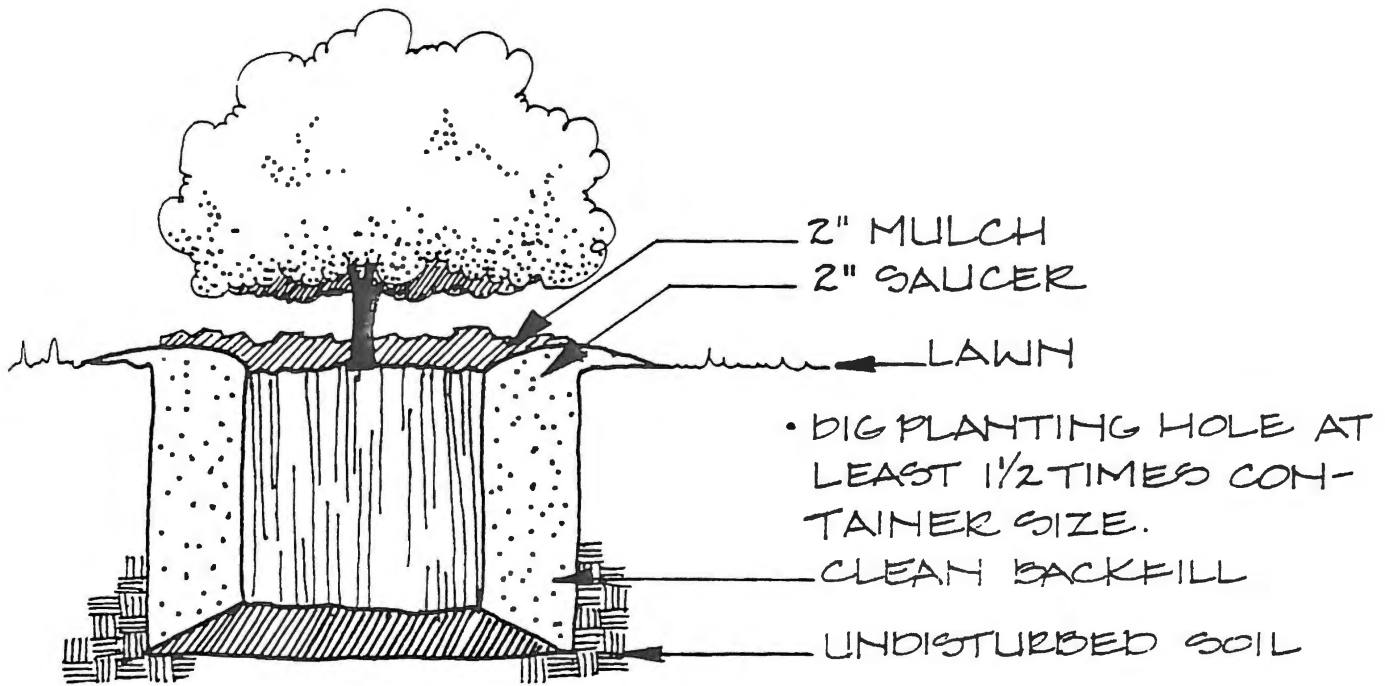




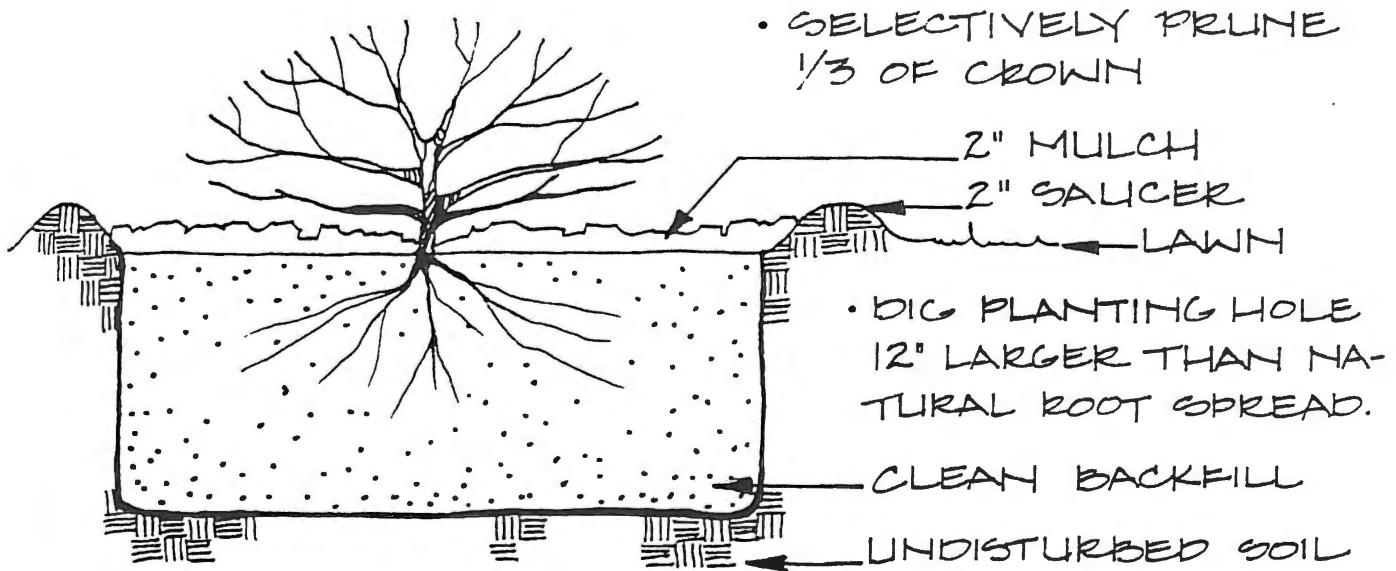
NOTE: STAGGER JOINTS



2 KINDS OF  
RETAINING WALLS<sup>4</sup>

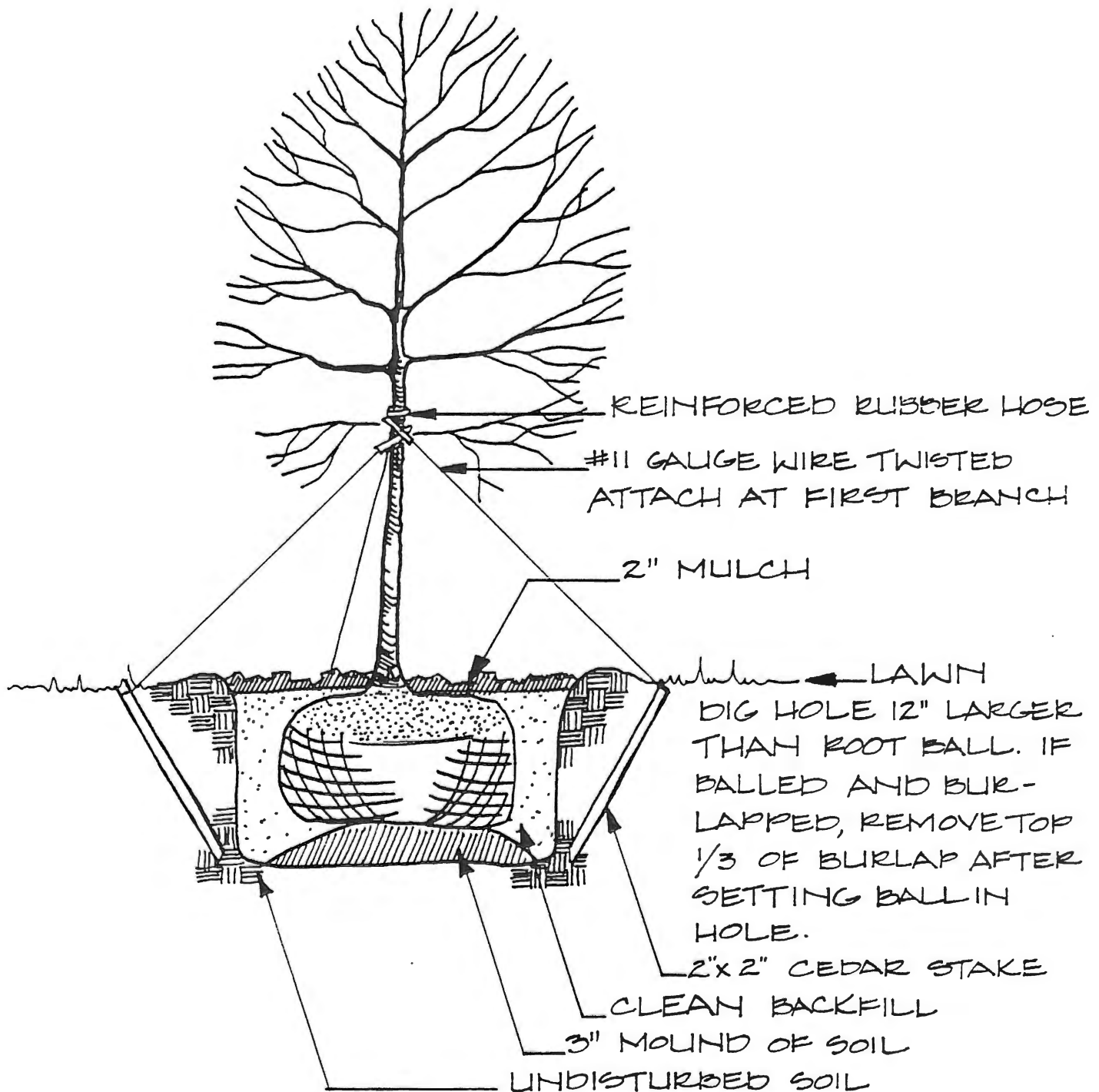


## CONTAINER SHRUB



## BARE ROOT SHRUB

## SHRUB PLANTING DETAILS<sup>5</sup>



## TREE PLANTING DETAIL<sup>6</sup>

## CREDITS

<sup>1</sup>Gary O. Robinette, Plants/People/and Environmental Quality. U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Washington, D. C., 1972, p. 96.

<sup>2</sup>David J. Ciaccio, Site Sections and Details. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold Company, 1984, p. 21.

<sup>3</sup>Ciaccio, p. 107.

<sup>4</sup>Don Rutherford, Susan E. Schlangen, and Scott Fitzgerald (eds.). Sunset Garden and Patio Building Book. Menlo Park: Lane Publishing Co., 1983, p. 83.

<sup>5</sup>Ciaccio, p. 113.

<sup>6</sup>Ciaccio, p. 110-111.

# ENTRY SIGN

CONNER CORRECTIONAL CENTER

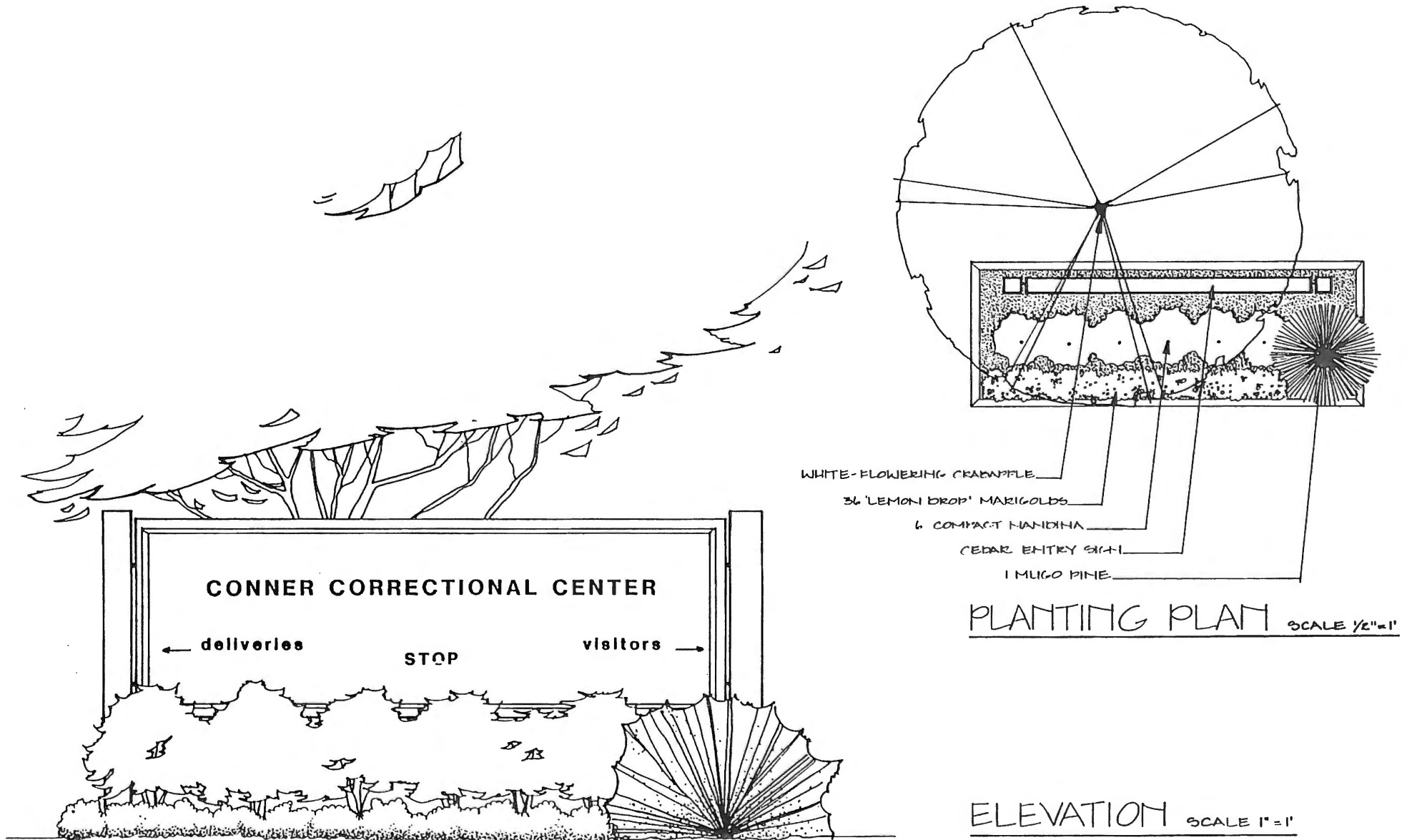
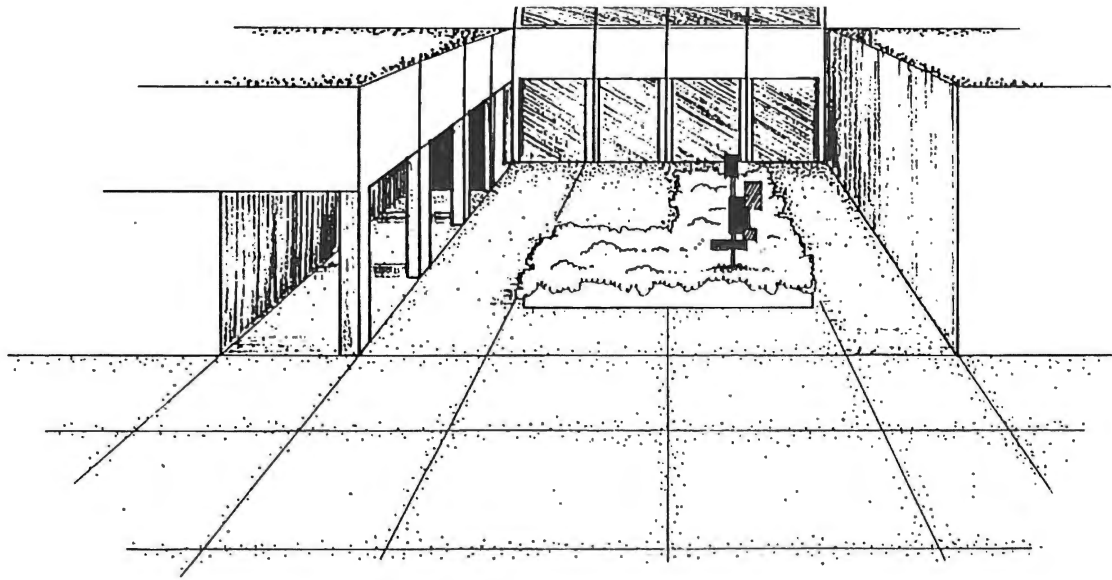
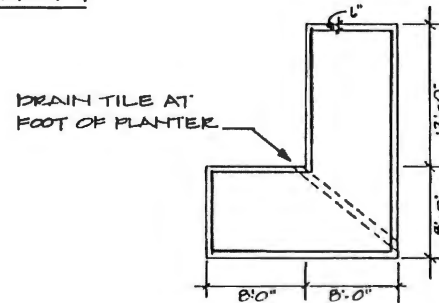


Fig. 14. Planting Plan: Entry Sign



NORTH ELEVATION



DRAIN TILE AT  
FOOT OF PLANTER

# PLANTING PLAN

## ENTRY COURTYARD

CONNER CORRECTIONAL CENTER

DESIGN BY CARA DEER SCALE 1/2"=1'

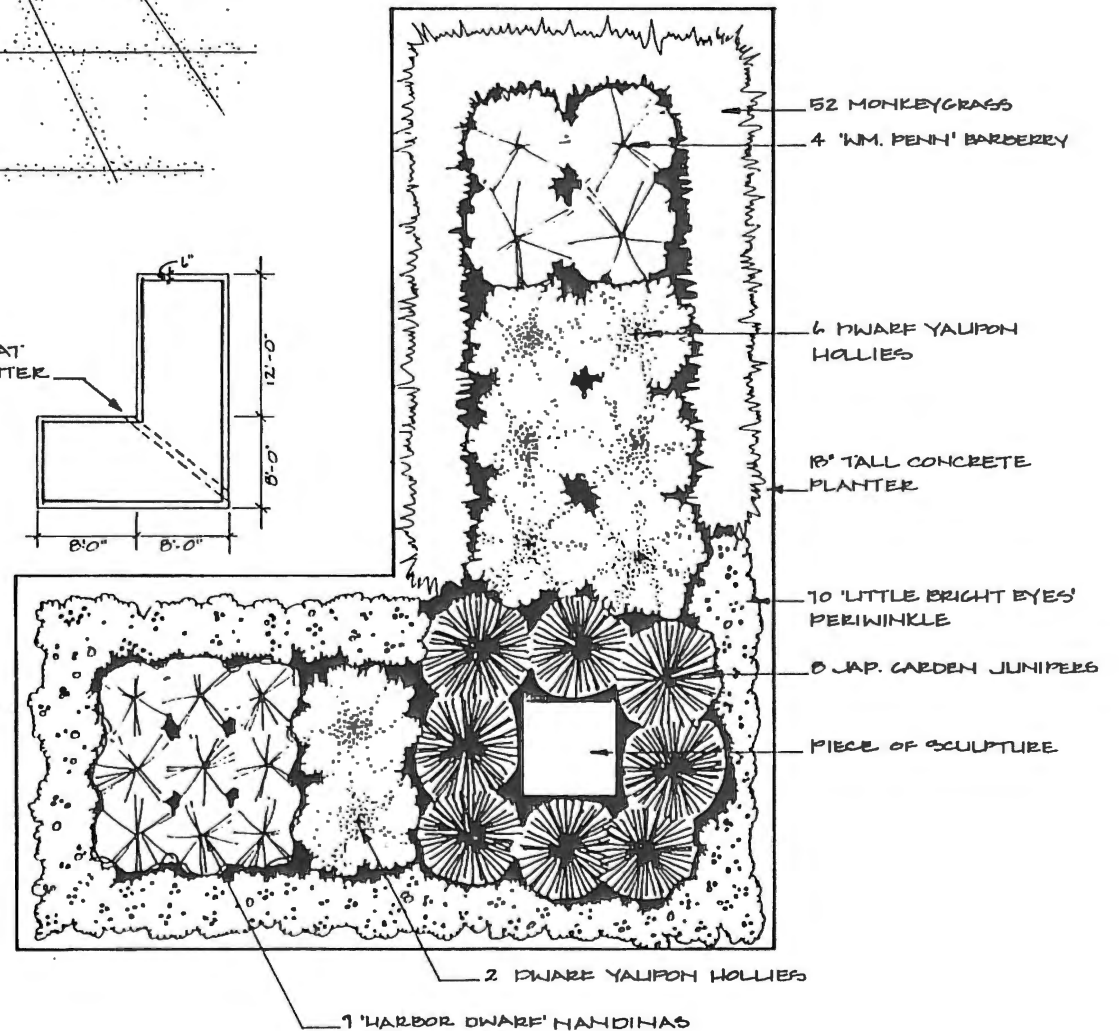
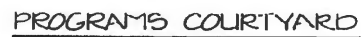


Fig. 15. Planting Plan: Entry Courtyard

PROGRAMS COURTYARD AND DINING HALL  
CONNER CORRECTIONAL CENTER DESIGN BY CARA DEEK



SCALE: 1/4" = 1'



SCALE  $1/10" = 1'$

59

## Implementation

As noted in the Part II Introduction, the implementation of the landscape plan by the inmates is of prime importance to its success. In recognition of that, the warden established a Facility Landscaping Task Force to discuss and oversee the implementation of long-range and immediate improvements to the grounds. The task force membership includes both inmates and staff.

Community involvement in the development of the Conner landscape may be promoted through local garden clubs, Arbor Day celebrations, Chamber of Commerce beautification committees, churches, and so on. The potential impact of people caring for the welfare of offenders and officers in their everyday environment is enormously positive for the goals of correction.



## CHAPTER V

### DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The correctional system in the United States needs intensive and continuous review with support from the American society to either redefine its goals or find new ways to more effectively reach its current goals. While many citizens feel that treatment of offenders should include denial of all but the basic human needs of food, water, and shelter, the question remains: can human behavior be corrected in such an environment? The answer may be that, in fact, behavior over time becomes more lawless, more unacceptable in a setting devoid of mental and visual stimulation, privacy, and physical security. Much additional research on the relationship between human behavior and environment is necessary.

It has been said that the true mark of a society is not how it treats its best citizens, but how it treats its worst. The recent and ever-increasing efforts at community-based rehabilitation demand greater public education and involvement in the penal system, even in the criminal justice system as a whole. Avoidance of the issues of crime and punishment, or the refusal to explore alternatives only impedes progress toward finding solutions which will benefit all of society.

In addition to the range and quality of programs, the living environment provided by most penal facilities requires continuous evaluation by sociologists, architects, and landscape architects. With

support for efforts at innovative environmental planning, implementation, and research, ways of fostering true corrections for offenders may be uncovered.

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## APPENDICES

## APPENDIX A

### THE INMATE SURVEY

**SURVEY/INTERVIEW OF INMATES AT  
CONNER CORRECTIONAL CENTER  
Hominy, Oklahoma**

Hello. My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am a student in landscape architecture at Oklahoma State University. I've been asked to do a design for the landscape at Conner and I'd like to ask your help for about 10 minutes. I'm interested to know how you use the outdoor space at Conner, what you like and dislike about the out-of-doors at Conner, and what changes you would like to see.

The first group of questions will be asked to get some facts on how you use the outdoor space at Conner.

1. Have you ever used the athletic field? 74 yes 8 no  
If yes, how many times in the last month?

18 0-5 times 9 6-10 times 29 every day

Which of the following activities have you ever done on the athletic field?

<u>3</u> baseball	<u>18</u> jogging	<u>24</u> weightlifting
<u>4</u> football	<u>      </u> sunbathing	<u>      </u> other: <u>3</u> -frisbee
<u>3</u> basketball	<u>16</u> sitting	<u>      </u> <u>3</u> -horseshoes
<u>      </u> tennis	<u>16</u> walking	

Which of these activities do you do most often?

#1 weightlifting; #2 jogging

How often is that? \_\_\_\_\_

If you have never used the athletic field, why not? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Which of the following activities have you ever done in the area just outside your living unit?

<u>42</u> basketball	<u>64</u> sitting	<u>18</u> gardening
<u>28</u> volleyball	<u>18</u> sunbathing	<u>      </u> other: <u>15</u> -dominos
		<u>      </u> <u>7</u> -cards

Which of these activities do you do most often? \_\_\_\_\_

How often is that? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Do you hang your laundry outside your living unit?

30 yes 55 no

If yes, how often? \_\_\_\_\_ once a week \_\_\_\_\_ once a month

Do you take your clothing to the laundry to be cleaned?

40 yes 16 no

If not, why? It gets stolen.



4. Do you sometimes have visitors on the weekends?  
59 yes 23 no
- If yes, how many visitors do you usually have at one time?  
11 one 34 2-4 visitors 7 5 or more visitors
- How often do you have visitors?  
19 once a week 18 once a month \_\_\_\_\_ other
- Have you ever taken visitors to the outdoor area where the swings and picnic tables are? 52 yes 6 no
- If yes, how many times? 30 every time I have visitors  
4 once a month 2 once or twice a year \_\_\_\_\_ other
- Have you used the picnic tables outside? 48 yes 20 no
5. Have you ever had to stand in line at mealtime outside the dining hall? 77 yes 3 no
- If yes, how often?  
6 once or twice 6 once a week 48 daily  
\_\_\_\_\_ other \_\_\_\_\_
6. Have you ever chosen to stay in your living unit at mealtime because of bad weather? 52 yes 26 no
- If yes, how many times has that occurred? 10 once or twice  
6 once a month \_\_\_\_\_ other: 14-every time weather is bad
7. Have you ever been in the greenhouse at Conner? 44 yes 37 no
- If yes, how many times? \_\_\_\_\_ once or twice 3 once a week  
1 once a month \_\_\_\_\_ other: 8-daily
8. Have you noticed any trees at Conner? 22 yes 56 no
- If yes, where have you seen them? \_\_\_\_\_
9. What colors do you notice most outside at Conner?  
25-brown; 24-cream; 21-green; 10-blue
10. Where is the greatest variety of colors at Conner?  
20-central yard; 10-unit courtyard; 10-ballfield; 8-nowhere
11. Is there a place outside where you can be alone, away from your peers, if you want? 34 yes 46 no
- If yes, where is that place? 11-ballfield; 6-unit; 6-yard
12. Are there places where you can sit comfortably outside?  
39 yes 40 no
- If yes, where are those places? 19-ballfield; 7-unit

13. Where outside do most people gather in groups?

3 outside the laundry/kitchen  
5 on the east side of the dining hall  
17 on the athletic field  
42 around the gymnasium  
 other: 16-units

14. Have you seen any animals such as birds, rabbits, or ducks outside?  
55 yes 13 no

If yes, where have you seen them? \_\_\_\_\_

15. On a hot summer day, where do you go to get cool?  
38-unit; 23-no place

16. Of all the places you have to go here, which is the hottest?  
20-cell; 18-everywhere; 17-ballfield

The last few questions will be about your opinions and perceptions of the out-of-doors at Conner.

17. In general, do you think the outdoor environment at Conner is:

20 comfortable or 53 uncomfortable  
24 pleasant or 52 unpleasant  
16 windy or 50 calm  
56 noisy or 18 quiet  
19 interesting or 64 dull  
41 dirty or 22 clean  
11 colorful or 64 drab  
6 beautiful or 54 ugly

18. Where do you think is the most pleasant outdoor space at Conner?

10 the area just outside my living unit  
21 the athletic field  
7 the visitors' area  
10 the area between the dining hall and canteen  
 other \_\_\_\_\_

19. Which of the following do you think you would use if it were here at Conner?

<u>73</u> benches to sit on	<u>78</u> picnic tables
<u>78</u> shady places	<u>60</u> play equipment for visiting children
<u>64</u> covered walkways	other: <u>3</u> -trees

Finally, I have just four questions about you.

20. How old are you? **average 30 years; range 19-58 years**
21. Which unit do you live in? \_\_\_\_\_
22. Do you work in the industries? **12-yes**
23. Would you be interested to see the landscape plan when it is finished? **82** yes **0** no

Thank you for your help. Please have a cup of coffee and a cookie.

## APPENDIX B

### THE OFFICER SURVEY

**SURVEY OF ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF AND CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS  
at Conner Correctional Center  
Hominy, Oklahoma**

**December, 1986**

The purpose of this survey is to determine: (1) the attitude and perceptions of the administrative staff and correctional officers to the outdoor environment at Conner; and (2) their needs and wishes as they relate to the out-of-doors work environment.

The results of this survey will help determine the master plan for the design of the landscape at Conner. Your participation will be appreciated.

Please **do not** sign your name.

The following questions are related to the outdoor environment at Conner as you see and experience it. On the numbered scale, please circle the number along the line which best represents your opinion. For example, if you think the outdoor environment, in general, is UNCOMFORTABLE, circle 5. If you think it is halfway between COMFORTABLE and UNCOMFORTABLE, circle 3, and so on.

COMFORTABLE	_____	UNCOMFORTABLE
PLEASANT	_____	UNPLEASANT
QUIET	_____	NOISY
INTERESTING	_____	DULL
CLEAN	_____	DIRTY
COLORFUL	_____	DRAB
CHEERFUL	_____	GLOOMY
SPACIOUS	_____	CROWDED
WELL-MAINTAINED	_____	POORLY-MAINTAINED
BEAUTIFUL	_____	UGLY
SAFE	_____	UNSAFE

For questions #2 through #5, please check the appropriate space of spaces next to your answer.

2. Where is the most pleasant outdoor space at Conner? (Check one.)

10 unit yard. Which unit? \_\_\_\_\_  
6 central yard  
9 main entry to administration building  
1 visitors' area  
4 courtyard outside programs area  
0 around the greenhouse  
2 athletic field  
4 duck pond  
2 other: \_\_\_\_\_

What makes that space pleasant? pretty well maintained

3. Where is the most dangerous outdoor space at Conner? (Check one.)

3 unit yard      **Note: 5 respondents checked all.**  
1 central yard  
0 visitors' area  
2 courtyard outside programs area  
0 around the greenhouse  
3 athletic field  
13 west of chow hall  
19 west of gym  
3 other: \_\_\_\_\_

What makes that space dangerous? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Which of the following, in your opinion, would improve the outdoor environment at Conner without jeopardizing people's safety? (Check as many as you think answer the question.)

<u>2</u> shade trees	<u>4</u> larger unit yards
<u>1</u> overhead shade structures	<u>9</u> additional recreation areas
<u>19</u> flower beds	<u>2</u> small amphitheater for con-
<u>5</u> vegetable gardens	certs, group meetings, etc.
<u>14</u> benches for sitting	<u>12</u> playground equipment in
<u>9</u> picnic tables	visitors' area
<u>22</u> large grassy areas	<u>3</u> nothing
<u>6</u> more colorful buildings	other: _____

5. Do you think a more pleasant, comfortable outdoor environment might bring about a more positive attitude among the inmates?

22 yes      13 no

The last few questions are about you. This information is important in determining how representative our sample is. Please **do not** sign your name.

6. In which unit, office, or station are you now working?

2 administrative office 0 sallyport  
11 prison yard 1 tower  
0 visitors' room 18 unit (letter name of unit:     )  
 other:                     

7. How many months have you worked at your present job? **31.6 mos. avg.**

8. What are the hours of your present shift?

**13: 8-4 p.m.; 10: 4-12 midnight; 3: 8-5 p.m. or 1-9 p.m.;**  
**2: 8-5 p.m.**

9. How old are you?

7 21-29 14 30-39  
8 40-49 5 50 and older

10. Are you 25 male or 7 female?

11. How many times in a week, on the average, do you go out onto the yard?

2 never  
6 1-5 times  
5 6-10 times  
21 10 or more times

Please write below any additional information or suggestions for the landscape plan at Conner.

**Thank you.**

## APPENDIX C

### SURVEY OF COMMUNITY RESIDENTS



**SURVEY OF HOMINY RESIDENTS  
AUTUMN, 1986**

In each case, please check the appropriate space for your answer.

1. Have you ever been to Conner Correctional Center? 11 yes 5 no

If no, please turn to page 2.

2. If yes, how many times have you been to Conner? 2 once  
5 2-5 times  
6 6-10 times  
11 more than 10 times

3. What were the circumstances of your visit to Conner?

6 I was part of a tour group.  
5 I went on my own.  
3 I had business at Conner.  
2 Other: Church services, newspaper story

4. What was your first impression of the landscape at Conner?  
 (Check one in each set.)

<u>3</u> pleasant	<u>4</u> unpleasant	<u>4</u> not sure
<u>2</u> interesting	<u>3</u> dull	<u>3</u> not sure
<u>1</u> dirty	<u>7</u> clean	<u>1</u> not sure
<u>3</u> drab	<u>2</u> colorful	<u>2</u> not sure
<u>1</u> beautiful	<u>0</u> ugly	<u>7</u> not sure
<u>4</u> safe	<u>0</u> unsafe	<u>5</u> not sure

5. If you have been there more than once, has your impression of the landscape at Conner changed? 4 yes 6 no

If yes, would you say your impression now is 4 more favorable;  
0 less favorable?

6. Do you think the landscape at Conner affects the attitude and behavior of the inmates? 9 yes 2 no

Do you think the landscape at Conner affects the attitude and behavior of the correctional officers? 9 yes 2 no

7. Do you think the physical appearance of the prison makes it an asset to the community of Hominy? 10 yes 1 no

**Thank you for your assistance.**

- 2-2. Even though you haven't visited Conner, you probably have an impression from what you've heard and read. Please check the description that best fits your impression of Conner.

2 like a factory  
 like a college campus  
1 like a country club  
 like a health and fitness club  
 like a hospital  
 like an urban ghetto  
2 other: like a prison; none of the above

- 2-3. Which of the following terms describe how you feel a prison landscape should be? (Please check one in each set.)

<u>4</u> pleasant	<u>0</u> unpleasant	<u>0</u> not sure
<u>1</u> interesting	<u>1</u> dull	<u>1</u> not sure
<u>0</u> dirty	<u>4</u> clean	<u>0</u> not sure
<u>0</u> drab	<u>2</u> colorful	<u>2</u> not sure
<u>1</u> beautiful	<u>0</u> ugly	<u>3</u> not sure

- 2-4. Do you think the landscape of a prison affects the attitude and behavior of the prisoners? 2 yes 3 no
- 2-5. Do you think the landscape of a prison affects the attitude and behavior of the correctional officers? 2 yes 3 no
- 2-6. Based on your impression, do you think the physical appearance of Conner makes it an asset to the community of Hominy?
- 3 yes 2 no

**Thank you for your assistance.**