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# CORRECTIONS

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## Metropolitan Correctional Center

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Dedication ceremonies were held for the new Metropolitan Correctional Center in San Diego, Calif., on November 15, 1974. This center was the first of three such Bureau of Prisons facilities to be built in the United States. The others are located in Chicago, Ill., and New York City.

The Metropolitan Correctional Center, as one of 44 Bureau of Prisons facilities, operates under bureauwide policy guidelines. However, as its functions are almost totally different from the older, more established institutions, the first year of its operation was spent revising and updating guidelines to meet its specific needs.

The concept of the center is to provide the following services for the courts:

1. Pretrial detention—a place to house those individuals arrested, but not yet tried, for an offense;
2. Short-term commitments of 6 months or less—this includes those offenders sentenced to 6 months or less and those serving the last 6 months of a longer sentence with a release destination in the San Diego area; and
3. Diagnostics and observation—psychiatric evaluations, counseling, evaluations for the courts, and prerelease planning are among areas covered.

Crisis intervention has played a major role at the center. Many of those arrested and committed here are facing incarceration for the first time. Even though some may be found innocent and released, they still must go through the traumatic experience of confinement and court proceedings. Educational and recreational programs are offered, and television is provided to help maintain and enhance community awareness.

The San Diego facility is equal to a 22-story building and stands 267 feet



Warden J. D. Williams

above street level. The overall floor space amounts to approximately 240,000 square feet. It was built with-

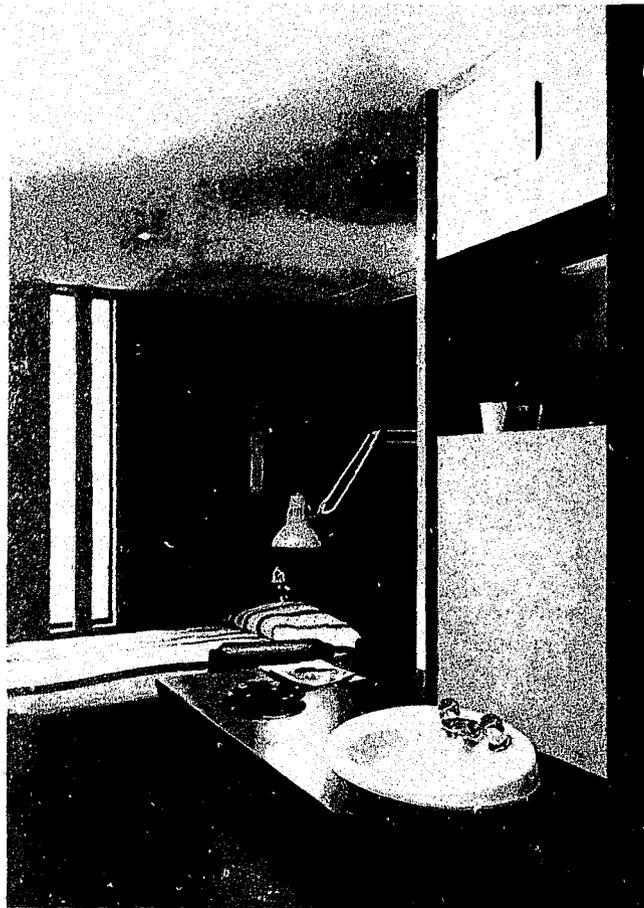
out the standard quantities of concrete and steel, which not only takes away from the traditional jail appearance but saved approximately \$2 million in construction costs. The facility was built at a cost of approximately \$14 million.

The below-grade portion is comprised of the service areas, such as the laundry, food service department, storeroom, and mechanical services department. The food service system is a completely new concept in the Bureau of Prisons. All of the food is prepared in the master kitchen, plated, and refrigerated. It is sent to each floor, based on actual inmate count, three times daily and reheated in microwave ovens.

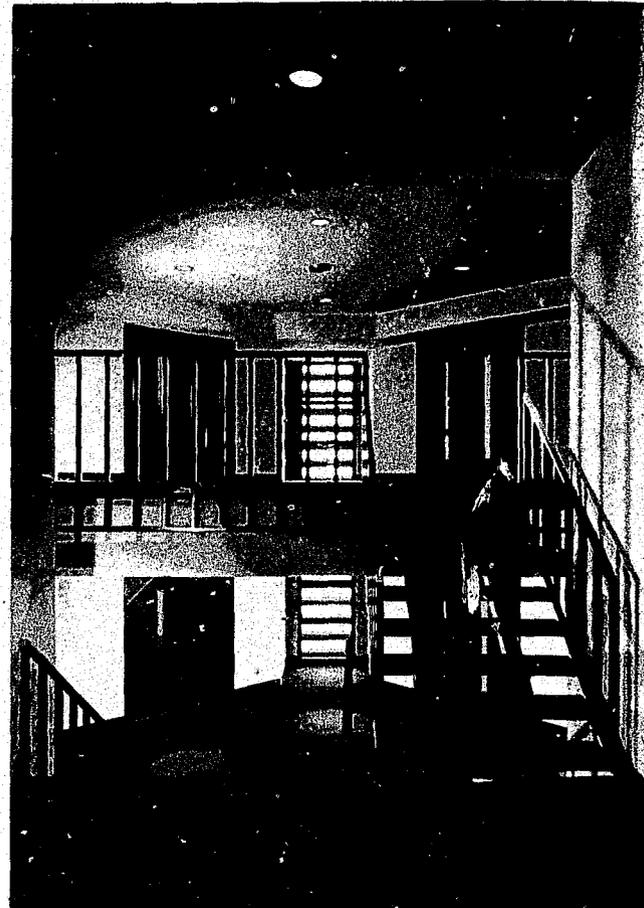
The first floor is made up of the lobby area and administrative offices.

The main lobby of the Metropolitan Correctional Center.

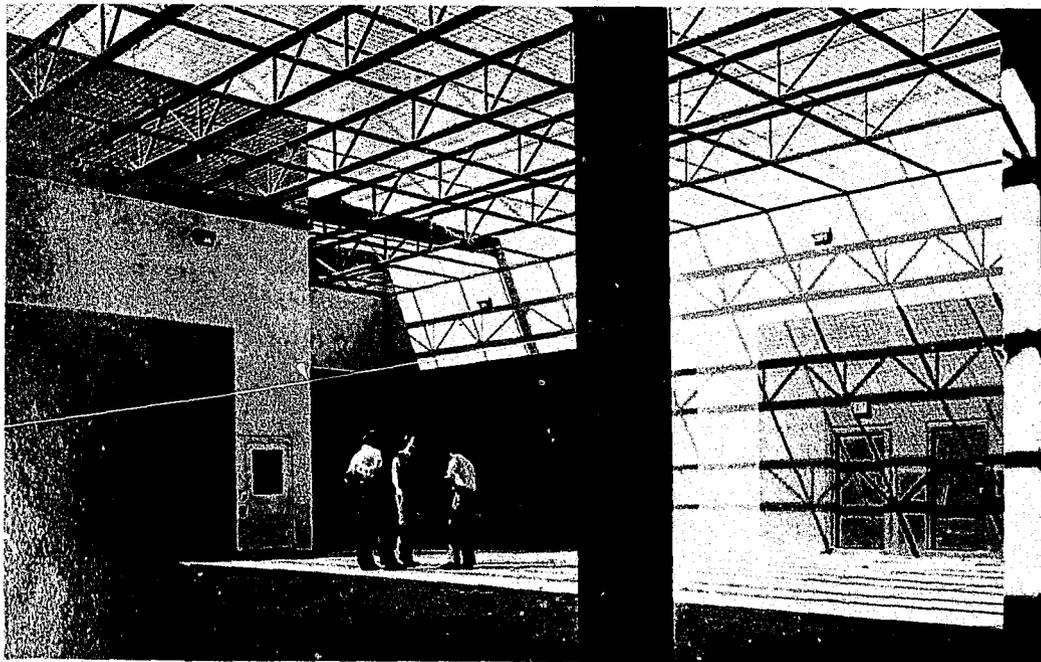




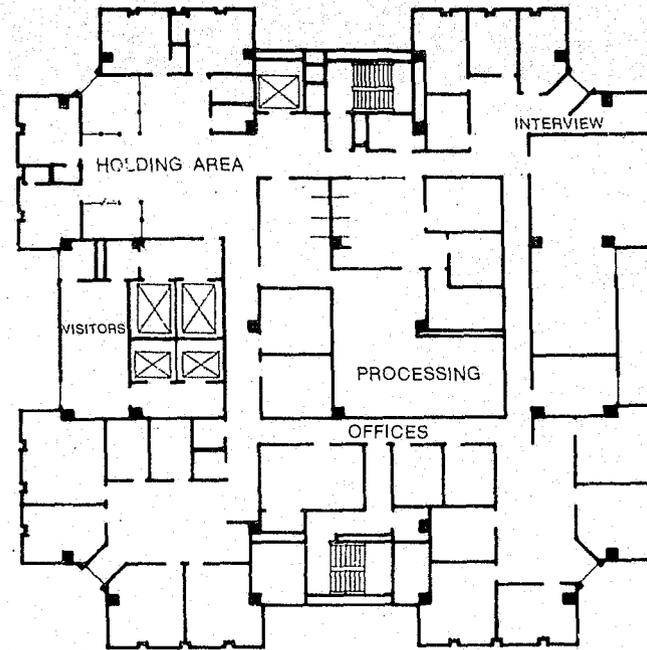
The interior of a typical cell.



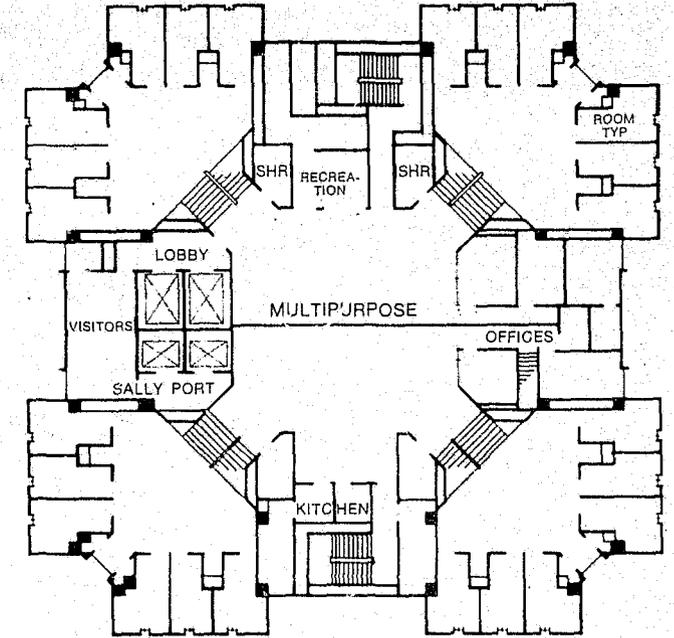
Area outside individual cells.



Outdoor recreational area.



Admissions processing area.



Maximum security and community treatment center.

The control center is also located on this floor and provides security monitoring for the entire institution. Closed-circuit television monitors are used on all floors, in the visiting rooms as well as in the elevator lobby areas. This enables the control center officer to supervise all traffic—inmate, visitor, and employee—throughout the building.

The second floor includes the data, records, and receiving unit, where all inmates are processed into the facility, including fingerprinting and photographing. They are issued institution

available.

The third floor houses the institution hospital and the juvenile unit. The hospital is staffed on a 24-hour-a-day basis. Sick call is scheduled daily and emergency cases are handled whenever they arise. The total capacity for inpatients is 13, however, the inmates receive medication and treatment in their housing units whenever possible. The medical department is capable of providing a full range of services, including X-rays, laboratory tests, and dental examinations and treatment. A detoxification unit is also

*“Closed-circuit television monitors are used on all floors. . . .”*

clothing and designated for housing to one of the living units. The record office maintains the master files of all inmates, and a separate property room holds the inmate's personal belongings during their incarceration here. A computerized booking system is in operation and is somewhat unique to the Bureau of Prisons. Computer terminals are set up at strategic points in the institution so that information on any particular inmate is readily

available. Only those cases requiring surgery and/or specialized treatment are referred for outside hospitalization.

Floors 4 through 12 are inmate housing units. Each floor consists of a common area and two split-level living areas, totaling 48 rooms on each floor. The building was designed around a decentralized concept, whereby, visiting, recreation, feeding, and treatment programs are provided for

on each floor and the inmate does not have to be moved from this area except for court appearance or outdoor recreation. Three floors are set up for dormitory-style living, and the rest are individual room units. The center was designed to house a total of 505 inmates.

An outdoor recreational area is located on the roof of the facility where volleyball, handball, and basketball are among the activities available.

Religious services are provided through use of closed-circuit television. This gives the chaplains more time for individual counseling on the floors.

A pedestrian tunnel, for transporting inmates to and from court, will connect the facility with the new Federal courthouse now under construction across the street.

The Bureau of Prisons regards this facility as an important advance in the development of detention centers. Through design and operation, its aim is to provide a more humane atmosphere and to help alleviate the pretrial tension and anxiety so often associated with facilities of this nature. ®