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Retreat. Dwell. Rehabilitate. Educate.

Proposal for a youth correctional center amid Icelandic hills

Iceland is known for its remote location and rough beauty. In their seclusion, the Icelanders have built an independent and peaceful country. They are undeniably a very unique nation, where police officers are not allowed to carry guns, except on special occasions. The society displays a relaxed attitude towards prisons, which are built without concrete walls around. However, faced with the immense immigration and the raising crime levels, the Icelandic government started to reflect upon the security and the adjustments of penitentiary system. The last years saw an increase in drug-related crimes, which have hitherto been less typical for Icelandic society. In consequence, a need is arising for a new type of facility, which could accommodate various concepts of therapy, correction and imprisonment, in a state which is too small to sustain several separate institutions.

Research have shown that Icelandic youth incarceration and rehabilitation system has major problem due to lack of purposely designed buildings. According to gathered information the best rehabilitation center exists in Krýsuvík, where rehabilitation rate is much higher than anything achieved in Iceland before. By looking closely into the problem, this project aims to develop a concept that answers the raising need for a youth correctional center.

The thesis aims to improve the current situation by proposing a common facility for under age Icelanders struggling with addictions and for young criminals. Due to rehabilitation purposes young inmates should not serve their sentence with adult prisoners. They are offered specific care, at a location amid the spectacular Icelandic landscape. Within spaces designed to incorporate the view of nature into therapeutic process, they can benefit from education and assistance. The place is expected to work together with the staff, in order to help the delinquents reconcile with the society.



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