

## 2.7 Correctional Facilities

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The correctional service system is in crisis - rehabilitation and construction of correctional facilities are key to overcoming pressing problems.

The correctional service system, which is considered by many to be one of the largest growth industries in the U.S.A., is in crisis. In large part, this is the result of a major shortage of adequate correctional facilities, particularly prison beds. Considering that many prisons are more than 100 years old and that prison incarceration rates are expected to grow at an alarming pace, the rehabilitation of old prisons and construction of new facilities represent major market niches for architects and developers. A recent Department of Justice study suggests the need for a national building program of \$70 million per week over several years to overcome the crisis in accommodation.

Joint ventures and consortia developments, coupled with a thorough understanding of the voluntary standards of the American Correction Association and its Commission on Accreditation for Corrections, offer the best potential for Canadian Architects.

The move toward privatization of correctional facilities with funding support at the state and community levels suggests that joint ventures with local architects or engineers or the establishment of development consortia would be the most successful penetration strategies for Canadian architects. Canadian architects and developers must be fully conversant with standards of the American Correction Association and its Commission on Accreditation for Corrections since these voluntary standards are increasingly becoming the norm for the design and operation of facilities. Presently, it is estimated that there are 25 U.S. architectural firms specializing in correctional facilities.

The crime rate has stabilized but incarceration rates are increasing - by 1986, there was a shortage of 50,000 bed spaces.

Although the crime rate in the United States has levelled off since 1979, the incarceration rate has continued to increase. There is a chronic shortage of prison space. By 1986, the national prison population of 503,601 was 64 percent higher than in 1980. In California, the prison population had reached 58,515 by 1986 whereas just a few years ago, the projection was that it would not reach 40,000 until the year 2000. There has been a substantial surge in construction to try and cope but so far this effort has been insufficient to meet the incarceration growth rate. For instance, the Department of Justice reports that even though there was a net addition of 122,317 new prison beds provided in the period from 1978 to 1983, the shortfall

### 2.7.1 The Recent Past

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