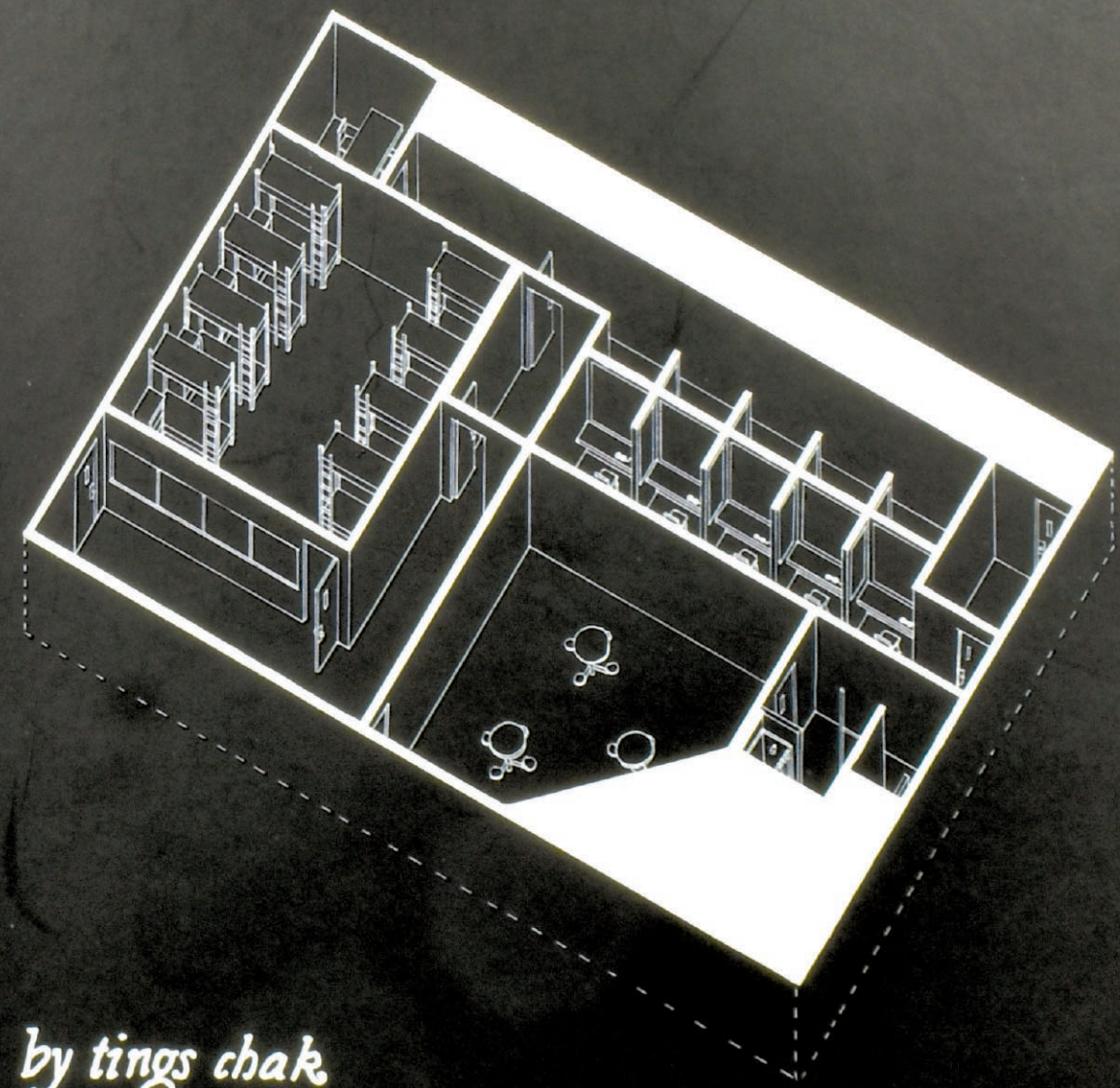


UNDOCUMENTED :
THE ARCHITECTURE OF
MIGRANT DETENTION



by tings chak

to the people who have resisted, and continue to resist, borders everywhere.

An undocumented woman seeks shelter while fleeing domestic violence, a mother attempts to enroll her non-status child in primary school, a failed refugee claimant goes to a food bank, an overstayed visitor walks into a medical clinic. For undocumented people in a city, simply carrying out one's daily life is a challenge to borders that every day threaten detention and deportation.

We live in an era of unprecedented human migration. Mass migration (or mass displacement) is both a process and a condition, driven by global capitalism, neo-colonialism, war and imperialism, and environmental destruction. Borders, material and immaterial ones, are proliferating around and between us.

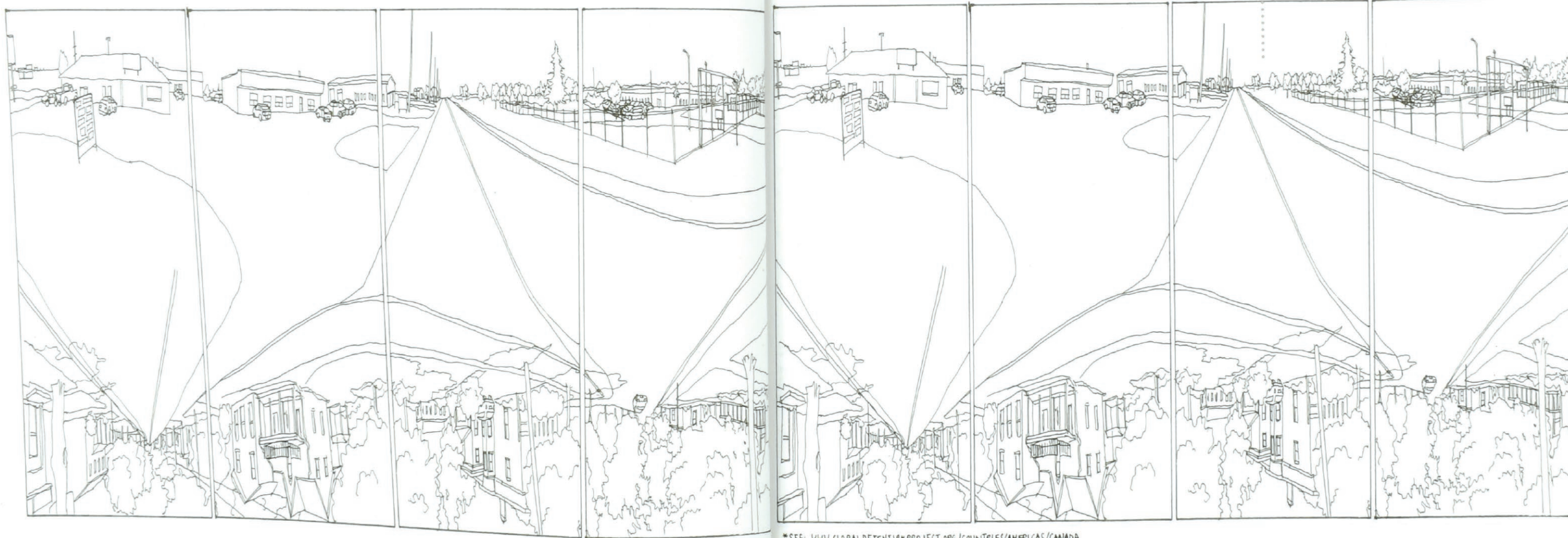
As the world has become borderless to "flows" of capital, the movement of migrant bodies is restricted as never before. And so, millions of migrants live precarious lives as precarious labourers, as refugees, and as undocumented people.

Migrants' journeys are commonly portrayed as linear progressions from home to host nations, but in reality they are replete with interruptions and discontinuities, occupying spaces of hiding, waiting, diversion, escape, settlement, and return - spaces which are largely invisible to the public. Among those are spaces used for mass detentions and deportation.

In these pages you will find an incomplete view into the world of migrant detention in Canada, explored at scales descending from physical landscapes to the human body. This illustrated documentary is an ongoing project developed through reading, listening, organizing, writing, drawing, and imagining. The stories are borrowed from the lived experiences of anonymous individuals and all figures are taken from official sources.

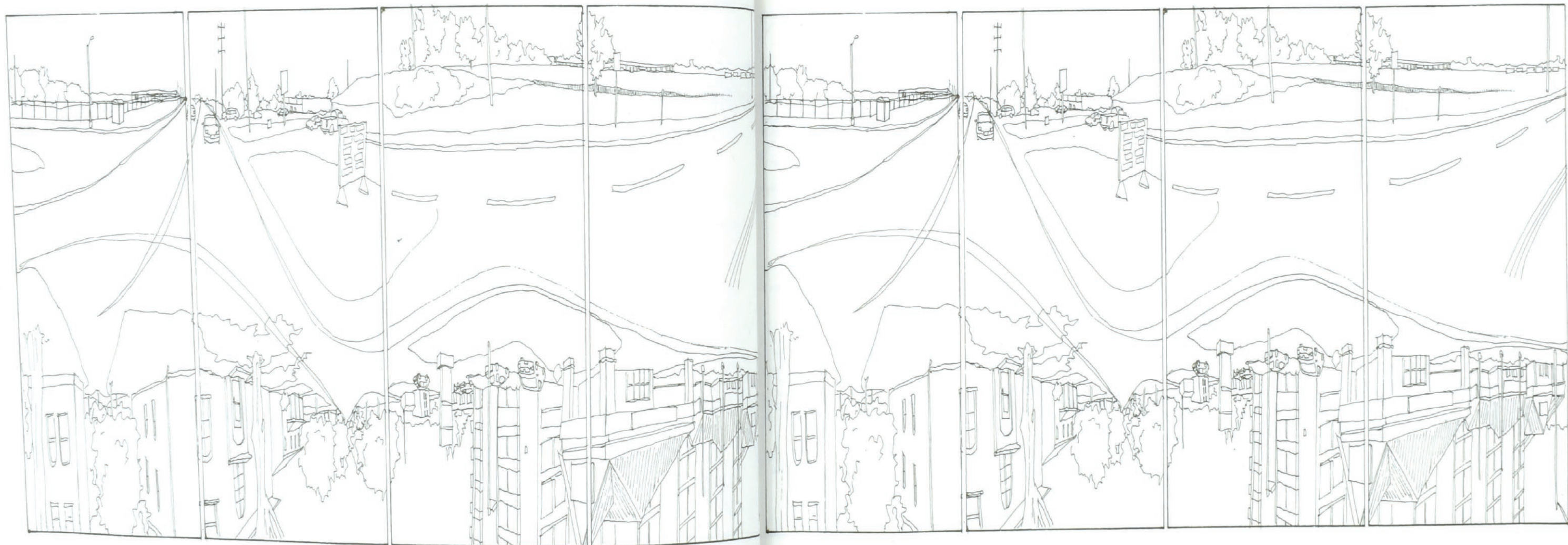


QUINTE DETENTION CENTRE
DETAINEES: UNKNOWN*
FACILITY TYPE: PROVINCIAL PRISON
DETENTION TIMEFRAME: LONG-TERM
SECURITY: SECURE



*SEE: WWW.GLOBALDETENTIONPROJECT.ORG/COUNTRIES/AMERICAS/CANADA

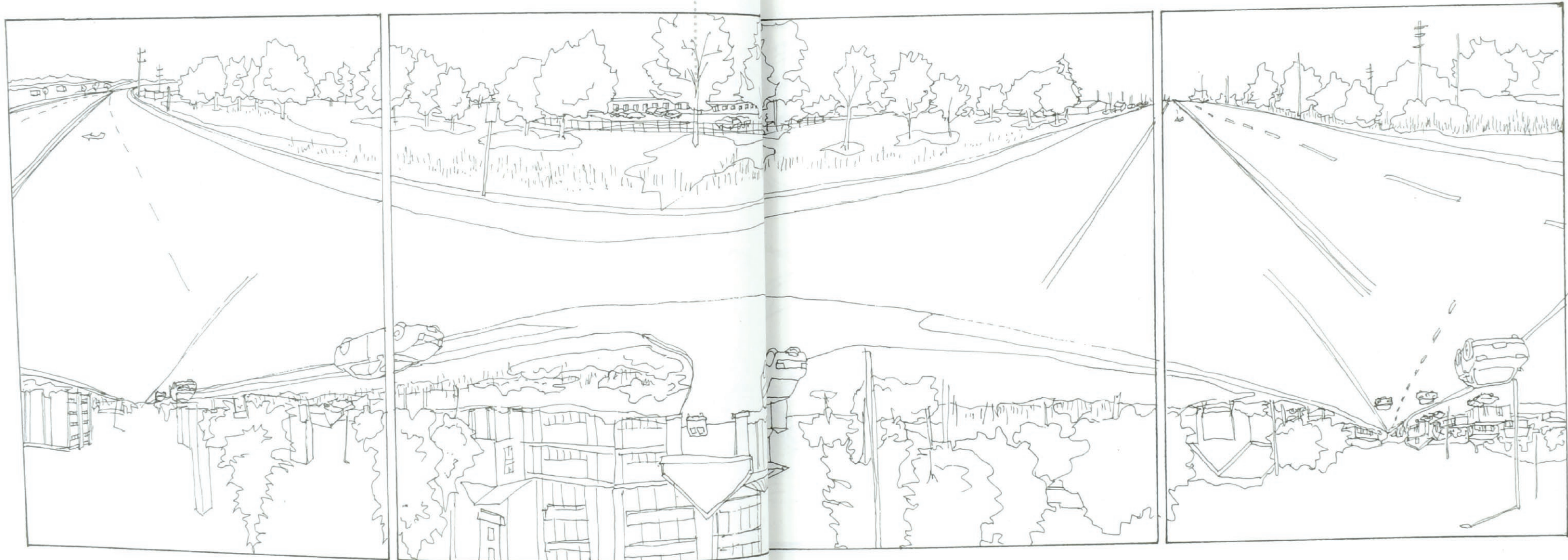
NAPANEE, ON
POPULATION: 15,511
EST. 1994 (GREATER AREA)
LOCATION: BAY OF QUINTE, LENNOX AND ADDINGTON COUNTY
SIGNIFICANCE: LOYALIST SETTLEMENT, AMALGAMATED TOWNSHIPS



Canada has three designated immigration "holding" centres located in Toronto, Laval, and Vancouver but more than a third of detainees are held in rented beds in provincial prisons. In 2013, 143 facilities were used to detain immigrants. Every year thousands of detainees are held for an average stay of a month, but they can be held indefinitely. There are people held for five, six, seven years without charge or trial.



NIAGARA DETENTION CENTRE
DETAINEES : UNKNOWN
FACILITY TYPE : PROVINCIAL PRISON
DETENTION TIMEFRAME : LONG-TERM
SECURITY : SECURE

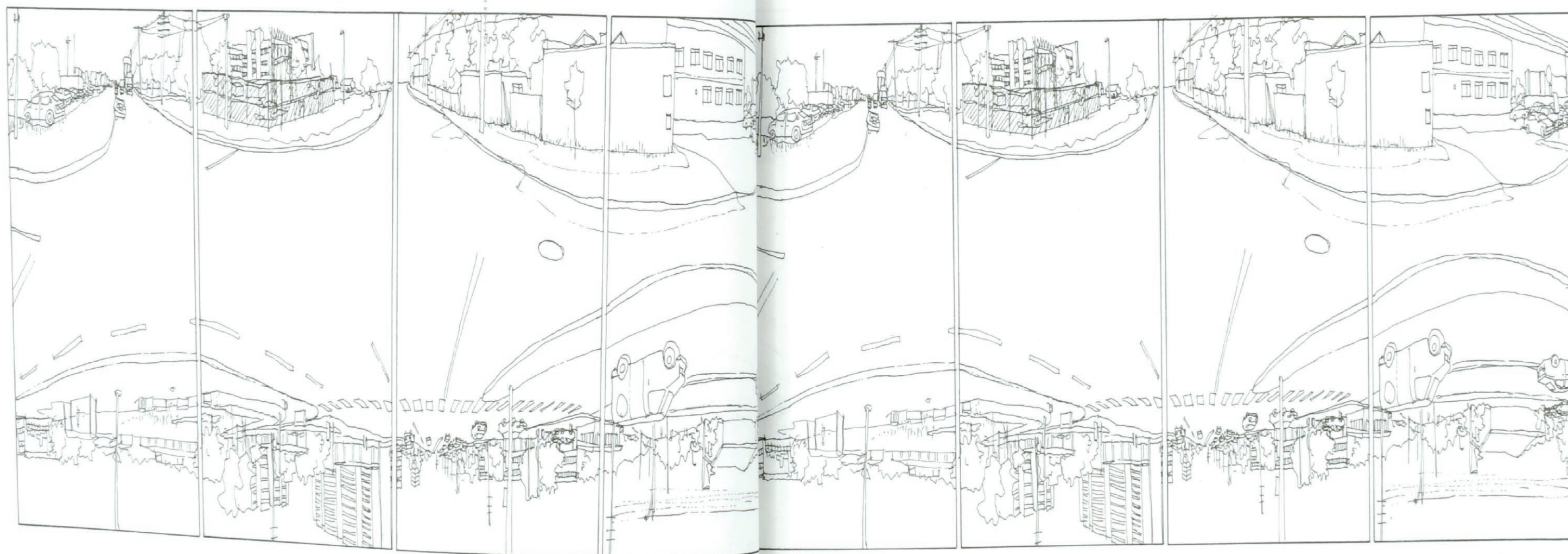


NIAGARA, ON
POPULATION : 431,356 (2011)
ESTABLISHED : 1970 (REGION)
LOCATION : NIAGARA PENINSULA LAKE ONTARIO AND LAKE ERIE
SIGNIFICANCE : 12 MUNICIPALITIES, US BORDER, NIAGARA FALLS



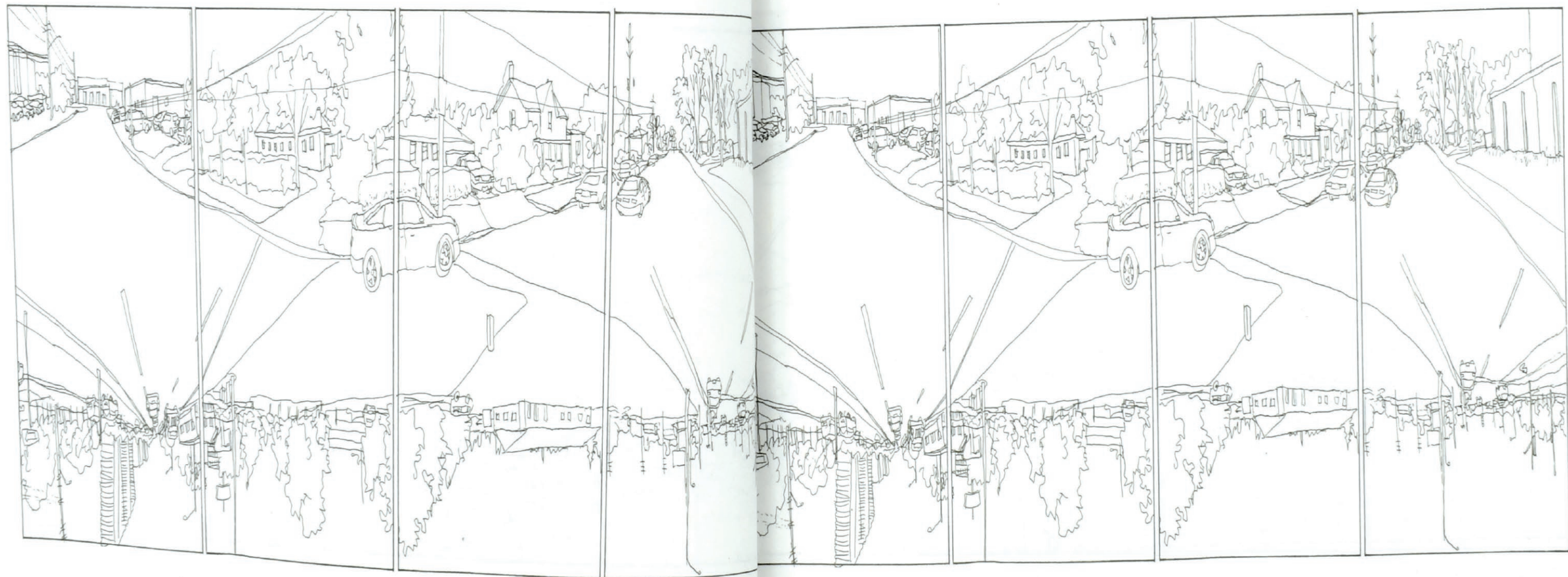
TORONTO EAST DETENTION CENTRE

DETAINEES: 5 (2011)
FACILITY TYPE: PROVINCIAL
DETENTION TIMEFRAME: LONG-
SECURITY: SECURE



SCARBOROUGH, ON

POPULATION: 602,585 (2008)
ESTABLISHED: 1850 (TOWNSHIP)
LOCATION: EASTERN PART OF TORONTO
SIGNIFICANCE: SUBURB, FORMER CITY OF SCARBOROUGH

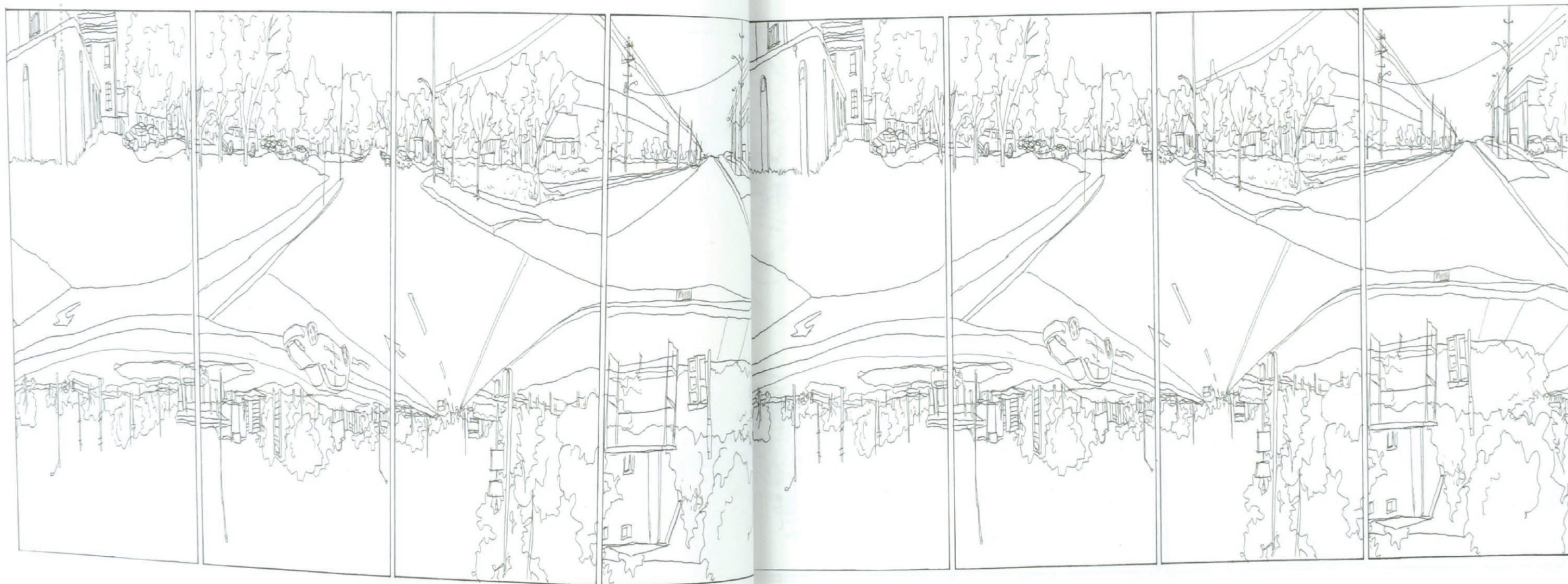


These spaces are where people without status are expelled to, to buildings and landscapes so banal, that they can go unnoticed. Just as the people detained are without papers, so too are the buildings, without photos or drawings (or only highly classified ones) - they, too, are undocumented.



WINDSOR JAIL

DETAINEES : UNKNOWN
FACILITY TYPE : PROVINCIAL PRISON
DETENTION TIMEFRAME : LONG - TERM
SECURITY : SECURE



WINDSOR, ON

POPULATION: 210,891 (2011)
ESTABLISHED: 1749 (SETTLED)
LOCATION: QUEBEC CITY - WINDSOR CORRIDOR, BORDERS DETROIT
SIGNIFICANCE: SOUTHERNMOST CITY IN CANADA, THE CITY OF ROSES



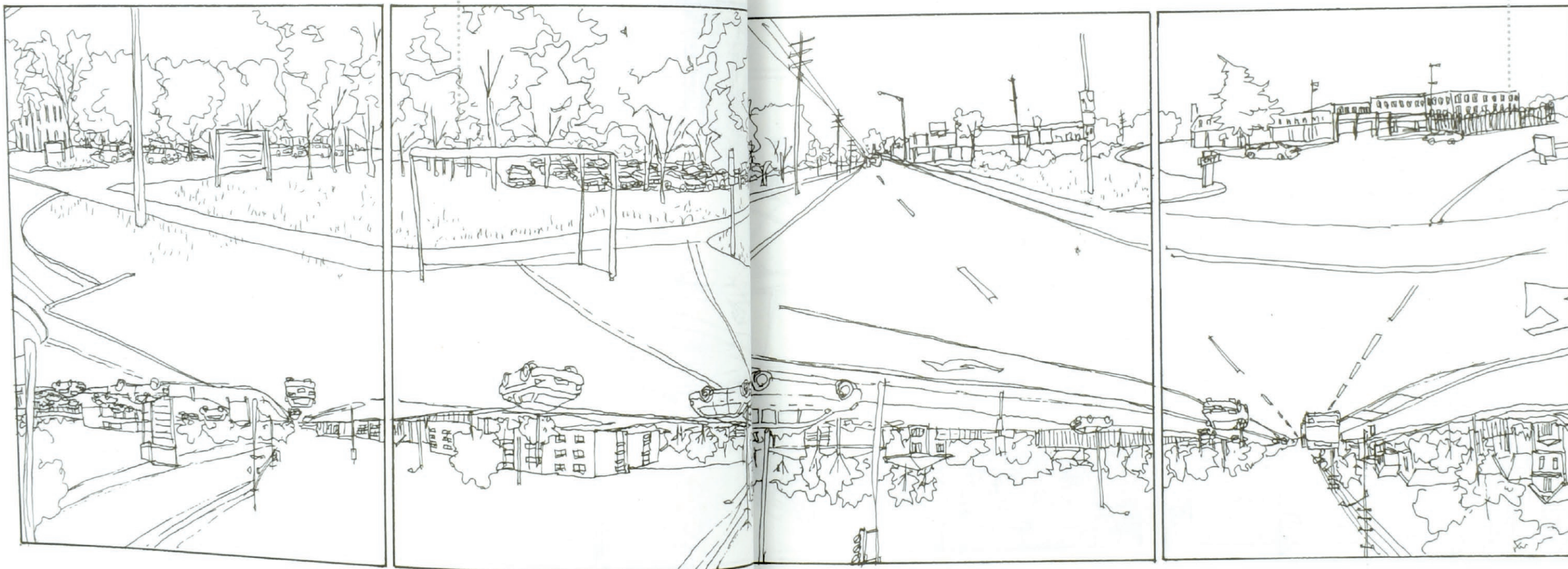
TORONTO WEST DETENTION CENTRE

DETAINEES: 73 (2011)
FACILITY TYPE: PROVINCIAL PRISON
DETENTION TIMEFRAME: LONG-TERM
SECURITY: SECURE



TORONTO IMMIGRATION HOLDING CENTRE

DETAINEES: 125 (2011)
FACILITY TYPE: MIGRANT DETENTION CENTRE
DETENTION TIMEFRAME: LONG-TERM
SECURITY: SECURE
SEGREGATION: MALES, FEMALES, MINORS

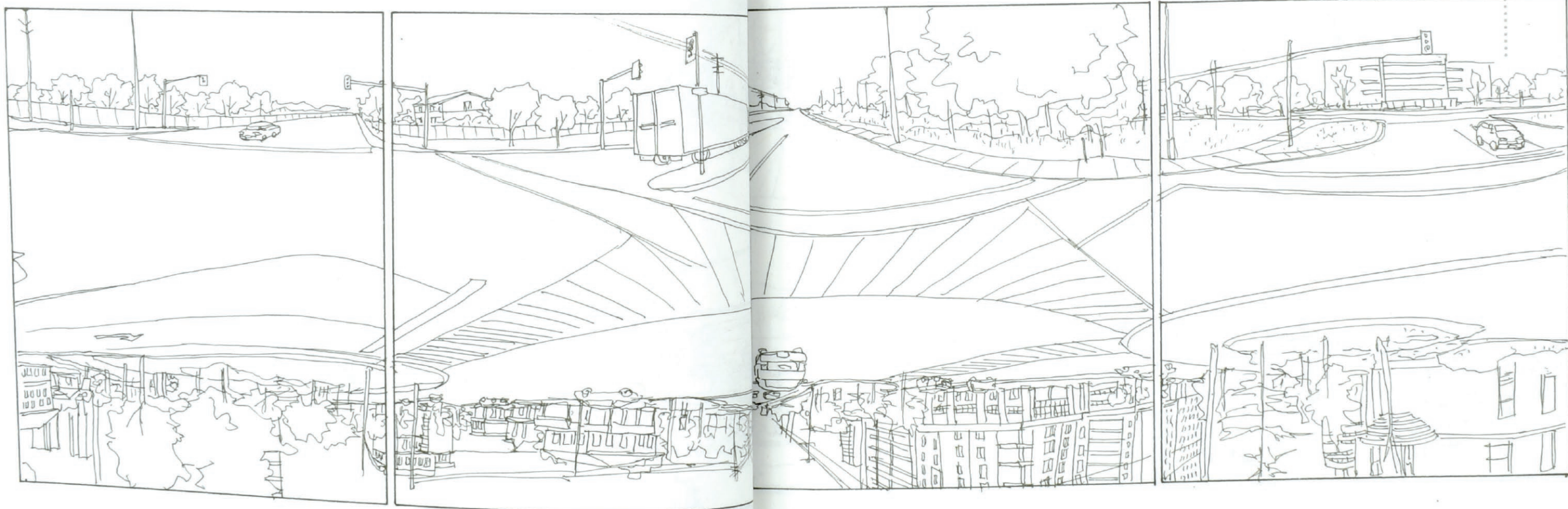


REXDALE, ON

POPULATION: 94,469 (2006)
ESTABLISHED: 1998
LOCATION: NORTHWEST CORNER OF TORONTO
SIGNIFICANCE: FORMER CITY OF ETOBICOKE

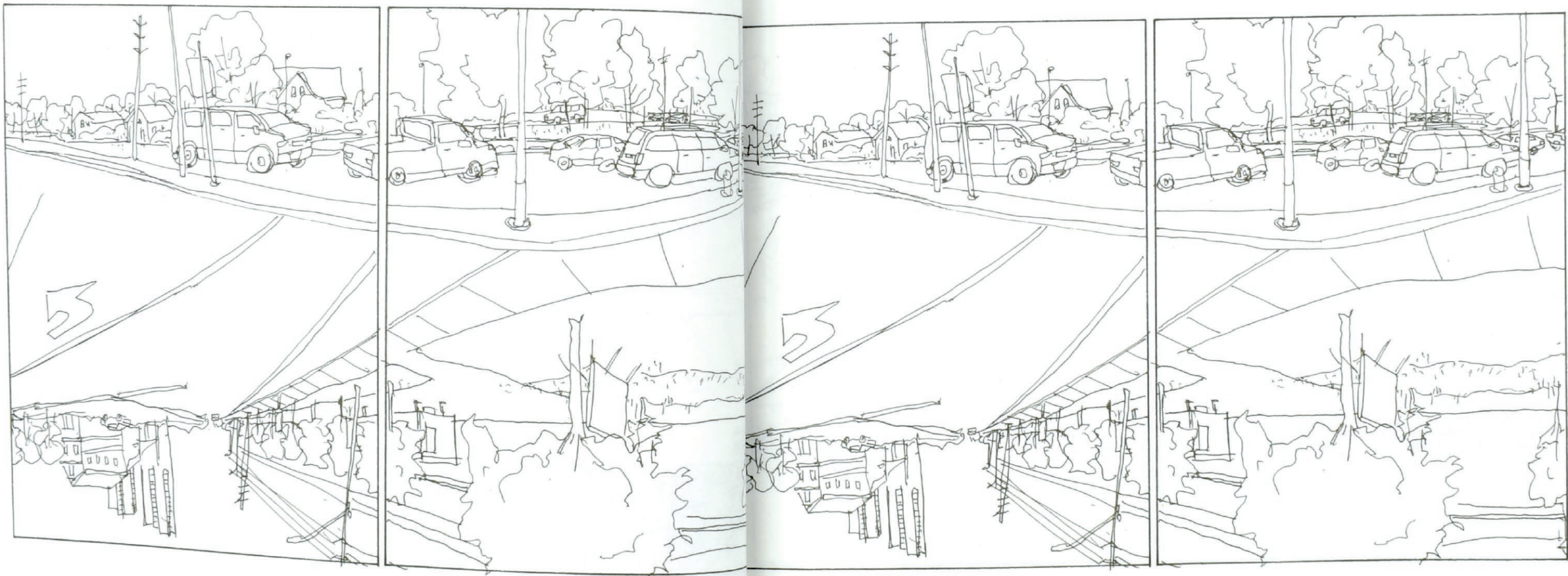
ELGIN-MIDDLESEX DETENTION CENTRE

DETAINEES: UNKNOWN
FACILITY TYPE: PROVINCIAL PRISON
DETENTION TIMEFRAME: LONG-TERM
SECURITY: SECURE



LONDON, ON

POPULATION: 366,151 (2011)
ESTABLISHED: 1825
LOCATION: QUEBEC CITY - WINDSOR CORRIDOR, SW ONTARIO
SIGNIFICANCE: CANADA'S 11TH LARGEST CITY

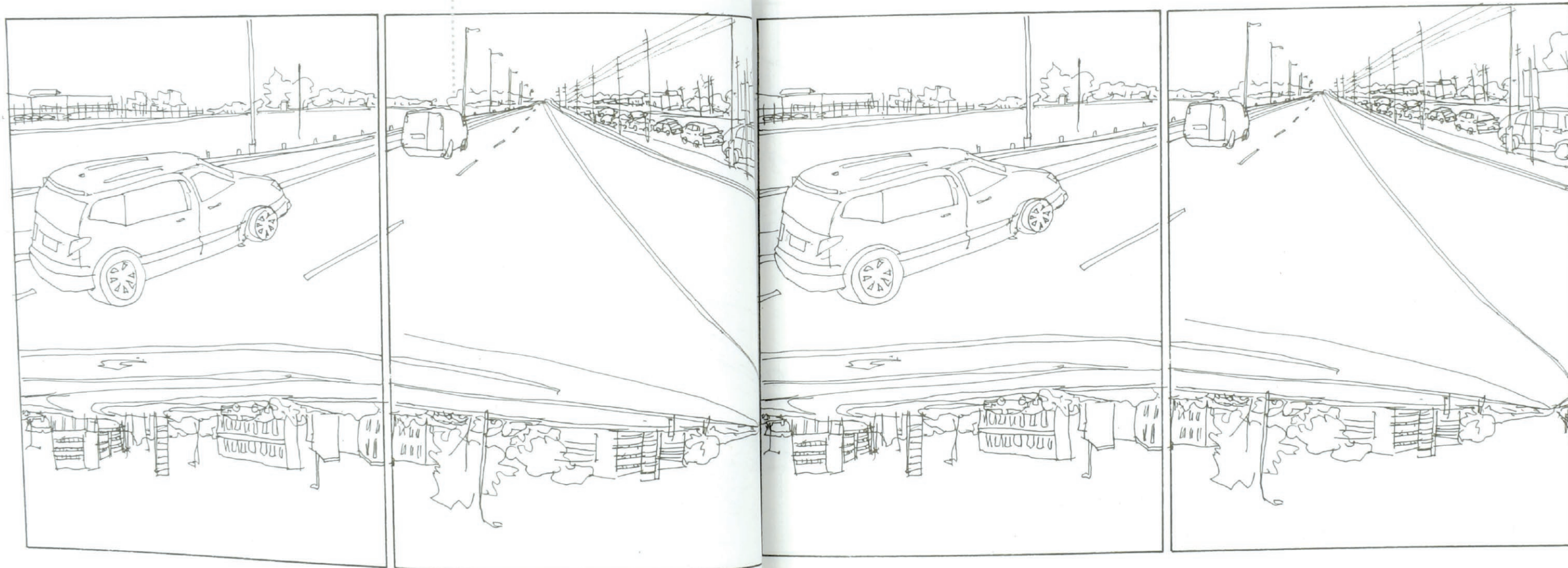


Spaces of incarceration are both nowhere and everywhere, blended into our landscapes. But their invisibility is no coincidence. We hide the things that we don't want to see, or that we don't want seen.



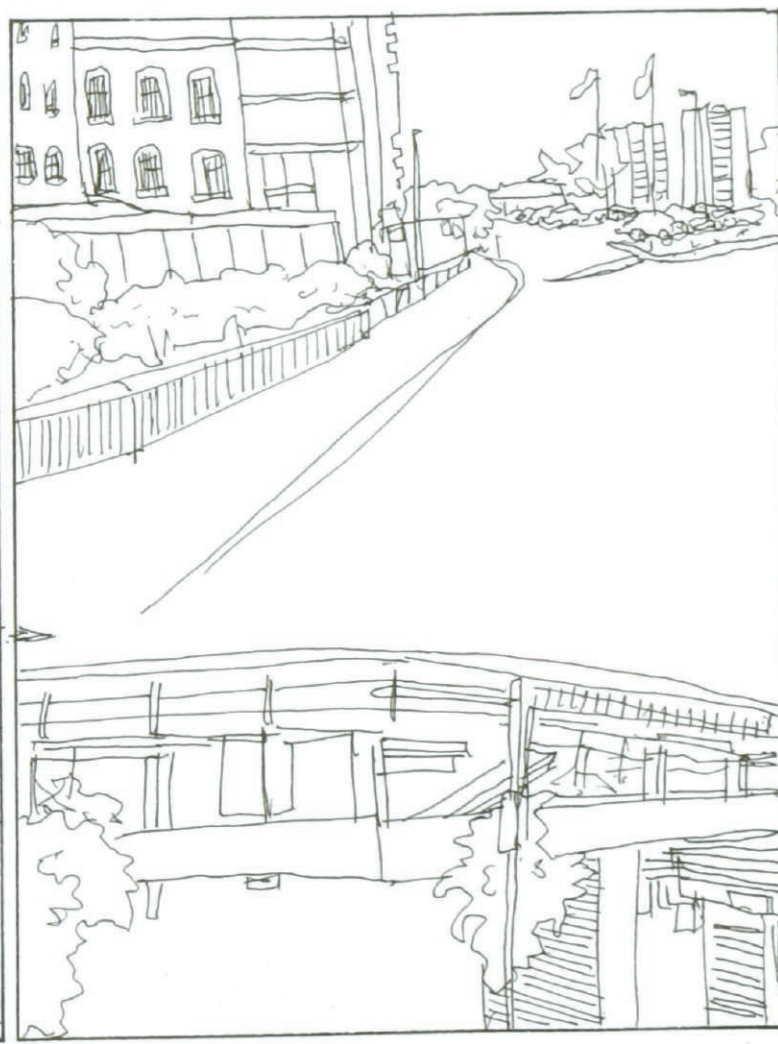
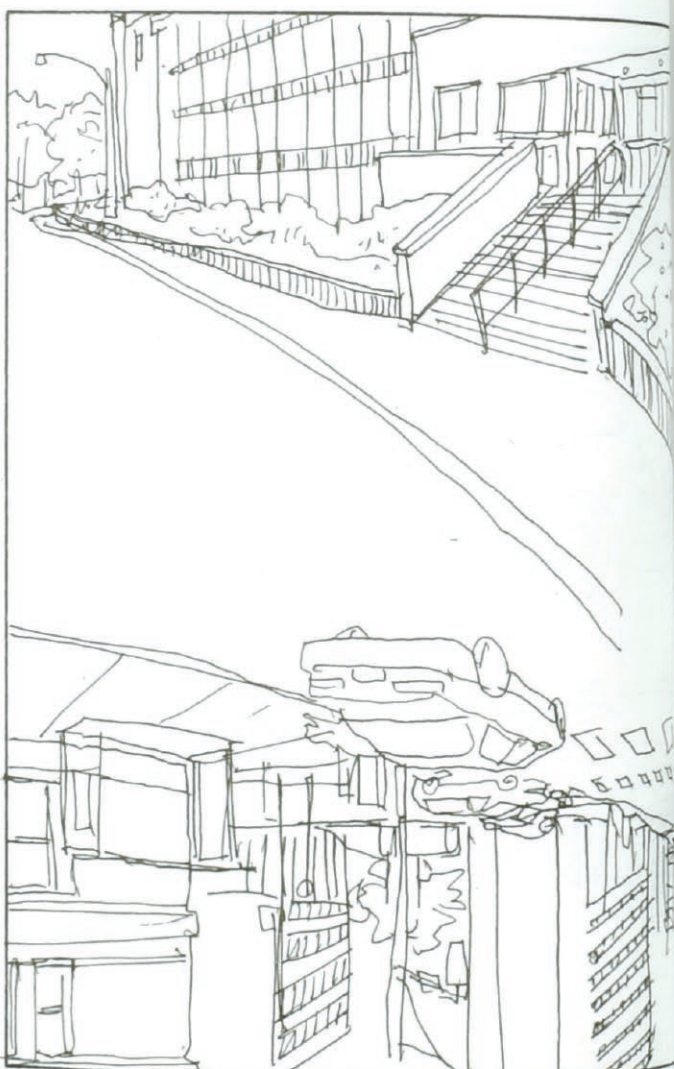
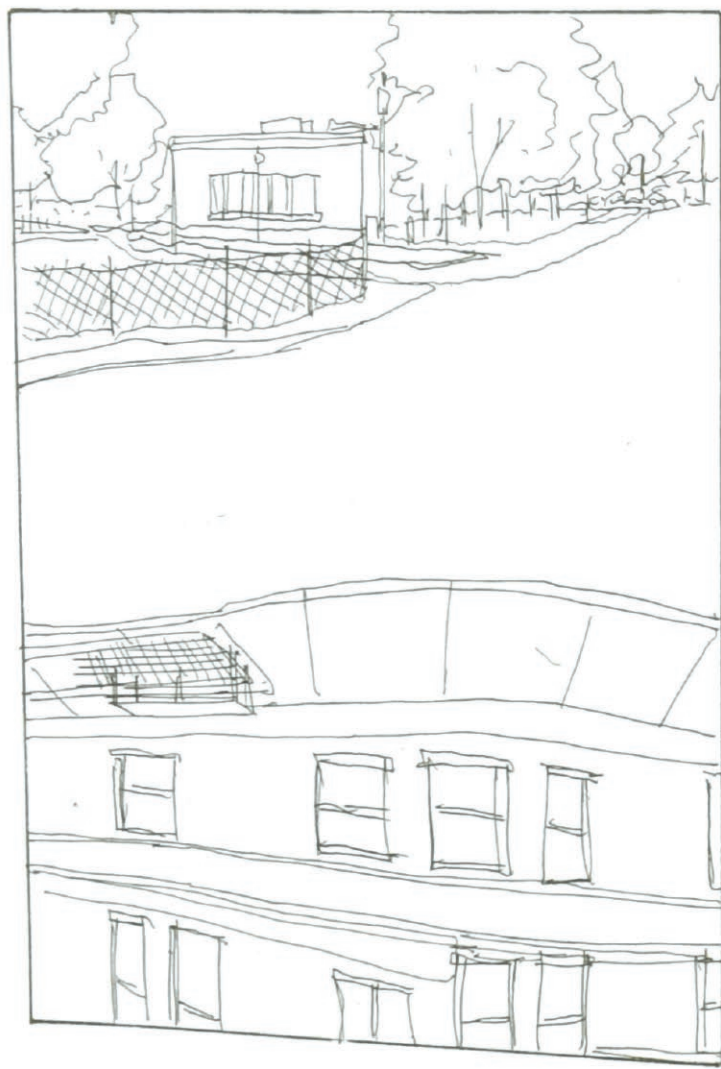
VANIER CENTRE FOR WOMEN

DETAINEES: 12 (2011)
FACILITY TYPE: PROVINCIAL PRISON
DETENTION TIMEFRAME: LONG-TERM
SECURITY: SECURE
SEGREGATION: ADULT FEMALES



MILTON, ON

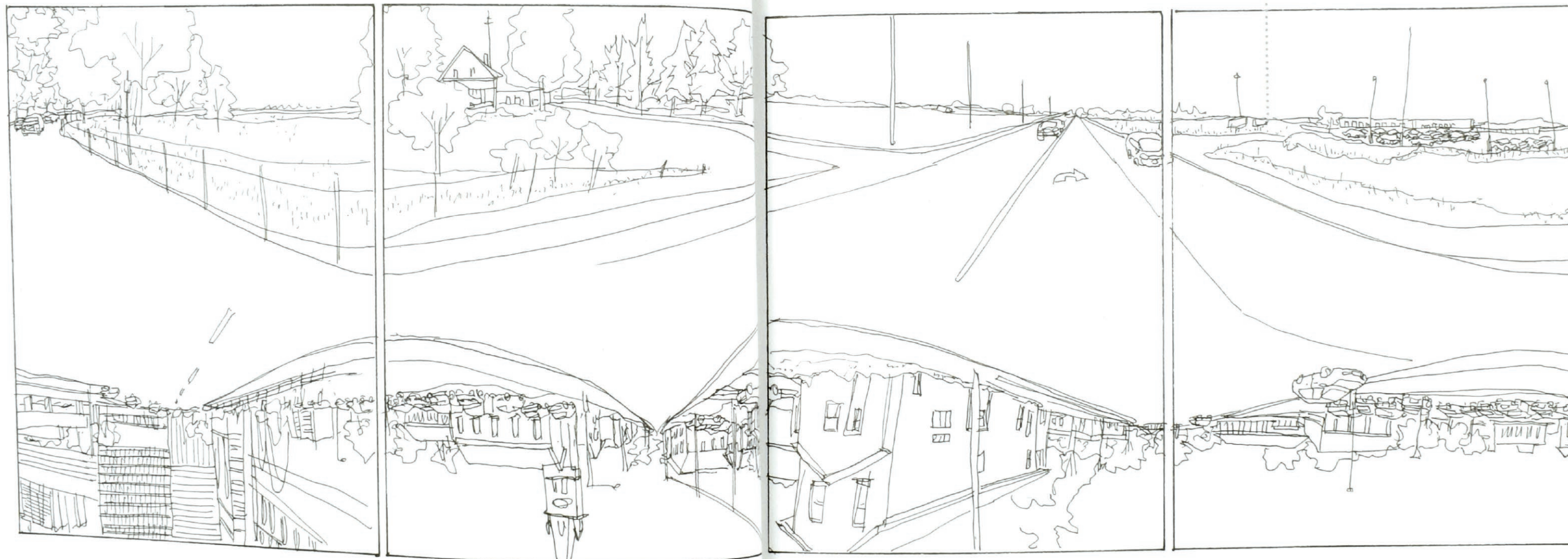
POPULATION: 84,362 (2011)
ESTABLISHED: 1818
LOCATION: GREATER GOLDEN HORSESHOE, 40KM WEST OF TORONTO
SIGNIFICANCE: FASTEST GROWING MUNICIPALITY IN REGION



TORONTO - DANFORTH, ON
 POPULATION: 184,017 (2011)
 ESTABLISHED: 1976
 LOCATION: ELECTORAL DISTRICT IN THE EAST OF DOWNTOWN TORONTO
 SIGNIFICANCE: JACK LAYTON'S FORMER RIDING, GREEK POPULATION



TORONTO DON JAIL
 DETAINEES: 9 (2011)
 FACILITY TYPE: PROVINCIAL PRISON
 DETENTION TIMEFRAME: LONG-TERM
 SECURITY: SECURE

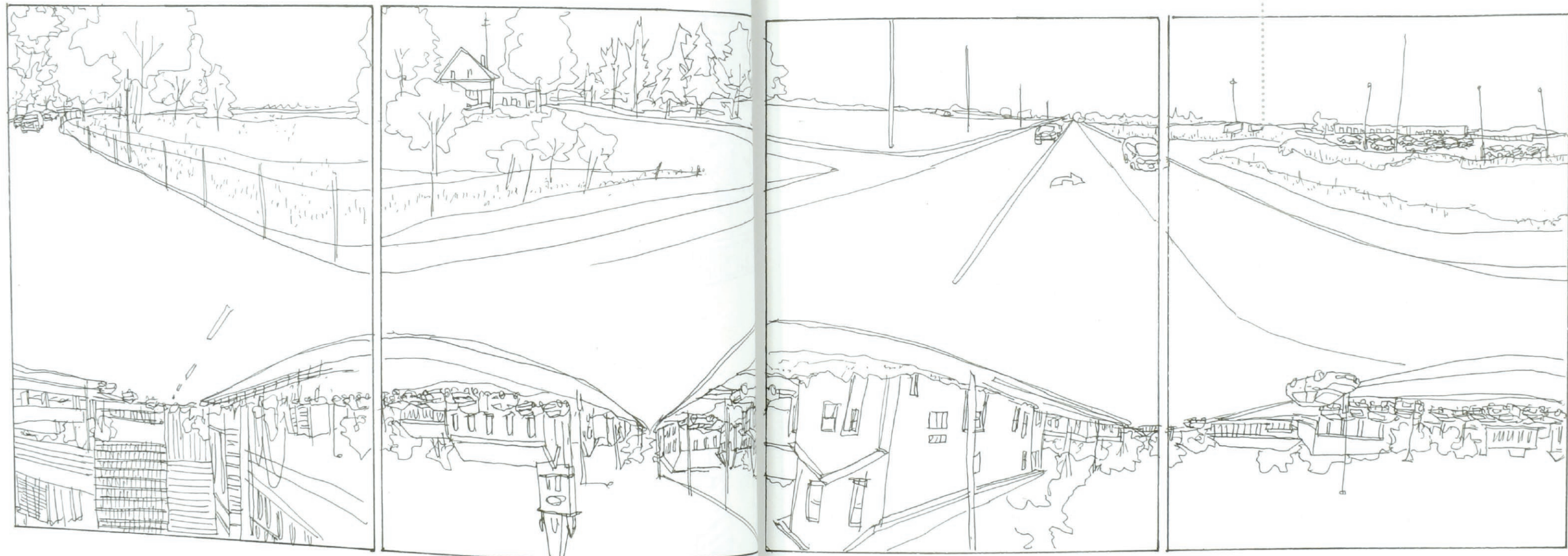


CENTRAL EAST CORR. CENTRE

DETAINEES: 191 (2013)
 FACILITY TYPE: PROVINCIAL PRISON
 DETENTION TIMEFRAME: LONG-TERM
 SECURITY: SECURE

LINDSAY, ON

POPULATION: 20,354 (2006)
 ESTABLISHED: 1831
 LOCATION: KAWARTHA LAKES, WEST OF PETERBOROUGH
 SIGNIFICANCE: REGIONAL COMMERCIAL HUB



CENTRAL EAST CORR. CENTRE
 DETAINEES: 191 (2013)
 FACILITY TYPE: PROVINCIAL PRISON
 DETENTION TIMEFRAME: LONG-TERM
 SECURITY: SECURE

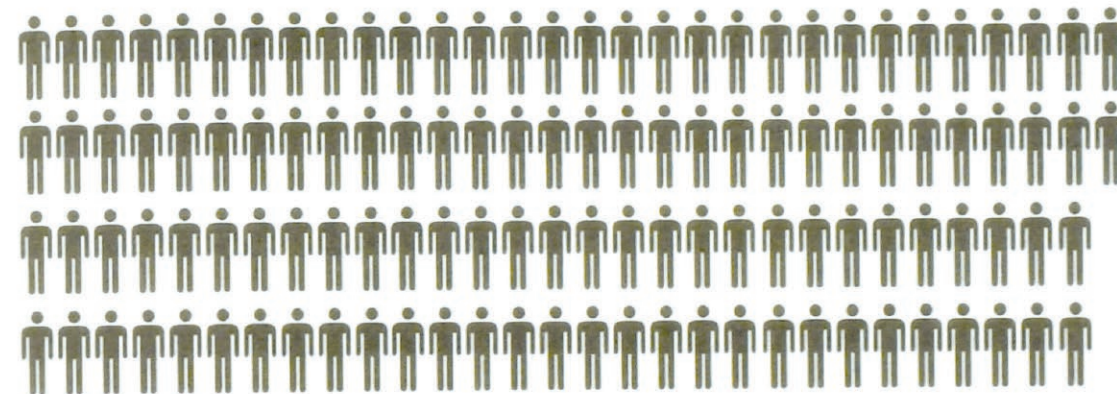
LINDSAY, ON
 POPULATION: 20,354 (2006)
 ESTABLISHED: 1831
 LOCATION: KAWARTHA LAKES, WEST OF PETERBOROUGH
 SIGNIFICANCE: REGIONAL COMMERCIAL HUB

Immigration detention is the fastest growing incarceration sector in an already booming prison construction industry. Despite this, the sites, buildings, and people involved remain largely invisible, just as the apparatus that manages and controls the flow of human bodies is designed to be.

How do we make visible the sites and stories of detention, bring them into conversations about our built environment, frame immigration detention as an architectural problem? Embedded in the politics of visibility, architecture has as much to do with the built reality as it does with representation.

Employing architectural tools of representation, these images document a physical reality in lieu of drawings and photographs, interrupted by the voices of the individuals who are denied presence in our built environment.

For the past decade, Canada has detained an average of 11,000 migrants per year*



and up to 807 children in one year



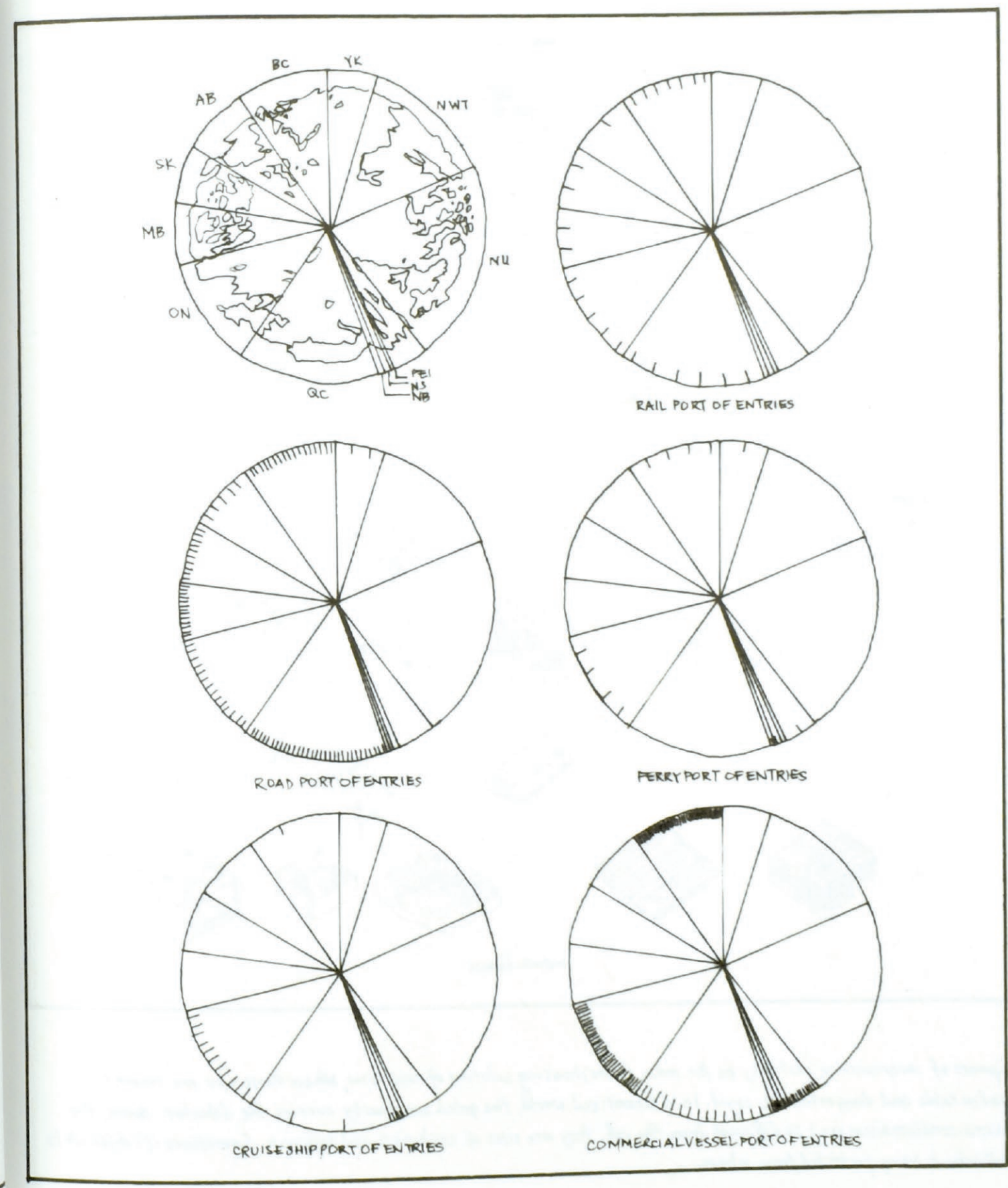
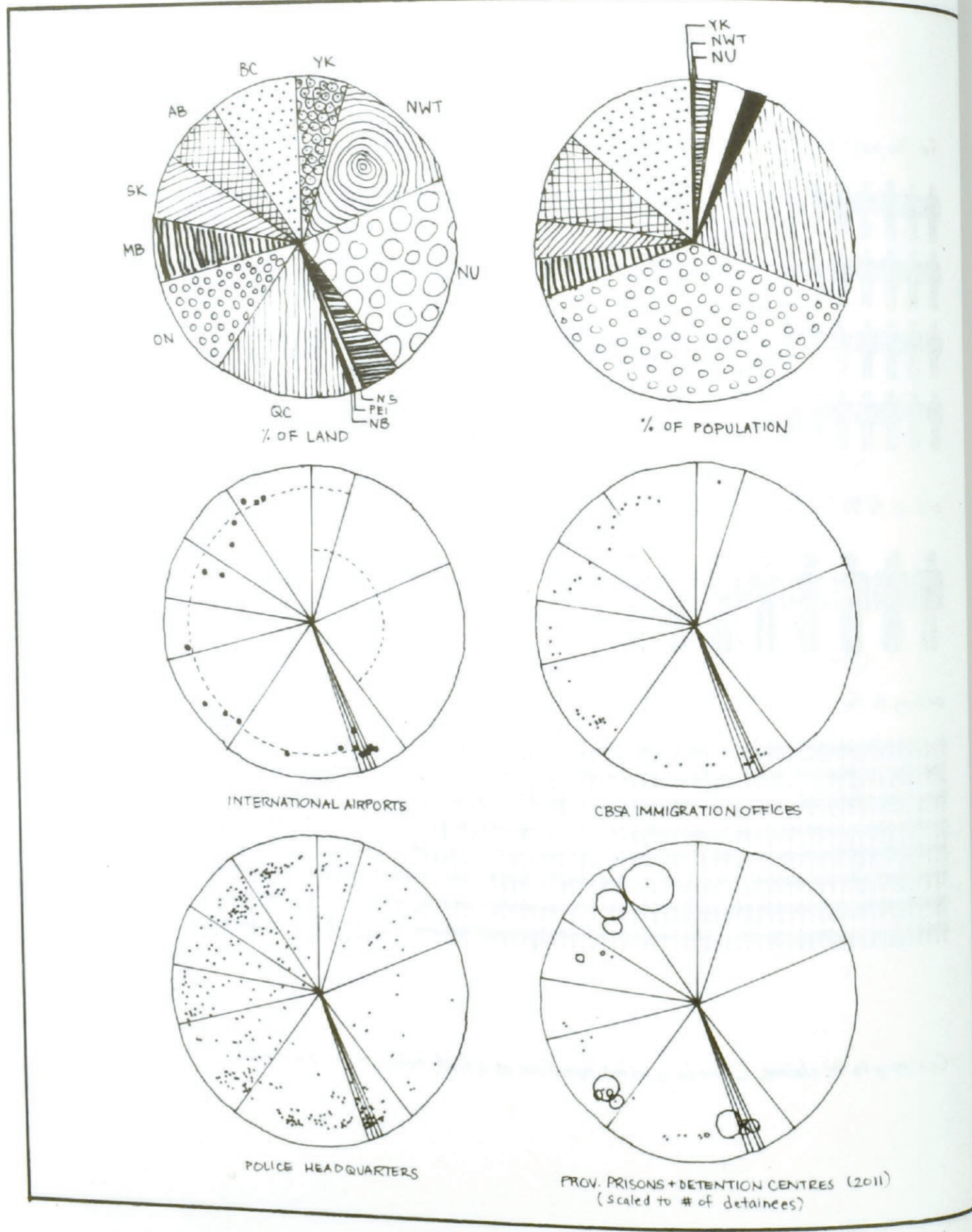
adding to the 100,000 people that have been detained or deported since 2006.

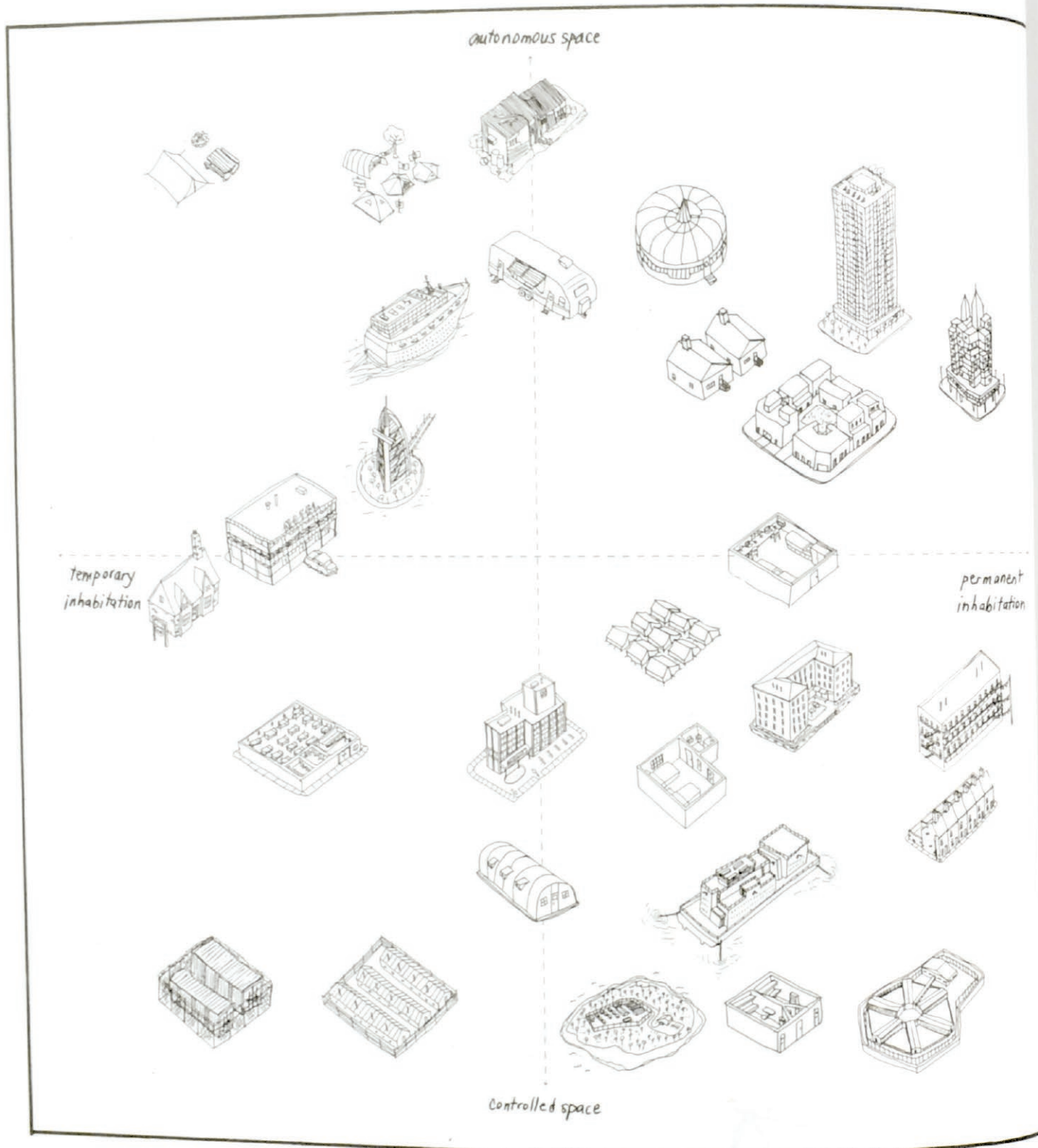


Contrary to its claims, Canada is using detention as a first, rather than last, resort.

*SEE: WWW.TRUTHABOUTDETENTION.COM AND WWW.NEVERHOME.CA

Meanwhile, our borders are being fortified everyday, and obtaining permanent status becomes unattainable for most.



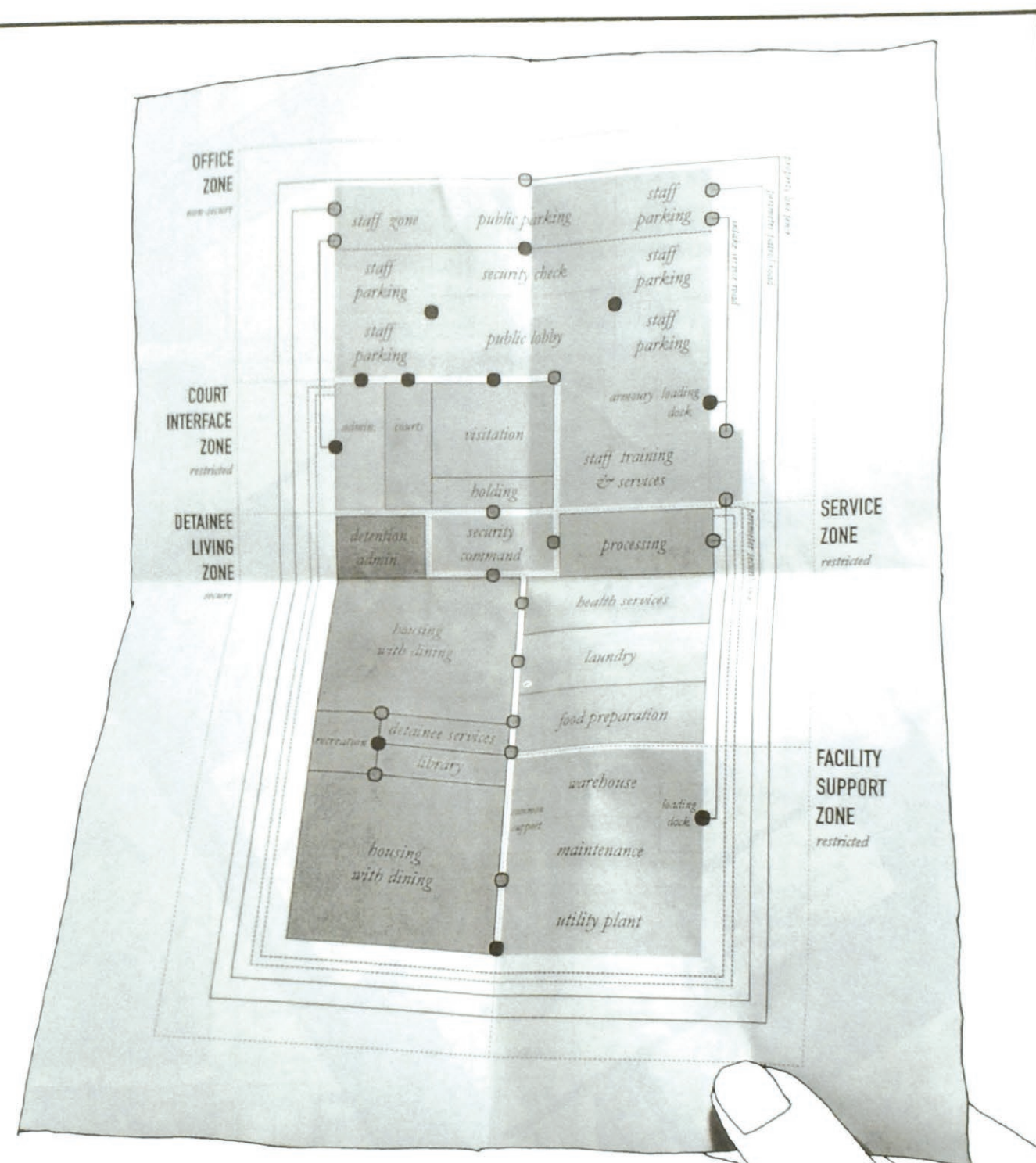


So how do we remove the elements of distinction,
 challenge the integrity of the wall,
 how do we make the borders disappear?

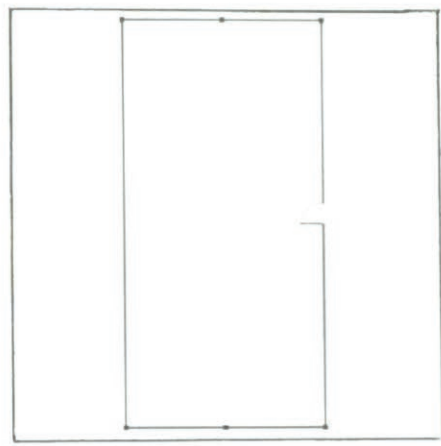
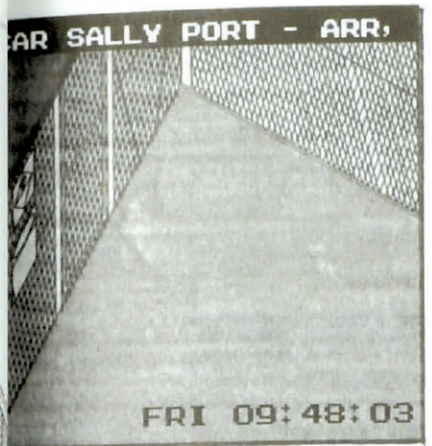
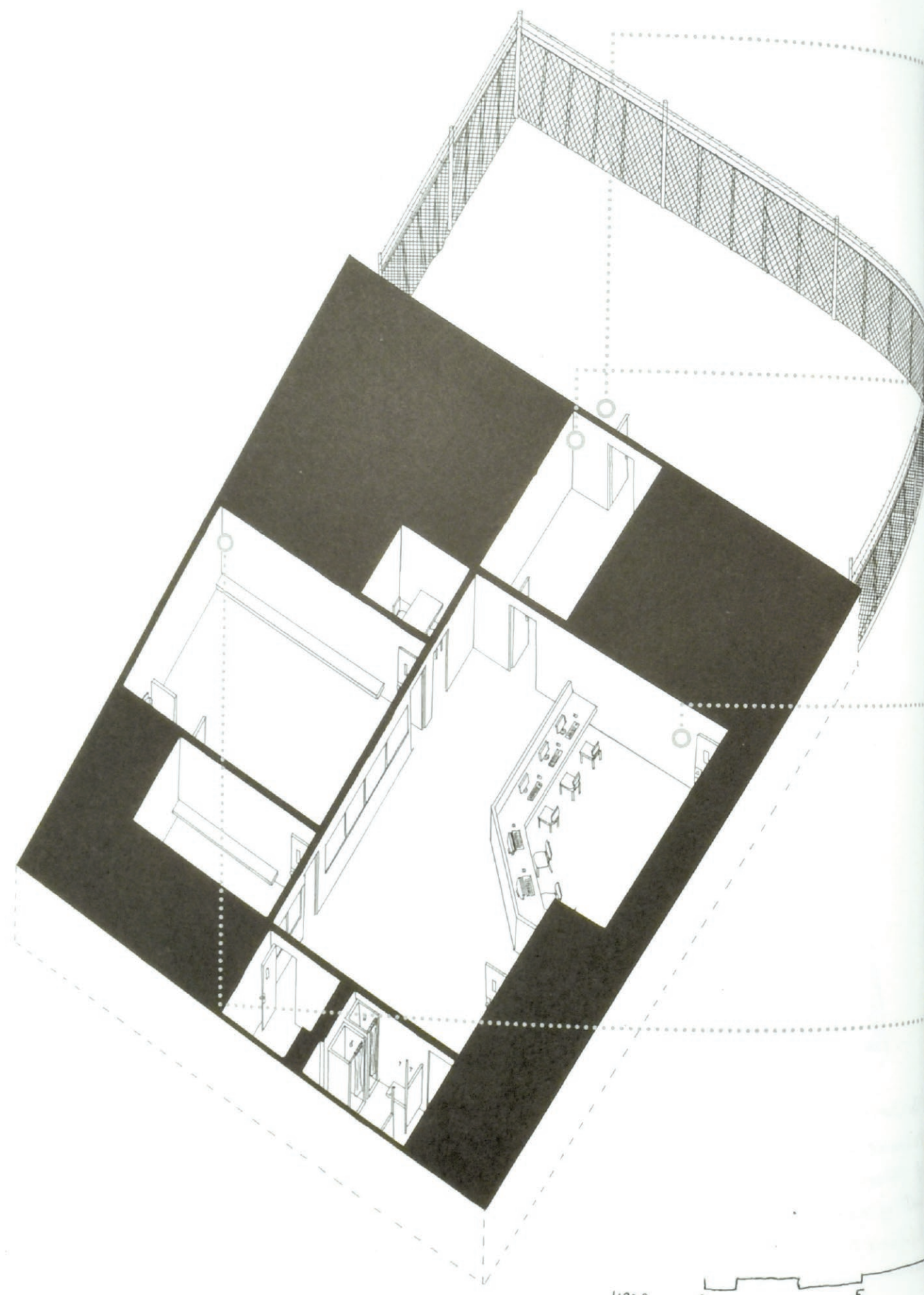
Mass incarceration is a modern idea.
 We can unlearn and re-imagine,
 and design a world without prisons.

Spaces of incarceration just may be the mass (ware)housing solution of our time, where those who are deemed undesirable and dangerous are caged. In a securitized world, the gated community mirrors the detention centre, the micro-condominium isn't so different from the cell, they are sites of exclusion and seclusion. Sometimes it's difficult to tell who is being protected from whom.

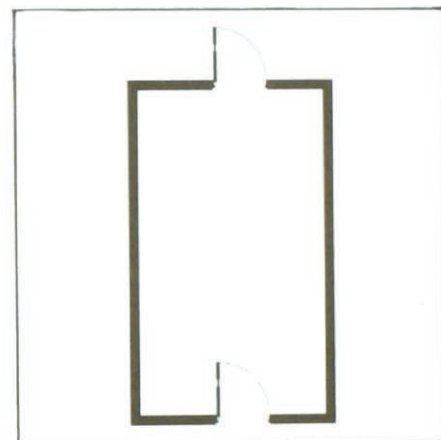
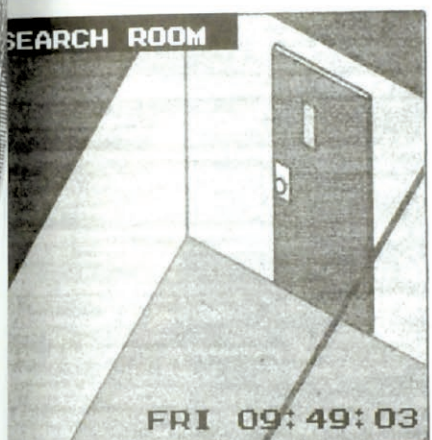
intake



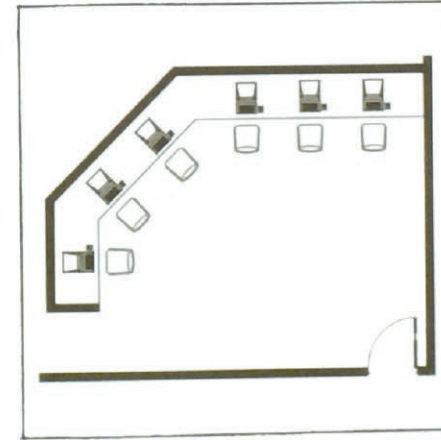
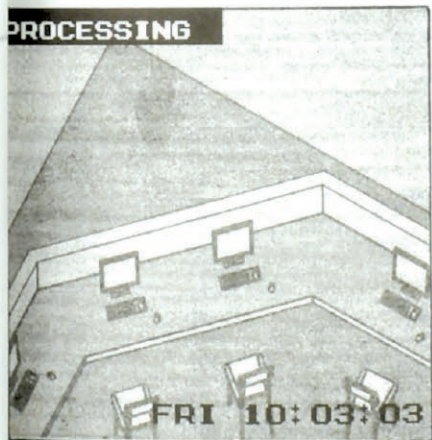
This building is a maze and you are forced to march through it. Following an intake sequence for arrivals, you face a complex set of stations for observation, verification, and neutralization. This building is a processing machine, you are the input, and the output, a detainee to be deported.



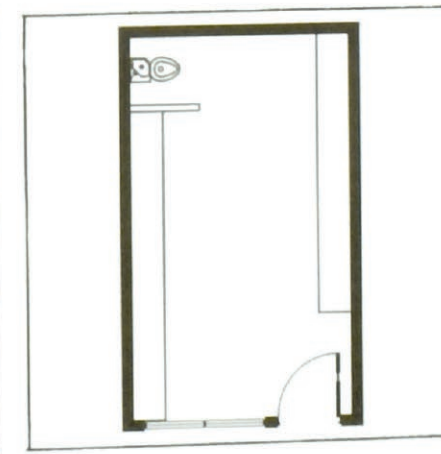
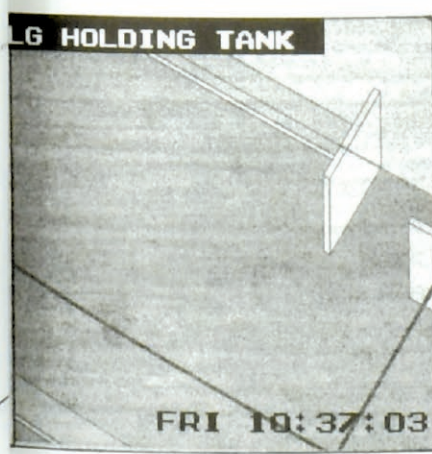
MINIMUM SIZE: 7.3 X 8.5 M = 62.1 M²
 WALLS: GALVANIZED STEEL SECURITY FENCE W/ BARBED WIRE STRAND
 FLOORS: ASPHALT CONCRETE
 CEILING: DETENTION CEILING
 DOORS: HOLLOW METAL W/VISION PANEL
 GLAZING: N/A
 PLUMBING: N/A
 HVAC: N/A
 LIGHTING: SURFACE MOUNTED FLUORESCENT
 SECURITY: ELECTRONIC ACCESS FOR GATE, VIDEO SURVEILLANCE
 COMMUNICATIONS: INTERCOM AT SECURITY GATE
 NOTE: ENCLOSED, NEXT TO INTAKE - RELEASE AREA



MINIMUM SIZE: 3.7 X 6.1 M = 22.6 M²
 WALLS: REINFORCED CONCRETE BLOCK
 FLOORS: SEALED CONCRETE
 CEILING: EXTERIOR GRADE GYPSUM
 DOORS: HOLLOW METAL
 GLAZING: N/A
 PLUMBING: FLOOR DRAIN
 HVAC: TYPICAL W/EXHAUST
 LIGHTING: SURFACE MOUNTED FLUORESCENT
 SECURITY: ELECTRONIC ACCESS CONTROL, VIDEO SURVEILLANCE
 COMMUNICATIONS: INTERCOM AT PASSAGE DOOR

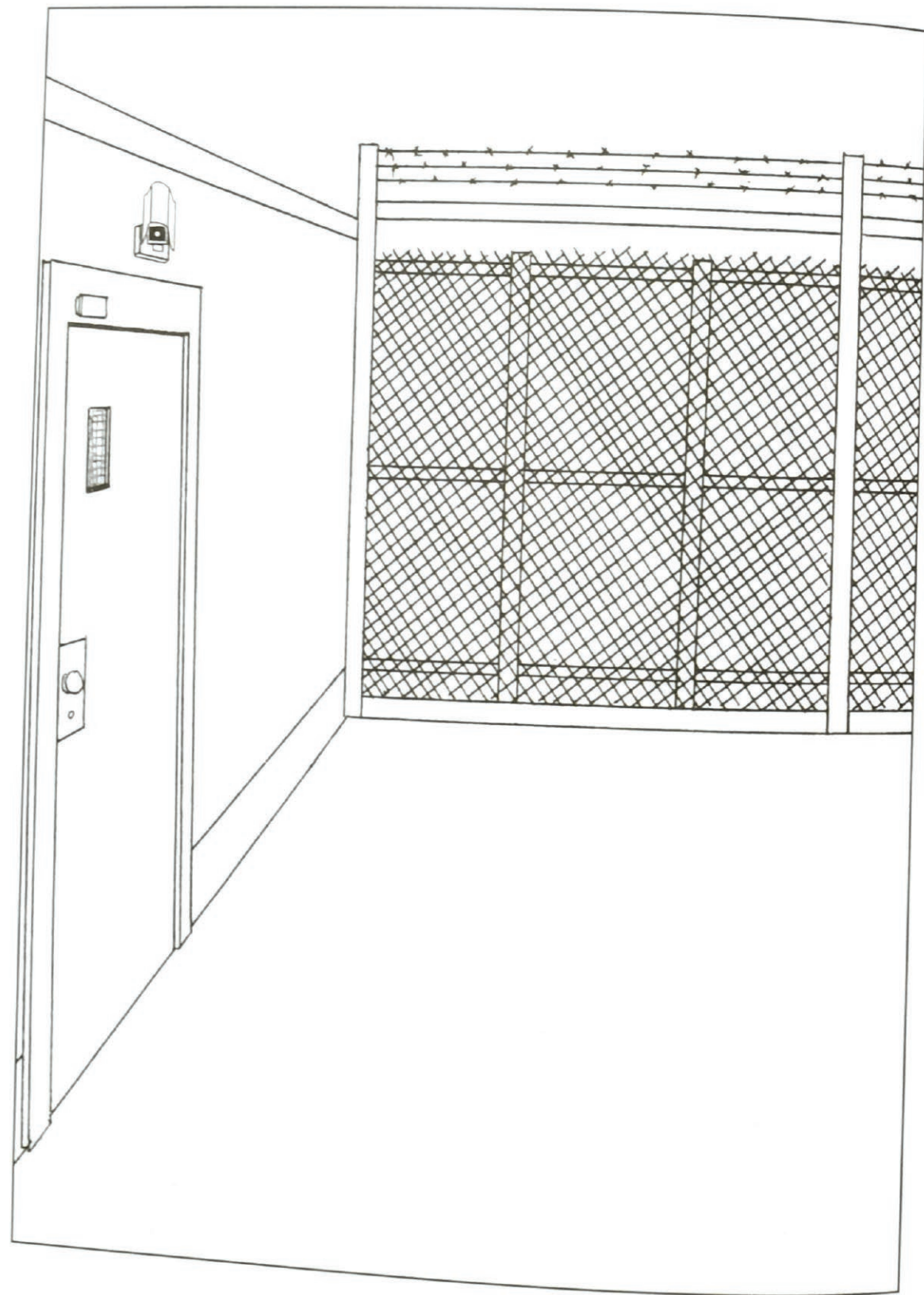


MINIMUM SIZE: 7.3 X 6.0 M = 45.6 M²
 WALLS: REINFORCED MASONRY
 FLOORS: SEALED CONCRETE
 CEILING: GYPSUM BOARD
 DOORS: N/A
 GLAZING: N/A
 PLUMBING: N/A
 HVAC: TYPICAL W/EXHAUST
 LIGHTING: RECESSED FLUORESCENT
 SECURITY: VIDEO SURVEILLANCE
 COMMUNICATIONS: VOICE/DATA FOR PROCESSING

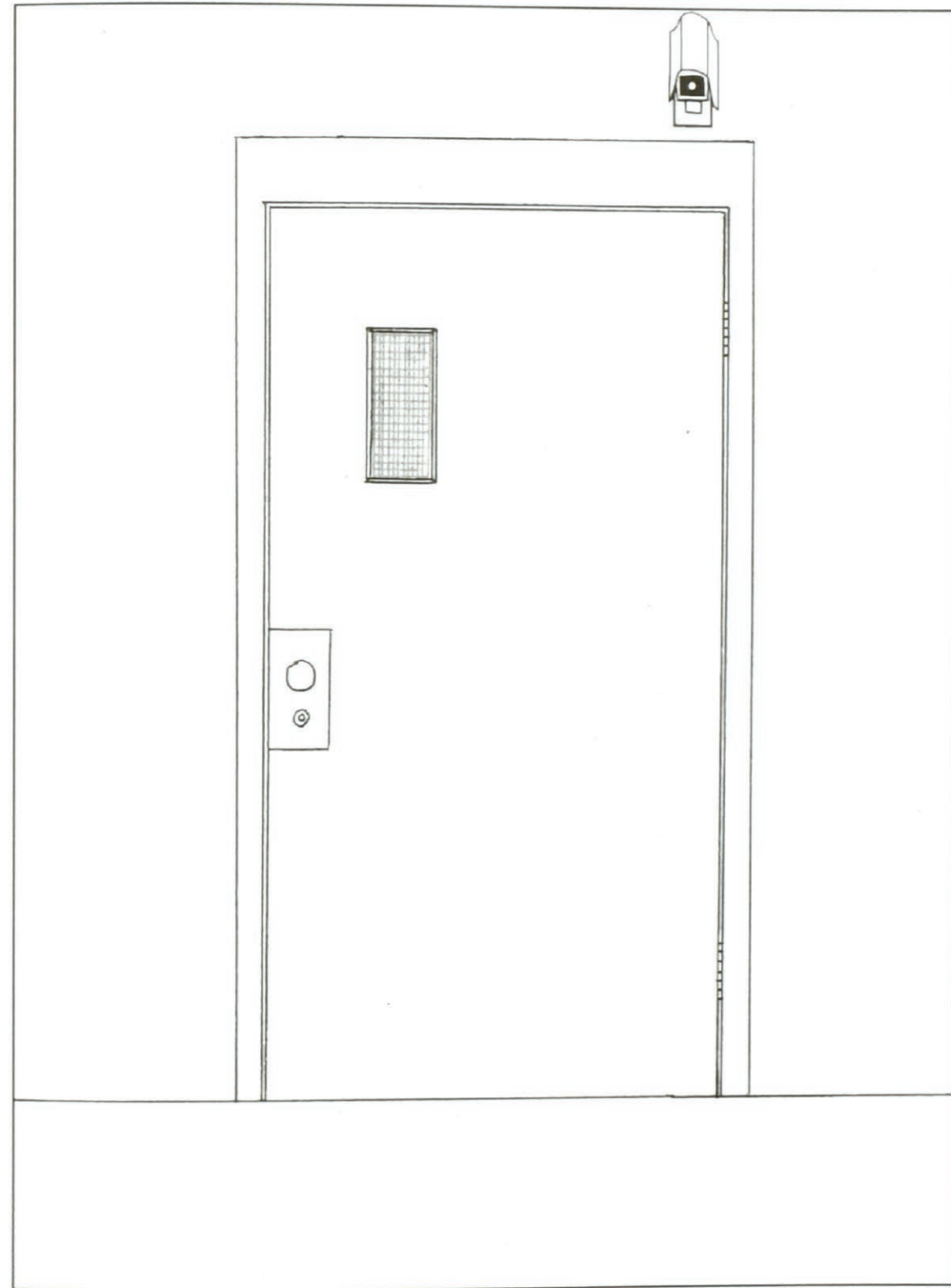


MINIMUM SIZE: 7.3 X 8.5 M = 62.1 M²
 WALLS: REINFORCED CONCRETE BLOCK
 FLOORS: SEALED CONCRETE
 CEILING: DETENTION CEILING
 DOORS: HOLLOW METAL
 GLAZING: BULLET RESISTANT
 PLUMBING: DETENTION TOILET/SINK COMBO UNIT
 HVAC: TYPICAL W/EXHAUST
 LIGHTING: RECESSED FLUORESCENT
 SECURITY: ELECTRONIC ACCESS FOR DOORS, VIDEO SURVEILLANCE
 COMMUNICATIONS: N/A
 NOTE: TEMPORARY CONFINEMENT UP TO 10 HRS

*SOURCE: U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT "DESIGN STANDARDS FOR IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT" (2007)



Can we start?





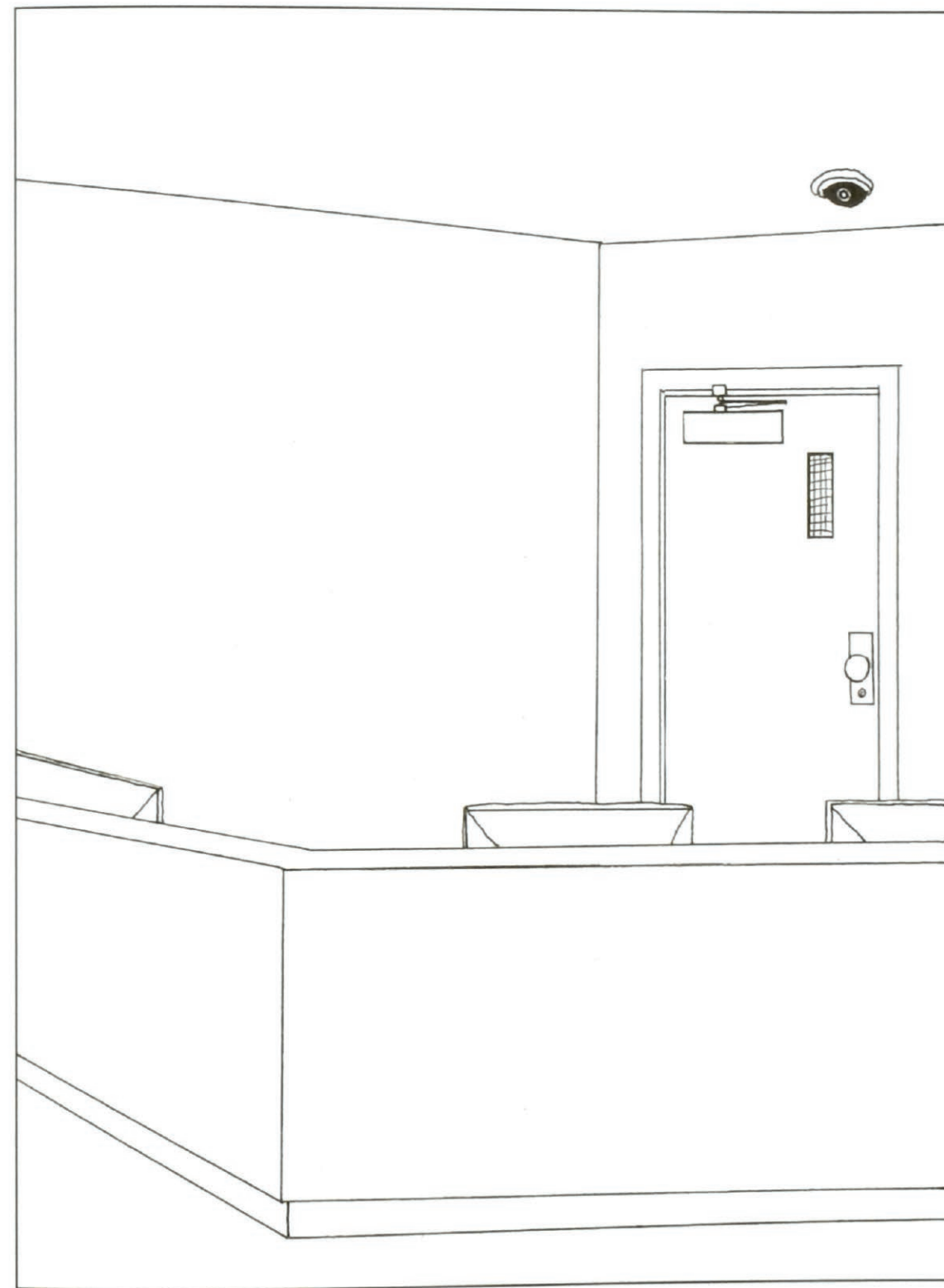
Let's start.

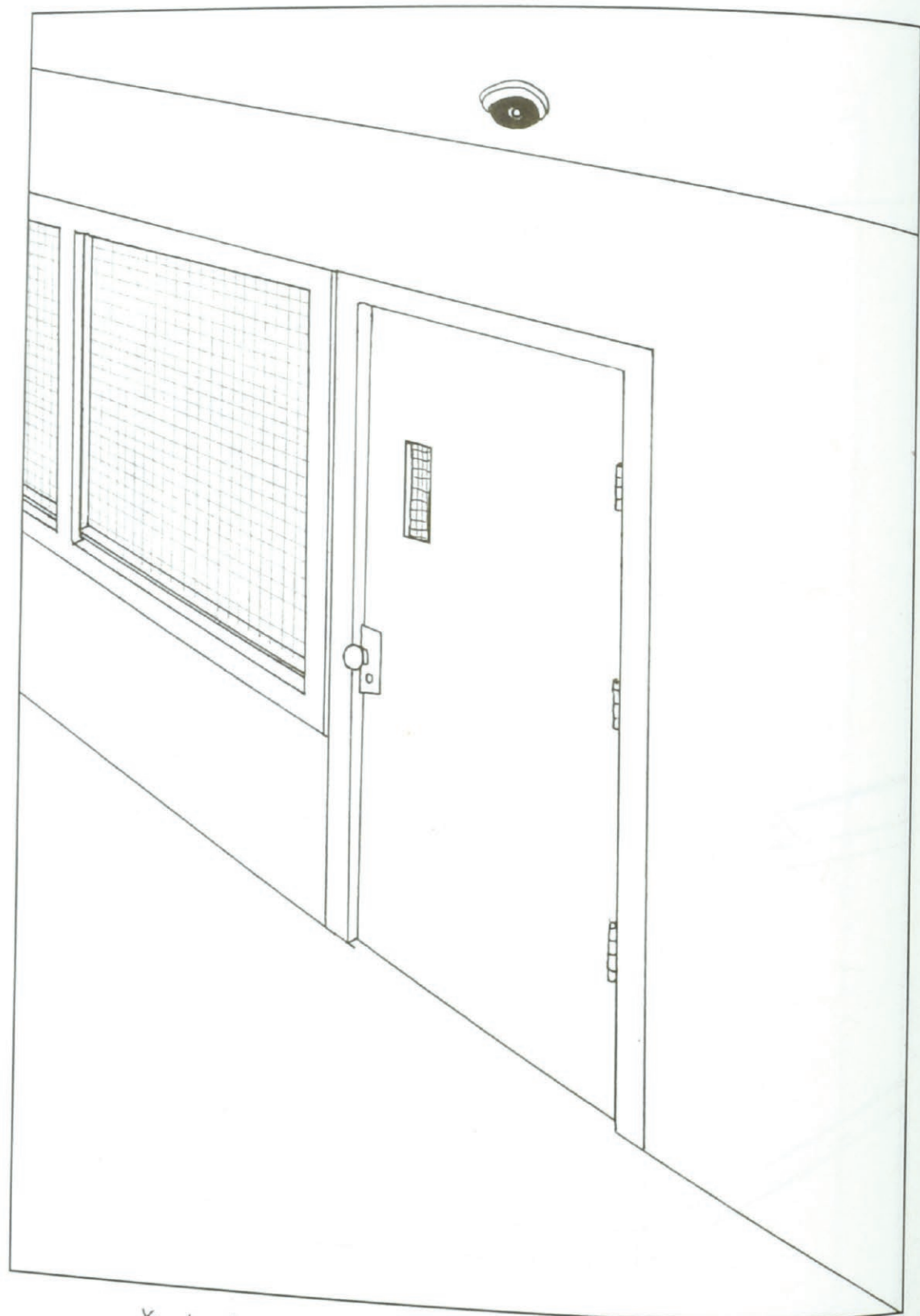


When you open the door, the door is...

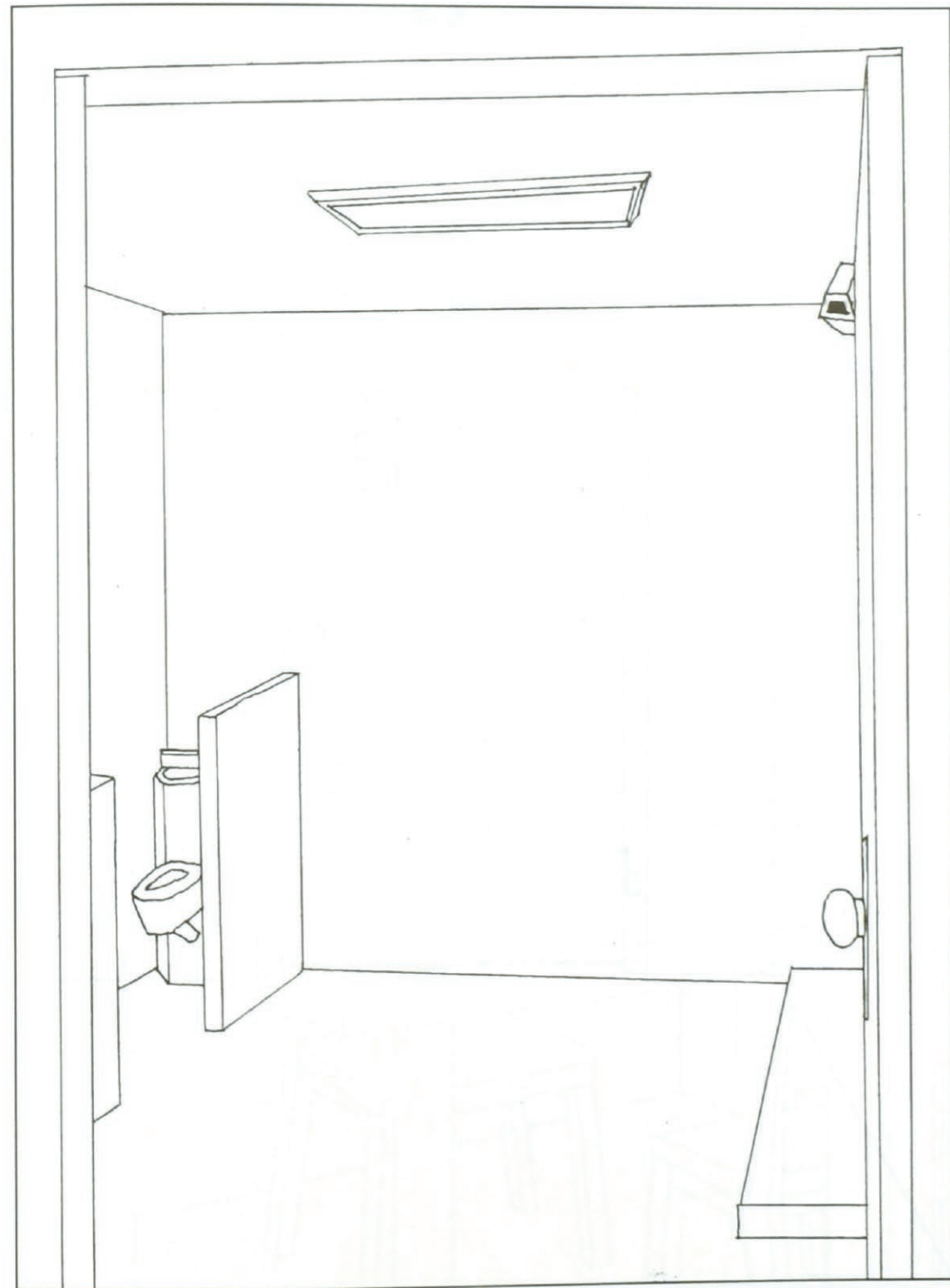


I ask you, "How do you sleep at night?"



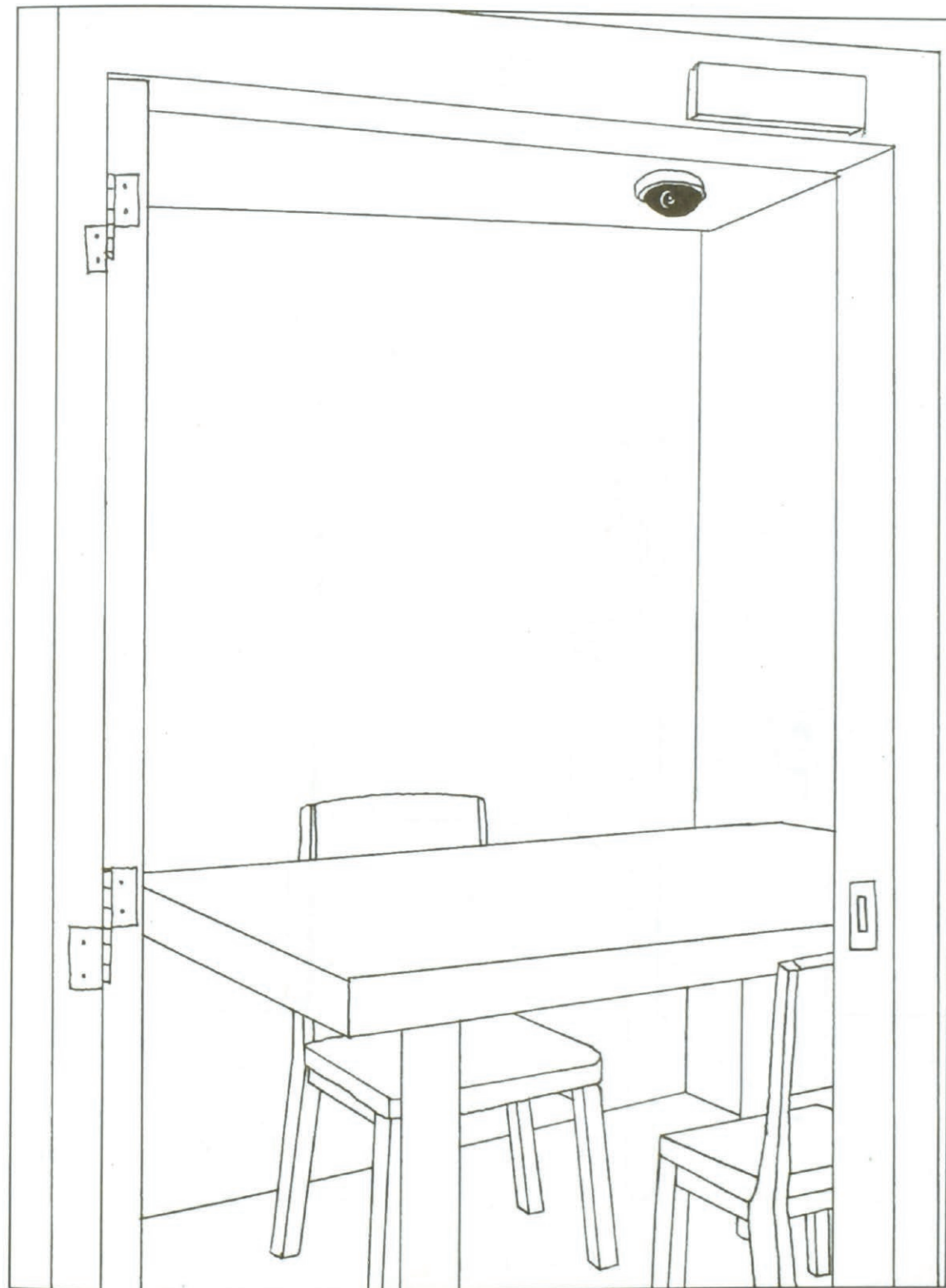


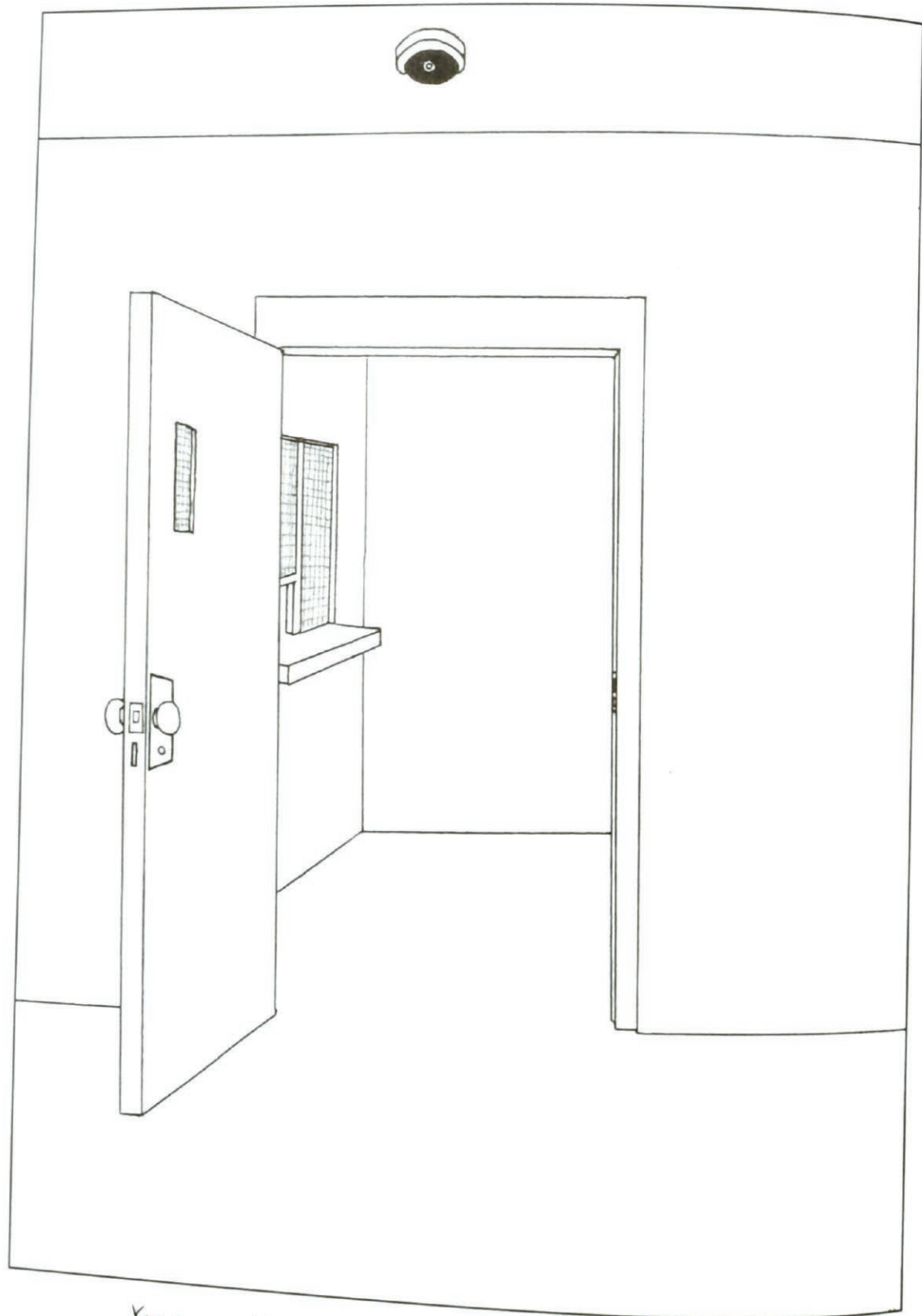
You lean back and say, "I sleep well, my conscience is quiet."



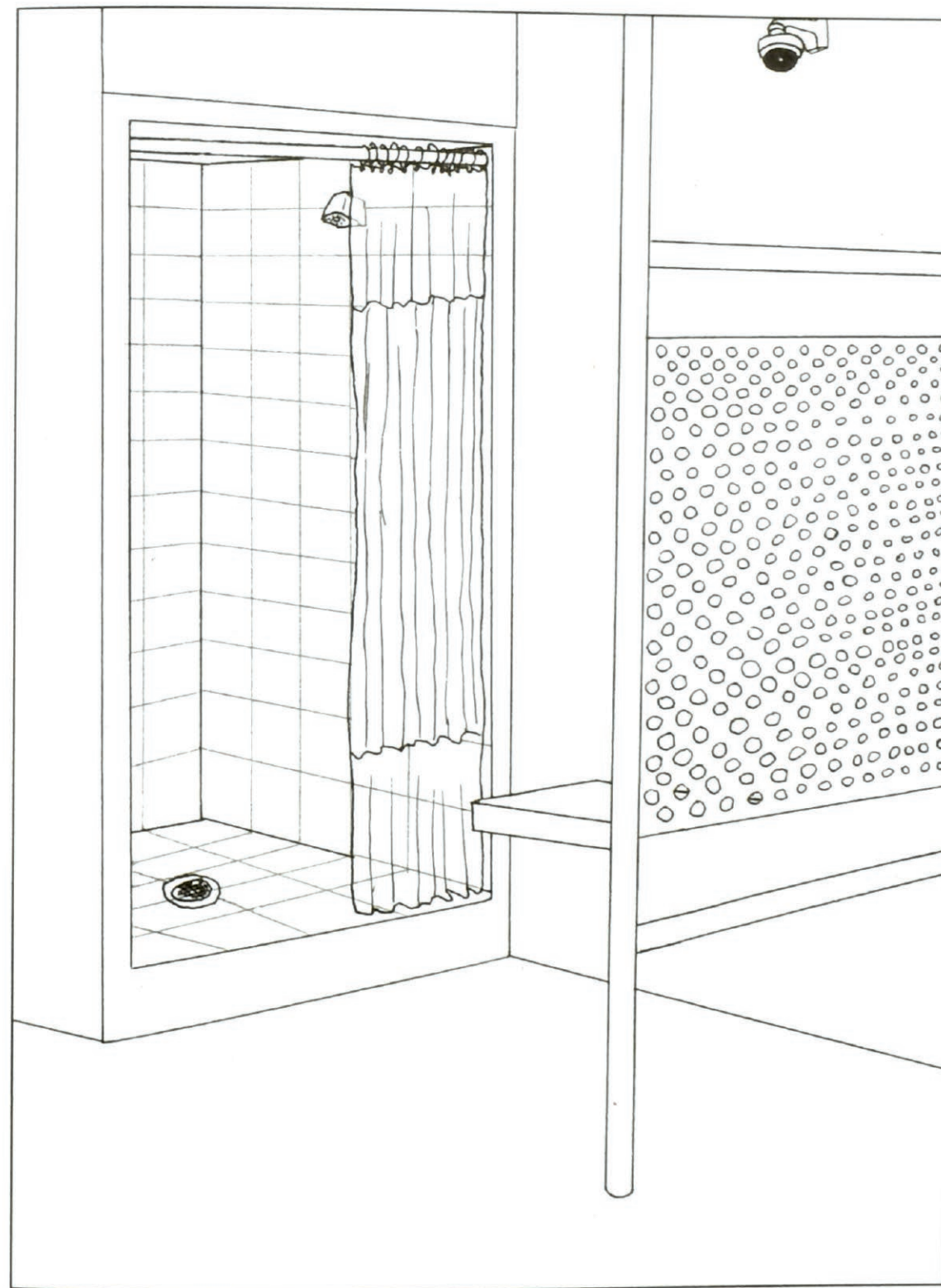


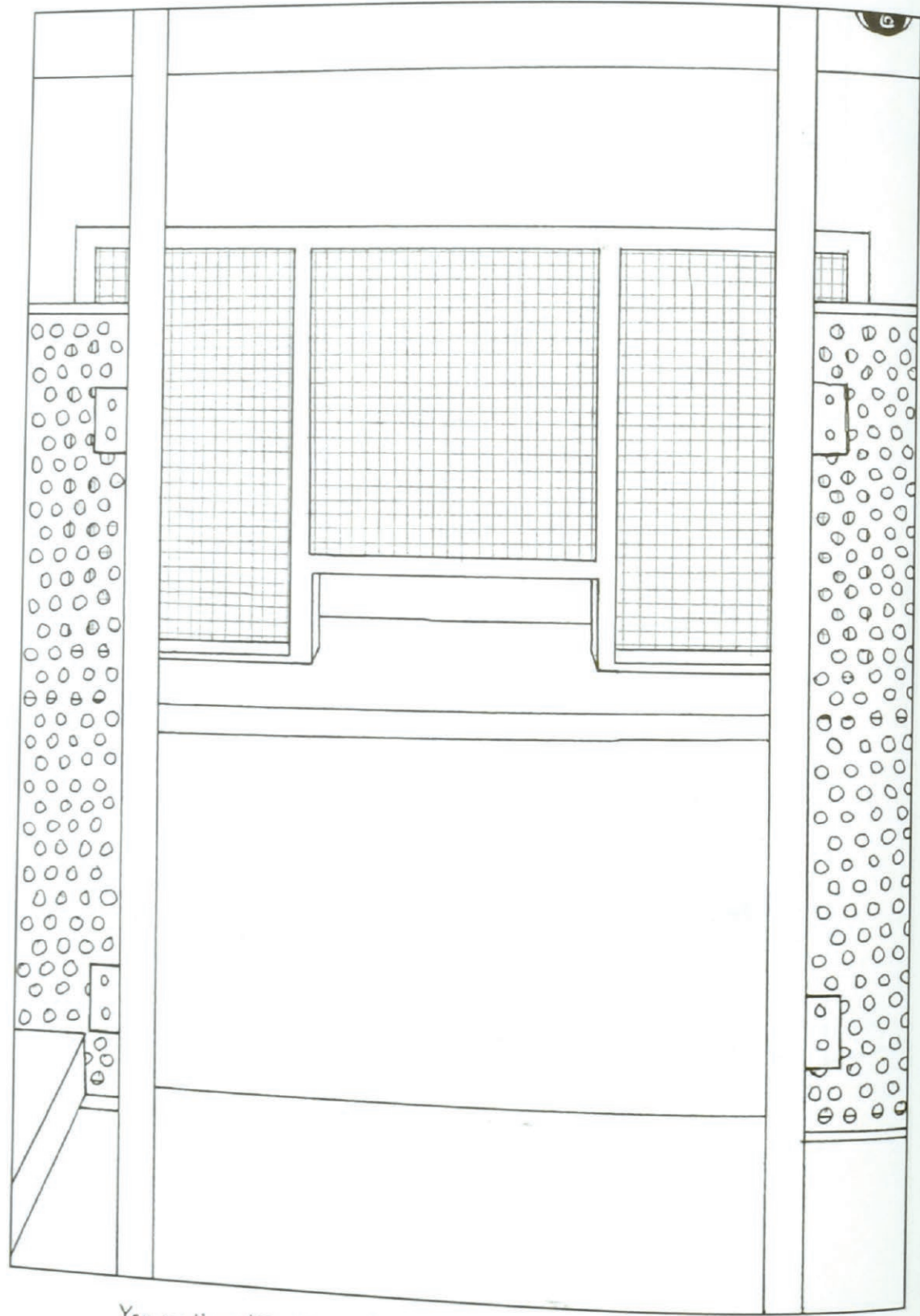
I ask, "How do they teach an architect in five years to plan airports, hospitals, public buildings, private homes?"



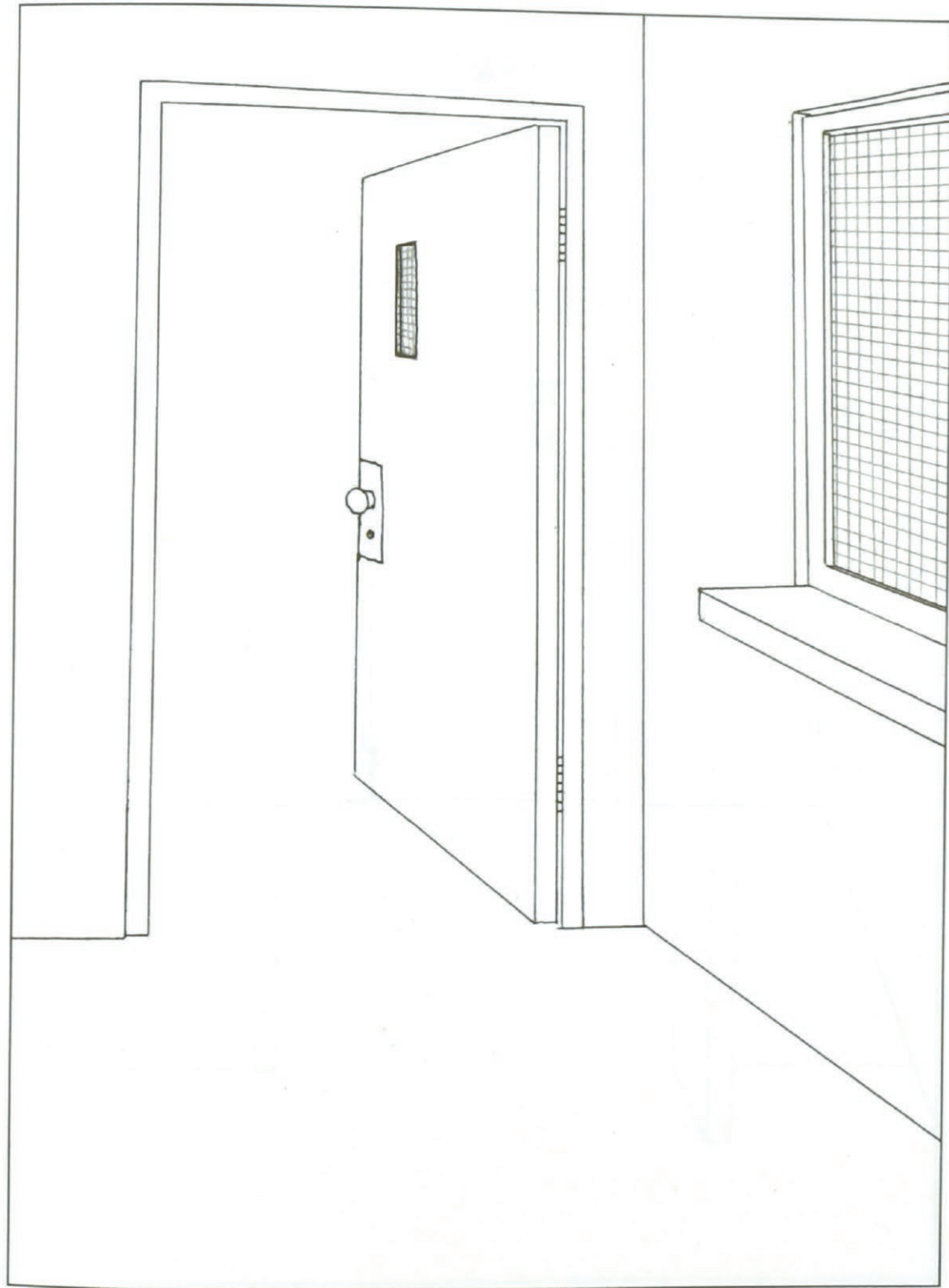


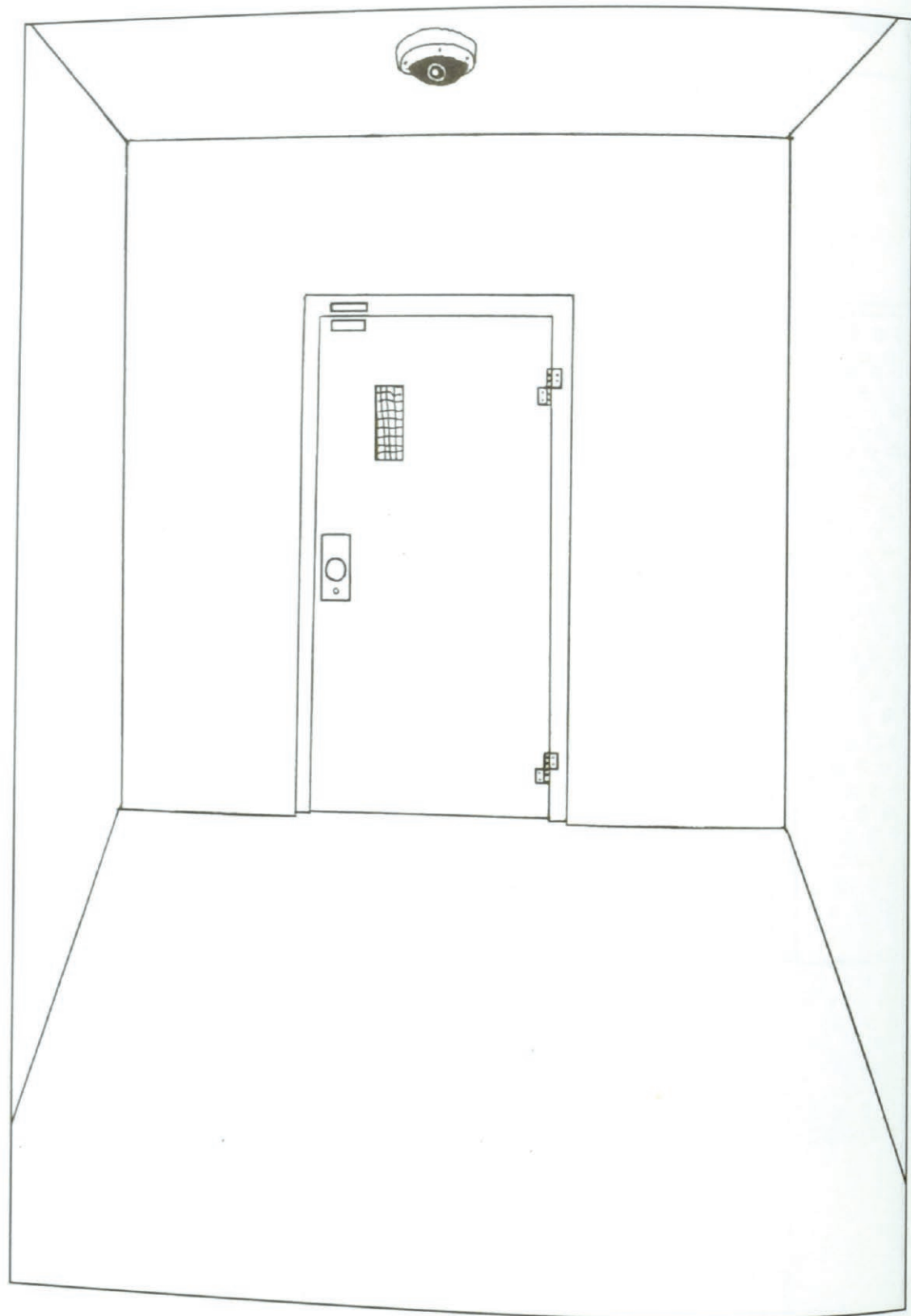
You answer, "They teach you how to think, to research, to plan.
You put together a qualified team and go out to do the job."





You continue, "In this profession a lot of the same elements appear again and again. These bore me for the most part."

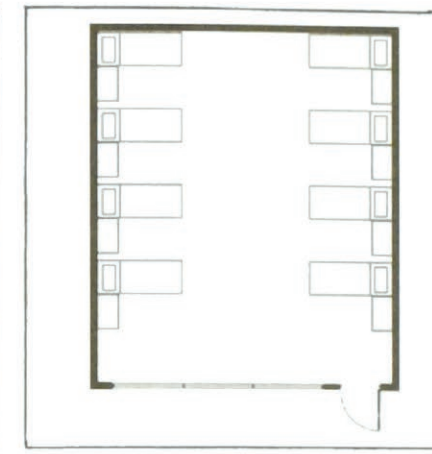
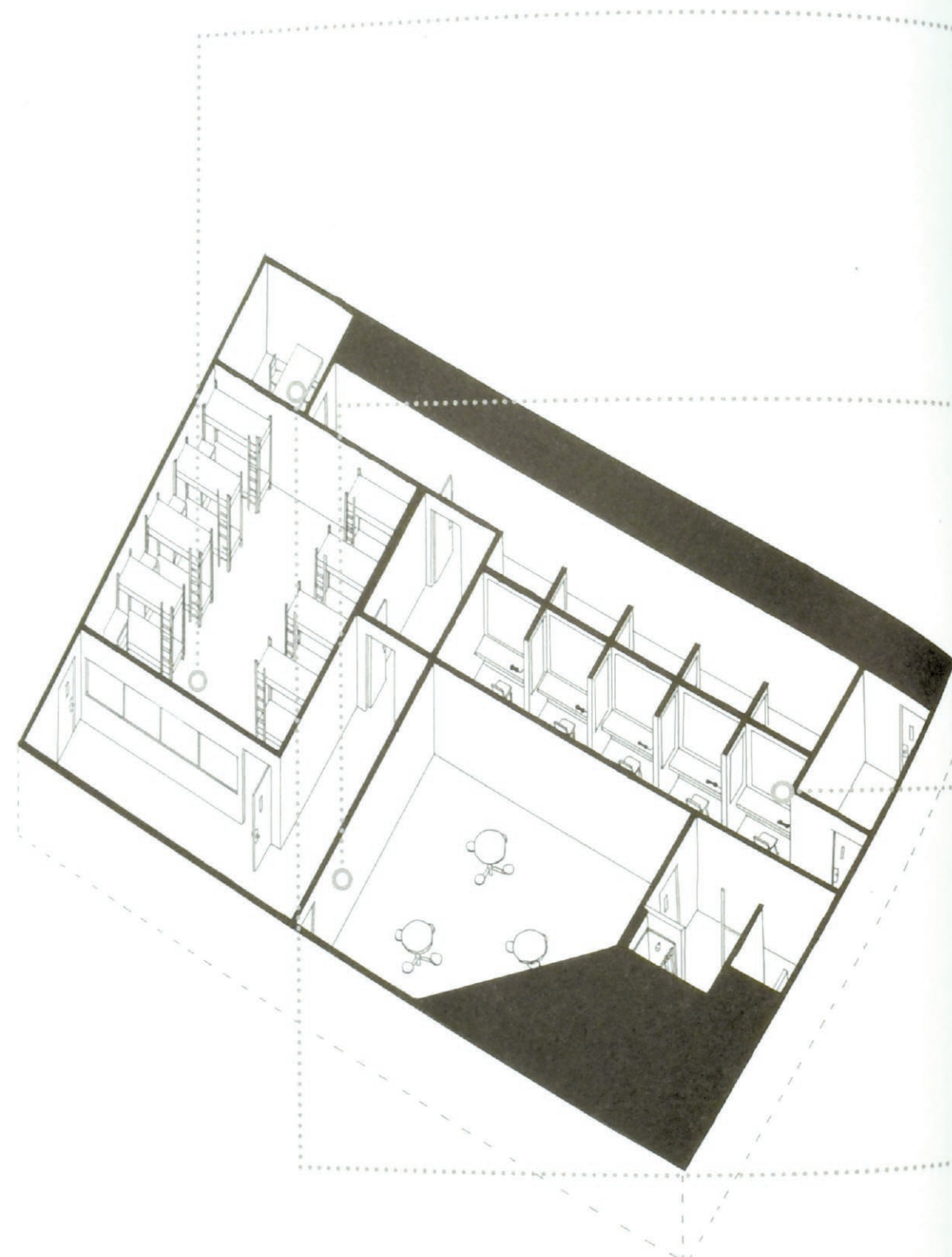




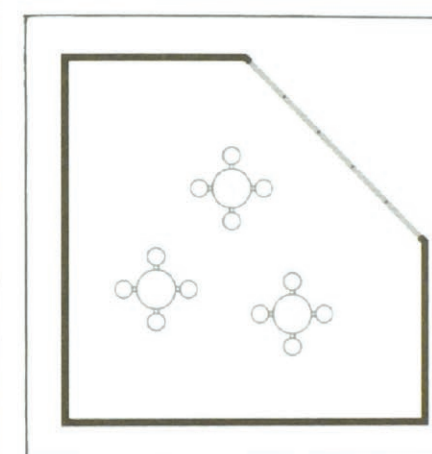
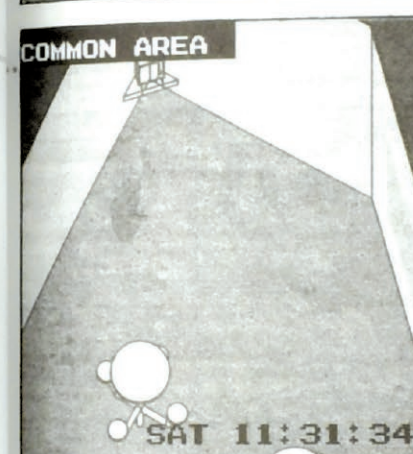
"The challenge is to balance the client's demands with regulations and budgetary constraints."



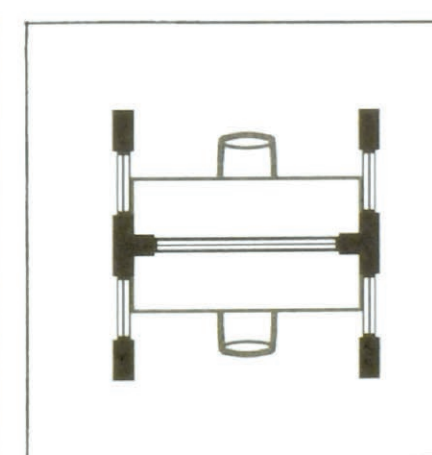
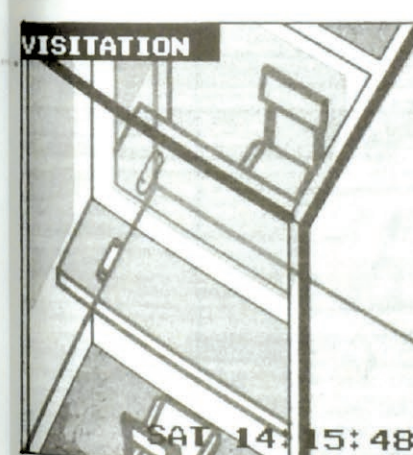
the living zone



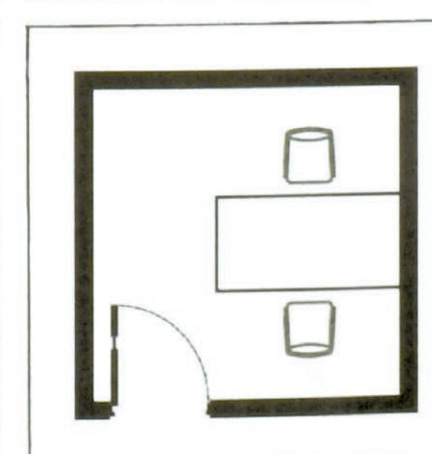
DIMENSION: 7.3 X 8.5 M = 62.1 M²
 WALLS: REINFORCED CONCRETE BLOCK
 FLOORS: SEALED CONCRETE
 CEILING: DETENTION CEILING
 DOORS: HOLLOW METAL W/VISION PANEL
 GLAZING: 7/16" GLASS CLAD POLYCARBONATE
 PLUMBING: FLOOR DRAIN
 HVAC: TYPICAL W/EXHAUST
 LIGHTING: RECESSED FLUORESCENT
 SECURITY: ELECTRONIC ACCESS CONTROL, VIDEO
 SURVEILLANCE: ABILITY FOR LOCK DOWN
 COMMUNICATIONS: N/A
 NOTE: CAPACITY OF 16 IN DOUBLE BUNKS, 2 DRAWERS PER DETAINEE



DIMENSION: 8.5 X 8.5 M = 72.3 M²
 WALLS: REINFORCED CONCRETE BLOCK
 FLOORS: SEALED CONCRETE
 CEILING: GYPSUM BOARD
 DOORS: HOLLOW METAL W/VISION PANEL
 GLAZING: 7/16" GLASS CLAD POLYCARBONATE
 PLUMBING: FLOOR DRAIN
 HVAC: TYPICAL W/EXHAUST
 LIGHTING: RECESSED FLUORESCENT
 SECURITY: ELECTRONIC ACCESS CONTROL, VIDEO
 SURVEILLANCE
 COMMUNICATIONS: N/A
 NOTE: COMMON AREA W/COLOR TELEVISION W/ OPTIONAL PRAYER AND LIBRARY AREA

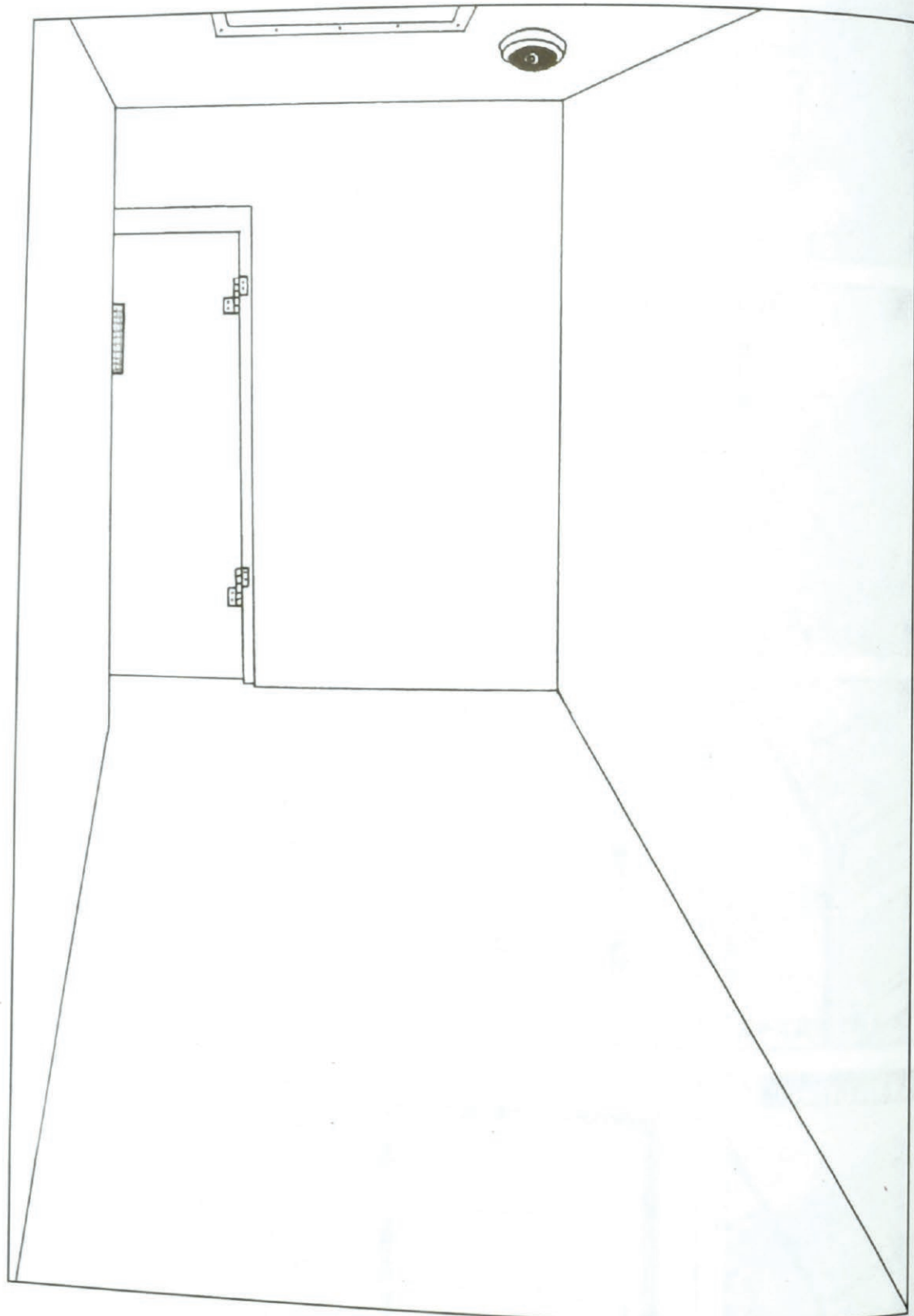


MINIMUM SIZE: 1.9 X 1.9 M = 3.6 M²
 WALLS: REINFORCED CONCRETE BLOCK
 FLOORS: SEALED CONCRETE
 CEILING: GYPSUM BOARD
 DOORS: N/A
 GLAZING: 7/16" GLASS CLAD POLYCARBONATE
 PLUMBING: N/A
 HVAC: TYPICAL W/EXHAUST
 LIGHTING: RECESSED FLUORESCENT
 SECURITY: VIDEO SURVEILLANCE
 COMMUNICATIONS: 32" ARMORED CORD HANDSET
 NOTE: 30 MIN NON-CONTACT VISITATION
 ACCOMMODATE 10 PERCENT OF DETAINEES

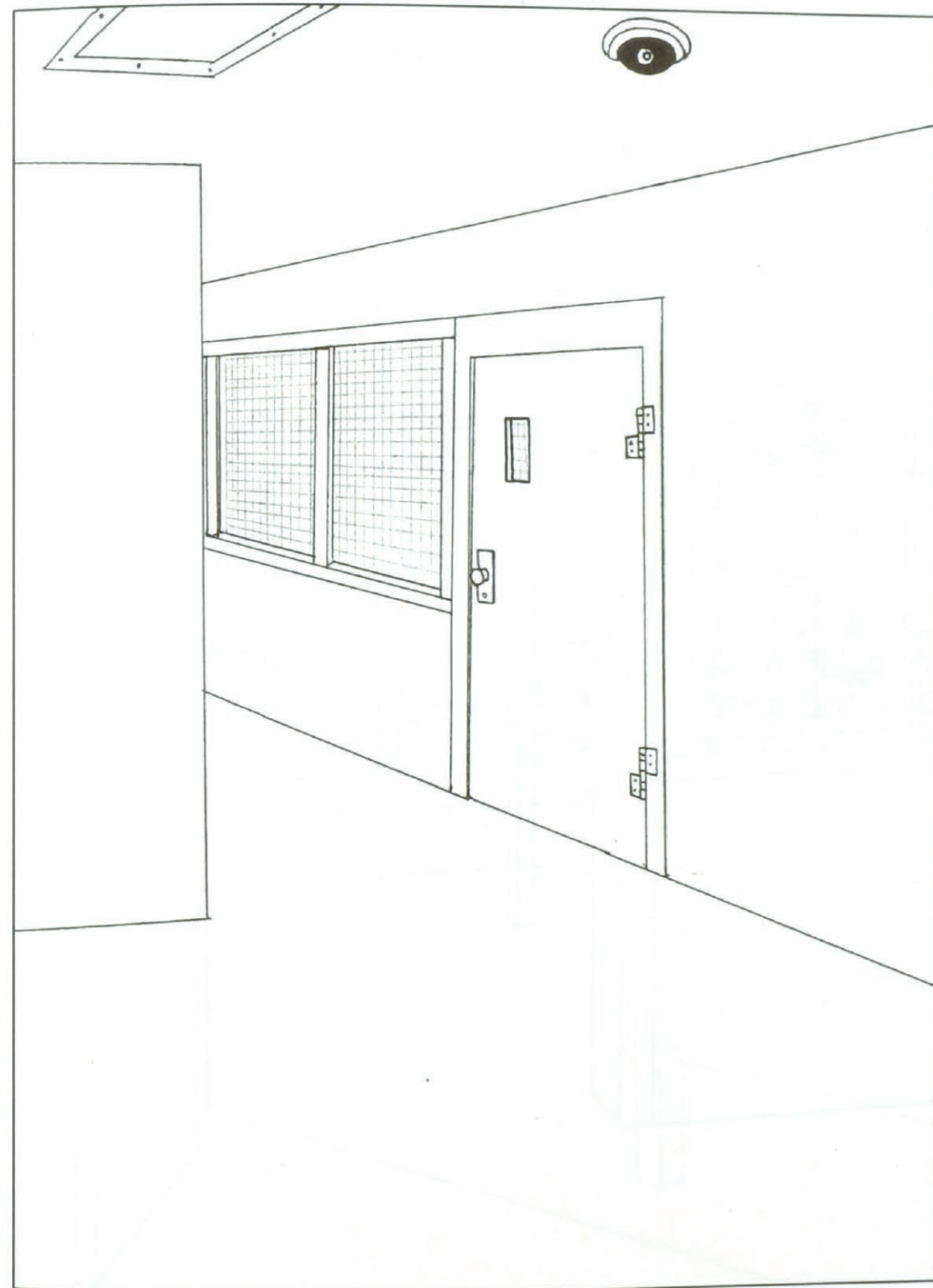


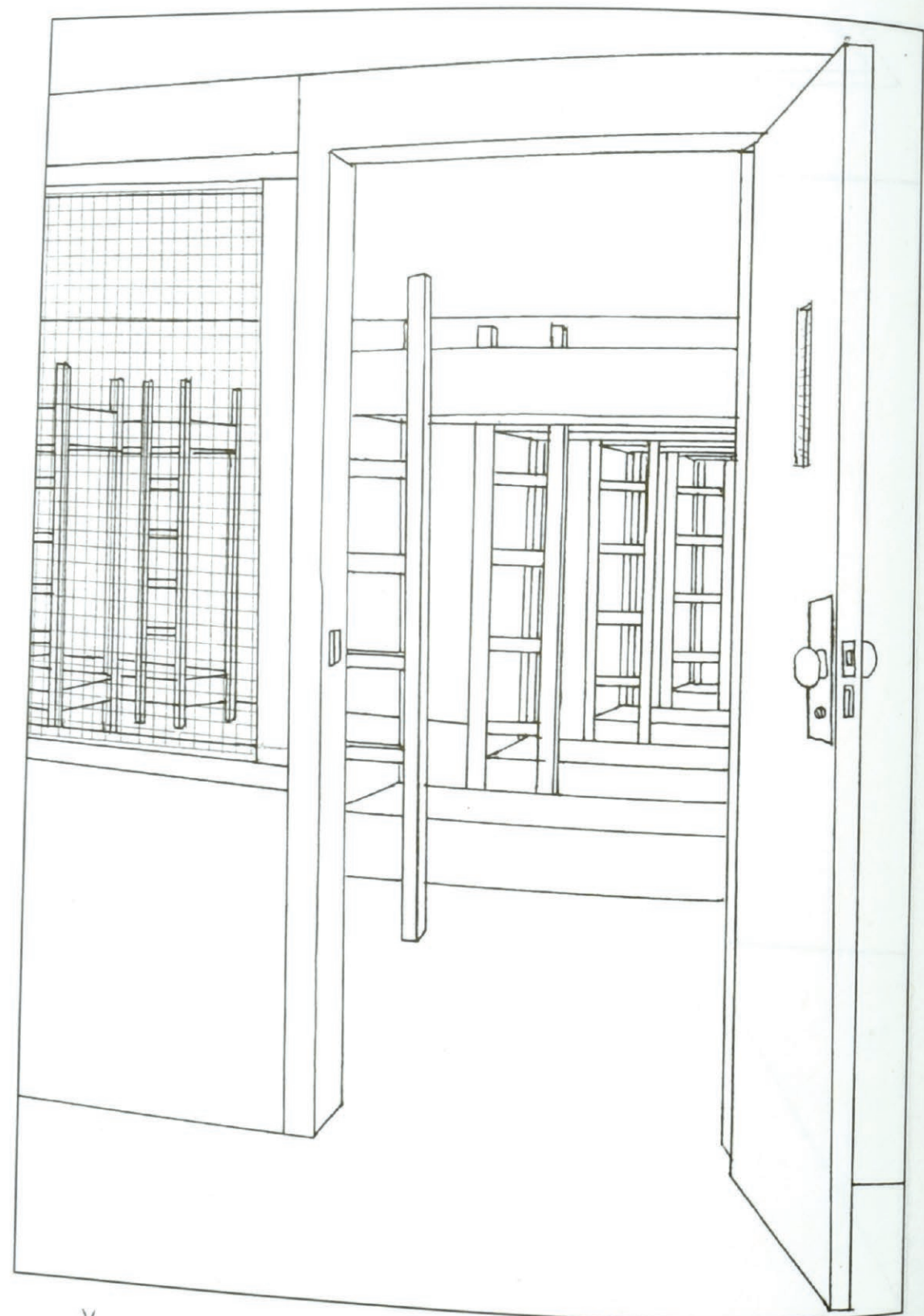
MINIMUM SIZE: 3.0 X 3.0 M = 9.0 M²
 WALLS: REINFORCED CONCRETE BLOCK
 FLOORS: SEALED CONCRETE
 CEILING: GYPSUM BOARD
 DOORS: HOLLOW METAL W/VISION PANEL
 GLAZING: N/A
 PLUMBING: N/A
 HVAC: TYPICAL W/EXHAUST
 LIGHTING: RECESSED FLUORESCENT
 SECURITY: VIDEO SURVEILLANCE
 COMMUNICATIONS: N/A
 NOTE: ATTORNEY VISITING ROOM

1:200 0 5



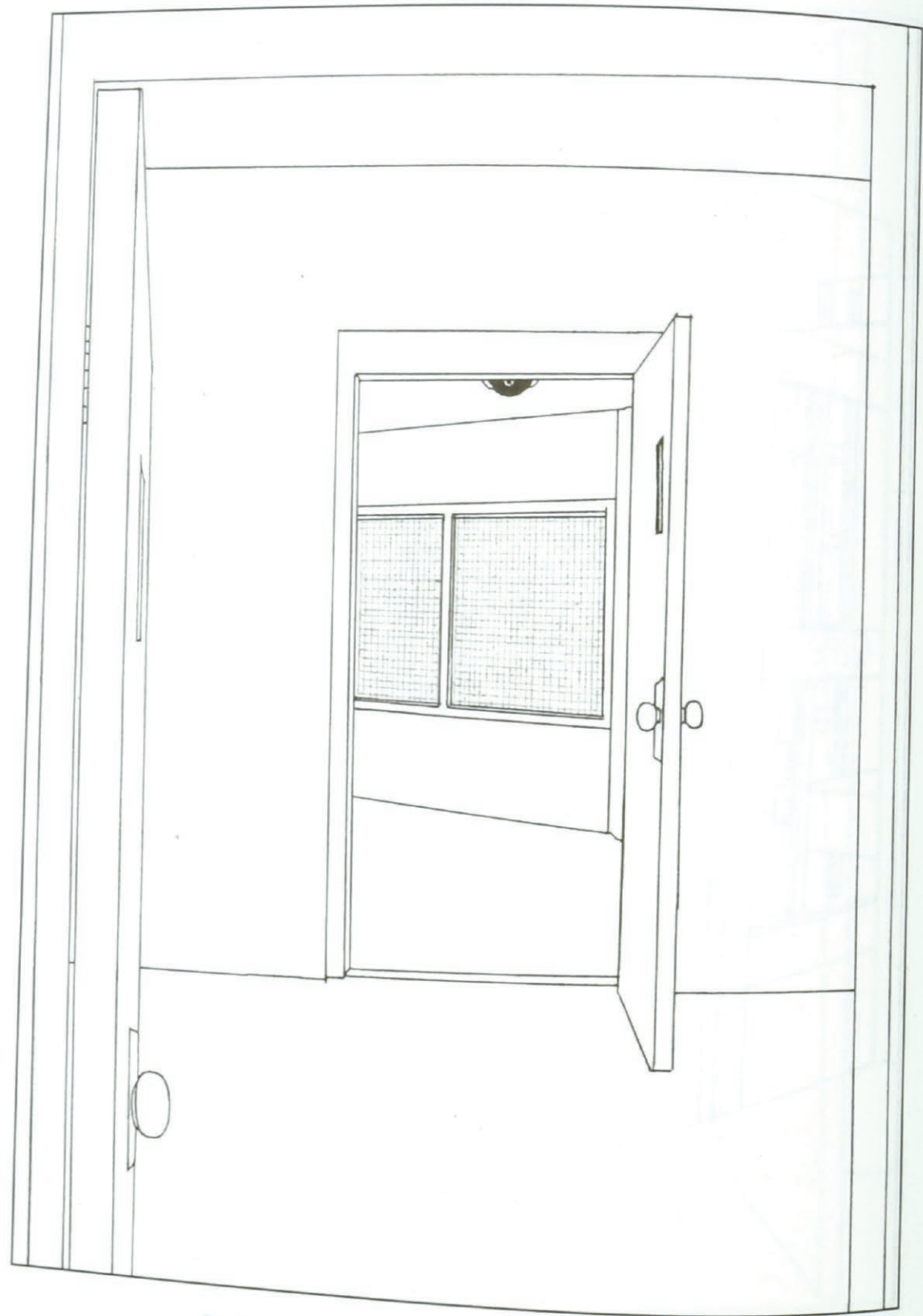
I ask, "What do we see in the plans we're looking at now?"



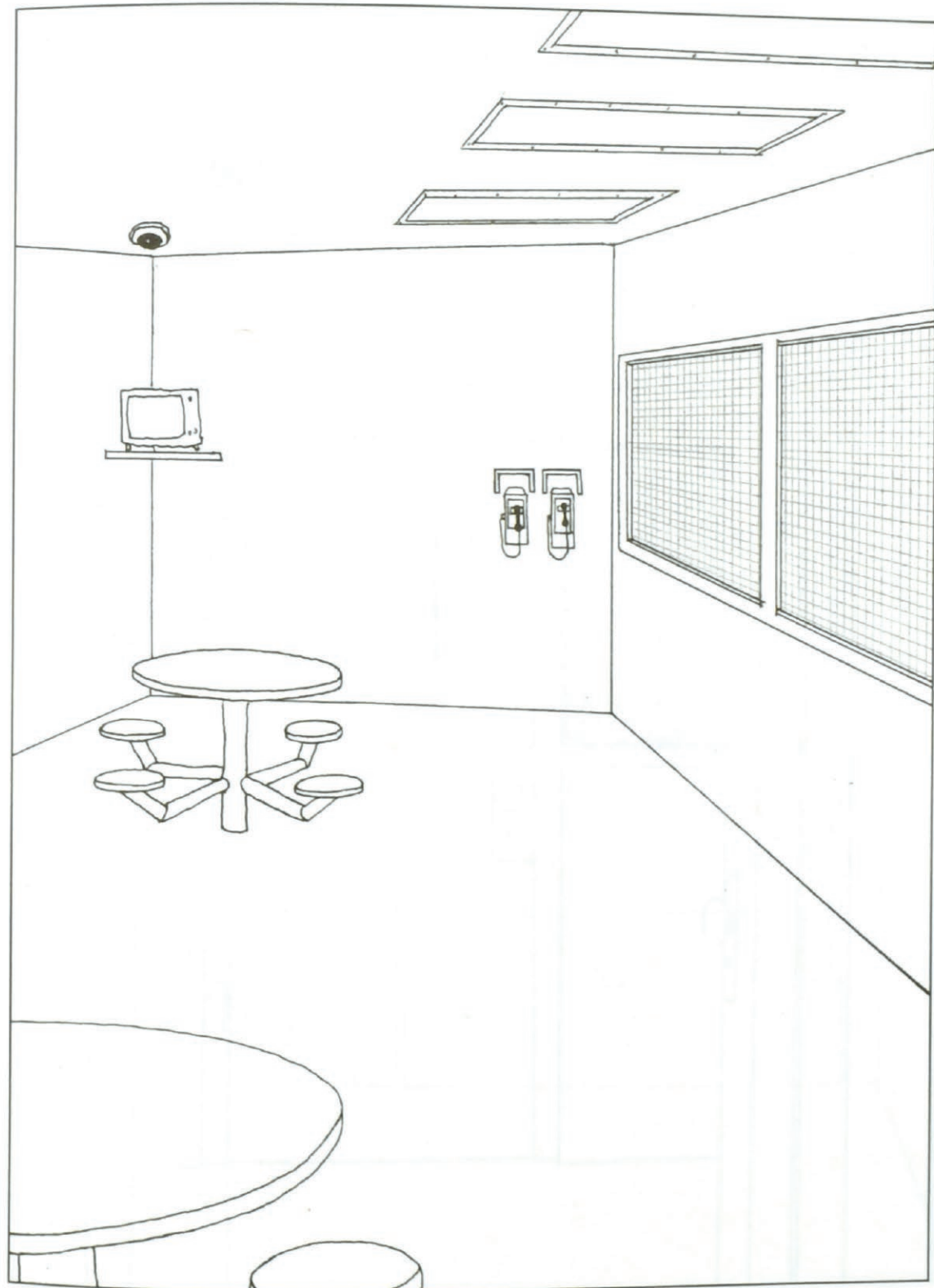


You answer, "In the drawings I organize all of the functions the client wants so as to minimize the things we don't want to see."



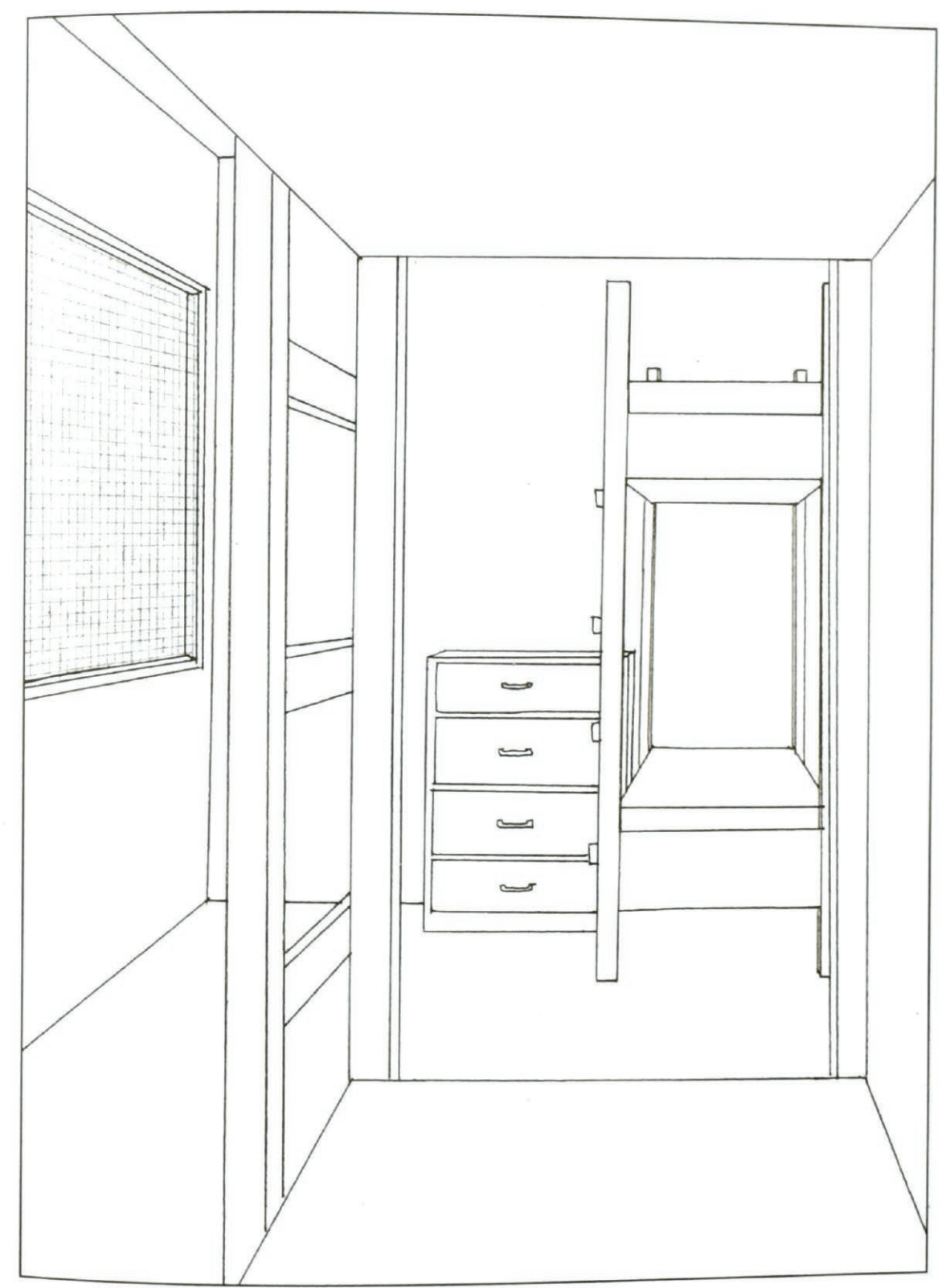


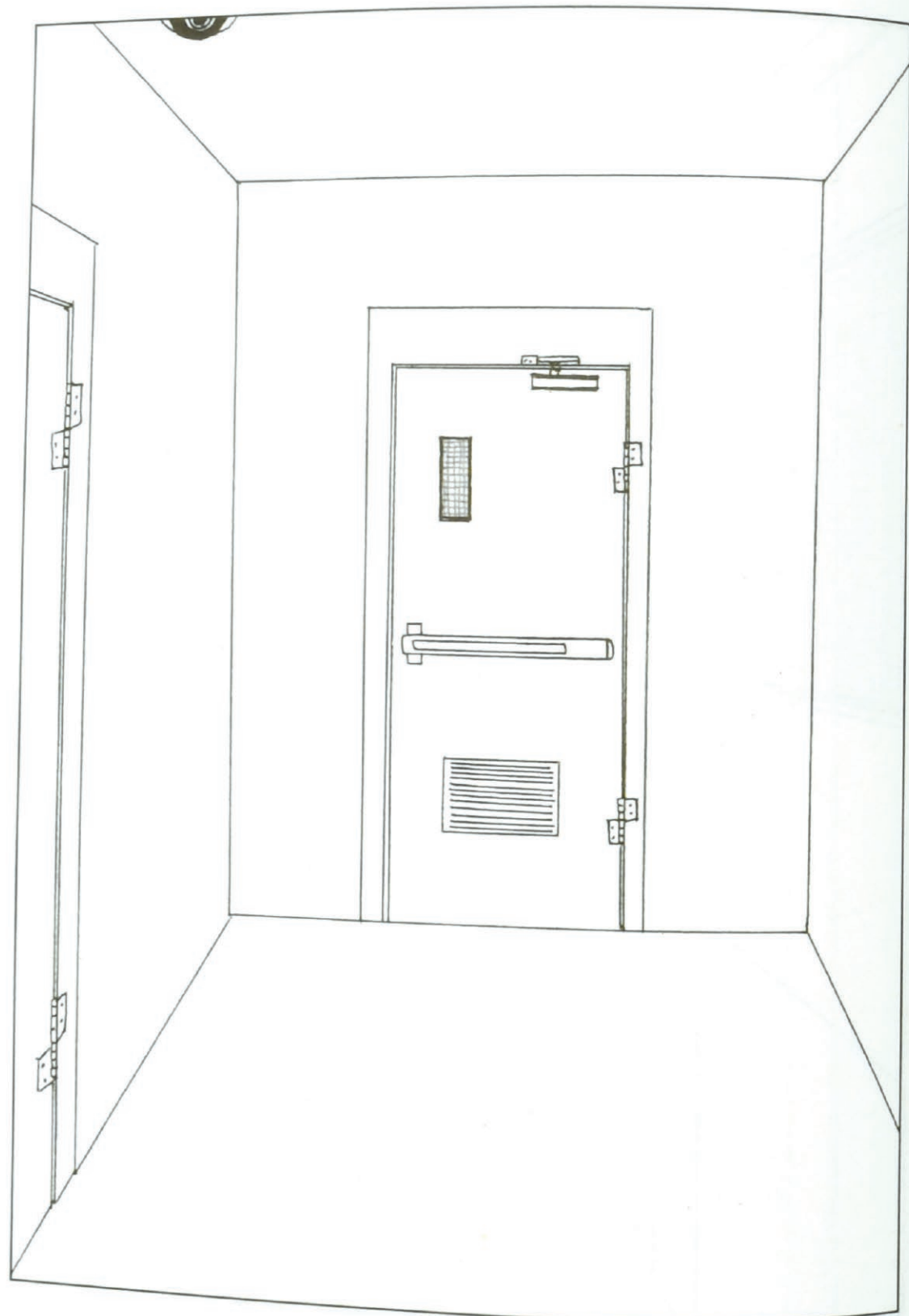
"I always say, there's no ideal, only the optimal."



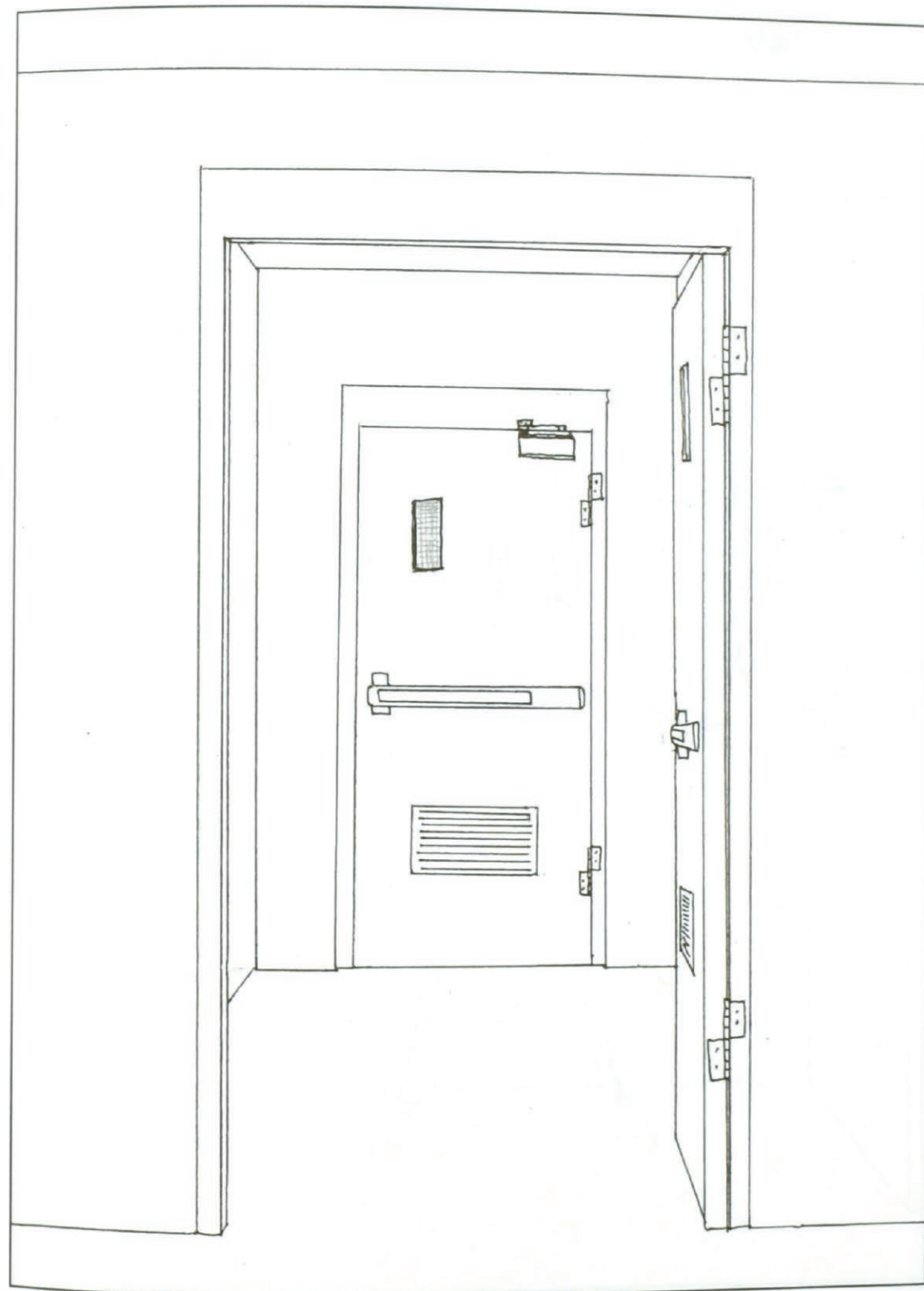


"I do the best possible job within the constraints."

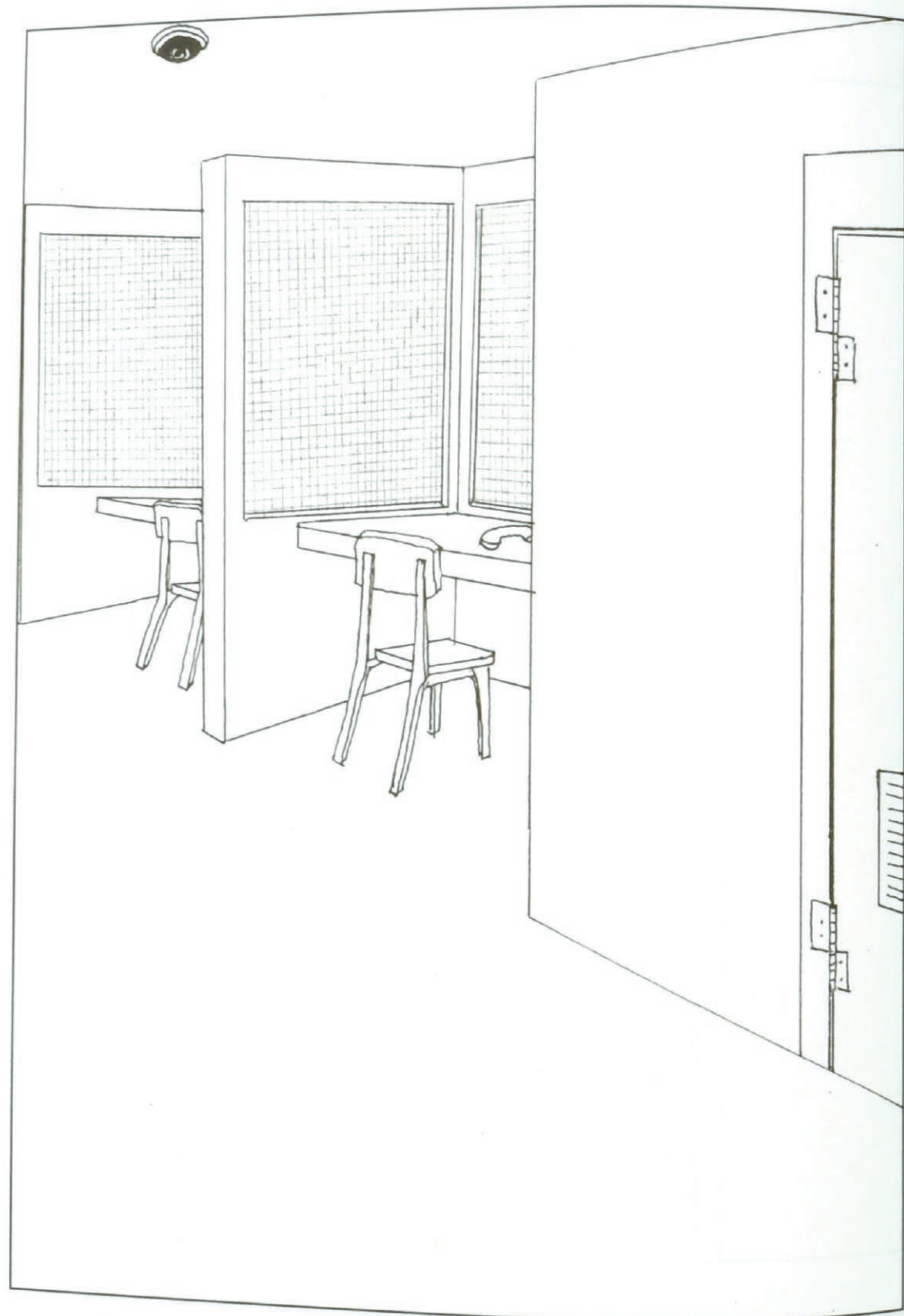




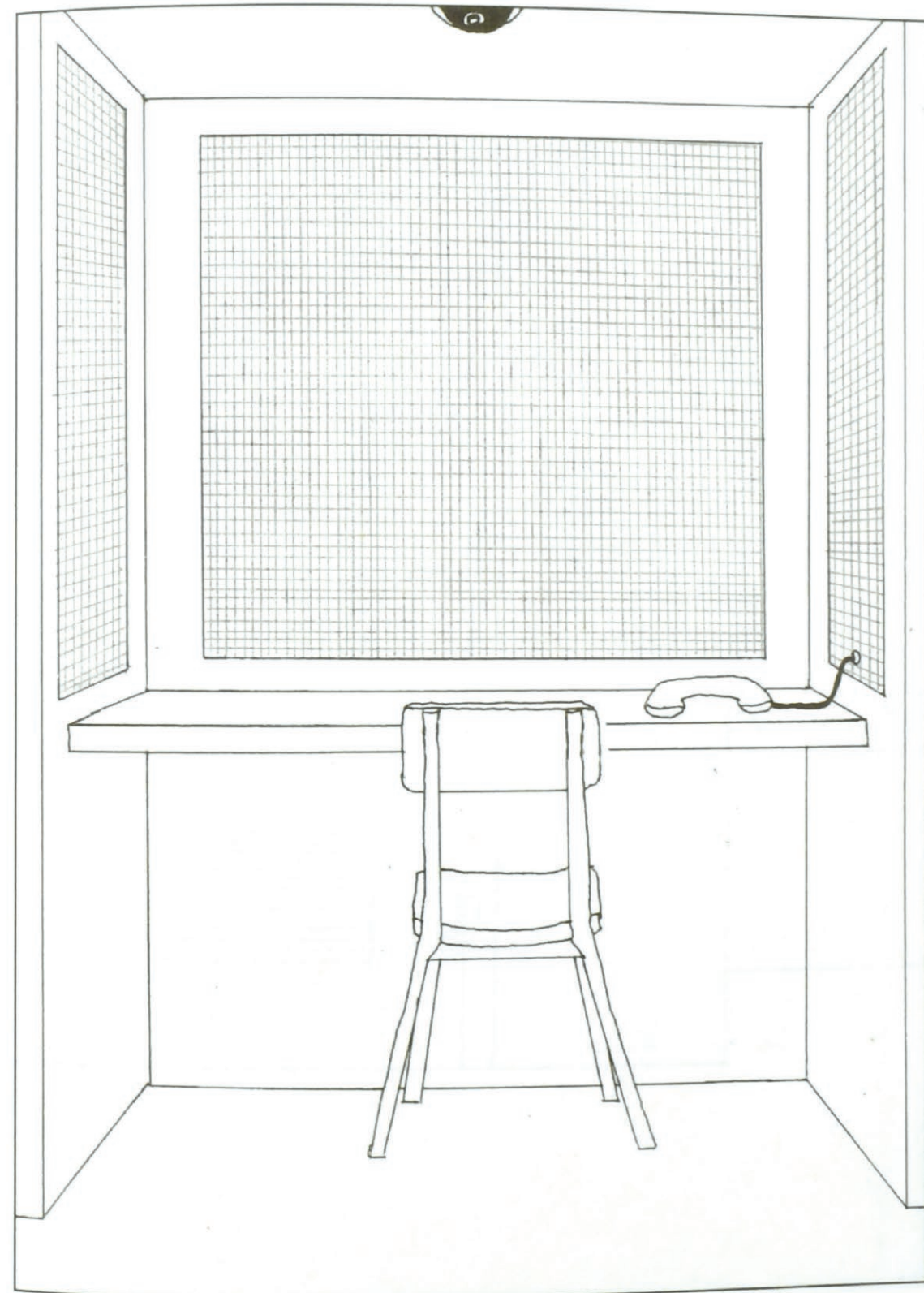
I ask, "What about the architect's role in shaping society?"

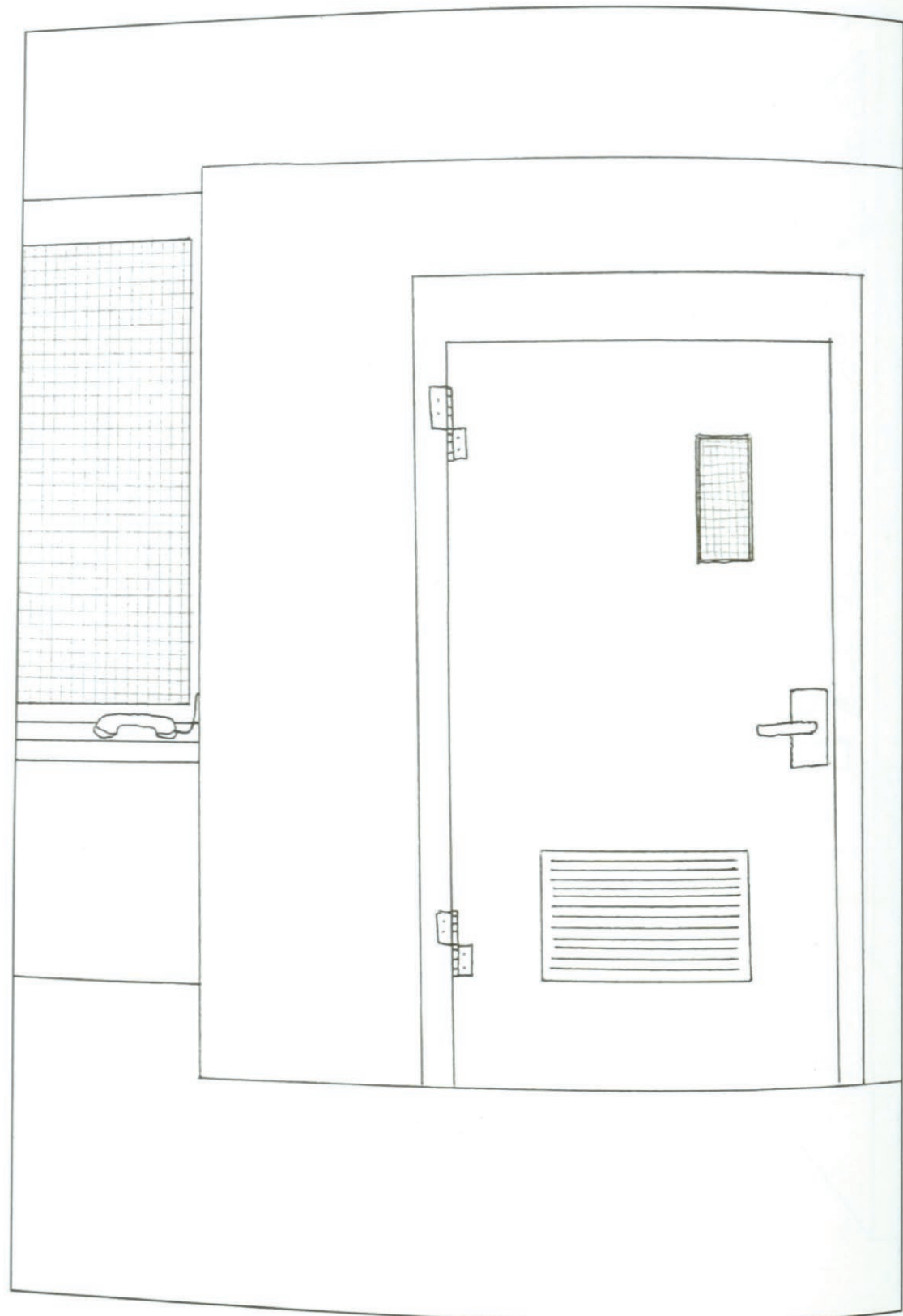


I ask, "What about the architect's role in shaping society?"



You get up and answer, "Architects usually have big egos, they think they're walking three feet above ground."



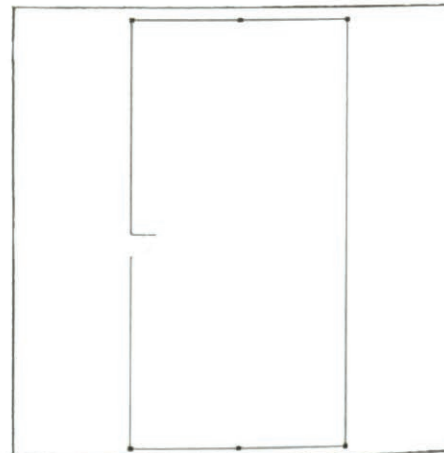
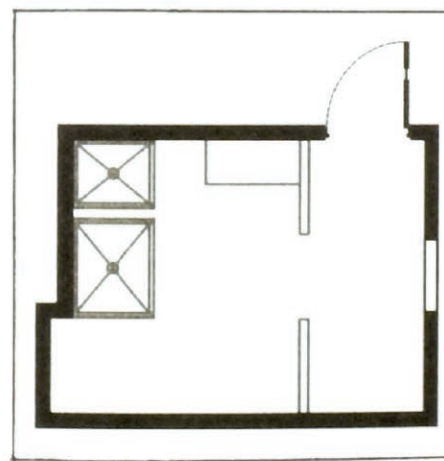
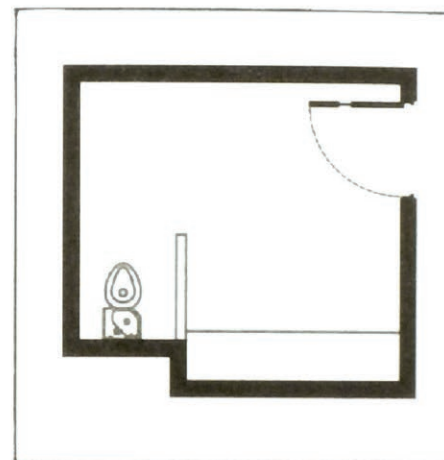
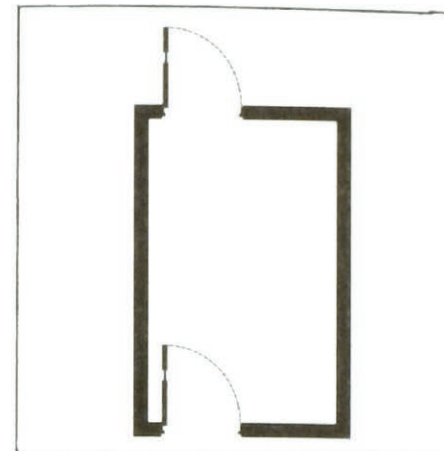
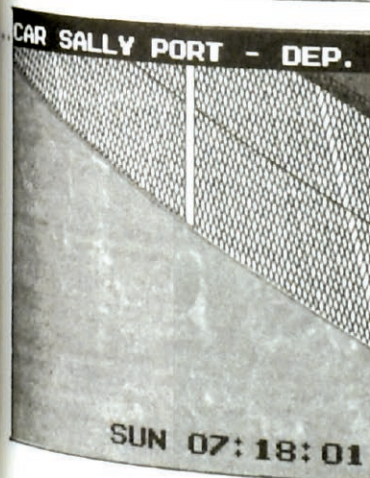
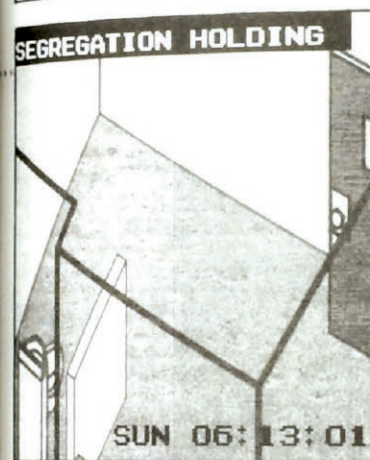
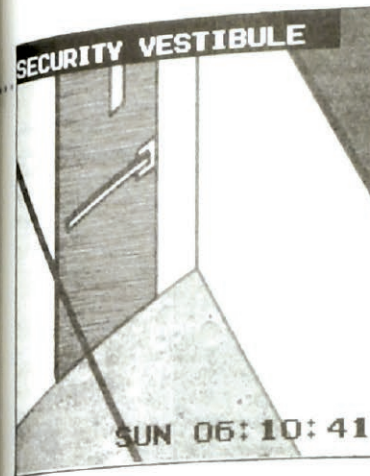
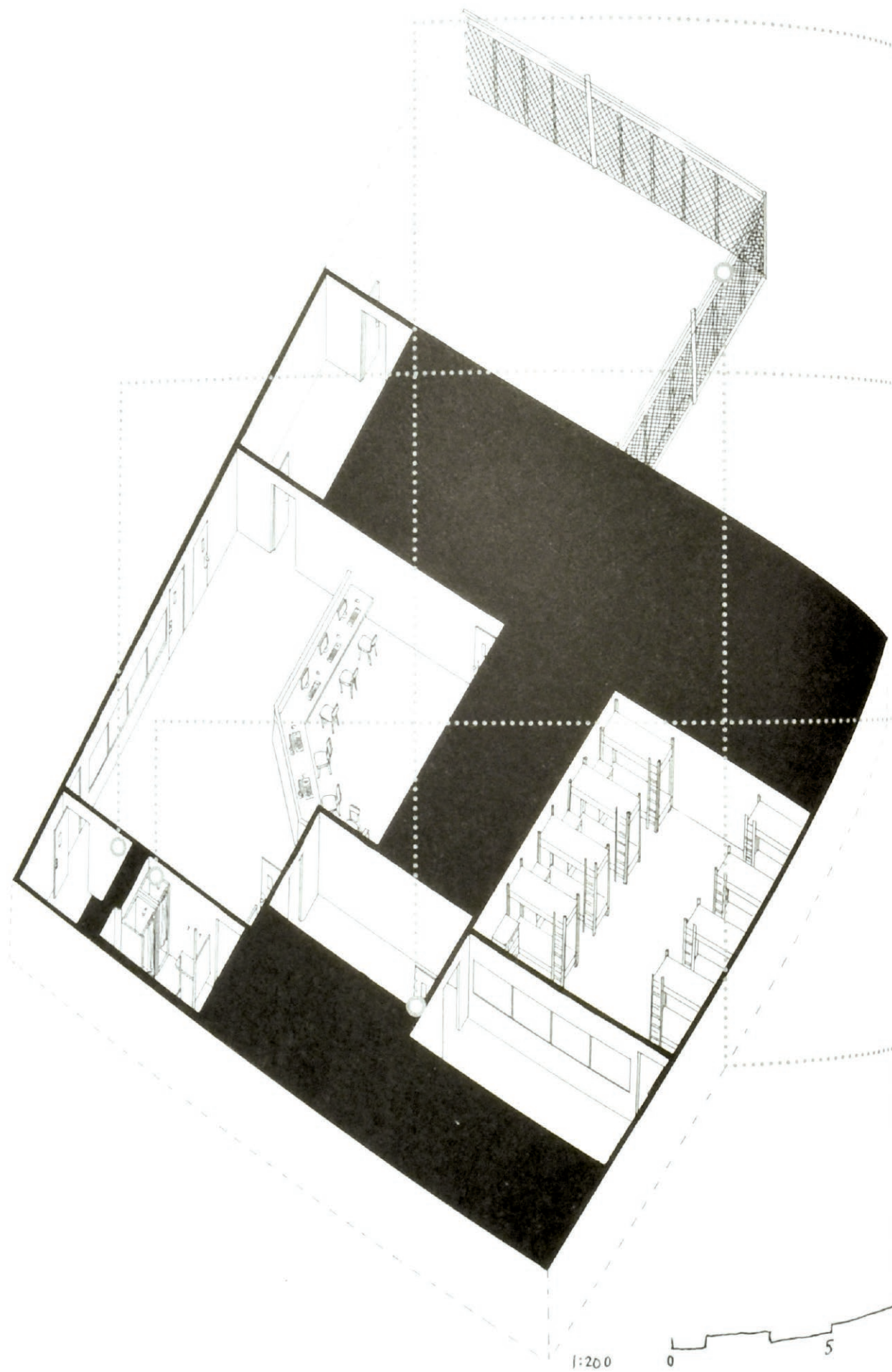


"But a good architect has to be part of the orchestra in which everyone has a part that they need to play."



"The architect is the one who makes the world a better place."

outtake

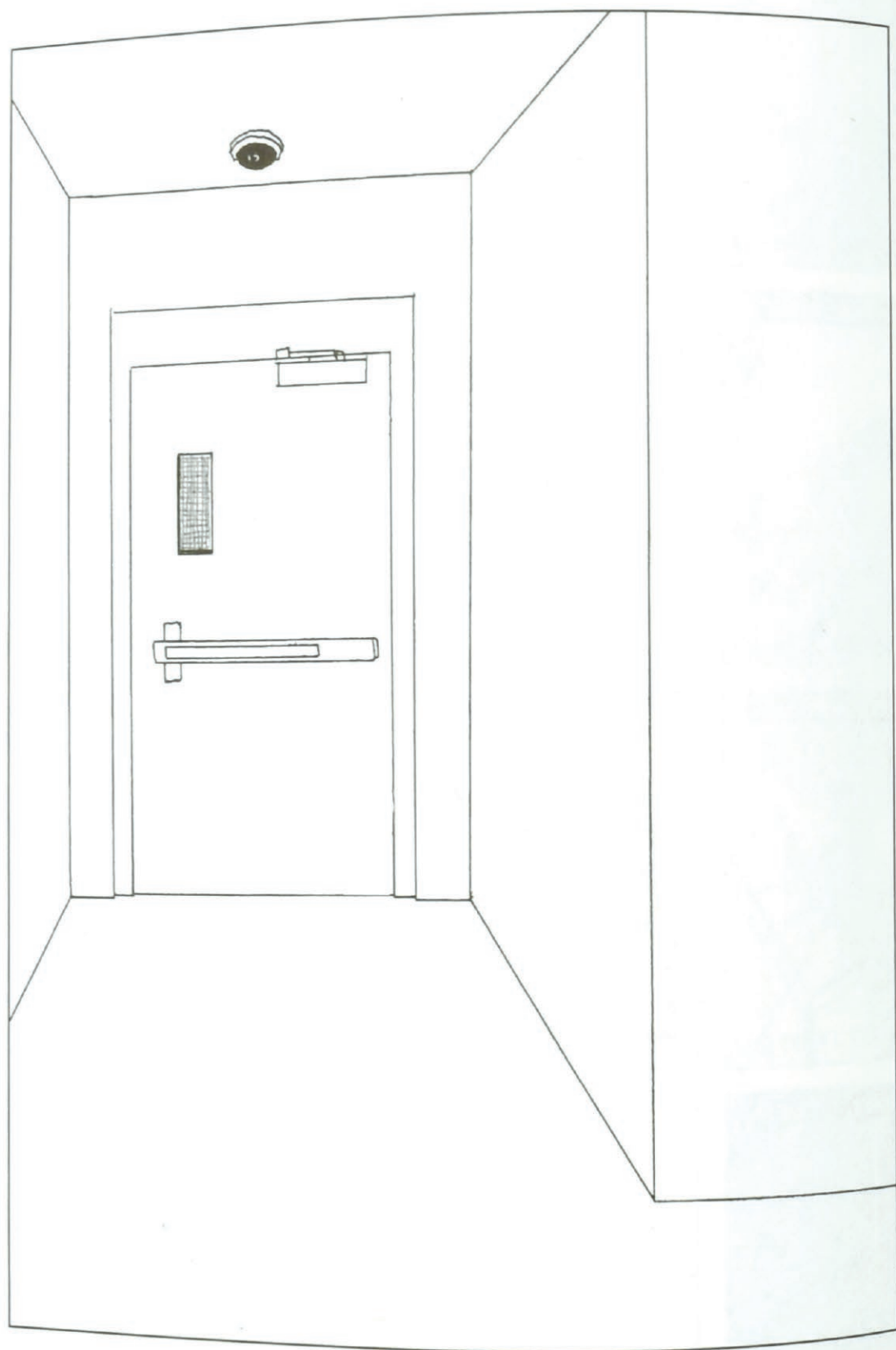


MINIMUM SIZE: 27 X 4.0 M = 10.8 M²
 WALLS: REINFORCED MASONRY
 FLOORS: SEALED CONCRETE
 CEILING: GYPSUM BOARD
 DOORS: HOLLOW METAL W/VISION PANEL
 GLAZING: N/A
 PLUMBING: FLOOR DRAIN
 HVAC: TYPICAL W/EXHAUST
 LIGHTING: RECESSED FLUORESCENT
 SECURITY: ELECTRONIC ACCESS CONTROL, VIDEO SURVEILLANCE
 COMMUNICATIONS: N/A
 NOTE: SEPARATES HOUSING UNITS FROM PROCESSING

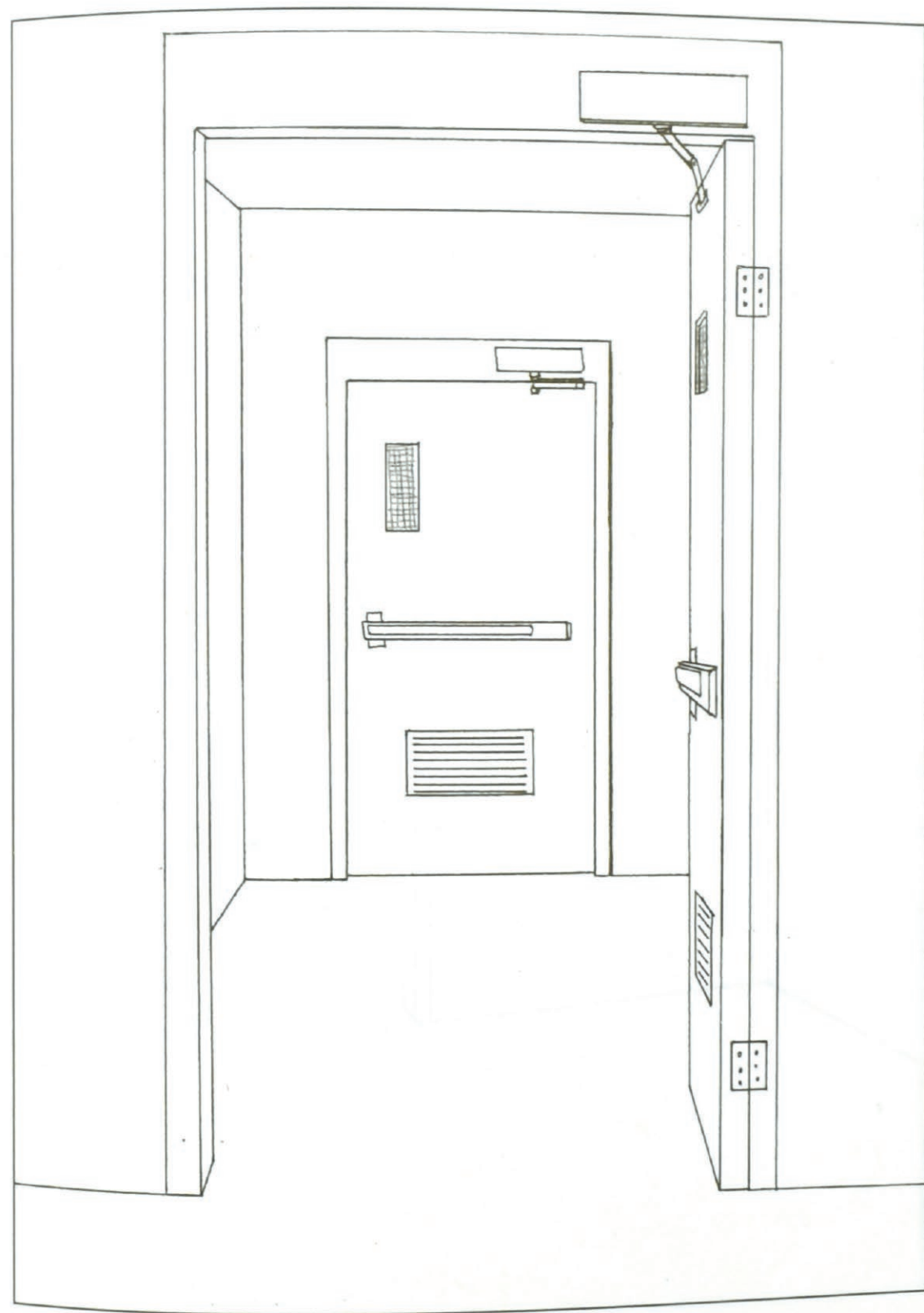
MINIMUM SIZE: 3.6 X 3.3 M = 11.9 M²
 WALLS: REINFORCED CONCRETE BLOCK
 FLOORS: SEALED CONCRETE
 CEILING: DETENTION CEILING
 DOORS: HOLLOW METAL W/VISION PANEL
 GLAZING: N/A
 PLUMBING: DETENTION TOILET/SINK COMBO UNIT
 HVAC: TYPICAL W/EXHAUST
 LIGHTING: RECESSED FLUORESCENT
 SECURITY: ELECTRONIC ACCESS CONTROL, VIDEO SURVEILLANCE
 COMMUNICATIONS: N/A
 NOTE: TEMPORARY UP TO 10 HRS, SINGLE OCCUPANCY

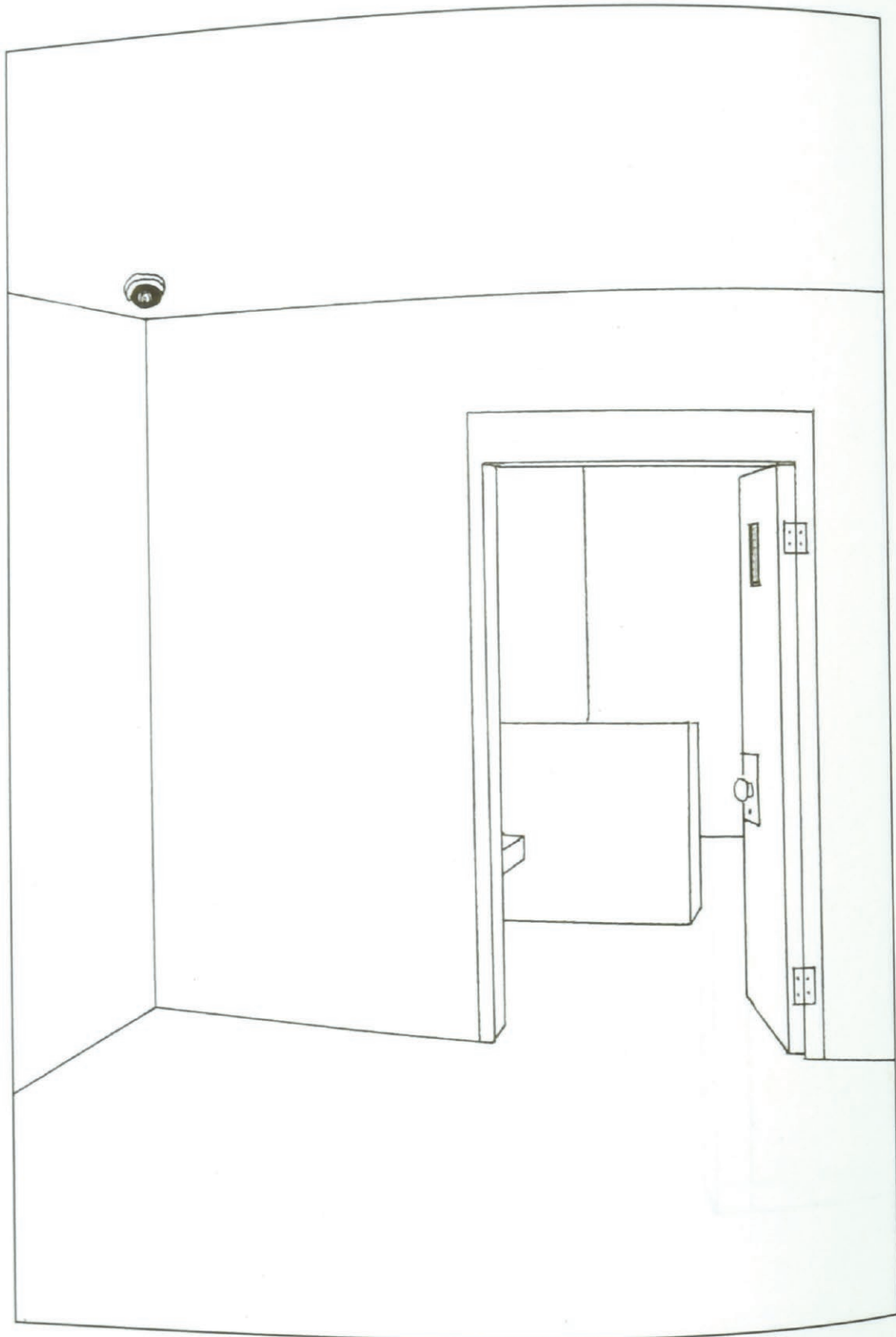
MINIMUM SIZE: 4.5 X 3.4 M = 15.3 M²
 WALLS: REINFORCED CONCRETE BLOCK
 FLOORS: SEALED CONCRETE
 CEILING: DETENTION CEILING
 DOORS: HOLLOW METAL W/VISION PANEL
 GLAZING: BULLETPROOF
 PLUMBING: SHOWER ADA WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE
 HVAC: TYPICAL W/EXHAUST
 LIGHTING: RECESSED FLUORESCENT
 SECURITY: VIDEO SURVEILLANCE
 COMMUNICATIONS: PASS THROUGH PROPERTY STORAGE
 NOTE: MODESTY SCREENS FOR SHOWER/CHANGE AREA

MINIMUM SIZE: 7.3 X 8.5 M = 62.1 M²
 WALLS: GALVANIZED STEEL SECURITY FENCE W/ BARBED WIRE STRAND
 FLOORS: ASPHALT CONCRETE
 CEILING: DETENTION CEILING
 DOORS: HOLLOW METAL W/VISION PANEL
 GLAZING: N/A
 PLUMBING: N/A
 HVAC: N/A
 LIGHTING: SURFACE MOUNTED FLUORESCENT
 SECURITY: ELECTRONIC ACCESS FOR GATE, VIDEO SURVEILLANCE
 COMMUNICATIONS: INTERCOM AT SECURITY GATE
 NOTE: ENCLOSED NEXT TO INTAKE-RELEASE AREA

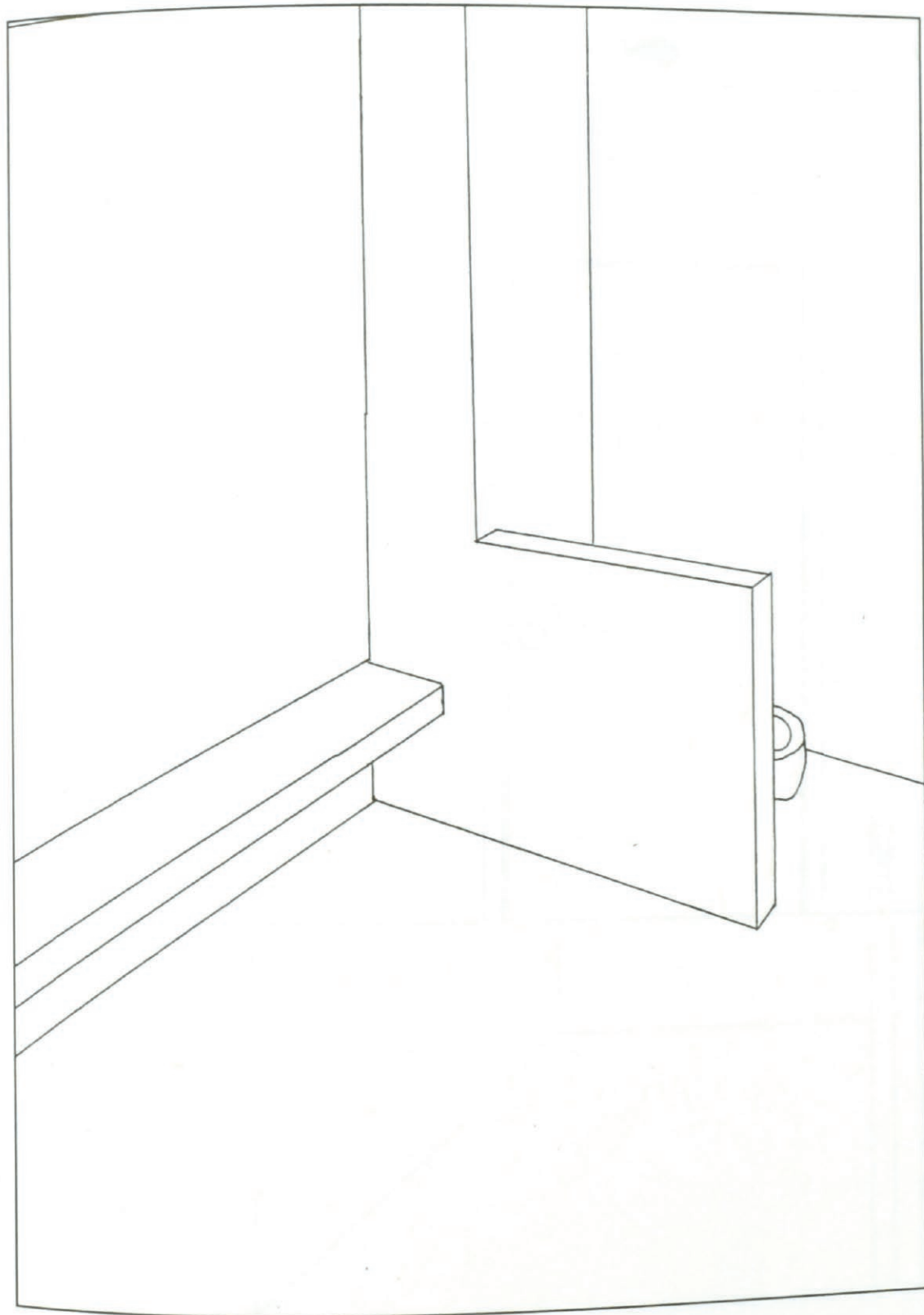


"Look, they come to me because they know I can turn X to Y in the shortest time possible. That's the architect's job."





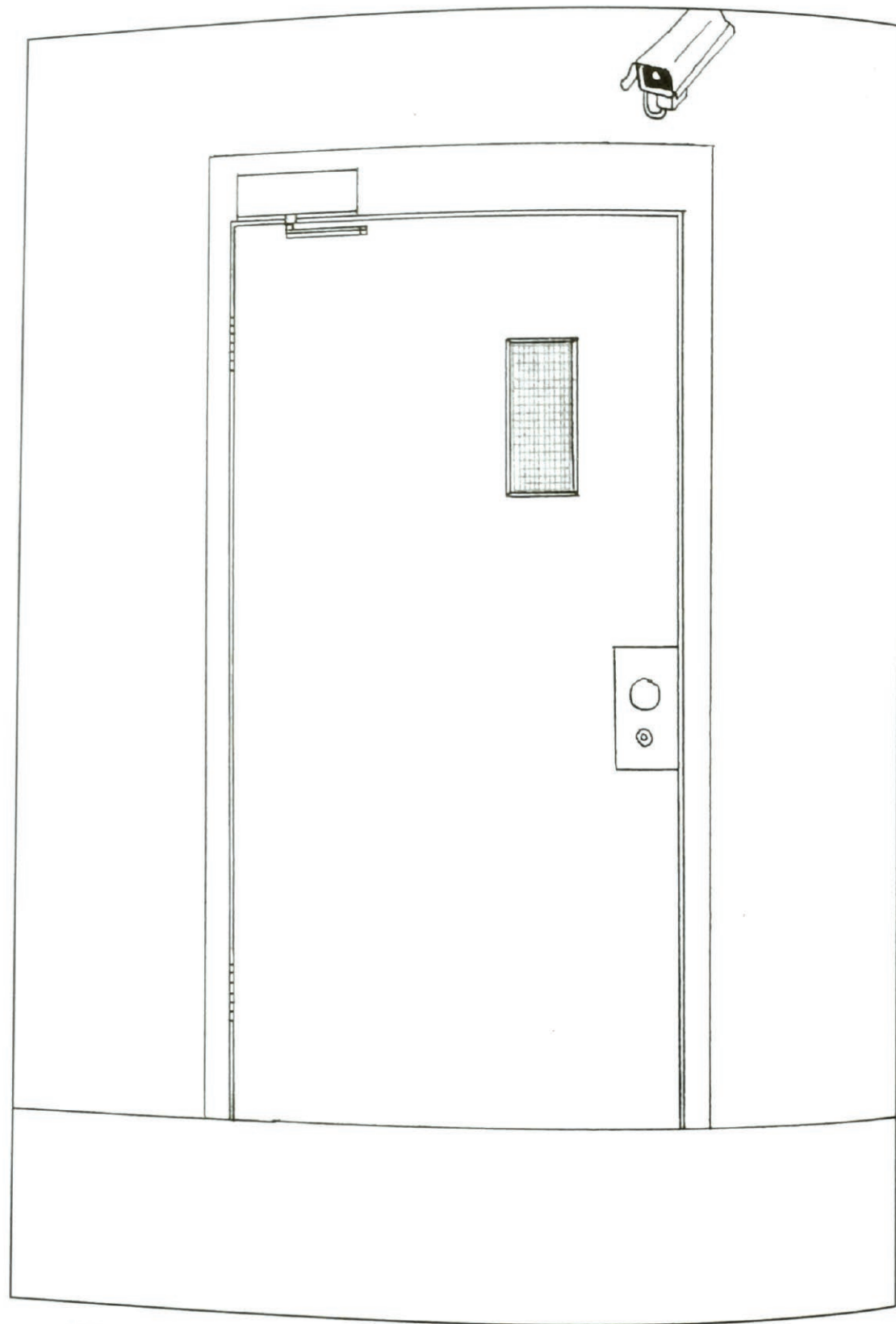
Finally I mention the thorny connection between architecture, politics, and private capital.



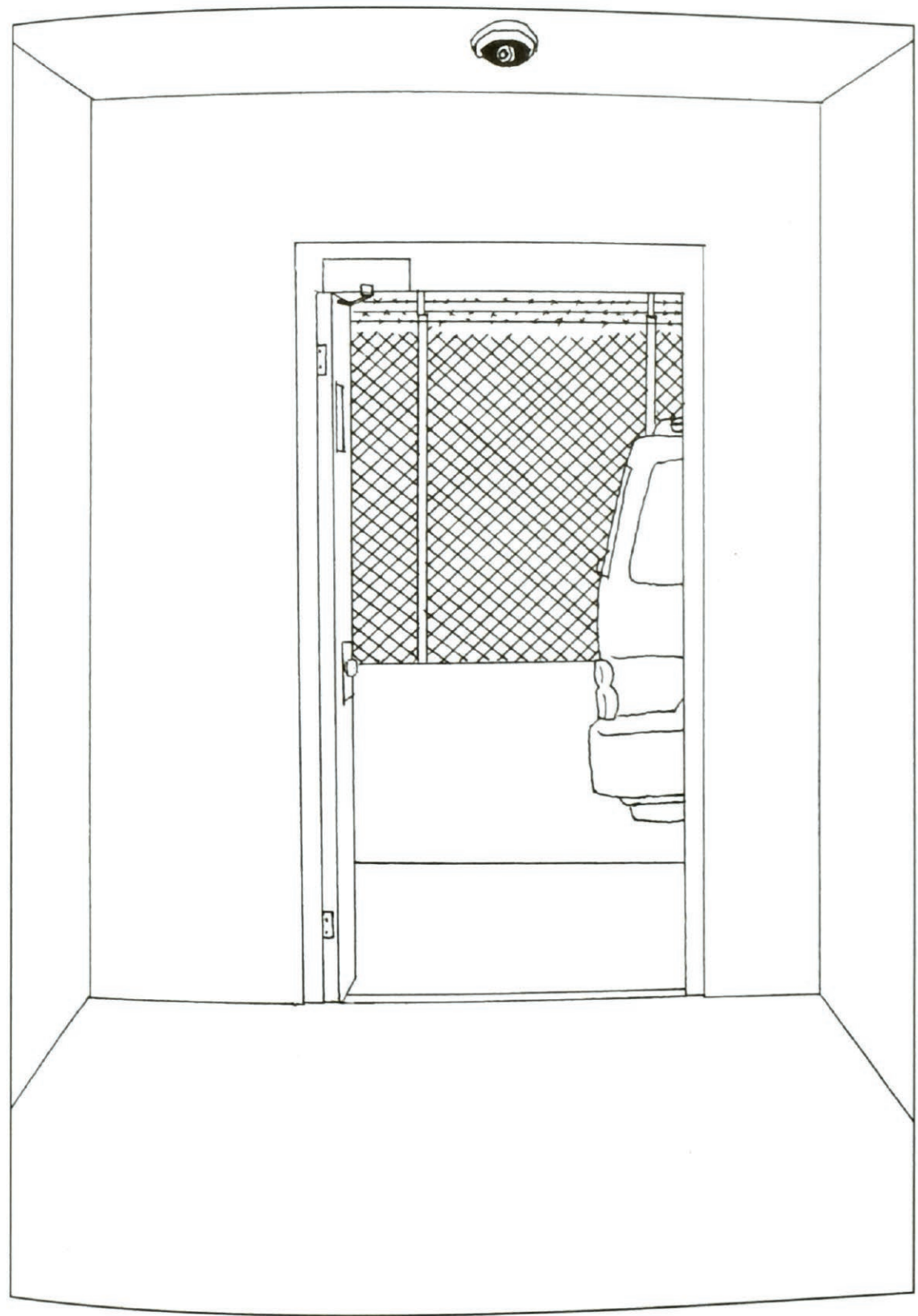


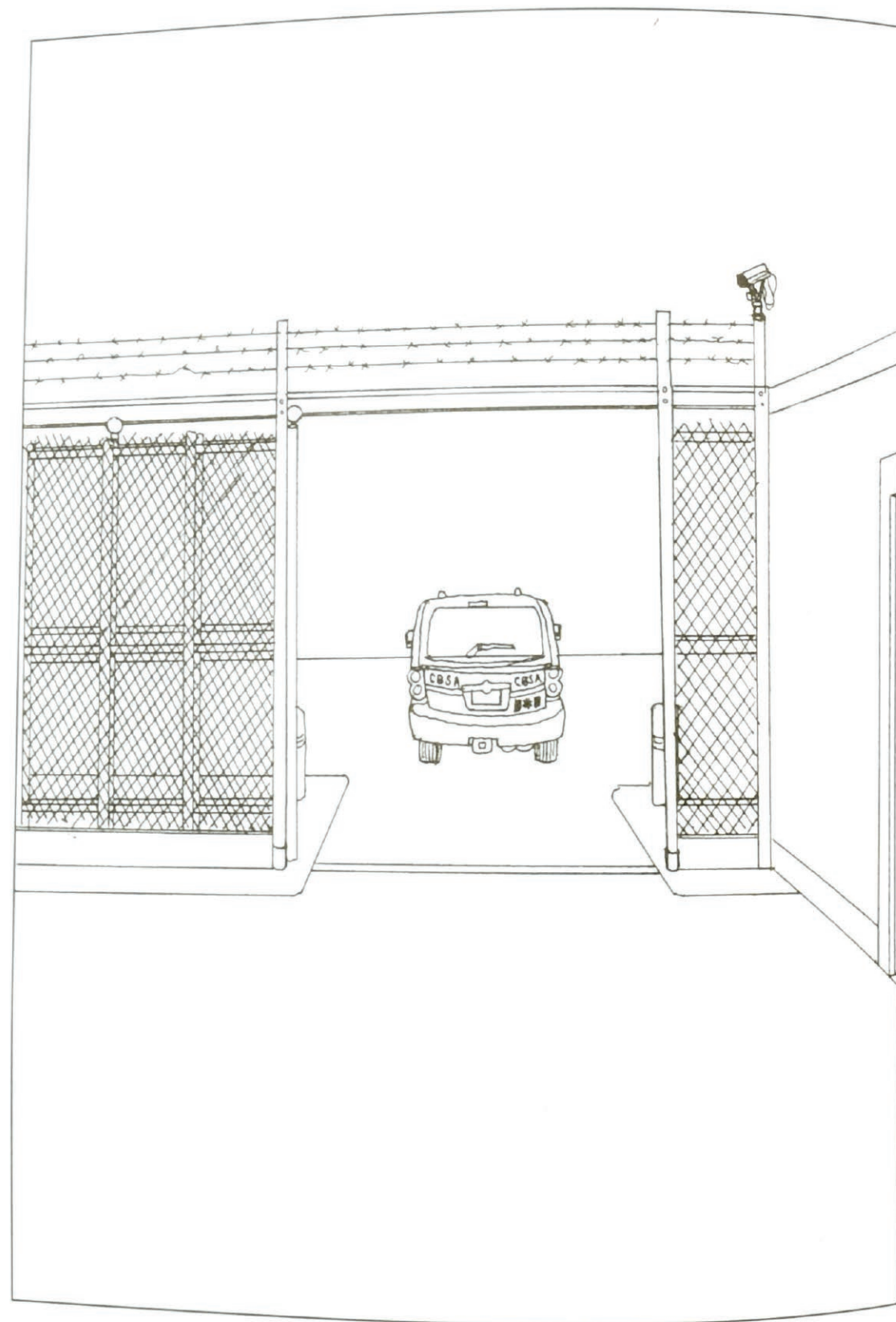
You respond, "An architect doesn't have to examine every policy of an elected government. The government has policies, and this is manifested also in the projects that need to be built."



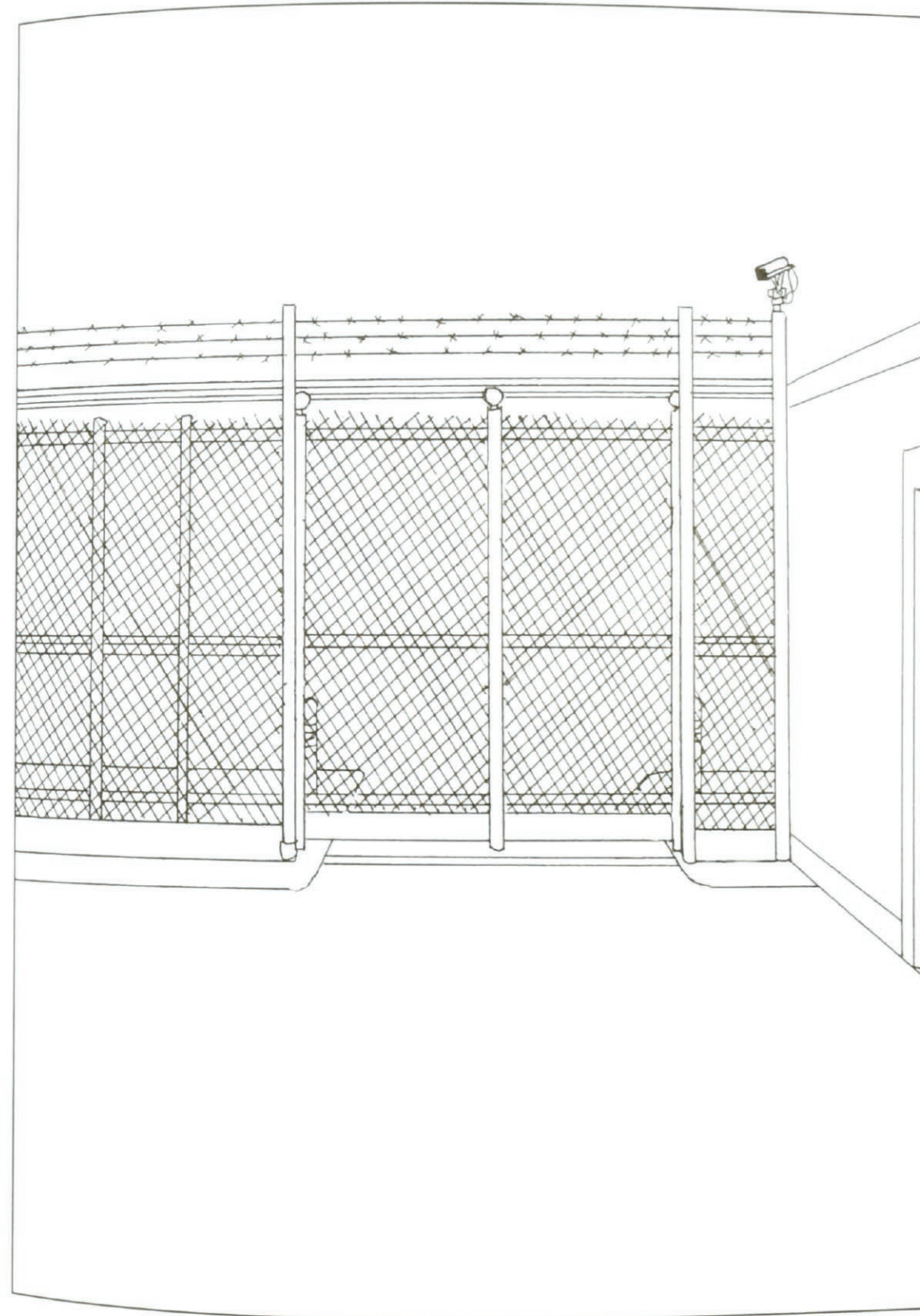


"That's where I come in. Architecture was always connected to big money and political power, but you shouldn't think about that too much."

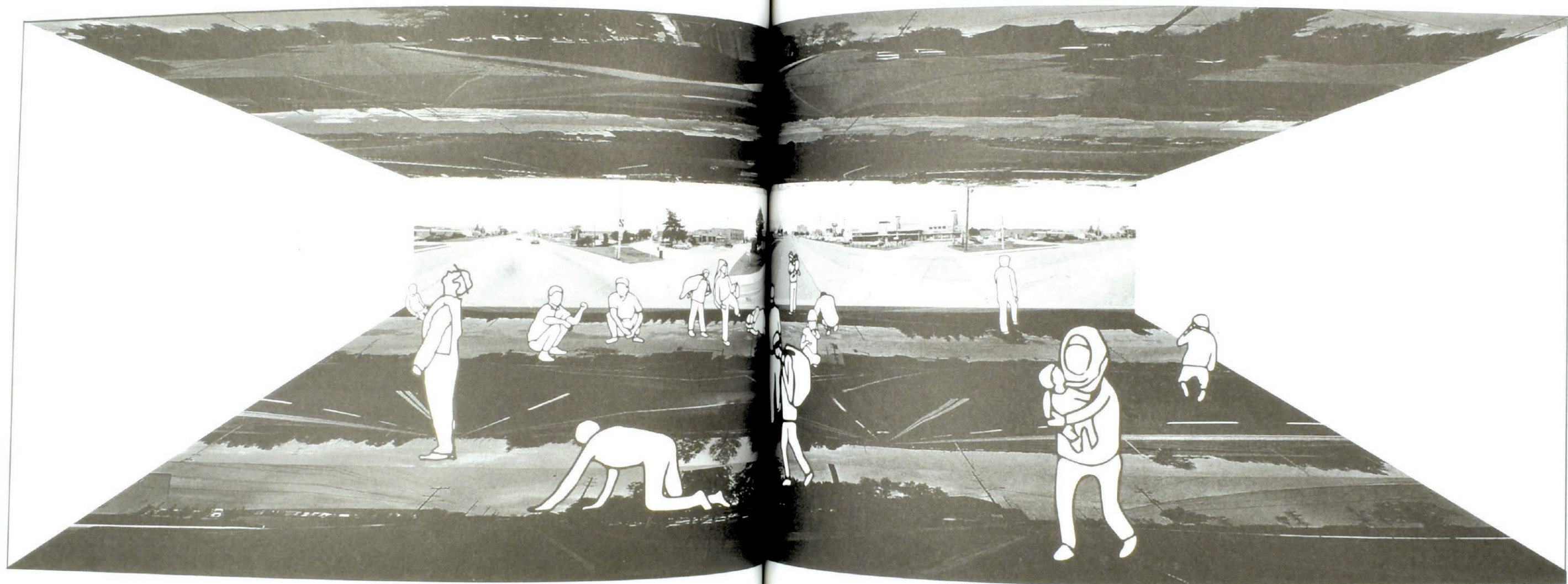




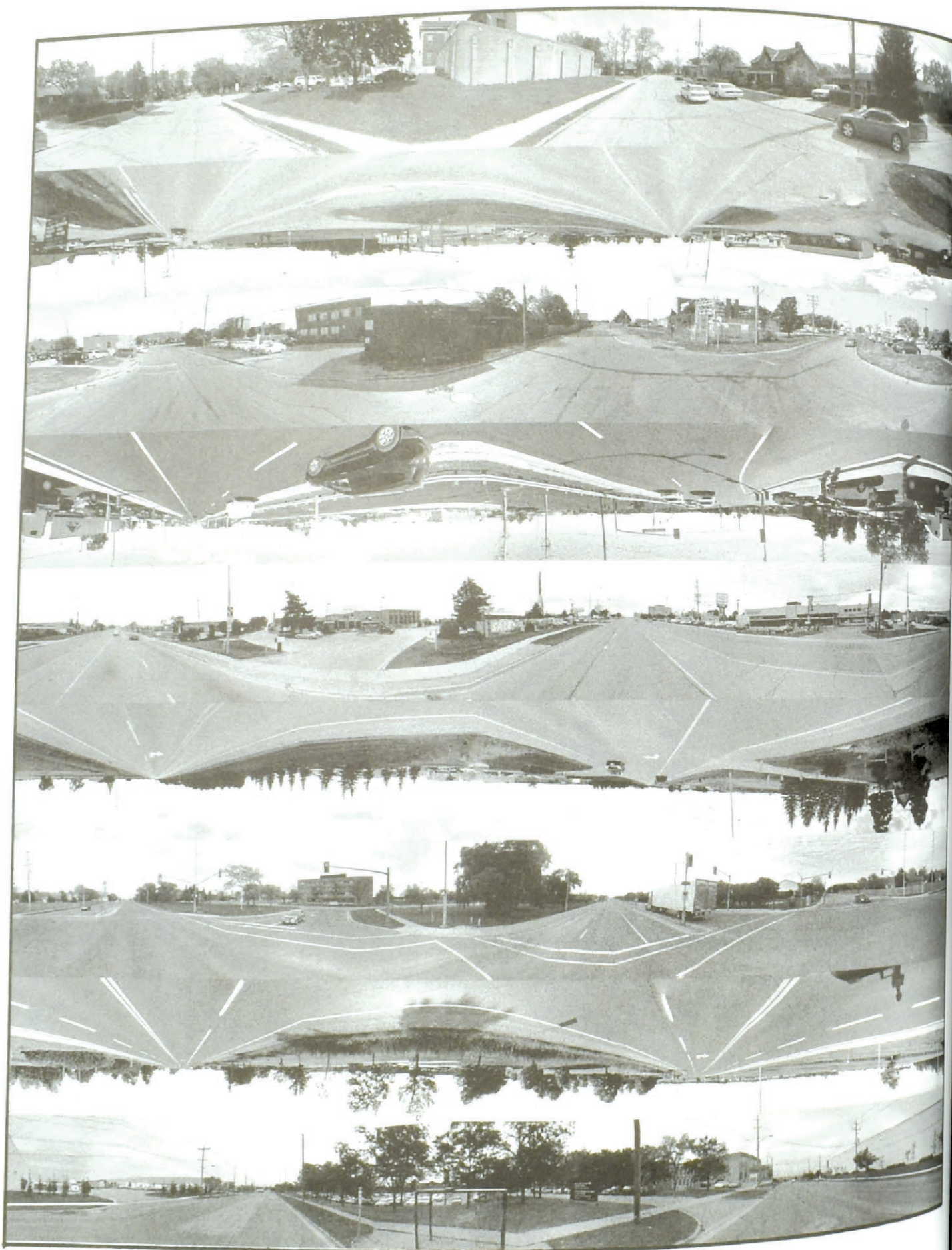
"Listen, if you choose to do art, do art, leave politics to the politicians."



QUOTED FROM 'PLAYING A ROLE' (3:34 MIN. 2012)
ISRAELI ARTIST NIR EVRON'S INTERVIEW WITH A WELL-KNOWN UNNAMED ARCHITECT WHO DESIGNED
THE NAHAL RAVIV DETENTION CENTRE, A 4000 CAPACITY DESERT TENT CITY FOR MIGRANTS
CROSSING OVER EGYPT'S SINAI PENINSULA. THE FACILITY OPENED IN EARLY 2013.



How do landscapes and objects, bodies and narratives build space and make architecture?
How does architecture inflict violence on human bodies and minds onto our physical environment?



"Architecture is not a passive target of violent operations, but it is a discipline that is constantly feeding the environment with physical objects and images that trigger violent actions." - Bechir Kenzari, *Architecture and Violence* (2011)

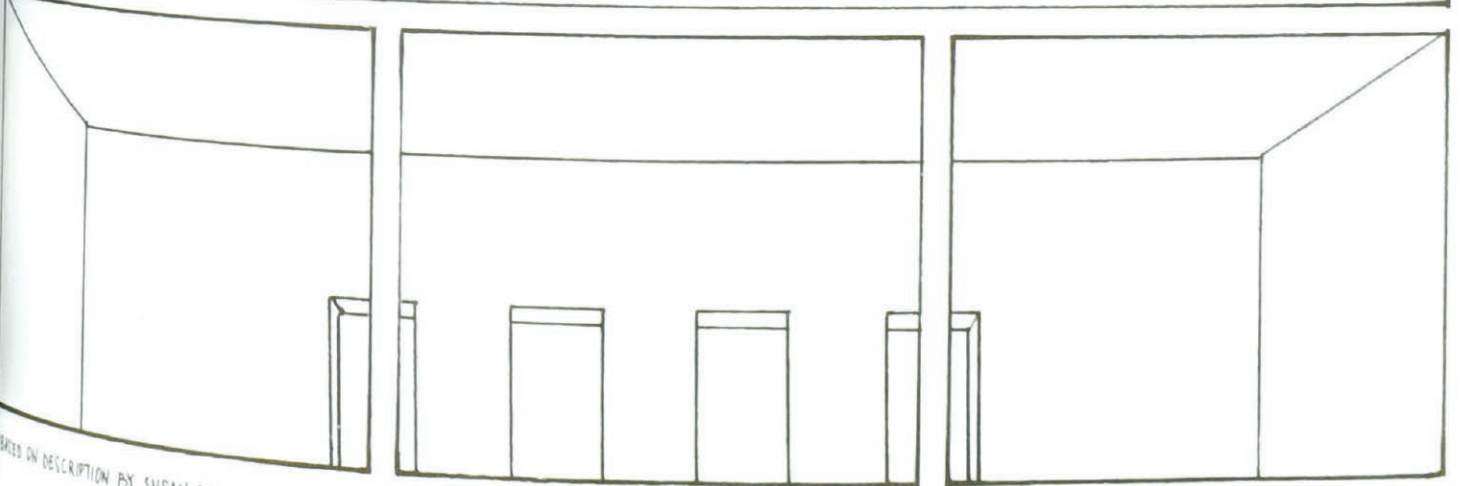


This was the first thing she said when she was released.

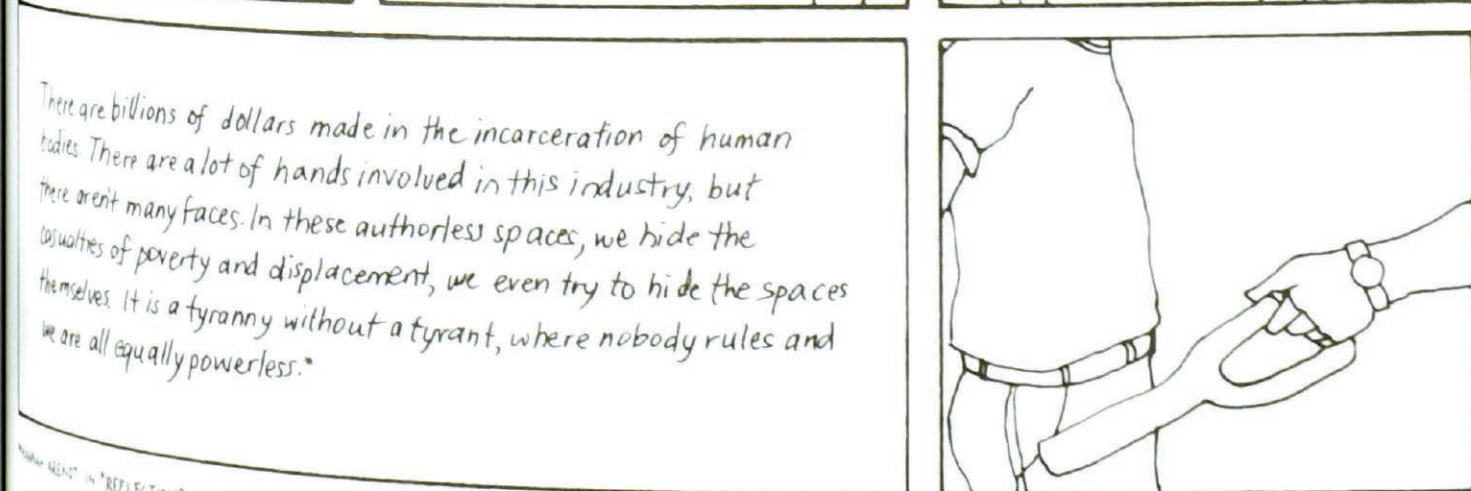
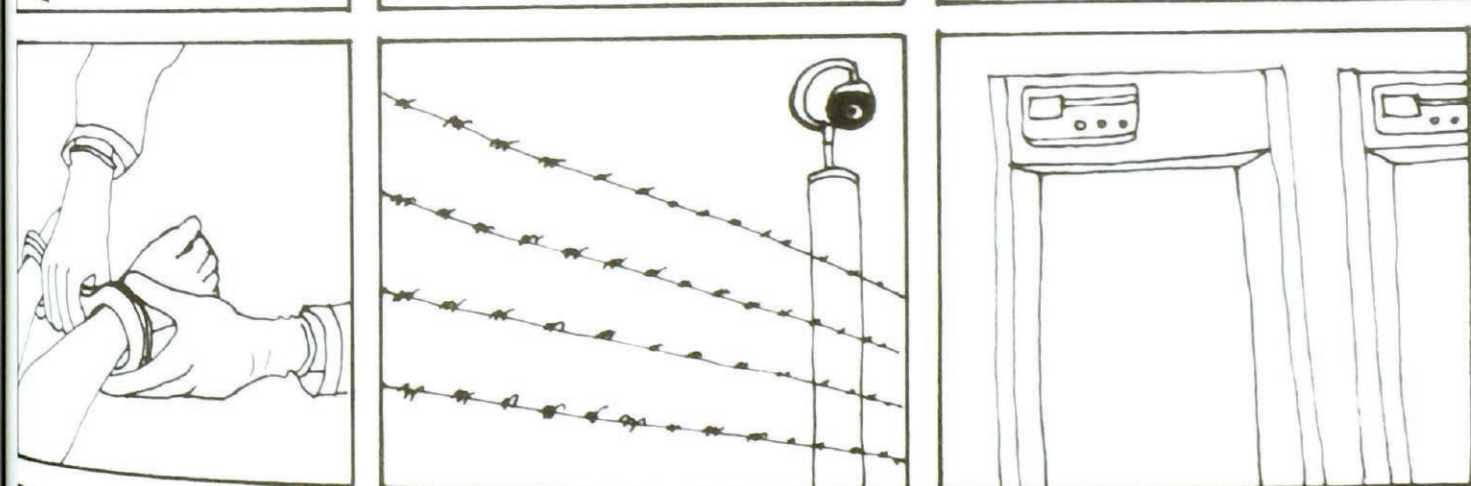
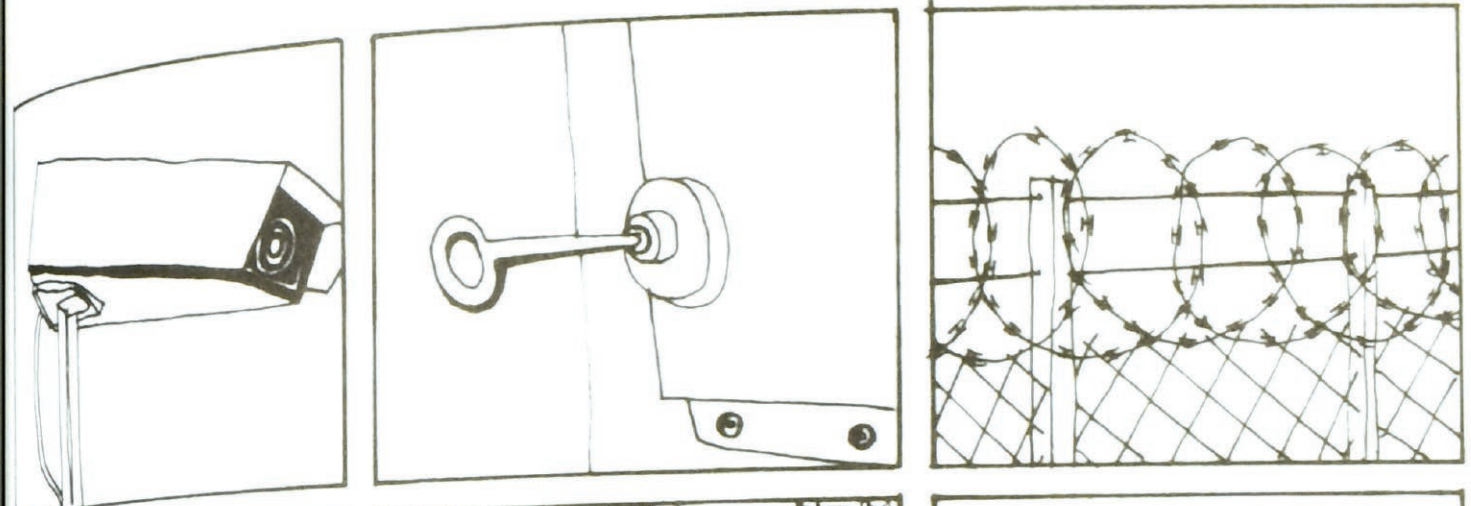
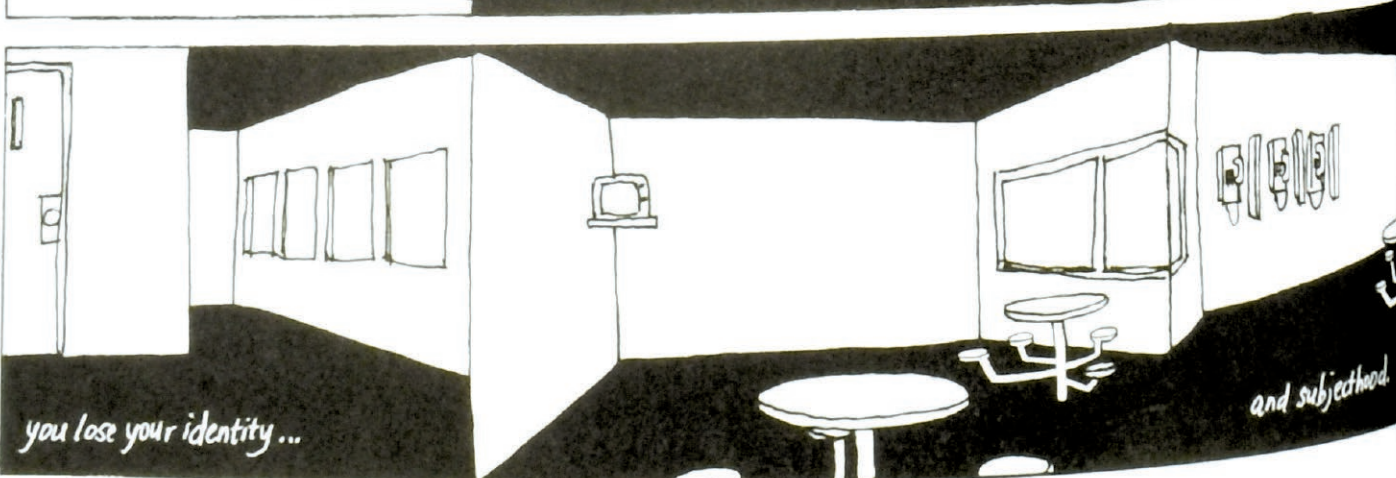
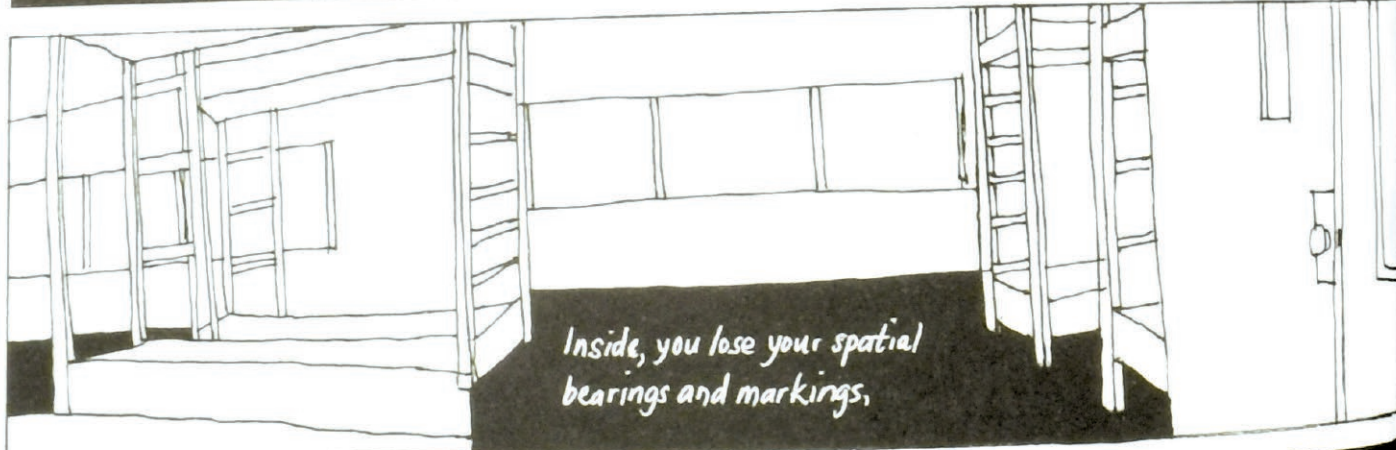
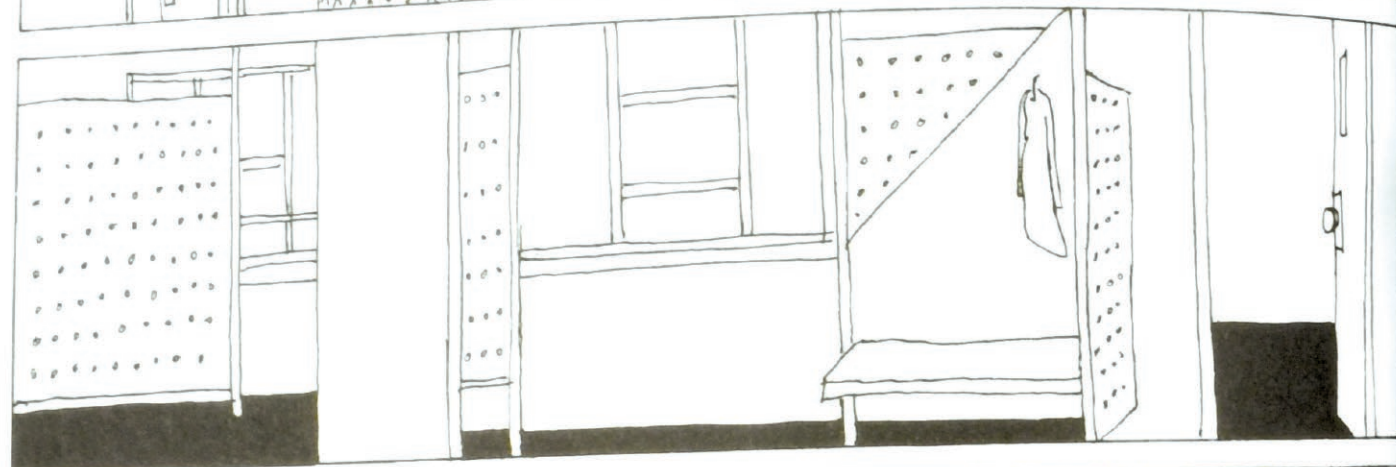


"Take me to the sea, or the next biggest thing."

Inside, they never let you see the horizon.*

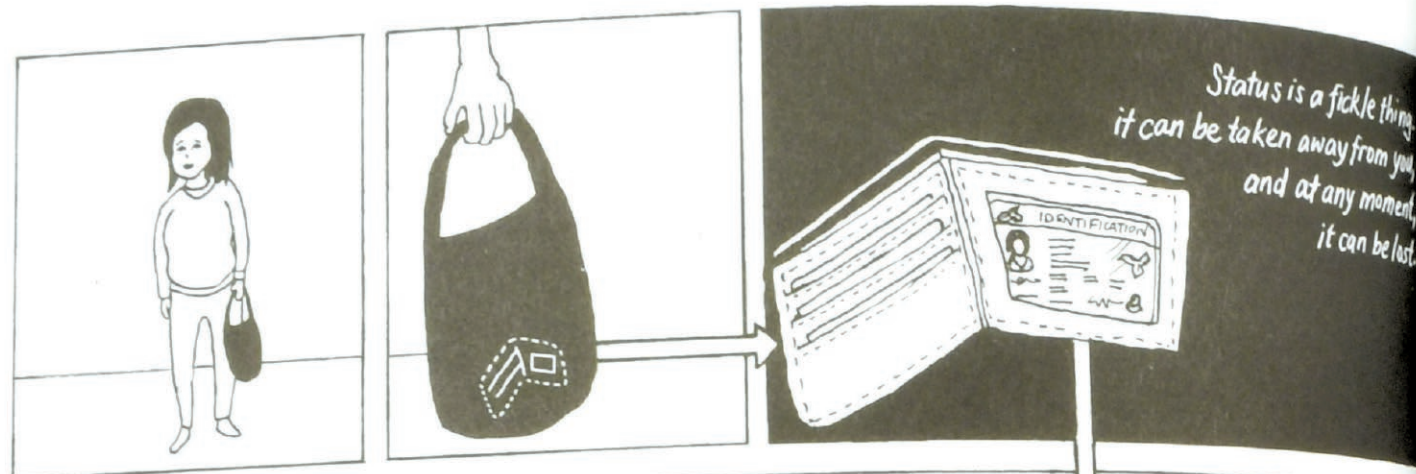


*BASED ON DESCRIPTION BY SUSAN ROZENBERG, INTERVIEWED BY BRETT STORY IN CBC IDEAS "ALONE INSIDE" (2013)

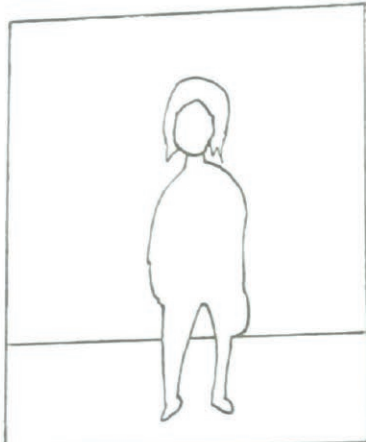


There are billions of dollars made in the incarceration of human beings. There are a lot of hands involved in this industry, but there aren't many faces. In these authorless spaces, we hide the casualties of poverty and displacement, we even try to hide the spaces themselves. It is a tyranny without a tyrant, where nobody rules and we are all equally powerless.


THOMAS MERTZ IN "REFLECTIONS ON VIOLENCE" NEW YORK REVIEW OF BOOKS (1989)



Status is a fickle thing,
it can be taken away from you,
and at any moment,
it can be lost.



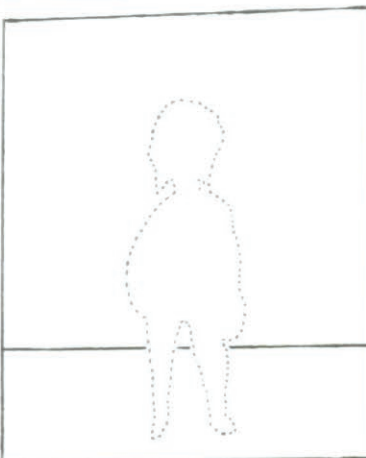
It determines
your identity,
your rights,
your access,
your freedom.

IDENTIFICATION	
	NAME/NOM Wang, Fang
	ADDRESS 442 Newderry Street, Apt. 201
	NATIONALITY/NATIONALITÉ <small>SENSELE</small> Chinese F
	PLACE OF BIRTH/LIEU DE NAISSANCE Shenzhen
	DATE OF BIRTH/DATE DE NAISSANCE 31 July 1972

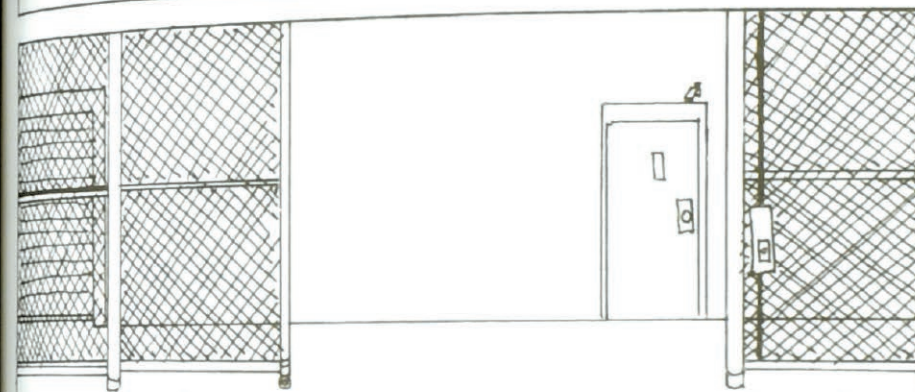
But your name is more than a series of romanized letters, phonetically transcribed that, when uttered, can never capture its weight.

It can never come close to the language your given name was given in.

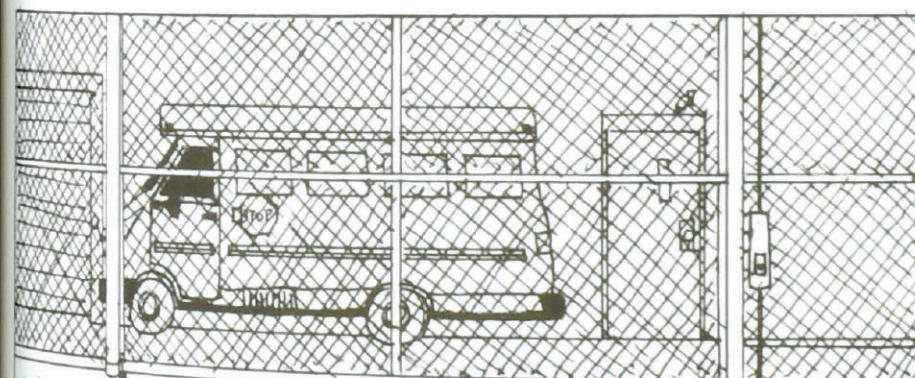
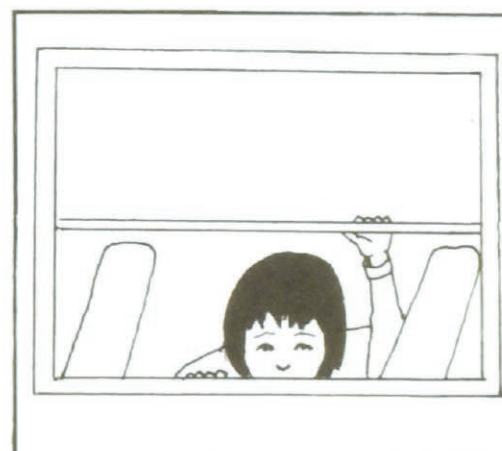
Your place of birth has nothing to do with the treachery of borders, violently imposed onto our bodies, between our families, and throughout the places we call home.



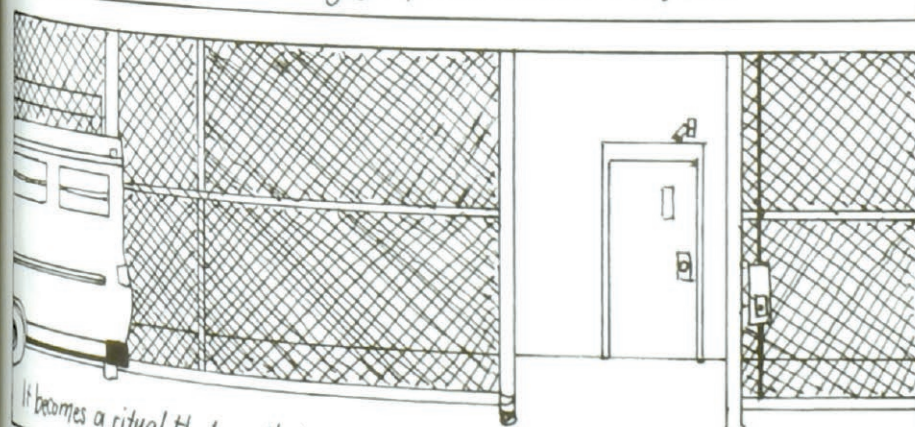
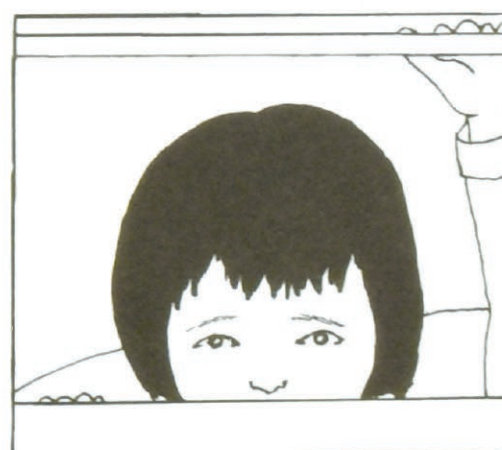
You are not a minor, a senior, or a dependent,
but you are an elder, a lover, and a child.



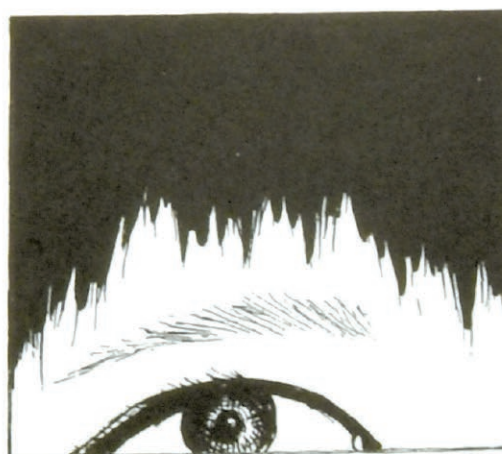
Each morning, a school bus drives up to the immigration detention centre.



Behind barbed wire and a security gate, children board the bus.*



It becomes a ritual that spells trauma.



*INTERVIEW WITH MACDONALD SCOTT, IMMIGRATION LEGAL CONSULTANT AND MEMBER OF NO ONE IS ILLEGAL - TORONTO

There is an immigration detainee on hunger strike for over sixty days in protest of indefinite detention. Held for 28 months in a maximum security prison without charge or trial, he said, "I missed three of my sons' birthdays, I missed three anniversaries with my wife... I cannot see myself here being detained indefinitely and thinking about them. That will drive me crazy. So I have to keep it out of sight and out of mind. How inhumane is that?"*

"I am a father and I am a husband."

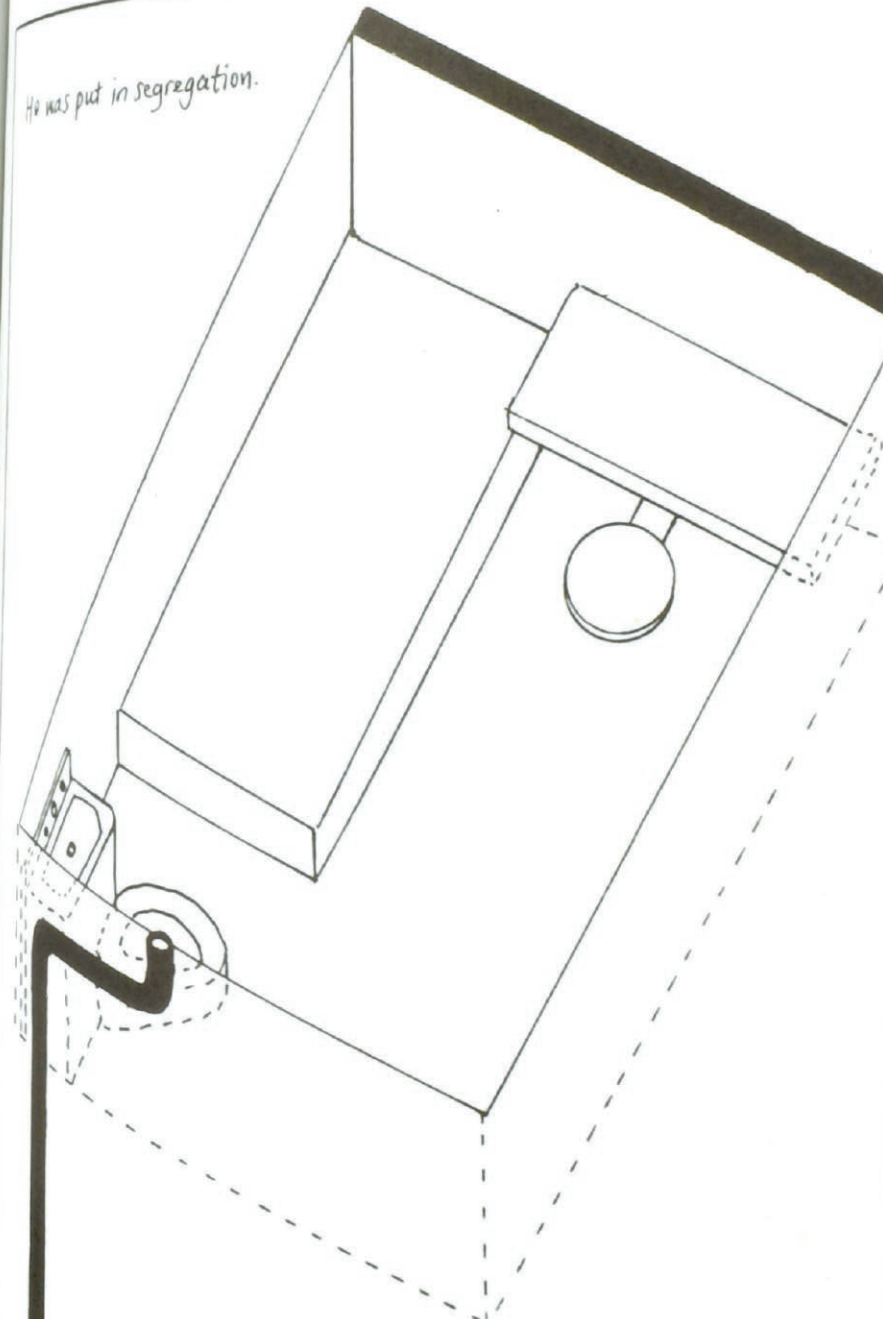


"Should I even be allowed to feel like this?"



*AMIN MUJIRI, INTERVIEWED BY END IMMIGRATION DETENTION NETWORK, SEE: <https://endimmigrationdetention.com/category/from-detainees/>

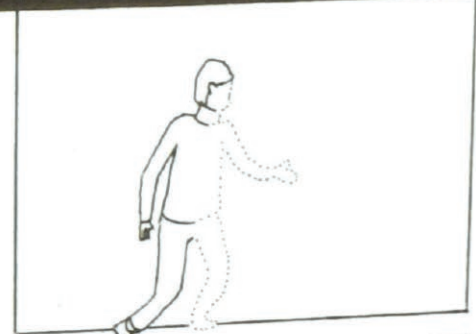
He was put in segregation.



Isolated for up to 23 hours a day people find ways to communicate with other detainees through the walls, through toilet pipes, emptied of water. In 2013, California saw its largest hunger strike of 30,000 inmates in solitary. This mass action was organized over years of such stolen conversations.

*LISA GRENTER, INTERVIEWED BY BRETT STORY IN CBC IDEAS "ALONE INSIDE" (2013)

According to Corrections Canada, solitary confinement is euphemistically called "administrative segregation," used to ensure the "safety of all inmates, staff, and visitors," rather than for punitive reasons. In the control of bodies, architecture manages risk, so that the system never has to confront the aggregated power of inmates.



Prisoners held in prolonged segregation speak about the feeling of merging with the walls.*



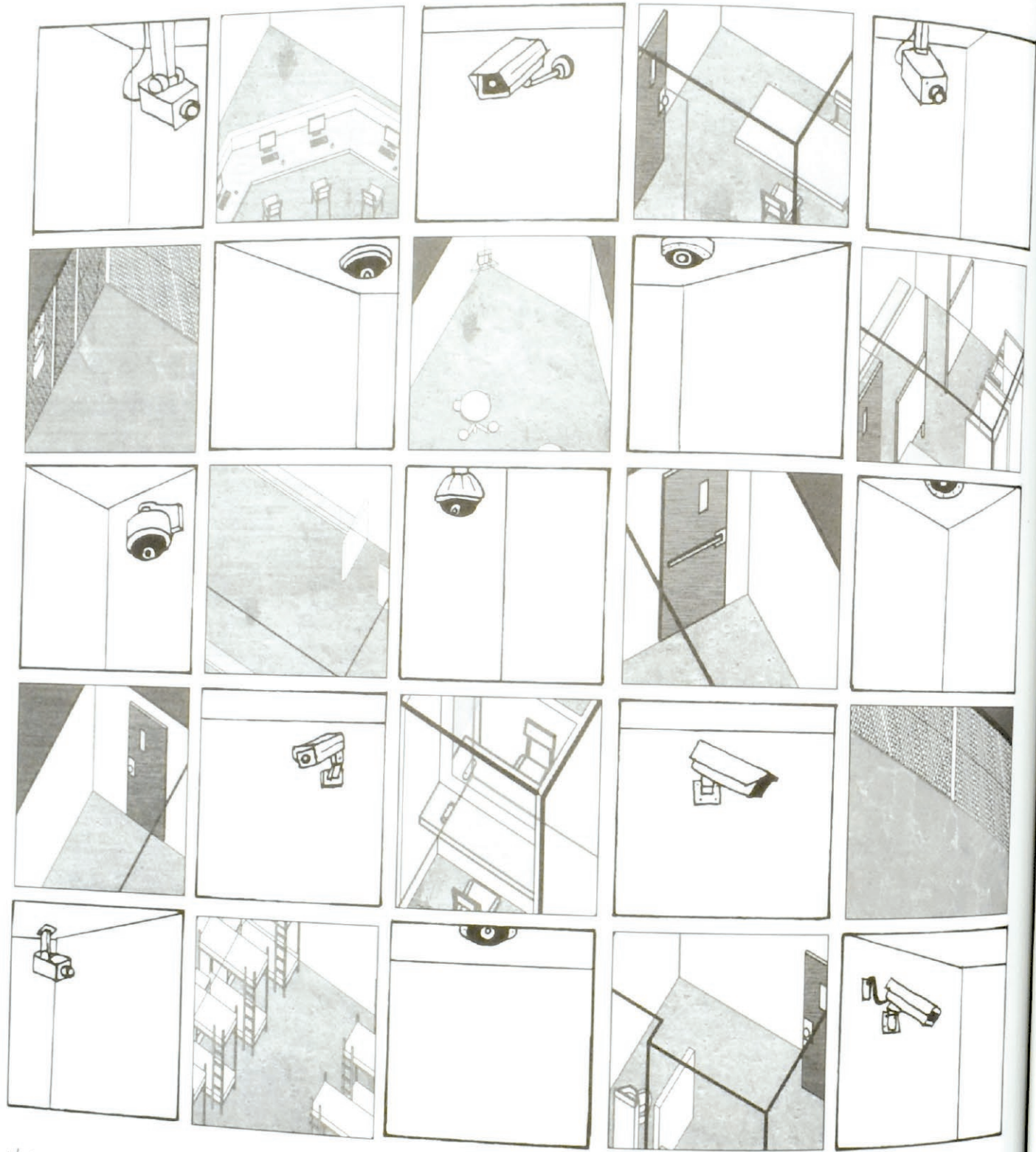
07H: WAKE UP

22H: LIGHTS OUT

where the distinction between an individual's body and self becomes indistinguishable from the individual cell itself.

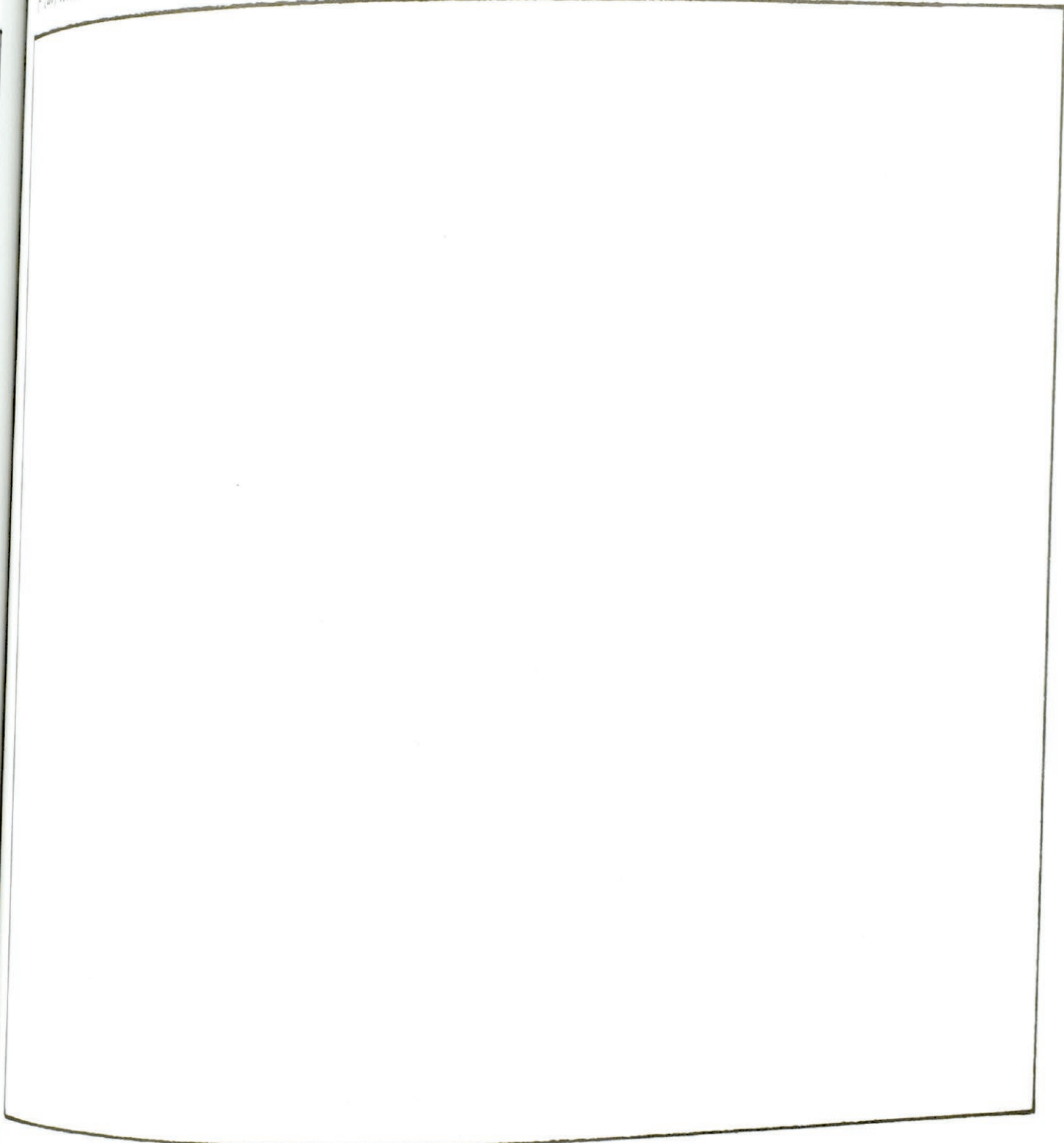


People describe a sense of spatial haunting - feeling the presence of someone else in the cell, or in the walls, who you can never catch a glimpse of. Your spatial perception becomes affected by what you do see as much as what you don't see.



Unhinged from your social and perceptual world, a space becomes too small or too big, too bright or too dull, too loud or too quiet - too blank, impossible, and violent. The walls are too thick, impenetrable by your body and your voice.

Steve Stern's "Alone Inside" radio documentary reveals the trauma induced by solitary confinement. After a long time staring at white walls no more than 6 feet away and 24/7 exposure to fluorescent lighting, you induce what has been called "white vision blindness" - the inability to see colour, or to see at all.



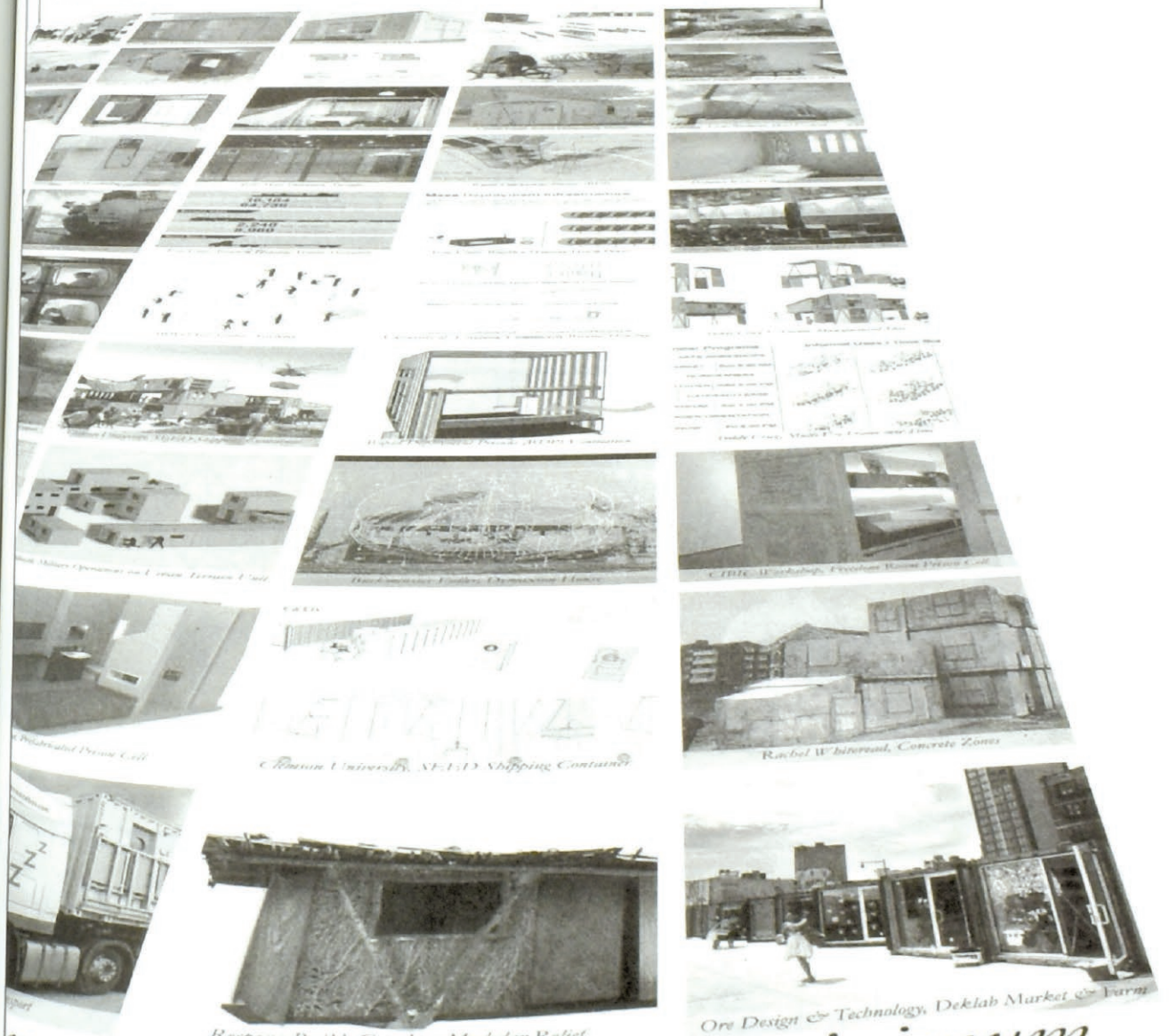
As author and long-time prisoner Jack Henry Abbott once wrote:
"Solitary confinement in prison can change the ontological make-up of a stone."



minimum structure

minimum space

The penitentiary was born of a modern desire for more efficient punishment, likewise modern housing was defined by functionalism. Existenzminimum (subsistence dwelling) became a design sensibility that sought the highest comfort through the most efficient means. Since then, the logic of the minimum has permeated the design of our world. The bare minimum becomes regulation: It is standardized, measured in time, dollars, material, and energy.



minimum energy

minimum home

PRISON MULT. OCCUPANCY
 $A = 3.7M^2/PERSON$
 $V = 7.3M^3/PERSON$
 NATURAL LIGHT = $0.015M^2/PERSON$
 OR NO OPENING LARGER THAN 0.13M

PRISON DORMITORY
 $A = 2.0M^2/PERSON$
 $V = 3.5M^3/PERSON$
 NATURAL LIGHT = $0.015M^2/PERSON$
 OR NO OPENING LARGER THAN 0.13M.

PRISON SINGLE OCCUPANCY
 $A = 4.6M^2/PERSON$
 $V = 9.0M^3/PERSON$
 NATURAL LIGHT = $0.015M^2/PERSON$
 OR NO OPENING LARGER THAN 0.13M

PRISON SHARED BUNK
 $A = 2.5M^2/PERSON$
 $V = 4.9M^3/PERSON$
 NATURAL LIGHT = $0.015M^2/PERSON$
 OR NO OPENING LARGER THAN 0.13M

EMERGENCY SHELTER
 $A = 3.5M^2/PERSON$
 $V = 3.4M^3/PERSON$

EMERGENCY CAMP
 $A = 3.5M^2/PERSON$
 $V = 0.17M^3/PERSON$

HOSPITAL SINGLE ROOM
 $A = 8.1M^2/PERSON$
 $V = 15.8M^3/PERSON$
 NATURAL LIGHT = $0.81M^2/PERSON$

HOSPITAL CUBICLE
 $A = 6.1M^2/PERSON$
 $V = 11.9M^3/PERSON$
 NATURAL LIGHT = $0.61M^2/PERSON$

LONG-TERM CARE MULT. OCCUPANCY
 $A = 9.3M^2/PERSON$
 $V = 18.1M^3/PERSON$
 NATURAL LIGHT = $0.9M^2/PERSON$

LONG-TERM CARE SINGLE ROOM
 $A = 11.2M^2/PERSON$
 $V = 21.8M^3/PERSON$
 NATURAL LIGHT = $1.1M^2/PERSON$

RESIDENTIAL SINGLE ROOM
 $A = 6.0M^2/PERSON$
 $V = 8.7-11.7M^3/PERSON$
 NATURAL LIGHT = $0.3M^2/PERSON$
 OR EGRESS WINDOW 0.762M WIDE

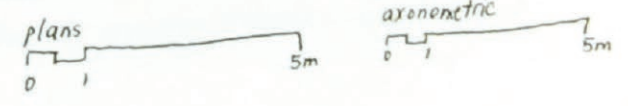
RESIDENTIAL MULTIPLE OCCUPANCY
 $A = 4.0M^2/PERSON$
 $V = 5.8-7.8M^3/PERSON$
 NATURAL LIGHT = $0.2M^2/PERSON$
 OR EGRESS WINDOW 0.762M WIDE

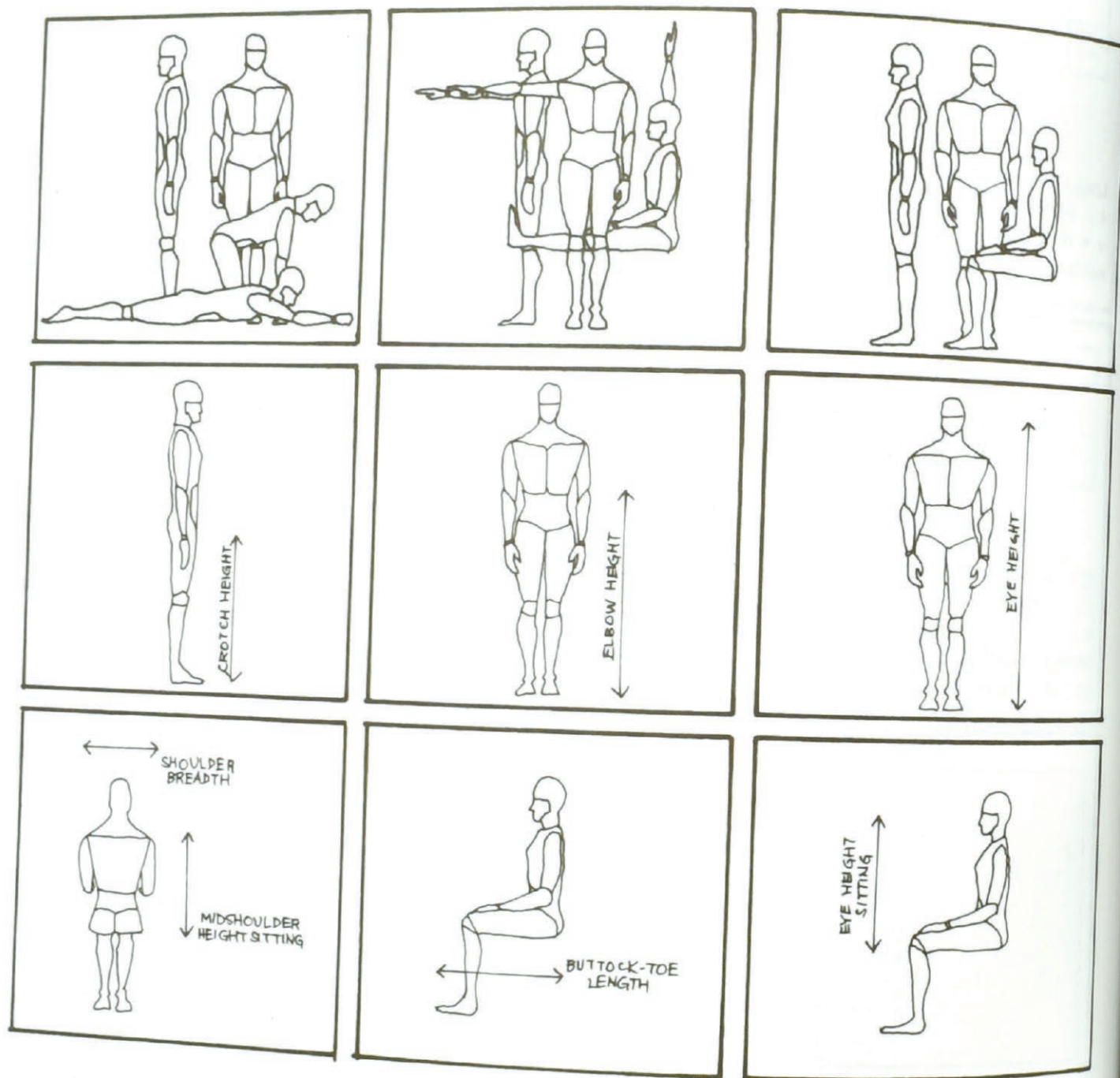
RESIDENTIAL SINGLE ROOM DWELLING
 $A = 26M^2/PERSON$
 $V = 37.5-50.7M^3/PERSON$
 NATURAL LIGHT = $2.3M^2/PERSON$

RESIDENTIAL SINGLE ROOM DWELLING
 -ADVOCATED FOR ROOMING HOUSES
 $A = 14M^2/PERSON$
 $V = 20.2-27.3M^3/PERSON$
 NATURAL LIGHT = $0.7M^2/PERSON$

SOURCE:
 1. IMMIGRATION DETENTION: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT / DESIGN STANDARDS FOR IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT (2007)
 2. PRISON: INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS 'WATER, SANITATION, HYGIENE AND HABITAT IN PRISONS' (2006)
 3. GENERAL: JULIUS F. FARRER AND MARION ZELINK 'HUMAN DIMENSIONS AND INTERIOR SPACE' (1979)
 4. HOSPITAL: CITY OF PHOENIX 'PHOENIX AVIATION COPE PROPERTY STANDARDS' (2011)
 5. LONG-TERM CARE: DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND LONG-TERM CARE 'LONG-TERM CARE HOME DESIGN MANUAL' (2009)
 6. CAMP: UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES 'A HANDBOOK TO UNHCR EMERGENCY STANDARDS AND INDICATORS' (2008)

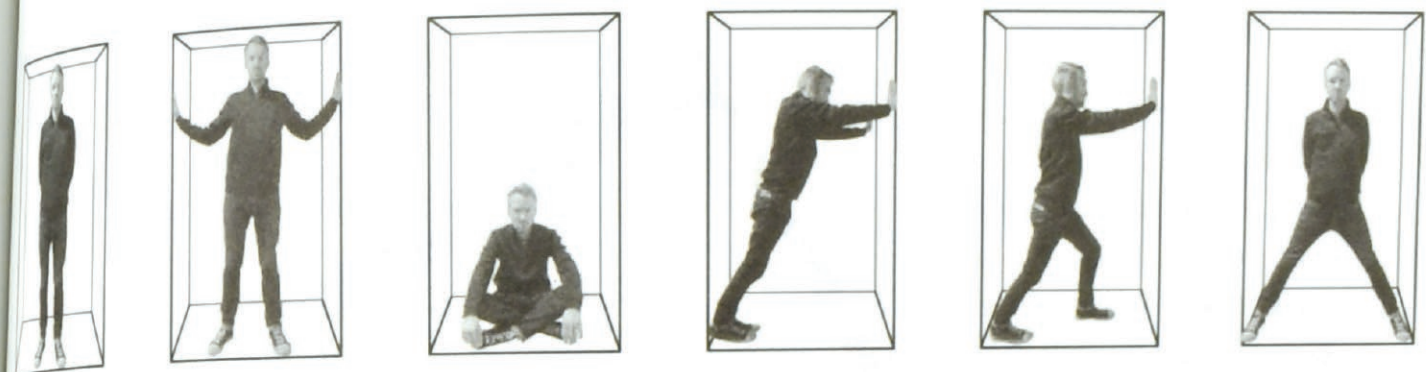
The bare minimum defines what is "habitable."



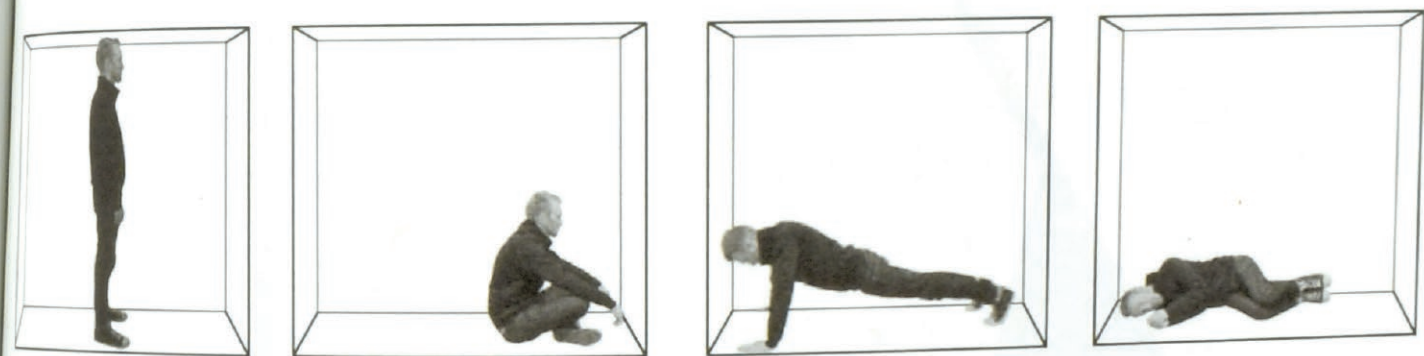


Accordingly, the modern cell is based on the idea of the modern individual, the minimum social unit to which everything is scaled. From the automobile to the micro-condominium, the secure housing unit to the hospital cubicle, our bodies are standardized and our needs, quantified.

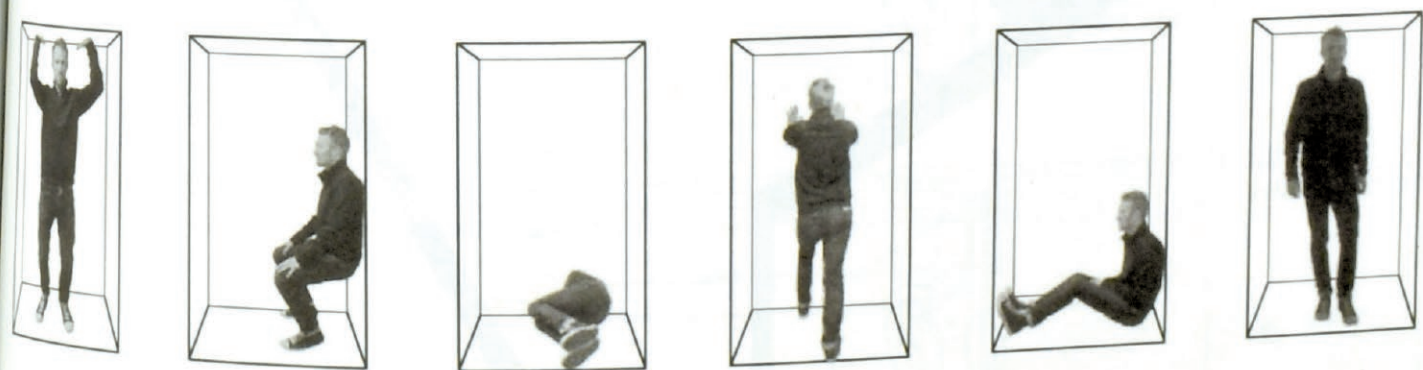
According to the International Red Cross,



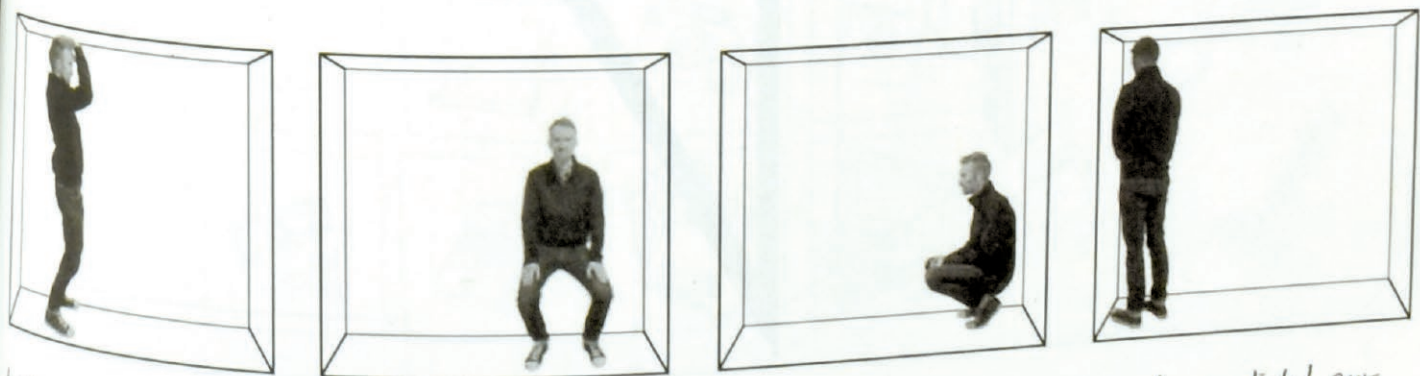
the minimum habitable space for an incarcerated individual is measured.



2 square metres of floor area

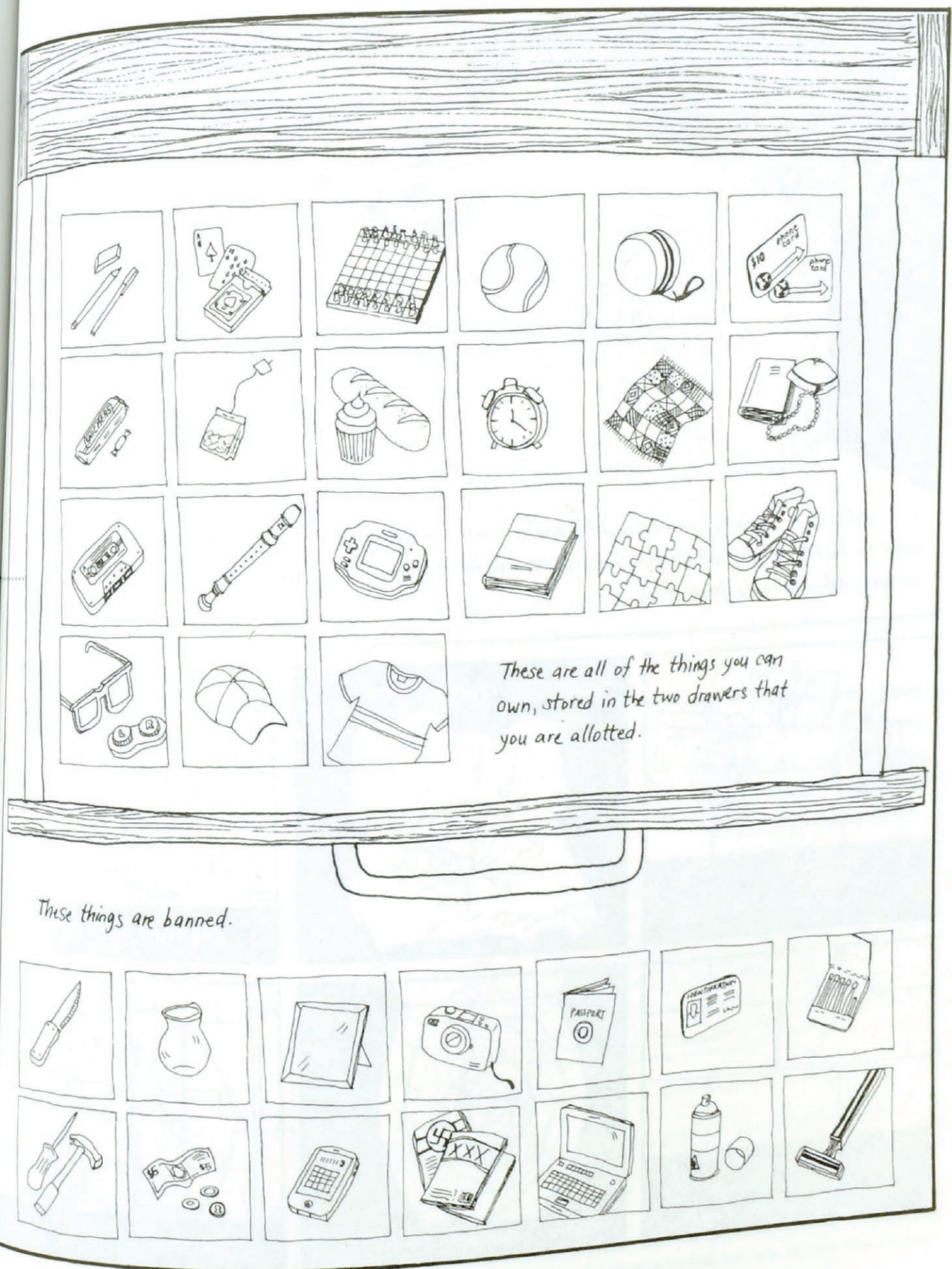
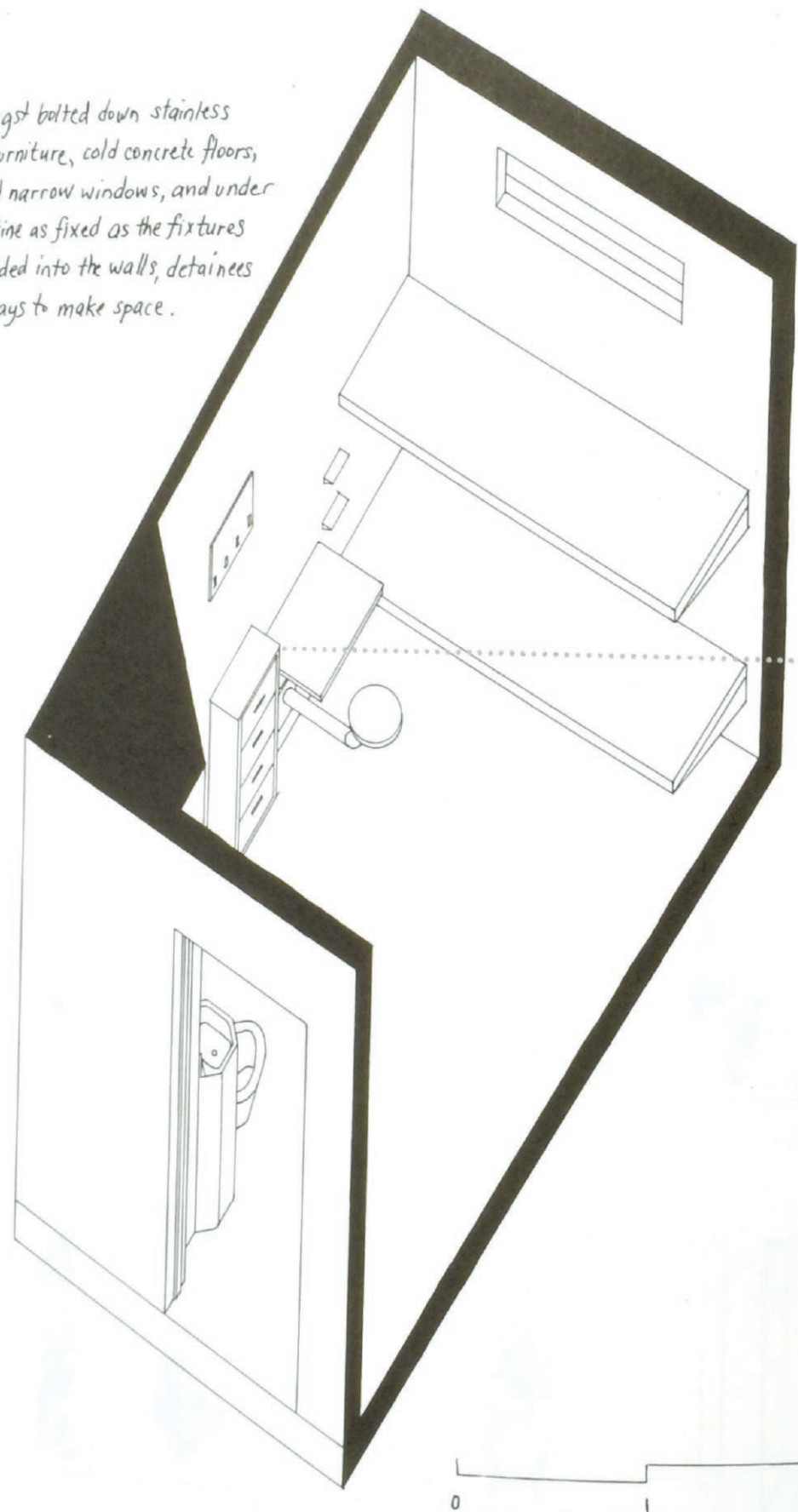


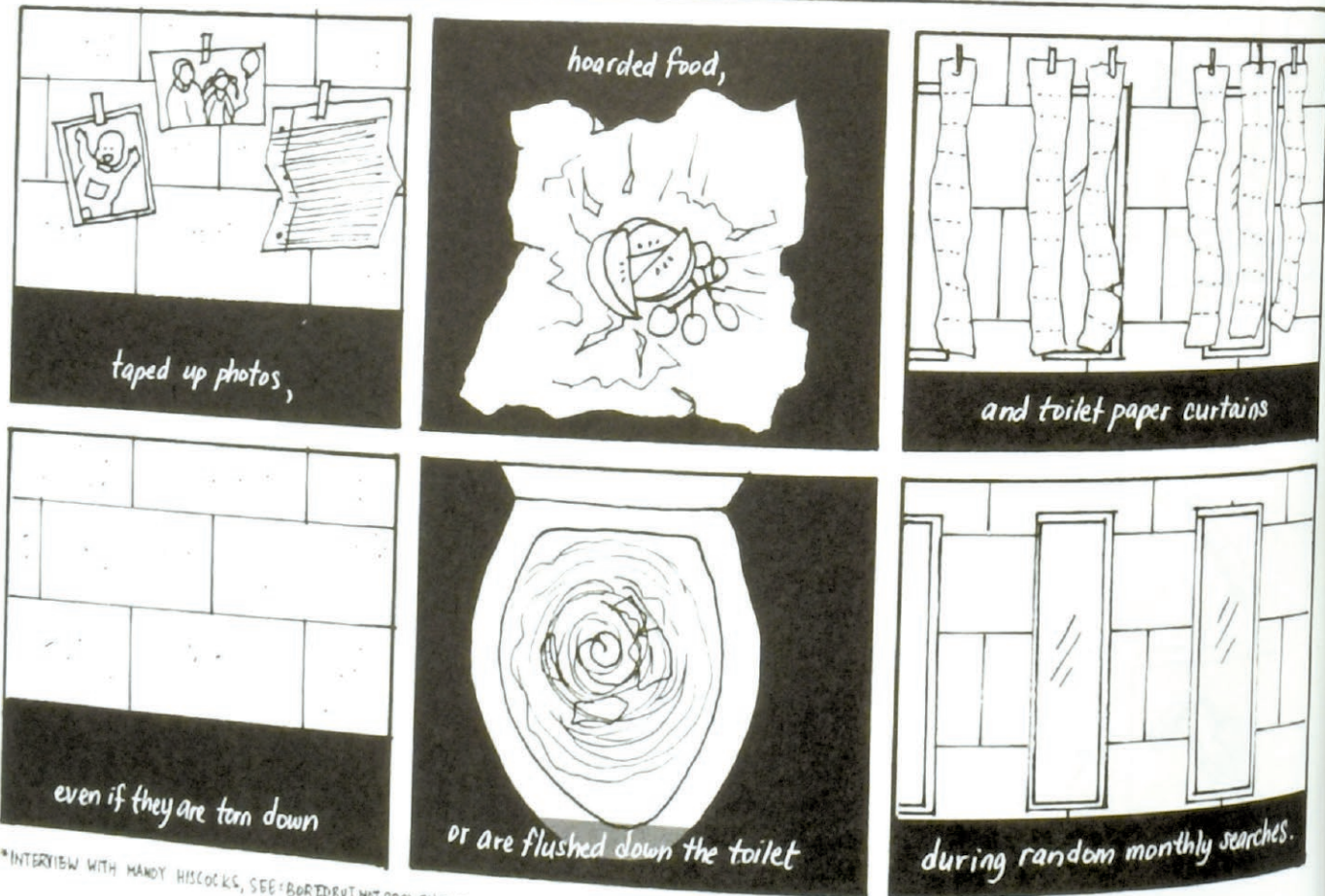
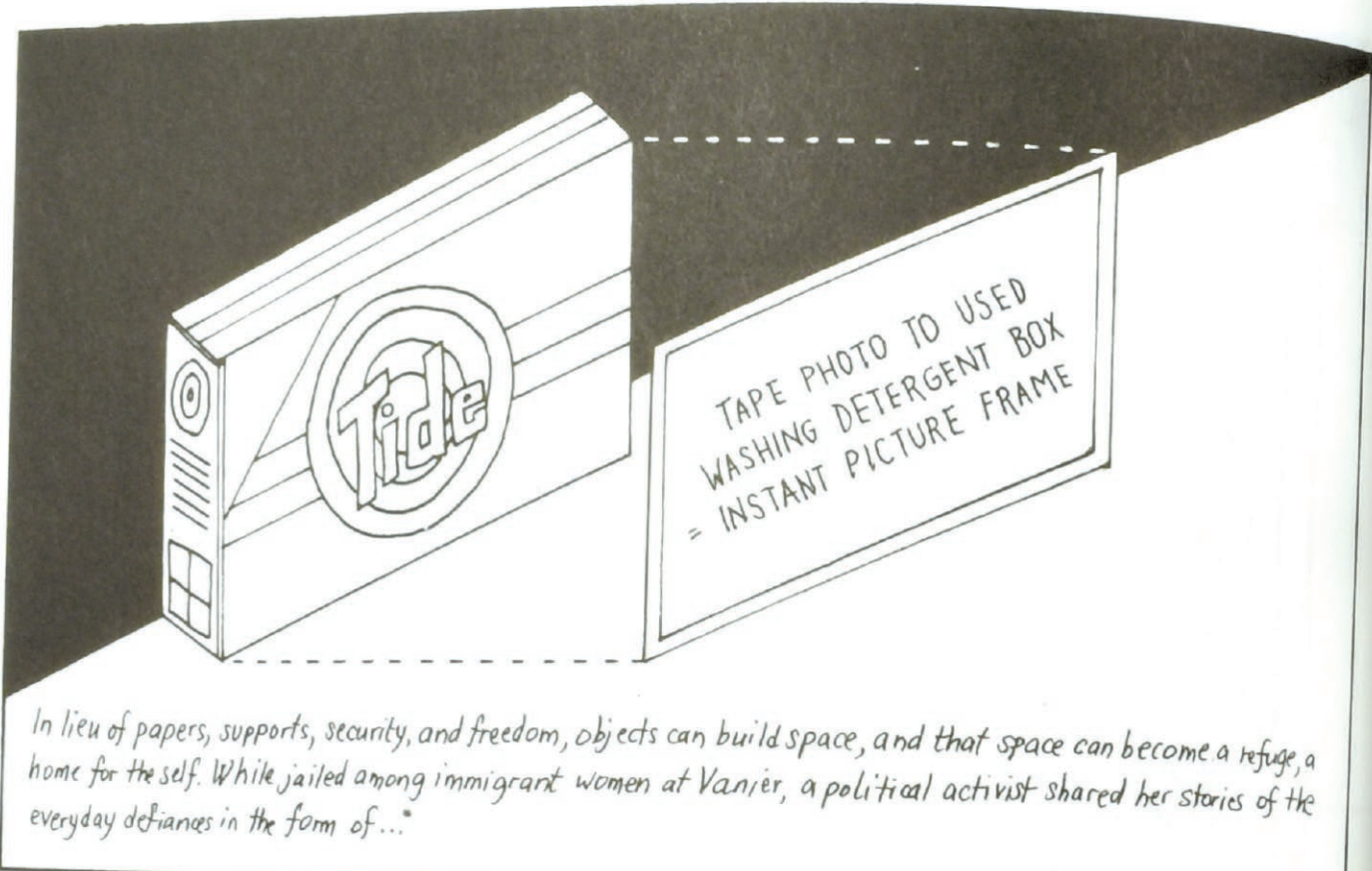
and 3.5 cubic metre of air space.



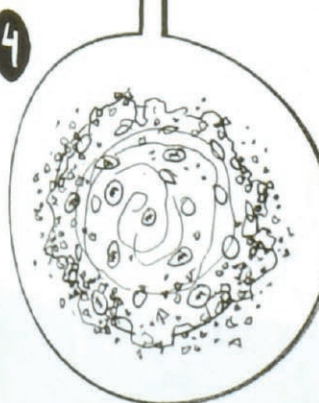
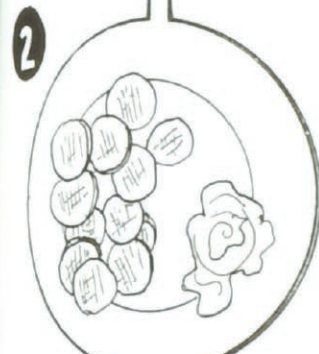
In this volume, the contents of your life are caged. But not every human action can be programmed or predicted, our bodies always find ways to carve out space, to refocus our attention from the geometry to the lived experience, from the container to the contained.

Amongst bolted down stainless steel furniture, cold concrete floors, frosted narrow windows, and under a routine as fixed as the fixtures embedded into the walls, detainees find ways to make space.





*INTERVIEW WITH HANBY HISCOCLES, SEE 'BORDERLINE' NOT BROKEN TAG CA

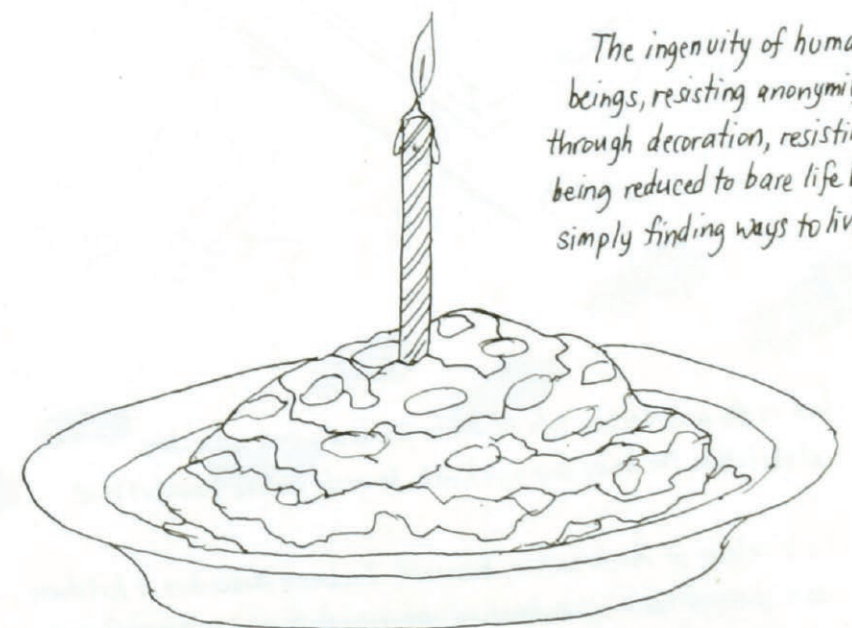


INGREDIENTS:

- 2 plastic bags
- 1 plate
- 2 packages of canteen cookies
- 1 tube/package of peanut butter
- 1 bag of m&ms

DIRECTIONS:

1. get ingredients at weekly canteen
 2. separate cream from cookies
 3. crush cookies and mix cream with peanut butter
 4. layer cookies mixed with water, cream "icing", and sprinkle m&ms on top.
- n.b. there are probably no candles in detention



The ingenuity of human beings, resisting anonymity through decoration, resisting being reduced to bare life by simply finding ways to live.

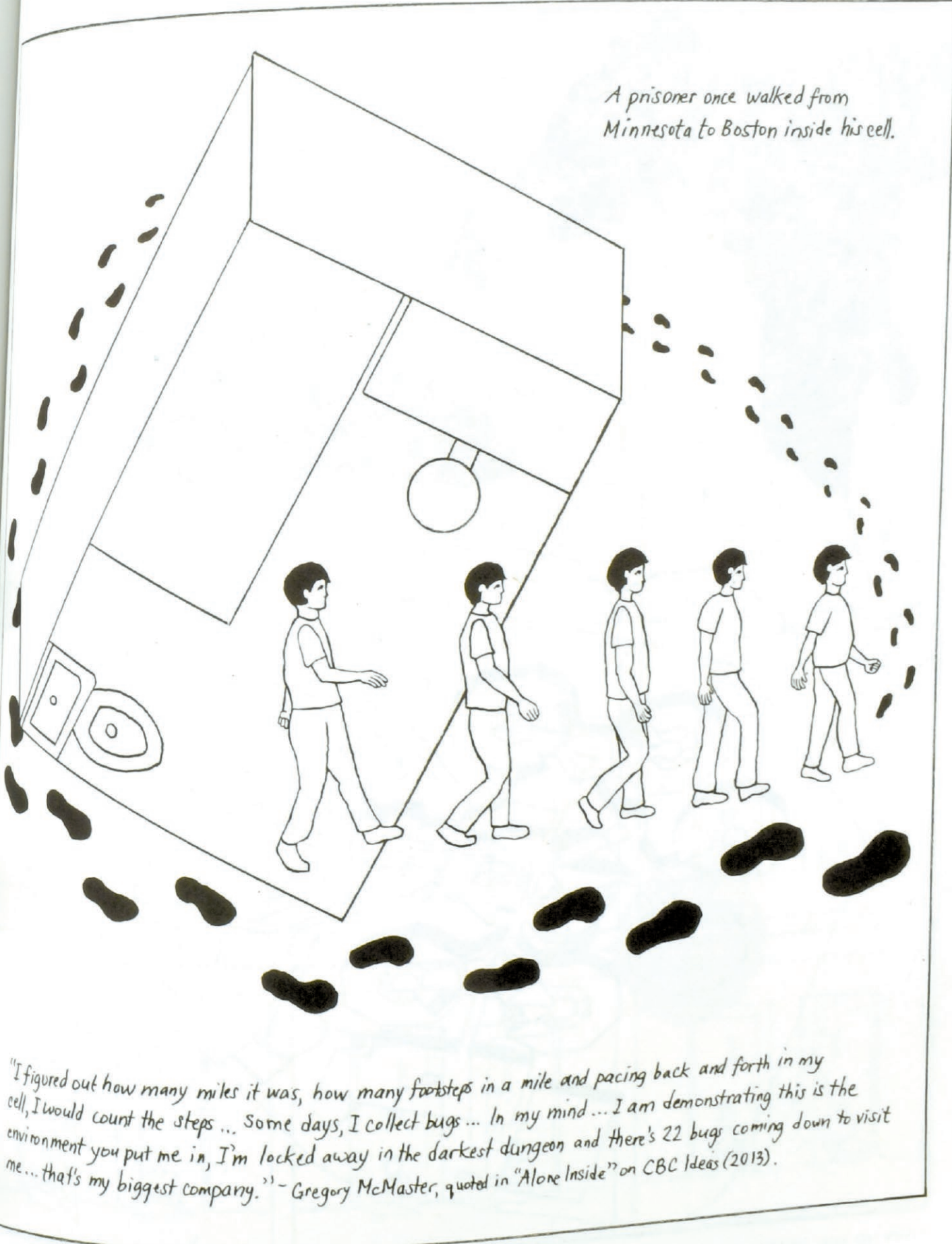
JAIL CAKE to "celebrate" birthdays and those getting released.



Just as the architecture sets limits to the body and possible inhabitation, the body imposes limits to architecture's ambitions.

In *Violence of Architecture*, Bernard Tschumi describes a kitchen as a space of cooking and eating, yet it can also be a space for sleeping, and making love.

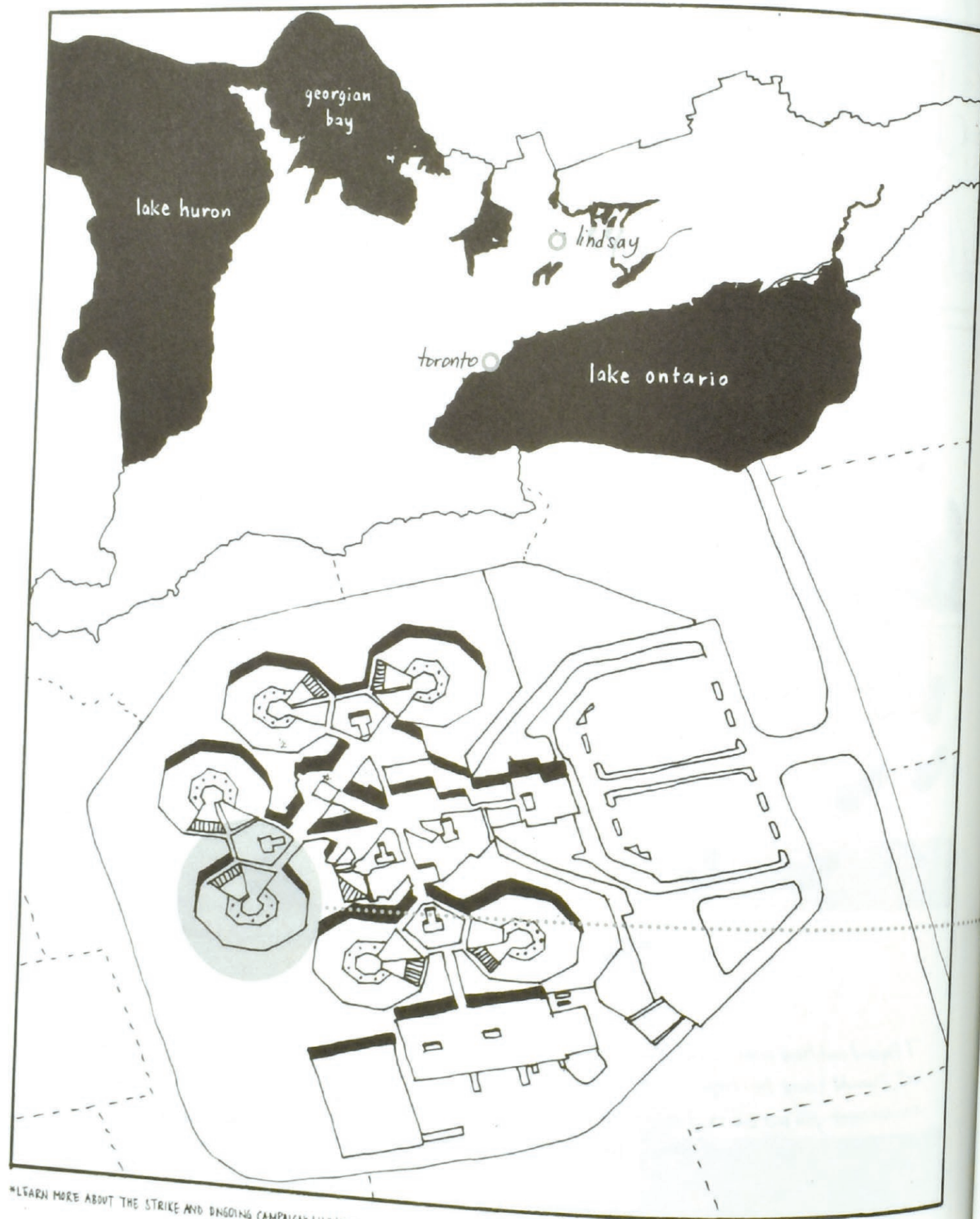
This, he calls, programmatic violence.



A prisoner once walked from Minnesota to Boston inside his cell.

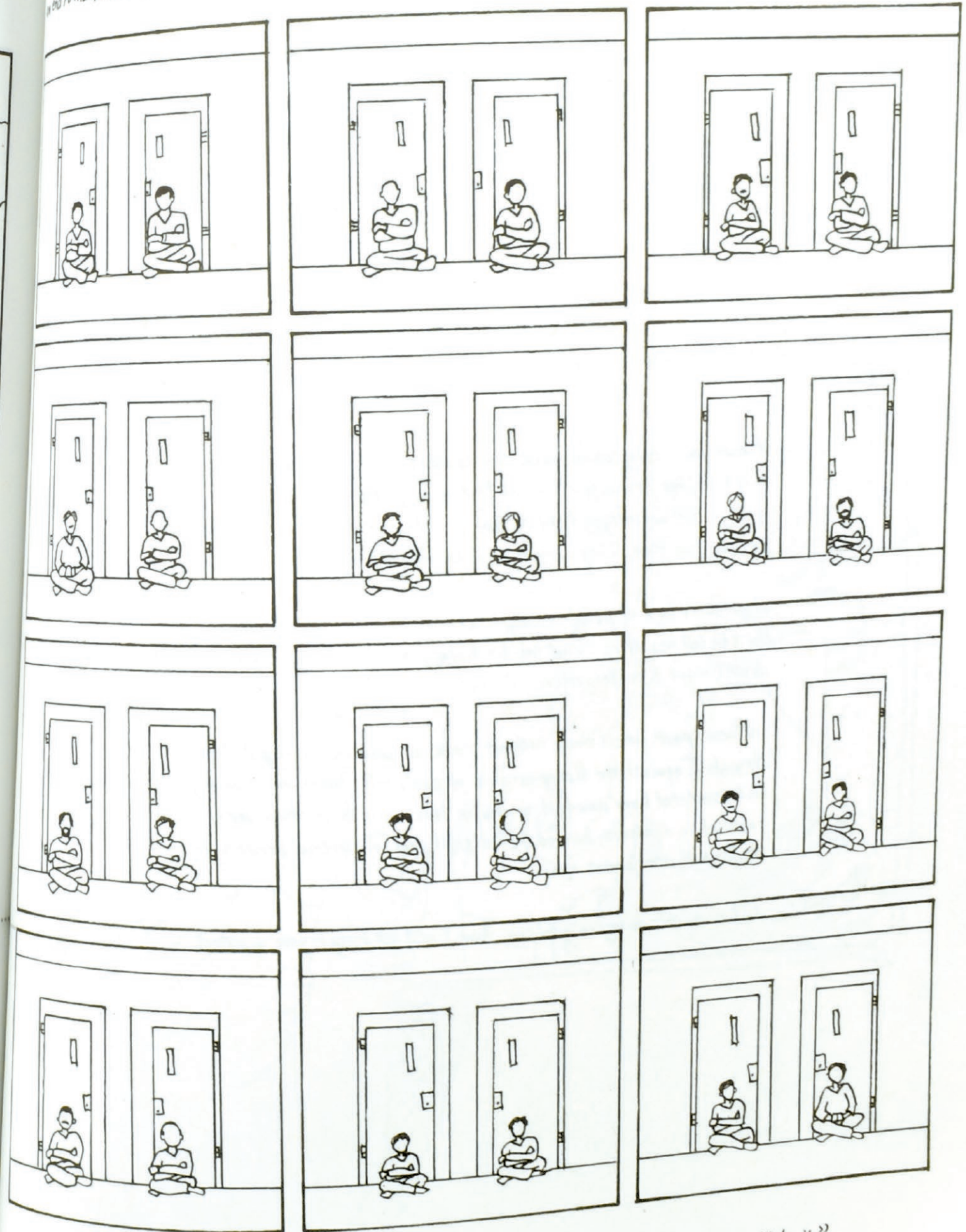
"I figured out how many miles it was, how many footsteps in a mile and pacing back and forth in my cell, I would count the steps ... Some days, I collect bugs ... In my mind ... I am demonstrating this is the environment you put me in, I'm locked away in the darkest dungeon and there's 22 bugs coming down to visit me ... that's my biggest company." - Gregory McMaster, quoted in "Alone Inside" on CBC Ideas (2013).

On September 17th, 2013, 191 detainees in Central East Correctional Centre in Lindsay, Ontario took the largest known collective action among immigration detainees.*



*LEARN MORE ABOUT THE STRIKE AND ONGOING CAMPAIGN: WWW.ENDIMMIGRATIONDETENTION.COM

they refused to go into their cells, they refused to eat their meals, they refused to attend their detention reviews to demand to be held for indefinite detention. Some have been held for nearly a decade in maximum security, without charge or trial.



One of the detainees who was on hunger strike for over 60 days said, "Whatever it takes, we will do it."

INTERVIEW WITH MARTIN.

A man faces deportation back to a country he has not known since childhood, the language of which he has forgotten. His family and immigration consultant fight so that the man can hold his daughter just one last time. They deny him, then deport him...

A prisoner in a desperate moment beckons the walls to hear her, so that she can tell her story, about her birthplace and her family, the things she doesn't want to be forgotten.

In these spaces where those without status or identity are caged, the struggle is against the disappearance of one's self. There are so many undocumented lives amongst us and in this world that can never be captured in numbers, barred by material and immaterial borders, or be confined to anonymous spaces.

So I write this today only to say, that I will not forget your departure.



Martin is an immigrant who was formerly detained at the Central East Correctional Centre, the maximum-security prison in Lindsay, Ontario for 36 months, without charge or trial. He was one of the key organizers of the hunger strike that began in September 2013, sparking the creation of an ongoing campaign to end indefinite immigration detention and the formation of the End Immigration Detention Network. Here he tells his story in a conversation with Tings on October 2016.

T CAN YOU TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF?

M My name is Martin [surname], I was born in Gambia, West Africa. I've been in North America since I was 8 years old, mostly. Grew up in the United States; Chicago, Illinois, that is. Went to middle school there, high school, as well as university.

I'm 31 years old, I have 2 kids in Canada, I have a wife here, I used to come to Canada, legally. I decided to come here and live with my family here. In April 2011, was the first step I took to come here with my family. So, when I got to Canada, it wasn't no problems getting into Canada, so I settled in with my family, we moved, and I started working. And then I had an altercation with the police here, and in May 2011—I came in April 2011—I was pulled over for basic possession and a DUI [Driving Under the Influence] conviction. I did my time in jail, 15-day sentence, I plead guilty, cause then I didn't know immigration laws and how it would affect the situation. So after I'm done my time, 15 days, immigration stepped in, and they put a hold on me, and I told them, "Listen, I have no status in Canada, I just got here, I do have a common law partner here, and I

have a daughter here, born here." So they said, "Oh, you're up for deportation," and I said, "Ok, well what's the procedure?" and they said, "We'll contact the United States, and we are going to contact Gambia, one of these two has to take you."

They contacted the US and they said, "No", and they contacted Gambia that said they can't give me back citizenship because there's no document except a copy of an expired passport that the United States government sent to Canada. So, negotiations began, with Canada and Gambia, and Gambia had no way of identifying my citizenship, and Canada didn't have what the legal requirements is. I was detained for 36 months. So I don't understand what kind of policy Canada had, where some people can get deported, some people can't be deported. But the fact that it took them 36 months, while somebody is detained—in a maximum security prison—I think that's the issue here.

WHY WERE YOU DETAINED IN A MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON?

M They thought that I was a flight risk, meaning that, at any time if I was released from immigration detention, there's a potential that you're not going to show up when immigration wants to get you out of the country. They also thought I was a danger to the public, and though immigration has got [minimum security] detention centres that they operate and run on their own, once you have a criminal record in Canada, they feel like you are a danger to the Canadian public, and that's one of the main issues—they thought I was a threat.

I don't think that anybody that's in immigration detention or has been through immigration detention is a danger to the public. I think the situation that led Canada to detaining people, I suppose, is under-the-radar funding the prison system. I think that it's another way of Canada limiting migrants that come here.

T WHO ELSE WAS IN IMMIGRATION DETENTION WITH YOU?

M There's people from all over the world, right? And they're all in the same scenario as you are: waiting for documentation, one, or, simply because Canada doesn't know what to do with them. Because they've been refused, their countries refused to take them. So, a lot of the people that I met, it's predominantly minorities from all across the world: the Caribbean, Jamaica, Trinidad, mostly Africa, and even Eastern Europeans that go through the same circumstances. People from Hungary, people from Belarus, and Russians, I think I have met British people detained. So, everybody's there, and everybody's waiting, and the process takes so long. People start having anxiety issues, people start being depressed, I mean, there's people in there that committed no crimes but yet

they are [deemed] a danger to the public. So, a lot of people that I met we all live under these circumstances. And, I mean, it wasn't easy living there.

T WHAT HAPPENED IN THE SEPTEMBER 2013 HISTORIC HUNGER STRIKE AND WHAT LED UP TO THAT?

M People just got fed up. First of all, you've been detained for over 18 months and there's no kind of situation that's going on for you to even get out of jail or get out the country. Most people wanted to get out. We started out, as a protest, within the prison system, there were things that we couldn't access: We had no access to healthcare, we had no access to books, we had no access to anything that would make our time—this illegal time—that we're doing easier. Imagine you're detained but then you're spending money to get soap, to get toothpaste, to get all these things that any human being requires. So that's what led to the event and then we figured out: Wait a minute, if we protest this and we get a little bit of attention, and some of the conditions are changing, why are we even protesting to be here? Well, to hell with it. Let's get immigration—first let's go after the government who put us here, and show them that we're all in solidarity and we have to be, until this circumstance changes. So that was what led to the hunger strike.

T HOW MANY OF YOU WERE THERE AND WHAT DID YOU DO?

M We were at least two hundred, and when we first started, we started 8 days straight, and none of the authorities that were responsible for putting us there in the first place ever showed up. But we kept up. We refused all our meals. During that strike, they had the provincial prison enforcement come to us with tear

gas, they were there with all kinds of protection. We were simply refusing meals. They put people in segregation—I, myself, doing the hunger strike, I was out on the general population, and after 16 days they had to put me in segregation. There were a lot of people that were sick, there were a lot of people that had diabetes and all kinds of diseases, that refused to eat. And there were people literally passing out. But, we had a unified front, and then we just kept on going.

T HOW WAS THE STRIKE ORGANIZED?

M There are ways that you can get messages across in these kinds of facilities. So we mostly used washing time because most of the people there were Muslims, they have to get together and do their prayers every Friday, and most of the communication that I was able to do went through the healthcare unit. Because every day people are passing out, every day people are mentally disturbed, they go see these doctors, which is like a doctor on TV, it's not even a real doctor. So what I did was I managed to get notes out of segregation, into different units, and then they'd meet up and they'd talk about it. That was the key.

This is a camp. This is a detention centre where people die so, at some point, you got to be able to—if you want your freedom—take that step, and let them understand that it's either freedom or death. And I was willing to go all the way. It got to a point where the unification was no more. People started eating, most people maybe. So I circulated a note and I told them, "From here, for however many days you want to do, whatever your freedom is worth, is entirely up to you now. But me, I'm going to keep pressing, because I know, even the most oppressed countries, got independence from colonialism because of hunger strikes. It's the only way you can topple and change the system's mind." So, I was willing to go.

T HOW LONG WERE YOU ON HUNGER STRIKE FOR?

M 32 days.

T SO WHAT DO YOU THINK WAS THE MOST SUCCESSFUL THING THAT CAME OUT OF THE HUNGER STRIKE?

M It's how people organized, yeah, for one. Two, it's the fact that it worked, that most people got out, and the fact that we got attention. Some were deported. But the process was faster than just us sitting there. So, we forced the hand to do something. And with media, everybody else knowing what our situation is, started putting pressure, whatever they were doing outside and we had movements that were in solidarity with us. And that helped a lot. I mean, because when you go on hunger strike, there's alarms going on, there's mattresses being burnt, right? That's a very intense situation for anybody to go through. And you're only crime, was the fact that you were from somewhere else, you're a migrant.

T RIGHT NOW THE GOVERNMENT HAS A PLAN TO "IMPROVE" IMMIGRATION DETENTION FACILITIES. WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THAT?

M I have a problem with that. The fact that people are even detained in the first place. And that's what we need to look into. Because it doesn't matter, as long as you're in prison you still feel that pressure, regardless of what conditions are given to you. You're denied your freedom. You're locked up in cages. You are fed like an animal. You're behind a hatch. Your freedom is taken. You have to go to bed when they say you go to bed. You have to wake up when they say you wake up. So I don't think that improving the conditions there is going to help anybody. People are denied the basic right to be with their families. Peo-

ple are denied the basic right to be home. So when their question is asked as to how can they improve the facilities—these are maximum security prisons. "Why are they there in the first place?" is what one needs to ask themselves.

T WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE? WHAT IS THE ALTERNATIVE?

M I think there should be a limit as to why you should keep somebody indefinitely, not in a maximum security prison. If you know that you can't deport them, there should be a cap on that time. There's been instances where people have been detained for over 20 months, 30 months, and still get sent back to their countries, and they end up dying. And these are the very same people that the system protected once before. So why give them the protection and then incarcerate them? The people with refugee protection, that was given ages ago to them when they first got into this country, have been deported back and they're getting killed. There are stories all over that you hear.

T HOW DO YOU THINK DETENTION SHOULD WORK?

M Man, I don't even think they should be detained. Let alone maximum. You know? Forget that. Forget being able to hold me for a month. A month in prison could drive someone insane.

T WHAT SUPPORT DO PEOPLE NEED AFTER THEY'RE RELEASED FROM DETENTION?

M I think healthcare should be number one, because you're going to need expensive care. Number two, immigration Canada should find a way to get you a work permit so you can work and sustain yourself.

And number three, going to immigration just to sign a piece of paper just to say that you're here doesn't make any sense. It inconveniences everybody that's within the system. Most of the people that are released are within the city limits, so if you have to go all the way to Mississauga, that takes a whole day of travelling to go sign a piece of paper for 5 minutes. I think that the most possible situation is that no one should be illegal. Document everyone, that's it.

T YOU TALKED ABOUT WHAT MIGHT NEED TO BE CHANGED FOR INSTANCE THE IDEA THAT PEOPLE SHOULDN'T BE DETAINED IN THE FIRST PLACE AND IF THEY ARE THERE SHOULD BE A MAXIMUM LENGTH SO WHAT DO YOU THINK PEOPLE THE BROADER PUBLIC CAN DO TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN? AND WHAT HAVE BEEN PEOPLE DOING?

M Canada is a democratic society, whether you believe it or not that's what they say, that's what they imply. So they operate on the democratic rules, but as far as I'm concerned democracy don't fucking work nowhere [laughter]. I feel like democracy should be reformed in the first place, because mostly it's a failing system. It oppresses people. It's a structure set up to control people. So, that needs to change. There are a lot of things that need to change.

T FOR SOMEONE WHO'S JUST NEWLY LEARNING ABOUT THE REALITIES OF IMMIGRATION DETENTION OR HEARING YOUR STORY. WHAT'S A CONCRETE THING YOU THINK THEY CAN DO?

M People need to understand the people who they put in power to implement these laws. I think that as a Canadian citizen you need to go against all these people that implement these laws. I think you should get engaged and go see these people who are detained. Understand their struggle, understand what they're going through. And campaign with No

One Is Illegal and the End Immigration Detention Network and twist the government to change the laws. Because everyone being themselves, as a human being, knows what's right and what's wrong. I think if you want to help there's different ideas that you could be involved to help.

T NOW THAT YOU'RE OUTSIDE OF DETENTION DO YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE FREE?

M No, I don't think so. Freedom isn't that you're outside of detention, that doesn't mean you're entirely free. I did some extensive psychological therapy, when I was out, I wanted to come out and have my family, just to support them with what you're given. You have to understand once you're undocumented, if you're out and you're undocumented, there's a lot of resources that you can't access. So freedom, as far as being out of jail, this is a mistake. I don't think I'm free at all.

Still under the watch, I have to go see these people every month that means I have to leave my job too. That means I have to leave my family, there's much inconvenience. And, on top of that, I have the Toronto Bail Program, that signed me out, and agreed to supervise me, and I have to go see them every week. That alone is stressful. I live about maybe 30 km from where they are. And then, you get there, and you have to hurry back and come to work. I feel like I'm more in prison that I was when I was in there. I can't even get out of the country, I can't move. I can't do nothing.

T BEFORE WE END, CAN WE TALK ABOUT THE FIRST TIME WE MET?

M Well I was 19 days into my hunger strike, when I met you. And I had, that day, I had just got a detention review to determine whether they should

detain me or they should detain me. It must have been my 35th one. And while I was segregation, I called up the very organization that you're a member of, No One Is Illegal. And, I didn't even know people were going to come visit, but I had so many letters on hunger strike from this organization. You know, people telling that they're with me, people understand me, to keep up the hope, all that. So I think it, it was a blessing to have somebody from the organization come talk to me, because you got to remember, all through my detention I never called the network. I heard about them, people were talking about them, but I wanted to make sure, is it real. So I'd rather wait till they make that connection.

And it was a bit of a situation because when I met you, you kind of highlighted what you needed to talk about but I could also see that the humanity in you. So, you asked me a few questions about the conditions in there, what's healthcare like, and I said, "Oh yeah, right, we're getting some good responses now, like this is the wrong time to stop!" So, from then on, I made the decision, and when I went back downstairs into the range, I told everybody that the number, circulated the numbers, and I told everybody, "Call, state your problem, there's people that are out there that are willing to hear you. Let us give them the right information that they need so that they can get attention to this." Yeah I think that meeting was very important. It only added fuel to what we were going through at the time. And that's the right response that we needed. At least people out there care.

T YEAH, THAT'S THREE YEARS AGO

M Three years ago. And I was in my worst state in mind. I was so depressed. Going through depression. But I made a commitment. And I have everybody jump on the commitment that I made. So I

and, like I said, I had to be a role—an example. And three years later we're still out here and we're still doing what needs to be done. We're pushing.

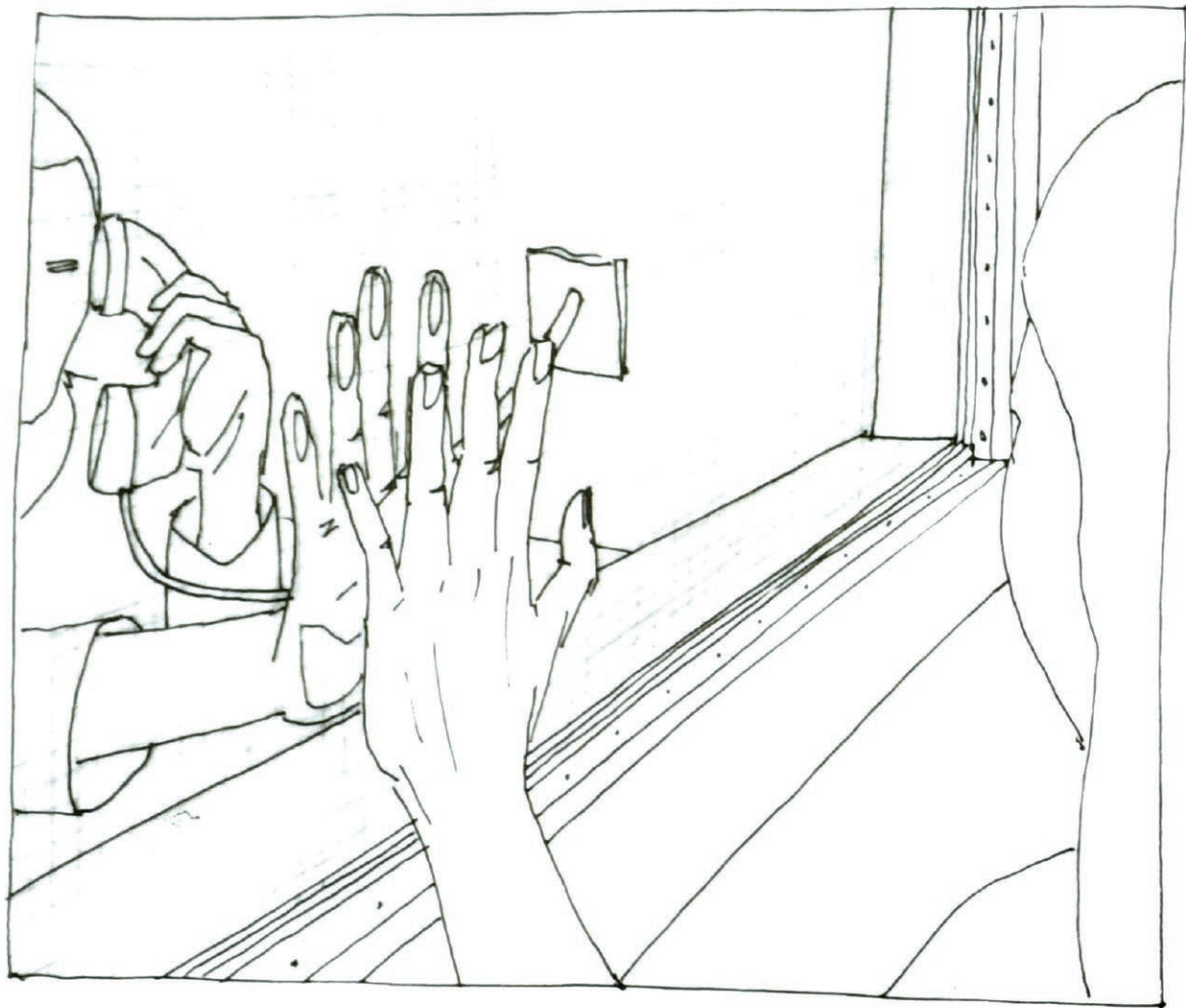
And it's a lot of people that are going to come out of detention and once they come out they're going to be misplaced in society. They wouldn't know where to start. Because being in there for 4 years, 5 years, doing the same thing over and over again, that situation alone gets you out of touch with reality. And just being a simple decent human being where you want the freedom that everybody has, regardless of where you come from.

T IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT TO SAY?

M You know, the struggle continues.

ABOUT MARTIN: *Love is life! Martin came from nothing. Born in The Gambia to a unique family that taught me how love and care for humanity! I was educated through private schools, and became a migrant at the age of 8. Achieved a high school diploma in the state of Indiana, and studied economics at Wabash College on a soccer scholarship. Managed to build a family and am a proud father to my two beautiful kids and a husband to my beautiful wife! An advocate for social justice and a happy and caring individual towards a better life for all! Inspired by Malcolm X, Martin Luther King Jr, and Marcus Garvey! Big thanks to Africa and the knowledge that this continent bestowed on me to have the courage to stand up and enlighten the world, and to bring about change from a little fishing village and a vibrant community called Latrikunda, where Kunda was my native tongue! Honours to my mother! Born without a father in my life, I vow to be the opposite, motivated to be involved in my kids' lives! Imprisoned in Canada for three and a half years because I was undocumented! Yet I travelled the world—Europe, Africa, and the Caribbean. Life goes on as does the struggle towards freedom and liberation for all humanity! Oppression and bigotry have no place in society! Love to enlighten others one book at a time! The masses are the makers of society! One love! Exodus! Movement of jab people!*

EPILOGUE *by Syed Hussan*



SYED HUSSAN is an organizer and writer in Toronto working with undocumented and migrant people, in defense of Indigenous sovereignty, and against counter intuitive programs like war and capitalism.

and carries himself with speed, his black hair thick, slicked back. He talks to you in rapid Arabic through the sticky telephone. You understand somehow. Your hands flat against the thick glass divider almost touch. He laughs. Never coughs up the cancer in his

to the poisoned air they push through these pipes.

come in healthy, I will go out in a shroud.

Person air is recycled. Fear and misery churns in and through.

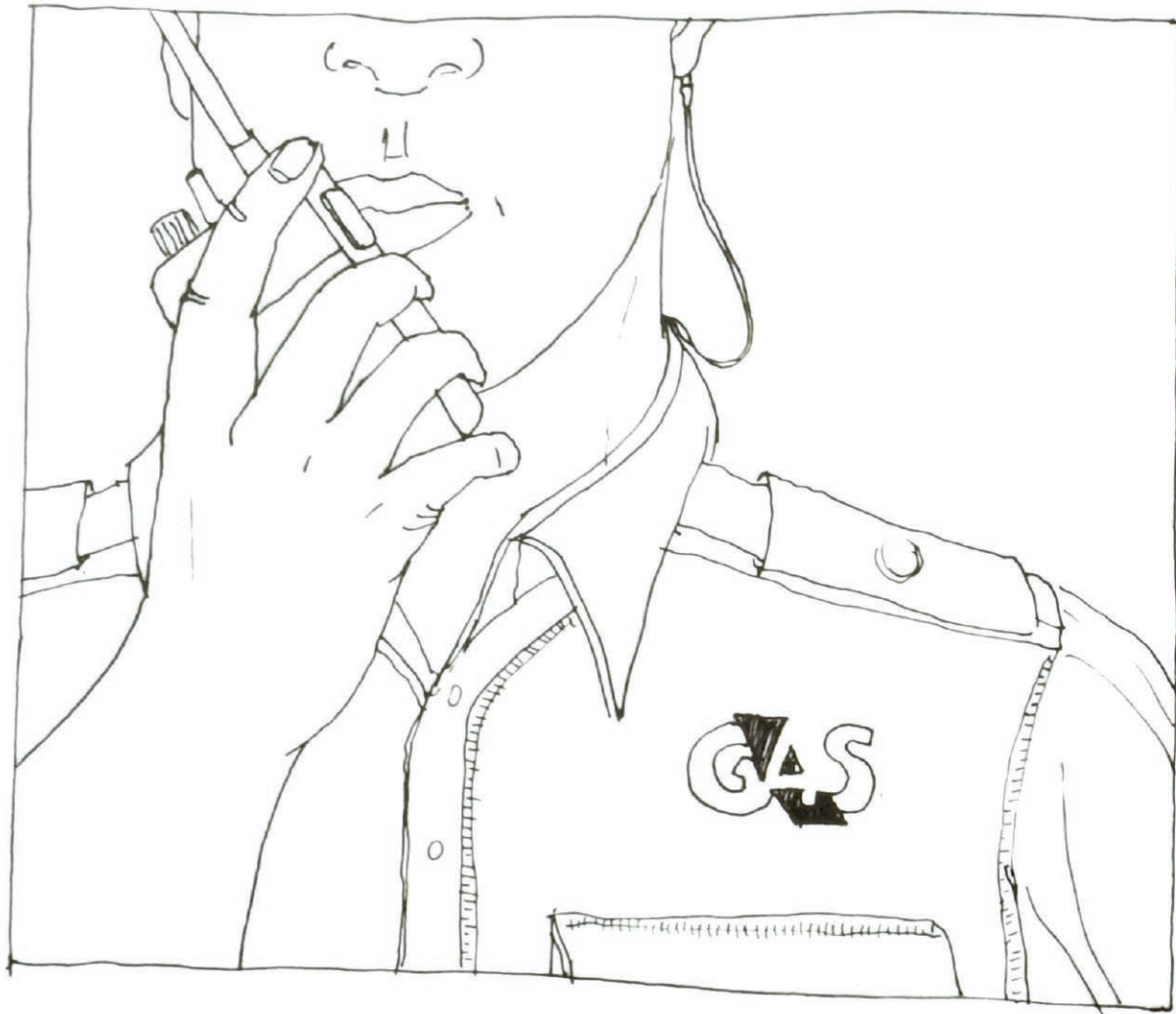
He is deported to Iraq seven weeks later. Five years in immigration prison later. He gets off the plane, they say, and disappears. You dream about his locks.

DISPLACEMENT

noun

Definition: The forced movement of people away from home regions or places they have settled as a result of structured systems of domination and oppression.

See: Iraq has been under the military occupation of the United States and other Western countries since 2003. An estimated 3.4 million Iraqis are currently displaced as a result. Canada has been an active sponsor of this occupation, with its military industries selling weapons and profiting from the war.



Radio check. Victor's first words.

Every six hours guards switch shifts. Their radios crackle. *Radio check.* All is in place. Each body accounted for.

You meet him in the courthouse. The one time his mother and him can leave prison. Victor's hides his face in the crack of your neck when you take him into your arms. You turn to him.

Behind every prison, a courthouse, whose hallways swallow you whole.

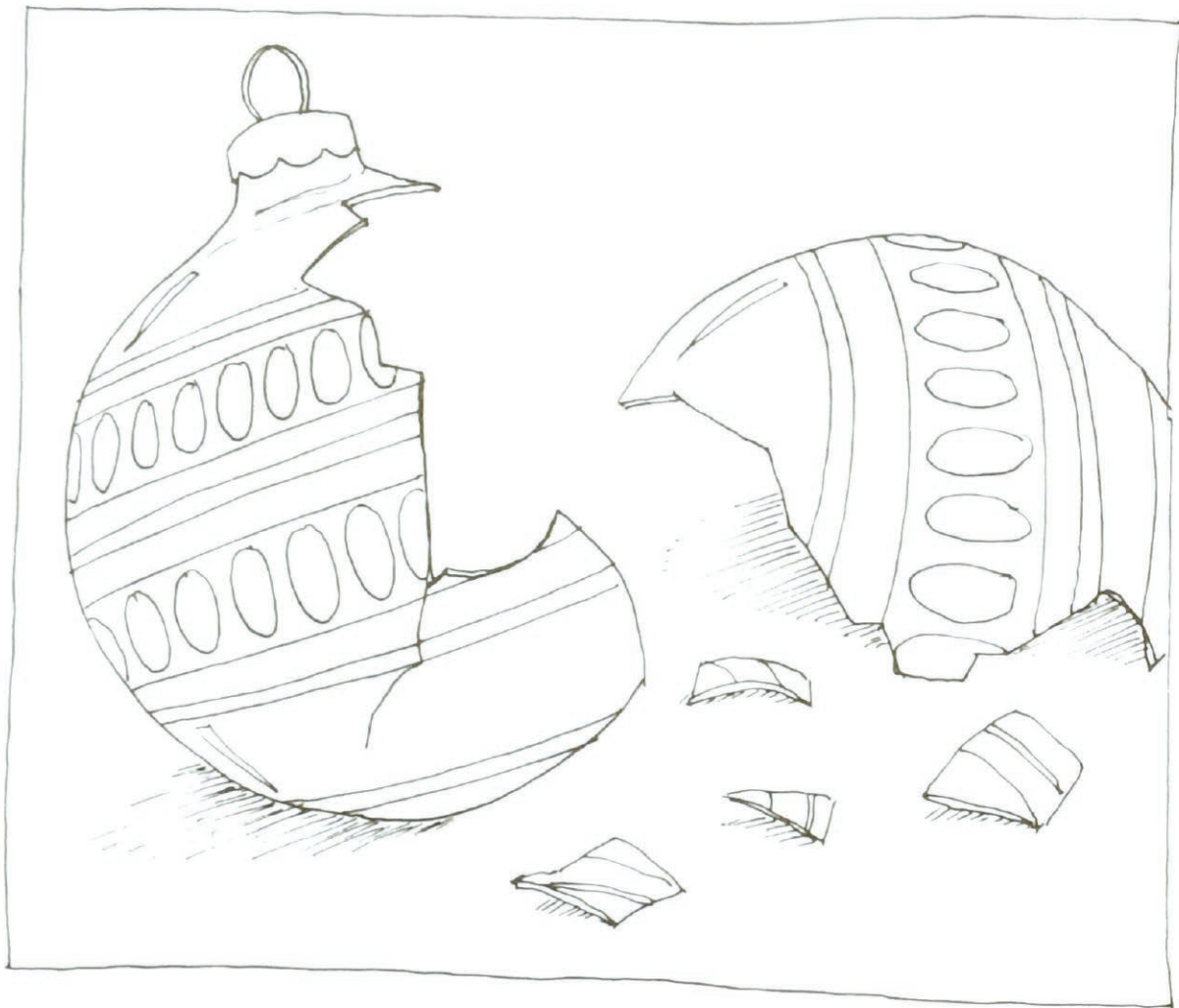
Victor is deported with his mother, at age three. Born in Canada. He is a citizen. Where does he belong?

INSTITUTIONAL RACISM / SEXISM

social practice

Definition: A webbed system of laws, policies, and protocols that discriminate and exclude people on the basis of their race or racialization (Racism) or because of their gender (Sexism); conversely, a system that provides unearned benefits to certain groups because of their position in the racial and gender hierarchies of a given time and place.

See: A Black poor woman—Victor's mother—is denied immigration status in Canada and then imprisoned without charges or trial. She gives birth without adequate medical supports, and is then deported to her country of origin, Cameroon, where she has limited prospects of employment or dignity. Cameroon has been historically underdeveloped by intense foreign intervention led by the World Bank and IMF which have forced the government to shut down social welfare program in favor of industrialization projects that only favor the rich.



Miguel, from Mexico, he mumbles, at the drop-in you facilitate.

meet here every week. A little room in a community gymnasium. *Refugees, undocumented, for each other*; you write on the sign outside.

is eighteen, his jeans are low, his hoodie, two sizes too big. The piercings in his ears
skull and bones.

makes everyone laugh.

men in an unmarked police car pull him over. He had cut through the condo
development. Someone in the buildings had seen him from their apartment, and had
told it in.

doesn't fit, the caller says. *He matches a description*, the police say. The police ID him
away, and they drive him to immigration enforcement. A favour, just two branches of
government cooperating.

was Christmas Eve. You sang: *All I want for Christmas is for Miguel to be free.*

in New Year's Eve: *Stop the clock on Miguel's deportation.*

in New Year's Day: Miguel deported.

You shiver every time you see a police car. You never call the police.

POLICE

noun

Definition: Armed enforcers of state policies and their effects, such as **INSTITUTIONAL RACISM AND SEXISM**. Police in Canada trace their birth to the North West Mounted Police, which later became the RCMP, constituted to control and enforce deadly anti-Indigenous and anti-labour policies of the state.

See: Toronto Police called Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) over 4,000 times in a seven month period enquiring about the immigration status of someone they 'came across' and 'suspected' was undocumented. The suspicion that someone is undocumented is racial profiling on the basis of skin colour and accent.



Canada sent Miguel mail. Asking him to come to a meeting with immigration officers. He never got the letter in the boarding house he lived.

On the morning of his deportation, as he sobbed in prison, you go to an emergency court hearing. The judge refuses to grant a stay.

Miguel had not shown up to the meeting. He had come to the court—legally speaking—with dirty hands.

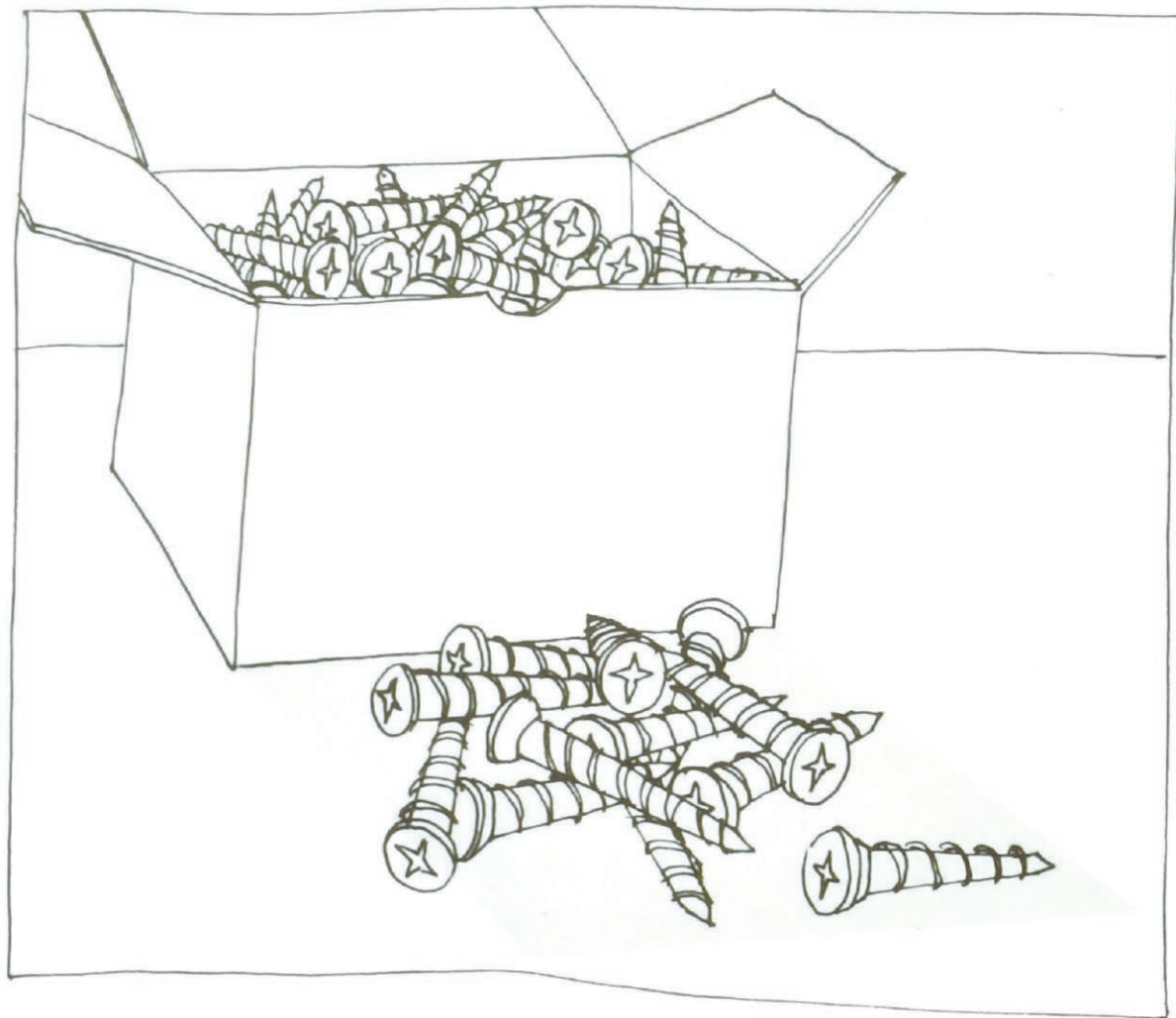
Yes, but it's still better here than anywhere else, your Uncle says over dinner. You don't eat.

CLEAN HANDS

legal principle

Definition: An argument that the defendant is not entitled to an equitable remedy because the defendant acted in bad faith. This argument is often used against release of detainees who have not been able to comply with immigration related requests.

See: Canadian through its policies of DISPLACEMENT INSTITUTIONAL RACISM AND SEXISM, and use of POLICING and PRISON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX acts in bad faith. It promises human rights but imprisons migrants endlessly without charges or trial.



After you pass the metal detectors, the prison guard—the screw—gives you two directions. *When you get to the hill, turn right.* The hill is a corridor. Space changes here.

Do you know why prison guards are called screws? you ask.

Because in Queen Victoria's times, they made prisoners turn screws in a box. As punishment for answers. Or perhaps they used corkscrews on prisoner's thumbs as torture. Screws hold the prison together.

The man you are with is a Doctor. His head swivels, taking in the bricks, the cameras above the electric doors, the buzzing sound as they open, shut.

He has just come back. Jailed in the Tora prison in Egypt for fifty three days. He was doing emergency surgery on protesters when he was grabbed. Many of those arrested with him have been executed.

You are there with him to visit men—immigrants—also jailed without charges or trial. All in the country that rose up to demand he be freed.

Do you know the difference between jails in Egypt and in Canada? You say nothing. In Egypt, the jailer is the warden, here the warden is the prison.

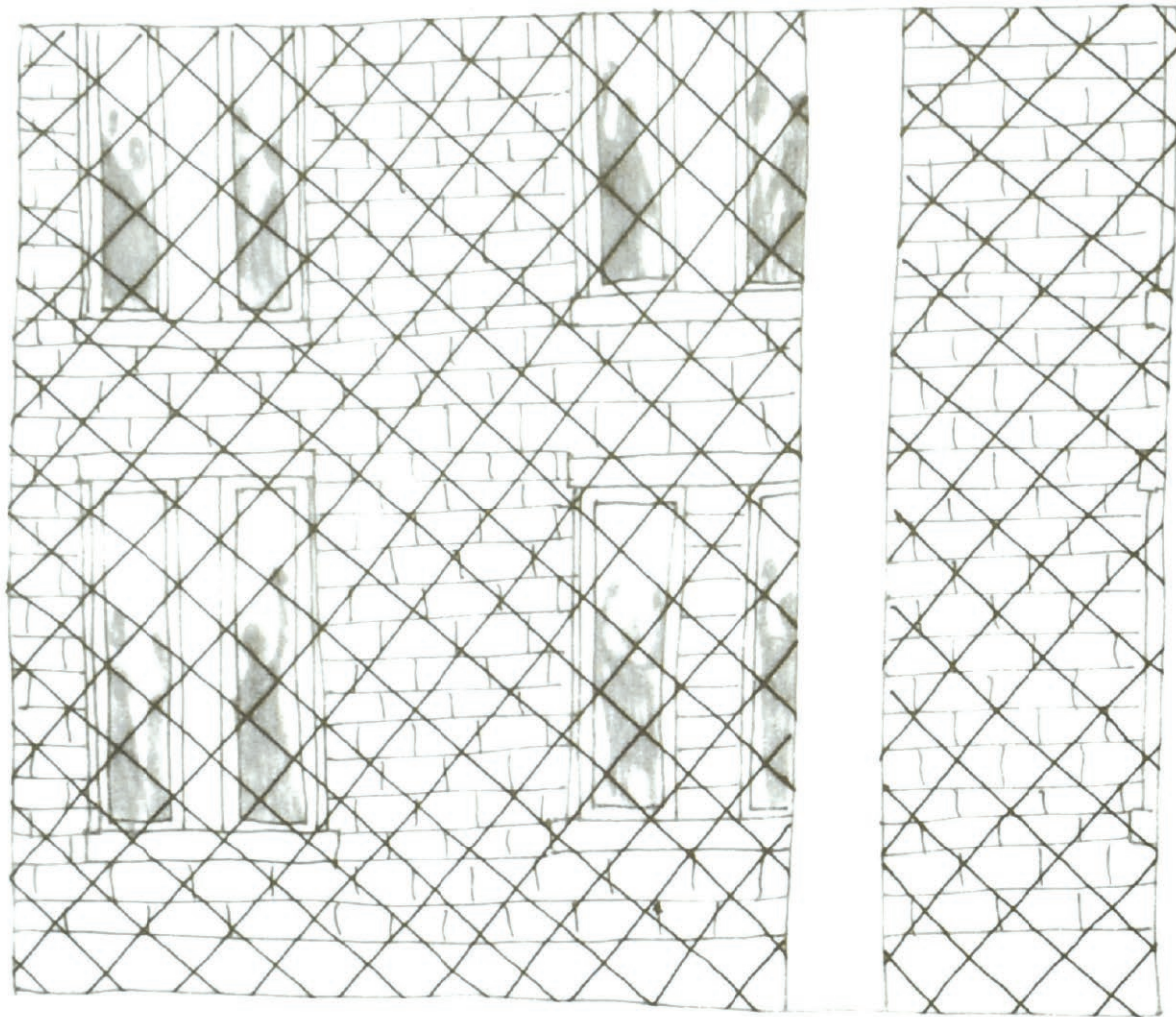
The prison is the warden. The warden is the prison.

PRISON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX (PIC)

noun

Definition: The use of surveillance, POLICING, and imprisonment as solutions to what are, in actuality, economic, social, and political “problems”. A system with its own growth impetus, in which criminalization and imprisonment fails to resolve social ills, yet demands an expansion of the PIC despite its failures.

See: 15 immigration detainees have died in prisons since 2000, and immigration detainees have organized at least 5 hunger strikes since September 2013 calling for an end to immigration detention. In response, the federal government in 2015 allotted \$138 million to build more prisons, to ‘improve the immigration detention system’.



The school buses drive slower than the speed-limit in the blizzard. You crack off colour jokes about winter white-outs keeping you from protesting racisms.

The hot chocolate, freshly bought, turns cold as it's poured. Knee deep snow. Thick wire fence sparkles. Many steps behind it, the prison windows seem dark.

In the dull quiet, you hear soft noises. *Sbbb*, someone yells. *Listen*. You do.

In every cell, behind every window, there are prisoners, banging on walls. Singing.

Freedom

Freedom

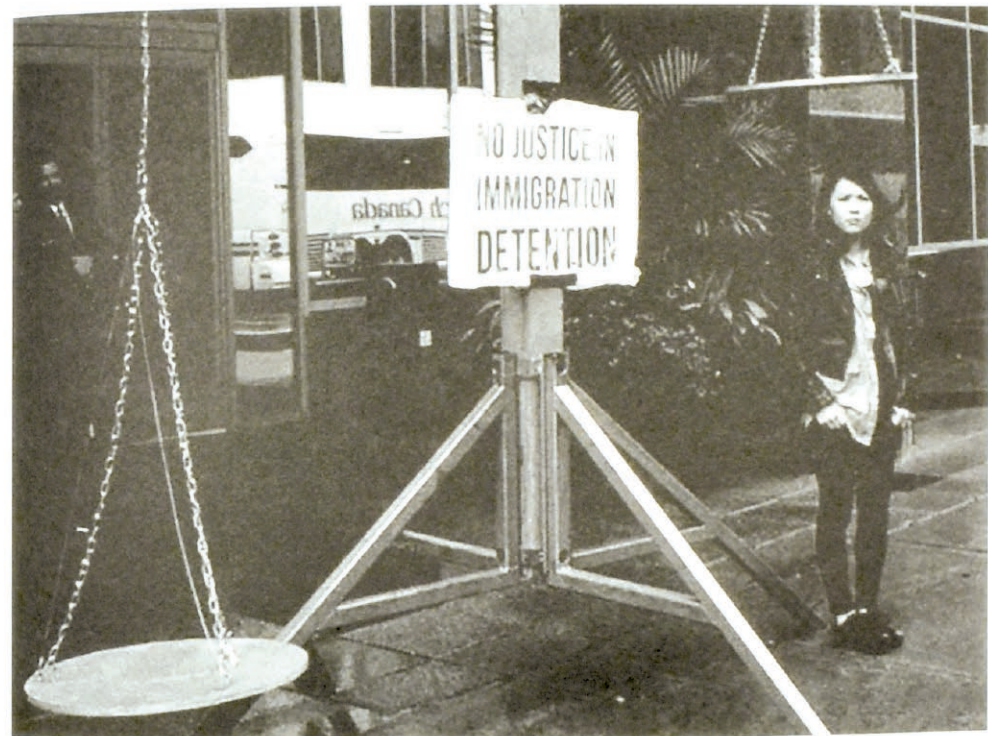
Freedom

FREEDOM TO MOVE RETURN STAY

slogan, an organizing methodology, a tension, an aspiration.

Definition: An emerging "migrant justice" concept which places demands on human mobility rooted in radical principles of justice. An idea that requires us to fight against capitalism, colonialism, white supremacy, patriarchy, and all forms of oppressions which force people to leave their homes. It demands of us that we—migrants or/and settlers—practice ways that honour the sovereignty of Indigenous peoples; and also that we fight for the right for everyone to live with dignity here.

See: Freedom to move, return, stay means opposing detentions, deportations, surveillance, and all forms of limits on movement; as well as support all social movements around the world struggling for dignity and justice where they are so that everyone who wants to can return home.



TINGS CHAK is a Hong Kong-born and Toronto-based multidisciplinary artist and migrant justice organizer, whose work draws inspiration from anti-colonial, anti-racist, and anti-capitalist struggles.

The work is grounded in collective grassroots organizing, primarily through No One Is Illegal - Toronto and the End Immigration Detention Network, of which she was a member. The research and production of this book was part of a Master of Architecture thesis at the University of Toronto.

Deep gratitude to all the people who have supported this work, who have trudged through the snow with us outside detention centres, who have put their bodies on the line. Solidarity to all of the comrades in struggle, who compel us everyday to imagine and build a world without borders and prisons, without capitalism and empire.

www.tingschak.com



"Tings Chak has produced an essential resource for migrant justice and prison abolition movements. The architecture of incarceration—the maze of cameras, locks, guards, fluorescent lights, crammed cells—shatters the government myth of migrant detention as a 'hotel.' By being attune to the simple details, this graphic novel brilliantly subverts what is supposed to remain invisible and locked away."

—HARSHA WALIA, co-founder of No One Is Illegal and author of *Undoing Border Imperialism*

"Architectural practice requires the integration of often complex technical construction requirements with an equal measure of empathy for the occupants of the spaces we envision [...] in this book we find technical information and human empathy in tension, an inevitable outcome wherever architecture is called upon to oppress living beings. This slim book does not only contain more detail of the architecture of detention centres than some scholarly works on the architecture of incarceration, but it begins to outline the invisible experience of hidden-away people in hidden-away places."

—RAPHAEL SPERRY, President of Architects/Planners/Designers for Social Responsibility

"Tings Chak [...] illustrates the violence of incarceration on the human body and mind. Detail by detail, she exposes the bare minimum of what is 'habitable.' For those of us working to end mass incarceration, *Undocumented* provides a critical bridge to migrant justice organizing. Sites of surveillance, cages and control, 'immigrant detention centers,' and 'correctional facilities' are hidden in plain sight. They are two sides of the same coin."

—LOIS AHRENS, founder and director of the Real Cost of Prisons Project

"Employing a sensitive hand and an experimental sensibility, Chak's visual investigation into the Lindsay migrant hunger strike makes visible the brutality of the detention systems and lets us hear the voice of humanity that struggles within its walls."

—KEYIN PYLE, editor/author of *World War III Illustrated*

