



DESIGNS ON REDUCING RECIDIVISM

Michele Hutchinson | Senior Project Interior Designer

The Maple Street Correctional Center is a correctional center in Redwood City, which is in San Mateo County, California. This was a great, very progressive client team.

The public lobby is a beautiful space. Lots of natural light, wood ceilings, color at the child care areas, color in niches and porcelain tile. We wanted to bring the bay into the lobby and address the issues of acoustics by using the ceiling and the carpet.

The graphics are a huge hit. There is lots of color and fun furniture for the kids. It's scary for kids to come while their parents are having visitation. There are lots of toys and there's a chalkboard wall. The kids can come in and just be kids.

We often forget about staff areas in these types of facilities. They're just as important as inmate areas because the staff works very long hours and need a place to chill out. The staff dining room has a beautiful location overlooking the bay on the second floor, with ceiling clouds for acoustics. There is a beautiful reclaimed table.

Each dayroom has its own color and name, which was fun to work on with the client. You want to have some personality or color or something to create a more normalized environment. The furniture is a bit softer. There is carpet in the dayrooms. It's great space for rehabilitation.

One interesting aspect is the transitional housing. The inmates would go to a work release program while they are serving the rest of their time and basically graduate. They have access to their own patios. This was a great dormitory kind of space for transitional patients. They have a culinary kitchen where they teach inmates how to cook. There is a banquette for soft seating, which you wouldn't normally find in this type of facility, as well as artwork and skylights. There are durable finishes. The design celebrates the normalization of inmates working their way through the program and tries to provide that human aspect.