



Edmonton Institution for Women Maximum Security Intensive Intervention Unit, Edmonton, Alberta

Project Date: Completed January 2003
Project Cost: \$5.2 million
Project Client: *Public Works and Government Services Canada
Correctional Service Canada*

Consultant Team: Architect: KMA Inc
Structural Engineer: Stantec Consulting
Mechanical Engineer: Stantec Consulting
Electrical Engineer: Stantec Consulting
Civil Engineer: Stantec Consulting
Security: Valcom Consulting Group Ltd (Protems Canada Inc)
Detention Equipment/Security Hardware: KMA Inc
Interiors: KMA Inc
Kitchen Design: Designed Food Systems

Brief Project Description:

Raison d'être: This building is part of the last phase of the Federal Government's initiative to decentralize the Prison for Women in Kingston to regional locations across Canada. The programme is a communal home for fifteen women, located on the grounds of the existing Edmonton Institution for Women but, as a maximum secure unit, it is programmatically and physically distinct from the existing facility. The architectural realization of this programme is representative of the ideals of rehabilitation and restoration that are the defining principles Canadian society has agreed to in the treatment of their criminal populations. The design of the plan and massing of the elemental requirements maximizes the number, range and quality of experiences of space and views from the interior and enhances and differentiates the exterior spatial experiences, acknowledging the isolated and restricted movements of the residents. The new building is intricately woven into a restoration of the existing structures, producing and enveloping fragments, presenting a tectonic challenge that is amplified by the requirement to maintain a safe and secure environment for both the resident women and the institute's staff. Spiritual connectivity is recognized through a progression of volumetric scale, directional sourcing of natural light, interior materials, colour and form, promoting a communal familiarity and permitting a limited autonomy.

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