

# THE FIVE CROSS SKY

an **e**xhibition on  
**a**rchitecture  
**l**iteracy  
and **i**ncarceration

by  
**c**hicago **d**esign **o**ffice  
with

the **i**llinois **s**chool **o**f **a**rchitecture  
**u**niversity **l**ibrary, **u**niversity of **i**llinois at **u**rbana-**c**hampaign  
the **e**ducation **j**ustice **p**roject  
and the **h**uman **r**ights **d**efense **c**enter

school of the **a**rt institute  
of **c**hicago  
**n**ovember-**d**ecember 2019

# THE UNITED STATES HAS THE HIGHEST PROPORTION OF INCARCERATED PEOPLE OF ANY ADVANCED NATION.

**w**e have placed hard walls around the convicted, and invisible lines around them when they return to their communities. **f**rom **a**ttica to **r**ikers to **s**an **q**uentin, prison architectures have created islands around their inhabitants, further isolating them and impeding rehabilitation.

**i**n downtown **c**hicago, we have a rare opportunity to re-examine the boundaries of the prison in an urban context. **t**he **m**etropolitan **c**orrectional **f**acility sits two blocks from the **h**arold **w**ashington **l**ibrary, suggesting a provocative and productive convergence.

**a**s architectural types, the prison and the library are opposites: one is designed for physical confinement, the other for intellectual expansiveness. **w**hat happens when we blur the line between these buildings—between freedom and captivity? **h**ow can we redefine escape through more humane architectural conditions and experiences for the incarcerated?

**t**he proposed building links the 9th floor of the library, the **w**inter **g**arden, with the 12th floor of the prison, a typical residential floor. **p**rograms include family visitation rooms, a book annex, study spaces, and a café. the visitation rooms form a tower adjacent to the prison along **c**lar**k** **s**treet.

**t**his exhibit models a cross-section through the proposal, built at  $\frac{1}{2}'' = 1'$ . **a**t this scale, **h**arold **w**ashington **l**ibrary becomes a bookshelf for

## the library within

texts written by luminaries in prison

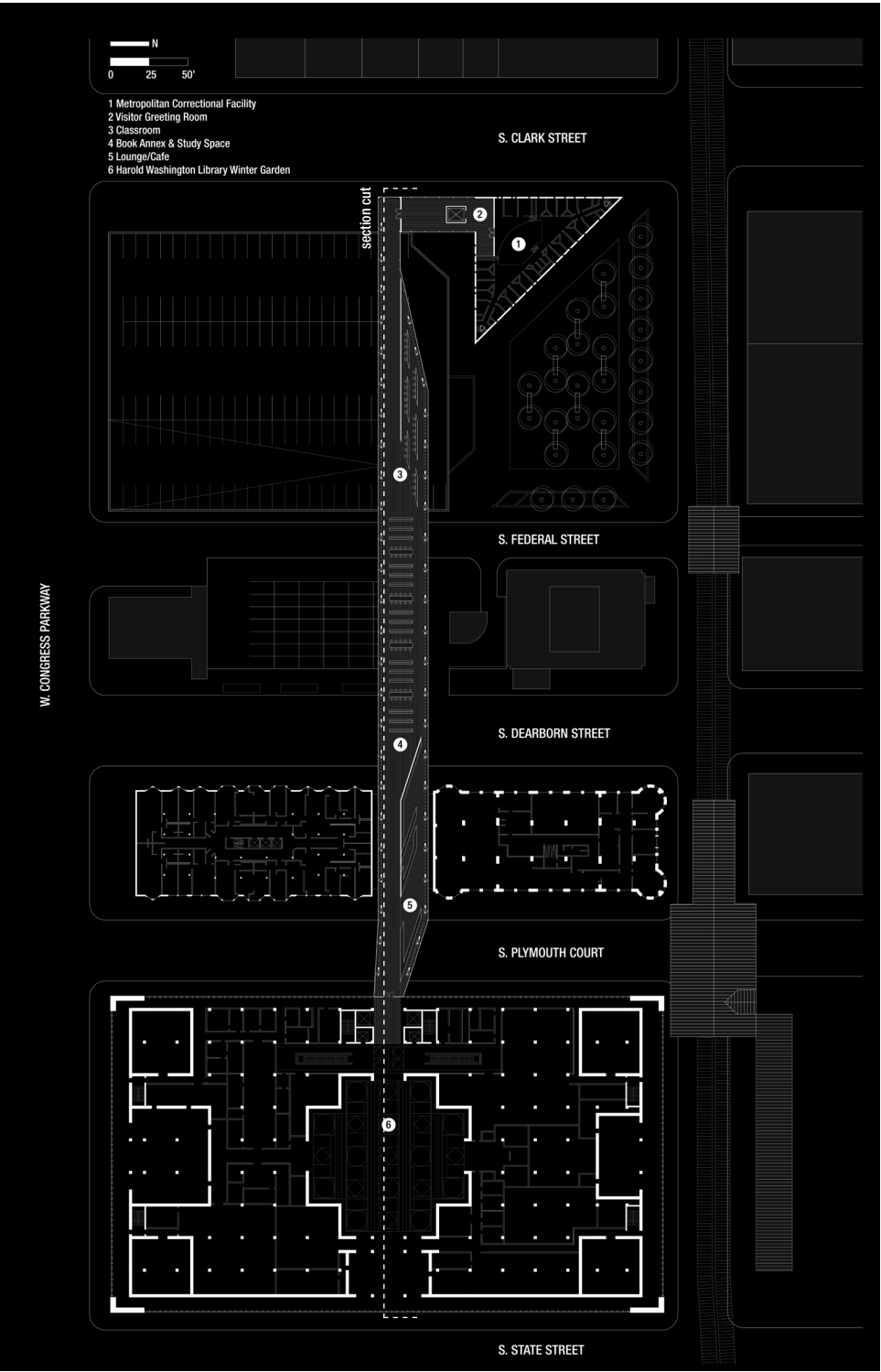
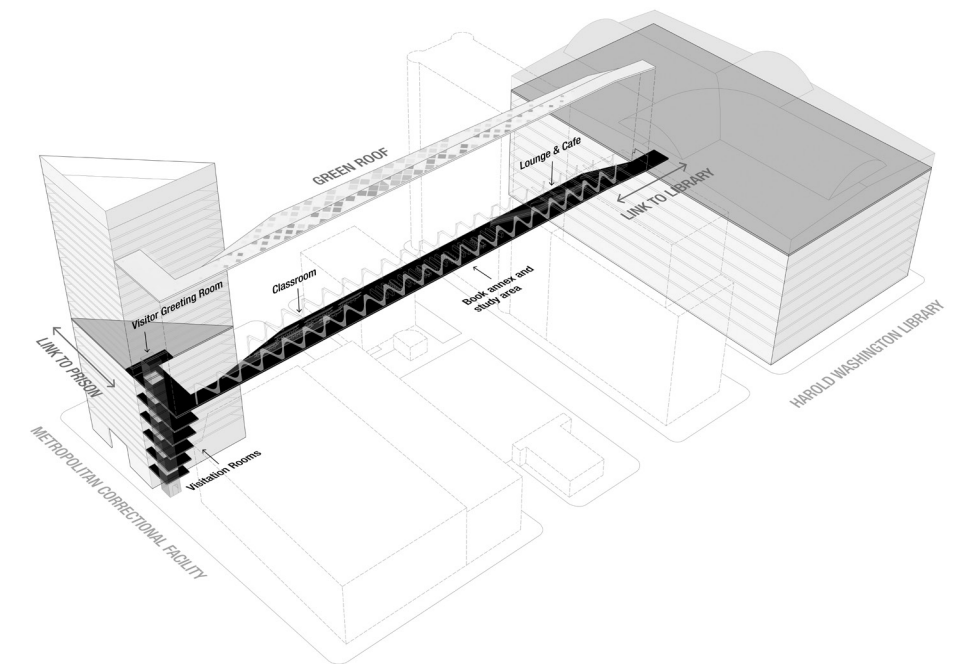
and

## the library locked out

texts censored from american prisons.



Images from the 2018 Chicago Prize Competition, hosted by the Chicago Architectural Club.  
 "Crossing the Skyline" received a second place prize.



# DESIGN & FABRICATION



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**lowell miller**, director of the illinois school of architecture fabrication lab and woodshop,  
provided assistance with planning this exhibition as well as invaluable fabrication support.

# CATALOG

- + University Library, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- # Education Justice Project
- ^ Human Rights Defense Center
- \* Personal Collection

## the library within

- + Bunyan, John. *The Pilgrim's Progress*. New York: American Tract Society, c. 1860.  
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first published in 1678.
- + Carter, Rubin. *The Sixteenth Round: From Number 1 Contender to Number 45472*. New York: Viking Press, 1974.  
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- + Gandhi, Mohandas K. *The Story of My Experiments with Truth*. Washington DC: Public Affairs Press, 1954.  
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- + Ginzburg, Eugenia. *Journey into the Whirlwind*. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1967.  
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- + Gramsci, Antonio. *Selections from the Prison Notebooks*. New York: International Publishers, 1972.  
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- + Havel, Václav. *Letters to Olga: June 1979-September 1982*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1988.  
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- + Kaneko, Fumiko. *Prison Memoirs of a Japanese Woman*. Armonk NY: M.E. Sharpe, 1991.  
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- + King, Martin Luther, Jr. *Letter from the Birmingham Jail*. San Francisco: Harper, 1994.  
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- + Kerman, Piper. *Orange is the New Black*. New York: Spiegel & Grau, 2010.  
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- + Machiavelli, Niccolò. *The Prince*. Trans. George Bull. London: Penguin Books, 1999.  
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Collected writings from 1962 onward, including letters, diary entries, and conversations from the Maximum Security Prison on Robben Island, South Africa.
- + Mandela, Nelson. *Long Walk to Freedom*. Boston: Back Bay Books, 1995.  
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Written between 1942 and 1946 in Ahmednagar Fort, Maharashtra, India.
- + Soyinka, Wole. *The Man Died: Prison Notes of Wole Soyinka*. London: Rex Collings Ltd., 1972.  
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- + Thiong'o, Ngũgĩ wa. *Detained: A Prison Writer's Diary*. London: Heinemann, 1981.  
Written between 1977 and 1978 in Kamiti Maximum Security Prison, Nairobi, Kenya.
- \* Toer, Pramoedya Ananta. *This Earth of Mankind*. New York: Penguin Books, 1996.  
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- + Thoreau, Henry David. *Walden, or Life in the Woods, and On the Duty of Civil Disobedience*. Cutchogue NY: Buccaneer Books, 1986.  
*Civil Disobedience* written after one night in a local jail in Concord, Massachusetts; first published in 1849.
- + Wilde, Oscar. *De Profundis*. New York: Philosophical Library, 1950.  
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## the library locked out

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- # Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *Letters and Papers from Prison*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2015.
- # Bonilla-Silva, Eduardo. *White Supremacy and Racism in the Post-Civil Rights Era*. Boulder CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers, Inc., 2001.
- # Brooks, Charlotte. *Alien Neighbors, Foreign Friends: Asian Americans, Housing, and the Transformation of Urban California*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2009.
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- ^ Sample, Brandon and Alissa Hull. *The Habeas Citebook: Ineffective Assistance of Counsel*. 2nd ed. Lake Worth FL: PLN Publishing, 2016. [2 copies]
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- # Stanley, Eric A. and Nat Smith, eds. *Captive Genders: Trans Embodiment and the Prison Industrial Complex*. 2nd ed. Oakland CA: AK Press, 2015. [2 copies]
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- ^ Taylor, Jon Marc. *Prisoners' Guerrilla Handbook*. 3rd ed. Seattle: Prison Legal News, 2009. [2 copies]
- # Thompson, Heather Ann. *Whose Detroit? Politics, Labor, and Race in a Modern American City*. 2nd ed. Ithaca NY: Cornell University Press, 2017.
- ^ Toone, Robert E. *Protecting Your Health and Safety: A Litigation Guide for Inmates*. 2nd ed. Southern Poverty Law Center, 2009. [2 copies]
- # West, Cornel. *Race Matters*. 3rd ed. Boston: Beacon Press, 2017.
- ^ Zoukis, Christopher. *Prison Education Guide*. Lake Worth FL: PLN Publishing, 2016. [2 copies]

# CONTRIBUTORS

## university library, university of illinois at urbana-champaign

The University Library is central to the intellectual life of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The system holds the second-largest research collection in the United States, with over 14 million book volumes and several million materials in other formats and media.

By providing and stewarding collections and content that comprise a record of human knowledge and by offering a wide array of services, the Library enhances the university's activities in creating knowledge, preparing students for lives of impact, and addressing critical societal needs. The Library advances the university's goals by striving to ensure unfettered access to information and by providing a network of expertise that ensures value, quality, and authenticity of information resources.

We thank **Jessica Hagman**, Assistant Professor and Social Sciences Research Librarian, who located, organized, and secured permissions for the University Library texts included in this exhibition.

## education justice project

The Education Justice Project is an initiative of the College of Education at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. EJP's primary mission is to increase social justice and equity through education. Specifically, this organization provides advanced undergraduate courses to people who are incarcerated at Danville Correctional Center in Danville, IL.

EJP recently experienced a substantial censoring of its teaching materials from this prison. In November 2018, despite EJP following standard procedures for course material approval, numerous texts including *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and *The Souls of Black Folk* were disallowed from Spring 2019 syllabi. Two months later, other materials that had already received prior approval were confiscated by prison staff before they could be distributed to students. Furthermore, staff removed over 200 volumes from EJP's independent library at the prison, the EJP Community Library.

We thank EJP Director and Associate Professor **Rebecca Ginsburg** for loaning copies of texts that were censored from Danville Correctional Center.

## human rights defense center

The HRDC is dedicated to protecting the human and civil rights of prisoners and detainees in the United States. Since 1990, HRDC has educated, advocated, and litigated to stop financial exploitation of prisoners and their families, and to protect the First Amendment for prisoners.

HRDC publishes two monthly magazines intended to inform prisoners and allies about legal rights and abuses in the carceral system—*Prison Legal News* and *Criminal Legal News*—as well as legal self-help books and books about policing and prisons. Current advocacy campaigns include the national Campaign for Prison Phone Justice.

Throughout its history, HRDC has been committed to supporting access to books and fighting censorship in jails and prisons. The founder and Executive Director of HRDC was incarcerated in the state of Washington for 17 years, where he co-founded *Prison Legal News* from his prison cell. This magazine, which has always focused on the abuses of the prison system and empowerment for prisoners, has faced innumerable challenges from prison censors nationwide. Such censorship has included bans on factual articles for including discussions of sexual assault by guards or hunger strikes in other prisons; HRDC books and magazines have also been censored under blanket bans prohibiting most or all outside reading materials. In response, HRDC has developed a robust litigation program, and works not only to restore access to its own publications but to ensure that barriers are removed for other publishers and distributors in the future.

Recent censorship cases in which HRDC prevailed include:

- *PLN v. Ryan* – Arizona DOC was censoring publications including *Prison Legal News* based on an over-broad definition of “sexual content”;
- *HRDC v. Forrest County, MS* – this county jail in Mississippi was banning all reading materials from all publishers except religious publications;
- *HRDC v. Southwest Virginia Regional Jail* – all HRDC publications were being banned under bogus arguments involving the alleged “safety risk” of staples in the binding.

To date, HRDC has litigated in more than 30 states. Learn more about the Human Rights Defense Center and its anti-censorship efforts and other advocacy and litigation at [humanrightsdefensecenter.org](http://humanrightsdefensecenter.org).

Thanks to Public Records Manager/Development Coordinator **Michelle Dillon** and Executive Director **Paul Wright** for loaning copies of newsletters and books published by HRDC that have been rejected from U.S. prisons.

## support

School of the Art Institute of Chicago, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

*Overleaf: The packing label on a box of reading materials rejected from Kenosha County Detention Center, Kenosha, Wisconsin. Courtesy of HRDC.*

# Prison Legal News

P.O. Box 2420  
West Brattleboro, VT 05303

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