



Prisoner enrolled in the Hlumelelisa Rehabilitation Program at Medium A, Leeuwkop (Photographer: Paul Bruns, 2012)

A week before my nineteenth birthday, I was working in my garage with a friend, finishing an architecture project. My mom arrived home, parked on the pavement and chatted to us through the fence while looking for her keys. A silver golf raced up the road and stopped next to my mom's car. Three men got out the car. One went to my mom and pushed her onto the ground; he kicked her repeatedly and tried to bite her rings off her fingers. The other ran toward me and I threw a glass bottle at him so hard that it broke on his chest. He came at me with a gun and held it to my head. The other held a gun to my best friend's head. My mom screamed for my dad, so my friend and I started screaming too. I heard a gun shot and I wondered in that moment if I had been shot and whether we would die. My friend stopped screaming; they left us. My father had shot four bullets into the golf. I never knew about the gun that we owned.

The next day, my mother was blue with bruises. My father worries all the time that he could have killed someone. We have raised our walls, put up electric fences and I am afraid of the dark. This thesis is one way in which I am attempting to deal with my own traumatic experience, but also to contribute to a solution for crime in our country.

ABSTRACT

economic circumstances in the wake of historical political turbulence have lead to criminal behaviour, and the cyclical nature of criminal patterns. Growing crime rates are a feature of countries around the world, and various governments have attempted to deal with offenders by adopting 'tough on crime' strategies. Nevertheless, crime rates are increasing, and new research has shown that rehabilitation is becoming more relevant than punishment in the fight against recidivism.

In the White Paper on Corrections, published in 2005, the Department of Correctional Services identified the actual prison environment as a route cause of crime, calling the prison a "university of crime." Gang violence, rape and intimidation cause prisoners to commit crimes in an attempt to survive. On their release, they have the potential to be damaged individuals who pose a greater threat to society than before their incarceration. The White Paper suggests that rehabilitation of prisoners is the only way to deal with criminal reoffending and The Department of Correctional Services has fully committed to the theory of

rehabilitation in its legislation. Unfortunately most of the actual prison buildings in South Africa were designed purely for incarceration and punishment of offenders, and little thought has been given to spaces for rehabilitation.

This thesis deals with the retrofit of rehabilitation programme in existing problematic prison infrastructure in an attempt to deal with the high levels of recidivism in South Africa. South African prisoners have the right to sports, recreation, education and culture [SREC] activities, but currently participation is documented at only four percent. The juvenile prisoners at the Leeuwkop Prison Farm form part of the majority of young offenders without good SREC facilities, and it is the aim of this thesis to investigate the culture of Leeuwkop Prison and determine what is needed for both prisoners and prison staff in terms of offering rehabilitation and SREC facilities. This thesis will also focus upon the way in which a new SREC building can be used to integrate prisoners and the public in an attempt to address the stigmas associated with offenders in South Africa.

Post-Apartheid South Africa is experiencing documented crime rates considered unacceptably high by both members of the public and governmental agencies. Research indicates that poor socio-