Architecture's role in the criminal justice system is quiet but important. By choosing even to design in the first place, it is a decision not to fight but to serve. It is its role simply to ensure the effective incarceration and rehabilitation of convicted criminals.

This design looks more closely at an architecture of rehabilitation which focuses on a more therapeutic, less punitive system. A method which is said to be responsible for the lower recidivism rates in Europe and the UK in comparison to the US (50% rather than 60%).

A large feature of the design is its relationship to the site. It has been specifically chosen because of its remote location and natural basin which creates a visual barrier and natural border. From each individual cell the occupant has a view of the landscape undisturbed by perimeter walls which run behind the natural horizon line created by the steep cliffs and hills around the site. Instead there is a close connection between the earth - the world - and the inmate, and each cell is afforded a much larger window as a consequence.

Cells have been specifically designed, angled and offset so as to curate the view - obscuring the two breaks in the horizon which would require visible perimeter walls and could provide illegal connections between the cells and public space as these are also the two points at which the building is accessed.

This strong relationship with the landscape is continued throughout the building - each cell is connected to the day-room by an enclosed but perforated corridor allowing sounds, sight and weather conditions from the surrounding environment in, giving the sense that each cell is disconnected and other from the main body of the building.

On the ground floor, many of the rooms are surrounded by a double skin which houses an external area ensuring that the building is firmly grounded in and connected to the site.

The building looks up to the monuments of the valley, while the ground floor, which contains areas like the worship room, visitors area, library and exercise room are connected so closely to the earth with a double skin which allows inmates outside at almost all points.

The Library - on the ground floor with a double skin, allowing access out to the landscape with views to nearby cliffs. The space is designed to be wholly connected with the site, to promote a sense of connection and responsibility to the landscape and the earth.

The building is a 17 storey tower. It is of its landscape - that of monument valley and chooses not to be a collection of single / double storey huts but to stand in reverence of where it is. The façade undulates to ensure that each cell has its own view of the monument, giving each occupant an opportunity for reverence undisturbed by others.

The façade - layered to ensure that each cell has a private, directed view without being able to see into any other cell.