

## = Halden Prison =

Halden Prison ( Norwegian : Halden fengsel ) is a maximum @-@ security prison in Halden , Norway . It has three main units and receives prisoners from all over the world , but has no conventional security devices . The second @-@ largest prison in Norway , it was established in 2010 with a focus on rehabilitation ; its design simulates life outside the prison . Among other activities , sports and music are available to the prisoners , who interact with the unarmed staff to create a sense of community . Praised for its humane conditions , Halden Prison has received the Arnstein Arneberg Award for its interior design in 2010 and been the subject of a documentary , but has also received criticism for being too liberal .

## = Overview =

Located in Halden , Østfold , Norway , Halden Prison was built over 10 years at a cost of 1 @.@ 5 billion Norwegian kroner ( \$ 252 million / £ 15 million ) . The prison received its first inmates on March 1 , 2010 and was officially opened on April 8 by the Norwegian King Harald V. It is Norway 's second @-@ largest prison with a capacity of 248 ? 252 prisoners and a site of 75 acres ( 30 ha ) .

A maximum @-@ security prison , it hosts dangerous as well as highly dangerous criminals , such as rapists , murderers , and child molesters . They compose half of the population , while a third of the residents are drug offenders . Sex offenders , who may face violence from other inmates , and prisoners who require close psychiatric or medical supervision , are located in Unit A , a restrictive and separated area . There is also a special unit ( C8 ) focused on addiction recovery . Most inmates live in Units B and C , which are freer and have mixed cell blocks . Halden Prison receives both domestic and international criminals ; as only around three @-@ fifths of the prisoners are Norwegians ( as of 2015 ) , both Norwegian and English are used , and the prison has English teachers . However , fluency in Norwegian is a requirement to live in C8 , because group and individual counseling is conducted in Norwegian .

There are no conventional security devices , such as barbed tape , electric fences , towers , or snipers . However , there is safety glass , a 6 meter × 1 @.@ 5 kilometer ( 6 @.@ 5 ft × 1 mi ) concrete and steel wall , and a system of underground tunnels which guards use to walk through the prison . Although there are surveillance cameras on the prison grounds , they are not present in the cells , the cell hallways , the common rooms , the classrooms , and most of the workshops . While there is little violence reported , almost exclusively in Unit A , officers try to prevent it . If two inmates have a dispute , they engage in a mediation session under staff supervision . If mediation fails , repeated misbehavior or rule violations are punished with cell confinement or prison transference .

## = Design =

The prison was designed by the Danish group Erik Møller Architects and the British HLM Architects selected in a competition held by the Department of Justice and the Norwegian Directorate of Public Construction and Property to determine the designers of the building .

With a focus on rehabilitation , it was designed to simulate a village so that the prisoners can consider themselves part of society . The government believes that " the smaller the difference between life inside and outside the prison , the easier the transition from prison to freedom . " Interiors are painted and designed to demarcate the differences between home , school , and the workplace . In designing the prison 's interiors , the architects tried to separate the internal buildings to have prisoners walking , to strengthen their bond with the outside world . The hallways are tiled with Moroccan tiles or have large @-@ scale photographs , such as daffodils or Parisian streets .

Exteriors are composed of bricks , galvanized steel , and larch wood , instead of concrete . The black and red kiln @-@ fired bricks were inspired by the trees , mosses , and bedrock of the surroundings . Natural life , including birch , blueberry , and pine trees , also contribute to rehabilitation . The steel , a " hard " material , symbolizes detention , while the larch , a " soft " material , stands for rehabilitation and growth . The yard walls and toilet doors are decorated by a

graffiti painting by the Norwegian artist Dolk , which was ordered by the prison from its 6 million kroner ( \$ 1 million / £ 640 @ , @ 000 ) art budget .

All aspects of the prison 's design aim to avoid psychological pressures , conflicts , and interpersonal friction . Despite this , the prison wall was designed for security . As the wall is visible everywhere , it was seen as a " symbol and an instrument " of " [ the prisoners ' ] punishment , taking away their freedom " , according to Gudrun Molden , one of its architects .

= = Prison life = =

Each prison cell is 10 square metres ( 110 sq ft ) and has a flat @-@ screen television , desk , mini @-@ fridge , toilet with shower , and unbarred vertical window that lets in more light . Every 10 ? 12 cells share a common area with a kitchen and a living room ; the kitchen has stainless steel silverware , porcelain plates , and a dining table , and the living room has a modular couch and a video game system . While the prison provides food , the prisoners can also buy ingredients at its grocery shop and cook their own meals . Inmates are locked in their cells twelve hours a day , but they are encouraged to maximize their time outside . Prisoners have an incentive of 53 kroner ( \$ 9 / £ 5 @ . @ 60 ) a day to leave their cells . Are Høidal , the prison 's governor , stated that the fewer activities the prisoners have , the more aggressive they become . There is an " Activities House " , and from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m , there are practices on jogging trails and a soccer field , while wood working , cooking , and music classes are also offered . At the mixing studio , the inmates may record music and a monthly program broadcast by the local radio station . A library with books , magazines , CDs and DVDs ; a gym with a rock @-@ climbing wall ; and a chapel are also available . Prisoners even receive questionnaires asking how their prison experience can be improved .

Inmates are allowed to receive their families , partners , or friends privately twice a week for two hours . Individual rooms containing a sofa , sink , and cupboard with sheets , towels , and condoms are available for single @-@ person visits . For those with families , a larger room with toys and baby @-@ changing facilities is available . Inmates are checked after visits , and if illegal items are found , prisoners can lose their rights to private visits . This right is denied to high risk criminals and visitors with histories of drug offenses . There is also a separated , chalet @-@ style house where prisoners can receive visits from family members and stay with them for 24 hours . The house has a small kitchen , two bedrooms , a bathroom , a living room with a dining table , a sofa , and a television , as well as an outdoor play area with toys . Foreigners are not allowed and inmates have to complete a child @-@ development education program to have 24 @-@ hour @-@ long visits . During visits , staff make regular checks on the prisoners and their families .

= = Staff = =

As of 2012 , Halden had 340 staff members , including teachers , healthcare workers , personal trainers , and guards . The philosophy of " dynamic security " , which encourages the staff and the inmates to develop interpersonal relationships , helps prevent potential aggression and guarantees safety . Guards eat meals and play sports with the inmates , and are typically unarmed because guns can produce intimidation and social distance . The interaction between prisoners and the staff is designed " to create a sense of family , " according to architect Per Hojgaard Nielsen , and because the staff can be role models to help the inmates to recreate their sense of daily routine outside of prison walls . Half the guards are women , as Høidal thinks it minimizes aggression . The guard stations were also designed to be tiny and cramped , to encourage officers to interact more with the inmates .

= = Impact = =

Halden city 's inhabitants view the prison as a chance to find employment rather than a bad thing . Nina Margareta Høie of the web magazine The Nordic Page stated that the prison is " known for having the most humanly conditions in Europe , " while William Lee James of Time and Amelia

Gentleman from The Guardian called it the world 's " most humane prison . " The BBC reported that the design of Scottish prison HMP Grampian was inspired by Halden .

In 2010 , Halden Prison 's interior design earned the Arnstein Arneberg Award . In 2014 , as part of Wim Wenders ' 3D documentary series Cathedrals of Culture , Michael Madsen directed a short film exploring how the prison 's design and architecture influence the re @-@ socialization process . That same year , another film on Halden Prison was produced : The Norden , a television film produced by Finnish Broadcasting Company , explored the reactions of James Conway , a former superintendent at New York 's Attica Correctional Facility , during a prison tour . Conway affirmed , " This is prison utopia . I don 't think you can go any more liberal ? other than giving the inmates the keys . "

However , the conservative , right @-@ wing populist Progress Party has criticized Halden Prison . Foreigners in Norwegian prisons increased from 8 @.@ 6 percent in 2000 to 34 @.@ 2 percent in 2014 ; Per Sandberg , deputy leader of the party , attributes this to " Halden 's high standard " , arguing that Halden 's facilities should be reserved for Norwegian citizens . The party also contended that Halden 's quality of life is " better than in many nursing and retirement homes . "