

Drug Addiction Rehabilitation

Benjamin Mark Rankin



The program of this rehabilitation facility is based on that of the Therapeutic Community of Daytop Village in New York State. Located on a rural Virginia site, the buildings house about one hundred people, primarily heavy narcotic drug abusers, who stay on average from 18 to 24 months. The daily life of the community as well as specific therapeutic encounters are designed to change the residents, to give them new values, and to enable them to experience and develop positive personal relationships.

The rehabilitation program works through peer support and teaching. The belief that no one can fight off addiction alone leads to an emphasis on communal living. Deviating members are seen as a threat to the community; strict rules are enforced through various sanctions. In order to eliminate awkward institutional relationships between professionals and patients, the facility is run entirely by recovered addicts.

An existing gazebo on this rural Virginia site acts as a gateway to the community precinct. Here addicts must ask themselves if they are ready to change their lives. The prospective resident then moves toward the facility along a passage which gradually closes off the distant view and opens up towards the main buildings. Newcomers descend into the building to the "prospect chair," formed by the exterior wall of the passage, where they are interviewed. This chair marks the entry to and edge of the community.

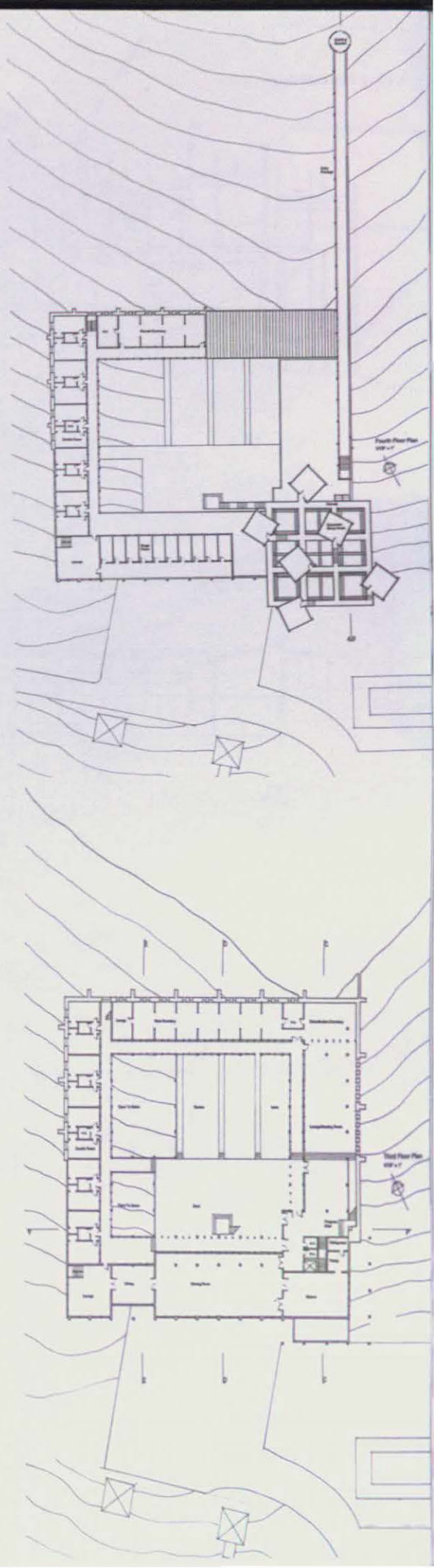
The plan of the living quarters maps the linear progression through and hierarchical organization of the residents in the program. Newcomers are housed in rooms closed to the outside and open, without privacy, to the interior: they live first in a dormitory which opens inward onto a common lounge. Through the course of rehabilitation this relationship is inverted. The resident gradually gains more private quarters that open up to the exterior. The transformations from closed to open are emphasized through a change of construction systems, from one of solid concrete walls to one of open timber frames.

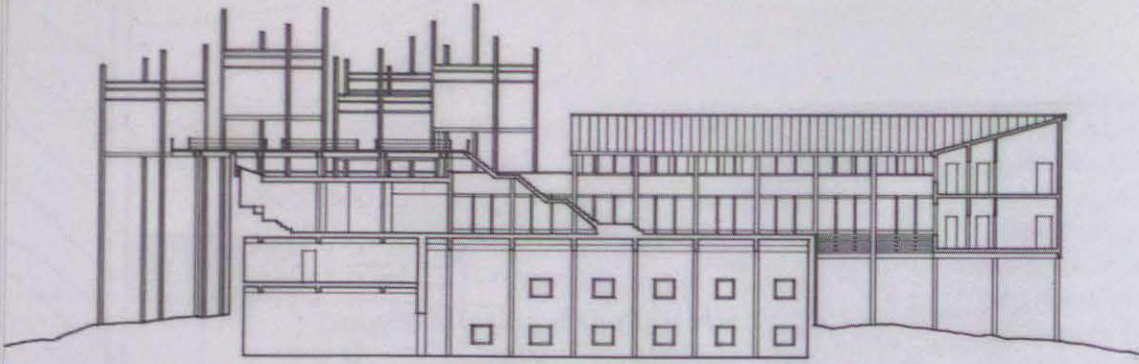
Two elements are placed at the edges of the forest through which the exit road passes. The internal element is a tower at which departing residents can pause to look back at the buildings. Here recovered addicts must decide that they are ready to leave the community. At the other side of the forest, the reformed addict leaves through an external gate, a guard booth which controls the mundane daily traffic between the community and the rest of the world.



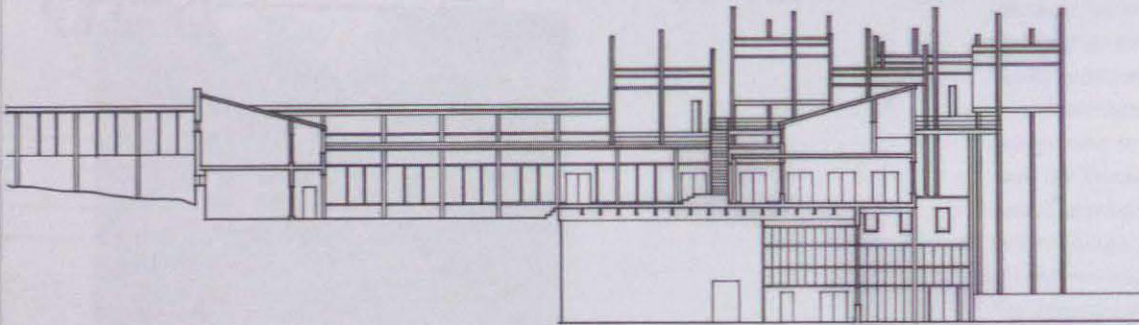


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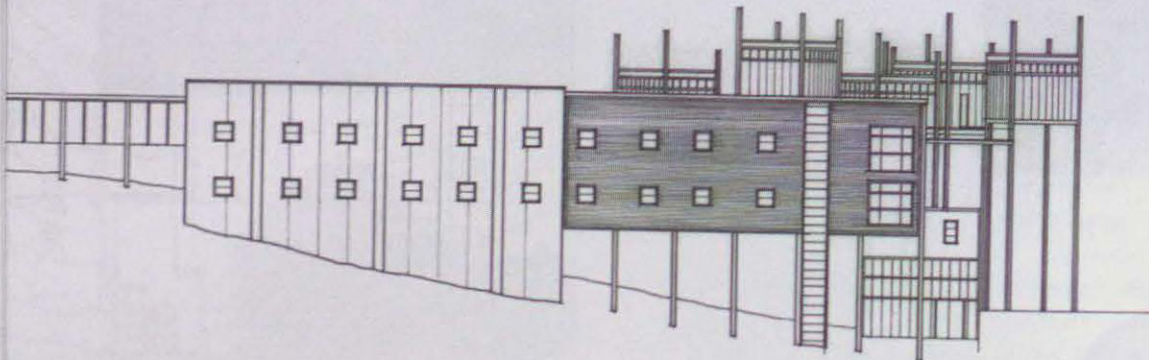




Section F-F
1/16" = 1'



Section D-D
1/16" = 1'



West Elevation
1/16" = 1'

