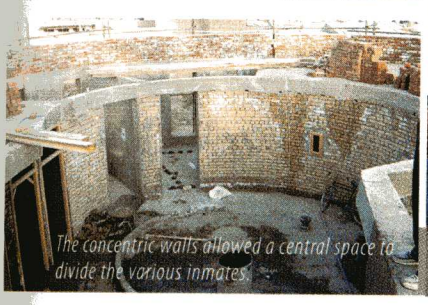
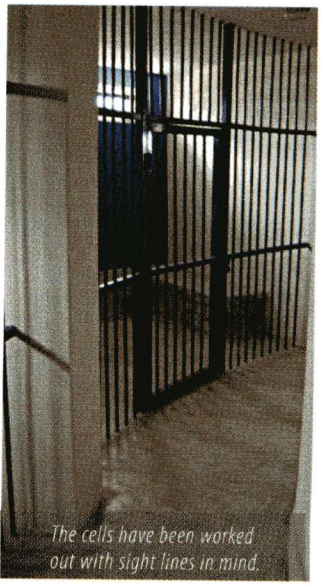
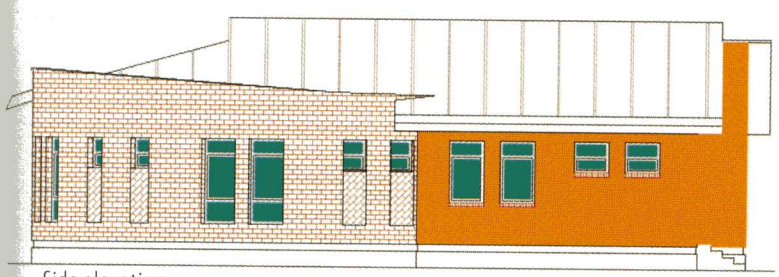
Temporary Juvenile Remand Homes

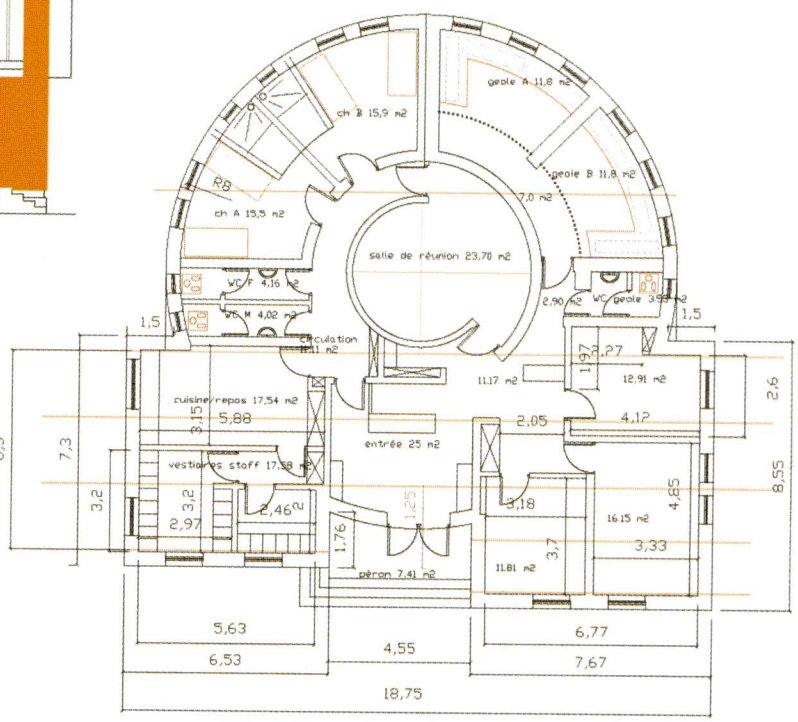
The Front Facade


The concentric walls allowed a central space to divide the various inmates

The building changes its colours and material as it moves around.


The cells have been worked out with sight lines in mind.


Side elevation



Plan

By the time Jean Pauls team started this third project around the same time as the French Department Extension the tech-tonic grid was set. This project is a collaboration between A&D and the Embassy of France in Kabul which as cooperation extended by France to the Afghan Police force. It was decided to build two buildings, which would serve as a transitory remand home for juveniles. To be built in two different locations namely the cities of Mazar-e-Sharif and Hérat respectively. Each building aimed to decently receive minors who were victims or the culprits. The program was initiated as such locations (or the lack of them) were in terrible conditions and not suitable for young minds. Jean Paul worked with the police to first understand and then work out a building programme as per the psycographics of the wards and the officers on duty. The programme was sensitive to the needs of sheltering three offices, a vast room conference, a rest room, a kitchen, two holding cells and two rooms with shower intended for the minors who require a assistance.

The architect moulded this into concentric spaces where a core central discussion and interrogation room would become a physical and visual barrier between the potential victim 's cell (2nos) and the offenders (2nos). This central space would allow easy access from all sides. The spaces were modified in the touch- feel and visual treatment again as per the status of the user but unified by a circular plan. The duty officers' were also provided with storage and changing facilities. Again a stone base supported a structure formulated out of exposed brick and concrete. Jean Paul's hesitation was that this was a unit that would get mass replicated and he would not have a control on context of location and surrounding. At the same time he felt satisfied that the imprint was created for French cooperation project. ■

Fact File

Project: Juvenile centre, Mazar e Sharif & Herat
Client (beneficiary): Ministry of Interiors, Afghanistan
Design team: Jean Paul Lemdjedri, Naqshband Gulam
Contractors: Jams Co. Ltd
Funding agency: Embassy of France, Kabul
Completion of project: February 2007

Location: Mazar e Sharif & Herat
Architect : Jean Paul Lemdjedri
Project Area: 233sqm
Construction (cost): 75000 USD
Initiation of Project: July & August 2006

About the Architect

An architect who had a small practice in France Jean Paul Lemdjedri was drawn back in 1994 for some voluntary social architecture work to Burundi/Ruuanda (Africa) where he had spent some time during his military training years. This initiated his work in this sector followed by Iraq in1998 where he worked for Oxfam on institutional projects. Jean Paul says it's his French passport that allows him security, hence a liberty to work in such situations and where the activity supersedes the risk. He believes influences happen subconsciously not intentionally.