

FACILITY PROGRAMMING AND SPACE PLANNING

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Spofford Juvenile Center

Bronx, NY



As a part of the plan to replace the Spofford Juvenile Detention Center, New York City Department of Juvenile Justice commissioned a research and needs assessment study. The project required in-depth examination of the existing operations of the facility as well as the spatial, behavioral and psychological issues related to confinement and how they have been impacting the residents and the staff. The following methods were used to collect the data:

- Videotaped facility tours with managers, various staff and youth representatives
- Mail survey of state-of-the-art facilities around the country
- Workshops with residents using drawings, discussions and role playing
- In-depth interviews with the staff
- Literature review

The results were annualized and presented to the client. Results were used in designing the new facilities that replaced Spofford.