



Case Study 34

Dillwynia Correctional Centre

South Windsor NSW

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Dillwynia Correctional Centre

South Windsor NSW

Client: Department of Corrective Services

Architect: Perumal Pedavoli Architects in association with NSW Department of Commerce

Builder: Richard Crookes Constructions

Building cost: \$48 m

Photography by Philip Hayson, Photo Source

Links:

www.pp-a.com.au

www.richardcrookes.com.au

On a semi-rural site at the foot of the mountains on Sydney's north-western fringe, Dillwynia Correctional Centre is one of Australia's few facilities specifically designed for women inmates and their special needs.

Described by one newspaper report as "resembling a high school rather than a prison", the centre's 26 buildings are spread across the landscaped site, enabling the 200 low- and medium-security inmates to move with relative freedom. High-security double-row mesh fencing – without razor tape – allows them to see beyond the walls.

The low-set single-level buildings are constructed with steel portal frames clad in brickwork, "very much like a normal house," according to project architect Vince Pedavoli. Bricks from a palette of seven colours are laid in patterns and bands. "Bricks were chosen because of their domestic character. It's something you can relate to. Each different functional building uses a several brick colours to differentiate it from other buildings, so you didn't get this sameness about it."

Pedavoli, who worked on this project with Katherine Longhurst from Perumal Pedavoli and Paul Bardsley from the NSW Department of Commerce, describes the overall effect as "institutionalising normality as much as possible with a focus on rehabilitation." Dillwynia was opened by Governor Marie Bashir in late July 2004.

From top: Brickwork was chosen for its domestic feel and low maintenance qualities. The retained mature trees add to the campus-like atmosphere.

Each of the 26 low-set buildings is differentiated by the two or three brick colours drawn from a palette of seven colours.

Simple devices such as contrasting bands of brickwork and formed sills add textural interest to walls throughout the centre. Over one million bricks were supplied for the project.

