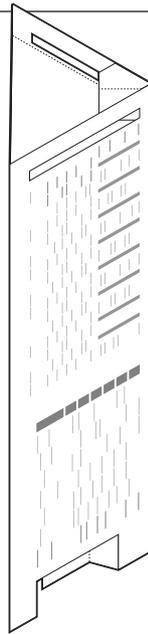
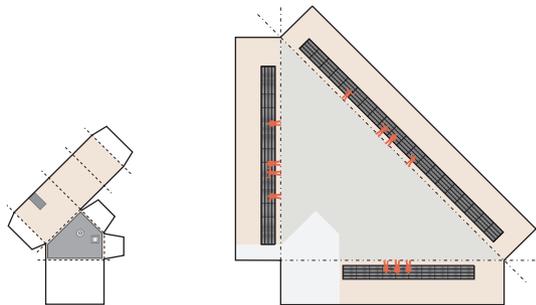


METROPOLITAN CORRECTIONAL CENTER

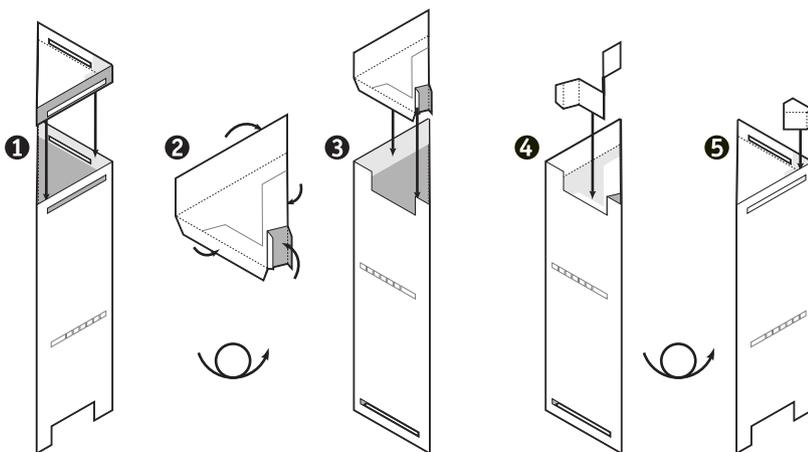
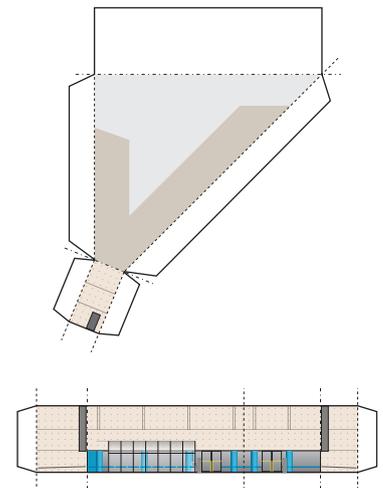
scale 1:1000 built 1975 architect Harry Weese



This unique skyscraper prison in Chicago's South Loop houses inmates awaiting trial in federal court. On the upper floors, blocks of jail cells surround a triangular common area which is monitored by a guard at the center.

The narrow windows of the cells are only three inches wide, but in 1985 two prisoners broke through the concrete opening during a thunderstorm. Using a 75-foot extension cord tied to a floor buffer, they slid down to freedom but were caught several months later.

The rooftop of the building features a basketball court and exercise area where inmates in orange jumpsuits are often seen gazing down on office workers passing by on the street below.



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