

Studio Airport (Bram Boersen, Maurits Wouters, 2011)

Beyond Prison

2016

The prison system in the US has been plagued by huge problems and grave injustices for decades. Nowhere else in the world are so many people in prison, and the proportion of Americans of colour in the prison population is out of all proportion. Despite the enormous problems, there are organisations that are attempting to turn the tide, treating prisoners as people again, and focusing more on rehabilitation than on endless sentences with no hope of release. A number of successful programmes have been launched.

Meditation sessions, theatre workshops and vegetable gardens help prepare prisoners for a return to society, and teach them self-reflection. The 'Kalliopeia Foundation' supports these programmes, and launched its own *Beyond Prison* project to provide a platform for these alternative forms of rehabilitation.

In 2015 the Foundation asked Studio Airport to design and develop the platform, in collaboration with a project group in California. The result is an online documentary in which seven multimedia narratives present a new perspective on what prison could be: a place of inner transformation. Several filmmakers, writers and photographers contributed to the project.

Beyond Prison won Gold and Silver at the European Design Awards 2016.