Power has often been misunderstood as just a sign of authority being instated upon someone without realizing that power is actually built upon a 'system of polemic relationships'.

The power of theory which is the theory of power—that is essential in the designing of the prison. The prison can be equated as the body and the theory of power as the soul which makes both entities just as important. There is a need of the prison to manifest the power of theory, which is the theory of power, and the need of the power of theory to be manifested in the prison.

As Michel Foucault, a theorist of power viewed it,

But in thinking of the mechanism of power, I am thinking rather of its capillary form of existence, the point where power reaches into the very grain of individuals, touches their bodies and inserts itself into their actions and attitudes, their discourses, learning processes and everyday lives.

This theory of power as proposed by Foucault will be the theoretical basis to investigate the manifestation of space as power in the case studies of four prisons - the Panopticon Prison, the Pennsylvania Prison, the Auburn Prison and Open Prison.

An objective of this dissertation is to evaluate the theory of power as defined by Foucault by looking at the effects of the theory compared with other theories of power that has and / or does not have on the prisoners.