

# Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design



LISC

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### CPTED Theory:

Proper design and effective use of the built environment can lead to a reduction in the fear and incidence of crime as well as an improvement in the quality of life.

# About CPTED

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## History

Originated in the 1970s with the work of C. Ray Jeffery and Oscar Newman. “Second Generation CPTED” by Greg Saville and Gerry Cleveland expanded on the concept in 1998.

## Understanding our responsibility

- The physical structures and areas we create as a society have lasting effects and repercussions.
- We must be aware that CPTED can and has been used punitively to uphold racist systems and structures. CPTED should be a resident-driven process that is implemented openly and equitably to allow communities to be safe from both criminal activity and overpolicing.

## More information

- <https://www.lisc.org/our-initiatives/safety-justice/cbcr/resources/guidance-briefs/comprehensive-revitalization-resources/>



# CPTED Goals

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- Minimize opportunities for crime to occur in a given place
- Reduce fear
- Improve quality of life
- Provide opportunities for positive social interaction





# Getting Started

- In order to be effective, CPTED should be integrated into broader safety plans. It cannot serve as an afterthought.
- The best results come from rigorous planning and conceptualizing what features or activities can assist in creating safe spaces.
- This should be a community-led and data-driven process.



# Data-Driven Process

Gather data to build an understanding of the past, present, and future.

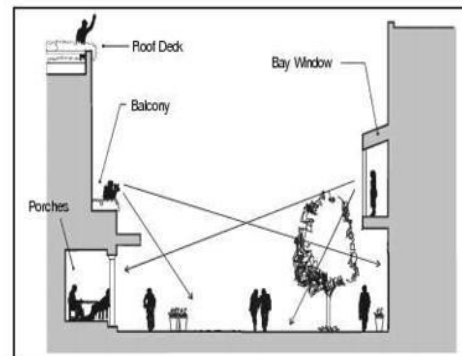
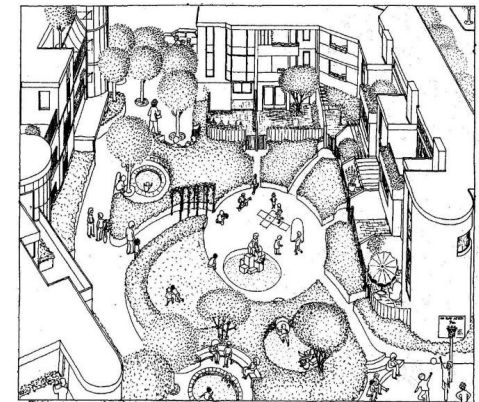
- What is the history of the property or area?
- What is currently taking place in and around the property or area?
- What does the community want or envision for the future?
- What partners do you need at the table to accomplish your objectives?



# Basic Principles: Natural Surveillance

A design concept that incorporates features that increase visibility of the space and its users

- Increases the opportunity for crime to be deterred by creating areas where activity is more noticeable
- Increases the likelihood that a passerby or security officer could observe criminal activity



Create visual connections between public and private areas



## Basic Principles: Access Controls

Structures or elements that convey a message of controlled admission and establish the area, building, or unit as a “risky target” for criminals

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- Examples include planted trees, shrubs, gates, or fencing.
- Items should be strategically (not haphazardly) placed in locations determined by research and data



# Basic Principles: Territorial Reinforcement

Design elements that help convey the message the property is cared for and owned by a private entity or person, extending a sphere of territorial influence

- This concept helps distinguish between public and private ownership
- Items such as sidewalks, porches, decorative emblems, and landscaping exhibit signs of ownership and send a message of “hands off”



## Basic Principles: Upkeep and Maintenance

Statistics show that areas struggling with issues of blight, vacancy, and litter are more likely to attract criminal activity and or lawlessness

- Neglected neighborhoods can convey a visual message that there is greater tolerance of disorder
- Proper maintenance indicates pride, ownership, protection, and concern





# “Second Generation” Principles

Minimize social conditions that generate crime opportunities

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## Cohesion

Creating events and opportunities for neighbors to know each other and solve problems together.



## Capacity

Planning for land use and density that promotes safety.



# CPTED Methodology

Key points to inform your CPTED plan

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## Problem analysis

- Are you mining diverse data sources to understand the problem?
- Are multiple viewpoints being heard?
- Are the long-range goals clear?

## Strategy identification

- Are both owners and users of the space at the decision-making table?
- Are the experiences of comparable communities informing decisions?

## Implementation

- Are people with relevant authority or resources part of the process?
- What steps need to be taken to secure the support of key decision-makers?