

PERSPECTIVE

Creating Safer Communities - More Than Design

2013 ICA CPTED Conference, July 3-5, Calgary, Canada

details page 8



BLUE LIGHTS FOR SAFETY

Ivana Dankova

Human Factors Designer

While completing studies at Scotland's Edinburgh Napier University in 2011, Ivana Dankova conducted the first-ever research into Glasgow's blue light program. Parts of her thesis titled "The Sameness Around Us", are summarized in this article.

A new innovation in street lighting has appeared in Glasgow, Scotland. In 1999 blue streetlights were installed in order to improve the overall aesthetics of the area as a part of a city enhancement program.

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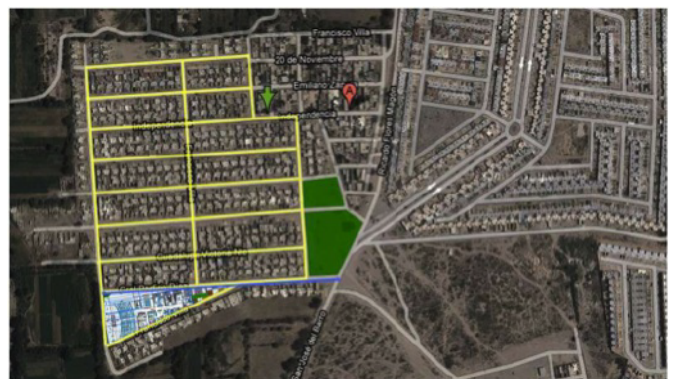
CPTED IN MEXICO

Macarena Rau Vargas
Architect, University of Chile and
ICA Vice Chair

Recent CPTED project work was conducted in San Luis de Potosí, Mexico. Among various prevention ideas, the research team discovered some new findings about natural surveillance and visual fields.

With a population over 750,000 the city is located near the three largest cities in Mexico. There is alarming levels of social exclusion and poverty and intense gang activity, but not all of youth gangs were violent, in fact, very few are to a great degree.

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*The speed of personal contact
...influences the impact of
natural surveillance*



Mountains surrounding Monterrey, north of San Luis de Potosi, Mexico

Mexico Continued

Within this social context we discovered how quality contacts between neighbors affects perceptions of security. These contacts are mainly established in pedestrian flow spaces which are locations on public streets where streets lack parks and squares, places where natural surveillance and territoriality takes place.

Contact is influenced by natural surveillance but pedestrian flow influences that. If a pedestrian is afraid of being a victim of a crime he tends to walk faster reducing the impact of natural surveillance making social contact hollow. Thus, the speed in which contact is made is directly linked with feelings of security.

DIAGNOSIS

The team confirmed some of these conclusions by developing a set of variables with quantifiable indicators to assess the quality and importance of environmental issues on a scale from 1 to 10.

Data showed that natural surveillance (8) and clear visual fields (8) are the most recurrent positive variables in this study area, as opposed to murals/graffiti (8) and lack of lighting (6) variables, which are the most recurrent negative characteristics.

INTERVENTION

The CPTED Intervention Proposal was based on this Diagnosis. It emerged during participative design workshops with the community. To reinforce the social contact in visual fields they restructured a secure pedestrian system using

secure routes, transport spaces with new pavement, lighting, environmental information, landscaping, among others.

For this new system of secure pedestrian flows the team proposed the construction of a Community Development Centre (CDC).

The CDC location will be in the triangular site in the aerial photo in this article. The team also reinforced the importance of the Center having a safe route through central areas and surrounding neighborhoods with appropriate lighting, environmental information, and clear visual fields.

FUTURE PRIORITIES

The team concluded pedestrian flow spaces should be designed first; later, vehicles should be incorporated as well as other means of transportation, but subordinated to the environmental experience of pedestrian.

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CHILDREN AND CPTED

**Chris Butler, ICA,
Auckland, New Zealand**

I was recently asked to represent the ICA at a CPTED presentation by year 5 pupils (9 and 10 year olds) from Murrays Bay School in Auckland, New Zealand. Under the guidance of teacher Fleur Knight, the children were encouraged to explore creative ways in which to express the four key principles of CPTED: Maintenance, Natural Surveillance, Natural Access Control and Territorial Reinforcement.

The presentation reinforced to me how straightforward CPTED can be. By using a programme of physical improvement and beautification as a starting point, it was possible to introduce the children to the world of CPTED and to observe changes in the way they visualised and interacted with their environment.

The following reflection, from Fleur, reveals an impressive depth of learning and understanding by her pupils and highlights the extensive time and effort she has devoted to this programme.



Students at Murrays Bay School - art for CPTED

I would consider this to be advanced real learning that integrates the breadth of the education curriculum in a way that challenges the children's thinking, both inside and outside of school.

IMPLICATIONS FOR CPTED IN EDUCATION

**Fleur Knight, Facilitator,
Murrays Bay School**

Last year at Murrays Bay School in Auckland, 110 year 5 pupils, aged between nine and ten years of age have used CPTED as a vehicle for their Real Learning. Through CPTED the pupils have developed an understanding about how the

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BLUE LIGHTS OUTDOOR PLAN



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During my design research I investigated whether blue lights have any effect on people and if so, how they affect them. As with prior research in CPTED, my hypothesis is that the environment in which we live can influence our behavior. It can inspire us to act in certain ways.

In the Glasgow case study I had the chance to experience first-hand the unique atmosphere of a blue-lit street. Some sources mentioned that the crime surprisingly dropped after blue lights were installed. However, I could not find further statistics on blue lights in Glasgow. I decided to collect and examine crime statistics and assess perceptions of pedestrians.

Even though crime reduction was not the initial purpose behind the installation, the street appeared to have a much calmer effect than surrounding streets with traditional yellowish, high pressure sodium lighting.

Some crime statistics I obtained did show reduced rates after the lights were installed.

Furthermore, interviews I conducted reflected positive attitudes about the lights. One comment was: *"Actually, it makes me want to go out more."* Another commented: *"I think it's quite calming...It makes the street more glamorous than it actually is."*

One theory explaining this effect is a theory involving the short wavelengths produced by blue lights. This stimulates the brain chemical serotonin which is a calming hormone. It is possible this creates a calming impact on pedestrians. My own observation is that people react positively to the lighting. The overall atmosphere is unique and feels more peaceful, calm, as if time moved slower.

I also learned following the Glasgow example, similar blue lights were installed in Japanese train stations. The number of suicides at Japanese train stations was high and increasing, but after the blue lights were installed the number dropped noticeably.



SOUNDSCAPES

TO CUT CRIME & DISORDER

Matthew Easta
Projects Team - Community
Safety, Brighton, UK

Lisa Lavia, Noise Abatement
Society, East Sussex, UK

The relationship between criminal or anti-social behaviour and the quality of the physical environment is now proven and well-known among CPTED practitioners.

A well maintained managed and clean public area with fine architecture and signals of civic pride reduces opportunities and inclination of people to act in a criminal or anti social way. The broken windows theory underpins the argument for investment in quality public realm improvements and maintenance of our streets.

If the landscape, what we see, can affect how we behave, what about the Soundscape? Referred to as the forgotten or Cinderella sense –hearing, can it profoundly affect how we act and react in crowd situations?

The Noise Abatement Society of the UK and Brighton and Hove City Council along with Sussex Police trialed an experiment to see if the "Soundscape" of an area can really influence rowdy and sometimes violent behaviour in its night clubbing district – notorious for late night fights and calls on police to deal with drink related incidents.

A 3D sound "cube" (a speaker array creating a sound broadcast) was installed to transmit calming sounds (not music) created by musician Martyn Ware, into the street at night. The behaviour and interaction of crowds and individuals was recorded, read and analysed by a leading psycho-biologist, Dr Harry Witchell, author of "We Are What We Hear".

Comparisons were made between the trial night and a "control" night without the improved Soundscape.



Night-time in the study area at West Street, Brighton

Headline results were published in a paper presented at *Internoise New York 2012*. They reveal that crowd behaviour was less aggressive, there was "open queuing" (where people who don't know each other interact in a friendly and open manner) and, perhaps more importantly, police reported crowds were less aggressive. Police also reported they were able to divert resources away from the area which usually creates a high demand. This shows the potential for this type of positive use of sound.

Next steps are to install mini sound boxes at flashpoints for problems such as exit and entrance areas for clubs and taxi pick up shelters.

www.noiseabatementociety.com



WEBSITE TACKLES CRIME

NEW ONLINE RESOURCE THROUGH DUTCH CPTED ASSOCIATION

Paul van Soomeren,
ICA Director
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CPTED – second generation of course – is quite popular in The Netherlands. From the mid-1980s crime prevention was seen as a effective option to tackle crime and fear of crime.

Recently the focus is shifting more and more back to repressive strategies to catch and punish the criminal, although CPTED is still a much-used strategy especially at the local level.

To support local authorities and institutions like housing associations and social welfare organizations a few enthusiastic crime and safety practitioners and researchers have started a Dutch association to promote CPTED and share knowledge: the Stichting Veilig Ontwerp en Beheer (Association for Safe and Secure Design and Maintenance; abbreviated as SVOB).

The Dutch association also supports the informal network of the European Designing Out Crime Association (www.e-doca.eu)

The completely restyled website of the SVOB is at www.StichtingVOB.nl. It now contains a virtual CPTED library (all good sources are welcome!). A new feature of the website includes all kinds of CPTED measures and approaches - <http://www.veilig-ontwerp-beheer.nl/maatregelen>.

Each measure is summarized and connected to practical instruments on the one side and literature and sources giving more information or research outcomes on the other.

The measures and approaches are structured according to scales (building,

plot, neighborhood, district, city), categories of use (dwellings, schools, offices, industrial estates, public space, parking, shopping) as well as in themes like design, maintenance, and policy instruments.

The system is interactive and all visitors can respond and elaborate upon the measures, change them or comment (Did it work? What were the costs?).

University students doing studies in safety and security use the site but also work on new projects and research and obtain university study points doing so.

The site is primarily in Dutch however many sources are available in the library (bibliotheek) in English, Spanish, French and Italian.

Research documents, new links, ideas, events and all comments are welcomed.



CPTED WITH CHILDREN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

...design and use of an environment affects human behaviour, and how good design and layout of an environment reduces fear and the occurrence of crime.

To develop these understandings the pupils needed to learn about the 4 principles of CPTED. These principles needed to be embedded so they could not only identify CPTED examples, but justify and form solutions to problems. During this learning process it was essential that the pupils could apply their learning about CPTED in a real context.

The pupils did this by deciding as a team to create artworks and landscaping to improve our school.

They came to the realisation that they could make a real difference to our school, that would impact on how other people would think, feel and act in our school now and in the future.



Student art at Murrays Bay School

The decision to improve Murrays Bay School was based on the understanding that interaction in a community leads to social cohesion of the community.

CPTED has enabled the five teachers in the team to authentically integrate literacy, mathematics, technology, science, social sciences and the arts into their teaching. The pupils decided what they needed to know and when as they worked towards their end in mind.

Each class chose a different way of improving Murrays Bay School and designed

their learning around their goal, which evolved as pupils, knowledge, skill level and confidence grew.

The pupils decided to:

- Design and landscape overgrown, tired gardens
- Design and create artworks in frames to go into these gardens
- Design and create 3D artworks for exterior walls
- Design and create mosaic sculptures for gardens

The team will now track the impact of these improvements over time to ascertain the effect this learning has had on the way people think, feel and act and whether ownership has diversified to include wider sectors of the community.

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CREATING SAFER COMMUNITIES MORE THAN DESIGN 2013 ICA Conference



Calgary, Alberta, Canada, July 3 - 5

Creating Safer Communities - More Than Design

This 2 day conference will feature a look at the current trends in CPTED, 2nd Generation CPTED, international trends in urban safety and other exciting and important research areas that affect you, the community leader, law enforcement or security professional, planner, urban designer, government official or NGO.

Internationally renown architect Mark Lakeman will be keynote speaker. Mark is winner of the Lewis Mumford Award by the International Architects and Planners for Social Responsibility. He is a national leader in innovative place-making and community-building, including Portland's Intersection Repair program and Dignity Village for the homeless.

Register early as space is limited. See www.cpted.net for details.

CPTED WITH CHILDREN

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Learning about the principles of CPTED has empowered the pupils. In a survey completed by 105 of the pupils, 75% said they were more aware of what was going on in the world and felt they could now make decisions about their own safety by reading the environment.

Learning about CPTED will continue next year as these pupils use the risk management matrix to evaluate and improve the design and environment at Starship Children's Hospital in Auckland.

As one parent stated in the survey "My son will not be the tagger of the future, he sees the community very differently now". These value changes are the difference CPTED can make by educating the young about the impact they can have on our community and their future.



MEXICO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

The team also discovered that to maximize positive social contact basic environmental designs were not trivial. For example, it was very important to properly pave and light the streets (marked in blue in the aerial photo). Proper paving and lighting should cover the complete colony in future stages.

VISUAL FIELDS AND SOCIAL CONTACT

The Terremoto research showed for natural surveillance to be truly effective, casual contact is not enough; a rich and active social network is necessary in the community using the space.

A social structure not only operates with natural surveillance, it relies on subtle links between persons. People using those spaces must share a collective awareness of the threat or potential criminal risk and the agreed strategies to counteract this risk. Consequently to develop collective awareness, clear and available information is required, representative of all community members in all kinds of spaces, most especially pedestrian flow spaces.



URBAN DESIGN E-GUIDELINES BY ICA

GRAFFITI - LOCAL SOLUTIONS TO LOCAL PROBLEMS

Number 1 - A joint publication of Griffin research consultancy, Capita Symonds, DSP - groep, and the International CPTED Association

LIGHTING - REDUCING CRIME, IMPROVING SECURITY

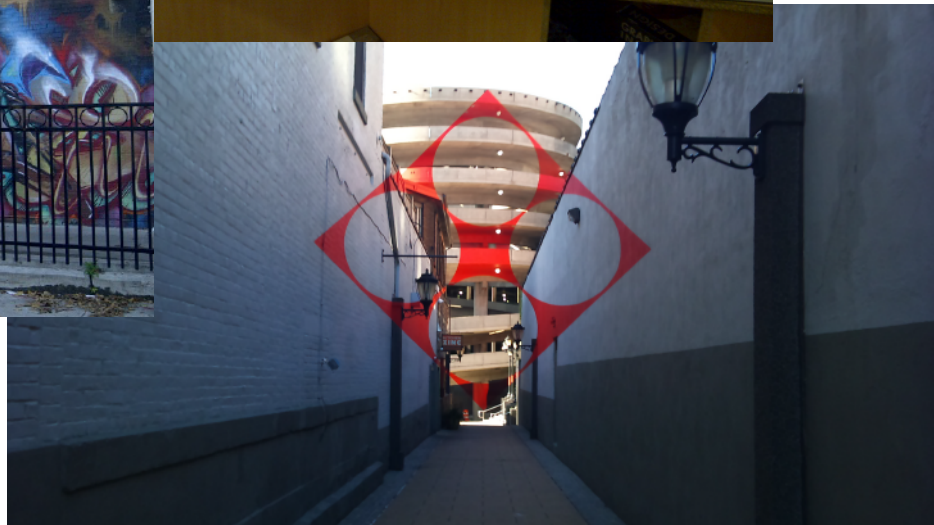
Number 2 - A joint publication of Atlas Safety and Security Design Inc., and the International CPTED Association

AVAILABLE ONLINE AT
<http://www.cpted.net/store.html>



THE FINAL STORY

Graff writing - the new muralists?



There is no denying graffiti can be a nuisance. There is also a fine distinction between art, tags, and vandalism. CPTED practitioners often treat all graffiti the same. This is a mistake.

Bookstores have whole sections dedicated to graffiti history, heroes and how-to. It is an expanding, world-wide phenomenon. As the photos show, some informal wall painting blurs the line between art and vandalism. Obviously CPTED practitioners must learn and adapt to graffiti culture in the years ahead.



For 16 years, CPTED Perspective has been the semi-annual newsletter of the **INTERNATIONAL CPTED ASSOCIATION**. It is archived at www.cpted.net.

All ICA members are welcome to submit articles to

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