

CPTED perspective

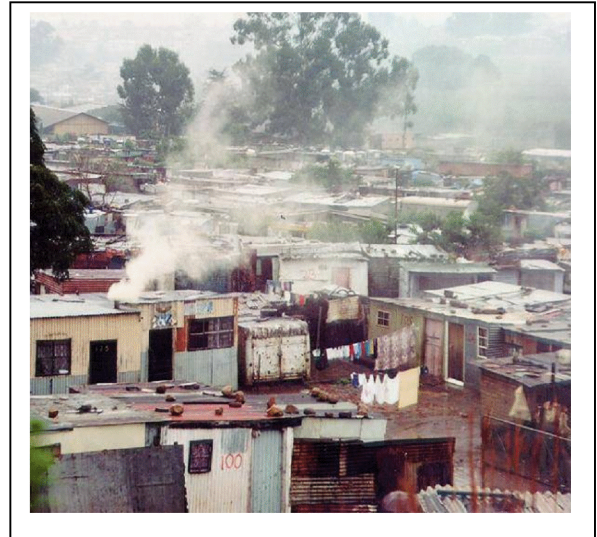
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south african cpted connecting people to environment

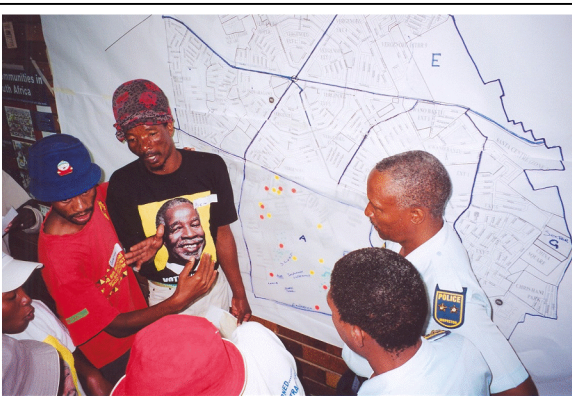
*Tinus Kruger
ICA Director,
Pretoria, South Africa*

Crime prevention through environmental design has only recently emerged as an approach that could contribute to the creation of safer communities in South Africa. The first conscious effort to study the relationship between crime and the physical environment within the South African context only commenced in 1997. Primary research conducted locally, augmented by a study of international experiences, resulted in an interpretation of CPTED that recognises particular South African realities and challenges (Kruger *et al*, 2001).



South Africa's particular spatial and socio-economic characteristics, as well as the country's history of forced segregation, have resulted in a distinct relationship between crime and the physical environment. This places a complex set of demands on crime prevention initiatives that involve the planning, design and management of the environment.

South Africa faces serious challenges as a result of the high levels of poverty and the extreme inequalities and disparities in income and access to opportunities (Figure 1). Furthermore, crime levels are considered to be disturbingly high, especially violent crimes. Murder, rape and assault have amongst the highest incidence rates in the world. For instance, the murder rate of 40 recorded in 2005/06, is more than seven times the world average of 5.5 and 20 times higher than the British rate of just under two per 100 000 (Burger, 2007).
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Community mapping crime hotspots

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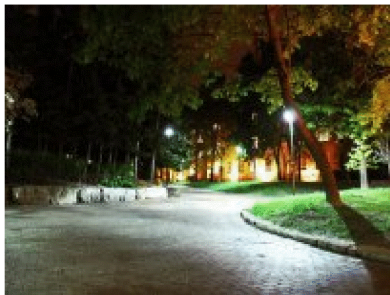
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street lighting and safety? the Toronto experience

Gregory Saville, CPTED Perspective editor
AlterNation Consulting
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Toronto has for some time instituted street lighting thought to reduce fear. A decade ago local activists convinced policy folks the bright halides were the way to go. Their research suggested halide's white color made it easy to see faces at night and reduce pedestrian fear.

Halides are everywhere on Toronto's streets. Frankly, in some cases their sharp and glaring impact looks awful. Someone forgot that, as with all urban designs, one size does not fit all. Some tactics work in one place but not another.



The lighting-for-safety debate is decades old. A famous 1981 UK study made the definitive claim that lighting did not decrease crime. Case closed! Or so they thought. Science by definition always challenges assumptions, even well established ones. Lighting studies since then have done precisely that.

In 2004 criminologists Brandon Welsh and David Farrington's in-depth study on CCTV vs. lighting concluded: "*Improved street lighting is an effective form of surveillance to reduce crime in public space and it has few if any perceived harmful social consequences (unlike CCTV), and may attract less public resistance than CCTV surveillance cameras.*" Is that the final word? Unlikely. Nor should it be

Lighting... continued

Lighting in some places will make places safer. That much is fairly obvious. But when and where? There comes a time when practitioners must act. Smokers may, if they unwisely choose, continue to smoke regardless of the medical research showing it will kill you. Yet we still wisely legislate against media images promoting teenage smoking.

Similarly, perhaps we should start legislating for a proper crime diagnosis in specific places and then installing the proper lighting to fit? We have engineering standards for lighting levels in traffic intersections. We have the Dark Sky folks who want to cut light pollution that drowns out starlight. Why not pressure our local politicians to legislate for a neighborhood by neighborhood diagnosis of proper lighting for safety?

It is not a case of more-light-is-better. Crime is not simple. The lighting-for-safety equation isn't simple. The devil is in the details. Local ordinances and by-laws need to be carefully drafted, not in some generic fashion.

For weekly discussion on CPTED, Safegrowth and lighting go to www.safe-growth.blogspot.com



SOHI: the Milwaukee safe neighborhood project

Keith Stanley
SOHI District Manager

In 2007 the Community Safety Initiative of LISC coordinated SafeGrowth and CPTED training in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. One of the groups represented at this training was the SOHI neighborhood who had been organizing to apply a wide range of commercial, social, and physical strategies.

SOHI, a Main Street Milwaukee program, is dedicated to commercial revitalization of their neighborhood in a commercial corridor that once thrived at the turn of the 20th Century. The SOHI District uses the Main Street principles in its approach which include the design, organization, promotion, and safety of the district. The SOHI District has also used the Broken Window Theory which states that cleaning graffiti, broken glass, and litter is the first step towards a better atmosphere.

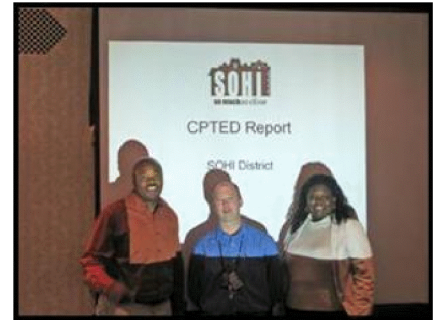
The SOHI District and its community partners have had a major role in the decreased crime rate. Organizations such as the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) and programs like the Wells Street Initiative and the Business Watch utilize resources and networks to effectively connect and communicate to the community. LISC provides the necessary funding and resources to bring the nations leading security consultants to offer and train in community policing strategies.

Crime Statistics since inception of the SOHI project

	2006	2007	% Change
Assaults	9	10	+ 11%
Property damage	15	6	- 60%
Theft	28	24	- 14%
Robbery	22	19	- 14%
Vehicle theft	11	11	0 %

Other programs involve the local police department, Business Watch, community networking meetings, and encouraging new business and real estate developments.

CPTED is involved throughout the SOHI district with businesses such as Kilbourn Supermarket. As result of CPTED's methods there has been a significant decrease near the store. Once a hot bed of illegal activity the area is now a place where store patrons can easily purchase groceries without being harassed.



CPTED project report by the SOHI team during the SafeGrowth training

One of the most recent developments in the area is the setting up of security cameras throughout the area. The positive effect of the cameras is that underlying feeling that the streets are being monitored and that crime is being watched. Initially five cameras were installed and are available to all security professionals in the area.



SOHI Ambassadors removing weeds and trash, cleaning façades and windows. This is one of the many coordinated SOHI programs, in this case sponsored by the City of Milwaukee and supported by several funders who paid for materials, tools and supplies for the young workers.

For more information please contact Keith Stanley, SOHI District Manager manager@sohidistrict.org.



South African cpted...continued

Given the country's distinct context, CPTED in South Africa has a developmental focus and places a strong emphasis on the relationship between people and the environment. It promotes measures that would contribute to the transformation of society in general through changes to the urban form and the built environment at a macro as well as micro scale. This approach to environmental design not only aims to address crime problems in more affluent areas but also in very poor communities. For this reason a people-driven process was developed to encourage community members to participate in identifying environment-related crime problems and develop appropriate responses.

People-driven CPTED

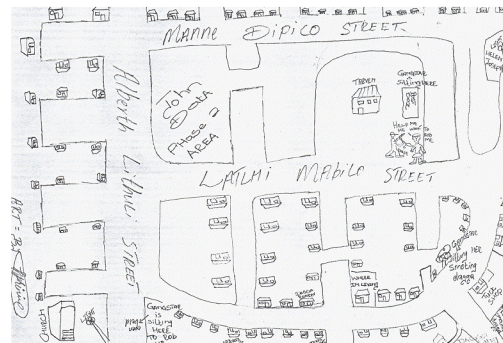
People-driven CPTED - or community crime-mapping - is based on the assumption that people best know the areas where they live and/or work and that these people are often in the best position to point out where particular crime problems are experienced. This process is aimed at involving communities in applying the principles of environmental design to identify crime problems and the development of possible responses to these problems (Liebermann and Coulson 2004).

This participatory process involves a two-day workshop with a small group of people who preferably live in the same geographical area. This process is specifically intended for use in poorer communities, where people often have to travel on foot through potentially dangerous areas. A particular method of facilitation has been developed that assists the participants in understanding issues related to crime and crime prevention, possible causes of crime problems and the role of environmental factors.



Photographing crime hot spots during the workshop

The information represented on the individual maps is transferred onto large-scale maps of the neighbourhood (Figure 3). Each participant plots his/her house and the dangerous places that they have identified. Other crime hot spots are identified and possible reasons why crimes occur in these places are discussed.



A resident's cognitive map during a workshop

A number of hot spots are selected for further analysis and then visited and photographed by the participants (Figure 4). They discuss the particular problems related to each place, allowing for the sharing of different experiences based on age, gender, and so forth. The problem places are prioritised. The three or four most critical problems areas are then selected for further action.

See next section for contact information and references



professional development – CPTED studies

Tinus Kruger – CPTED Director, South Africa

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Kruger, T., Landman, K. and Liebermann, S. (2001) *Designing Safer Places: A Manual for Crime Prevention through Planning and Design*. Pretoria: South African Police Service & CSIR.

Liebermann, S. and Coulson, J. (2004) Participatory mapping for crime prevention in South Africa – local solutions to local problems. *Environment and Urbanisation*, 16 (2), pp. 125 – 134.

Further information about CPTED in South Africa is available from Tinus Kruger (dkruger@csir.co.za) or on the following websites:

CPTED in South Africa

<http://www.cpted.co.za>

Gated Communities in South Africa

<http://www.gatedcomsa.co.za>

Crime and public transport: designing a safer journey

<http://researchspace.csir.co.za/dspace/handle/10204/1028>



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Prevención de la Delincuencia Mediante el Diseño Ambiental

**CPTED Introductory Program:
 5^o Version starting on January 5, 2009.**

CPTED Región Corporation www.cpted-region.org is inviting you to be part of the **e-learning program in order to get a diploma in CPTED methodology for the introductory level.**

This diploma is given to professionals after completing a basic CPTED training course. This course has the seal of approval of ICA International and has been designed with the highest standards to fulfill the world wide requirements for people who work in programs for safer urban spaces.

Classes are done through the technological CPTED Region internet platform, and lasts for two months. It is composed of 6 modules teaching from basic CPTED concepts to delivering hands on practical tools for CPTED strategies.

Cost of the course: \$1.000 USD
 For more information and on line registrations please write to info@cpted-region.org or prosser@cpted-region.org

Greetings from **CPTED e-learning team**

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