Bringing CPTED into the 21st century

Paul Ekblom

Design Against Crime Research Centre
Central Saint Martins College of Art & Design

Secure Place: Maiden Castle

What is coming up

1. Brief introduction to CPTED
2. Problems and limitations of CPTED
3. Designing an updated CPTED

CPTED – An Introduction

Defining CPTED: an 'Official' Version

"The proper design and effective use of the built environment that can lead to a reduction in the fear and incidence of crime and an improvement in the quality of life.

The goal of CPTED is to reduce opportunities for crime that may be inherent in the design of structures or in the design of neighborhoods."

Crowe 2001

CPTED – Basic Principles

- Defensible space
- Access control
- Territoriality
- Surveillance
- Target hardening
- Image and maintenance
- Activity support

CPTED Theory

- Situational Crime Prevention
  - Manipulate environment to increase risk, effort and guilt for offending, decrease reward & provocation
- Environmental criminology
  - Activity patterns – travelling and gathering
- Broken Windows
  - Failure to maintain environment prompts and provokes crime and provides increased opportunity

A receptacle for grime?

Or a tool for crime?

Getting Designers Planners t Think Thief

Failure to ‘Think Drug User’

Does CPTED work?

Overall conclusion of Cozens-Savile-Hillier 2005 review

- Cautious **YES the components work**…
- **But** …
  - Support for effectiveness of **<u>comprehensive</u>** CPTED programmes not **<u>unequivocally</u>** demonstrated
  - Uncertain precisely how CPTED and its component parts work, where it works best and how to systematically evaluate its effectiveness beyond reasonable doubt – research needed

CPTED – Problems & Limitations

CPTED – Problems

- **Definition** imprecise & **scope** unclear - leave CPTED prone to fashion and drift of meaning, and to meaning different things to different agencies/disciplines
  - *Shift from public space to 'hard security' – do we want this?*
- In a disciplinary '**No Man's Land**':
  - Isolated from criminology & crime prevention
  - Isolated from design & architecture
  - CPTED carries 'historical baggage'

CPTED Problems – Isolation from Criminology and Crime Prevention

- Problems with **individual principles** of CPTED
  - territoriality may not be universal – cultural context important
- Contradictions **between** CPTED principles - eg surveillance v territoriality
- Detailed **criminological evidence base** needs developing on specific risks of crime which CPTED seeks to tackle, and what interventions work in what contexts
  - Broken windows theory, while very plausible, only partially supported by research; but uncritically accepted by practitioners
- CPTED also carries **historical baggage**
  - Principles and theories not integrated
  - Bad for Knowledge Management

CPTED Problems – Isolation from Design and Architecture

- CPTED sometimes fails to consider **whole system**, humans and all, not just physical aspect
- **Crime Prevention** often set **against** other design principles eg defensiveness *versus* accessibility, when **design** should be about creative optimisation of *all* relevant values/benefits
  - Designs should be simultaneously **user-friendly** whilst **abuser-unfriendly**
- Many police users of CPTED in *practice* see 'design' as a set of physical **products/buildings**. It should also be seen as a **process** – a way of doing and thinking - which applies to all kinds of crime prevention, imparting a design perspective and design approach

Getting Crime Preventers to *Draw on Design*

CPTED Limitations – Rigidity

CPTED can be used rigidly or flexibly

- Practitioners with elementary training risk rigidity and over-emphasis on crime, which can be costly or likely to discredit the approach in eyes of architects
- Failure to fit design requirements to context
- Cookbook copying doesn’t work

Beware cookbook copying – Importance of context for replication

ELECTRONICALLY SECURED CYCLE PARKING

GHENT, BELGIUM

WALTHAMSTOW CENTRAL STATION, LONDON

CPTED Limitations – Rigidity

- Adaptable criminals – countermoves, new tools and techniques to exploit environment, even shape it in their favour
  - Ironically, drug dealers and criminals use CPTED principles to create "offensible" space for own criminal activities

  - Failure of designers to anticipate

False security from rigid prescription + adaptable criminals? ‘Helpful’ entrance porch

Troublesome Tradeoffs – Reconciling conflicting values

Can we design secure places without jeopardising their main purpose and a range of other values:

- Convenience
- Aesthetics - fortress society
- Legal and ethical norms - privacy and freedom – CCTV?
- Social inclusion
- Sustainable environment
- Safety

DAC doesn’t have to be expensive

CPTED Limitations – Neglects Wider Social Context

- Efficacy of CPTED can be reduced (or increased) by **demographic** factors (eg high densities of young people) and **socio-economic** factors. Social conditions may nurture fear, reduce inclination to intervene and result in withdrawal of people into home, which becomes heavily fortified
- Realisation of this was one of reasons behind creation of **Second Generation CPTED** in late 1990s

Second Generation CPTED (1)

Focus on

- Social activities and social mix needed to encourage neighbours to take ownership of space & take advantage of natural surveillance
- Community (sub)culture
- Cohesion / social capital
- Connectivity / accessibility as much as defensibility

Youth Shelter – designing for living space plus inclusion – Second Generation concept?

Second Generation CPTED (2)

Important issues raised, and design cannot neglect social factors, but:

- Not all social interactions are positive – conformity pressure, conflict.
- Are ‘mixed use, mixed people’ conditions always beneficial? Need **evidence** base and clarification of **values** underlying our stance.
- Risk of flip from extreme of simplistic architectural determinism to dilution with vague social ideas.

Updating CPTED

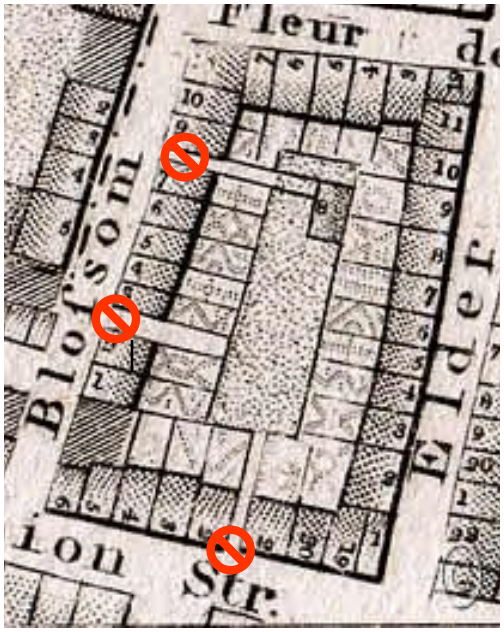
Specification to improve CPTED's fitness for purpose - redesign

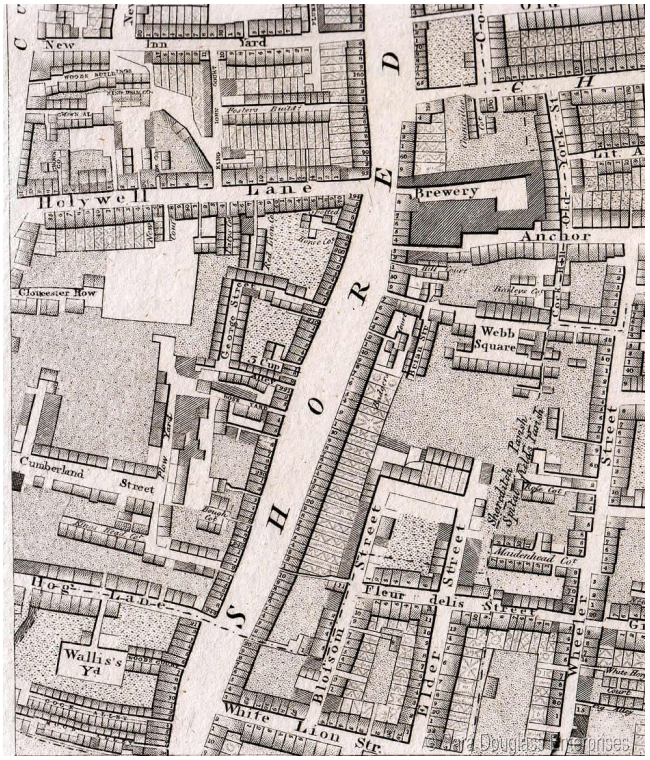
- Clearer definition & scope of CPTED
- Better links to source disciplines – planning, design, architecture, policing, Crime Science, risk management…
- Strategic features
  - Clear social dimension
  - Scientific – evidence-based and theory-based
  - Adaptive
  - Scale- and context-sensitive
  - Creatively balance values and priorities within crime/safety & with other values
  - Professionalism – expertise, quality assurance, ethics
  - Good Process model for applying know-how
  - Futures-oriented – world out there, & using technology

Social Dimension of CPTED

- **Social aspects should be well-articulated and clear, eg:**
  - **Social cohesion / social capital** – capacity of community to act together to solve problems like crime, on basis of trust, familiarity, shared norms
  - **Immediate motivation for crime**, including conflict, need for young people to have facilities
- *Once clarified how these and other factors relate to environmental causes of crime,* ***design the environment to support them***

Scale of CPTED





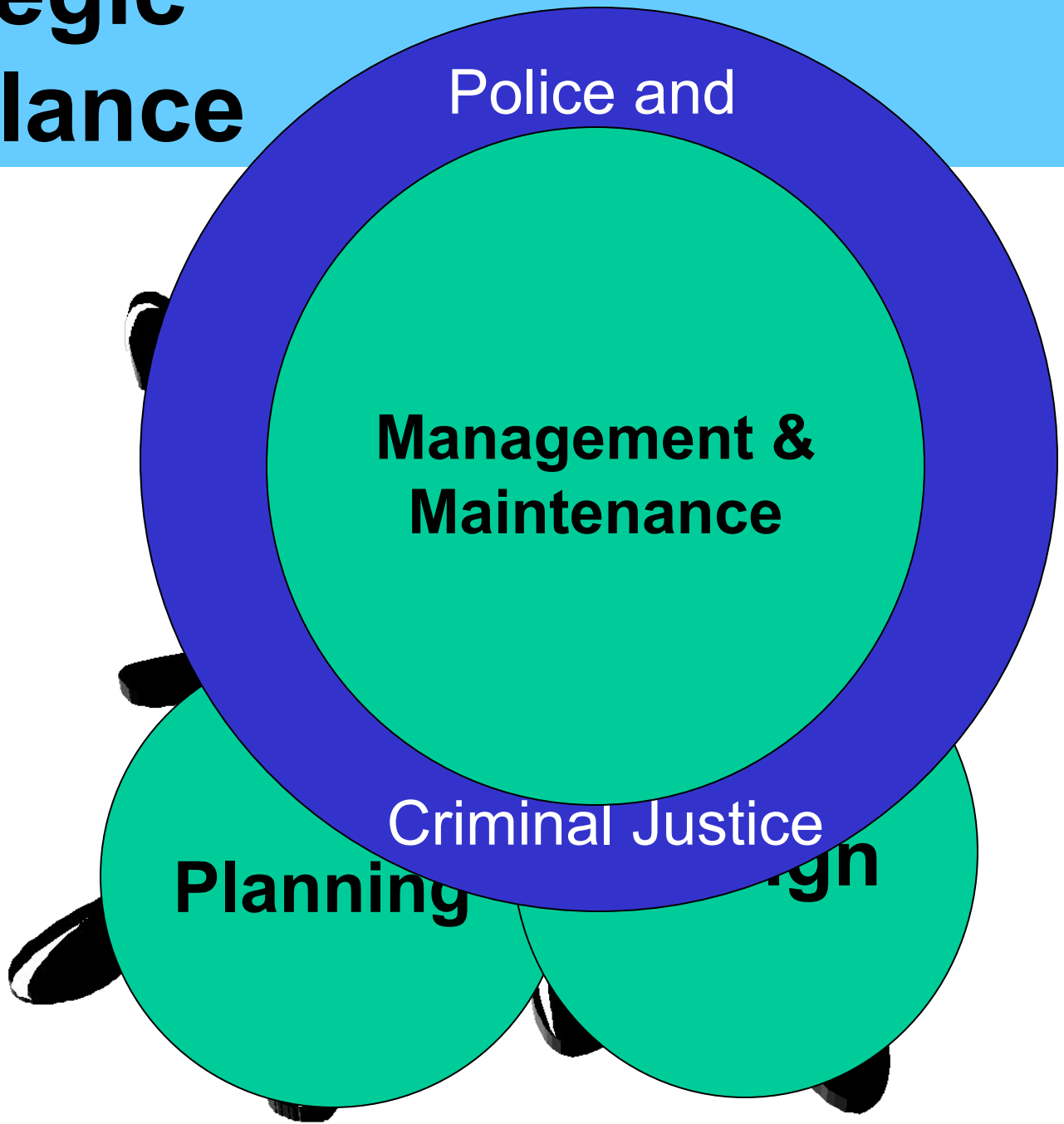
Scope of CPTED - Intervening upstream, downstream of design?

Planning

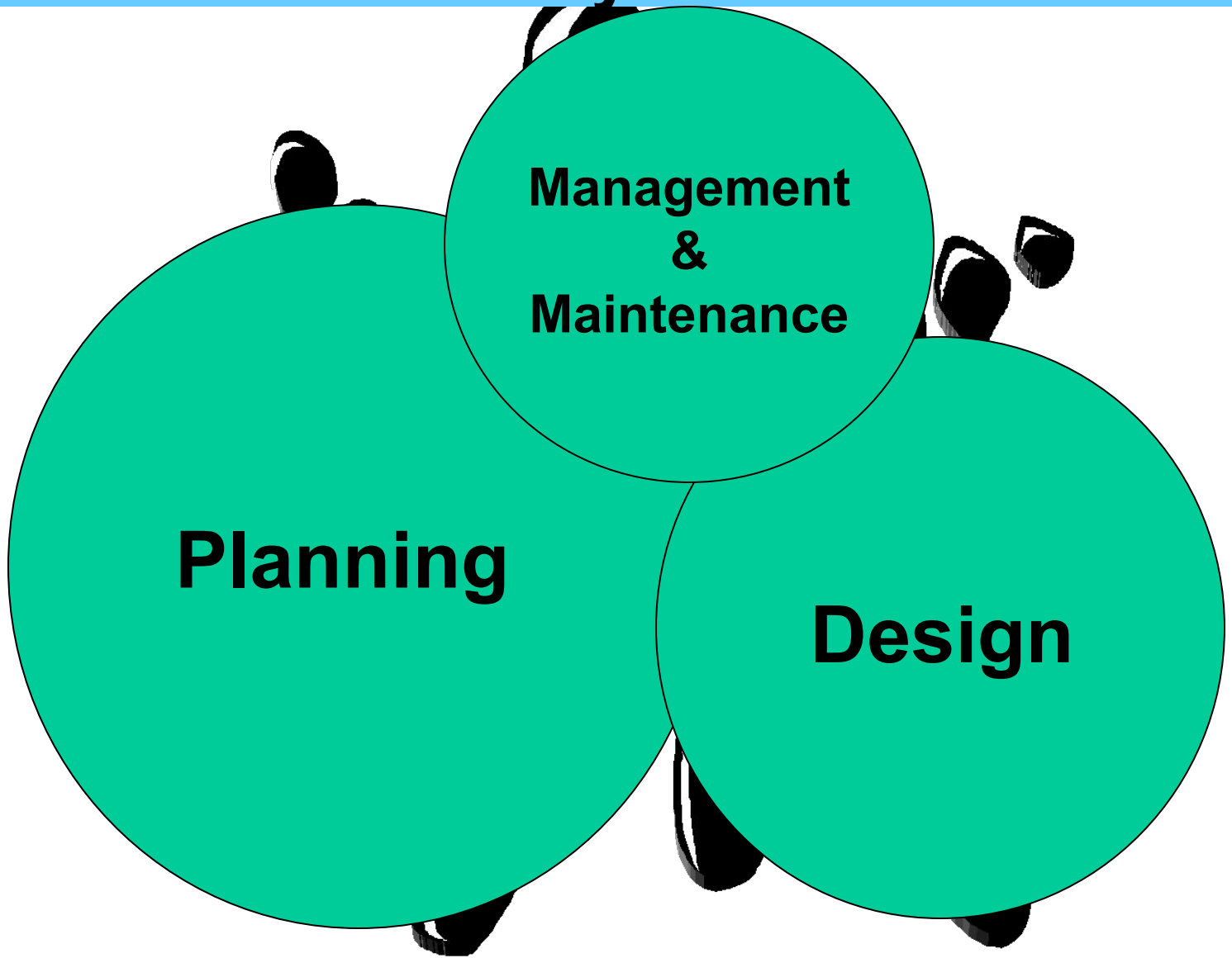
Design

Management & maintenance

Strategic imbalance

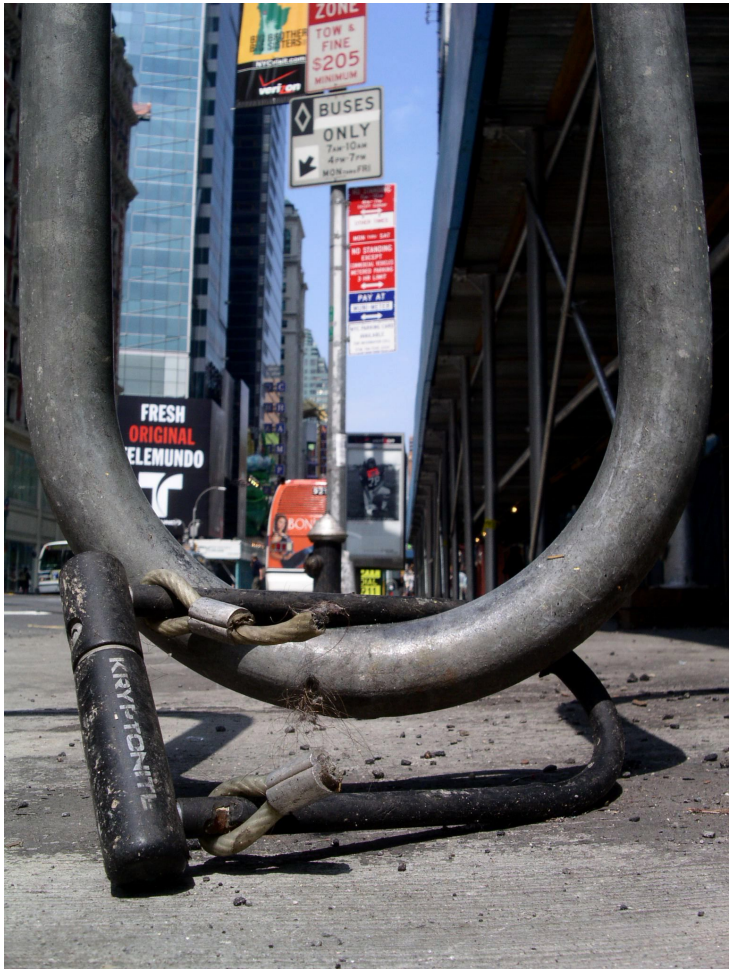


Strategic balance – Put in most effort upstream – but leave human & physical flexibility downstream



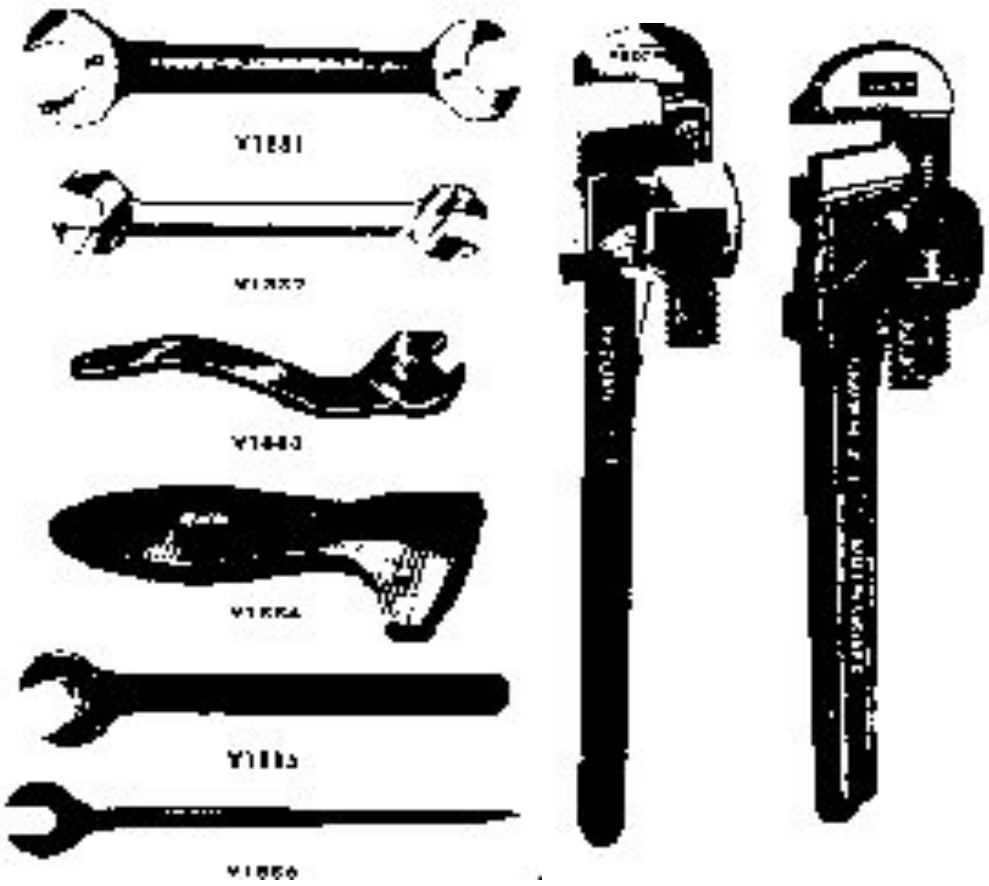
When is design not design?
1. The technofix

- Shallow, single, exposed line of defence
- Bolt on, drop off



When is design not design?
2. Heavy engineering

- Does the basic job well enough, but…
- Clunky, not user-friendly
- Ugly, maybe fear-inspiring



Problem…

Problem…

‘Engineering’ solution

‘Engineering’ solutions

More aesthetic solution

Problem…

More aesthetic solution
Camden
…but where do the drinkers go?

More aesthetic solution

- Traditional style

- With backup

Design – product or process?

- Is design what we make, how we make it, or both?

Importance of process knowledge – throwing away the cookbook

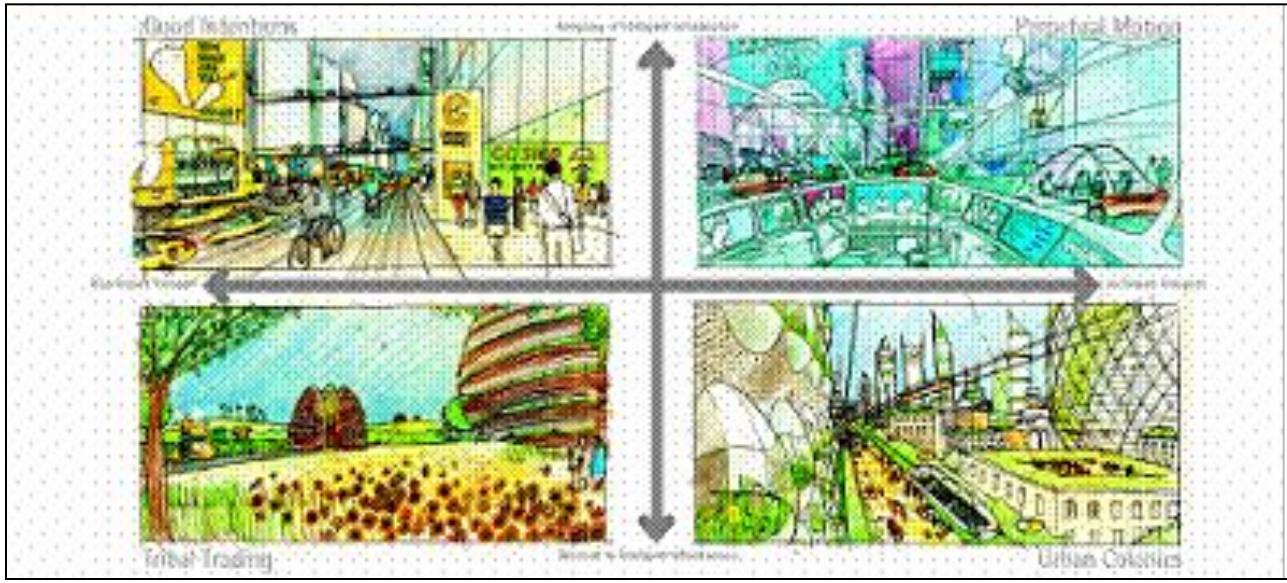
- Crime prevention requires practitioners to
  - Be adaptable, subtle, alert to tradeoffs – customising the response to context, and creating and configuring plausible propos for new circumstances
  - Replication is innovation
  - Handle uncertainty and lack of complete knowledge of what works
  - Anticipate & allow for change
- This needs practitioners more like expert consultants than technicians

Strengthening the foundations for know-how

- Professionalisation? Eg through Conceptual frameworks
  - Expanding **SARA – 5Is framework**
  - Expanding the **Crime Triangle – Conjunction of Criminal Opportunity**
  - Using **offender 'Scripts' – 'Seek, See, Take, Escape, Sell'** to capture the **dynamics** of crime
- Careful - expertise is needed, but not as a barrier – *professional defensible space*
- Importance of **co-design** with the **users** of buildings, streets, malls

CPTED - futures

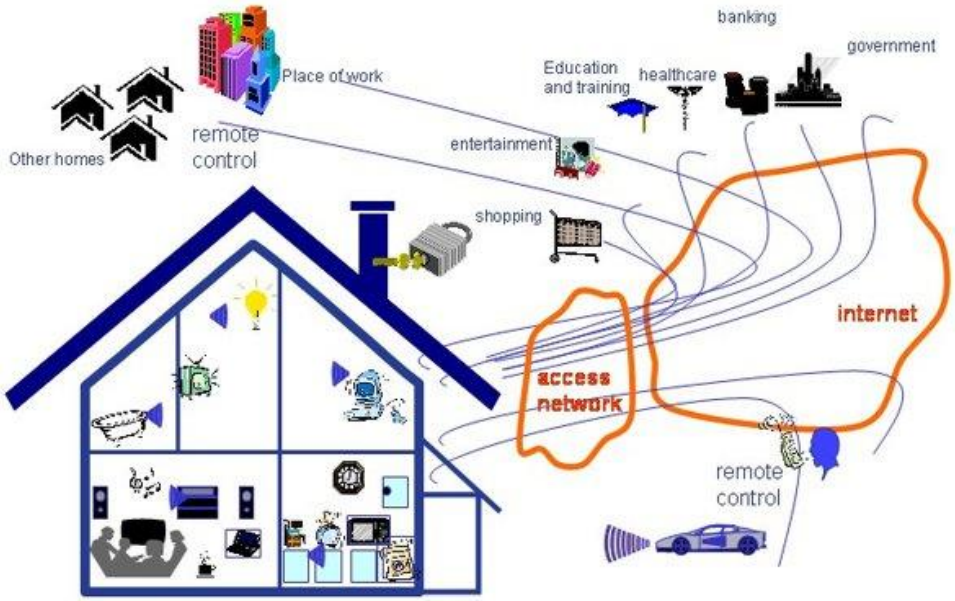
- Changing crime – new tools, new targets
- Changing priorities
  - Sustainability
  - Low energy
  - Resilience to climate shift, terrorism
  - Privacy/freedom v security



CPTED - futures

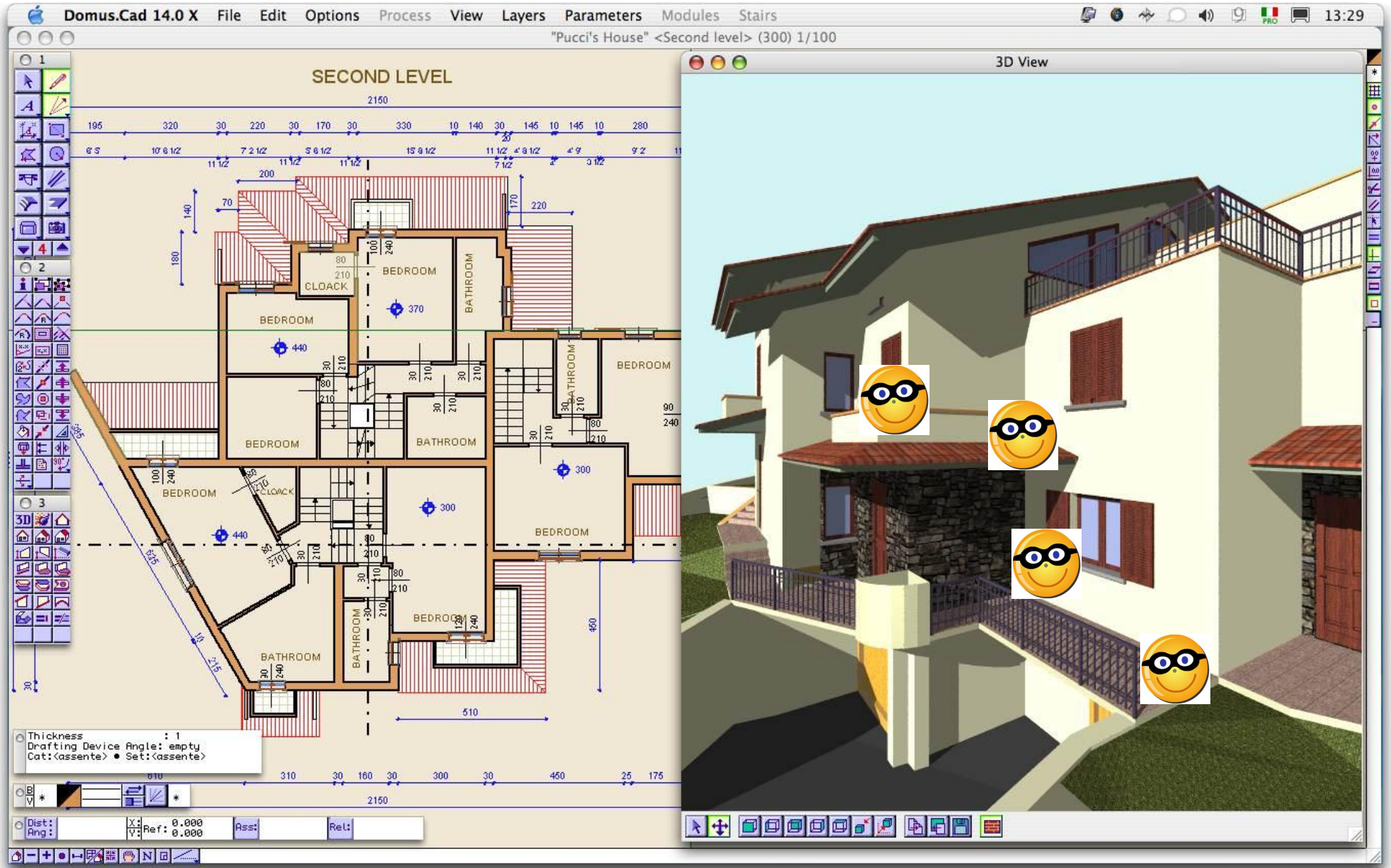
Changing context on all scales –
crime threats and CP opportunities

- New land uses
- Blur between products, places, systems
- Intelligent homes linked to inte
- Automobiles v public transport
- Cameraphones – changing nature of 'eyes on street'
- Intelligent CCTV, multimodal alarm systems
- New building materials – sensitive, resilient, anti-graffiti?



Technology of design visualisation – Helping designers, clients and users with virtual reality design aids

Computer aided design



Virtual Reality for lighting design

- Enables designers to visualise lighting before implementation
- Provides a means of communicating design ideas to different interest groups

millets
Going Places
Thornton's
CIRO CITTERIO
Going Places

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Going Places
Thorntons
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Going Places

A New Definition of CPTED?

CPTED is:

- Reducing the probability of crime & related problems, and their consequent harm, and enhancing the quality of life through community safety
- By using the processes of planning and design of the environment
- On a range of scales and types of place from individual buildings and interiors to wider landscapes, neighbourhoods & cities
- To produce designs that are 'fit for purpose‘, and contextually appropriate in all other respects
- Whilst achieving a balance between
  - the efficiency of avoiding crime problems *before* construction
  - and the *adaptability* of tackling them through subsequent management and maintenance

TO BE CONTINUED…follow developments and contact us at

Design Against Crime Research Centre

p.ekblom@csm.arts.ac.uk

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University of the Arts London
Central Saint Martins

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