

REDESIGNING THE LANGUAGE AND CONCEPTS OF CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN

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**DESIGN
AGAINST
CRIME**



**CPTED –
as old as
the hills...**



**but in
need
of an
update**

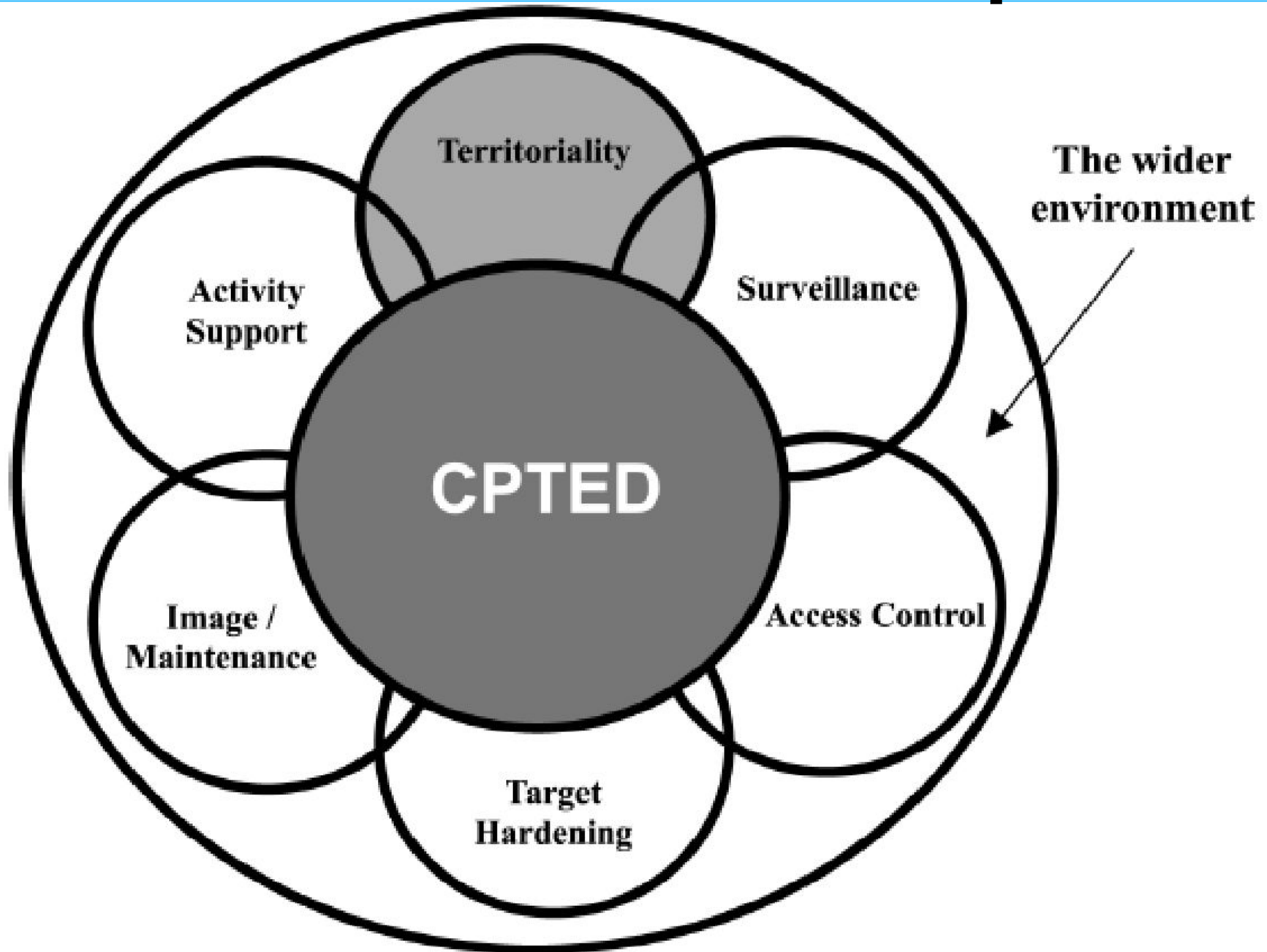
Defining CPTED: an 'Official' Version

“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



What is coming up

- 1. Problems and limitations of CPTED**
- 2. Designing an updated CPTED**

Problems & Limitations

CPTED – Problems

- **Definition** imprecise & **scope** unclear
 - Leaves CPTED prone to fashion and drift of meaning
 - Means different things to different agencies/disciplines
 - *Shift from public space to ‘hard security’ – do we want this?*
- Single-minded attention to **opportunity** neglects
 - Immediate situational ‘**precipitators**’ such as prompts and provocations
 - Background sources of **motivation** such as lack of facilities for youth causing boredom, or thin apartment walls causing conflict between neighbours over noise



CPTED – Problems

- In a disciplinary **‘No Man’s Land’**:
 - Isolated from criminology & crime prevention
 - Isolated from design & architecture

Isolation from Criminology & Crime Prevention

- Problems with **individual principles** of CPTED
 - Territoriality may not be universal, cultural context important
- Contradictions **between** CPTED principles
 - e.g. **territoriality** versus **surveillance**
- Detailed **criminological evidence base** needs developing on:
 - **Specific risks of crime** CPTED seeks to tackle
 - **What** interventions work in what contexts
 - **How** interventions work (causal mechanisms)
- CPTED also carries **historical baggage**
 - Principles and theories not integrated
 - Bad for Knowledge Management
 - Inattention to changing problem areas e.g. car parking disputes



Isolation from Design and Architecture

- Little attention (until recently) to assessing whether **award-winning developments** associated with reduced crime
- **Crime Prevention** often set **against** other design principles e.g. 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

'Engineering' solutions



Rigidity

CPTED can be used rigidly or flexibly

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

Beware cookbook copying – Importance of context for replication

ELECTRONICALLY SECURED CYCLE PARKING

GHENT, BELGIUM



WALTHAMSTOW CENTRAL STATION, LONDON



Failure to keep up with adaptable criminals

- 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 change



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



CPTED Limitations – Neglects Wider Social Context

- Efficacy of CPTED can be reduced (or increased) by **demographic** factors (e.g. 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 homes, which become heavily fortified
- Realisation of this was one of reasons behind creation of **Second Generation CPTED** in late 1990s

Troublesome Tradeoffs –

Reconciling conflicting values

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

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





Updating CPTED

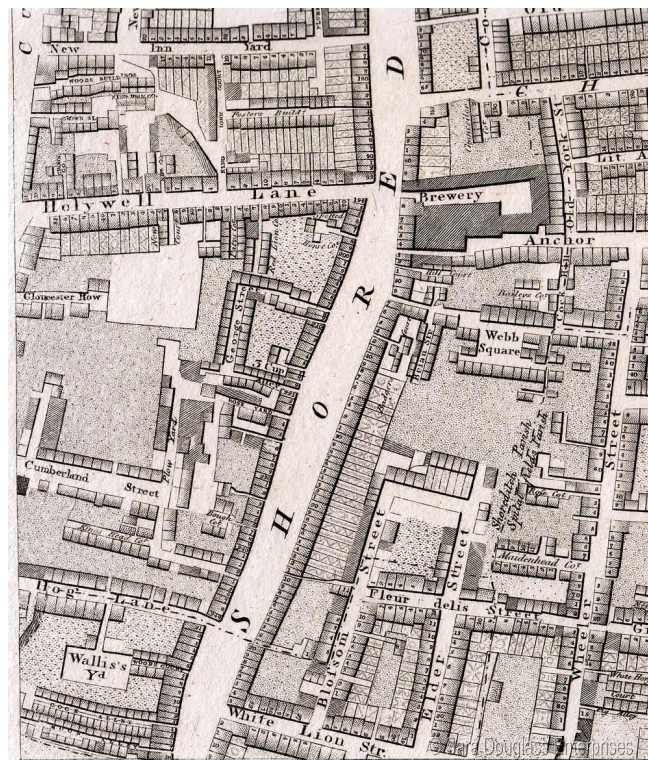
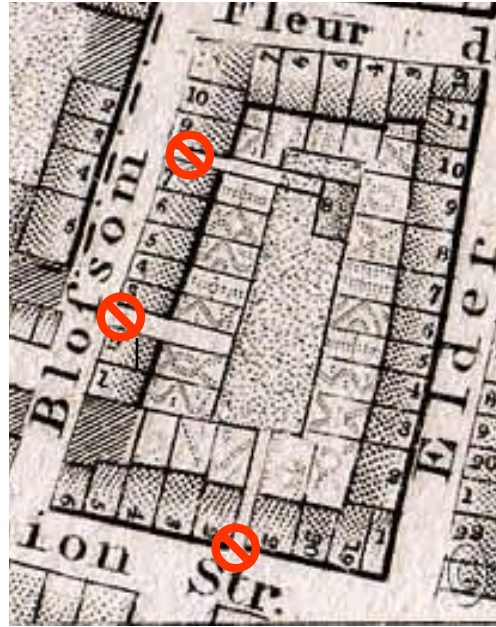
Specification to improve CPTED's fitness for purpose – redesign

- Clearer definition and scope
- Better links to source disciplines
 - Planning, design, architecture, risk management, policing, crime science
- Strategic features
 - Clear social dimension – but avoid dilution with vague ideas
 - Scientific – evidence-based and theory-based – understand, measure, apply, the underlying causal mechanisms
 - Sensitive to context, configuration and scale
 - Creatively balance values and priorities *within* crime/safety, & *with other values*
 - Professionalism – expertise, quality assurance, ethics
 - Good Process Model for applying know-how, co-design
 - Futures-oriented – anticipating/ adapting to changes, & itself using new technology e.g. visualisation/ simulation

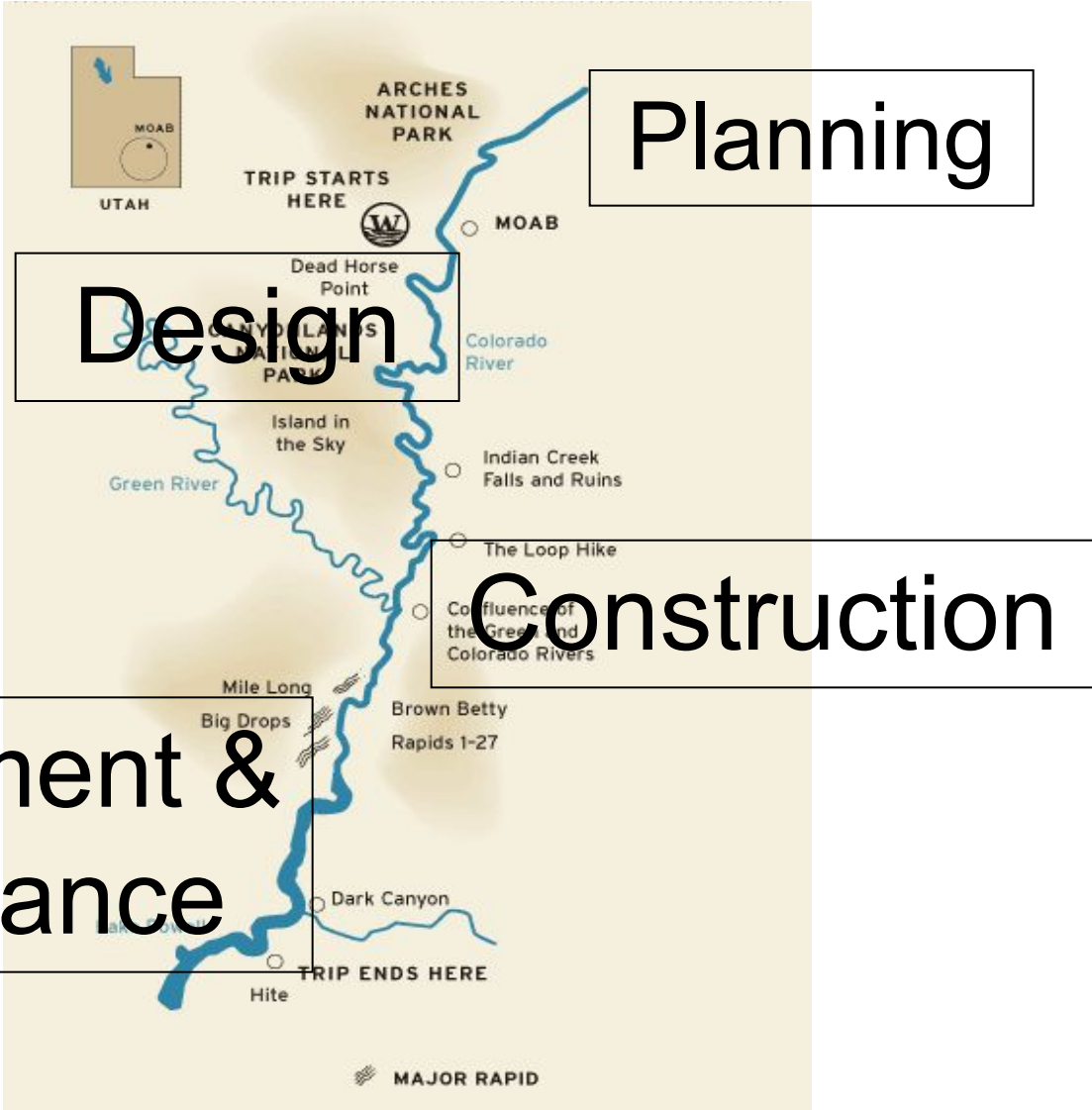
Some illustrations of how to meet the specification

(please see *proceedings* paper for more)

Scale of CPTED



Scope of CPTED – Intervening upstream, downstream of development process?



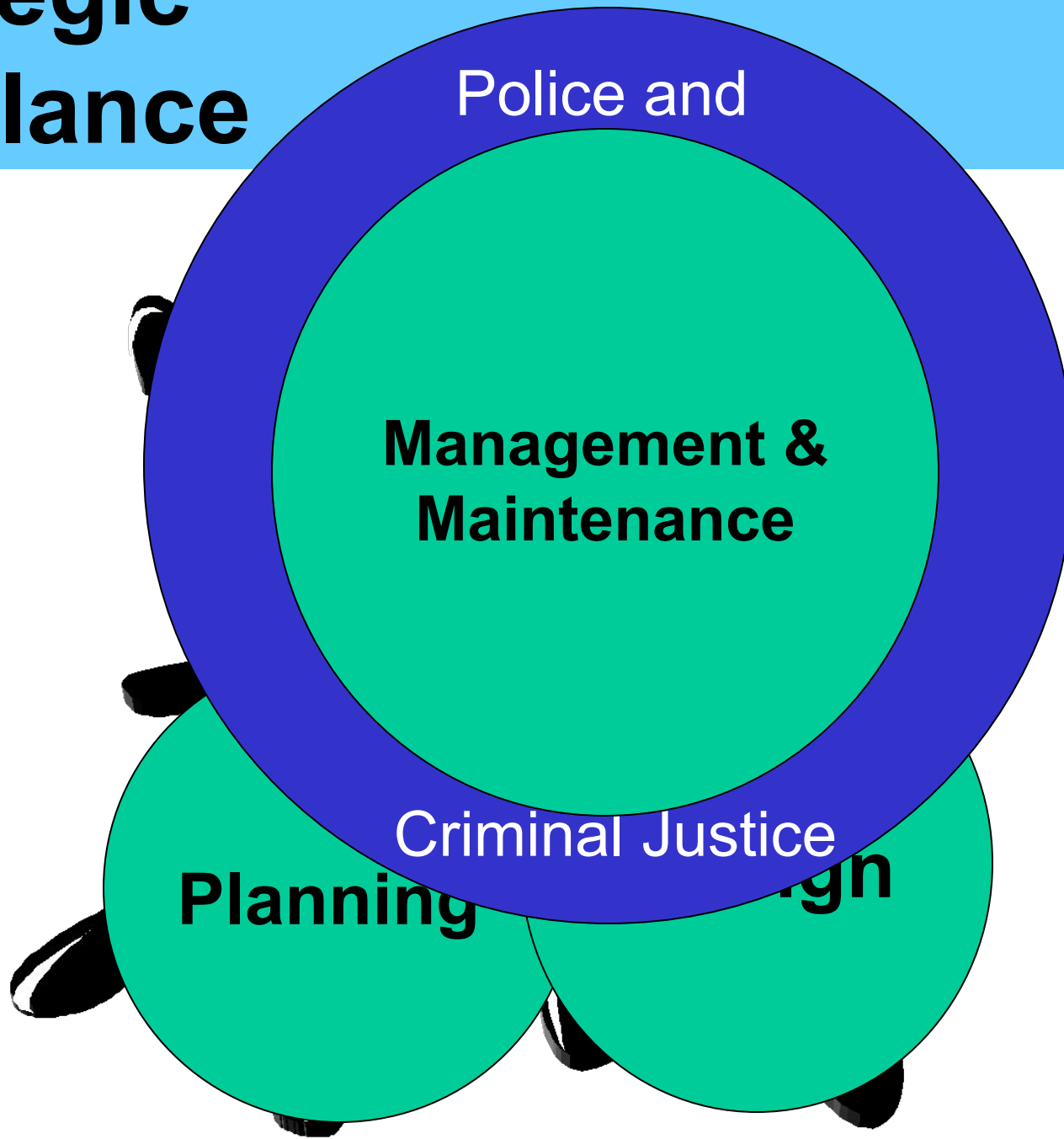
Management & maintenance

Design

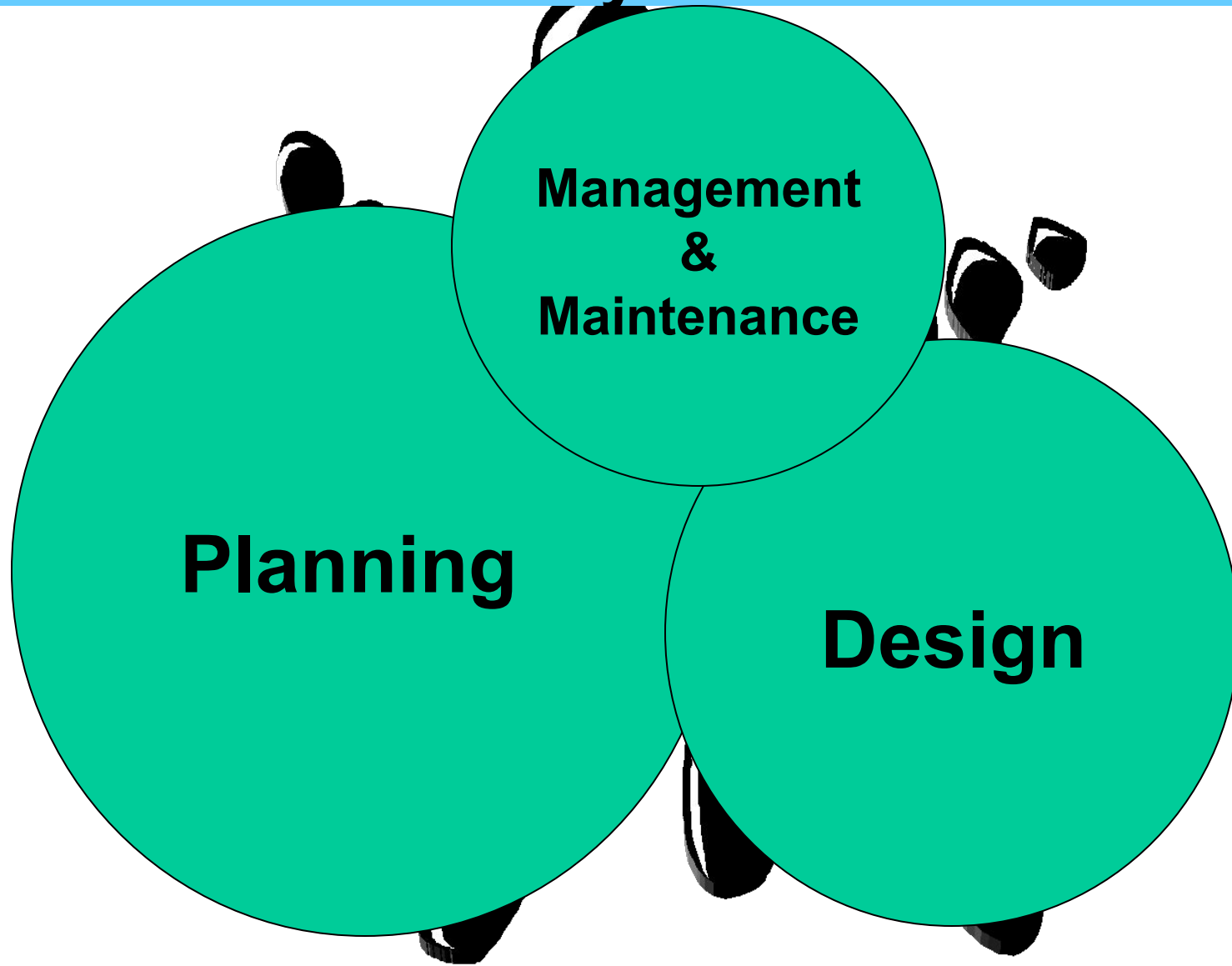
Planning

Construction

Strategic imbalance



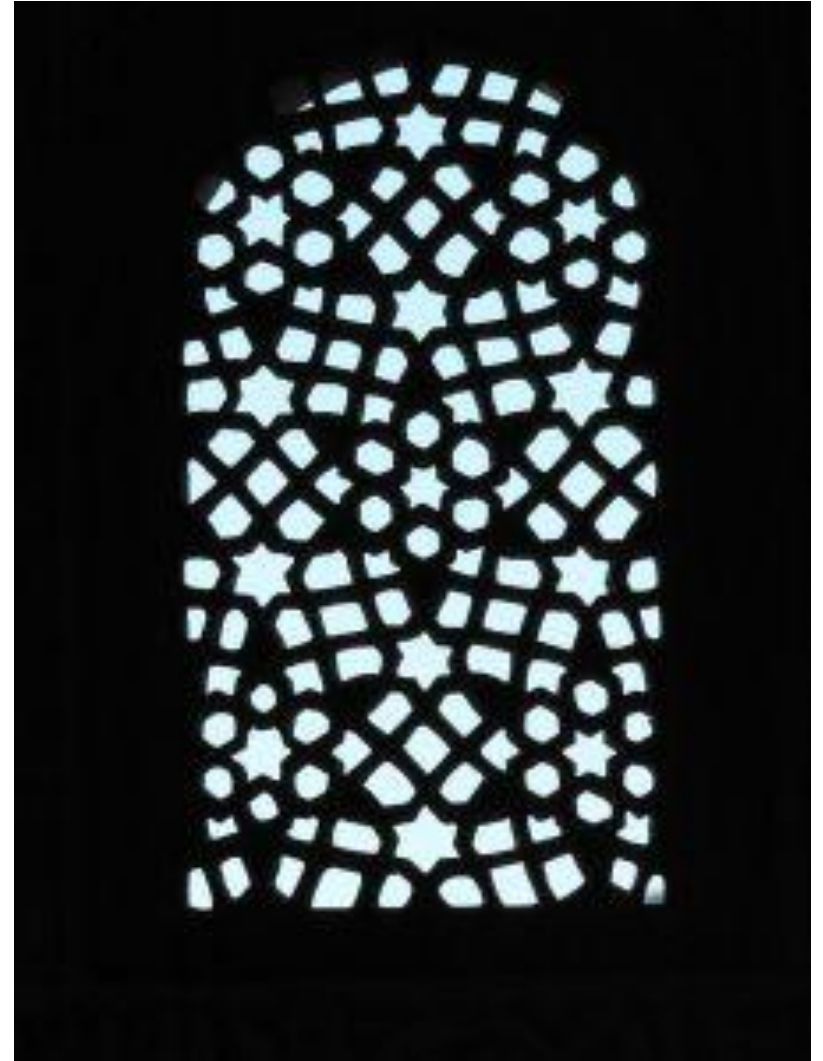
Strategic balance – Put in most effort upstream – but leave human & physical flexibility downstream



**Attend to
aesthetics**



**Consider
adapting
traditional
solutions**



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 proposals for new circumstances
 - Treat replication like innovation
 - Handle uncertainty and lack of complete knowledge of what works
 - Anticipate and allow for change
- This needs practitioners
 - More like expert consultants than technicians
 - Willing and able to both *'think thief'* and *'draw on design'* in their own practice



**A receptacle
for grime?**



**Mindset:
Getting
Designers
Planners to
Think Thief**

**Or a tool
for crime?**

Response: The No ClimBIN
Jenny Loqvist
Griffith University Australia 2008



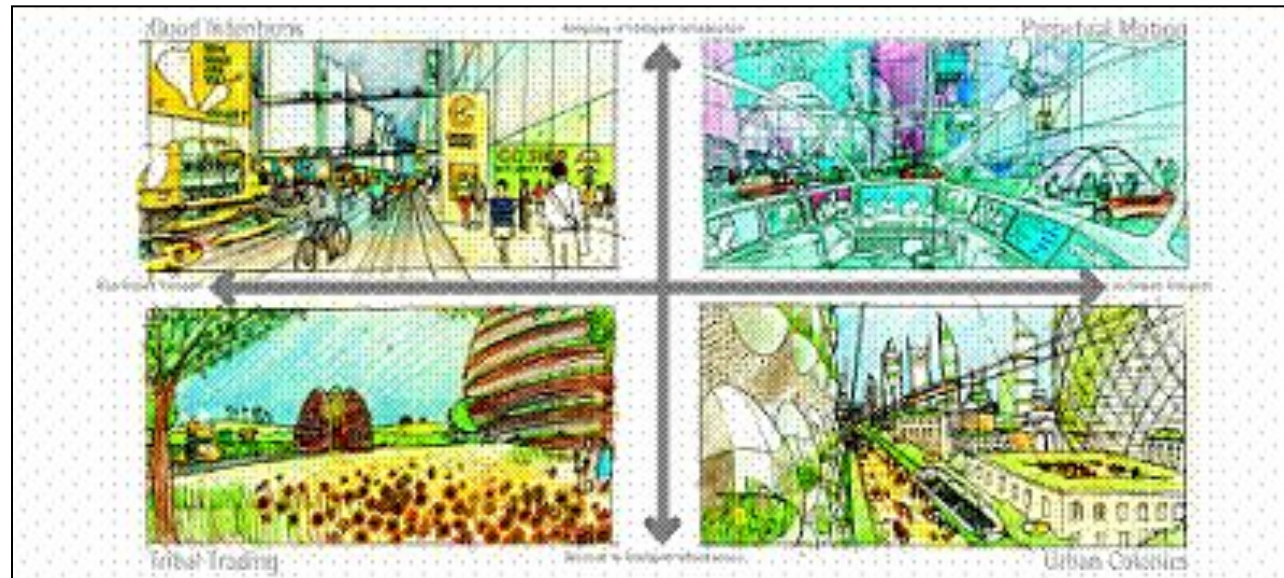
Beyond mindset: strengthening the foundations for know-how

- Professionalisation? E.g. through improved conceptual frameworks
 - Expanding **SARA – 5Is framework**
 - Expanding the **Crime Triangle – Conjunction of Criminal Opportunity**
- 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

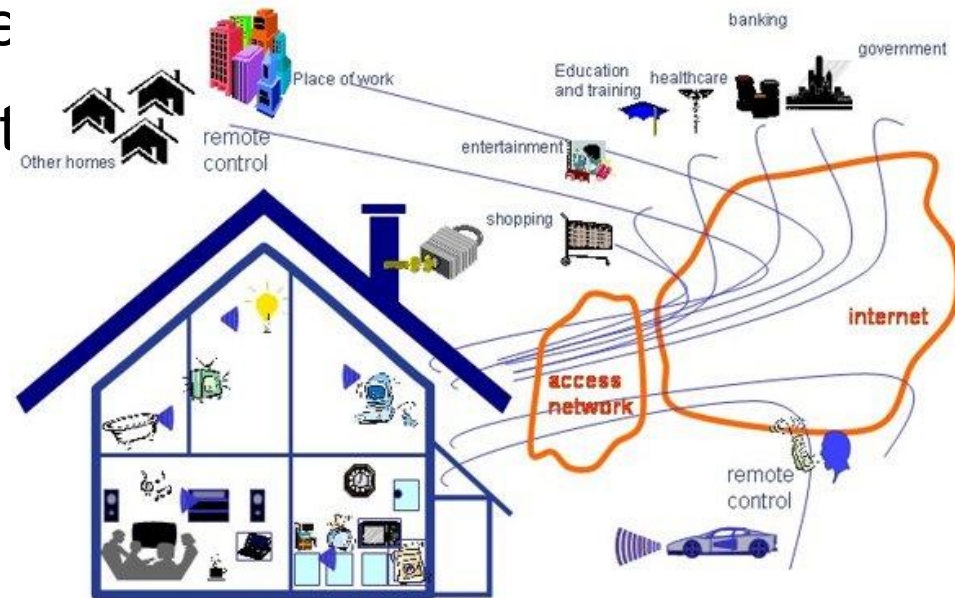


- Privacy/freedom v security

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?



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
- Through the processes of planning, architecture 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', contextually appropriate in all other respects, and not 'vulnerability-led'
- Whilst achieving a balance between
 - the efficiency of avoiding crime problems *before* construction
 - and the *adaptability* of tackling them through subsequent management and maintenance

Further links

- <http://5isframework.wordpress.com>
- www.designagainstcrime.com/web/crimeframeworks
- <http://reconstructcpted.wordpress.com>