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Crime Prevention through Environmental Design: lessons learned

by Paul van Soomeren (pvansoomeren@DSP-groep.nl)

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DSP-groep, Amsterdam, The Netherlands (www.dsp-groep.eu)



Safe & Secure cities through Urban Design, Planning and Management: standardizing the process



Paul van Soomeren, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, October 2015

DSP-groep: www.dsp-groep.nl

European Designing Out Crime Association: www.e-doca.eu

EU COST action TU 1203: <http://costtu1203.eu>



“Since World War II much of the **focus of public health has been on individual behaviours** such as smoking, drinking, diet, and exercise.

More recently we have seen a **resurgence of interest** in the effects of health of the **social and physical environment** within epidemiology, geography, psychology and sociology.

It is important that this new interest **not ignore the lesson** of the past or lessons from other disciplines such as architecture, urban planning, political science and economics.”



Lessons from: Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED)

- An approach to prevent crimes, anti-social behaviour and feelings of insecurity
through
- a multi-agency process:
by
- planning, designing and managing
- a particular physical and social environment (city, town, neighbourhood).



The essence

CPTED is about the question
how to prevent crime
and feelings of insecurity,
by **changing the social and physical
environment** using design, planning,
management and engineering.





Physical/technical versus Social?

Forget this dilemma!

It does not exist!

Let's face it:

“We are sociotechnical animals,
and each human interaction is
sociotechnical.”

(Bruno Latour, 1994/64)



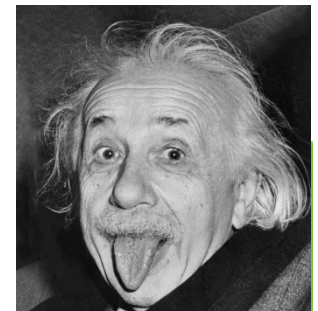


CPTED = time-place specific approach

The CPTED approach is always time-place specific. The neighbourhood level – as a geographical social-physical entity – can be a pillar structuring the approach.

CPTED might be **an example** for a new approach:

‘Health Promotion and Disease Prevention through Environmental Design’: $(HP + DP) = ED$





Churchill

"We shape our buildings, and
afterwards our buildings shape us"

House of Commons (meeting in the House of Lords), 28 October 1943

We are our environment and everything is process in a
socio – physical/technical and time – spatial environment



I agree, this is rather complicated





Let's focus on CPTED lessons learned Crime Prevention through Environmental Design

hence

**crime
fear of crime**



Criminology: focus on offender





Crime = police versus offenders?

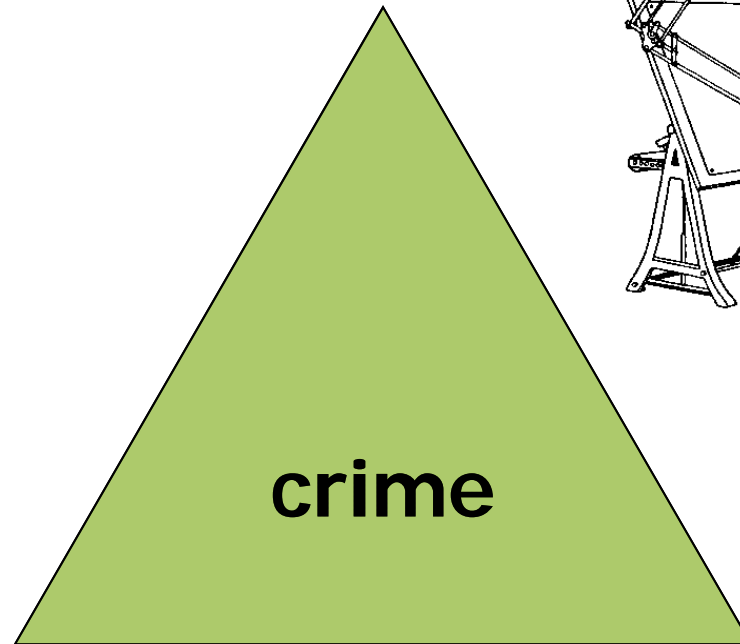
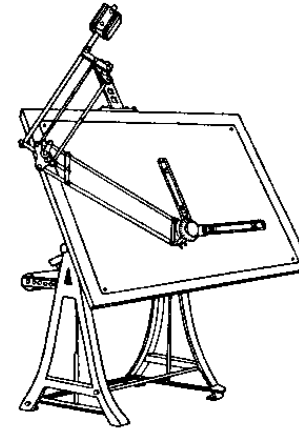




**But ...
there are more option to tackle
crime
&
fear of crime**



Situation



Offender

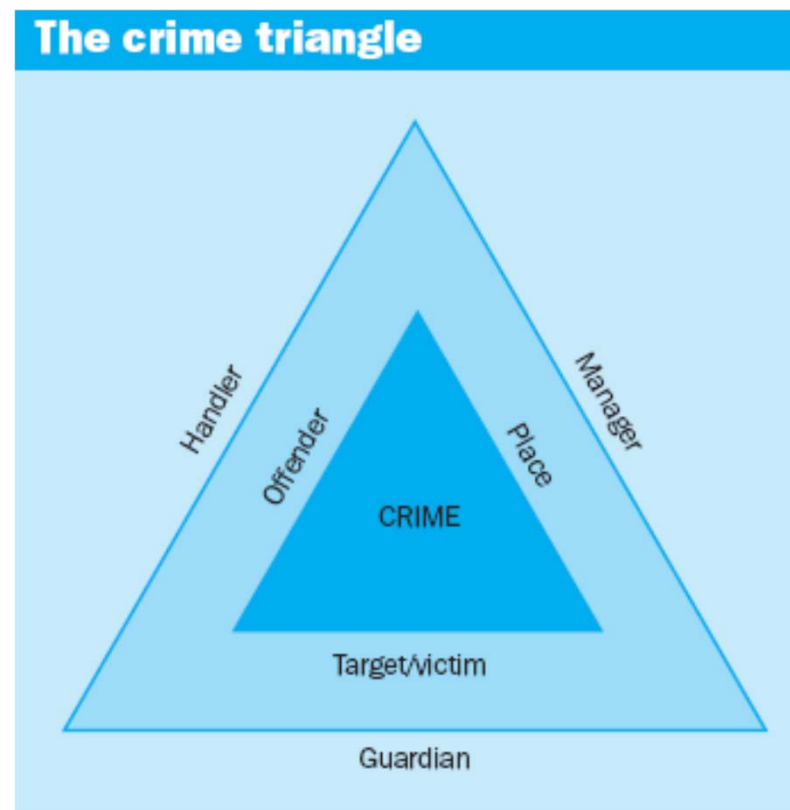


Victim





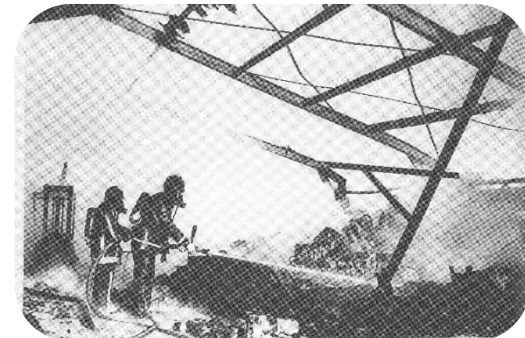
CPTED: focus on the situation





The same mistake:

- health = disease = doctor
- fire = extinguish = fire brigade
- traffic safety = safe driving = police





Who is the real hero?





Experience in other disciplines

- **Health: designing out epidemics**

Huge progress thanks to engineers, technicians, city maintenance, architects and urban planners (clean water, good sewage systems).



- **Fire: designing out fire disasters**

From the 16th century onwards: standards, building codes, urban planning, architecture and engineering that did the trick.



- **Traffic: designing in traffic safety**

Reductions of people killed by technical solutions (air bags, safer cars), urban planning and engineering/design: traffic flow, roundabouts, speed bumps, road closures, shared space.

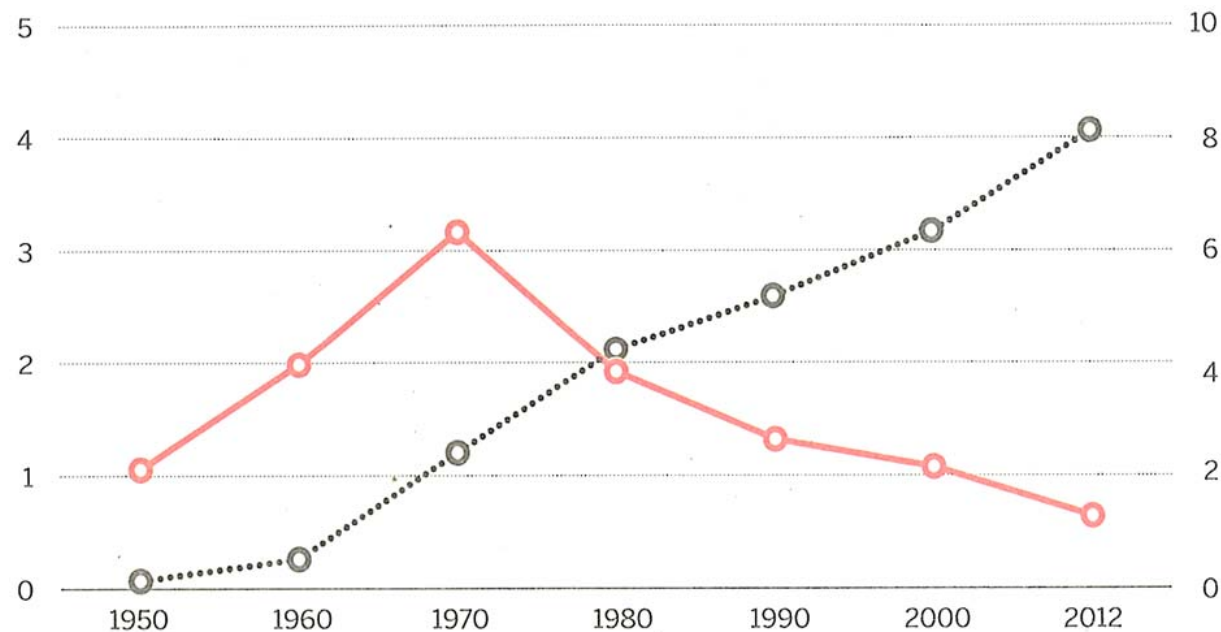




Traffic Safety through Technical Measures

- Number of people killed x 1.000

... Number of cars x 1.000.000



1950 Auto's hebben geen kreukelzone, geen gordels en geen antiblokkeersysteem (ABS). Iedere botsing boven de 50 kilometer per uur heeft vaak de dood van de inzittenden tot gevolg.

1959 Volvo ontwikkelt als eerste fabrikant de driepuntsgordel. Mercedes rust een auto uit met kreukelzone. In de jaren zestig nemen steeds meer merken de vindingen over.

1975 De autogordel wordt verplicht in Nederland voor bestuurder en passagier voorin.

1992 De autogordel wordt verplicht voor passagiers op de achterbank.

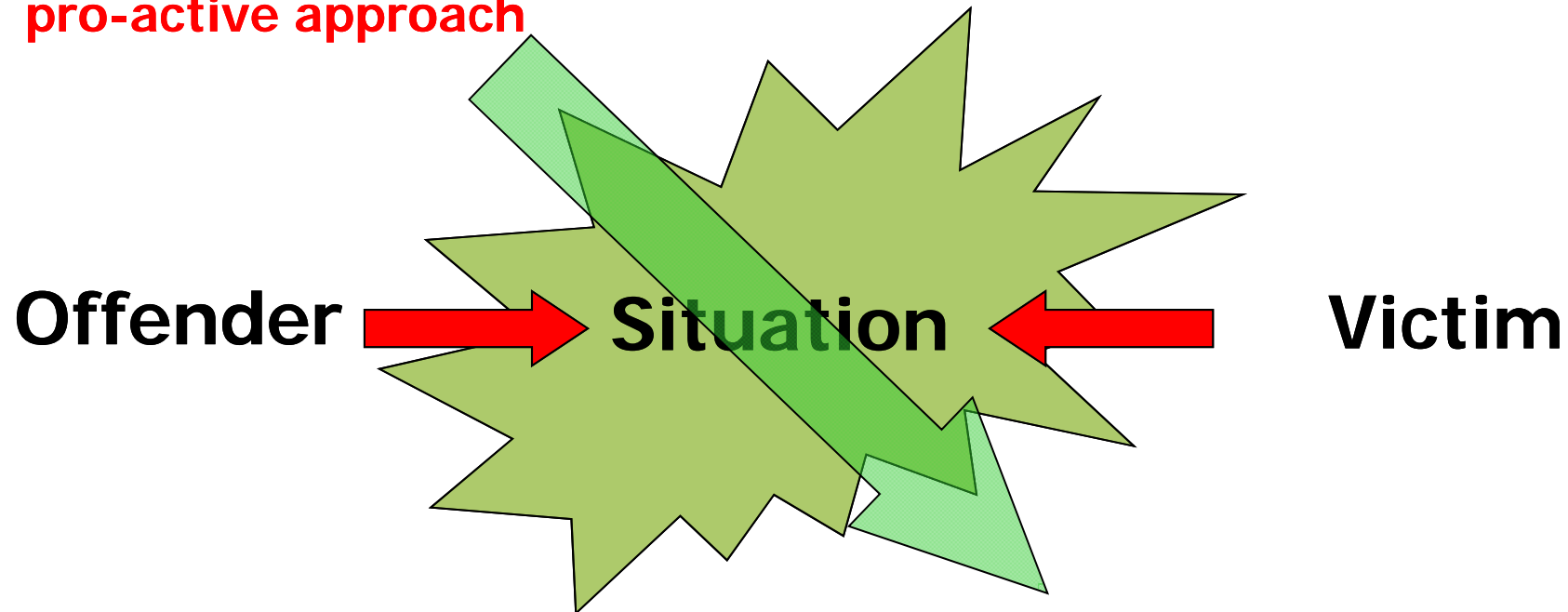
2000 De airbag wordt steeds vaker standaard ingebouwd.

2004 ABS wordt verplicht voor nieuwe auto's.



Approach: before or after?

**Before: prevention,
pro-active approach**



**After: reactive,
repressive approach**



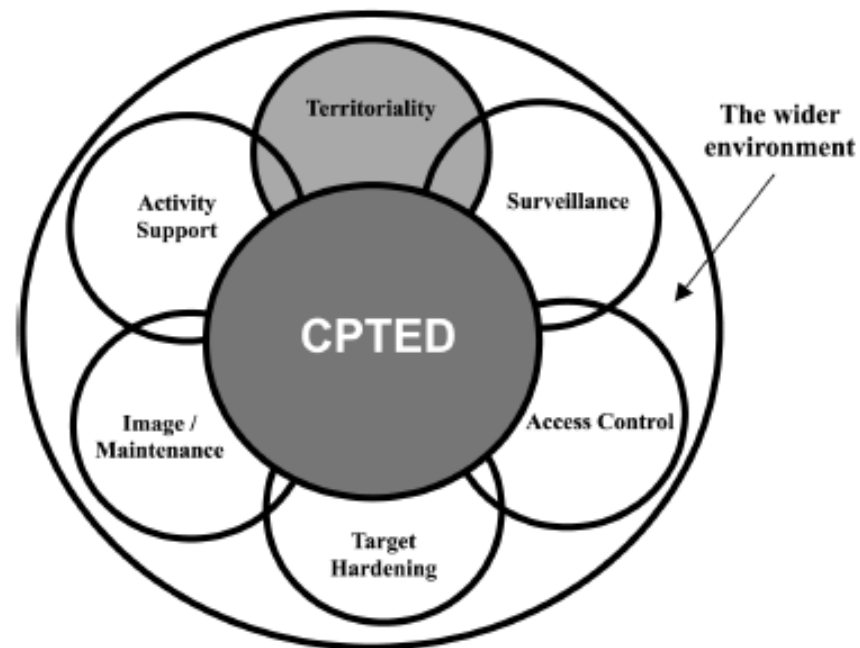
Best moment to prevent trouble

■ Build human character	6-
■ Design Secure environments	8
■ Remove crime opportunities	9
■ Arrest & process	4
■ Try & convict	3
■ Punish & rehabilitate	4

(Marcus Felson: Crime and everyday life, 2002/162)



CPTED approaches



Source: Adapted from Moffat (1983, p. 23)



Planning and Design works

- Standardization: one set of concepts, same terminology and process
- Evidence based working
- Partnership approach (work together)





Multi agency in partnership needed

- Not only law enforcement (justice/police)
- Also other participants: business, local authorities, education, planning & design & architecture, social institutions, etc.
- Quality management approach





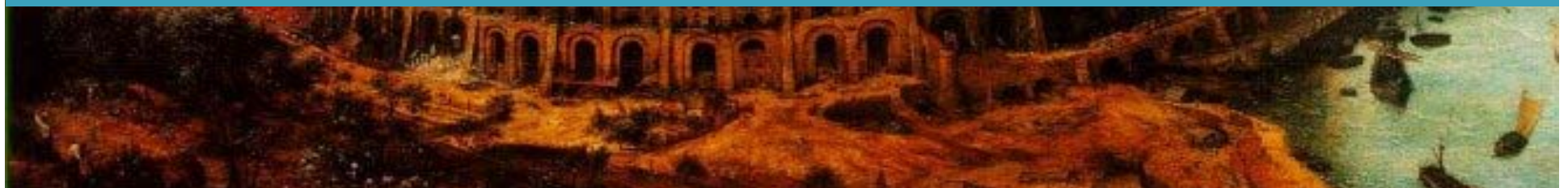
Partners for urban design and planning



- Planner/designer/architect
- Project developer
- Police-Border guard
- Fire + ambulance health
- Local and regional authorities
- Residents



Babylonian problem: no common language





CPTED schemes in Europe

- UK Secured by Design
- Manchester UK: Crime Impact Statement
- France: étude de sûreté et de sécurité publique (ESSP)
- Italy: 'Qualità Urbana e Sicurezza' *LabQUS*
- Etc

Lesson learned: implementation is the problem; disciplines working together.

Integrated multi agency approach



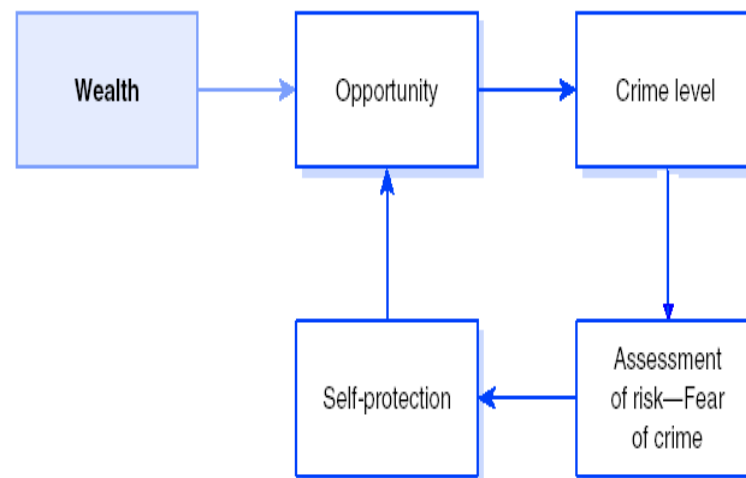
Standards; the European CEN standard

- European standard CEN/TR 14383 series available in each country; e.g Estonia: EVS 809-1:2002 and even Korea KS A 8800
- EU Cooperation in Science & Technology (COST):
Crime Prevention through Urban Design and Planning



Nobelprize winning criminologist Jan J.M. van Dijk (Stockholm Prize in Criminology 2012): wealth has been one of the main drivers for the crime epidemic that plagued most Western countries (1970-2000)

Schematic Representation of the Dynamics of Crime Epidemics in Western Countries





In conclusion ... ehr ...





Lessons learned I

- **Prevention – and CPTED - works**
- The theoretical **roots** of the concept CPTED are very **diverse**
- Measures are **a mix of social and technical-physical measures**
- The CPTED approach is always **time-place specific**. The neighbourhood level – as a geographical social-physical entity – can be a pillar structuring the approach.
- Very **different groups of stakeholders have to be included** in the process to make the process work in a specific national and local environmental context.
- It's **an organic approach adapting to local situations and participating stakeholders**.



Lessons learned II

- A multi-disciplinary process with diversity in participating partners and partnerships
- Even such an 'all join in approach' can be very much 'instrumentalized' by **schemes and standards** but these have to be **process oriented**
- For CPTED approaches structural **evaluation** aiming at learning what works, what doesn't and what is promising - successful prevention as well as successful implementation – **is a challenge**. Evidence based working 2.0 exists for CPTED but needs further exploration
- The **CPTED approach** has to aim for diverse, inclusive, safe and thus healthy cities and neighbourhoods



Useful lessons learned?





Thank you!



Paul van Soomeren, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, October 2015, Tallinn Estonia

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