

What is CPTED?

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design or CPTED (pronounced "sep-ted") is a proactive crime prevention strategy that is based on the premise that the design of our environment directly affects our behavior.

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

Design influences both the opportunities for crime to take place and our fear of crime. This has an important impact on our quality of life.

CPTED is utilized by law enforcement agencies, planners, architects, security professionals, and everyday citizens.



Helpful web sites:

National Crime Prevention Council
www.ncpc.org

DARE American
www.dare.com

City of American Canyon
www.cityofamericancanyon.org



For more information or to request an assessment, please contact:

American Canyon Police Department

911 Donaldson Way East
American Canyon, CA 94503
(707) 551-0600 Office

www.cityofamericancanyon.org

Email: amcanpd@cityofamericancanyon.org



C rime

P revention

T hrough

E nvironmental

D esign

Positive CPTED



Good example of territorial reinforcement and natural surveillance through the use of lighting.



The managers of these stores maintain natural surveillance by keeping windows clear of posters and ads.



Fencing and landscaping material have been located along property lines which formally designate public and private space as well as showing maintenance, natural surveillance, and access control.

Key Strategies

Natural Surveillance – A design strategy that allows maximum visibility and helps easily identify entrances, parking areas, streets and sidewalks with clear sight lines and adequate nighttime lighting. A potential criminal is less likely to attempt a crime if he or she is at risk of being observed. At the same time, we are likely to feel safer when we can see and be seen.

Territorial Reinforcement – A design strategy with the goal of distinguishing private spaces from public spaces. It utilizes landscaping, pavement designs, art, gate areas, and “CPTED” recommended fences. Territorial Reinforcement fosters a sense of ownership and helps deter abuse or unwanted acts that may occur in that space.

Natural Access Control – A design strategy using streets, sidewalks, building entrances, gate areas, etc. to clearly define public routes and deny access to a crime target. It creates a perception of risk to the offender.

Maintenance & Management Maintenance allows for the continued use of a space for its intended purpose. Once the proper image is created, it must be kept up in order to show a pride in ownership. The more pride in ownership that is projected, the less likely the area is to attract criminal activities and vandalism.

Can CPTED be applied anytime, to any property?

Yes! CPTED principles can be applied to a business, home, school, playground, park, neighborhood, etc. that is already in existence. Ideas include:

- Add a timer to your porch and yard lights.
- Fully illuminate all doorways that that open to the outside.
- Trim trees up to 7’ above the ground level.
- Prune bushes down to 3’ tall.
- Add short thorny bushes under windows.
- Keep sidewalks clear, defined, and well lit.
- Keep landscaping and common areas well maintained.
- Avoid landscaping that might create blind spots or hiding places.
- Mark property boundaries with hedges, low fences, or gates.
- Place play areas within view, so children can be observed by residents.
- Post addresses and numbers in large contrasting colors to the building.