

# The role of CPTED in post-earthquake Christchurch

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## Abstract

**Purpose** – *The purpose of this paper is to describe the contribution that Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) is making to the post-earthquake rebuild of Christchurch, New Zealand. The paper traces the uptake of CPTED in Christchurch pre-earthquake and describes the steps taken to ensure the increasing use of CPTED in the rebuild.*

**Design/methodology/approach** – *The paper is a case study and discusses the author's experience of working within Christchurch before the earthquake and describes their involvement in the rebuild of Christchurch post-earthquake.*

**Findings** – *There has been significant process made in incorporating CPTED into the rebuild of Christchurch. A formal mandate to consider CPTED is included in the Central Christchurch Recovery Plan and a range of other initiatives have been established. These are broadening the uptake of CPTED throughout public and commercial rebuild projects and improving local advisory and practitioner capacity. CPTED is being included earlier in planning and design.*

**Originality/value** – *The Christchurch rebuild may be the most extensive application of CPTED yet. It is hoped that Christchurch's experience can be used as a model for other cities to increase their use of CPTED.*

**Keywords** Christchurch, Crime Prevention through Environmental Design, Post-earthquake recovery

**Paper type** Case study

## Introduction

12:51 p.m., Tuesday 22 February 2011. Two and a half years and over 11,000 aftershocks have passed, but for those of us who were in Christchurch on that day, the earthquake and its aftermath will remain with us forever. One hundred and eighty five people died in our City and many more were injured. Quiet, conservative, safe Christchurch and its people were literally shaken to their core and into a new era.

Christchurch (Otatahi) is the largest City, both geographically and in population size, in the South Island of New Zealand. It sits on the eastern edge of a wide alluvial plain formed by the erosion of the Southern Alps to the west. With the Pacific Ocean lapping its eastern suburbs and the extinct volcanic hills of Banks Peninsula holding the southern suburbs and two harbours, two rivers flow through the City to the Avon/Heathcote Estuary (Thutai) and out into Pegasus Bay.

It was this geography that created the conditions for devastation. For decades, a large earthquake was expected to occur on the Alpine Fault that runs the length of the South Island through the Southern Alps. It was not well known that a network of crustal faults lay beneath the City and the Canterbury Plains in the fractured greywacke base rock. The earthquakes were so damaging because they occurred at shallow depths, mostly less than five kilometres below the surface and many were directly under the City. The soil and subsoils are formed of shingle, sand and silt. These, combined with the high water table, caused the ground to liquefy and subside, creating much of the property damage. Large parts of the eastern suburbs sank between one and two metres. The central City and the eastern suburbs, which are built around the Avon River and therefore stand on sandy, swampy ground, were devastated. As a result, 80 per cent (approximately 1,100) of the buildings in the Central Business District (CBD) will be demolished by mid 2013. Nearly 8,000 homes are/will be demolished, leaving large "retreat" areas, not to be built on again.

Another 118,000 homes throughout Canterbury will be repaired. Plate 1 shows the deconstruction of central Christchurch in November 2012.



Figure 1 Deconstruction of Central Christchurch November 2012  
Source: CERA

In one of the safest cities in one of the most peaceful countries on earth (Institute for Economics and Peace, 2012), 360,000 people enjoyed excellent civic amenities and unparalleled recreational opportunities. Considered a great place to bring up children, residents were more likely to “sweat the small stuff” than to fear for their lives.

The illusion of safety has gone. When another powerful aftershock crashes through, even the calmest person feels the instant rush of adrenaline, as they instinctively brace against the possibility of it being another large earthquake.

From disaster and tragedy have emerged resilience, recovery and community spirit. A recent survey revealed that 74 per cent of Christchurch residents report that their quality of life is “good” or “very good”, while just 7 per cent believe it to be “poor” (AC Neilson, 2012). Less than 10,000 people have moved away from the City post-earthquake. Many live in broken houses and experience ongoing battles with insurers and uncertainty about the future, but a growing confidence is emerging that the future will be positive.

### *The aftermath of the earthquake*

The City’s response to the devastating Canterbury earthquake series of 2010-2013 has been to commence a transformation rarely paralleled in modern history. The government established the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority (CERA) with overriding and extraordinary powers to direct the demolition and rebuild of the City. Christchurch City Council created the Central City Plan in 100 days which was released in December 2011. CERA built on this and created their 100 day plan, the Christchurch Central Recovery Plan. Released on 30 July 2012, it incorporated many of the features of the Council’s plan, but took a more radical approach to altering the layout of the CBD. This was made possible by CERA’s special powers under the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Act 2011. One feature of the Act is the government’s power to acquire private land, allowing the creation of new precincts and large bordering greenspaces. Plate 2 illustrates key projects in central Christchurch.



## Pre-earthquake milestones in the development of community safety and CPTED in Christchurch 2005 to 2009

- 2005 MOJ National Guidelines for Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design in New Zealand
- 2005 Safer Canterbury: Creating Safer Communities Guidelines
- 2005 Safer Christchurch Strategy
- 2005 Safer Christchurch Interagency Group  
Crime Prevention Coordinating Committee  
Injury Prevention Coordinating Committee  
Road Safety Coordinating Committee
- 2007 CBD Alcohol Accord
- 2008 Graffiti Programme
- 2008 Safe City Officer Programme
- 2008 World Health Organisation Safe Community Accreditation
- 2009 Safer Christchurch Team

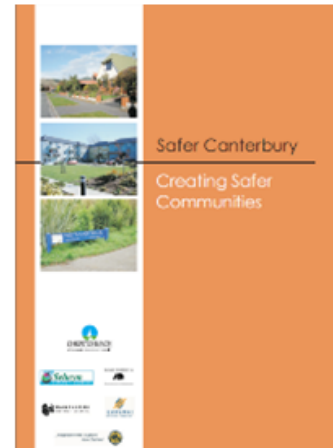


Figure 3 Pre-earthquake timeline of development of community safety and CPTED in Christchurch 2005 to 2009

An important body in the development of community safety is the Safer Christchurch Interagency Group (SCIG). This partnership of over 20 organisations interested in safety in Christchurch, is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Safer Christchurch Strategy, which guides crime prevention, injury prevention and road safety in the City. While all of the organisations actively participate in the partnership, the City Council is the only organisation that has staff dedicated to fulfilling the goals and actions of the Strategy.

However, members of the three Committees that report to SCIG (the Crime Prevention, Injury Prevention and Road Safety Coordinating Committees) may participate in committee-sponsored projects. An example is the Mall Safety Accreditation Programme. Shopping malls submit voluntarily to a CPTED/Injury Prevention through Environmental Design (IPTED) audit, carried out by members of the Crime Prevention Coordinating Committee. A comprehensive improvement report is presented to the mall management and a gold, silver or bronze award may be presented. Malls may be re-audited every three years.

## Working in the post-earthquake environment

The connections and relationships formed through SCIG and the Crime Prevention Coordinating Committee proved invaluable in the months after the February 2011 earthquake and beyond.

Getting programmes up and running again under challenging conditions was made much easier through existing working relationships. For example, the strong existing relationship between the Council's Crime Prevention Project Facilitator and the Police Central Christchurch Tactical Coordinator facilitated the re-establishment of the Christchurch Safe City Officer Programme in March 2011. Officers and the Crime Prevention Project Facilitator worked alongside Police, carrying out Community



Reassurance Patrols in the hardest hit areas of the eastern suburbs. Twelve Safe City Officers[2], who had previously worked in the Central City entertainment precincts managing alcohol related violence and disorder, now helped residents to move furniture, empty chemical toilets and communicate messages to family. The Officers took people in their van to get essential supplies and simply stood and talked to those who were alone. It was very different work to what they were trained for, but something which they described as very rewarding.

Working conditions were challenging at this time. There were frequent large aftershocks, some of which were damaging and more that required evacuations while buildings were checked for damage. For months, the entire population suffered from sleep deprivation from being woken several times every night by shakes. For weeks or months, many lived in homes without power, water and sewerage.

My office during this time was either a car or my home. My Council laptop was required by Civil Defence until May and my first post-quake "desk" was half of a trestle table in a suburban library in August. Colleagues were hard to locate, as the Council's main buildings were closed and staff were scattered across the City, sometimes without their usual telephone number. Other organisations were similarly affected. Plate 4 shows part of the devastation in the City, with views of a major intersection at three months and 15 months post-earthquake.



*Figure 4 Views of High Street from the Lichfield/Manchester Street intersection  
Source: Grahame Burgess, Sue Ramsay Christchurch City Council*

## Moving from disaster response to disaster recovery

The City worked hard to move from disaster response to disaster recovery. It quickly became apparent that a huge rebuild would be required and that CPTED could play an important part in this.

Over the next few months, I made myself familiar with the City plan process and the people involved and lobbied for CPTED to be included in the central City plan. I also welcomed the opportunity to demonstrate the use of CPTED by carrying out an assessment, whenever possible. When the Department of Building and Housing began planning for temporary villages to house residents while their homes were being repaired, I carried out plan and site assessments and produced improvement reports. The central City was cordoned off to the public immediately following the February earthquake. When CERA began the gradual process of cordon reduction around the central City red zone, I gathered a small group of Police, Fire Service and Council staff to assess each area before it was re-opened for public access. The reports produced from these and other assessments gave CPTED more credibility with locally involved organisations that may not have had a high awareness of CPTED previously.

Support in these efforts came from Safer Christchurch partner organisations, particularly senior members of Police and Fire Service, who included me in key meetings and processes to promote the use of CPTED. The Council's Community Development Manager, who had previously created the Safer Christchurch structure and shaped the direction of community safety, also lobbied internally for CPTED to be included in strategic planning. Ultimately, planners who had an understanding and appreciation of CPTED were responsible for CPTED being included in the Council's plan.

## What we have now

In New Zealand, the National Guidelines for Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (Ministry of Justice, 2005) promote the use of CPTED. These are well recognised among Council planning and design staff, but not by commercial architects and developers. Safer Canterbury (an earlier iteration of Safer Christchurch) and its predecessor, the Christchurch Safer Community Council, published two editions of local guidelines in 1994 and 2004.

Previously, CPTED was included in Council planning and design processes in Christchurch on a voluntary basis and so use was inconsistent. CPTED may have been used in some large commercial developments, but was only rarely used elsewhere, outside of the Council's public spaces.

### *Formal mandate*

Since July 2012, there is now a formal requirement for CPTED to be considered for properties subject to resource consents[3] in the Central City Business Zone.

While important, this achievement is only a part of the equation of CPTED being used extensively and effectively in Christchurch. There is evidence elsewhere that simply requiring safety and crime to be considered does not necessarily lead to quality outcomes. In New South Wales, Australia, there is a requirement for most new developments to have a formal crime risk assessment completed. However, the quality of the reports is at best, variable. As Clancey *et al.* (2012) state:

In summary, the crime risk assessment reports reviewed were, on average, 11 pages in length, contained generic information about CPTED and generally included references to architectural plans. About half included some crime data, a little over one-in-three made reference to consultations with key stakeholders and one-in-three made reference to demographic data relevant to the area of the proposed development. Although half of the reports contained recommendations about how the development might address

potential crime risks, approximately only one-in-five reports made adverse findings (Clancey et al., 2012, p. 243).

This knowledge assisted in the early realisation that a formal mandate to include CPTED considerations was not sufficient to produce effective CPTED solutions across a wide range of developments and that a raft of CPTED initiatives would be required to achieve the best outcomes.

### *New initiatives*

To widen the uptake of CPTED and create a positive and informed understanding within stakeholder groups and the community, funding was gained to put a suite of initiatives in place. Where some of these existed previously, they have been modified to meet post-earthquake needs. They include:

- A formal “home” for CPTED in community safety: previously, it was unclear as to who within the Council was responsible for the development of CPTED. The position of Crime Prevention Team Leader was established in October 2011, with responsibility for promoting and establishing the use of CPTED throughout the Council, Safer Christchurch partners and the community. A Crime Prevention Advisor, heavily involved in CPTED work, reports to the Team Leader and a specialist CPTED Advisor role will shortly be established. We work closely with the Injury Prevention Advisor, who has responsibility for IPTED.
- Access to expert advice: we have been fortunate to have the involvement of New Zealand’s foremost CPTED expert, Dr Frank Stoks, who has introduced the Community Safety Team to effective, subtle and design-focused CPTED and IPTED.
- Building local capacity through training: providing training in CPTED principles and practice was identified as an important factor in increasing knowledge of CPTED. The Council therefore offers two-day training several times each year at introductory, intermediate and advanced levels. The training is available to anyone with an interest in learning about CPTED, including Council and Police staff, other Safer Christchurch partners, elected members, interested professionals and members of the community.
- The Design Out Crime Advisory Service was formed to provide a recognisable entity to the work being undertaken in Christchurch. The Information Seminars, Practitioners Group and CPTED Clinics (outlined below) operate under the auspices of the Advisory Service.
- Information Seminars are provided to professional and community groups to introduce the concept of CPTED and its benefits. Seminars are done by request and tailored to each group.
- Building capacity through the CPTED Practitioners Group: starting as a group of interested Council, Police and Fire Service staff in 2011, the group has become more formalised. Interested graduates of the training workshops can join and are required to complete a programme of training and practice to attain full membership. They are then able to independently carry out CPTED assessments and plan reviews for their own organisations. The group currently has 15 active members.
- CPTED Clinics are run monthly and are open to anyone who would like CPTED advice for their project or development. Practitioner Group members are invited to “sit in” on CPTED Clinics.
- IPTED development: the Council’s Injury Prevention Advisor is responsible for the development of IPTED and is a member of the Design Out Crime Advisory Service and the Practitioners Group. Using the same methodology as CPTED, IPTED is complementary and can seamlessly be included in CPTED assessments.
- Funding from the Crime Prevention Unit of the Ministry of Justice: this funding has been essential to the growth of CPTED in Christchurch, before and after the earthquakes. Post-earthquake, the Ministry has provided \$50,000 each year to support the CPTED Programme. It has been vital to the success of the Programme

and has provided the opportunity to fund a number of training workshops and clinics. It has also enabled travel to other cities in Australasia to research current trends and local solutions.

## How CPTED is practised in Christchurch

In New Zealand, central and local government play an important part in the development and uptake of CPTED.

The Crime Prevention Unit of the Ministry of Justice funded and facilitated the National Guidelines. They have continued to provide funding for local government to develop a range of community safety programmes, including CPTED which has been strongly supported by them. They have provided the funding for CPTED training in Christchurch for several years. In the past 12 months, over 50 places were filled in training workshops funded by the Ministry. A further 15 people participated in a training workshop that focused specifically on licensed premises (clubs and bars) that was funded by Accident Compensation Corporation[4].

In Christchurch City Council, as in other New Zealand Councils, urban designers and City planners have a working knowledge of CPTED principles. Most cities have a community safety presence, but this often follows a community development model and CPTED practice may not be so prominent.

### *Benefits of a crime prevention focus*

Christchurch's community safety programme began under the Community Development Manager. However, the focus from the beginning was more on establishing practical initiatives with a crime prevention focus.

This included promoting and practising a style of CPTED that complimented urban/environmental design, but which simultaneously placed an equal emphasis on crime prevention input. It meant that a range of relevant crime prevention theories and tools could be drawn on to support and enrich CPTED solutions.

Also, the exhaustive knowledge of the City at night and locality-specific crime problems that sits with crime prevention could inform CPTED work. Understanding the dynamics of the City's three economies – day, evening and late night, is essential. This is an important consideration in our City, where most people feel safe during the day, but many are fearful of crime in public places, especially in the central City, at night. Our public places are designed with usual activities in mind, which mostly happen during the day. Some of these places do not function well at night, when there is either a lessening of legitimate activity, or an increase in alcohol-related activity. An important part of the crime prevention specialist's role is to highlight night time uses (and misuses) and look for ways of making places safer at night, without detracting from their daytime viability.

### *Community partners and stakeholders*

Involvement of partners and community stakeholders is another important aspect of our approach to CPTED in Christchurch.

Site assessments are routinely carried out with Police, Fire Service, Neighbourhood Support, community stakeholders and Council Community Services, Greenspace and/or planning staff. Fundamental to our CPTED philosophy is the aim to build vibrant, liveable, successful communities. Involving communities and stakeholder groups in this work is essential to achieving this.



### *Interpretation of CPTED principles and practice*

Four principles of CPTED (surveillance, access management, territorial reinforcement and quality environments) appear to be universally accepted and are enshrined in New Zealand's National Guidelines. These, and the seven qualities of safe places (access; surveillance and sightlines; layout; activity mix; sense of ownership; quality environments; and physical protection), also set out in the guidelines, are the core considerations of CPTED.

However, the Crime Prevention Team is equally concerned with the consideration of context, connections and spatial analysis.

**Context** The context of a place is crucial to our understanding of the crime and safety issues that may be present. Thus, it is important to ask questions such as: is the proposed development in a retail area with heavy foot traffic during the day, but deserted at night? Is it a park in a low socio-economic residential area with known gang problems?

**Connections** Our understanding of connections is also essential to identifying the unique features of a place. Such as: where does it sit in relation to significant vehicle routes, public transport connections and pedestrian desire lines? What are the present and expected pedestrian cohorts, volumes and desire lines within and around the site?

**Spatial analysis** Another essential element of our approach to CPTED is spatial analysis. In the design phase of a development, macro spatial analysis is relevant, as smaller spaces are not resolved until detailed design stages.

Micro spatial analysis is essential to effective solutions in the later stages of design and in existing environments. Based upon the work of Stoks (1982), it is equally important to look at the small spaces within the larger place.

Is there an "outdoor room", where an offender can amplify their control over a victim by utilising the structure to confine them? Is there a "movement predictor", where a potential victim has no choice about their direction of travel, allowing a following offender to move into position? Is there a nearby "entrapment zone" where the offender can take the victim?

**Behavioural analysis** Behavioural analysis is another important element. While our urban design and planning colleagues focus on the expected, lawful and proper use of the places they design, crime prevention input complements their focus with the study of the unexpected, unlawful and improper use of those places.

Drawing upon relevant aspects of the social sciences, knowledge of the City at night, and crime activity and patterns, we work to predict how people can use or occupy places in unplanned and unlawful ways and to offer solutions.

Site assessments regularly include stakeholder representatives and members of local community organisations who are asked to contribute their knowledge of crime and safety issues in the study area and also record their personal reactions to locations of interest throughout the assessment. These people are also frequently invited to contribute to the following workshops where issues are identified and solutions and recommendations produced.

One valuable resource available to inform CPTED is the Community Profiles[5] produced post-earthquake by the Community Support Unit's Strengthening Communities Teams. In total, 49 zones across the City are described by locality, key demographics, social network analysis, social capital mapping and four other criteria.

We are careful to maintain a balance between the lawful and unlawful, as it is essential that our solutions support the intended and lawful uses, before they counter the unintended and unlawful, and that both goals are achieved seamlessly.



*Figure 5 CPTED site assessment of Victoria Street late night precinct – Police, Council planners and Community Safety staff with Frank Stoks*  
 Source: Author's own picture

### *The balance between design, management and technology/target hardening*

CPTED solutions include elements of design, management and technology/target hardening. While each element has a valuable place in the CPTED repertoire, we focus heavily on providing design solutions.

Changing the physical features of a place in order to promote safety and reduce opportunities for crime is more cost effective over the lifetime of that place, than applying management or technology solutions that require ongoing expenditure to support them. This approach presupposes that an opportunity to change design will occur within a relevant timeframe. As delays are possible even when remodelling or redevelopment of a place is planned, we frequently provide stakeholders with a list of “quick fixes”. This is a schedule of easily achieved, inexpensive improvements that can be put in place relatively quickly, while waiting for larger changes to the design of the place to be implemented.

Quick fixes may include trimming or removing plantings to improve sightlines; upgrading lamps in existing lighting standards; implementing a regular graffiti-removal programme; or moving rubbish containers to a more secure area. In this way, concerned stakeholders can take action to improve safety, while waiting for the design elements to happen later.

### *Enhancing safety outcomes*

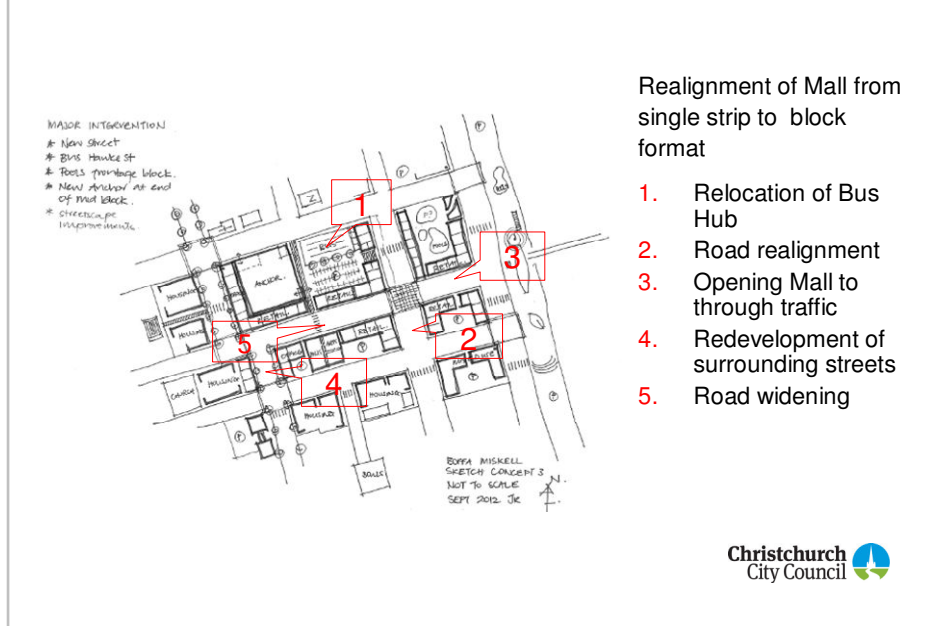
We consider ourselves to be enablers of other people’s visions. Our ideas, suggestions and recommendations are made to support the concept of a design.

We look for ways to enhance safety outcomes, while preserving the purpose and integrity of the design by offering subtle and creative options wherever possible. For example, rather than recommending that a recess that could function as an entrapment space be removed, if it is a feature that is integral to the design, we may suggest plantings, sculpture, windows, mirrors, reflection pool or lighting to reduce the risk.

### *Assessing designs and plans*

CPTED is now formally included in some planning documents and there is a greater awareness of both the value of CPTED and of the Crime Prevention Team’s expertise. This has opened exciting opportunities to become heavily involved in assessing the myriad of designs that are now coming forward as the rebuild of the City gains momentum. Among the many projects we have advised on include a number of Master Plans, including the New Brighton Master Plan (shown in Plate 6), community facilities, social housing, late night entertainment precincts, large suburban shopping malls and City retail developments and a number of commercial developments.

## Summary of CPTED recommendations



*Summary of CPTED Recommendations from New Brighton Master Plan CPTED Review*

This fits perfectly with our emphasis on design solutions. While still assessing physical environments, the involvement in assessing and reviewing design briefs and plans has increased dramatically, necessitating another position in the Crime Prevention Team being created, to focus only on CPTED.

This changing emphasis has required adaptation and adjustments in our approach to practising CPTED. It is one thing to assess risks in a physical environment that you can visit several times over the course of weeks; obtain crime data for; and talk with locals and stakeholder groups to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the positive and negative safety features of the place.

It is another thing entirely, to look at a set of plans for a new development and translate this into a three dimensional mental picture of a completed building or group of buildings, to scale, and extrapolate the safety and crime features of this new place. To then communicate this in the language of designers, planners and architects is another challenge. The ability to think and talk in the idiom of design professionals allows us to engage them with "design hooks" that safety features can "hang" on. Not impossible by any means, but requiring a steep learning curve to master.

### *A little, early and often*

This approach allows us to actively apply another tenet of the way in which we practice CPTED – to be involved early in a project and to advise "a little and often", from inception to post-construction. In this way, we can be involved in a project at appropriate junctures and offer input from brief conversations to written plan reviews.

Involving CPTED early and often is the most cost effective way of including CPTED. It is much less expensive to make changes on a plan than to make the same changes in a physical environment.

### *Challenges, risks and rewards*

In some ways, our journey has just begun. We have made much progress, but the effort and resources must continue to be applied into the foreseeable future. There are still organisations to be engaged and barriers to be broken down, but we are continuing to build support and understanding with our stakeholders and there is good reason to be optimistic about the journey ahead.

Among the challenges we face is the perception that CPTED is more simple than it is – that completing an introductory training course and having a copy of the National Guidelines, gives you enough knowledge to practice CPTED. Basic training is essential, but ongoing guided practice, supported by advanced training and expert mentoring is necessary to produce competent practitioners who create practical, relevant and effective solutions. I have spent much of my career assessing risk in physical environments and designing and implementing solutions, and I have practised CPTED intensively over the past four years, but I continue to learn about CPTED all the time.

In a general sense, we share a challenge faced by all practitioners. CPTED done poorly is ineffective and a waste of time and money. CPTED done badly can create unsafe places and increase the risk to users.

With site assessments, we are usually called in response to crime problems (or perceived crime problems) identified by Police, Council or local communities. Our solutions are therefore remedial in nature.

Conversely, working on plans of future places and spaces means that our recommendations are truly preventative. This also means that we carry additional responsibility to practice CPTED responsibly and to gain expertise in all of the skill sets required to work in this way. This will ensure that Christchurch enjoys the full benefits of CPTED applied effectively to all of its rebuilt public spaces, major developments and many other places.

### **Conclusion**

The City of Christchurch has been through an extraordinary period of destruction caused by the Canterbury earthquake series. Large parts of the City have been destroyed.

The City has responded by planning to rebuild, with the aim of being the seismically safest City in the world. The rebuild provides a unique opportunity for CPTED to be included in the design of public spaces, key projects, CBD developments and many other developments. CPTED is included in the Urban Design Development Standards of the Christchurch Central Recovery Plan.

The Crime Prevention Team is working to ensure that CPTED fully contributes to as much of the rebuild as possible. We continued our pre-earthquake CPTED work and have established a suite of initiatives to fully develop the capacity and resources necessary to sustain CPTED into the future.

Challenges still remain, but we can be pleased with the progress to date.

## Notes

1. Greenspace is the Council Unit responsible for parks, reserves and public gardens.
2. Officers who are contracted and managed by the Council.
3. The Resource Management Act (RMA) is an important piece of legislation that is focused on the overriding purpose of sustainable management. Environmental impacts of activities are primarily controlled by the RMA through the requirement to apply for resource consents.
4. ACC, Accident Compensation Corporation. This is a state owned universal accident insurer, which is prioritising alcohol-related harm counter initiatives for funding.
5. Available at: [www.ccc.govt.nz/cityleisure/statsfacts/communityprofiles/index.aspx](http://www.ccc.govt.nz/cityleisure/statsfacts/communityprofiles/index.aspx)

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## About the author

Sue Ramsay is the Crime Prevention Team Leader at Christchurch City Council, Christchurch, New Zealand. Her work includes championing and developing CPTED in the Christchurch post-earthquake rebuild, promoting understanding of safety issues and solutions in the City's late night economy, and managing the Safe City Officer programme. The Christchurch earthquake series provides a unique opportunity to integrate these areas of focus into the rebuild of Christchurch's central city and eastern suburbs. Prior to her crime prevention role, Sue consulted to Christchurch City Council, establishing and managing the successful Christchurch Safe City Officer programme. Sue has owned several businesses, including New Zealand's largest privately owned security service provider. Sue Ramsay can be contacted at: [sue.ramsay@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:sue.ramsay@ccc.govt.nz)

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## Designing out Crime - Voices from the Fields

Leanne Monchuk and Garner Clancey

“Crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED)”, ‘designing out crime’, safer by design’, secured by design’ or any of the other ‘flavours’ of manipulating the built environment to prevent crime, invariably engender an inter-disciplinary approach. This work is frequently the domain of architects, urban planners, police, security professionals, local authority planners and community safety professionals (amongst others). Despite the real work being undertaken by these actors, the diverse disciplinary and practitioner perspectives are insufficiently heard within criminological discourse. We have sought to rectify this by bringing together contributions from built environment and local authority practitioners from England, Australia and New Zealand in this ‘Designing out Crime – Voices from the Fields’ special edition of the Safer Communities journal. We believe that these perspectives provide fresh insights into a body of work that is now many decades in the making (and perhaps centuries in the making – see Cozens (2008)). The different disciplinary and jurisdictional perspectives uncover numerous practical dilemmas, competing priorities, and tensions in how this work is approached and implemented. By viewing these issues through various disciplinary, organisational and jurisdictional perspectives, it is possible to not only compare and contrast approaches, but to also identify emerging themes consistent in these different locations, ensuring that this edition will be of great interest to policy makers, practitioners and scholars alike.

The origins of this special edition can be traced to our mutual interest in crime prevention and designing out crime. Our individual work intersected 18 months ago and has since resulted in reciprocal trips to Australia and England, during which we met with the authors. Spending time on site visits, discussing projects and enjoying presentations from the various authors demonstrated the importance of enabling these highly competent practitioners to share their stories. It also reaffirmed the need to engage even more with applied criminological activities to ensure that our individual and joint research endeavours reflect contemporary issues, practises and dilemmas.

This special edition is an ‘academese-free zone’. It is a collection of stories told by practitioners. Less familiar with writing for academic journals, each author was encouraged to write about their work, giving voice to their experiences and insights, unmediated by academic analysis or commentary. Consequently, this special edition not only makes an important contribution to our understanding of how designing out crime work happens, it is also highly readable – something for the whole family, not just the dusty office! In keeping with our commitment to providing a platform for practitioner voices, we have elected to say only a little about each article, allowing each author to speak for themselves.” .....

“Sue Ramsay (Crime Prevention Team Leader, Christchurch City Council) shares some of the traumatic consequences of the devastating earthquakes and the in excess of 11,000 aftershocks that have wrought havoc on Christchurch, New Zealand in recent years. Through the devastation and demolition (80% of the buildings in the central business district were demolished by mid-2013), the

city of Christchurch has started to re-emerge. While the widespread devastation caused (and is continuing to cause) considerable human suffering and loss of life, the reconstruction and redevelopment of the city has provided opportunities to embed CPTED principles into new planning regimes. Sue illustrates both the costs of and the opportunities emerging from the numerous earthquakes in recent years, while also drawing links with the pre-earthquake community safety and CPTED work in Christchurch. In particular, Sue's reflection on the 'Christchurch experience' demonstrates the benefits of strong inter-agency collaboration, the importance of inter-disciplinary approaches and the power of continue to learn in the face of unprecedented challenges (and opportunities)."

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