

CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN



What is CPTED?

“...A crime prevention philosophy based on the theory that proper design and effective use of the built environment can lead to a reduction to the fear and incidence of crime, as well as an improvement in the quality of life.”

-National Crime Prevention Institute

Locks aren't always the answer

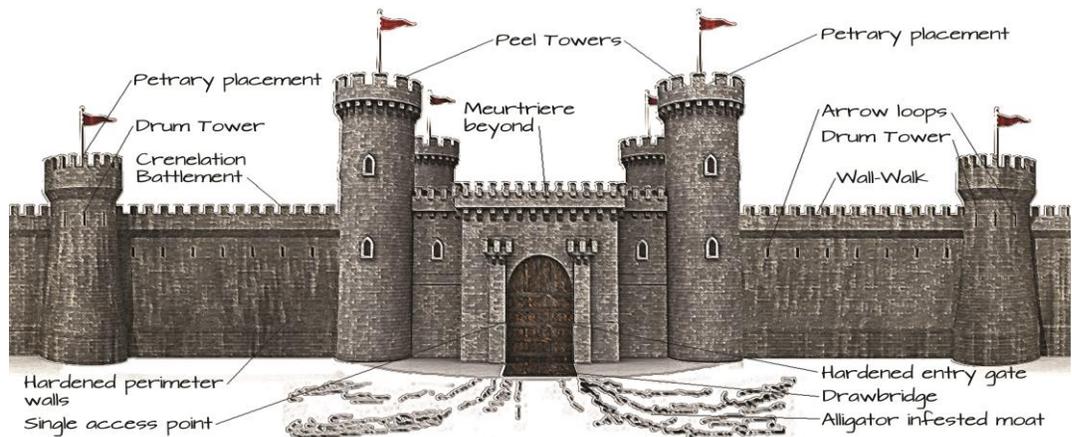
Often, installing locks, bars, and gates do little to decrease crime. In fact, mechanical security devices can make your home feel and look like a fortress. It can also decrease the quality of life in our city. CPTED works by decreasing a criminal's ability to commit crime. It also increases the chances that a legitimate resident will see and report the crime as it occurs. CPTED goes beyond traditional security methods by naturally integrating security measures into the community. CPTED includes the use of four overlapping strategies:

Access Control

This applies to the strategic design of an area; to physically obstruct or guide access by people and vehicles. This strategy works by deterring access to potential targets of crime. If criminal behavior does occur, the access control makes it easy for legitimate residents to notice and report the crime to police. Examples include deadbolts, alarms, window locks, fences, turnstiles, speed bumps, and traffic signs.

Territorial Reinforcement

This refers to the design of an area, clearly showing that someone owns the area. It suggests to criminals that a person is present who may see their criminal activity and report it to police. By enacting territorial reinforcement strategies, residents are clearly stating, “This is not public property.” Examples include landscaping, lighting walkways, decorative fencing and signs



FORTRESSING OR CPTED?

Natural Surveillance

This points out the design of an area so as to allow visibility by legitimate residents. This strategy works because criminals will not commit crimes in areas where they feel exposed to observers. In the event a crime does occur, there is also a greater chance that it will be witnessed and reported to police. Examples include windowed stairwells, parking lots visible from the sidewalk and security lighting.

Maintenance

This will include basic upkeep, repair, and maintenance of property. Neglected property can create mistreatment by residents, while maintained property will elicit proper treatment. This strategy directly impacts the fear of crime in a

community due to residents' perceptions of responsibility and caring in the neighborhood. Examples include the immediate removal of graffiti, landscape maintenance, weed abatement and painting worn buildings.

What Can I Do?

ANYONE can do CPTED. Apartment managers, homeowners, business owners, architects, renters and community members can all make an effort to decrease the chance that crime will occur in Adelanto. Using CPTED is as simple as enacting the strategies described in this brochure. Any effort in a home, business, or public area will have an effect on decreasing crime.

- You can use territorial reinforcement by placing a small decorative fence around your front yard to separate it from the sidewalk.
- You can use access control by using a locking mailbox to prevent mail theft.
- You can use natural surveillance by keeping your bushes trimmed lower than 3 feet and your trees trimmed higher than 7 feet.
- You can use maintenance by keeping your property clean, weed-free and repaired.

The concept of CPTED is to help your property defend itself. Do trees or shrubbery block the view of the doors or windows? Do fences or walls adjoin your home where access could be made to upper floors? Do you have dark corners where someone could hide?



Generate or draw a map of your home and yard; indicate all the landscaping features and permanent structures on the property. Walk around your home and look for areas that a criminal could take advantage of. Do this during the day and after dark. Mark areas in red, if you feel unsafe, in yellow if you feel uncertain and green if you feel safe.

CPTED strategies can help you alter your property to make it criminal unfriendly, without making it a fortress. The more uncomfortable you can make a criminal the less likely they will be to target your home and property.