

FOUR BASIC PRINCIPLES

of crime prevention through environmental design

NATURAL SURVEILLANCE

The use of space and its composition make natural surveillance possible, a kind of co-surveillance, which should deter the offender and reassure the user. It is accompanied by visibility as an objective to be achieved in order to reduce the opportunities for acting out.

It is then necessary to organize activities, street furniture and housing, in order to optimize the possibilities of surveillance, including from windows or entrance porches: see and be seen, thanks to visual clearances which eliminate hidden places and "trap places".

TERRITORIAL APPROPRIATION

Through socialization and activities, as well as territoriality, the development of multiple activities and mixed uses contribute to urban activity and social interaction, which are deterrent and reassuring factors. Similarly, territoriality will contribute to creating a sense of belonging to the space: residents are better able to protect their territory when there is a strong sense of belonging and appropriation, which can be reinforced by the presence of low fences, change in the type of street covering, hedges, signs, gates, decorations, etc. In fact, any element that makes it possible to distinguish the public space and the private space or its property, from that of the neighbor.

NATURAL CONTROL

Through architectural and landscaping techniques, it deters access to potential targets.

The goal is to create a perception of risk for the potential offender, by reducing the possibilities of entry and movement of non-residents. It is not a question of closing the area but to use the layout of the road network (reduction of the width of the road at the entrance, cul-de-sac, dead-end streets, etc.), signage and direction signs, the direction of circulation or the distribution of parking stickers reserved for residents. The presence of a monumental entrance (porch, stone wall, landscaping ...) makes it possible to emphasize the notion of threshold and crossing, to place the non-resident in the position of intruder.

MAINTENANCE AND BEAUTIFICATION

Whether it's preserving the physical aspect of the neighborhood, by ensuring its daily activities (playgrounds) or by organizing self-surveillance, residents project the image of an appropriate area that carries shared social values. Landscaping – on the condition of combining functionality and aesthetics play a central role: lighting, street furniture, vegetation and signage contribute to security. A guarantor must also fulfill their role: whether it's the community, the inhabitants or a private operator, they must be responsive to degradation that leads to a feeling of permissiveness. (See the broken window theory)