

# Principles of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design

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# Introduction

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Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is an important aspect in creating public spaces that are designed for people, encourage activity, provide a welcoming and safe environment and contribute to the vibrancy of the city.

**Liveable communities are places where people live, work and engage in leisure and recreation in the knowledge that they can do so safely. Places that are safe and feel safe, are easy to move between and attract vibrancy, people, activity and investment.**

Designing out crime through initial investment in the public realm brings about long term savings to the community through reduced spending on maintenance, surveillance, reporting, replacing vandalised or missing items. Increased pedestrian movement is better for business, reflected in higher turnover, employment, profit, rents, capital values and rates.

Great design not only adds to the attractiveness and use of the environment, it also enhances public safety. CPTED is an internationally accepted approach to reducing the incidence and fear of crime, and improving quality of life through good design and the effective use of space. CPTED promotes high-quality, visually pleasing solutions to reduce the opportunity for crime and encourage positive social interaction. These principles can be applied to the design of various types of public space such as playgrounds, streets, squares, retail strips and Park Lands.

Designing for safety using CPTED principles encourages a sense of ownership in clearly defined and well maintained and managed spaces, where bystanders or observers are part of the natural movement of people.

Pedestrian priority, comfort and safety is key to designing great public spaces for people. The use of CPTED principles reinforces this principle and should be followed in all aspects of planning and design, from new developments to redevelopment of established built forms. These CPTED principles and approaches can also be applied retrospectively to problem spaces such as the removal of large shrubs to reduce potential hiding spots, improve sightlines and provide opportunity for natural surveillance.

# Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Principles

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The following principles for designing safe and welcoming spaces in the City of Adelaide are based on internationally recognised CPTED principles and should be considered at the earliest stages of planning and design.

## 1. Maximise opportunities for natural surveillance

Locate and design public spaces that draw people out and onto the streets to allow people to observe others, contribute to a feeling of safety and act as a deterrent for crime through natural surveillance with uninterrupted sight lines and appropriate levels of lighting.

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## 2. Create intuitive spaces

Use different textures materials, plantings and or levels to delineate boundaries and reinforce the public space and delineate from semi-private or private spaces.

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## 3. Encourage participation and support of the space

Provide a comfortable, welcoming and safe environment that encourages active and appropriate use of the space for civic enjoyment, retail, markets, cafes, bars and restaurants.

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## 4. Understand the use and priorities for the street

Ensure materials and finishes are appropriate for ease of maintenance and management of the space and take into consideration potential misuse such as vandalism.

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## 5. Contribute to the safety of a mixed use space

Create spaces that reflect the safety of the surrounding uses and activities at all times of the day and night such as business, residential and retail.

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## 6. Support safe movement

Provide legible entry and exit points, clear pathways and wayfinding between key places, public toilets and public transport stops to support accessibility and the intended use of spaces.

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## 7. Design to minimise conflicts

Provide a space free of safety hazards including concealed and isolated areas, places for people to hide such as recessed doorways or high shrubs, movement predictors such as narrow walkways and entrapment spots such as dead ends.

# Street Design Approaches

Consistent approaches to street design in the City of Adelaide will provide a safer, more comfortable environment for people and the activities that occur on the street.

## Street Design Approaches

### 1. Clear sightlines

Clear sightlines are provided by ground level urban elements no higher than 0.8m and no lower than 2.4m.

### 2. Natural surveillance

Observation opportunities to increase natural surveillance by ensuring entrances, living areas and activity areas front the street and car parking is sleaved or concealed from the streetscape.

### 3. Mixed land use

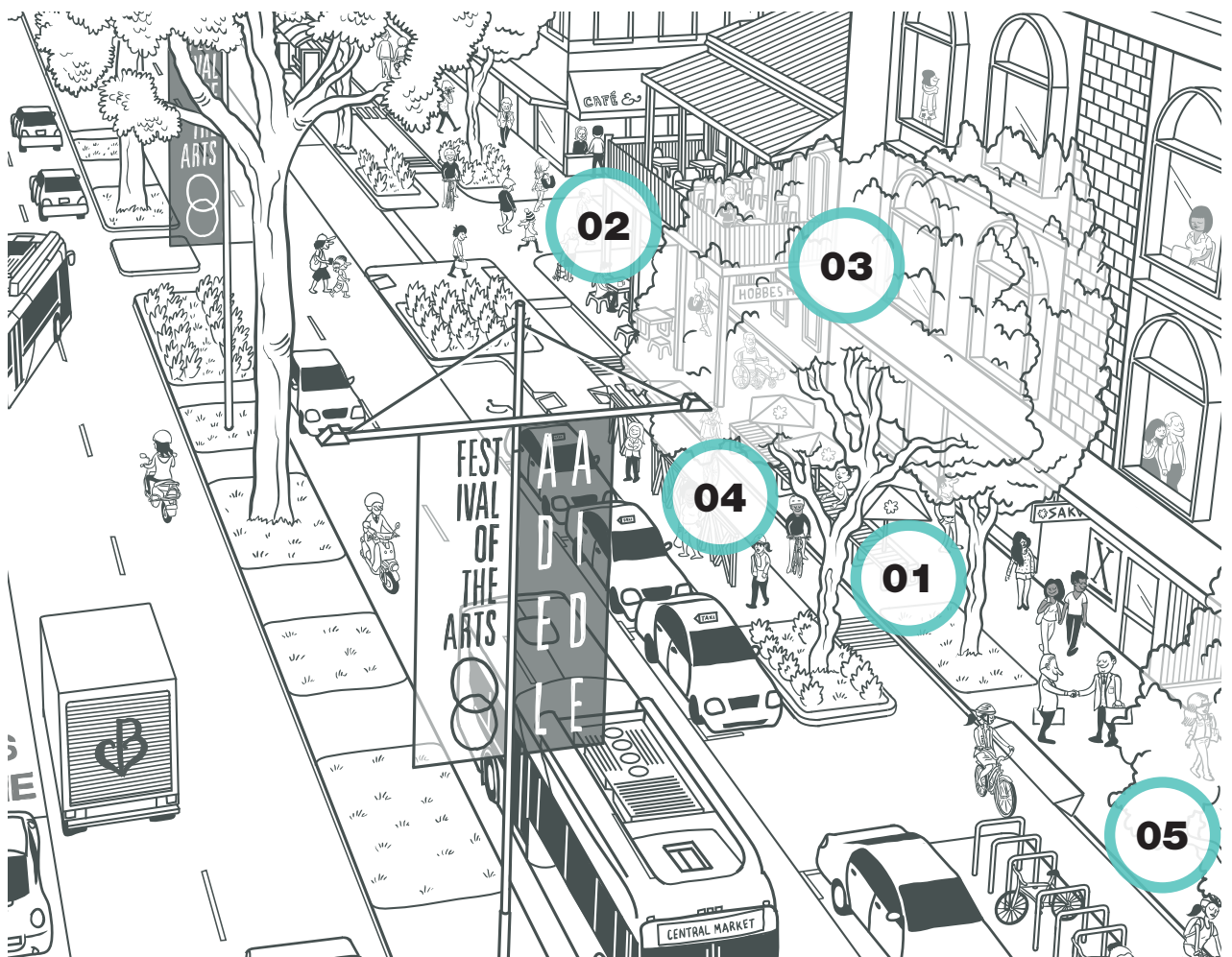
A mix of land-use is provided to encourage activity throughout the day and night.

### 4. On-Street activity

A range of on-street activity, including outdoor dining, seating, walking and cycling are encouraged.

### 5. Clear Space Delineation

Provide a clear delineation of public and private spaces through paving, lighting, walls and plantings.



# Street Design Approaches

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## Street Design Approaches

### 1. Clear sightlines

Activated pathways with clear sightlines and lighting are provided to aid safe movement between spaces.

### 2. Clear Space Delineation

The intended use of the space is easily identifiable through the use of urban elements and infrastructure.

### 3. Clear Signage

Wayfinding signage supports movement between key places and public transport.

### 4. Lighting

Adequate lighting is provided to encourage activity.

### 5. Supportive Infrastructure

Public spaces are provided near high activity transport corridors.

