



# news

Newsletter of the International CPTED Association

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## International CPTED Association

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Director  
Ray Wood

Executive Director  
Barry Davidson

Editor  
Ellen M. Walsh

International CPTED Association  
439 Queen Alexandria Way SE  
Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2J 3P2  
Telephone: (403) 225-3595

## But is it CPTED?

### Scratching the Surface of Jeffrey's Concept

Sherry Carter

I'm often perplexed at discussions regarding the definition of CPTED, the future of CPTED, whether or not to include social issues and the difference between CPTED and other names for similar efforts. From my perspective I think CPTED has been and will continue to be whatever it needs to be.

When I first learned the basics of commonly taught CPTED, we used it as a commercial redevelopment tool for an aging area beset with crime and a bad reputation. The public loved it, endorsed it and it became both official and unofficial policy. (I made that sound a little easier than it was.) Later we were hired to develop recommendations that would enable the city to be financially sustainable. This included addressing the needs of middle-income neighborhoods showing signs of decay. We recommended strategies to strengthen neighborhood identity, prevent social disorder, improve housing stock, buffer neighborhoods from traffic and provide meaningful recreational and skill development activities for youth. We called it "Community CPTED" at last year's conference. Most recently we ventured into new territory by recommending particular design strategies as a first line of defense against terrorism in our National Parks.

For several years now I have felt that we were moving far beyond traditional CPTED. We have even struggled with what to call our work. Only recently, in reading material regarding C. Ray's original ideas did I realize that we have only "scratched the surface" of a concept intended to unite "biology, psychology, sociology, urban planning, urban geography, environmental psychology and sociology." (Jeffrey quoting

Michelson, 1976). I cannot help but find this tremendously exciting. There is so much left to accomplish. So, instead of debating "But is it CPTED?" or "What is the future of CPTED?"

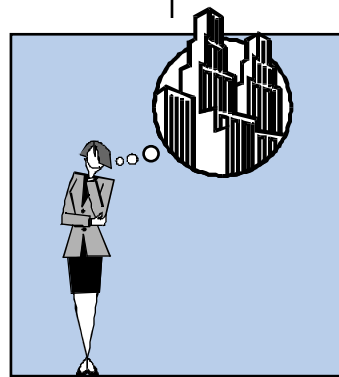
The questions that need addressing are: "How can we best practice CPTED?" "What kind of additional policies, plans and strategies affect public safety by having a positive impact on social and physical relationships?" "What additional alliances do we need to make to further the comprehension of CPTED by other disciplines?"

I believe CPTED, as a practice, has a tremendously bright future, not by debating the

minor details but by exploring ways of expanding upon its application. Therefore, I look forward to the theme of this year's ICA conference, "Designing Safer Cities in Partnership." I encourage everyone to come and share their ideas, thoughts, visions and of course war stories (we all love those).

See you there!

Sherry Carter



4th Annual International CPTED Association Conference

Mississauga, Ontario  
September 19-21, 1999



# NEWS

## Notes from the Chair: 1998 ICA Conference

*Gregory Saville, ICA Chair*

Our 1998 3rd annual ICA conference in Washington, DC was a tremendous success. More attendees than ever, new topics, and movement forward for the CPTED field. Topics were varied and interesting. They included sessions on school safety, CPTED in higher education, CPTED projects in the field such as on railway property, gated communities, and 2nd Generation CPTED with neighborhood planning, to mention only a few. A new board was established, which is the old board (minus one) with three new members. They have been given charge to promote CPTED in their jurisdictions and get the word out.

*How can promoting CPTED through the ICA help?*

Example — There has been tremendous interest in school safety in recent months in North America, for obvious reasons. A number of our members have been asked to provide information on how CPTED can help. It would seem our discussions on school safety and CPTED at the last ICA meeting were fortuitous. The ICA should be discussing the topic of school safety and preparing new CPTED solutions for this issue.

Other goings-on in 1999 — After a fine presentation from the Peel Region CPTED committee, the ICA board unanimously agreed to accept Mississauga, Ontario as the site of the 1999 ICA conference. The date is September 20-22, so book early. Registration packages are available at (905)-896-5522 or on the conference website at [www.city.mississauga.on.ca](http://www.city.mississauga.on.ca).

We are also now taking applications for anyone wishing to host the ICA conference in 2000. So if you know any agency or persons that would like to submit, now is the time. Send it to the ICA head office in Calgary.

We also agreed to have Paul van Sommeren, as an ICA director, coordinate our membership for Europe. With any luck, we may get someone to organize an ICA conference in Europe in the next year or two. I also heard some folks were interested in bringing the ICA conference back to the west

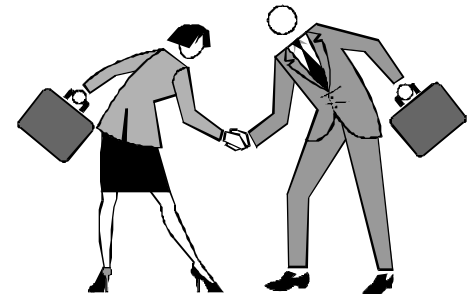
next year. Everyone is welcome to submit proposals for conference venues if you have the sponsorship and energy. As other organizers from Calgary, Orlando and Washington will concur, it's an exhausting task...but it's important and worthwhile work.

A new ICA pamphlet has been developed for membership. If you'd like some to promote CPTED in your region, send a note through to Executive Director Barry Davidson. Please don't leave it all up to the board to move CPTED forward in our respective areas. We should all do our part.

There was also discussion of developing an annual CPTED award for the ICA conference. Submitters would be judged and the winner would receive recognition as CPTED project of the year (good for marketing purposes). This is in the planning stages and will be presented as a full proposal to the board this fall. If you have any ideas how this should work, drop me line or an email and let me know ([gsaville@garnet.acns.fsu.edu](mailto:gsaville@garnet.acns.fsu.edu)).

Another proposal for 1999 is for the ICA to develop sub-divisions within our organization to focus on specific issues. Members could join these subdivisions if they have a specific interest in one specific area of CPTED, such as "CPTED training and education", or "new advances in the practice and theory of CPTED". Special meetings of these new areas will be held during this years conference.

We want to welcome all our new members to ICA. We're growing leaps and bounds, so keep in touch with your CPTED partners. The new ICA website is now online and it is the ideal place to do just that. See you in Mississauga.



## New Urbanism and CPTED

*Randy Atlas, Ph.D., C.P.P.*

How do you promote an individual's sense of dignity and self-sufficiency while at the same time establishing a sense of community? The answer may be a mixture of New Urbanism idealism and down to earth Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) pragmatism.

New Urbanism takes form through the use of the following outlined planning and design guidelines:

1. The Neighborhood has a discernible center and an edge. The creation of the

disengage itself from the use of the automobile. "Public transportation is made possible by clustering pedestrian neighbourhoods and offices along lines that can be readily serviced by buses, trolleys or light rail lines."

(1) This transit center becomes even more important in the social order of the community as it moves away from the personal automobile use, and transportation outside of the neighbourhood is dependent upon public transit. The transition towards public



*photo: library book drop-off before CPTED design*

focus and limit forms boundaries to define a social identity and sense of community. A "circling of the wagons," if you will, through the use of infrastructure and natural barriers to form the boundary. The center is often a square or green, and sometimes a busy or memorable street intersection. A transit stop would be located at this center. The incorporation of public transportation becomes an integral factor in the success of the planned community as it hopes to

transit creates a greater need for a recognised center and station point for commuting and social interaction.

2. Certain prominent sites are reserved for civic buildings. Buildings for meeting, education, religion, or culture are located at the termination of streets or vistas at the Neighbourhood Center. Civic buildings, planned in co-ordination with public open spaces, are prominently sited, ideally terminating vistas and

## 1999 ICA Conference

The organizers of the 1999 International CPTED Association Conference request your assistance in setting this year's program. The host organizations have chosen "Designing Safe Communities in Partnership" as the theme. If you have a topic, case study or best practice that exemplifies this theme, we request that you provide us with a proposal. All completed submission forms and registration questions should be directed to Wayne Nishihama c/o City of Mississauga, Planning and Building Department, 300 City Centre Drive, Mississauga, Ontario L5W 3C1, fax: 905-896-5553.

*The 1999 ICA Conference is hosted by:*

*The Peel CPTED Advisory Committee*

*Regional Municipality of Peel Police Services Board*

*Mississauga CPTED Advisory Committee*



- **Atlas**  
*(cont'd from p. 3)*
- enclosing streets
- to serve as landmarks. These
- “landmarks” serve dual roles of supporting the public infrastructure necessary for the community and fostering a sense of civic pride. The use of public infrastructure such as post offices, meeting halls, police departments, fire departments, courthouses, and etc., gives form and hierarchy to the neighbourhood core. The neighbourhood core is the “downtown,” and must support the basic needs of the family.
- 3. Buildings at the neighbourhood center

are placed close to the street. This creates a strong sense of place. The placement of buildings in a uniform facade close to the street defines the space of an intimate street. Through this compaction of the street a difference in scale is achieved. The feel of the urban city form is created for the core downtown, making the space “feel” different to the user, both the pedestrian and the driver. The streets are made “skinny.” The recognised change in scale, form, and texture brings a different life to the space and through detailing, the street is relinquished to the pedestrian. “Narrow streets - as little as 26 feet wide - and tight, right-angled corners are a lot easier for

*Atlas cont'd on page 5*



*photo: library book drop-off after CPTED design*

### **Did you see?**

*Reducing Crime Through Real Estate Development and Management*

- This book is a collection of essays from Paul and Pat Brantingham, Ronald Clarke, Marcus Felson, Barry Poyner, George Rengert, Diane Zahm and others. It shows you how to prevent crime by using cost-effective design, planning, and property management techniques rather than depending solely on

security hardware or manpower requirements. For ordering information, contact:

Urban Land Institute  
1025 Thomas Jefferson Street N.W.  
Suite 500 West  
Washington D.C. 20007  
Order #354

Marcus Felson and Richard B. Peiser, Editors

# A Proposal to Expand the ICA

It has been proposed that the ICA could develop some divisions within our ranks with folks interested in specific areas of CPTED. Two areas on which we've had continuing discussions are 1) where CPTED theory and practice is headed and 2) the need for more development on CPTED training.

How the divisions could work is as follows: There could be a separate section within the ICA website for discussions on these specialized topics. Members of divisions on these topics could network directly with each other, exchange info and ideas, and perhaps provide info/sponsor sessions at the annual ICA conference. That way an independent line of discussion and research could be introduced in subareas of CPTED to develop the field.

The proposal is for the establishment of the following two new divisions of the ICA at the September conference.

## 1. An ICA division called "Division for Advancement of CPTED Education"

This new division would be of interest to the CPTED trainers in the field. Topics of discussion could embrace the CPTED standards debate already going on in the ICA. Topics might also include new teaching methods, new training materials, videos, websites, and new topics to incorporate into CPTED training. The participants may wish to have a specific line of debate of these issues, and may wish to report back to the general membership about some of their findings.

## 2. An ICA division called "a Division for Advanced Theory in Environment and Crime"

This new division would be dedicated to those members of ICA who are interesting in advancing the concept and theory of CPTED. It is called "environment and crime" to be as broad as possible and to encourage interdisciplinary debate. Discussions could involve both the need and extent of research into crime and crime prevention, how to approach funding agencies with a research

program, and what an agenda for theoretical research might look like. Only by spending some time discussing these issues in a systematic and interdisciplinary way can we hope to encourage funding for advanced research in our field from granting agencies. Special evening meetings at the upcoming ICA conference in Mississauga will be held for persons interested in either, or both, of these subdivisions. The time and venue will be announced at the opening ceremonies of the conference.



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*Atlas cont'd from page 4*

walkers, and probably safer as well, because they force drivers to slow down." (2)

4. Most of the dwellings are within a five-minute walk of the center. This distance averages one-quarter of a mile. Herein lies the crux of the issue of the walkability of the town design. The five-minute walk is not only to the center of town, but to what is necessary to allow the residents to access the necessities of life without the use of the automobile. This also strengthens the argument for the incorporation of civic infrastructure at a central location or town center for ease of access and meeting. The concepts and codes restricting the use of the car within the structure of the community upon which the development is based will be defeated without the presence of a strong physical and economic town center.

## Editor's Note

Thanks to Josh Brown of Fairfax County Police for his letter and response to Mike McMurchy in which he took a stand on behalf of crime prevention officers such as ourselves who believe that they really do prevent crime.

Something needed to be said and I'm glad it was Josh who said it. Keep up the good work and to all members--believe in what you do.

I urge you to send us your ideas, case studies or articles for inclusion in the newsletter.

--Tom McKay,  
ICA Director



## **CPTED Resources and Events**

### ***CPTED CD ROM***

CPTED Multimedia Presentation & Training CD ROM

This is a 30 minute interactive CD that can also be used as a self running presentation. It features Key Components, Analysis, Benefits, Getting Started, Case Study, and Customizing Presentation.

It is available from The MXD Collaborative, Inc. 1164-14th Place, N.E., Suite 1A, Atlanta, Georgia 30309-3505, ph: 404-875-4027 for \$15.00 U.S.

### ***4th Annual ICA Conference***

Sept. 20-22, 1999

Mississauga, Ontario, Canada

4th Annual International CPTED Conference

Don't miss the 4th Annual International CPTED Association conference and meet the world's top CPTED practitioners and professionals. For more information contact Tom McKay at 905-453-2121, ext. 4025 and remember to bring a friend.

### ***Peel Police CPTED Course***

Oct. 25-29, 1999

Brampton, Ontario, Canada

Peel Regional Police Basic CPTED Course

Further details are available on the Peel Police web-site at [www.peelpolice.on.ca](http://www.peelpolice.on.ca).

### ***US Dept. of HUD CPTED Trainings***

July 19-21

Minneapolis, Minnesota (with the NAHRO summer conference)

September 29 - October 1, 1999

Las Vegas, Nevada (with the annual ASIS conference)

A three-day conference on CPTED in multi-family and low income communities. Includes site visits, problem-solving, and case study exercises. The conference is *free*. For more information, visit [www.spartasolutions.net](http://www.spartasolutions.net), or phone (301) 656-6600, extension 19.