Review of Design Against Crime (DAC) and Perceptions of Crime in Kaunas

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Urban Ideas Bakery, December 2009

Design Against Crime Research Centre

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1. Introducing Design Against Crime Philosophy

Design out criminal opportunities and you can design out crime.

"Criminals" are not the only problem. 'Things' as well as people cause problems.

Often criminals are not only taking advantage, designers are giving it away! DAC draws upon design thinking (a holistic approach to design issues); also on the theory of Situational Crime Prevention (SCP) which considers 'opportunities' (linked to objects / environments and services as well as users and abusers) to be the 'root causes' of crime.

2. Introducing Design Against Crime Research Centre

3. DACRC Aims

1. To reduce the incidence and adverse consequences of crime through design of products, services, communications and environments that are 'fit for purpose' and contextually appropriate.

2. To equip design practitioners with the cognitive and practical tools and resources to design out crime.

3. To prove and promote the social and commercial benefits of designing out crime to manufacturing and service industries, as well at to local and national government, and society at large.

4. To address environmental complicity with crime in the built environment and to improve well being.

4. DAC as Socially Responsive Design

We target crime problems that stand as a barrier to the progress of social and ethical agendas.

Our focus has been on **bag theft (mobile property theft)** that detracts from enjoyment of public spaces / public transport, and **bike theft** that detracts from cycle use. We are also looking at issues raised by **shoplifting, graffiti and street urination**.

4. DAC as Socially Responsive Design

We try to show as well as tell what designing against crime can deliver.
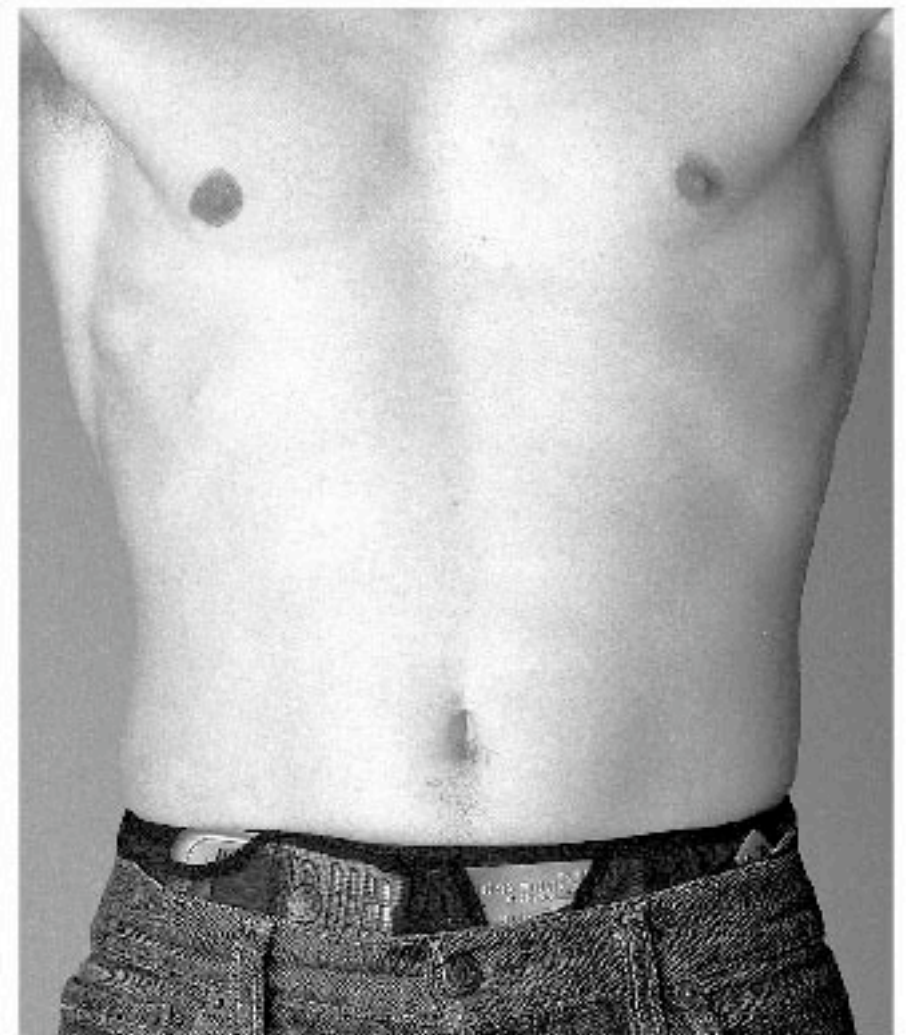
4. DAC as Socially Responsive Design

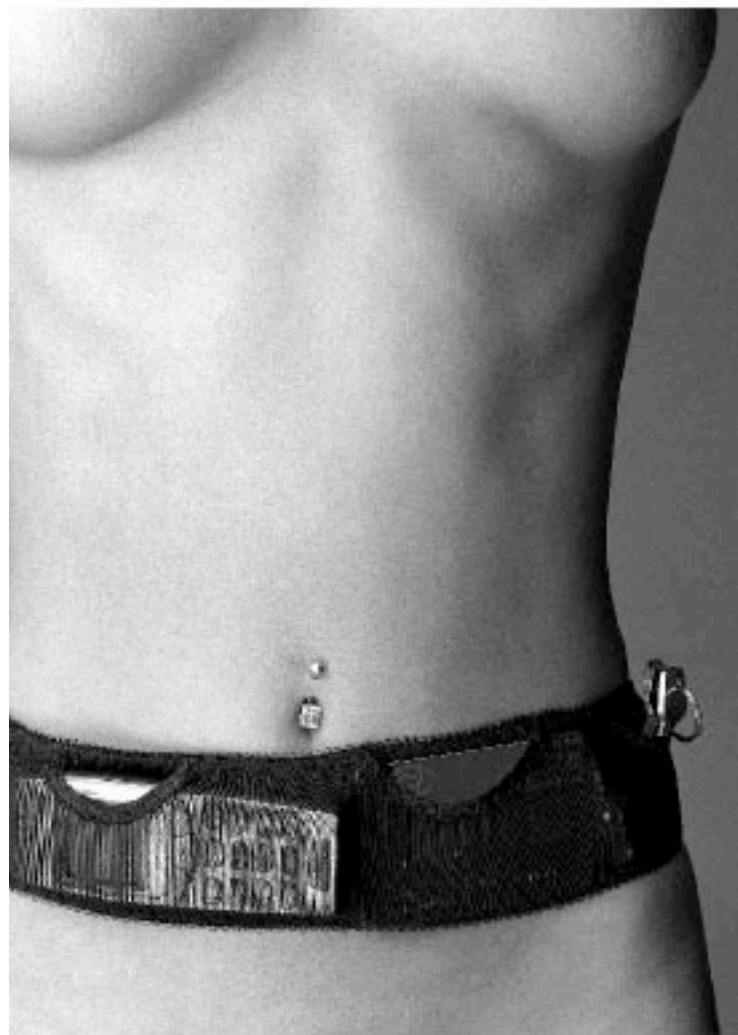# 4. DAC as Socially Responsive Design

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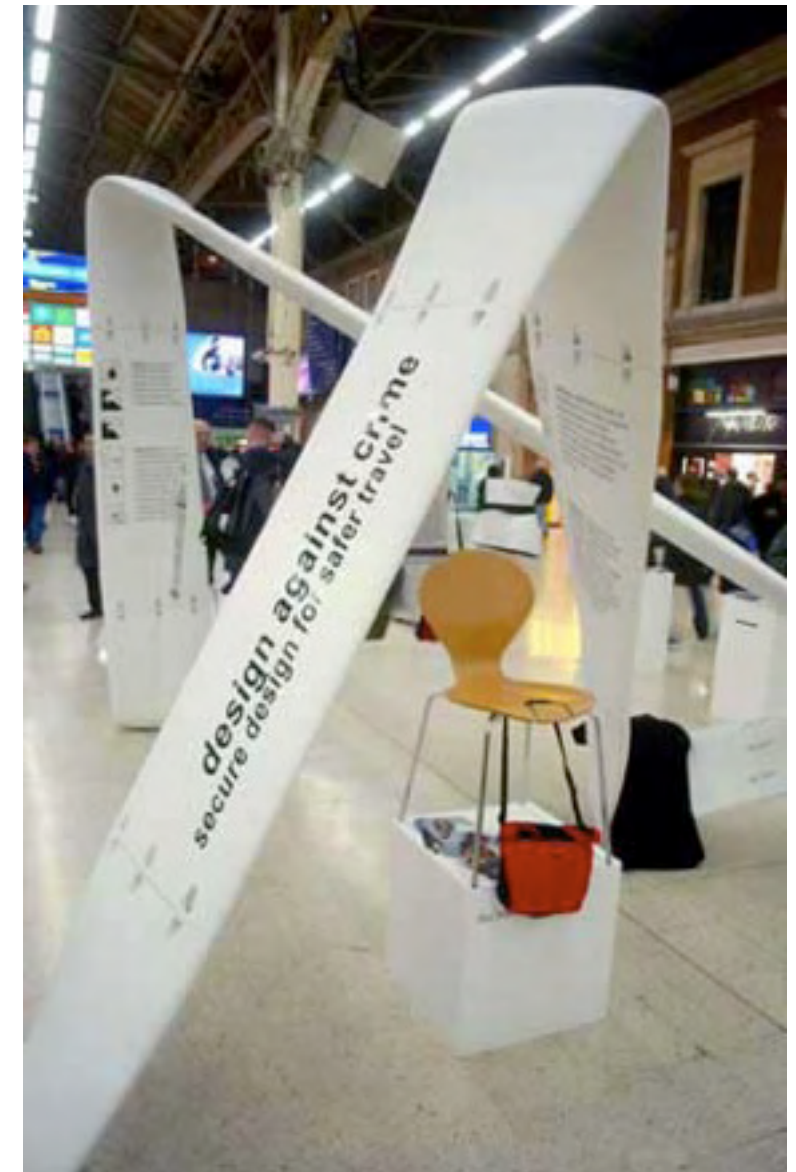
5. Why Design Against Crime?

DAC Drivers

- **Economic**
- **Environmental**
- **Ecological**
- **Emotional**

5. Why Design Against Crime?

DAC Drivers

Environmental

Actual crime, as well as fear of it, can determine the aesthetics of, and our interactions with, the environments we live in.

5. Why Design Against Crime?

DAC Drivers

Environmental Complicity is when the environment helps to promote crime – eg. Poor lighting or positioning of bike stands that helps thieves or design of walkways that cause people to bump into each other and to fight.

CPTED is a multi-disciplinary approach that relies upon the ability to influence offender decisions BEFORE criminal acts occur.

CPTED strategies aim to **increase the risk** and effort required to commit offences and **reduce the potential reward** to the offender.
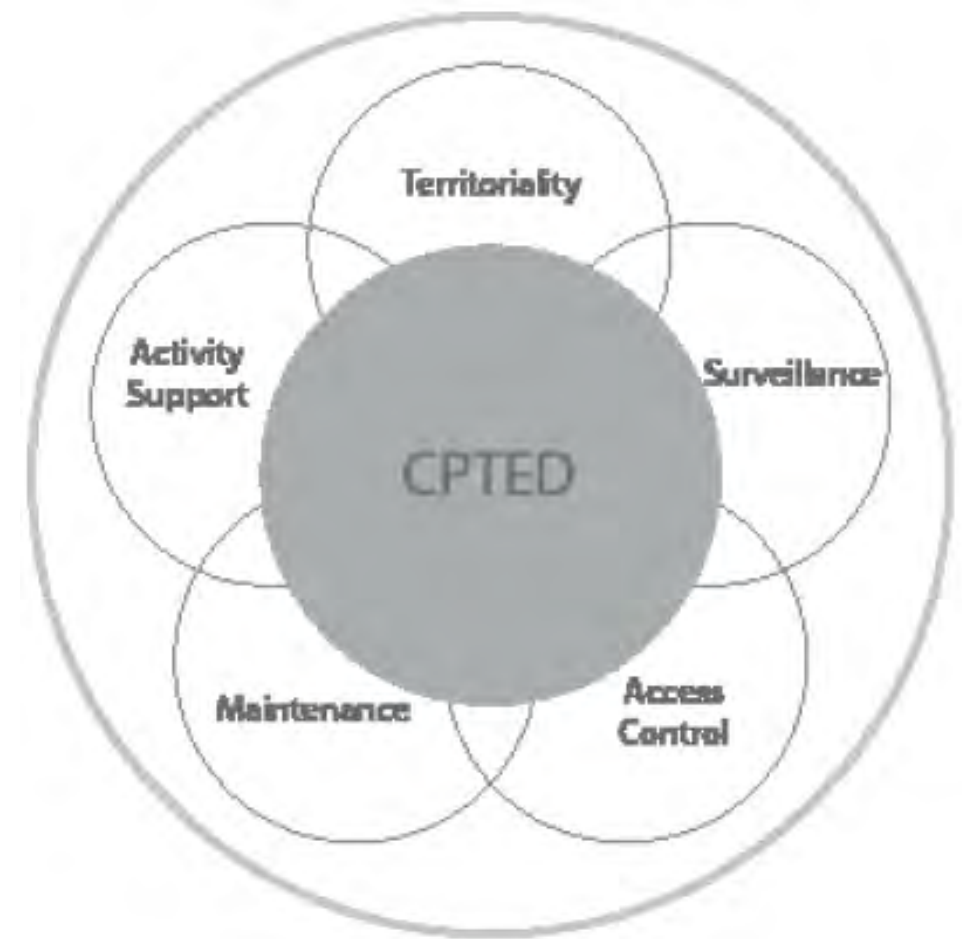
The wider environment

5. Why Design Against Crime?

DAC Drivers

Ecological

Crime trends follow consumer trends. Theft and insurance replacement / upgrade drives consumption and contributes to premature obsolescence.

5. Why Design Against Crime?

DAC Drivers

Emotional

Crime militates against well being. Prof. Layard (LSE) argues if we don't feel safe we are unlikely to feel happy despite economic prosperity.

5. Why Design Against Crime?

DAC Drivers

UK Government Commitment

The Design and Technology Alliance seeks to champion the message that Designing Out Crime is about sustainable and innovative design of products, spaces and places to make crime unattractive and make communities feel safer.

Five themes have been agreed as the focus for Alliance activity in 2008-2011:

- **Hot Products: Pickpocketing and Theft**
- **Schools: Bullying and 'Jacking'**
- **Housing: Burglary and Bike Theft**
- **Alcohol-Related Crime: Glassing and Wounding**
- **Business Crime: Shoplifting, Graffiti and Littering**

What themes, if any, relate to Kaunas?

6. DACRC Partners / Clients

Our clients include those that deliver:

•**Private / consumer products and services :** DAC as innovation USP/CSR

•**Public / civic spaces and services :** DAC as more cost effective and than courts, cops and corrections

7. DACRC Methodology

DACRC takes **user-centred design** model (IDEO 1991) and extends it to cover mis-use and abuse.

7. DACRC Methodology

We bring together **researchers, designers, architects, planners, criminologists, engineers, manufacturers, anthropologists, the police and others whose lives our designs impact upon**. They help develop design questions and review design proposals/design tools to ensure they are effective and appropriate.

7. DACRC Methodology

- User and abuser centred design research
- Design practice (creating design exemplars)
- Design education (including 50+ studio projects case studies and design resources)

7. DACRC Methodology

How we do it

DACRC applies a twin track process to DAC catalyze and innovation.
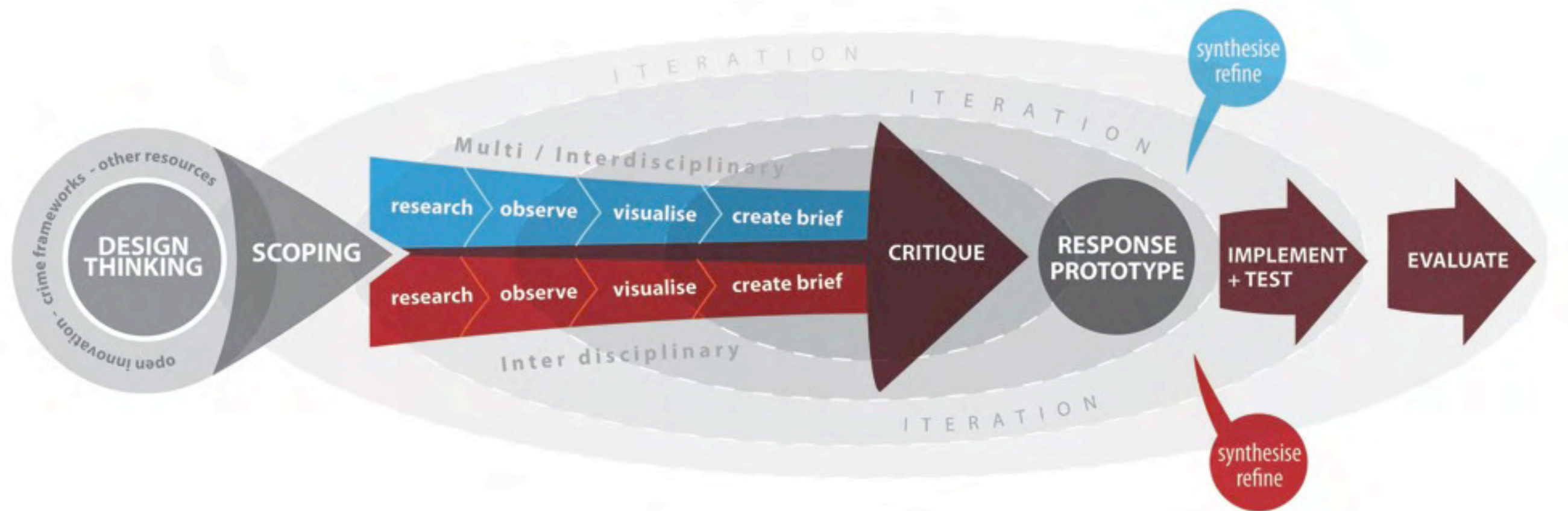
7. DACRC Methodology

How To Engage Designers With Crime Research

Understanding 'Hot' Products

C oncealable

R emovable

A vailable

V aluable

E njoyable

D isposable

7. DACRC Methodology

How To Engage Designers With Crime Research

Understanding 'Hot' Products

Affordable
Transportable
Concealable
Untraceable
Tradeable

Profitable
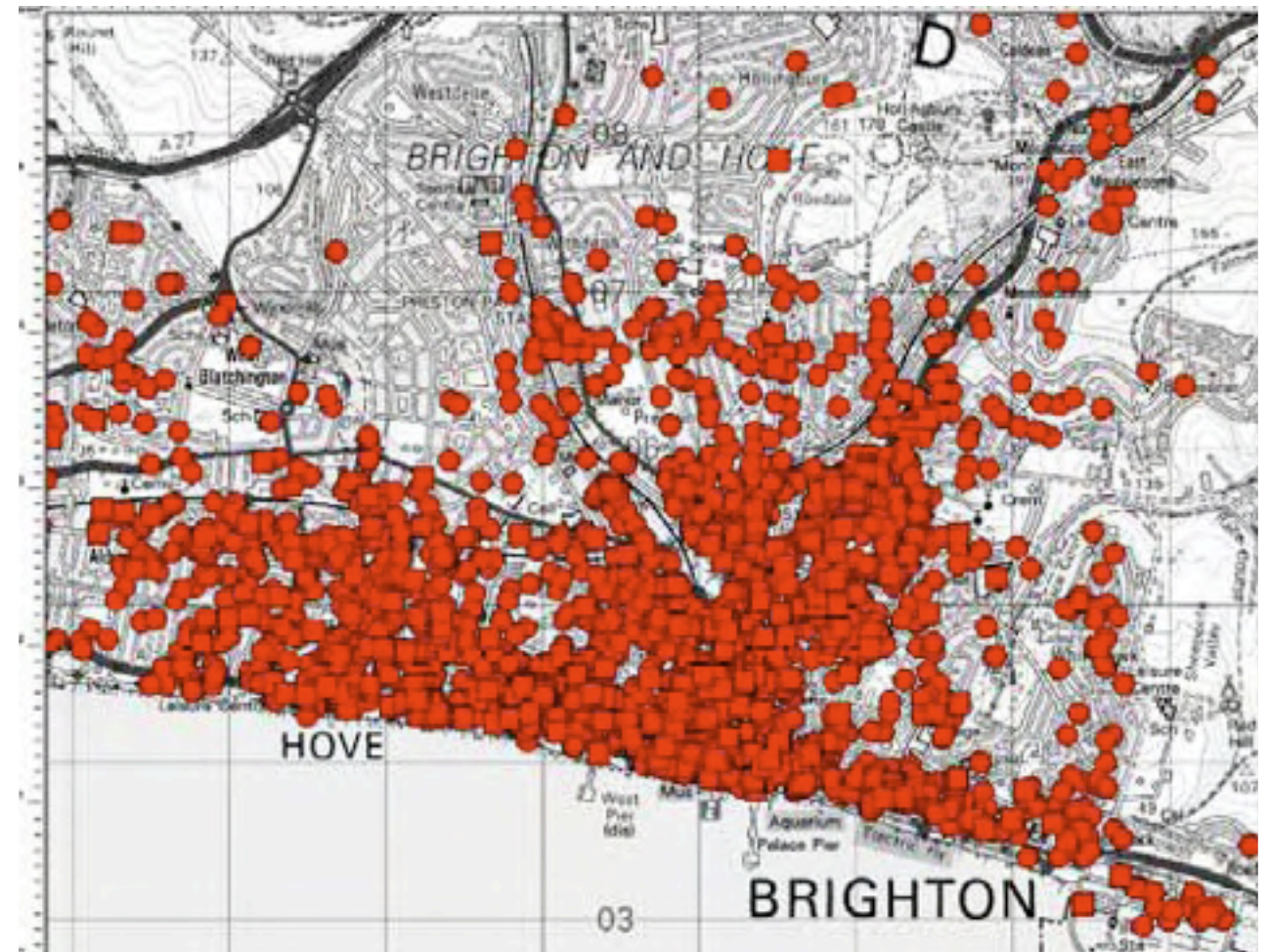Reputable
Imperishable
Consumable
Evaluable
Shiftable

7. DACRC Methodology

How To Engage Designers With Crime Research

Understanding 'Hot' Spots
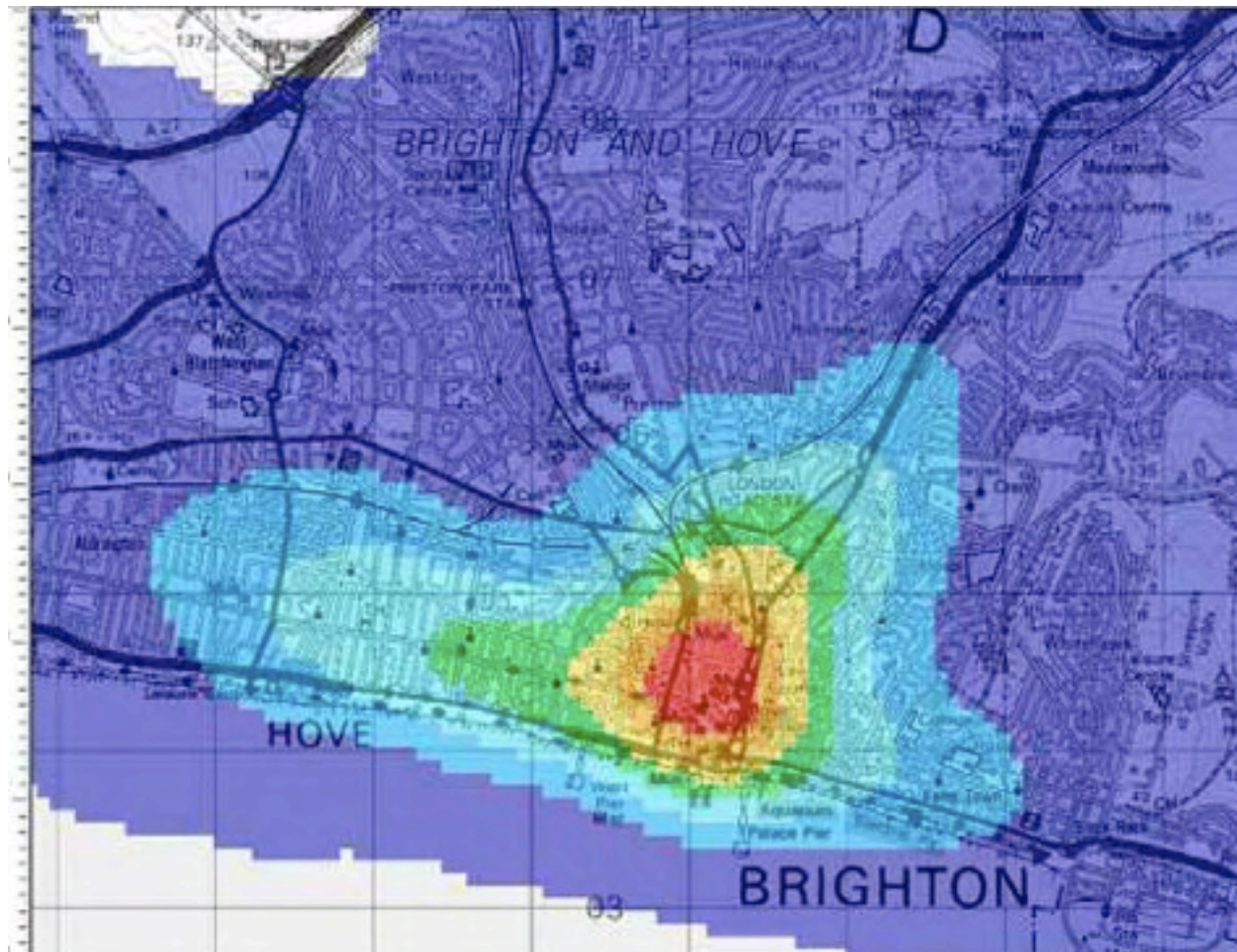
7. DACRC Methodology

Combining 'Thinking Thief' and 'Thinking User'

Understanding user / abuser scenarios

Dipping

Snatching

Slashing

Grabbing
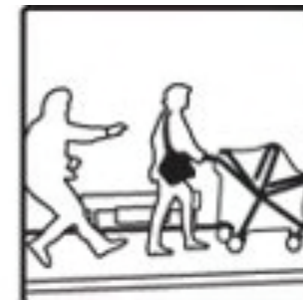
Lifting

7. DACRC Methodology

Combining 'Thinking Thief' and 'Thinking User'

Understanding contributing factors

Parking Environment

Type of Lock

Type of Locking Practice

Parking Furniture

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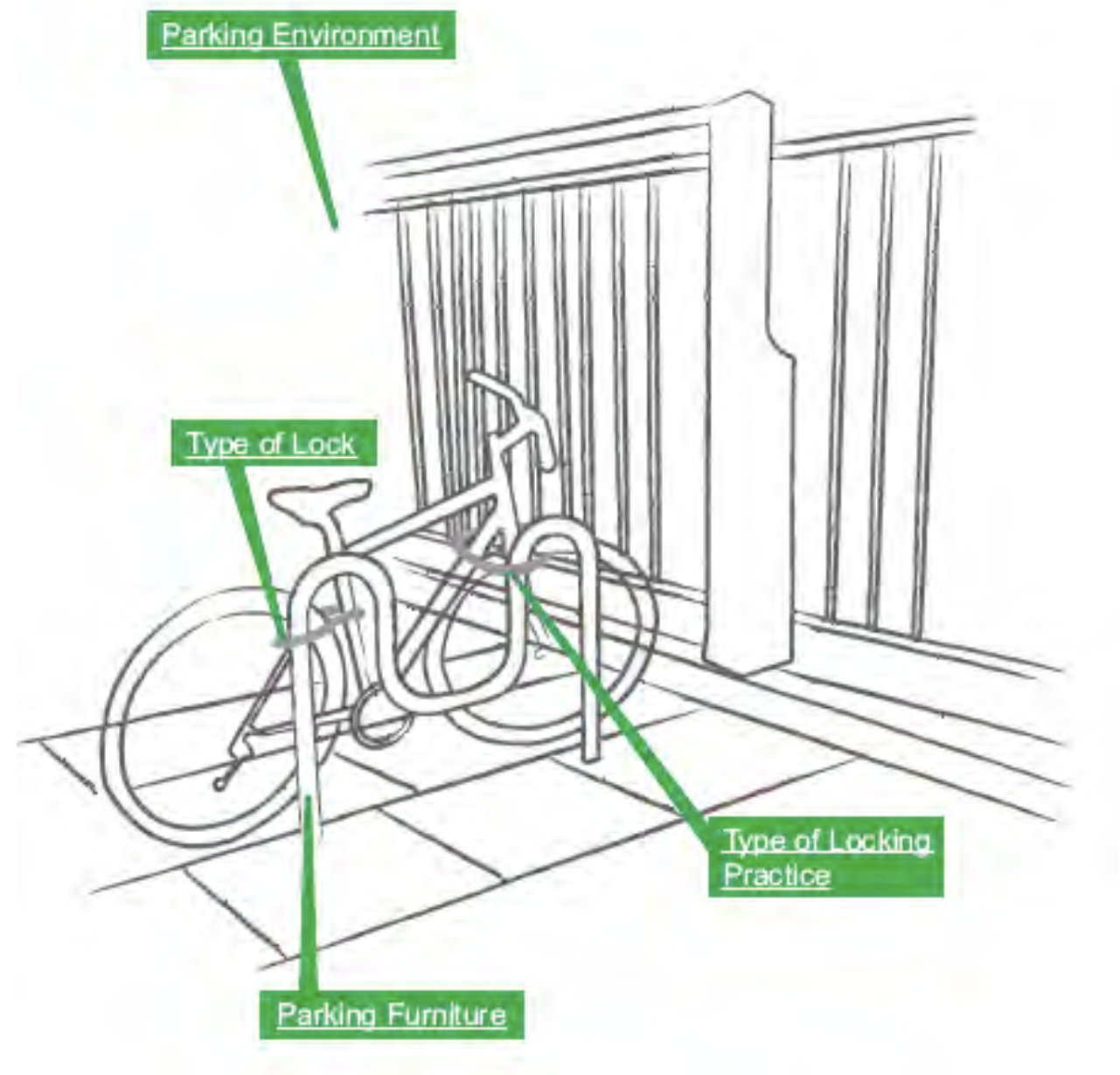
7. DACRC Methodology

Combining 'Thinking Thief' and 'Thinking User'

Avoiding environmental complicity

7. DACRC Methodology

Design-Led Crime Prevention Strategies

Spoiling

7. DACRC Methodology

Design-Led Crime Prevention Strategies

Target Hardening

7. DACRC Methodology

Design-Led Crime Prevention Strategies

Target Softening

7. DACRC Methodology

Design-Led Crime Prevention Strategies

Target Removal

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Design-Led Crime Prevention Strategies

Reduce Anonymity

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Design-Led Crime Prevention Strategies

Natural Surveillance

7. DACRC Methodology

Design-Led Crime Prevention Strategies

Formal Surveillance

7. DACRC Methodology

Design-Led Crime Prevention Strategies

Camouflage

8. Perceptions of Crime : Kaunas Review

What is the extent of crime?

A tourist can find out...

"The crime rate in Lithuania is low. Pocket picking and theft are problems, so personal belongings should be well protected at all times. Valuables should not be left in plain sight in parked vehicles, as there have been an increasing number of reports of car windows smashed and items stolen."

Lithuania 2007 Crime & Safety Report
http://vilnius.osac.gov

What is the extent of crime?

A tourist can find out...

If possible, visitors should avoid walking alone at night. ATMs should be avoided after dark. In any public area, one should always be alert to being surrounded by two or more people at once. Additionally, criminals have a penchant for taking advantage of drunken pedestrians. Americans have reported being robbed and/or scammed while intoxicated."

US Department of State Travel Site
http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_952.html

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8. Perceptions of Crime : Kaunas Review

What is the extent of crime?

A tourist can find out...

"Following a trend that has spread across Eastern and Central Europe, racially motivated verbal, and sometimes physical, harassment of foreigners of non-Caucasian ethnicity has been reported in major cities. Incidents of racially motivated attacks against American citizens have been reported in Kaunas, Klaipeda and Vilnius.

Organized crime is significant in the Kaunas region, but violence due to organized crime seldom affects the international community."

US Department of State Travel Site
http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_952.html

8. Perceptions of Crime : Kaunas Review

Hot Products

In the UK mobile phones are the only item taken in 28 per cent of robberies in London. Other 'hot products' such as MP3 players, Sat Navs, laptops, personal digital assistants and digital cameras are also crime targets.
What Hot Products are stolen in Kaunas by pickpockets and other thieves?

8. Perceptions of Crime : Kaunas Review

Hot Products

In the UK yellow boxes are painted in front of some cash points to create a physical barrier.

In Kaunas, tourists are warned that ATMs should be avoided after dark. In any public area, one should always be alert to being surrounded by two or more people at once.

8. Perceptions of Crime : Kaunas Review

Student Power

Kaunas is called 'The city of students', because it is one of the most important and largest hubs of science and education in Lithuania. There are 11 universities and academies with about 50.000 students in Kaunas. *What crimes are commonly experienced by students in Kaunas?*

8. Perceptions of Crime : Kaunas Review

Alcohol

Despite violent crime having fallen 43 per cent since 1995, drunken and rowdy behaviour remains a significant UK youth concern. *Is this a concern in Kaunas? How does alcohol related crime manifest in Kaunas?*

8. Perceptions of Crime : Kaunas Review

Alcohol

Material research into safer glasses – a design brief raised by a surgeon fed up with stitching people's faces up – is being led by Jeremy Myerson, Professor of Design Studies at the Royal College of Art.

Business

Businesses in the UK need to play an important role in designing their operations to minimise crime and disorder, but they are often the victims of crime too through shoplifting and other forms of theft and vandalism. *Is shoplifting a concern in Kaunas? How is business in Kaunas surviving the recession"?*

8. Perceptions of Crime : Kaunas Review

Business

Helping businesses to use design to minimise crimes which victimise them, their customers or employees such as theft and vandalism. This will be led by Lorraine Gamman, Professor of Design Studies at Central Saint Martins.

8. Perceptions of Crime : Kaunas Review

Business

The business stream also addresses
What is broken windows syndrome?

This describes environmental deterioration. It suggests that neglected buildings or run down environments and spaces attract crime. If one window gets smashed and no one can be bothered to repair it, why not smash another one?

8. Perceptions of Crime : Kaunas Review

How to design out crime – Kaunas Review

Step 1:

Consider:

Is the crime problem stated really the problem?

What social issues need to be considered and reviewed?

8. Perceptions of Crime : Kaunas Review

Housing

With the commitment to increase the number of homes in the UK, it is vital to ensure that crime reduction is given a higher priority by architects, planners and developers in Kaunas.

In this building 10 families feel unsafe.
Architects can make a difference.

www.securedbydesign.com

Wednesday, 9 December 2009

8. Perceptions of Crime : Kaunas Review
Housing

Anti-burglary has been a a UK focus. Is burglary a problem in Kaunas? **Embedding design-led crime reducing approaches in the planning and construction of housing, led by Ken Pease, visiting Professor at University College London.**

8. Perceptions of Crime : Kaunas Review

How to deal with graffiti?

8. Perceptions of Crime : Kaunas Review
100% tolerance?

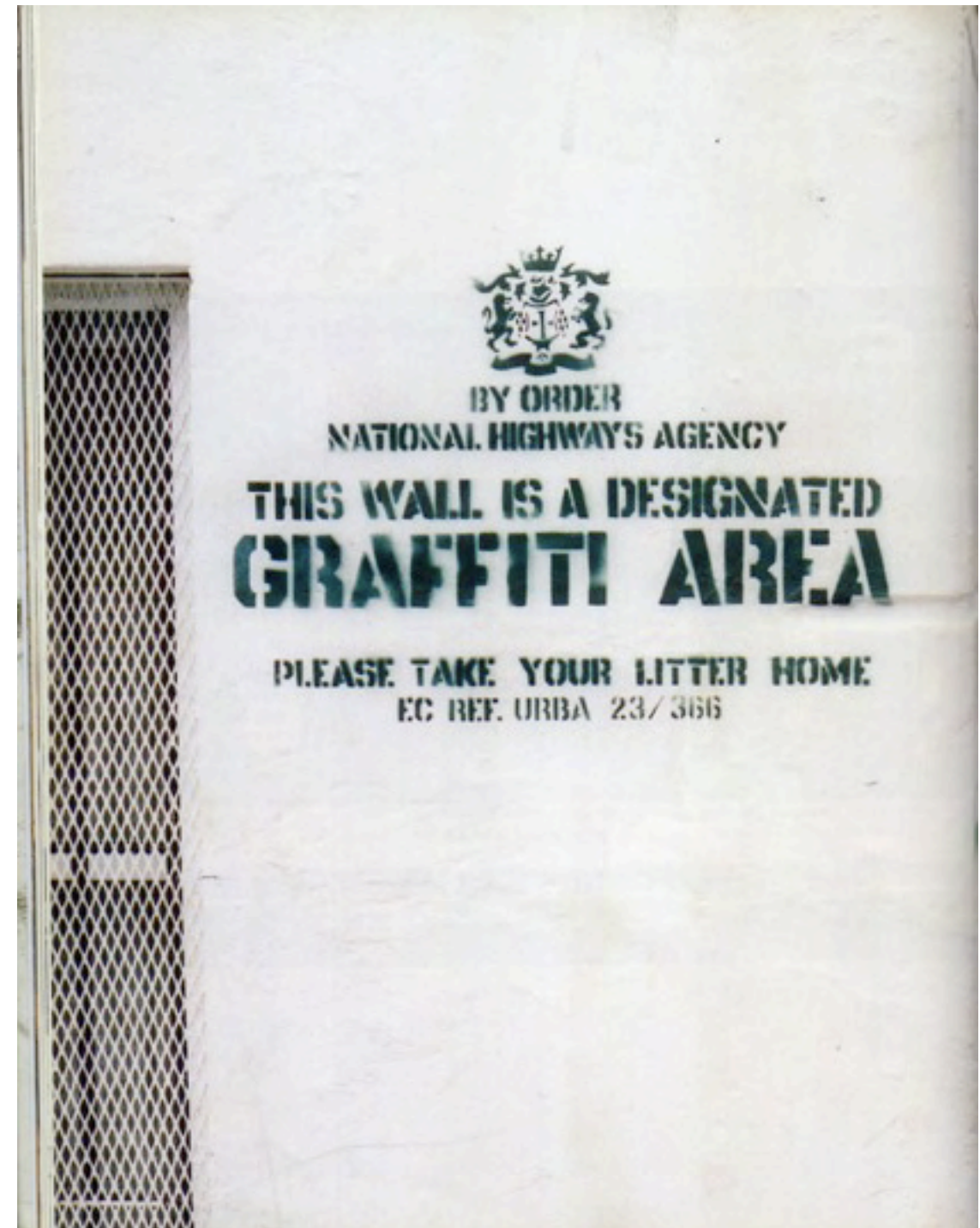# 8. Perceptions of Crime : Kaunas Review

Zero tolerance?

Reactions to zero tolerance

Creative interventions against graffiti

Target removal / softening
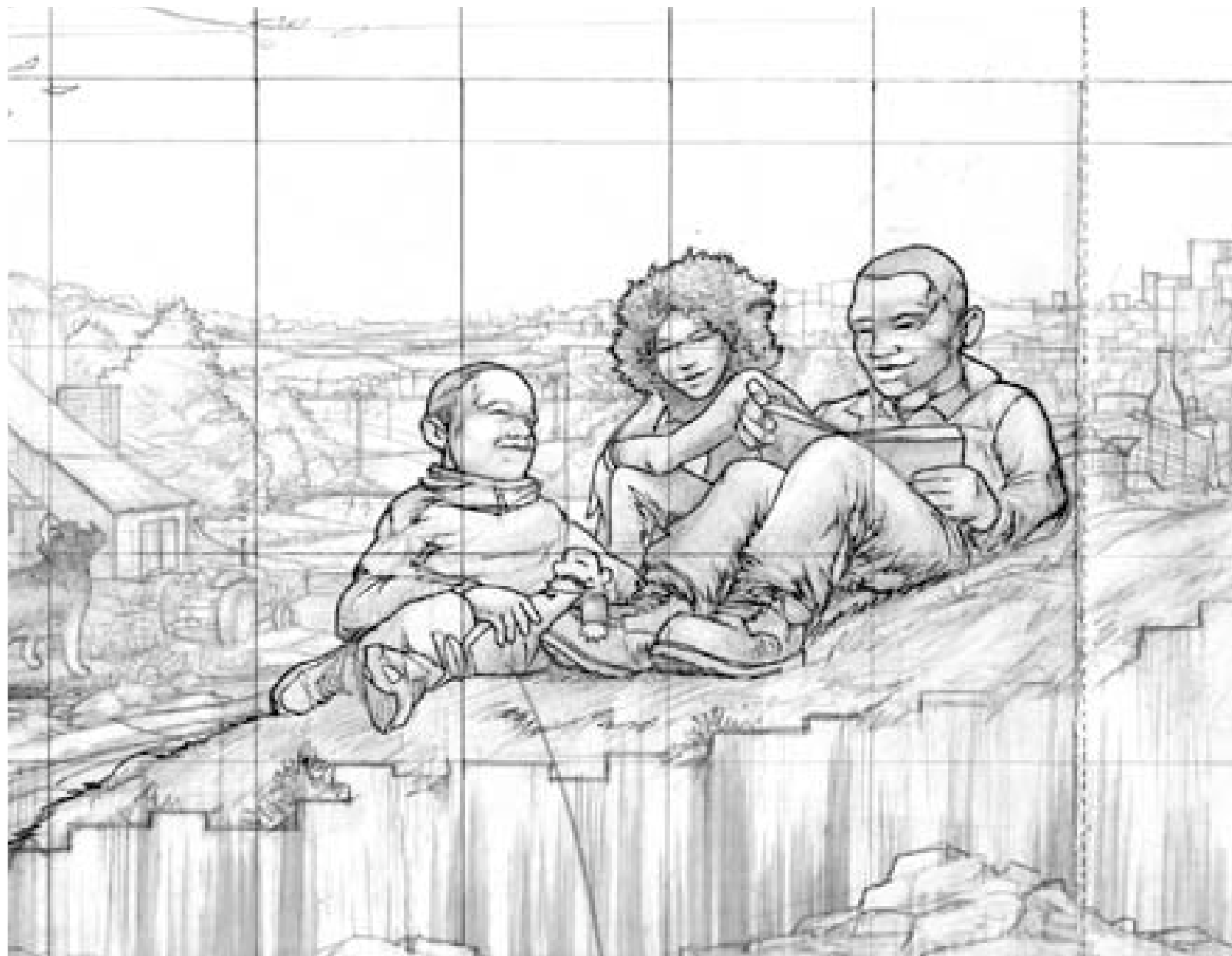
Creative interventions against graffiti

Signal / Santa's Ghetto

8. Perceptions of Crime : Kaunas Review

How to consider crime issues in Kaunas

Why Design Out Crime?

Who are the Stakeholders (those affected by) and Dutyholders (those with responsibility to affect) crime issues and how to locate and engage with them?
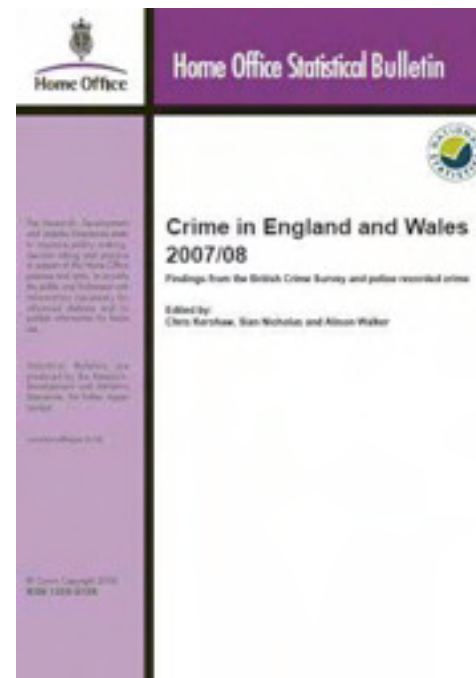
8. Perceptions of Crime : Kaunas Review

How to consider crime issues in Kaunas

How might designers engage with crime research in Kaunas?

• Primary and secondary sources – from crime statistics to victim/perpetrator interviews.

• Understanding What 'Hot' Products – Why are some products more attractive to
• complicit with crime?

• Understanding 'Hot' spots – Why are some environments more complicit with crime?

8. Perceptions of Crime : Kaunas Review

How to consider crime issues in Kaunas

Combining 'Thinking Thief' and 'Thinking User' - how best to do this?

•Understanding user/abuser scenarios – theft techniques and user behaviours - how to promote use and deter abuse according to context and risk.

•Understanding contributing factors and the scope they offer for design intervention.

9. Conclusion

Why design against crime?

- **Society** Less crime and less people criminalised - better well-being

- **Environment** Reduce complicity / increase opportunity for safe social interaction

- **Economy** A creative focus can lead to USP that delivers innovative products and services that add value and reduce costs of the impact of crime

A crime focus can lead to new USPs that add value that add value and lead to social innovation.

9. Conclusion

What can DAC and DOC contribute to innovation?

It can identify the links between;

- Design innovation and social innovation
- Fiscal capital and social capital

More importantly, our socially responsive design approach can be applied to other contexts and consider more multiple design drivers than 'use' and 'abuse'.

9. Conclusion

DAC is Socially Responsive Design

"Design which takes as its primary driver social issues, its main consideration social impact and its main objective social change" Gamman & Thorpe, 2006

or simply,

"Design that responds to social issues and context in pursuit of social change"

Thank you
www.designagainstcrime.com