

What's up, DOC? Contemporary practice, Themes and Issues in Designing Out Crime

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Occasional Seminar, Australian Institute of Criminology
November 2008

Design Against Crime Research Centre



Arts & Humanities
Research Council

The Grippa research programme, mainly funded by AHRC, is a collaboration between the Design Against Crime Research Centre, Central Saint Martins College of Art & Design, University of the Arts London, and the UCL Jill Dando Institute of Security and Crime Science. Papers and other materials from the programme are at www.grippaclip.com and wider practical and research material on preventing bag theft at www.inthebag.org.uk



What is Design Against Crime?

DAC uses the tools, processes & products of design to work in partnership with agencies, companies, individuals and communities to

- prevent all kinds of **crime** – including antisocial behaviour, drug abuse/ dealing and terrorism
- promote quality of life & sustainable living through enhanced **community safety**

through designs that are 'fit for purpose' and contextually appropriate in all other respects

Scope of Design Against Crime

- Secure products
- Security products
- Security communication
- Secure clothing
- Secure places/ environments

Design is about *processes*, not just products!

Inherently secure product



Secure – or surrender?



Security Product/ Security Communication



Grippa Type A



Grippa Type B

Security Product – Hi-tech solution



Security product – lo-tech solution



Securing product/ Secure + securing product



Security Product – Wearable Solutions



Securing products

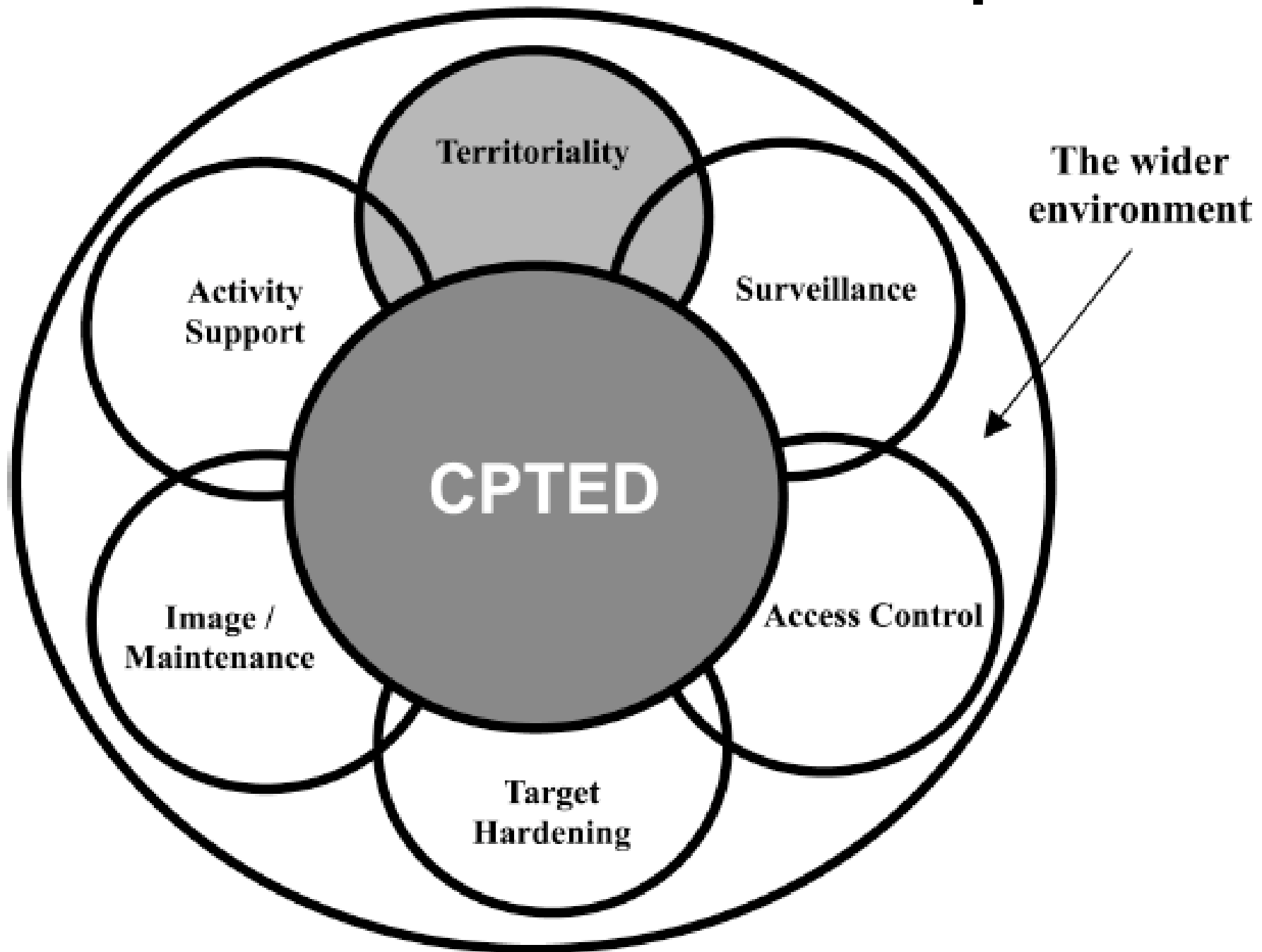


Security communication – based on research, and evaluated



**Secure places –
Crime Prevention Through
Environmental Design (CPTED)**

CPTED – Basic Principles



CPTED & Planning – Intervening upstream, downstream?

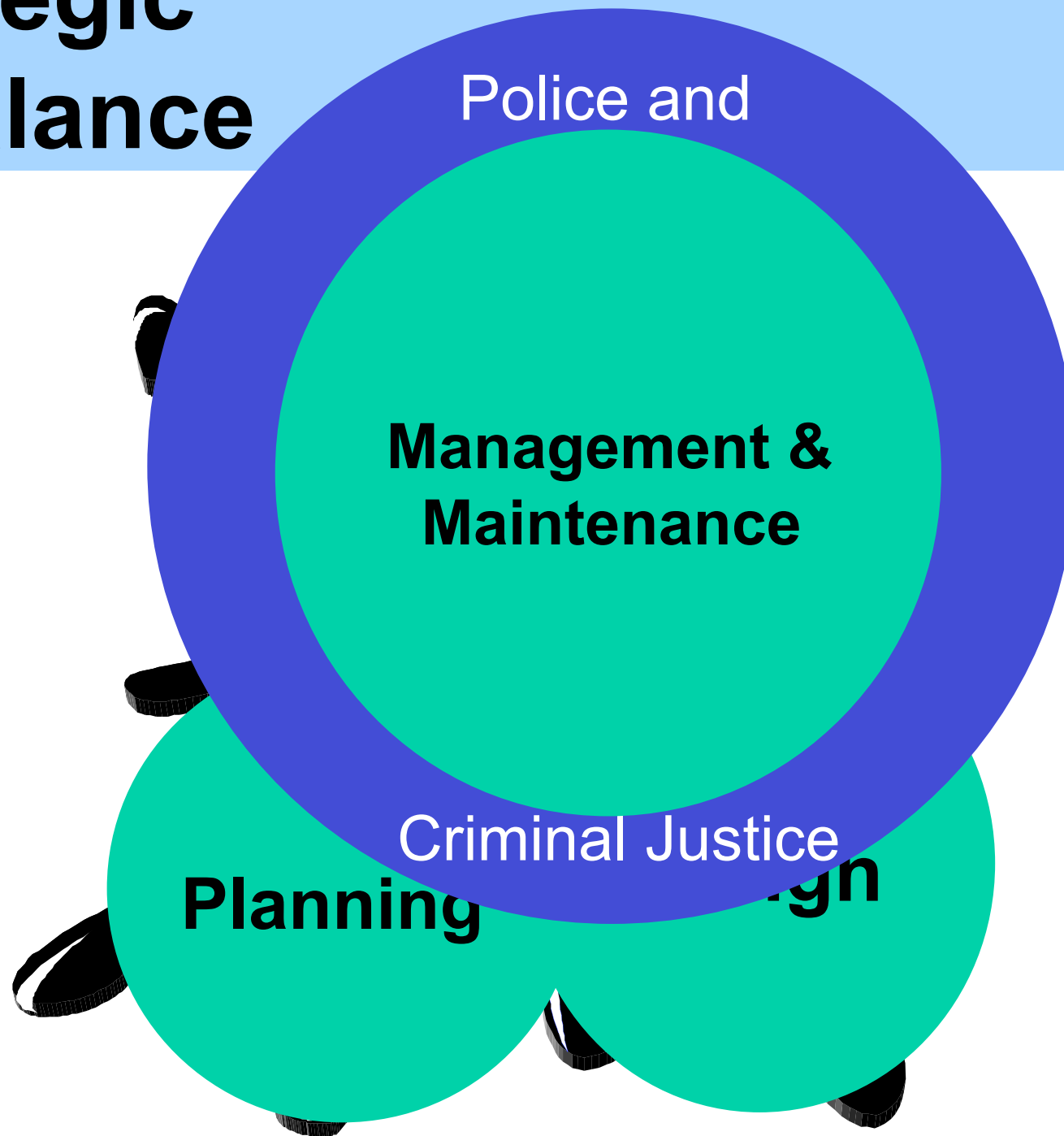
Management & maintenance



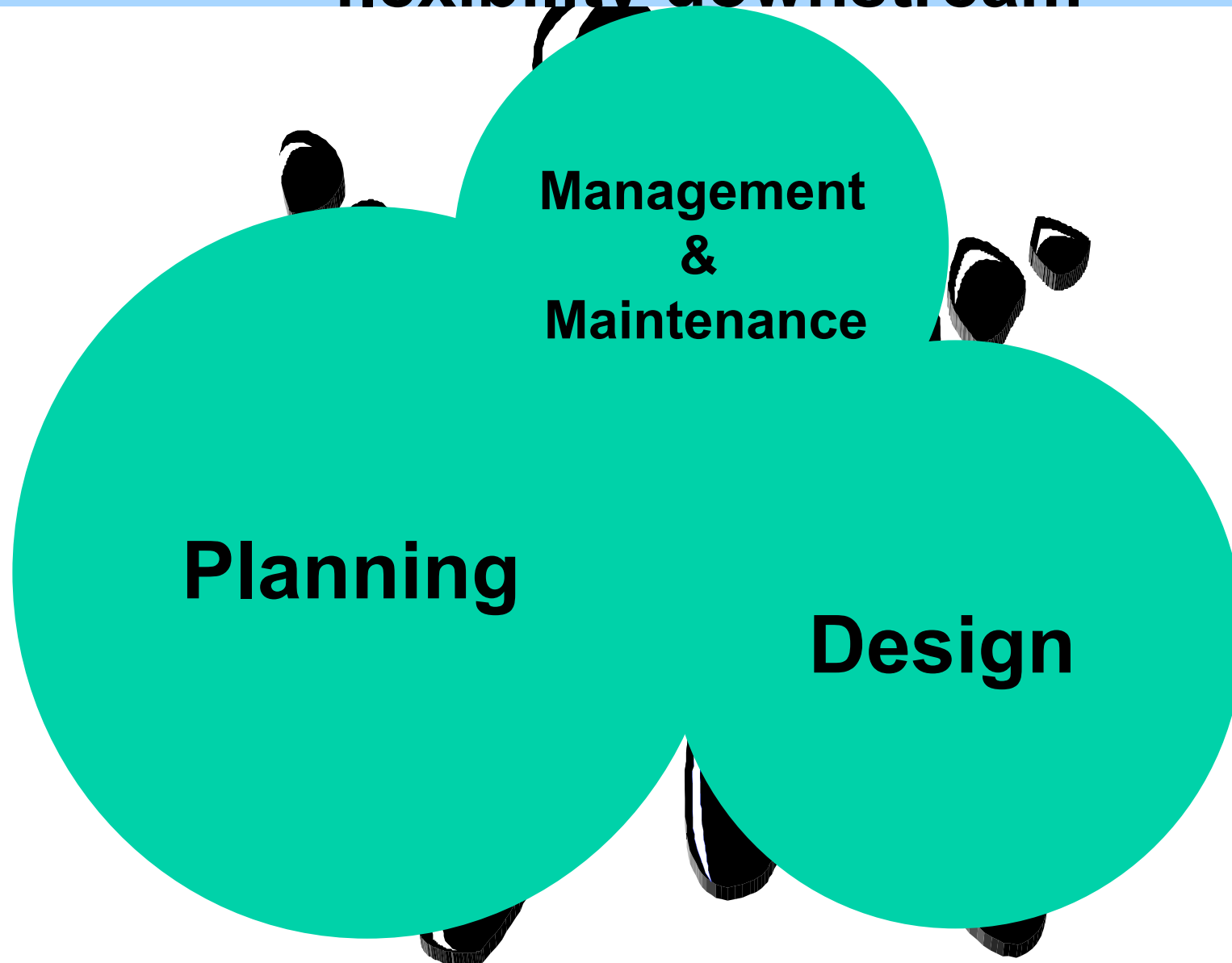
Planning

Design

Strategic imbalance



**Strategic balance – Put in most effort
upstream – but leave human & physical
flexibility downstream**



CPTED Limitations – Rigidity

- CPTED can be used rigidly or flexibly, but practitioners with elementary training risk the first, which can be costly or likely to discredit the approach
 - Failure to fit context – airport car park condemned for lights being too low.
Cookbook copying won't work anyway
 - Failure to adapt to users
 - Adaptable criminals

False security from rigid prescription + adaptable criminals? ‘Helpful’ entrance porch



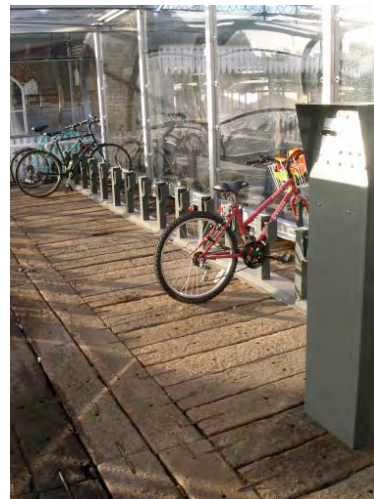
Beware cookbook copying – Importance of context for replication

ELECTRONICALLY SECURED CYCLE PARKING

GHENT, BELGIUM



WALTHAMSTOW CENTRAL STATION, LONDON



Crime is not the only issue

Troublesome Tradeoffs

Can we design secure places & products in-context without jeopardising their main purpose and:

- Convenience
- Aesthetics/ fear – fortress society
- Legal and ethical norms - privacy and freedom – CCTV?
- Social inclusion
- Sustainable environment
- Safety



Secure products need not be ugly



DAC doesn't have to be expensive



Design doesn't have to look criminal

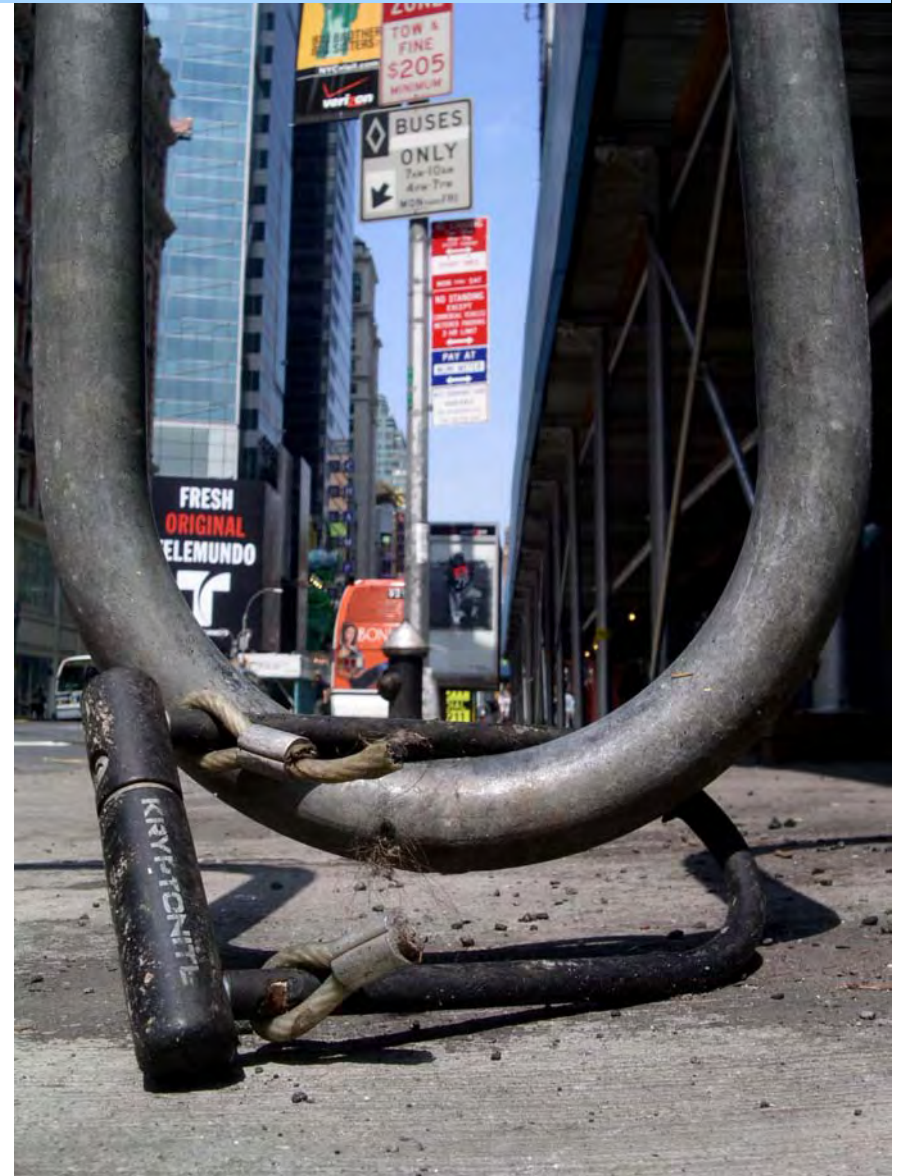


When is design not design?

When is design not design?

1. The technofix

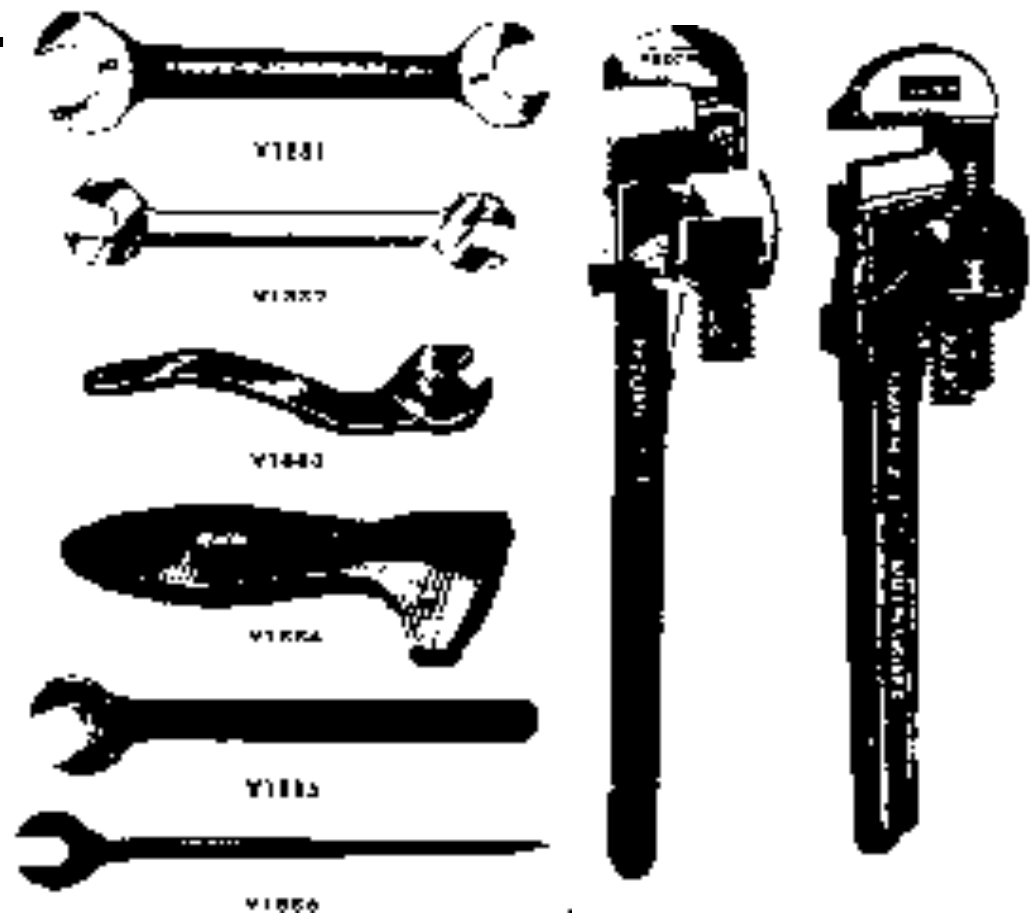
- Shallow, single, exposed line of defence
- Bolt on, drop off



When is design not design?

2. Heavy engineering

- Does the basic job well enough, but...
 - Clunky, not user-friendly
 - Ugly, maybe fear-inspiring



Problem...



**'Engineering'
solution**



‘Engineering’ solutions



**More
aesthetic
solution**



More aesthetic solution



More aesthetic solution

- Traditional style
- With backup



Inclusion

Problem...



More aesthetic solution



...but where do the drinkers go?

Facilities for Youth – seemingly obvious But...Inclusion? NIMBY? Effective?



Facilities for Youth – inclusive (unless you don't like football)



Solving a problem or indiscriminate exclusion?



“Screaming kids frequently cause 'discomfort' to my ears.
If it gets rid of the little brats, I am all for it.”

Bill, Southampton

**Clash of principles
confusion of research**

Security versus New Urbanism

- **New Urbanism – walkable, permeable layout**
- Police say:
 - **New Urbanism** will increase crime
 - Surveillance is not a substitute for defensible space
- Examples
 - **Car parking** – New Urbanism wants *less* - cars out of view, conflict among residents on parking space
 - **Cul-de-sacs** - are they *safer* than open streets?
- Conflicting values
 - *Principles of enclosure/ defensible space & permeability*
 - Serve *values of security, and access & movement*
- Conflicting research results

The Great British Cul-deSac Controversy



Resolution through subtlety – leaky cul-de-sacs



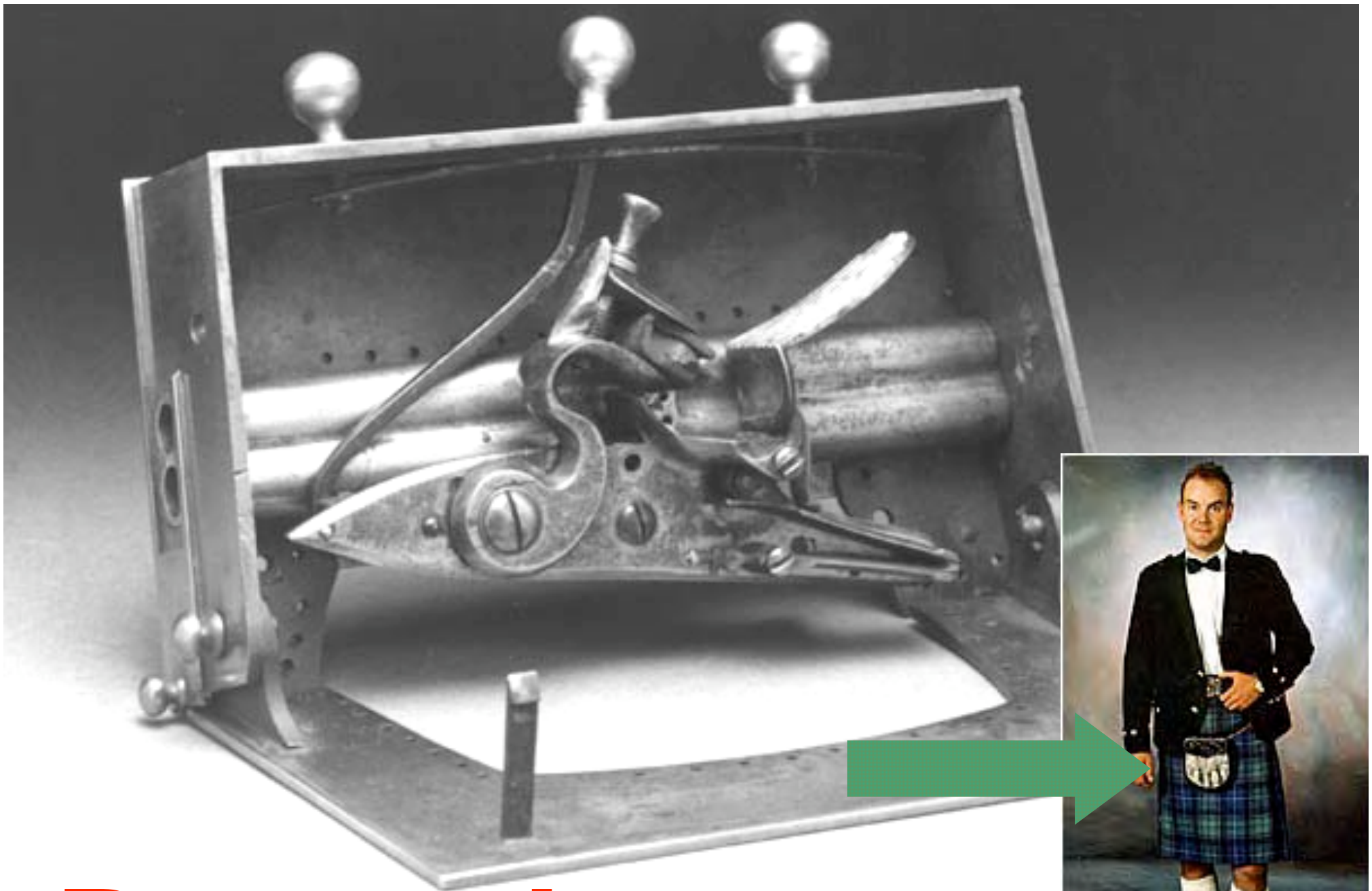
Resolution of New Urbanism through design – cars off street but under surveillance



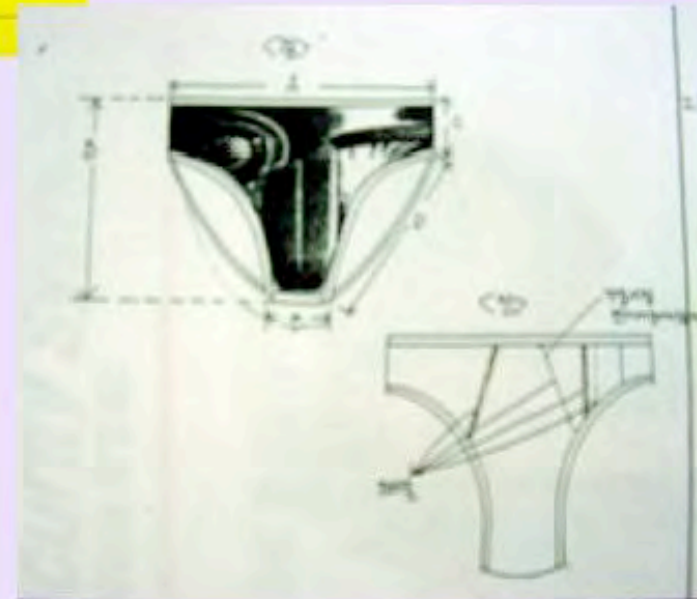
Reassurance or paranoia?

Feel safer?





Danger!



Magnificent Obsession?

Terrorism

Out of context?



Terrorism – prevention ... and fortification



In-context

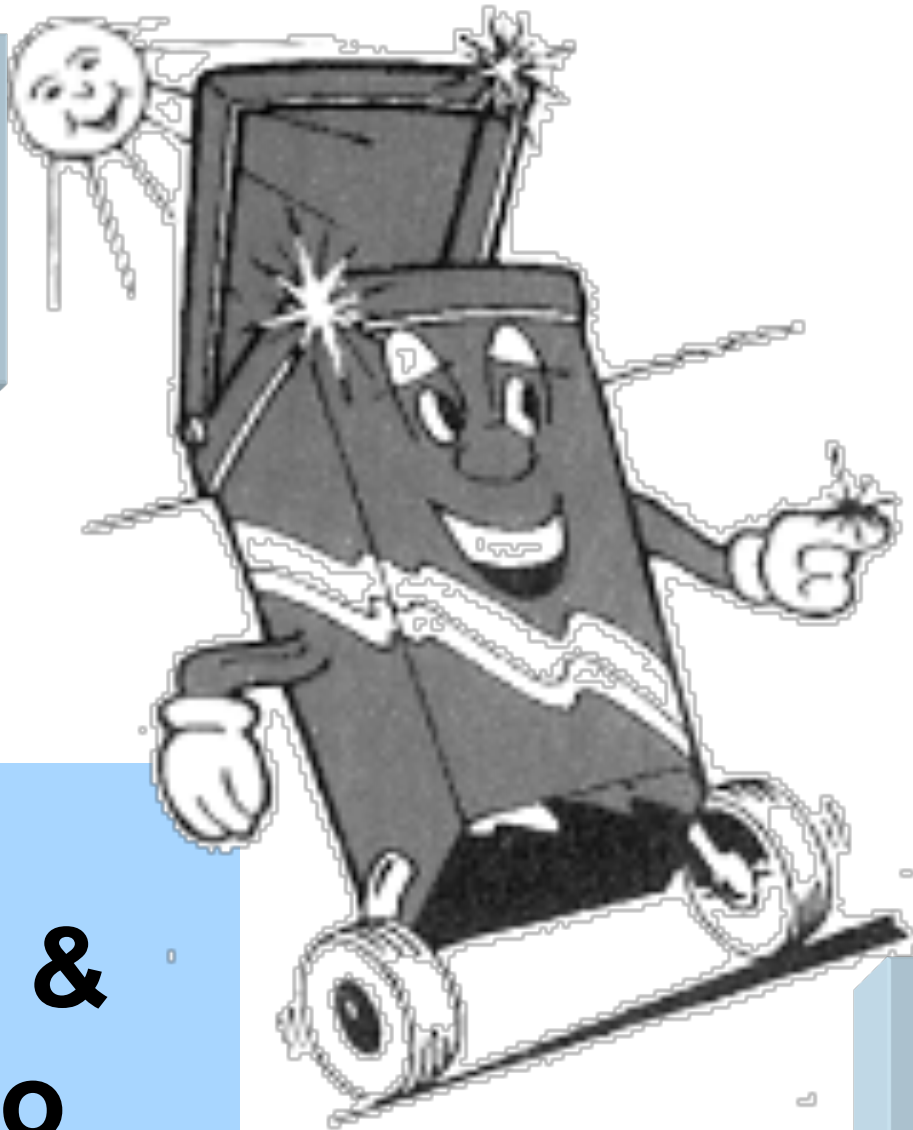


Terrorism – unobtrusive mitigation



Mobilising designers

A receptacle
for grime?



**Getting
Designers &
Planners to
Think Thief**

Or a tool
for crime?

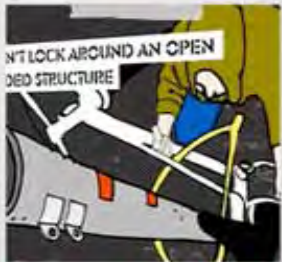
Failure to 'Think Drug User'





Mobilisation and Research combined – Bikeoff design resource

The image shows a screenshot of the Bikeoff Design Resource website. The header features the 'bikeoff' logo and navigation links: 'Design resource', 'Bikeoff TV', 'Bike parking guidelines', 'About Us / Credits', and 'Contacts'. The main content area is titled 'This is the Bikeoff Design Resource' and describes it as 'A summary of 2 years' research about bike theft and how to design against it.' The interface is designed to look like a spiral-bound notebook with various sections and hand-drawn illustrations like a chain, a watch, and a bicycle.

About Bike Theft


- 

One bike is stolen every minute in the UK. Find out how
- 

It could be you! Bike theft victims tell their stories
- 


Years of research and over 200 references. The Bikeoff bibliography


Design Brief


- 


RSA Brief The challenge and submission details


Design Responses

- 

Over 40 case studies of bike parking
- 

New ideas for
- 

Europe's Public Bike Hire Schemes reviewed
- 

Bike parking Furniture
- 

25+ examples of cycling advocacy schemes

Does Designing Out Crime work?

Does CPTED work?

- **Armitage evaluation of UK Secured By Design housing certification scheme**
 - YES – around same cost as 1 burglary
- **Cozens' 2005 review of CPTED**
 - Cautious **YES... But**
 - Support for the effectiveness of comprehensive CPTED programmes has not been unequivocally demonstrated
 - Uncertain precisely how CPTED and its components work, where it works best and how to evaluate effectiveness beyond reasonable doubt
 - Rigorous testing & evaluation procedure to produce deeper understanding of theoretical basis of CPTED mechanisms

Product design – statistical effectiveness

- Car crime decreased steadily since immobilisers mandatory
- Analogue mobile phones easily cloned – digital hard
- ‘Slugs’ in Underground ticket machines
- New bike stands – improve security level of parking behaviour
- Table grips... watch this space!

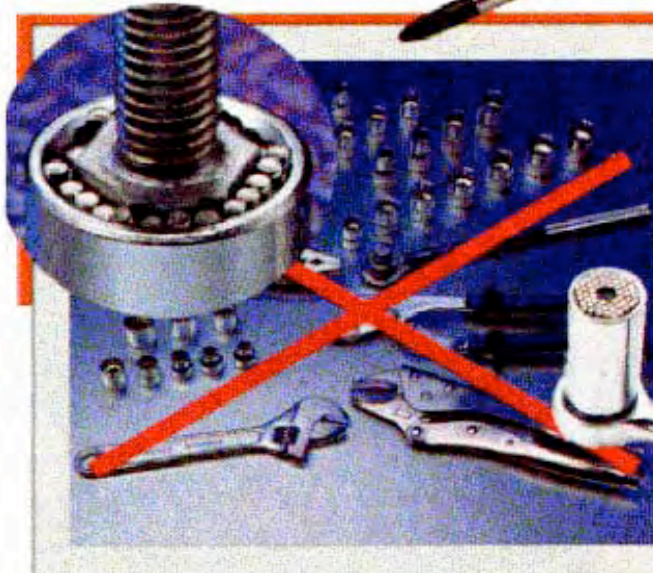
Product design – self-evident effectiveness



Will it *always* work? A wasting asset

The challenge of DAC – Obsolescence

- Adaptive offenders' countermoves
- Changing social conditions
- New tools/ skills for crime



One socket that does the work of a whole set

A DIY sensation from America, the Gator Grip Universal Socket replaces all your socket sets, both metric and imperial – as well as doing many of the jobs where you would normally use pliers or spanners. The unique internal arrangement of 54 steel pins grips any shape instantly, adjusting automatically for hex nuts, square nuts and wing nuts, even broken and rusted nuts so long as they still have at least one reasonably flat side. Designed to fit every nut and bolt from 7mm to 19mm ($\frac{1}{4}$ " to $\frac{3}{4}$ "), Gator Grip is precision-made from alloy steel and comes with a drop-forged ratchet handle (its standard $\frac{1}{2}$ " steel drive also fits your existing socket set handles and extension pieces).


Gator Grip £24.99 MX0190

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Delivery is extra – please see order form.

Co-design

Mobilisation and research – local feedback and consultation




Map of London showing various roads and landmarks. The map is part of the bikeoff.org interface, displaying a detailed view of the city's road network.




London

Explore Show

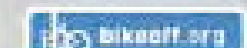


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bikeoff.org

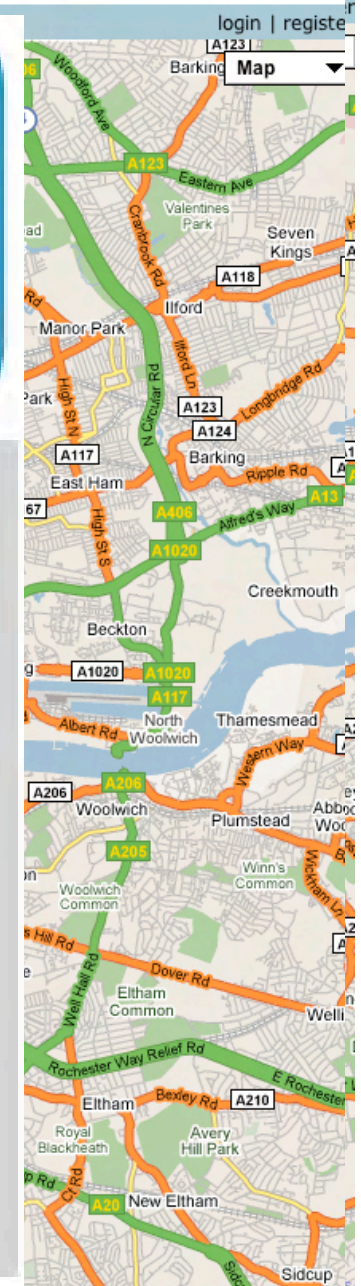
HOW CAN YOU IMPROVE THIS BICYCLE PARKING FACILITY?



Map of London showing various roads and landmarks. The map is part of the bikeoff.org interface, displaying a detailed view of the city's road network.

login | register

Map



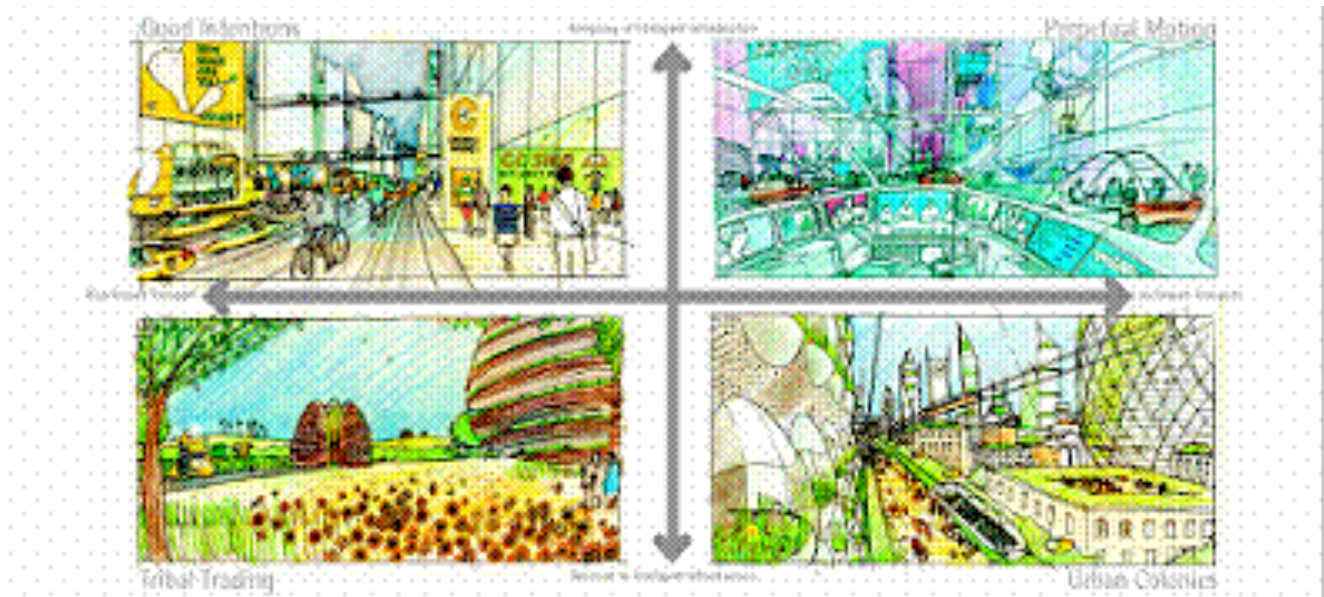
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Futures

CPTED - futures

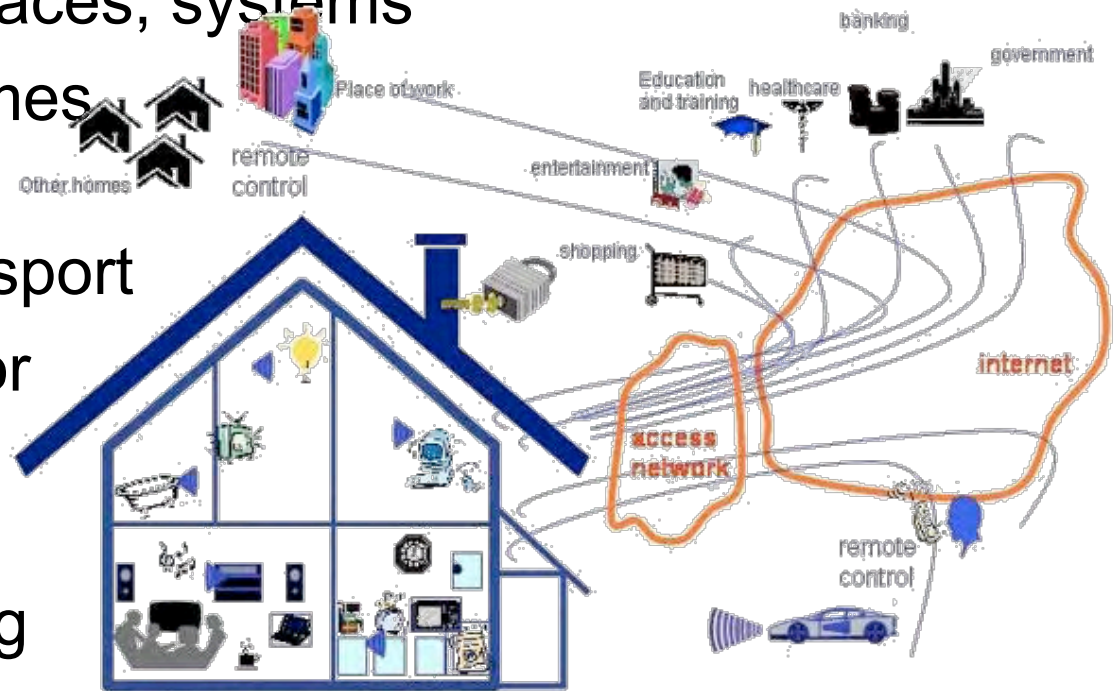
- Changing crime – new tools, new targets
- Changing priorities
 - Sustainability
 - Low energy
 - Resilience to climate shift, terrorism
 - Privacy/freedom v security



CPTED - futures

Changing context on all scales

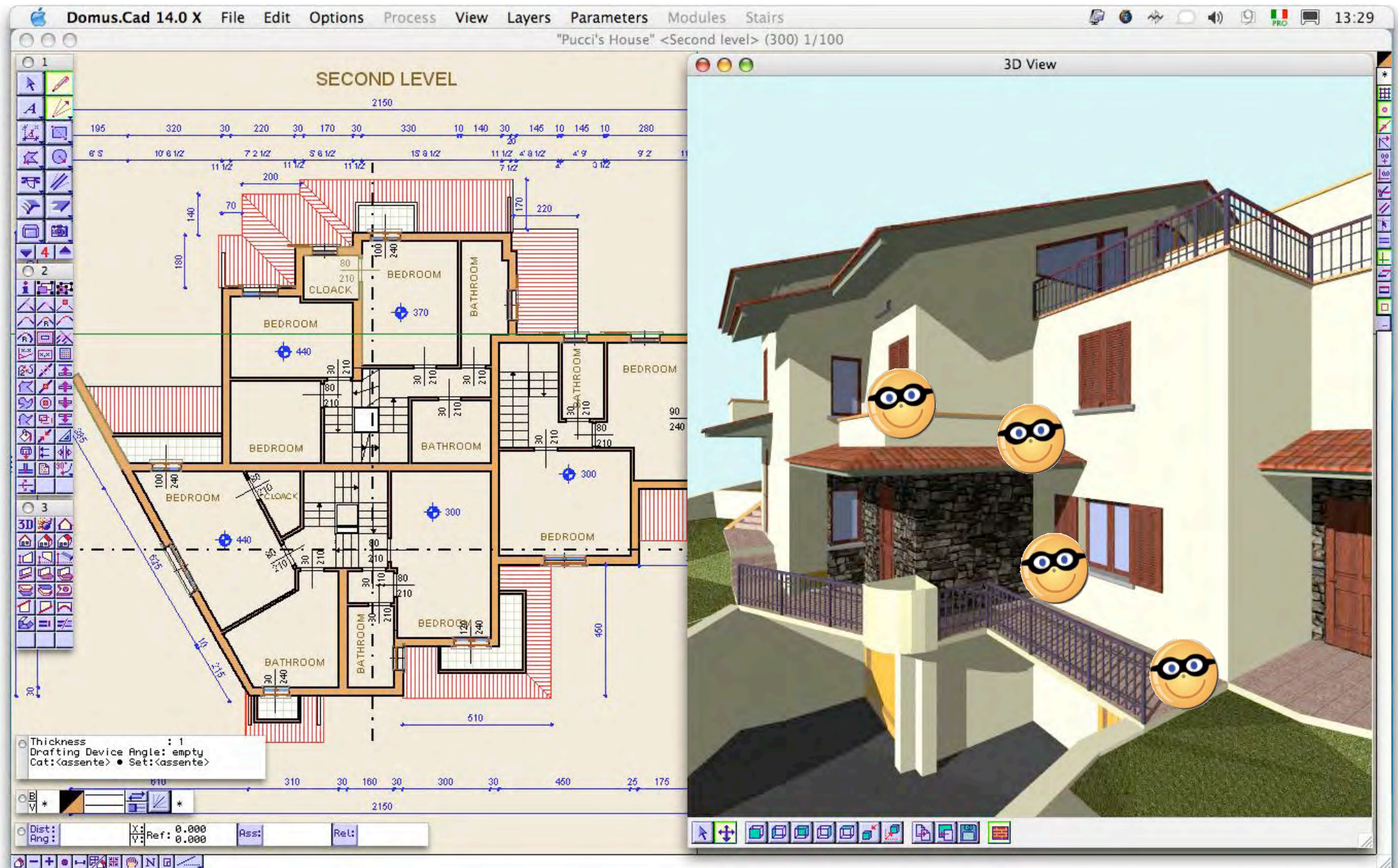
- New land uses
- Blur between products, places, systems
- Domotics – intelligent homes linked to internet
- Automobiles v public transport
- Intelligent infrastructure for transport
- Wireless/internet + cameraphones – changing nature of 'eyes on street'
- Intelligent CCTV, multimodal alarm systems
- New building materials – sensitive, resilient, anti-graffiti?



Technology of design visualisation – Helping designers, clients and users with virtual reality design aids

- CAD Enables designers to visualise designs before implementation

Computer aided design



VR for lighting design

- Enables designers to visualise lighting before implementation
- Provides a means of communicating design ideas to different interest groups – conflict?
- Optimises tradeoff with energy saving







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**DESIGN
AGAINST
CRIME**

