

Housing as if Little Guys Mattered:
Arguments for Shared Outdoor Space in Housing



Four arguments
for shared open spaces

1. **CPTED:** *Capable guardianship* possible within territory controlled by residents
2. **Education for sustainability:** Microcosm of the **wider environmental world:** essential for child's environmental literacy and ethical development
3. **Child development and safety:** Microcosm of the **wider social world:** necessary for child's social and physical development
4. **Equity and cultural diversity:** Young children in some households (and some young girls) not permitted to go alone beyond sight and calling distance of home

Why have we abandoned
shared space
in medium-density
Australian housing?



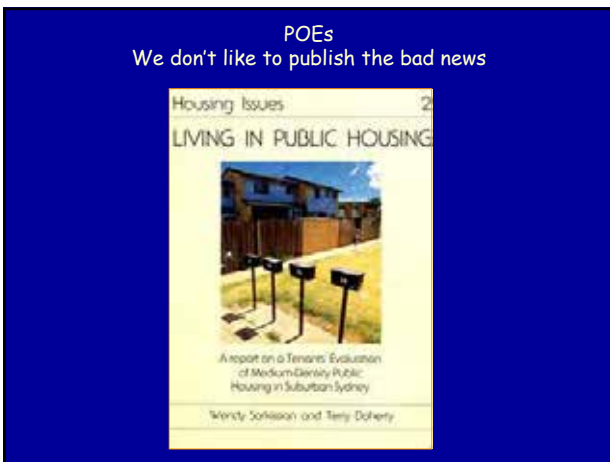
Worrisome subsidized housing
images from the UK, mid-1970s



Classic problems
of the 1960s and onwards...



Grass to the walls



1. CPTED

Capable guardianship possible within territory controlled by residents

CPTED: *What's in an acronym?*

Crime
Prevention
Through
Environmental
Design

The intelligent design and use of the built environment to reduce fear and crime

CPTED Basics

- Territoriality
- Access control
- Surveillance
- Building design
- Legitimate activities
- Management
and maintenance
- Capable guardianship

Why Shared Space is Important to CPTED



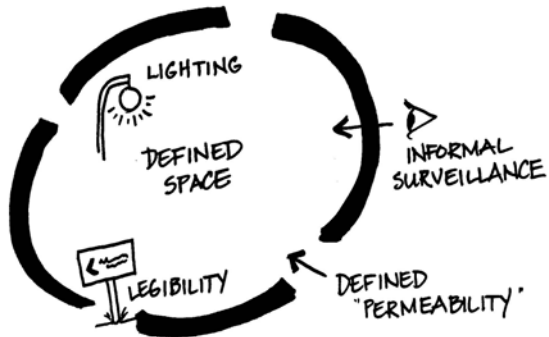
Territoriality

Two old dears on their own territory



Why is this important?

CPTED Elements



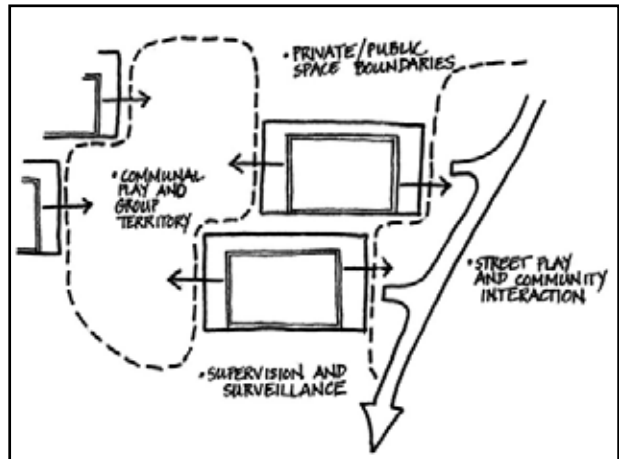
CPTED crime risk evaluation and treatment process



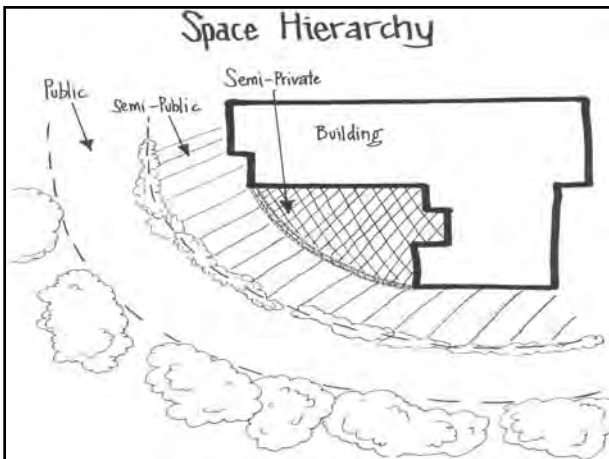
NSW Model

NSW Safer by Design Crime Risk Evaluation Method

	Categories
Surveillance	31
Access control	29
Lighting/technical supervision	18
Territorial reinforcement	13
Activity and space management	12
Landscaping	11
Environmental maintenance	11
Design/definition of space	7
Total	132



Space Hierarchy



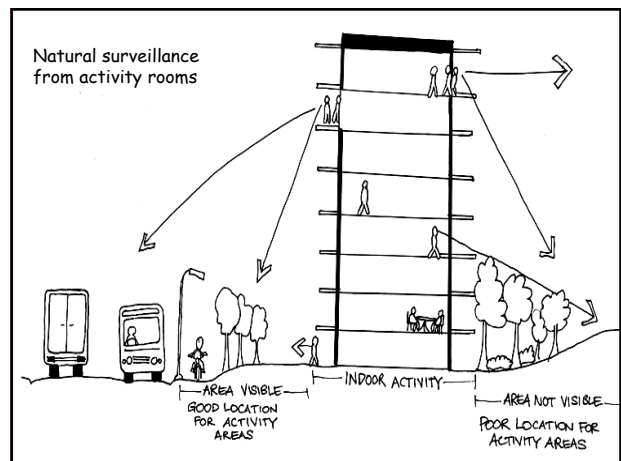
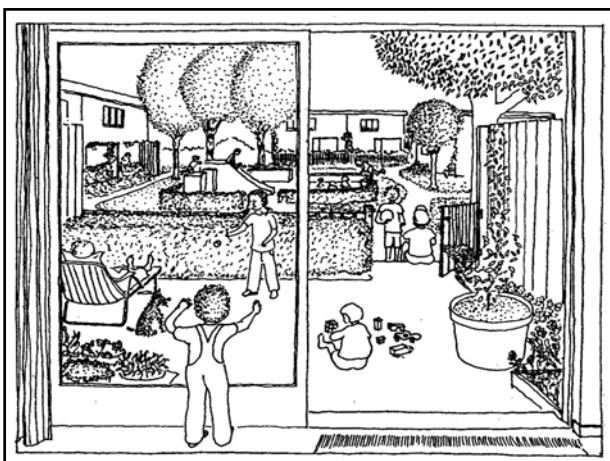
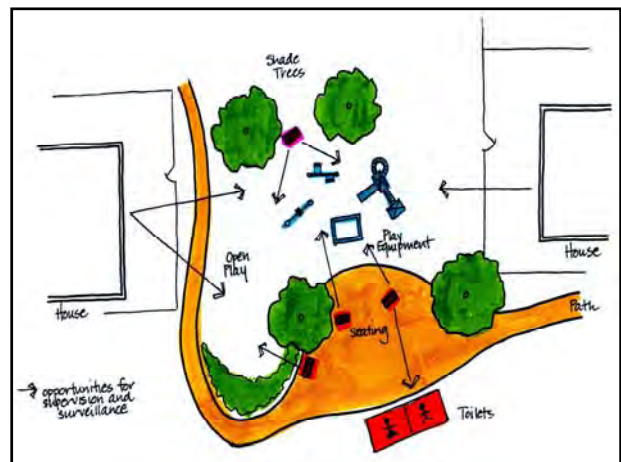
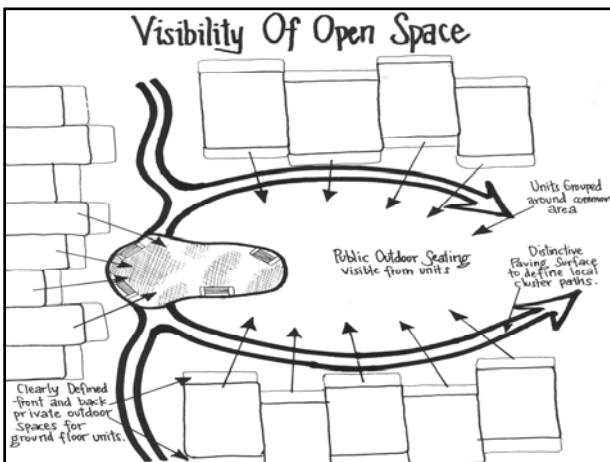


Natural Surveillance



CPTED and Children

- Children are vulnerable users of residential environment
- Do not always understand which places are safe for them to use
- Can be victims of predatory practices
- Parental fears can inhibit children's use of the environment (Paul Tranter)
- Attention to CPTED principles will reduce potential for limiting children's independent mobility



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2. Education for sustainability

Shared space is a microcosm of the wider environmental world: essential for child's **environmental literacy** and ethical development

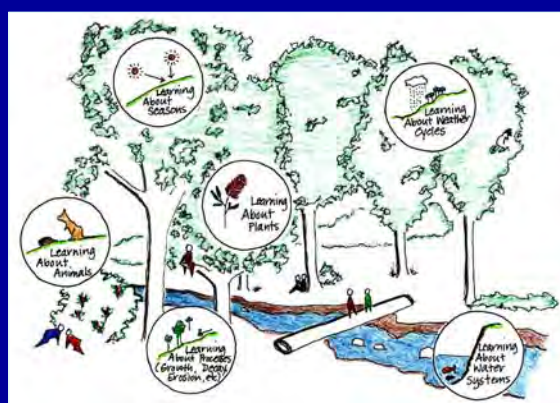
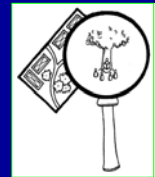


Relationships between Sustainability and Children



ECOLOGICAL LEARNING

- Diversity of urban environment: learning ground for children's ecological values
- Environments that communicate sustainability are important
- Educate children (and adults) to value sustainability
- Valuing sustainability and intergenerational equity communicates that we value children and their futures
- Children grow into ecologically literate and responsible adults



Ecological Learning

How do children learn to value sustainability?

The environment is a communicating medium.

It communicates what we value.





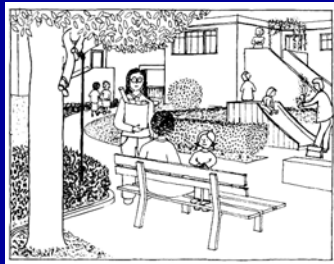
Children's drawings of a coastal redevelopment site in Melbourne 1989



3

3. Child development and safety

Shared space is microcosm of the wider social world: necessary for child's physical and social development



What's so special about this playground?



4

4. Equity and cultural diversity

Young children in some households (and some young girls) not permitted beyond sight and calling distance of home without an adult



GENDER ISSUES

- Males tend to dominate outdoor play
- Older boys and teenagers will dominate most attractive play areas
- Girls play less often in parks than boys do
- Girls tend to play significantly closer to home



Children (especially girls) need opportunities for private social play

My guess:
This mother won't take her daughter to the park at the end of the street



<http://www.mihalabab.com/images/faces/gallery.php?directory=AcunantPic3>



In summary

CPTED:

- Clear sense of territory: what is private or shared (reduces excuse-making)
- Recognising (and confronting) strangers
- Expressing capable guardianship
- Building a sense of community
- **** Major security concerns with NU alleys (unsurveyed burglary)

Sustainability:

- Learning and practicing ecology at home
- Stewardship model
- Personal health and ecosystem health linked (SEPA)
- Cooler neighbourhoods

Equity:

- Poor people can't travel far for outdoor recreation
- Some cultures won't let women and girl children go far for recreation
- Without shared space, some young girls will not be permitted to leave the dwelling or the yard

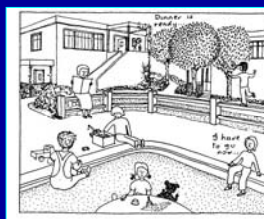


Figure 113. A play space for small children should always be sited within view of the dwelling to allow casual surveillance from home.



Figure 147. Seeing neighbors out of the window or meeting each other at the bus lot or en route to the bus stop—all these brief encounters are enhanced when a limited number share a common open space.

