

Businesses that apply Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) strategies can reduce crime around their property.

Design out crime at your business through territorial identity

Territorial identity provides a sense of ownership, spatial control and clearly delineates private and public areas to deter and discourage trespass. As an example, using landscaping and appropriate barriers like fences or hedges to separate a property line between a private and public space, while ensuring they don't block lighting or visibility. Area purpose and identity should provide users with a sense of ownership and control of a space, avoiding dead zones or areas subject to low maintenance and care.

Territorial identity creates a sense of 'place' and

establishes pride by a person or community. Land use and area purpose should clearly delineate between private, semi-public and public realm. Delineation may be achieved with changes in level, formal entries, fences and barriers, landscaping or signs.

Increasing the use of the area by legitimate groups in the community (i.e. social interaction) increases the sense of ownership, control and may take on the role of voluntary custodians of the area.

Good territorial identity



Figure 1: Strong sense of ownership, spatial control and clearly delineates private and public areas and preventing any vehicle access.

Poor territorial identity



Figure 2: Inadequate sense of area purpose, ownership or control.