Design + crime : up the down escalator

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Title: Design + Crime: up the dawn escalator

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Abstract:
The fields of criminology and crime prevention practice have looked at the design of buildings, products and the urban fabric in an effort to identify bad design characteristics that would precipitate or exacerbate crime. Both fields have theorised rules and frameworks to help prevent these bad designs from occurring again. But the broad field of design has much more to offer. Designers and their unique practices are now being recognised for their role in helping organisations deal with open, complex, dynamic and networked problems (‘Design Thinking’).

In the Designing Out Crime Research Centre, these design practices are used to approach the issues of safety and public spaces in a new, positive way. This keynote address will focus on one of these practices, Frame Creation, which has proven a fruitful design-based innovation method for governments, institutions and companies, helping them to approach hitherto intractable problems in novel ways. The presentation will provide an introduction to Frame Creation along with examples of how it has been used to approach complex problems of crime and safety in our modern day world.

Title: How to analyze crime, then design against it

Author: Professor Marcus Felson, Criminal Justice Department, Texas State University

Abstract:
First, Marcus Felson discusses how NOT to think about crime, noting many of the common illusions. Then he explains some basic principles for analysing crime patterns. Following this, he gives examples of changes that have reduced crime or increased it, without prior planning. Finally, he considers how we can plan and design with crime reduction in mind.

Title: Beyond CPTED: social equity as a basis for safety and liveability

Author: Associate Professor Heather MacDonald
Affiliation: School of the Built Environment, DAB, University of Technology Sydney

In this presentation, Heather MacDonald argues that urban design considerations need to be broadened beyond the physical if we are to develop liveable, safe, and socially sustainable environments. There is persuasive international evidence that the spatial marginalisation of disadvantaged residents in warehouse estates disconnected from the metropolitan economy undermines social sustainability, and constrains the life prospects of children who grow up in suburban ghettos.

While CPTED principles may reduce the likelihood of victimisation in specific places, a parallel concern with economic and social integration is needed to reduce overall rates of victimisation across our cities. I review the evidence for “neighbourhood effects” on life chances, and critically assess the extent of social segregation across the Sydney metropolitan area. The presentation concludes with a discussion of the potential for integrating social equity considerations into mainstream debates about crime prevention.