CPTED: Helping Achieve Safer Streets and Community Wellbeing

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| **Jane Rennie, Urban Designer/Associate Partner, Boffa Miskell, Christchurch**  Our growing towns and cities are facing unprecedented challenges, including rising crime (and fear of crime), densification, varying levels of accessibility and traffic congestion. There are increasing concerns around the safety of our streets, and this is resulting in some users avoiding certain areas of the city or feeling uncomfortable or intimidated when waiting for public transport.  Ensuring that our streets are safe, attractive, and well used by the whole community is key to promoting the liveability of our cities. But more importantly, if all members of the community can participate in urban life we are better placed to contribute to the mental and emotional wellbeing of our people.  Research shows that crime and the fear of crime can be significantly reduced by implementing appropriate environmental design strategies. The use of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) in our streetscape projects is therefore of growing importance and is proving to be a useful tool in crime prevention within the public realm.  So how can we make our streets more comfortable and safer for all users? How do we ensure that the safety of our streets does not undermine other strategic initiatives seeking to increase PT patronage and active modes?  This presentation will explore:   * The benefits of integrating CPTED practice into streetscape design projects. * The importance of understanding user experiences and how these impact on wellbeing; and * What key CPTED design principles can be applied to precipitate criminal acts and make a meaningful difference in achieving streets that feel more comfortable, are safer and attract a range of users.   This presentation will draw on examples from around Aotearoa New Zealand. |