

For the past 2 years, Concept Building Services has supported the PhD Research of Victoria Gibson, a current doctoral student in the Faculty of Engineering and Environment at Northumbria University.

Her research is investigating Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) in order to provide an updated framework and research model for designing out crime in the built environment. In the first year of the research, Victoria identified and evaluated a number of criticisms to CPTED, recognising that the most problematic was the gap between academic research and practical application for designing out crime. A number of framework variations and guidelines for CPTED were identified which were often conflicting and no industry standard could be established for practical implementation. Victoria has subsequently developed an updated framework to facilitate conceptual thinking, whilst distinguishing the importance of the social context of the place for effective implementation.

Victoria presented these research findings this year at the 2013 Caribbean Urban Forum in Trinidad and at the International CPTED Association Conference in Canada and has also been invited to present at the International Police Executive Symposium in Bulgaria next year on Crime Prevention and Community Resilience. Victoria has published her framework development in a 2013 edition of the Security Journal, named "CPTED but not as we know it: Investigating the conflict of frameworks and terminology in Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design" and is in the process of publishing a second co-authored journal article with the Crime Prevention & Community Safety academic journal which further explored utilising the CPTED framework and knowledge base with industry.

Research developments over the past 2 years have been progressing with great impact, having identified many problems in relation to language and communication conflicts and dissemination of CPTED knowledge from research to practice. Following the delivery of the research in Trinidad, the framework has contributed to the publication of the country's National Spatial Development Strategy, an overarching framework for the governments vision of sustainable development.

Victoria has also established a partnership with a private developer in Trinidad's capital who has agreed to pilot the framework on a live development in Arima, East Port of Spain. This is to observe the transferability of CPTED knowledge into a practical environment, subsequently identifying any conflicts which may hinder effective implementation or obstruct knowledge transfer.

The remaining part of the PhD will reflect on this process to refine the framework and reduce the identified conflicts. Also together with ongoing literature analysis around social sustainability, Victoria plans to identify what demographic, socio economic, cultural and political variables may impact on local crime rates and which require analysis to facilitate the application and development of context specific designs.

The results from this research will provide an evidence base for the development of a universal standard for Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design which can be used by industry in an informative and productive manner.

The principal supervisor of Victoria's research is Derek Johnson, Senior Lecturer in Crime Science at Northumbria, and she is second supervised by Dr Michael Barke, Reader in Human Geography also at Northumbria University.