

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**THE POTENTIAL OF LANDSCAPE DESIGN
ELEMENTS FOR CRIME PREVENTION IN A
RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBOURHOOD**

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of the requirements for the degree of
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AUTHOR'S DECLARATION

I declare that the work in this thesis was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the result of my own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged as reference work. This thesis has not been submitted to any other academic institution or non-academic institution for any degree or qualification.

I, hereby acknowledge that I have been supplied with the Academic Rules and regulations for post Graduate, Universiti Teknologi MARA, regulating the conduct of my study and research.

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ABSTRACT

Safe residential neighbourhood areas are the most important elements of safe cities. As crime rates keep on increasing, safety issues has been taken into consideration in housing planning all over the world. Design elements can play a significant role in reducing crime and these elements can be implemented as a variety of design functions for crime prevention in residential neighbourhood. Design elements are the combination of nature and construction components of living elements, natural elements, human elements and abstract elements. They include vegetation, fences and barriers, lightings, pathways, signage, guard houses, access, playground facilities, parking, bus stop and good maintenance. Hence, this study is to determine the design elements based on three (3) objectives: to identify the design elements that can reduce crime in the residential neighbourhood; to identify the characteristics of the design elements in reducing crime; and finally to recommend selected elements for crime reduction in residential neighbourhood. The concept of defensible space was developed for the public housing environment. It is similar to CPTED (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design) in that it shares the basic characteristics of natural surveillance, natural access control and territorial concern. The study area is located at USJ 6, Subang Jaya. Finally, the results obtained were analysed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). The findings of this research concluded that design elements (i.e., vegetation; fences and barriers; lightings; pathways; signage; guard houses; and good access), are important components in reducing crime. Environmental designs help the community in residential areas to be free from crime. Residents believed that gated housing, target hardening, functioning lightings, and regular maintenance schedule improved security in neighbourhood. Social activities such as neighbourhood watch program and attending meetings about safety issues will increase the awareness to create a safer community. Furthermore, social interaction becomes the most essential part especially to develop an effective surveillance by residents. The proper placement of design elements within the residential neighbourhood can provide opportunities for improvement in the quality of life and safety.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

This thesis studies the potential landscape design elements that can help to reduce crime in residential neighbourhood, issues in residential, literature review, resident's perceptions and recommendation of landscape design elements. The physical environment can be planned, designed or manipulated so that the opportunities for some forms of crime can be controlled and enhance quality of life.

1.1 BACKGROUND OF STUDY

The sense of safety and security felt by residents is a crucial factor directly impacting the quality of life in any residential neighbourhood. Safe residential areas are perhaps the most important elements of safe cities (Wekerle and Whitzman, 1995). Feelings of safety from crime levels can be increased by good design and planning of the residential neighbourhoods. To provide a safe and secured environment for residents, it is important to address the issues of safety within the residential neighbourhood. Design elements are one of the factors that can play a role in preventing crime in residential neighbourhood. These elements can help to ensure that there is an adequate, coordinated and expedient response to crime prevention. Design elements can play a significant role in reducing crime and these elements can be implemented as a variety of design functions for crime prevention in residential neighbourhood. They includes lightings, pathways, vegetation, fences and barriers, signage, guard house and access to playground facilities, parking, bus stop and good maintenance.

Cozens et. al., (2005), stressed that design elements such as fences, pavement treatments, gardens, art, signs, good maintenance and landscaping are examples of physical design which may visibly express active ownership. Thoughtfully located entrances, exits, fencing, and lighting can direct pedestrian and vehicular traffic in ways that discourage crime.

Surroundings that are not comfortable, unpleasant and unsafe will cause the residents to feel and increased fear. The fear of crime is a problem associated within residential and children's play areas. Some open spaces at housing developments such