Comparative Analysis of Urban Design and Criminal Behavior: A Study of New Urbanism and Defensible Space as They Pertain to Crime

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Overview

• Goals of research
• Urban designs
• Research Methods
• Results
• Future Research
• Conclusion
Goals of project

• Evaluate criminal behavior in specific urban designs:
  – New Urbanism
  – Defensible Space
  – Vernacular Design

  To determine whether New Urbanism or Defensible Space is conducive to criminal behavior
New Urbanism
Also known as Traditional Neighborhood Design (TND)

- Mixed housing
- Pedestrian friendly
- Accessible to commercial areas
Defensible Space
Also described as Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) or Secure By Design (SBD)

- Clearly defined personal spaces
- Features to visually guide people through spaces
- Access control
Vernacular Design

- Standard design
- Does not share same characteristics as Defensible Space or New Urbanism
Research Methods

• Crime rates in 1990 and 2000 collected on 15 of the fastest growing cities in Minnesota
  – Crime against property
  – Crime against persons
• Urban designs of these cities
• Crime rates compared to increase in population using analysis of covariance with SPSS
## Results

Table 1. Crime Against Property

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Property 1990</th>
<th>Property 2000</th>
<th>Property Change</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vernacular Design</td>
<td>2.86</td>
<td>1.72</td>
<td>1.15</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defensible Space/New Urbanism</td>
<td>2.16</td>
<td>1.42</td>
<td>.74</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Urbanism</td>
<td>2.32</td>
<td>1.67</td>
<td>1.21</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANOVA</td>
<td>.036</td>
<td>.090</td>
<td>.812</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Results

### Table 2. Crime Against Persons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Person 1990</th>
<th>Person 2000</th>
<th>Person Change</th>
<th>N</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vernacular Design</td>
<td>9.36</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>1.46</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Defensible Space/New</td>
<td>4.97</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>.03</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Urbanism</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Urbanism</td>
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<td>5.27</td>
<td>1.58</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANOVA</td>
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<td>.673</td>
<td>.726</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Future Research

• Use larger sample size
• Obtain neighborhood crime statistics
• Different types of crime
Conclusion

• Findings suggest that New Urbanism is able to influence property crime, but not crimes against persons
• In the end it can be said that New Urbanism can keep people from stealing, but not from fighting
• More research still needs to be done in this area