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neighborhood. In CPTED it means a prevention program that lasts. But in science it means we must sustain the natural world of water, air, land, flora and fauna so that we may continue to...well, live.

The science version of “sustainability” ranks a tad higher on the What-Really-Matters-in-Life-o-Meter.

Third Generation CPTED hopes to bridge the sustainability gap between places, people, and the natural world. 3rd Gen CPTED emerged from an [M.I.T. paper](#) for the U.N. regarding improving urban security through green environmental design.

3RD GEN CPTED

I highlighted it two years ago in [3rd Generation CPTED and the eco-friendly city](#).

The key idea:

The premise of third-generation CPTED is that a sustainable, green urbanity is perceived by its members and the outsiders as safe. Third generation CPTED's focus on sustainable green environmental design strategies insists on practical measures, physically or cybernetically enhanced, that foster the perception of urban space as safe beyond mere concerns about crime.

Obviously 3rd Generation CPTED theory has tremendous promise.

Except 3rd Generation CPTED does not exist!

It is an idea from a discussion paper! There is no formal theory. No one has deployed and tested its principles. Those who wish to claim the 3rd Generation mantle will cling to jelly. Like ether - it's there, but it's not there. Yet!

It is time for the emergence of 3rd Generation CPTED. It must be a real theory with practical strategies.

But that birth comes with alarms. As co-developer with Gerry Cleveland of 2nd Generation CPTED, we warn there will be obstacles along the way. Here are a few we faced:

THE OBSTACLES

- *Demands to modify.* Sometimes that makes sense. Walter Dekesseredy suggested adding gender to create “gendered 2nd Generation CPTED”. It was a reasonable proposition now inhabiting the community culture principle of 2nd Gen. Third Gen will be no different. This is how science proceeds.
- *The Comfort Clingers.* There are many CPTED Traditionalists and opportunity theorists of a particular vintage who still don't like 2nd Gen because they think it stains original CPTED with the the “white noise” of social relationships. What deluded silliness. No doubt there will be climate-change deniers who ignore 3rd Gen and cling to lights and CCTV.
- *Turf protection.* Some academics describe 2nd Gen as fluff, partly due to white noise silliness and possibly because they didn't invent it. Take a moment and consider the irony dripping off that sophistry: The theorist protects his turf from intrusions with the same vigor that wolves protect their kill in the forest. Yet when the Grizzly bear shows up at a wolf kill, the wolves discover they are not top predator! Same with 2nd and 3rd Gen CPTED. What the turf protectors will discover is that it is the most suitable theories that prevail, not those with the loudest voices.

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SafeGrowth is a people-based planning method for creating 21st Century neighborhoods of imagination, livability, and safety. It develops new relationships between city government and residents in order to prevent crime and plan for the future. While technology and evidence-based practice plays a role, SafeGrowth is based on community building through annual SafeGrowth plans and neighborhood problem-solving teams networked throughout the city.

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