

***CRIME PREVENTION IN NEIGHBOURHOODS***

by

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submitted in accordance with the requirements  
for the degree of

**DOCTOR OF LITERATURE AND PHILOSOPHY**

in the subject

**CRIMINOLOGY**

at the

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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**NOVEMBER 2003**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

To my Heavenly Father who gave me the strength, perseverance and insight to complete this study, all my thanks, as well as all the people you sent to my aid.

Many thanks to the following people and organisations:

- Prof Herman Conradie for his guidance, mentorship and staunch support.
- The statistical division of UNISA for their inputs in the development of the questionnaire.
- Hennie Gerber for the statistical processing of the questionnaire.
- Talana Burger, library subject leader for her help.
- Ria Grobler for the language editing.
- Atterbury Properties and Piet Jordaan - the initiators and supporters of this thesis.
- Renier J van Rensburg and the respondents of Woodlands Lifestyle Estate.
- Charles Lance and the respondents of Glossa Estate.
- Mr B and the respondents of Prairie Estate.
- Dr CP De Kock, Crime Information Analysis Centre: Head Office: South African Police Service for his permission to conduct this research.
- Capt (f) Gretha Grobler for the GIS maps and drawing the relevant information from the system.
- Insp André Theron of the Crime Information Analysis Centre: Garsfontein: South African Police Service.
- Team of field workers and telephone interviewers.
- Bernadette Engelbrecht for the layout of the thesis and moral support.
- Anna Jooste for the many hours of support, guidance and availability to help me through the difficult times.
- My mother and late father for the opportunities they provided me so selflessly.
- To my family for their support.

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Department: Criminology  
Degree: Doctor of Literature and Philosophy

### SUMMARY

In this section of research, a new crime prevention model for residential neighbourhoods, namely the HONC - against crime model was developed. This model is based on the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles (CPTED). The first three elements of this model are intended to better the function of CPTED in neighbourhoods. The elements are as follows:

**H** = Healthy lifestyle    **O** = Online (Information technology)    **N** = Nature    **C** = CPTED

The effectiveness of the elements in the prevention of crime was tested in two gated communities and one open neighbourhood, namely Woodlands Lifestyle Estate, Prairie Estate and Glossa Estate. All these neighbourhoods are situated in Garsfontein, a suburb of Pretoria, South Africa.

**Woodlands Lifestyle Estate** was designed in accordance with these principles. This neighbourhood is situated next to a nature reserve called Moreletaspruit. The fence facing this reserve is a steel palisade to provide a view of the scenery. The other three fences are solid brick. This Estate has two entrances with formal access control. Woodlands has a specifically designed lifestyle centre which contains a gym, squash courts, swimming pool, tennis courts and an entertainment area. Pedestrian routes run from this centralised centre throughout the neighbourhood with water features and adequate lighting. **Prairie Estate** is also a gated community, fenced off with a brick wall and reachable through one entrance with formal access control. The architectural design of dwellings within this neighbourhood was left to the discretion of different developers. The only area for recreational activity within this neighbourhood is the fenced off club house and swimming pool. **Glossa Estate** is situated diagonally across Woodlands Lifestyle Estate, and is an open neighbourhood. It has three entrances with one guard patrolling the interior neighbourhood. This neighbourhood was designed with a park as a recreational area. The park was not in use and became overgrown, which created a crime problem, and it was therefore fenced off and the gate locked.

Only the element of a healthy lifestyle could be proven as influential in the incidence of crime. The last three elements only served as guidelines and need to be tested in further research.

Crime prevention, CPTED, residential neighbourhoods.