

# Minimizing Misuse of Public Toilets with Design Based on Criminal Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

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**Abstract.** Public toilets as a service facility in a building as a place/space for disposing of human biological waste. Usually equipped with a hygienic sanitation system to comply with modern human safety, security and health standards. However, in practice, it turns out that public toilets are often misused for inappropriate actions, even criminal acts that should not be carried out in these public toilets. Therefore, toilets need to be designed with more awareness of the dangers and harm that may occur. So, a design based on Criminal Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is a reasonable solution so that toilets can be used according to their function.

**Keywords:** Public Toilet, Misuse, CPTED.

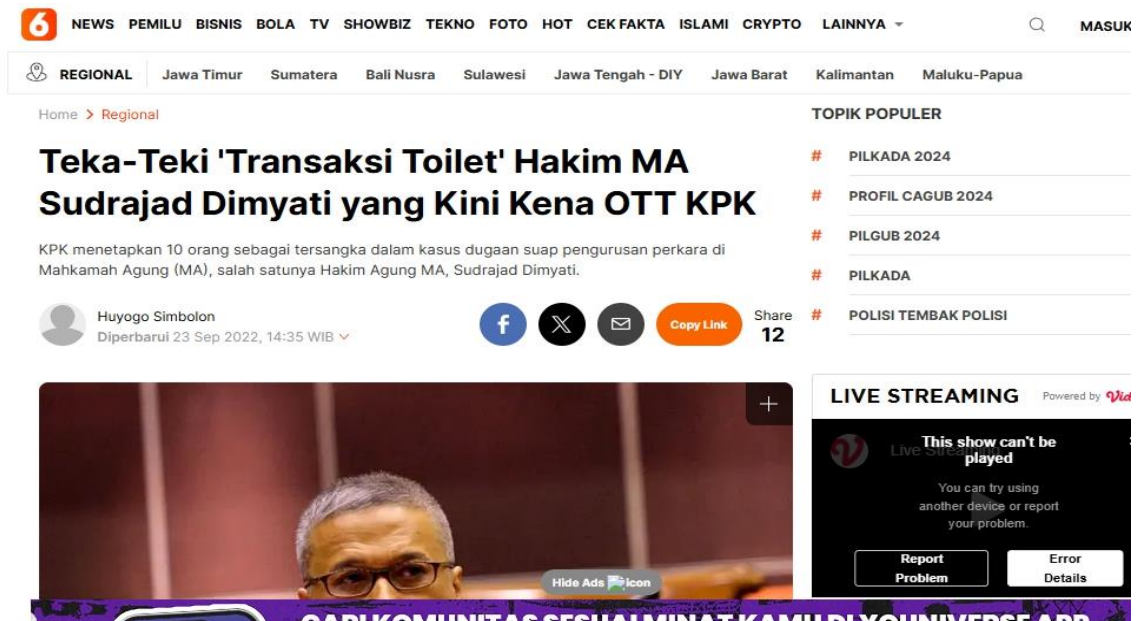
## 1 Introduction

Public toilets are a necessity for urban communities today, because they are very important supporting facilities so that life becomes more hygienic and in line with the demands of the times. Likewise in Indonesia, efforts are being made to ensure that public toilets meet good standards and can reach various groups, down to the lower classes.

However, in reality on the ground, it turns out that public toilets are not immune from negative activities, such as lewd acts, gambling, drug transactions, bribery and even vandalism. All these negative things make the toilet unable to function according to its function, and even have a bad image because its use leads to crime.



**Fig. 1.** Caught perverted in the toilet, Banjarbaru PUPR Service ASN Threatened with Sanctions (Haswar, A. M., & Belarminus, R., 2024).



**Fig. 2.** The 'Toilet Transactions' Puzzle Supreme Court Judge Sudrajad Dimyati Who is Now Subject to the Corruption Eradication Commission's Arrest Operation (Simbolon, 2022).



**Fig. 3.** Make the mosque toilet a place for transactions (Porosntb, 2024).

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**Fig. 4.** Three reckless gamblers were caught by the police playing checkies in a public toilet.

## Viral Aksi Vandalisme di Alun-alun Wates, Toilet Penuh Coretan

Jalu Rahman Dewantara - detikJogja

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Kondisi toilet di Alun-alun Wates, Kulon Progo, yang menjadi sasaran vandalisme, Rabu (23/8/2023). Foto: Jalu Rahman Dewantara/detikJogja

**Fig. 5.** Viral act of vandalism in Wates Square, toilet full of graffiti.

On the one hand, we can consider this as a user error. However, on the other hand we can also see it from a design aspect. Architects as designers should be able to create designs that can minimize inappropriate actions or criminal acts in toilets. In this paper present: How to design to minimize this misuse by using one effective way, i.e.: Criminal Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).

Based on several studies, CPTED can maximize the level of security and comfort in certain environments, because it can reduce the number of crimes that occur (Kaisuku & Yuliani, 2024). Also, there is a relationship between crime and the design of buildings or areas (Wizaka, 2012).

## **2 Methodology**

Methodology is emphasized on how to design to minimize this misuse? One effective way is to use Criminal Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). With a design case study that meets CPETD requirements, it will become a guide or example for architects who design toilets, as well as people who will build toilets, to pay attention to the impacts and possible bad activities that occur.

## **3 Results and Discussion**

Toilets are used as criminal places because: 1. Unmonitored access, remote/hidden toilet locations; 2. Lack of supervision, lack of direct/indirect supervision; 3. There is no spatial marking, marking from the owner/agency/company; 4. There are no signs of maintenance, it looks like it was left alone.

In the book *Design and Security in the Built Environment*, CPTED has four strategies, namely access/circulation control, supervision, territorial strengthening and maintenance:

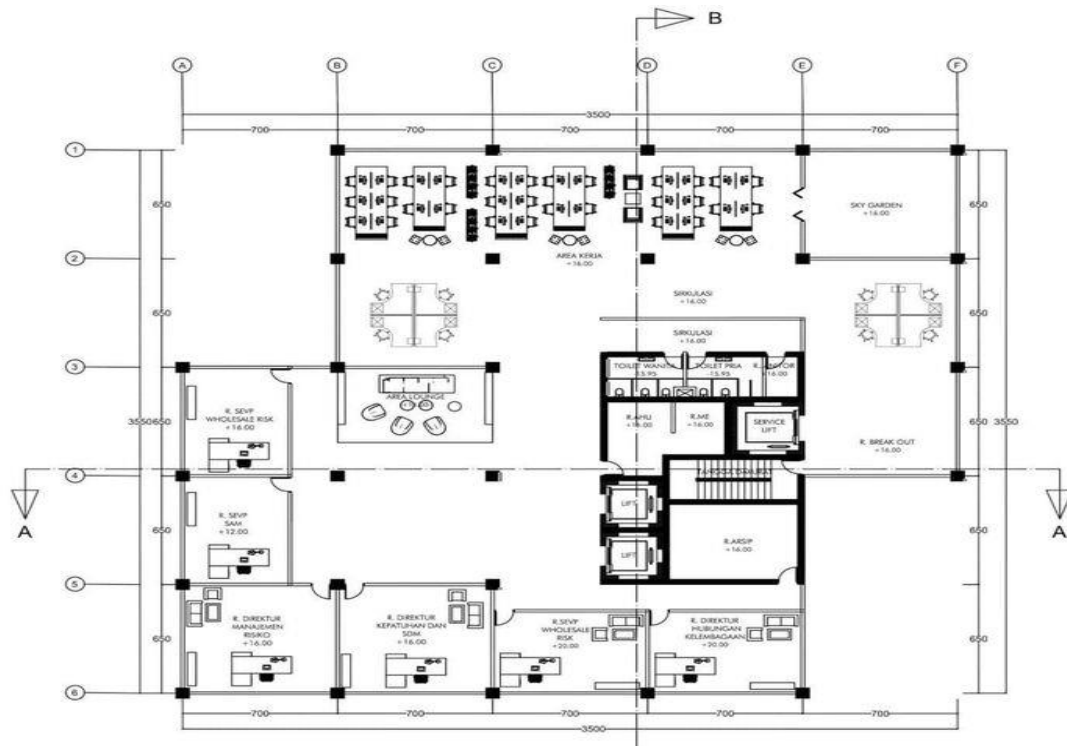
Access Control: Access control aims to tighten entry and exit routes in certain zones in areas so that people leaving or going to the area can be easily monitored and their movements can be predicted. With this, if a crime occurs, the perpetrator's possible whereabouts can be easily predicted.

Supervision: Supervision is carried out directly by humans or using surveillance cameras as a tool. Supervision provides risk consideration for perpetrators of criminal acts to carry out their actions, and facilitates pre-incident response such as identification and arrest.

Strengthening Territorial: Territory in this case is the marking of personal/private territory and public territory. By strengthening private or public territory, it will reduce the potential for crime in that territory.

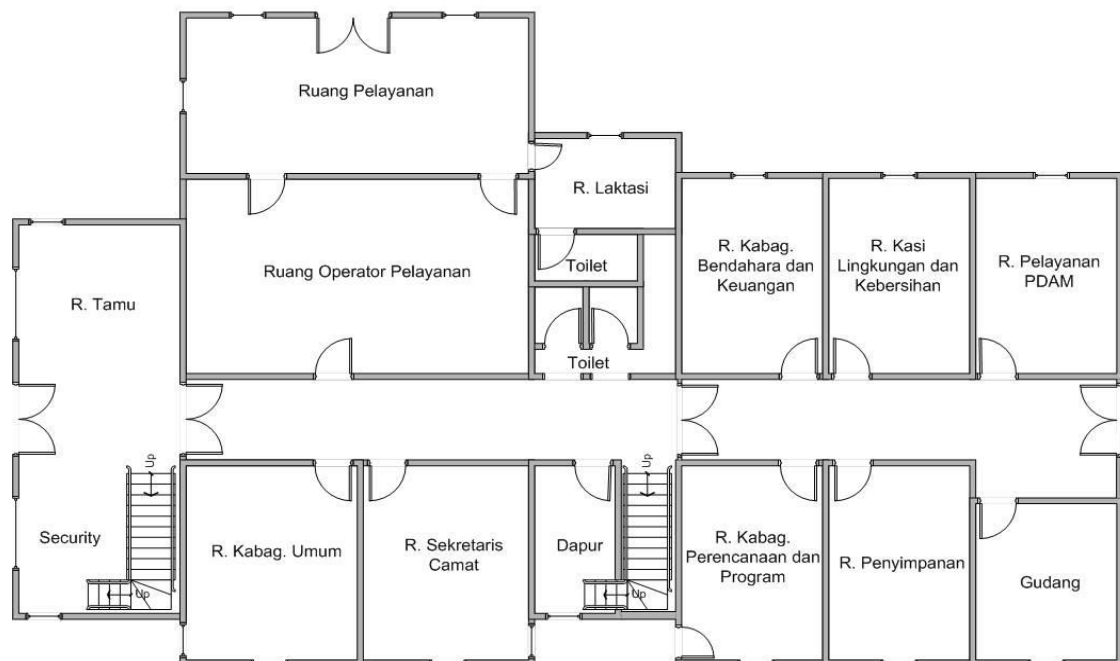
Maintenance: Continuous maintenance with the previous aspects, especially those related to facilities.

Property or objects that are not well maintained indicate a lack of supervision in the area and cause further problems.



**Fig. 6.** In this floor plan we can see how the toilet is positioned in a strategic place in the middle of the office area. In this way, every user (office employee) who enters the toilet can be monitored indirectly by his co-workers

#### **Denah Kantor Lantai 1**



**Fig. 7.** In this office plan, the location of the toilet is also quite good, it is located in the middle, in the circulation area which of course will indirectly be watched and seen by many people, thereby reducing the potential for criminal activity.

## 4 Conclusion

From the discussion above, it can be concluded that the criminal potential in toilets can be reduced or even eliminated, so that toilets can be used according to their proper function. Overcoming toilet misuse with CPTED-based Design: 1. Easy access to monitor (architect), 2. Direct surveillance or CCTV (architect), 3. Spatial marking (architect/owner), 4. Maintenance (architect/owner).

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