



European Crime Prevention Award
and
EUCPN Best Practices Annual Conference 2008

Project Entry Form

The theme for this year's European Crime Prevention Award and EUCPN's Best Practices Annual Conference is **prevention of criminality in public spaces**.

Security issues are at the heart of the concerns of citizens and local and national authorities. In this context, the prevention of criminality in the public spaces, especially urban or suburban, is a major issue that can be divided into three main components: the development planning of public spaces, the implementation of video protection systems and the daily actions of public space management.

France has chosen to study this theme for its chairmanship of the EUCPN and as a topic for the European Crime Prevention Award 2008 competition.

Please complete the attached form (the boxes are expandable). Note that the last page is for a one-page description of your project.

Entries should be in English, but may be accompanied by a version of the entry in the national language if wished. Each country may enter one project as its ECPA entry and up to two other projects to be presented at the conference. Projects should be submitted only through the National Representatives. The full ECPA rules may be found at www.eucpn.org

The deadline to send in your entries is 1st September 2008.

Send your entry or entries to: eucpn.pt@gmail.com

If you have any questions, please contact us at the above email address or francoise.larroque@interieur.gouv.fr



ECPA/BPC 2008

Please answer the following questions in English.

1. Is this your country's ECPA entry or is it an additional project? (Only one ECPA entry per country plus up to two other projects.)

This is France's ECPA entry.

2. What is the title of the project?

"Making two social housing neighbourhoods in Brest more secure"

3. Please give a short general description of the project.

For several years, the HLM (council flats) organism Brest Métropole Habitat was confronted with difficulties linked to gatherings of young people in the entryways and areas around certain buildings. These gatherings were the source of noise and nuisances and were sometimes difficult to regulate. The life of the tenants was made quite unpleasant, and it had become particularly difficult for the Urban Community, like that of the social lessor, to properly manage these sectors of tension. Tenants were leaving the area, and the neighbourhoods suffered at the time from such a reputation that it became difficult to re-let and take back public land.

Brest Métropole Habitat commissioned an architectural and urban study on three of the hardest-hit sites from the Landauer studio. The method consisted of analysing the spatial causes of the identified troubles and proposing solutions to put them right. Beyond the explanation of some young people's choice of a few strategic places, the study dwelt on the reasons for which neighbourhood life had not been up to preventing the illegitimate or even violent appropriation of certain places. In other words: why had the public space not played its role? In fact, the proposals in the study focused more on the use of the streets and squares than on measures of protection such as fences and access checks. This study was followed by the redevelopment of two of the three sites.

4. Please describe the objective(s) of the project?

The project's goal was to develop an alternative to the 'residentialisation' and passive security arrangements that are increasingly widespread in residential neighbourhoods (whether the object of disturbances owing to gatherings or not) and favouring a new frequentation of public space, based on the mix of uses and arranging conviviality areas in 'strategic' places.

5. How was the project implemented?

The first study concluded on the necessity of joining forces with the Brest Urban Community and the steps taken by Brest Métropole Habitat. A commitment was made to carry out an initial operation, on an experimental basis, in the Lambezellec quarter. At the time, the project consisted of restructuring the ground floor of a tower block (the building most affected by the gatherings phenomena) and creating a square at the intersection of two extended streets. This operation was followed by a second, in the Kerourien quarter.

6. Were partners involved in planning and/or development and/or implementation of the project? If so, who were they, and what were their roles?

Yes. The ordering of the study fell to Brest Métropole Habitat. Then, the Brest Métropole Habitat and the Urban Community of Brest acted jointly as contracting owner. The operation's architect, overseeing the work, was the Collectif d'Architectes in Brest.

7. How did you build in plans to measure the performance of the project?

The two operation sites, chosen by Brest Métropole Habitat, were some of their most difficult properties. This choice allowed for assessing quickly, as of the end of the work, the effectiveness of the chosen solutions.

8. Has the project been evaluated? How, and by whom?

Yes. The security observatory reports the near-complete disappearance, on both sites, of the three types of troubles observed: attacks on public property, incidents in public areas and attacks on property and individuals.

9. What were the results? How far were the objectives of the project achieved?

The security observatory reports the near-complete disappearance, on both sites, of the three types of troubles observed: attacks on public property, incidents in public areas and attacks on property and individuals. Observation of the two sites since the end of the work allows for asserting that the project's objectives have largely been achieved. For the moment, no displacement of the phenomena has been observed.

10. Are there reports or documents available on the project? In print or on the Web? Please, give references to the most relevant ones.

Diagram of the Brest- Lambezellec project :

Existing

Project

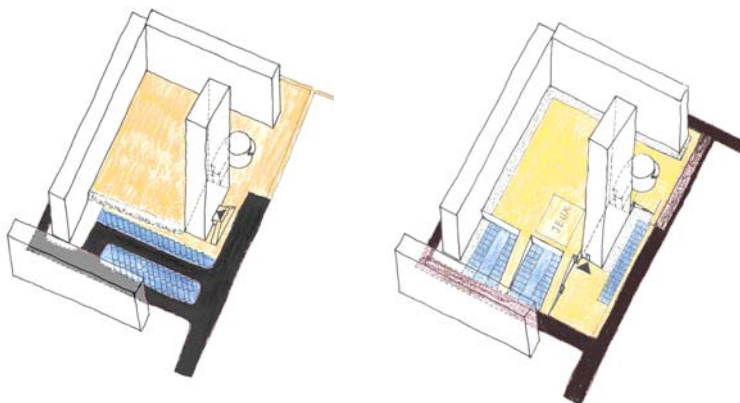
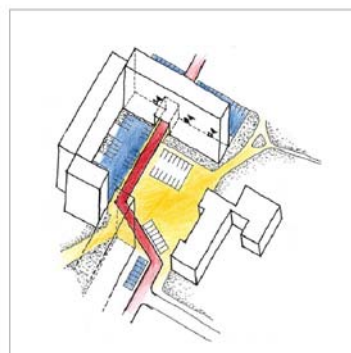
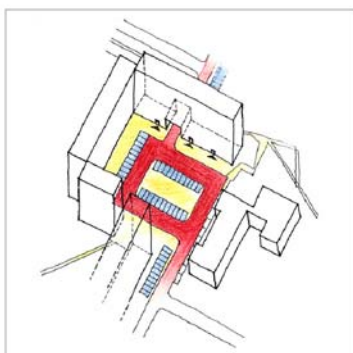


Diagram of the Brest-Kerourien project :

Existing

Project



Please, write here a one page description of the project:

For several years, the council flats organism Brest Métropole Habitat was confronted with difficulties linked to gatherings of young people in the entryways and areas around certain buildings. These gatherings were the source of noise and nuisances and were sometimes difficult to regulate. The life of the tenants was made quite unpleasant, and it had become particularly difficult for the Urban Community, like that of the social lessor, to properly manage these sectors of tension. Tenants were leaving the area, and the neighbourhoods suffered at the time from such a reputation that it became difficult to re-let and take back public land.

In 2002, Brest Métropole Habitat set up a security observatory whose aim was to track three types of trouble: attacks on public buildings, incidents in public areas and attacks on individuals and property. The reports on incidents, drawn up in this framework, allowed for assessing the origin and recurrence of problems. This knowledge was supplemented by a spatial analysis of the places most affected and by interviews with community personnel. These analyses and interviews enabled us to understand why these places, more than others, were the site of problems. The occupied and damaged entryways all met the same geographical and spatial criteria: visibility over the principal accesses to the site and possibilities of escape. Beyond social and police actions, these characteristics justified an intervention on the fitting-out of the premises.

The project is original on two levels: firstly, the elaboration of a veritable urban renewal programme starting from the problem of security (targeted at the outset on a few entryways). Secondly, the development of a method by the Landauer studios consisting of giving an urban area a sense of security by reinforcing the capacities of use of the public space rather than by implementing defensive elements. The enduring nature of the project is on three levels: the participation with consultation meetings at every step of the project, the recycling waste with the integration, on every public space created, of buried selective collection bins, and the durability of the arrangements with a choice of durable materials.

Concerning the conditions of the adaptability of the project elsewhere, it is possible to say that it is more the method used by the Landauer studios that is adaptable than the specific forms and arrangements implemented. This method relies, for the most part, on the nature of the diagnosis. This must not focus only on the reasons for the sudden appearance of insecurity phenomena; it is also a matter of analysing the conditions of use of the public space and trying to explain why neighbourhood life is not in a position to prevent the emergence of untimely gatherings. The success of such an approach also depends on the capacity of the partners (lessors and local authorities) to join forces to produce a coherent project.

The situational prevention approach, as developed over a number of years by a certain number of Anglo-Saxon countries, largely inspired our project. From reading numerous guides dealing with this subject, we were more interested in the arrangements favouring a diffuse presence of users and residents than the principle – recurrent in the guides – of the ‘defendable space’ elaborated by the Canadian architect Oscar Newman. Our project seeks to contribute to the development of a new form of situational prevention, adapted to the conditions of use and making of French or ‘Latin’ cities. Rather than reinforcing neighbourhood solidarities by the organisation of views and the creation of impasses or enclaves, we recommend the development of shareable public spaces capable, by the density of uses, of pacifying the neighbourhoods. Combining the demand for security and safety with the making of a public space ‘free from rights’ constitutes a way of promoting Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which affirms that ‘everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person’.