Hostile or Anti-Homeless Architecture has its Roots in Social Control & Segregation
Design Against Humanity

Hostile architecture, also known as defensive architecture, exclusionary or defensive design or anti-homeless architecture is an urban-design strategy that utilizes elements of the built environment to intentionally guide or restrict behavior deemed undesirable by urban leaders. It often targets people who use or rely on public space more than others including youth, low-income people and people experiencing homelessness, who are disproportionately Black and Indigenous people. The effect is to also make the designs hostile to seniors, people with disabilities, pregnant women, and care givers for children and seniors.

Civil engineering to achieve social engineering: Roots in social control & segregation:
Antecedents of 21st century hostile architecture can be seen in the following examples:
- *Social Control:* The narrow streets of 19th century Paris, France were widened to help the military quash protests;
- *Segregation:* Robert Moses an American urban planner, designed a stretch of the Long Island Southern State Parkway in 1929 with low stone bridges so that buses could not pass under them. This made it more difficult for people who relied on public transportation, disproportionately low-income and people of color, to visit the beach that wealthier, white, car-owners could visit.

Crime Prevention through environmental design:
The modern form of this urban design strategy, originating in American in the 1960's, is derived from the design philosophy *crime prevention through environmental design [CPTED],* with its precursor being the concept of "defensible space."   Essentially the strategy is to manipulate the built environment to create safer neighborhoods, through environmental design that is a deterrent to crime. Examples include the planting of trees, the elimination of escape routes through curved streets, correct use of lighting, the encouragement of pedestrian and bicycle traffic, as well as property maintenance, as seen in the *Broken Windows* theory that emerged in the 1980's, based on premise that areas not maintained or abandoned, attract crime.

Anti-homeless architecture:
As homelessness enters into its 5th decade as both a rural and urban crisis, not only in the USA but also in Europe and Japan, elected officials instead of investing in affordable and accessible housing, have invested in anti-homeless architecture as a way to make it uncomfortable and encourage people experiencing homelessness to move on to another community.

Tobias Armborast, Daniel D'Oca and Georgeen Theodore, architects and urban designers, inventory more than 150 "tools" or "weapons" that are used by planners, policymakers, developers, real estate brokers and community activists that can be used to answer the question, "who gets to be where?" in their 2021 book The Arsenal of Exclusion and Inclusion.

Below are a few examples of both spatial injustice and spatial justice:

Examples of hostile architecture: You Are Not Wanted Here! Spatial Injustice

- Slanted Benches:

Benches that slant make it very difficult for people experiencing homelessness to sit or lay down, but it also makes it equally difficult for people with disabilities and seniors to sit comfortably.

- Benches with arm rests:

Benches with arm rests make it very difficult for people experiencing homelessness to lay down

- Rocky, uneven pavement:

Rocky and uneven pavement makes it very difficult for people experiencing homelessness to lay down

- Spiked windowsills:

Spiked window sills are clearly a deterrent to anyone stopping and sitting on the windowsill to rest

- Segmented benches:

Segmented benches are clearly make it impossible for anyone to lay down to rest or sleep

- Street or doorway spikes:

Street or doorway spikes are clearly make it impossible for anyone to lay down to rest or sleep in the doorway, especially when it is snowing or raining

- Awning gaps:

Intentional gaps in awning make it difficult to find shelter underneath the awning when it snows or rains

- Curved benches:

Curved benches makes it very difficult to lay down to rest or sleep
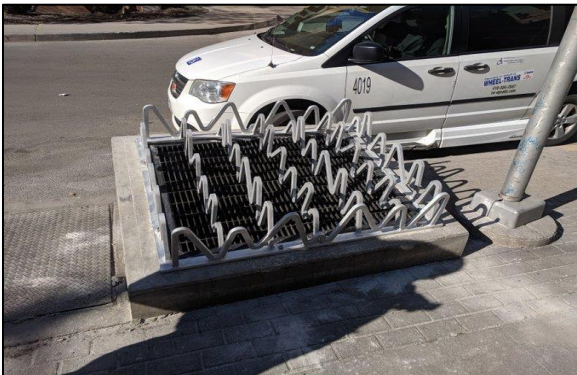
- Barred corners:

Bars on corners makes it impossible to det or lay down in the corner

- Sidewalk dividers:

Sidewalk dividers make it very difficult for people experiencing homelessness to find a place to rest on the sheltered side of the street

- Raised grate covers:

Raised grate covers makes it impossible for people experiencing homelessness to rest or sleep on the grate cover to find warmth from the subway below

- Tiered benches:

Tiered benches, especially those with bars, makes it impossible to lay down or sleep on them

- Fenced grate covers:

Fenced grate covers are designed to stop people experiencing homelessness using the grate to keep warm

- Retractable spikes:

Retractable spikes that can be raised at any time to prevent people experiencing homelessness from resting or sleeping in the doorway

- Boulders under bridges:

Boulders under bridges makes it impossible to people experiencing homelessness to camp under the bridge as protection from snow or rain

- Grated, spiked pavement:

Grated, spiked pavement makes it impossible for people experiencing homelessness to camp under an overpass, but also for people experiencing to park the vehicles that they live in

- Fences in over passes:

Fences in over passes clearly keeps people experiencing homelessness from using the overpass as shelter

- Locked bench:

Locked benches obviously makes it impossible for anyone to use them

- Boulder bench:

Boulder bench obviously makes it very difficult to lay down to rest or sleep

- Sprinklers:

Sprinkler systems that drench people experiencing homelessness – not only on the ground but sprinklers in the ceiling above doorways

- Weaponizing music:

An anti-homeless play list: Classical music at LA Metro subway station

At a station in Los Angeles, Metro tries loud classical music as a repellent to drive out criminals and homeless.

Los Angeles Metro subway station blares classical music in an effort to drive out criminals and people experiencing homelessness

SRCEH Recommendation: Spatial Justice
End the Criminalization of People Experiencing Homelessness by Design; Audit to determine cost; Inclusive Architecture & Affordable & Accessible Housing

Criminalization by design:

Anti-homeless architecture is another way that communities criminalize our unhoused neighbors

Cost: Audit Sacramento City and County budgets for spatial injustice cost:

Below are a few examples of how costly it is to local jurisdictions to focus on anti-homeless architecture rather than ending and prevention homelessness:

✓ *NYC; $74 Million:* According to the <u>Fordham Ram</u>, 1/17/21 article, NYC's Metropolitan Transit Authority [MTA] spent $74 million on installing "leaning bars" in the subways as part of their $2.8 billion "2015-2019 Enhanced Solutions Initiative."
✓ *Seattle:* spent $1.1 million to fence off Spokane Street Viaduct

There are other, smaller dollar amount examples, including:
✓ *Miami:* spending $350,000 for 53 solar powered lights that illuminate the park after hours, although the park closes at sunset
✓ *Spokane*: spending $150,000 to install rocks in an underpass;
✓ *San Diego*: spending $57,000 to install rocks in an underpass prior to the All Star game.

SRCEH Recommendation: City & County audits: SRCEH calls for an audit of both the Sacramento City and County budgets to determine the cost of hostile architecture, so we can get a full picture of the cost of spatial injustice.

Inclusive Design:

Inclusive architecture is any space can be seamlessly used by all the user groups possible. Inclusive, or universal designs must be easy to use by all types of people - children, adults, senior citizens, women, men, transgender people, the LGBTQ community, physically as well as mentally disabled users and people experiencing homelessness. The main objective of truly inclusive design must be to make these spaces as barrier-free and convenient to use as possible.

Examples of Inclusive or Universal Design:
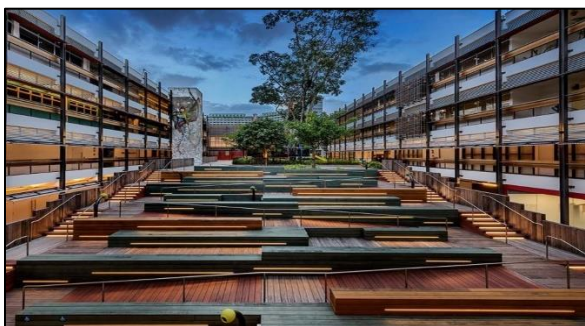
Enabling Village, Singapore

Robson Square, Vancouver

Friendship Park, Urugay

Sheltering Benches

Sleeping Pods Under Bridge

Tiny Home attached to building

Friendly bench – turns into a table

SRCEH's Recommendation: SRCEH's recommendation is for the Sacramento City Council and Sacramento Board of Supervisors to invest in inclusive designs that promote spatial justice.

Affordable and Accessible Housing

SRCEH Recommendation: The City Council and Board of Supervisors invest in truly affordable and accessible housing including declaring that housing is a human right in Sacramento City and County.