



Contact

SAFE Design Council
Suite 510, 255 - 17th Ave SW
Calgary, AB, T2S 2T8
Canada

www.safedesigncouncil.org
info@safedesigncouncil.org

Innovators in Environmental Crime Reduction Scholarship and Strategies

The SAFE Design Council is the non-profit organization responsible for overseeing, administering and managing the SAFE Design Standard® – the first international environmental crime reduction certification program focused on achieving security through functional architectural and landscape design. Led by a multidisciplinary team of academics, design professionals, property developers, crime reduction specialists and business/legal experts, the SAFE Design Council is committed to the quality, legitimacy and rigor of the SAFE Design Standard®. Central to the SAFE Design Council is a focus on providing a scholarly-based certification program that is informed by industry experts and delivered by trusted professionals committed to service excellence.

The SAFE Design Standard®

First-Ever Certification Program Focused Exclusively on Environmental Crime Reduction

The SAFE Design Standard® (Security Achieved through Functional Environmental Design) is a scholarly-based, environmental crime reduction methodology aimed at reducing crime through functional landscape, architectural, and interior design. Emerging in 2010, and drawing from established environmental criminology and environmental design scholarship, the SAFE Design Standard® represents one of the most significant advancements in the field of environmental crime reduction in over a decade.

As with traditional approaches to environmental crime reduction, the SAFE Design Standard® includes the assessment of site access points, wayfinding and signage, pathways and roadways, barriers and fencing, visibility and illumination, mechanical and computerized security technologies, and other design elements intended for controlling access and movement within and around a building or site. Expanding on traditional approaches, the SAFE Design Standard® includes a rigorous, systematic and standardized evaluation of a property's landscape, buildings and interior spaces using evidence-based quantitative measures.

Being a scholarly-based program administered by a non-profit organization, those who apply the SAFE Design Standard® can be confident knowing the methodology is objective and academically rigorous. Moreover, the SAFE Design Council is committed to ensuring the SAFE Design Standard® is informed by industry and evolves based on research and scholarship. A critical aspect in assuring the SAFE Design Standard® is applied consistently and appropriately to a built environment is the requirement that all who apply the standard first receive comprehensive education and training. By first developing a foundational knowledge of environmental criminology and environmental design scholarship, those applying the SAFE Design Standard® will be more accurate, effective and efficient in their efforts.



Benefits

Certification under the SAFE Design Standard® denotes that a property has undergone a rigorous and comprehensive multi-phase assessment that indicates reasonable and prudent steps have been taken to mitigate the risk of crime. Properties certified under the SAFE Design Standard® typically are safer and more secure environments, making them highly desirable places in which to live, learn, work and play. Moreover, because the SAFE Design Standard® promotes the use of desired landscape, architectural, and interior features to enhance safety and security, SAFE Design Standard® certified properties characteristically are more functional and esthetically pleasing environments when compared to properties that have been overtly fortified using more traditional crime reduction approaches.

The SAFE Design Standard® aims to noticeably reduce incidents of violence, theft, vandalism, as well as other crime risks from occurring within a built environment – arguably increasing a property’s marketability and overall value. Additionally, properties certified under the SAFE Design Standard® stand to realize higher valuation during appraisal and may also be eligible for insurance discounts. A core benefit of the SAFE Design Standard® is its applicability to virtually any type of property anywhere in the world.

Certification Process

All built environments certified using the SAFE Design Standard® methodology undergo a comprehensive and systematic multi-phase assessment by an Accredited SAFE Design Professional™ (ASDP). SAFE Design Standard® assessments include the evaluation of:

- Building and site access points
- Wayfinding and signage
- Pathways and roadways
- Barriers and fencing
- Visibility and illumination
- Security technologies
- Other design elements intended for controlling access and movement

What sets SAFE Design Standard® assessments apart from traditional environmental crime reduction approaches is the use of a consistent assessment methodology that integrates evidence-based measures for the design, development and construction of built environments. Additionally, assessments using the SAFE Design Standard® also require the review, evaluation and appraisal of crime risks in the vicinity of a property being certified. Once an ASDP has completed the certification process, they will submit a report to the SAFE Design Council and request that the property be certified. The SAFE Design Council will confirm the SAFE Design Standard® has been properly applied and that all necessary requirements have been met – ultimately leading to certification being awarded.

The principal goal of the SAFE Design Standard® is to create functional built environments where legitimate users feel safe and secure, and potential offenders feel vulnerable to detection and apprehension – without the need for overt or undesirable fortification. Buildings and sites designed using the SAFE Design Standard® stand to be safer and more secure environments, as well as highly desirable places in which to live, learn, work and play.



Client Sectors

The SAFE Design Standard® methodology can be applied to virtually any type of built environment. Regardless of usage, size or location, all public or private sector properties stand to benefit from SAFE Design Standard® certification.

The key client sectors for the SAFE Design Council are:

GOVERNMENT SECTOR

- Federal, State/Provincial, and Municipal Buildings
- Public Parks, Recreation Centers, and Equipment/Storage Yard
- Public Safety Facilities and Related Facilities

EDUCATION SECTOR

- Public and Private Elementary, Middle, and High Schools
- College and Technical Institute Campuses
- University Campuses (Including Student Housing Complexes)

HEALTHCARE

- Hospitals and Clinics
- Ambulatory Care Centers
- Medical Offices and Labs

COMMERCIAL

- Office Buildings + Shopping Complexes
- Hotels and Resorts
- Corporate and Technology Campuses

RESIDENTIAL

- Single Detached Homes + Townhouse Complexes
- Apartment Buildings
- Recreation and Vacation Properties

SPECIALIZED

- Data Centers and Secure Research Facilities
- Subway/Transit Stations and other Public Transportation Sites
- Airports/Seaports and Border Crossing Inspection Stations



Membership & Education

The SAFE Design Council has two membership categories:



Associate Members of the SAFE Design Council typically are individuals who wish to develop a broad understanding of the SAFE Design Standard®, yet do not wish to participate in the certification process. In addition to gaining insight into the SAFE Design Standard®, associate members learn about trends and advancements in contemporary environmental crime reduction. All associate members must complete the short Associate Member Education Program and maintain their annual membership.



Accredited SAFE Design Professionals™ (ASDPs) generally are design professionals (including architects, engineers, urban planners, or landscape architects), security specialists and others wishing to diversify their professional services by applying the SAFE Design Standard® methodology to their work. ASDPs must meet the rigorous membership requirements set by the SAFE Design Council and successfully complete an approved SAFE Design Standard® educational program. ASDPs are the only persons authorized to apply the SAFE Design Standard®.



Continuing education is vital in maintaining currency with contemporary environmental crime reduction scholarship, as well as with the SAFE Design Standard®. To ensure SAFE Design Council members are as informed as possible about current practices in the application of the SAFE Design Standard®, each must participate to some degree in continuing education. Every three years, ASDPs are required to either attend the Annual SAFE Design Council Members' Symposium (a one-day educational event) or complete a six-hour online course. At least once every five years, Associate Members must attend a SAFE Design Council symposium or complete a six-hour online course. In addition to the continuing education requirements, both General Members and ASDPs are required to pay annual membership dues.