SAFETY AND SECURITY DESIGN
(2003, R2019)

Policy Statement

The American Society of Landscapes Architects believes that responsible design promotes safety and security in our public and private spaces. Designing for a broad range of threats, from crimes of opportunity to terrorism, requires collaboration to provide solutions that are safe, functional, contextually sensitive, and aesthetically pleasing. ASLA also recognizes the need for innovative design strategies that incorporate new technologies to address evolving threats. Proposed security measures should be integrated unobtrusively into site designs and should not compromise civic values, appropriate site access, and purpose. ASLA encourages federal, state, and local efforts and funding to help ensure well-designed spaces that promote public security and the public good.

Rationale

Security design effects the integrity of our national symbols, the vitality of our economy, and our overall quality of life, requiring a more sensitive, aesthetic, and sustainable design approach. Past design efforts focused on threats that targeted individual buildings and facilities, however, new and emerging threats require a new design paradigm that protects the broader public realm. Potential threats have moved beyond attacks on government facilities. Our values as an open and democratic society can be addressed in a more effective manner. Initial efforts to provide security for individual buildings, small enclaves, and larger settings focused on limiting access and armoring targets to withstand impacts, explosives, and other threats. Today, new and more comprehensive security designs, which anticipate potential threats and minimize potential damage, are needed to safeguard the use of public outdoor spaces.

In general, security measures are site specific and often have varied impacts on urban, suburban, and rural sites. When applicable, appropriate site design provides visible deterrents to potential threats and attackers, and provides a positive experience for the user. Safety and security installations should protect people and property, while clearly demonstrating that this nation continues to value an open society and accessible government.

A collaborative interdisciplinary approach that includes design professionals, government officials, the security industry, facility owners, and the public is needed to ensure that security installations are effective and inclusive. Through good design, it's possible to provide security as well as preserve the integrity of buildings, public spaces, and communities. Additionally, the reduction of crime and fear improves quality of life in subtle and unobtrusive ways.

Key safety and security considerations include, but are not limited to:
- Appropriate materials and scale
- Context sensitivity
- Limiting disruption to natural processes and routine human activities
- Leveraging of existing and new infrastructure development
- Applicable governing documents (local/state/international agreements)
- Application of Principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)
- Utilization of design standards from Department of Defense Unified Facilities Criteria (UFC)