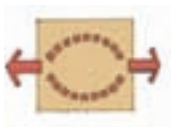




Go to places



Go through spaces



Go past spaces

5.1.1 POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE SPACE

Define the space, its function and character

Open space should be designed positively, with clear definition and enclosure. There should be no ambiguity or left over space. This can be done by giving each outdoor space a clear function, character and shape, and clarifying boundaries through the positioning of adjacent buildings, walls, fences, trees and hedges. The best check as to whether outdoor space is positive is to prepare a figure-ground drawing, with buildings as figure and outdoor space as ground.

The appropriate primary function of the space will depend on the facilities it contains in relation to demand, the characteristics of surrounding uses, users and circulation patterns. Streets, squares and parks can be conceived as a linked variety of 'outdoor rooms', whose character varies according to whether they:

- go to places, or destinations for staying, eating, meeting or events;
- go through or past spaces, such as favoured streets or squares;
- stop in places, to sit and watch the world go by; or indeed
- a combination of all these things - providing multi-functional spaces where people live, work and are entertained.

Every town has a variety and hierarchy of spaces. It is important to be clear about how each development contributes to this hierarchy, varying treatment according to the type of space (whether a path, street or market-place), the character (whether it is to be used for informal recreation or is to have a formal civic status, for instance) and size.



Urban Splash

By investing in the public realm, this once derelict site has been transformed into an attractive new destination

<b>Concert Square, Liverpool: Adding value with new public space</b>	
Location	In the heart of the city centre close to central station and Duke Street/Bold Street which have themselves been undergoing improvement.
Developer	Urban Splash
Site Area	0.2 ha
Project	The regeneration of a redundant inner urban industrial area by removing a building to create a new square and developing the buildings around it for a mix of uses.
Details	The development was carried out in conjunction with the City Council. It took an empty chemical factory and derelict back street and by sacrificing development space created an urban square with a mix of new and vibrant uses. This transformed a former derelict area into a city centre place where people want to live work and spend their leisure time. The development saw the creation of a piazza providing open air concert and exhibition space, a mix of bars, restaurants, night clubs, photo gallery, offices and 18 loft style apartments. It is estimated that this development has created some 180 jobs. This scheme has received a number of awards including from the British Urban Regeneration Association, the Royal Institute of British Architects and the Merseyside Civic Society.
Contact	Urban Splash Tel: 0161 237 9499