



Edges as social places

Edges are potentially vibrant social environments. In public spaces (depending on the cultural context), people frequently choose to sit, wait or occupy edges of spaces rather than positioning themselves more centrally. Various theories and research work help to explain this

behaviour including Appleton's (1996) 'prospect-refuge' theory. Designers can also observe this for themselves. Landscape architecture involves facilitating potential social activities (especially sitting) with appropriate physical forms, elements and relationships for edges.