

Entry spaces – outdoor anterooms

Just as buildings have spaces (for example, halls or porches) specifically devoted to arrival and the social, cultural and practical activities associated with this; so entrance areas or 'outdoor anterooms' are important spaces in the urban landscape, affecting the transition between one environment and context and another. Entrance thresholds are usually relatively small spaces that enable people to carry out activities associated with transition or simply give 'breathing space' between one experience and another. Activities in entrance places (particularly to parks) include waiting, meeting, sitting, resting, watching, selling/buying refreshments, posing for photographs, using toilets and washing facilities and parking bikes.

Gateways

Gateways refers to threshold structures commonly associated with entry spaces. Gateways may be actual (gated) or symbolic and mark the transition from one type of landscape or space to another. They signal arrival and, for this reason, can become focal places, particularly if the gateway structure has popular cultural meanings. Gateway structures may be architectural (buildings), sculptural, topographic or formed on a smaller scale with vegetation.