

Building entrance places

Threshold is used here to refer to the immediate outdoor setting of a building's entrance(s) and its associated frontage and not to (perhaps confusingly) the threshold one crosses to enter a building. These important spaces are often neglected by both architect and landscape architect, and are commonly either too small or too large and fail to cater for activities associated with arriving and leaving public or private buildings. If well designed, building entrance places can be important social environments. They also play a significant role in integrating interior with exterior. Plinths, staircases, ramp structures, verandas, colonnade spaces are (like edges) hybrid architecture and landscape spaces, and should be designed in integrated ways to accommodate social and practical activity as well as cultural expression.

Places of arrival, setting out and rest

Spaces from which journeys start or in which journeys end are threshold places of transition, waiting and social activity. From the tiny space associated with bus or tram stops to major exterior spaces associated with railway stations, these threshold places require consideration of all the social and practical functions associated with travel. Journey thresholds are places to rest, wait, shelter, eat, to greet or say goodbye, to talk or read.