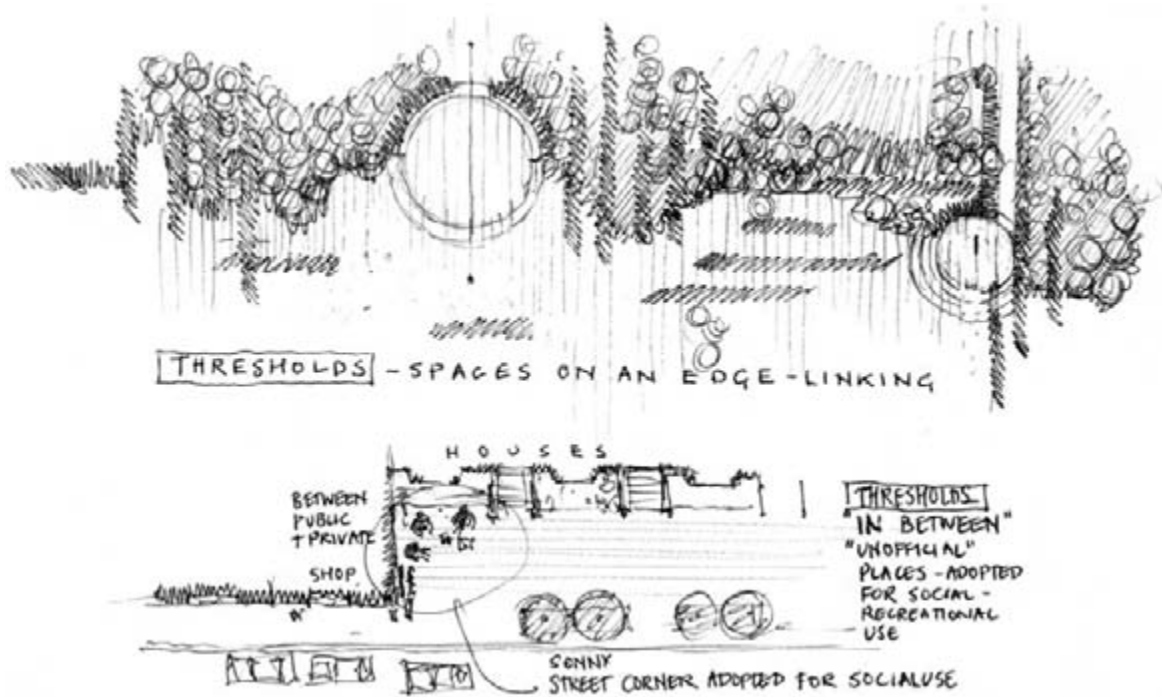


**Thresholds** ◦ 'In between'/'Unofficial' places/A small space linking larger spaces across an edge

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## 'In between'

A small space that contrasts with its setting or neighbouring spaces can be described as a threshold as it allows different experience and use than the dominant landscape of larger spaces. Small 'in-between' spaces are often places of calm – they are havens that allow 'breathing space' between dominant 'realities'. This 'half in half out' experience is particularly important in design of spaces between land and water and between building and landscape.

## 'Unofficial' places

Thresholds can also be used to describe 'unofficial' unmanaged 'in between' places that are adopted by people for specific recreational or social uses. These places are of great importance in the education of designers

– they should be studied and understood because they meet people's needs or, more often, because they could meet these needs more effectively. Children are particularly important users of small incidental spaces.

## A small space linking larger spaces across an edge

In design, threshold spaces are often integrated with edges to enable movement across or through the edge to connect spaces on either side. Niches (described in Edges/Sub-spaces, p. 127) with access on either side can be considered thresholds, but may also have the social functions of niches.