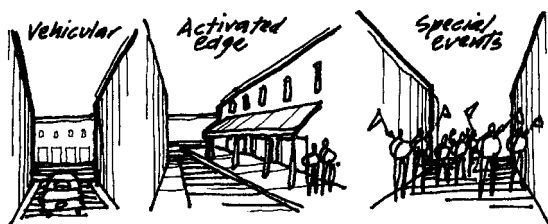
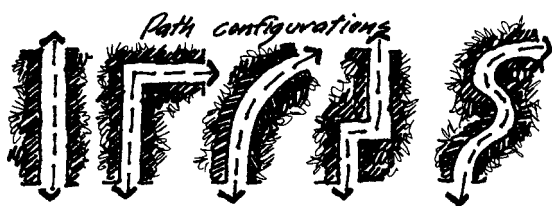


with bands of street-landscape-parking-walkways, typical streets with bordering walks, and paths where pedestrians share space with bicycles.

Paths can be described in terms of their physical attributes (container), use (activity), and feel (ambiance). We may also understand them by their historical significance.

Container

Physically, cross sections through a path reveal the configuration of the pathspace, the profile of the ground plane, and the sectional character of the building facades that enfront the path. An urban pathway is typically a simple channel, a linear slot carved through solid city form. The channel can be wide and shallow, equally wide and deep, or deep and narrow. It can be simple and essentially rectilinear in section or more gymnastic and convoluted. The architectural personality of a path is determined by the building facades that form the boundaries of the space. Facade widths, heights, transparency, material, color, texture, window pattern, composition, and ornamentation are attributes that contribute to path character. In plan, paths can be straight, bent, curved, jogged, or meandering, each offering its own unique experience as we move along its route. Straight paths reveal their destinations or converge to distant vanishing points. Other path plan geometries



entice and tease, inviting us to come see what's around the bend.

Activity

By definition, most of the activity in a path space is movement. Paths accommodate circulation between origins and destinations. Pedestrian flow ranges from slow, strolling, low-volume traffic to crowded, rapid, purposeful, half-jogging. Some paths are devoted only to circulation, with no activating storefronts or building uses or sidewalk functions to invite us to slow down and stay awhile. Others are enlivened by window displays, interesting shops, sidewalk cafes, courtyards, and street vendors. These paths are essentially linear plazas, destinations in themselves, places to come, be, and participate in urban life. Certain pathway spaces serve as sites for periodic civic events such as parades, flea markets, farmer's markets, craft fairs, speeches, art shows, concerts, and welcoming dignitaries. On these occasions, path is transformed to urban room, a place not just for circulation but for being and belonging. User demographics, foot traffic volume, direction and pace, vehicular use profile, and storefront activation tend to be cyclical, contributing to the rhythm and pulse of the town. Cycles can be seasonal (tourists), yearly (college students), monthly (store sales), weekly (farmer's market), weekday/weekend (off-work shoppers), day/night (party life), and morning/afternoon (rush hours). The rich overlay of these rhythms infuses path spaces with very real identities as living organisms.

The spatial distribution of activity types and intensities along a path is often varied and uneven. Many paths have zones of greater or lesser action intensity and areas where certain kinds of activities tend to occur or not occur. Action hot spots and cool spots may be due to the locations of building types along the street (museum), location of exterior functions (sidewalk cafe), connections to feeder paths (intersection node), and positions of public transportation