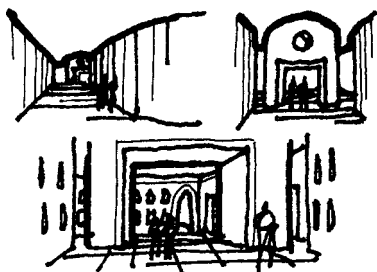


the path's end. Longitudinal sections show the elevational character of the inside surfaces of the portal and any profile configurations that happen on the portal ceiling. When extended, longitudinal sections reveal relations between the portal, the path it terminates, and the urban space it serves.

A portal's elevation may simply be the two building facades between which the opening into the plaza occurs. A portal situated between path-flanking building facades will have only two elevations. Portal elevations are frequently shown as aspects of sections through paths and plazas. An elevation can indicate the dimension, scale, and character of the portal facade, its relation to adjacent buildings, and the figure-ground character of the portal opening and its architectural frame. The architecture of the gateway might extend to the height of the flanking buildings, rise above them, or drop below them.

Perspective views offer the advantage of showing what we see when we look through the portal opening as well as the architecture of the portal itself. The perspective view might be down the axis of the path to the portal and into the plaza. Or perhaps toward the portal from the plaza and up the path beyond. A perspective series will illustrate the experience of approaching the portal, arriving at it, and moving through it to the plaza. The same applies to the plaza exiting experience. Perspectives provide the most holistic simulation of portal use because all urban surfaces are included in the point of view. Ground plane, path facades, overhead elements, freestanding elements in the pathspace, portal, and plazaspaces beyond all happen together in perspective relationship.



Activity

The primary activity associated with gateways is moving through, a transition from path to place. Attention to activity at portals can be extended to include anticipation of first view of the portal; preview glimpses of it from distant paths; initial full look at

the portal; the experience of moving toward it, arriving at it, passing through it, and feeling its presence behind on entering the plaza. If the portal is only as deep as a wall or column, moving through it takes only a moment. Extended portals like tunnels take longer to get through. Some urban doorways require some special activity such as opening a gate, climbing or descending steps, or shifting direction before entering the plaza. A portal opening can be as wide as its path space or some narrower dimension. Openings that are narrower than the path leading to them will funnel pedestrian movement down to a tighter aperture and may result in crowding, congestion, turbulence, and slower movement. These are not necessarily negative experiences and could contribute to the drama of entering the destination space. Portals are often sites for parades, pageants, speeches and civic ceremonies, especially when they have historical significance, or their architecture serves as a stage-like setting. Our interest in the portal might warrant study of particular aspects of movement through the opening. Examples are total traffic count, entry count versus exit count, movement speed, flow smoothness or turbulence, crowding, and congestion. Demographic considerations such as gender, age, dress, ethnicity, disabilities, and national origin could be relevant. Attention to spatial distribution of the movement streams across the portal opening involve us in questions like: What part of the aperture do most people use? Does crowding happen mainly at the center of the opening? Do entering users move through at the middle and exiting users at the edges? Activity types, intensities, demographics, and spatial distribution will have rhythms and patterns that vary cyclically over a year, season, month, week, and day. Rhythm responds to contextual factors like weather, tourist season, the economy, holidays, day-evening use, working hours, and special events. When a portal has depth (tunnel) or offers areas for stationary activity in it or around it, we may be concerned with non-circulation behaviors such as standing, sitting, queuing, selling, talking. More elaborate gateways might offer invitations to climb to raised vantage points at landings or rooftops.

Ambience

The energy of an urban portal is produced, in part, by the ambience moved through in the path to reach the gateway, in part by what's happening at the portal itself, and in part by what is seen in the plaza through the opening. As a component of