



1.3 The entrance to this simple house shows a gradation of space from the fully public domain of the street and pavement (not visible) through the semi-public space in the foreground and the semi-private space behind the gate to the fully private space that lies beyond the closed door. Space has to communicate this 'right of ownership' clearly so that we can all behave in an ordered and orderly manner without constantly upsetting each other

We could open the gate and move forward without really invading any private domain. The postman or other delivery tradespeople will have to do this. We might get some strange looks if we simply dallied there, but no one is likely to question us if we are there briefly and appear to move purposefully. Beyond is a larger gate that we can see has no lock. Again we can proceed, but there is nowhere else to go but straight to the front door, and we feel it only appropriate to enter this semi-private domain if we intend to go even further. At the end of this short space is the front door, locked and with a bell to announce our arrival. If the occupant is there, she will open the door and we will then be able to see a solid wall about a metre and a half away blocking our view of the inside of the house. She can converse with us there quite privately, safe from prying eyes back on the street, or she may choose to invite us into the ultimate privacy of her home. It may at first seem as if all this space is wasted, as in Philip Johnson's words; however, of course he knew as we know that this space is far from useless. It symbolizes and controls the transition from public through semi-public and semi-private areas to the private domain. It signals changes of possession, of territory, of control and of behaviour. It speaks the language of space as fluently and eloquently as many grander and more celebrated pieces of architecture.