

Courtesy of the Glendale Redevelopment Agency, Glendale, CA. Guidelines prepared by Frank Fuller, Principal, Field Paoli, Architects, San Francisco, CA while a principal at ELS, Architects

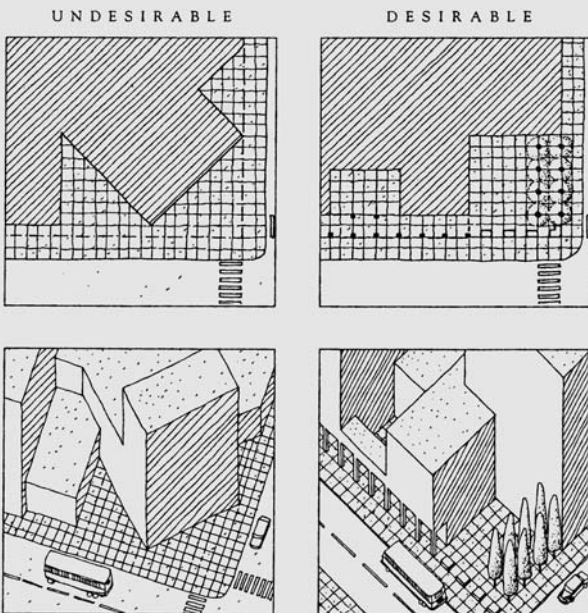
DEFINITION OF OPEN SPACES

Use buildings, arcades and landscaping to create strongly defined edges and a sense of three-dimensional containment for urban open spaces and plazas.

Discussion

Open spaces, plazas and courtyards in cities take their definition from the strength of their edges. If the edges are weak, the spaces seem to be amorphous or to lack focus. Streets alone do not define an urban open space. The most memorable and successful open spaces are those defined most strictly by the facades of buildings, bosques of trees, garden walls, arcades or other elements having strong character and clear geometry. Examples of historically successful spaces of this type are Piazza San Marco in Venice, Rockefeller Plaza in New York, Union Square in San Francisco, Arco Plaza in Los Angeles and Los Angeles County Art Museum Plaza. It is difficult to think of any successful urban spaces that lack this definition. In fact, it seems that without such definition we tend not to recognize that the space exists.

Space definition and enrichment within open spaces can be achieved by the use of landscape, hardscape and water features. Fountains, pools and defined waterways can be combined with planting and pavement areas to visually and functionally define and enliven urban open spaces.



GLENDALE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

URBAN DESIGN GUIDELINES

Figure 8.59 An example of the design guidelines for Glendale.