



Human scale

Human scale has a range of meanings but generally refers to the size of an environment or parts of an environment that engender positive feelings by being 'close in size' to the human body. These feelings may include comfort, security, reassurance, orientation, friendliness and a feeling of being able to 'relate to one's surroundings'. Human-scale spaces do not intimidate or alienate by the largeness of their size. However, human scale is, like scale in general, a relative term. For example, a child will experience space as different in scale to an adult (hence the term 'child-scale').

Scale and context

Scale is also a relative concept depending on the context of a landscape space. Public and domestic landscapes require and are experienced at different scales. Indoor and outdoor scales differ. The size of natural or rural spaces engenders different human responses to similarly-sized urban places.