VARYING HEIGHT OF VERTICAL ENCLOSURE PROPORTIONAL TO SAME FLOORSPACE CREATES DIFFERENT SCALES AND CHARACTER OF SPACE

DESIGNERS MANIPULATE WIDTH AND LENGTH PROPORTIONS FOR DIFFERENT CHARACTER, SHAPE AND FUNCTION OF SPACES

Proportion of spaces

Proportion refers to the relative dimensions of parts of a three-dimensional form or space. The designer adapts and composes the relative length, width and height of a space or series of spaces and so decides on proportions.

Satisfying proportions

It is claimed that certain length, width and height ratios provide greater aesthetic satisfaction than others. For example, the 'golden section' is said to provide rectangular forms and relationships which are more pleasing than other rectangular forms and organisations. Others suggest that building heights and street or square widths have optimum ratios for pleasing proportions (Greenbie 1981). A good way to understand proportion and its effects is to experience, study and measure in the landscape.