



## Forest space and the formalised forest

Forest space is complex and 'hidden' under the dense canopy of trees. Designers can underestimate the use and value of forest places because they are obscured in plan drawings. Forest space simultaneously incorporates void and mass. Space punctuated by columns of trunks is rich and structurally complex, especially when viewed while moving (see the section on Forest paths for further illustration, p. 101). Trunks are like human figures. Echoes, stillness, fear and delight, hunting, exploring, hiding, people often have ambiguous feelings in forest

space. It can be a place of menace or of longing or both. Context, gender and culture all affect the experience of forest space.

The use of 'formalised forest' in design and agriculture has a long history. The geometric organisation of trees in space in grids, quincunx and other formal arrangements can have similar spatial and experiential properties to forest space, although 'tamed' and ordered. The formalised forests of urban places can play important microclimatic roles particularly in hot climates.