General Site Design Guidelines for Pedestrians

There is no shortage of sources for site furnishings today. The industry provides a range of well-designed and durable materials in many styles from which the designer may choose. Virtually all of these furnishings comply with the accepted standards of human dimensions; however, it remains the responsibility of the design professional to select and specify the materials appropriate to the site. A working knowledge of human dimensions and behavior is necessary. Figures 4.1 through 4.3 provide an outline of human dimensions and design conventions.

Walkways

A fundamental element of design for the pedestrian is the pathway or sidewalk. The peak time for walking is midday (countercyclical to vehicle traffic), and sidewalks should be designed to account for this peak time. Many localities have predetermined minimum standards for sidewalk development in residential areas, but they do not provide guidance for commercial sites or other circumstances in which minimums are not adequate. The sidewalk width must be designed to provide the level of service suited to the user. The parameters of sidewalk width are determined according to the anticipated volume of foot traffic, the speed at which the pedestrians will be walking, and the desired density of traffic (Fig. 4.4). The width can then be determined as:

$$W = \frac{V(M)}{S}$$

where W = the width of the pathway or sidewalk, ft
V = the traffic volume, persons per minute
M = the space module allowed per person, ft^2
S = the walking speed, ft/min

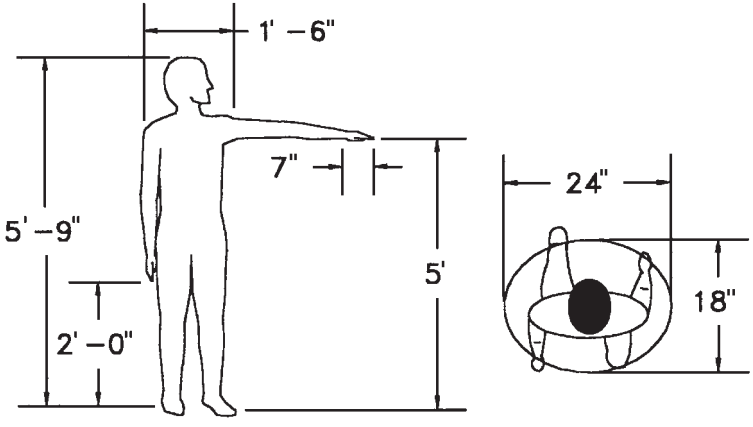

Figure 4.1 Standing and walking dimensions detail.