

# Space

Space as fundamental to human existence – inherent within class and value: prison vs. mansion – All of daily life takes place within a space, in our culture generally a constructed one...

City, house, room – also landscape

Inherent sense of trust in space, though it is temporal and fragile – architects ideas of legacy – yet a bombing, an earthquake, derides it immediately – in theatre we have a keener understanding of the temporal nature / quality to all things in our universe

Sensation and awareness were already integrated into the body before the thinking process was formed.

All experience dictated through sensory perception – spatial experience is directly influenced by perception

Influence of space upon the psyche is a conglomeration of all elements and principles as it is a conflux of the senses– a room lit by candles is considered “cozy” – due to the flickering movement of the light, the instinctual connection to fire, the color of the glow – the reflection from wood amplifies this, the diffusion of darkness – feathering the borders of forms and shapes, shadows shifting lines and silhouettes, the soft, sizzling sound on occasion relaxes the senses and blends the textures (then other sensory stimuli: the scent of wax, the warmth of flame)

Understanding functionality of space as intent – though not necessarily universally true

Public square vs. cathedral – re-use of space into varying formats and ways – St. Marks church in the East Village

Private vs. public – determines the behavior of those within

Public – generally open, accessible, intended for multiple use  
(Social Control – Surveillance, design restrictions – such as benches that discourage sleeping maintaining “socially acceptable” behavior – anti-dissident, anti-homeless, anti-youth)  
often assigned political, symbolic or prestigious functionality

Any collection of people will create public spaces – often defined by the private interest or the will of the public majority – control over use and design = expression of power

Private Space – inherently designed to protect privacy of individual

Generally a clear separation between interior and exterior – often prescribes  
Safety, security, familiarity and intimacy – also often has closable openings –  
Constructed to control who may enter or view and to what degree

“Outside of clothing it (residential space) is the spatial shell closest to the body”

Space designed for specific use: hospital, retirement homes, hotels, funeral homes.

Hospital – illness to be controlled and separated from the community. Isolated by social and spatial borders – removal from the public – physical decline / death

Morgue – always near the earth – no reason that it can't exist on a third floor – but an intrinsic sentiment to put the dead underground. To think that we would transport our dead upward is almost unthinkable. Funeral parlors as well are never found on a third floor of a mall, but are almost always one story and near the ground. There is something deep within us that wants us to force death down toward the ground from whence we came.

“There are few things that arouse in us a greater distaste than to see a human being caught up in (death)... at least if we are to judge by the efforts we make to keep corpses out of sight. In larger hospitals they are not only hidden away in discrete, inaccessible rooms, even the pathways are concealed, with their own elevators and basement corridors, and should you stumble upon one of them, the dead bodies being wheeled by are always covered. When they have to be transported from the hospital it is through a dedicated exit into vehicles with tinted glass; in the church grounds there is a separate, windowless room for them; during the funeral ceremony they lie in closed coffins until they are lowered into the earth or cremated in the oven.... A town that does not conceal its dead out of sight, that leaves people where they died on highways and byways in parks and parking lots is not a town but a hell. The fact that this hell reflects our life experience in a more realistic and essentially truer way is of no consequence. We know this is how it is, but we do not want to face it. Hence the collective act of repression symbolized by the concealment of our dead.”

-Karl Ove Knausgaard