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SPATIAL INTERFACES

- TRANSITIONS BETWEEN PRIVATE AND PUBLIC IN RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURE



This thesis is about interaction. We investigate the spatial interface between private and public in residential architecture. In the urban spaces of the cities, public and private domains exist side by side. They can either strengthen each other by distinct borders, or have a dynamic relationship, whereas semi private or public situations may occur. The design of the buildings facing the street will affect the usage and character of it. Our aim is to find ways of design that create qualitative urban spaces and good private homes.

The streets and urban spaces are to be perceived as public and inviting, with lively streets where people walk, stay and interact. The desired perception of a private dwelling is different. Here the resident is in control, feeling safe and free in his or her home. It is in the interface between the private dwellings and the urban spaces of the city, that smaller or bigger interactions may occur between the people who stroll the streets and the people who live their everyday life in the building. An interface with a dynamic relationship between the public and the private space allows for a symbiosis between the two, where the lives of the residents sip out and enrich the urban space.

Our investigation is divided into two different parts. The first part summarizes previous research and investigations relating to the theme. The conclusions are gathered in a design toolbox, consisting of six practical strategies. The second part is a design project of a residential area in Gamlestaden, Gothenburg. Here we implement and concretize the strategies from the toolbox. Our goal is to design a proposal with the best possible relation between the public and the private spaces.

Keywords : public, private, residential architecture, street life

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