

OUTDOOR ROOMS

The city is a place of relationship and trade, of culture and commerce, briefly a place of human encounter. Urban life takes place mainly in the public realm. The notion of the outdoor room understands architectural projects not as merely isolated objects but belonging to a larger context that they might transform and modify.

One of our concerns is with the boundary between interior and exterior; indoors and outdoors. We feel that the demarcation of interior and exterior space has been too rigid in the case of historical architecture. These spaces must be inter-related to the extent that they are made ambiguous.

Implicit in our approach is that the qualities of interior and exterior spaces are not always physically different, nor do they require different concepts of function and use. Therefore we propose architecture that involves outdoor rooms and indoor exteriors. In this way, the question of 'exterior' and 'interior', which is often tied to notions of public as opposed to private space, is re-stated. Is the public realm always outdoors? Is private space necessarily indoors?

Outdoor Rooms proposes a new ground for architecture. It is a ground with less precise limits between interior and exterior, between public and private. A new ground that is more flexible and continuous, less disciplinary. It is a ground that might allow us to deal with new problems on new territories.