

Communal spaces interior exterior

DEFINITION: spaces that for different reasons may be part of both situations.

Transition spaces between interior and exterior spaces

Spaces considered simultaneously interior and exterior

Spaces where changing an element can go from being interior to be exterior, and vice versa.

“In considering the effect of buildings in relation to a site, I shall show that here too the exterior is always an interior”¹. This was Le Corbusier’s affirmation when he was seeing the Temples of Pompeii. It is a way of understanding the space and maybe the key to understanding the concept of limits from the modern movement.

Before to the modern movement, openings (small and few in walls) were usually not enough to provide light and ventilation to the spaces and walls were real limits; interior space and exterior space were two separate territories, visually and physically.

We can find the first traces of interior-exterior spaces in the Roman Temples but **the division between interior and exterior space becomes more vague the closer we get to contemporary ages**. In the early twentieth century, Adolf Loos ate the notion of continuous space (Raumplan) replacing the wall by level changes, allowing visual and physical continuity. **Architects like Le Corbusier, Mies, Gropius, Wright and Neutra also manage to change this physical limits**. The extension of the horizontal planes in Neutra or Wright, produced a series of intermediate spaces sometimes more important than the internal spaces. The intermediate space is a product of the prolongation and intersection at the midpoint of the interior and exterior space.

Every time it is more habitual to create indefinite spaces (that do not manage to be totally interior not even exteriors), normally obtained thanks to the closings or spatial divisions. These spaces have the characteristic that gives the feeling of not knowing whether we are indoors or outdoors.

It is evident that these difference between the two spaces, the interior-exterior, has undergone remarkable changes over the history of architecture. Nowadays we can find much more extreme and ambiguous examples.

We can differentiate some **types of spaces** within the interior-exterior spaces:

 **Transitional space**, which establishes the link between the interior and exterior space.



Loco House, Atelier Bow-Wow (2005, Japan)


 **Ambiguous space**, it is not described as totally exterior, or as completely interior. Or also described as internal&exterior.



Aco House, Atelier Bow-Wow (2005, Japan)



Cloister House, Tezuka Architects (2007, Japan)

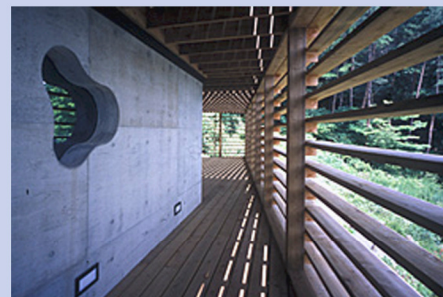
 **Space of confusion**, where being in a exterior space, we can have the feeling of being at a interior one, and vice versa.




House N, Sou Fujimoto Architects (2007, Japan)



Kaufmann House, R. Neutra (1946, Palm Spring)



Loco Saiko Hoise, Atelier Bow-Wow

 **Flexible space**, where with the opening/closing a door, o changing a factor, the spaces will change.



Double Chimney, Atelier Bow-Wow (2008, Japan)



The Collector, Adam Kalkin (2001)

Learning Activity: Reflections on Housing Task: Identifying critical concepts

Student: Usua Aseginolaza School: Arquitectura La Salle

1: Le Corbusier: *Towards a new architecture*, 1923, pages 166-167)

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