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edge dialogue

reactivating dialogue between
the building edges and the
public space in an arcade

by Anneke Allers

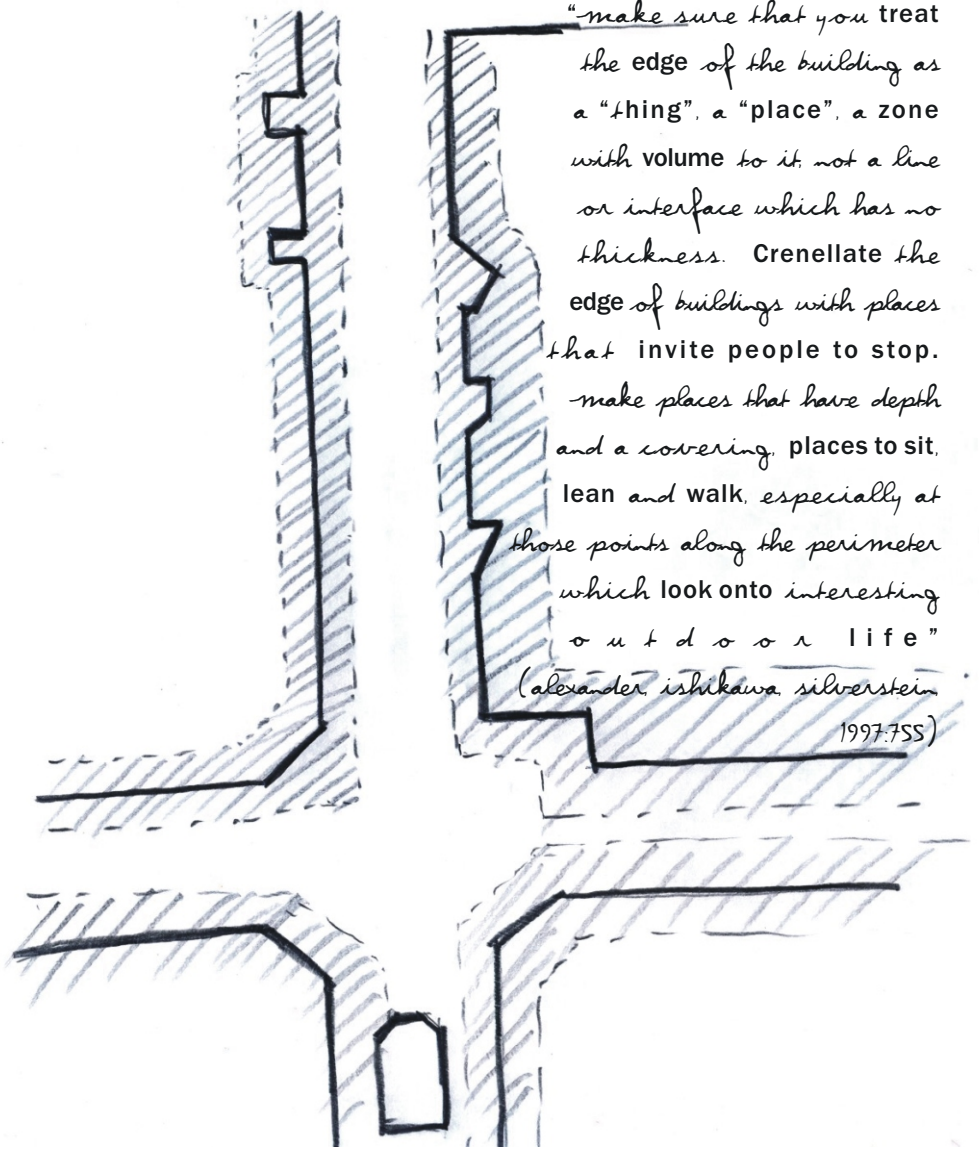
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make sure that you treat the edge of the building as a "thing",





"make sure that you treat the edge of the building as a "thing", a "place", a zone with volume to it, not a line or interface which has no thickness. Crenellate the edge of buildings with places that invite people to stop. make places that have depth and a covering, places to sit, lean and walk, especially at those points along the perimeter which look onto interesting outdoor life"
(alexander ishikawa silverstein 1997:755)

has no thickness to it Crenellate the edge of buildings with place





The focus of this thesis will be the **active dialogue** between the visual **storefront/building edge** and the adjacent **public space**. The study will investigate how the design of the visual storefront edge influences the city dweller's experience of the public spaces around it. The treatment of this edge can **re-establish a sense of place**, previously lost, and if the edge has a **strong sense of identity**, it can help to **orientate** the dweller within the urban fabric. This treatment also functions the other way around. A public space that satisfies the city dweller's social needs and in which the dweller feels comfortable can make them more aware of the edges surrounding them.

David Adjaye (Moore 2004:6) states that good shops give you the desire to be in them. His approach is all about the building's engagement with the public realm and creating a civic space where the passer-by can wander and explore.

"A boundary is not that at which something stops, but as the Greeks recognized, the boundary is that from which something begins its presencing" (Heidegger as cited by Norberg-Schulz 1980:13)



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glossary

ACTIVE EDGE: edges that are not closed up, there is a strong visual connection between interior and exterior.

BUILDING EDGE: boundary between public and private; the edge of a space. The building edge divides the interior private space from the exterior public space.

EDGE: when the word 'edge' is used in this document it refers to the building edge as well as storefront.

EDGE EFFECT: the preferred areas for staying are found to be along the edges of spaces, this effect is called the 'edge effect' by the sociologist Derk de Jong.

LESS ACTIVE EDGE: an edge where there is a weak visual connection between the interior and exterior, for instance small window openings instead of a large, clear glass front. There is greater opportunity for staying along this edge.

LINGER: to delay or prolong departure; to spend a long time doing something.

SEMI-PRIVATE POINT: a point from which dwellers can watch the surrounding activity but are hidden so they do not feel as if they too are being watched.

SOCIAL SPOT: points where city dwellers socially interact with each other.

STAYING: to remain in a place or condition; to reside temporarily.

STAYING ZONE: points where people prefer to stay.

STOREFRONT: the building edge of a retail store, where it is advantageous to have a large space adjacent to the public realm for the display of goods.