

The Interpretation of “Interiority” through Research in Design Context of Public Space
Exploring the Continuity of Interior into Urban (or Exterior) and vice versa

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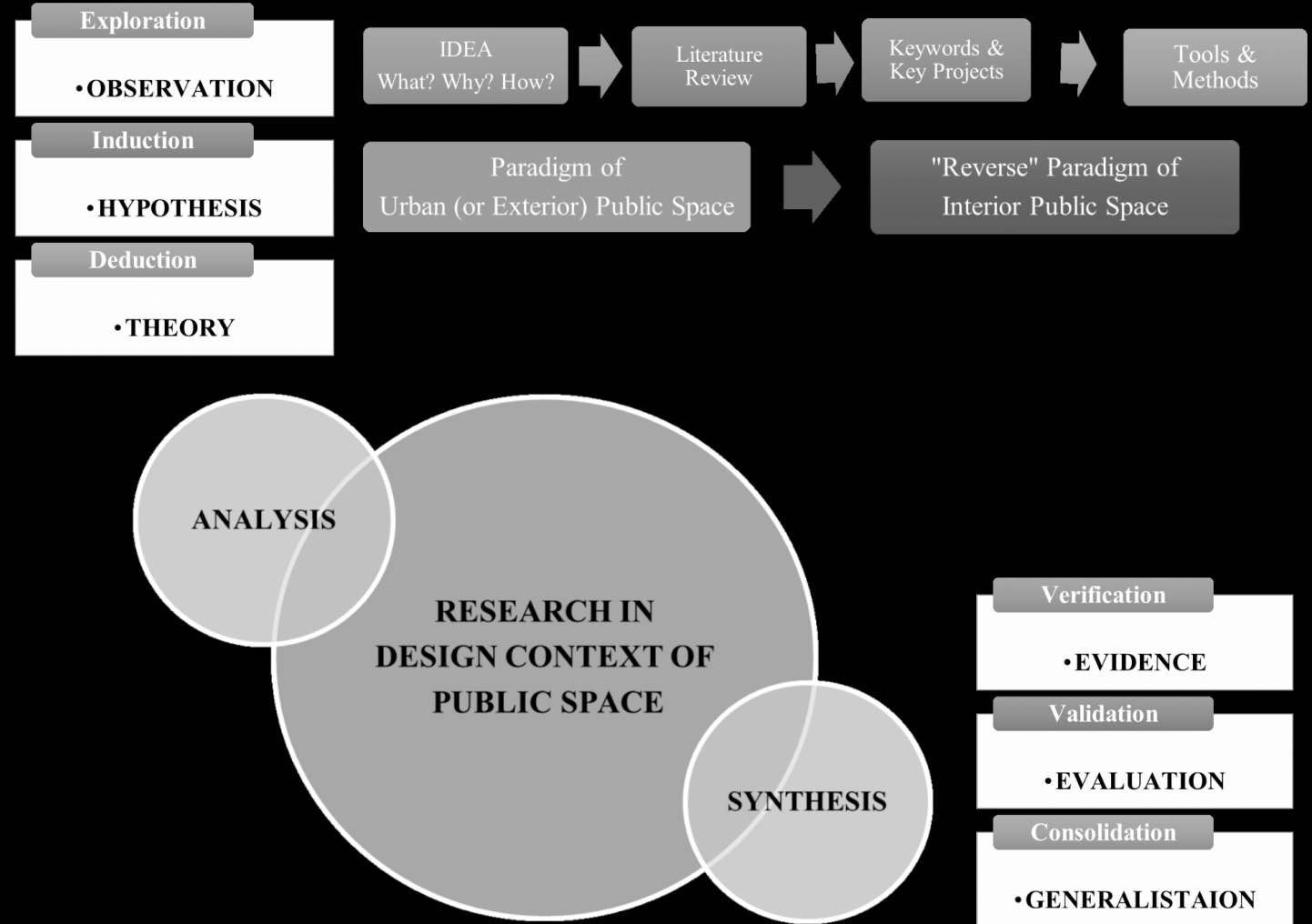
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DESIGN DRIVEN RESEARCH



II. Adopted Methodology of Research in Design Context
(The research is in the initial stage: between exploration and induction).

ABSTRACT

As a prospect to retort to various design questions of public space, this paper attempts to interpret interiority where it is formed by many conditions such as psychological, environmental, spatial, formal, programmatic, or a combination of all. With an assumption that interiority is a shared underlying aspect contributing towards the effective public qualities, some key instances of urban public space are discussed and synthesized .

KEYWORDS



Interiority



Public Space



Continuity



Urban

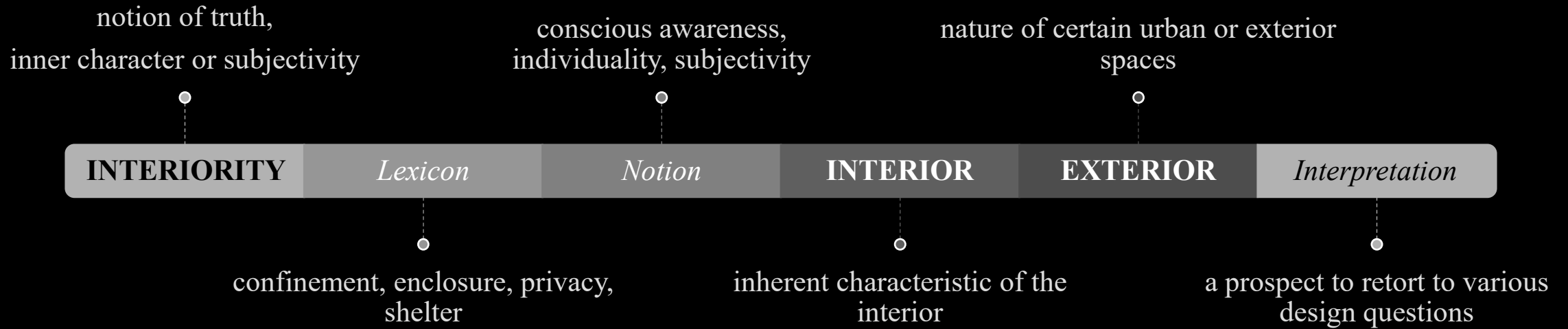


Interior

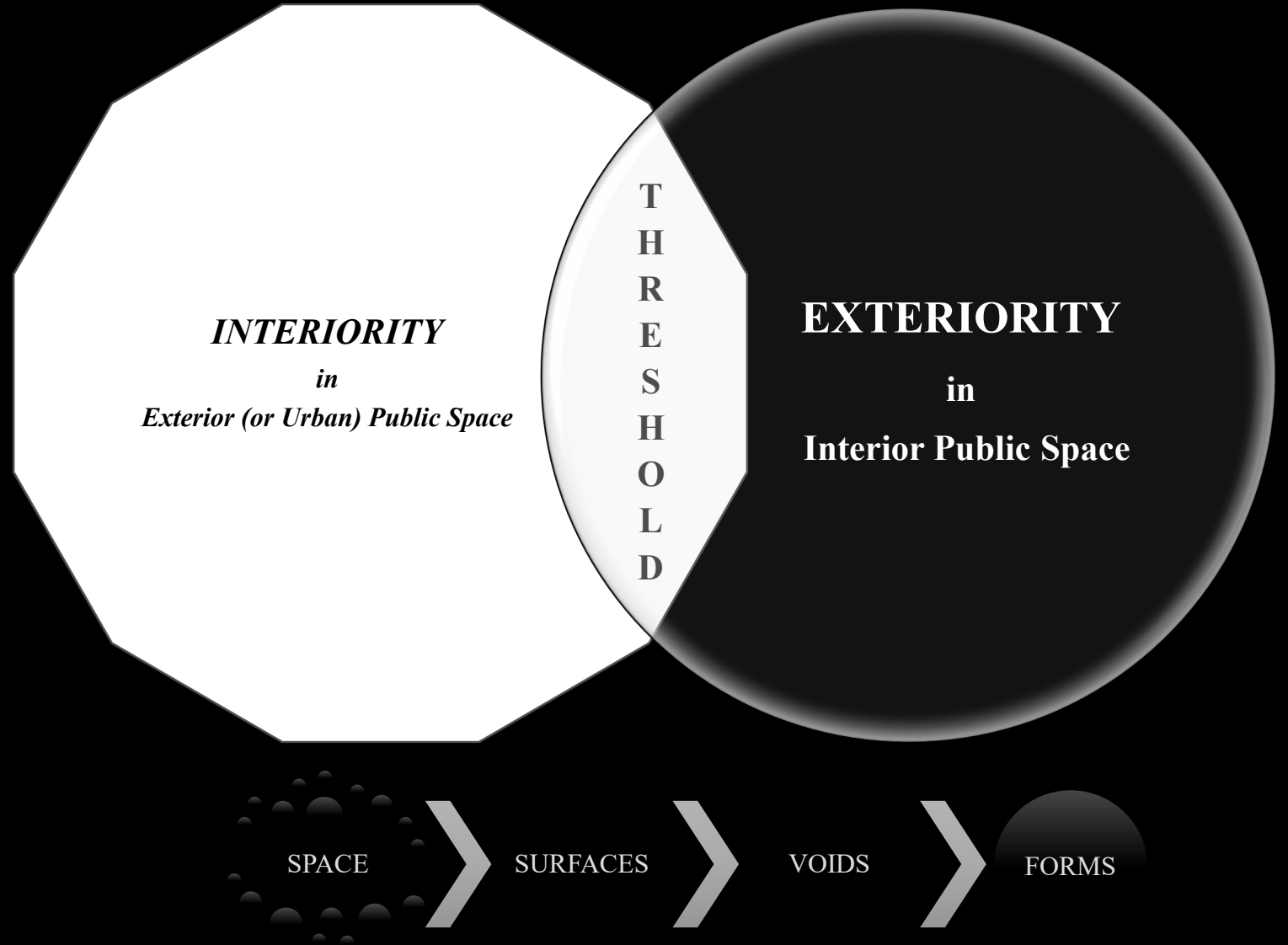


Research in
design context

INTERIORITY



HYPOTHESIS

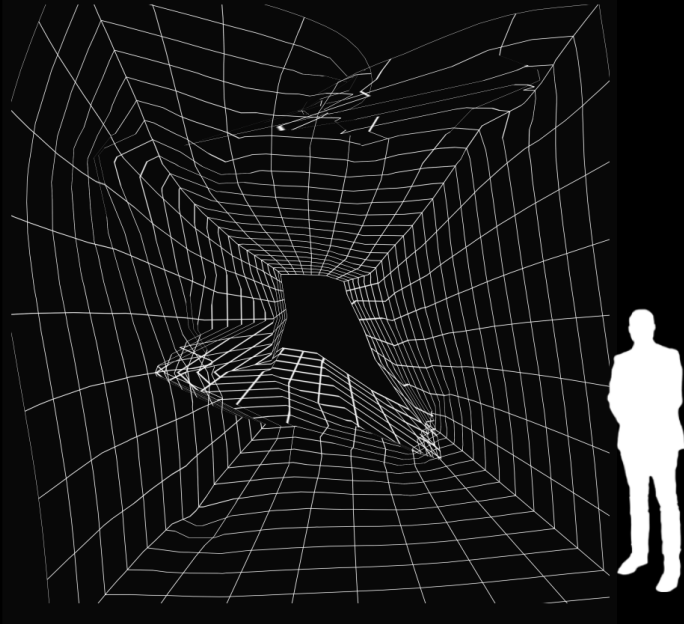


Spatial Interiority



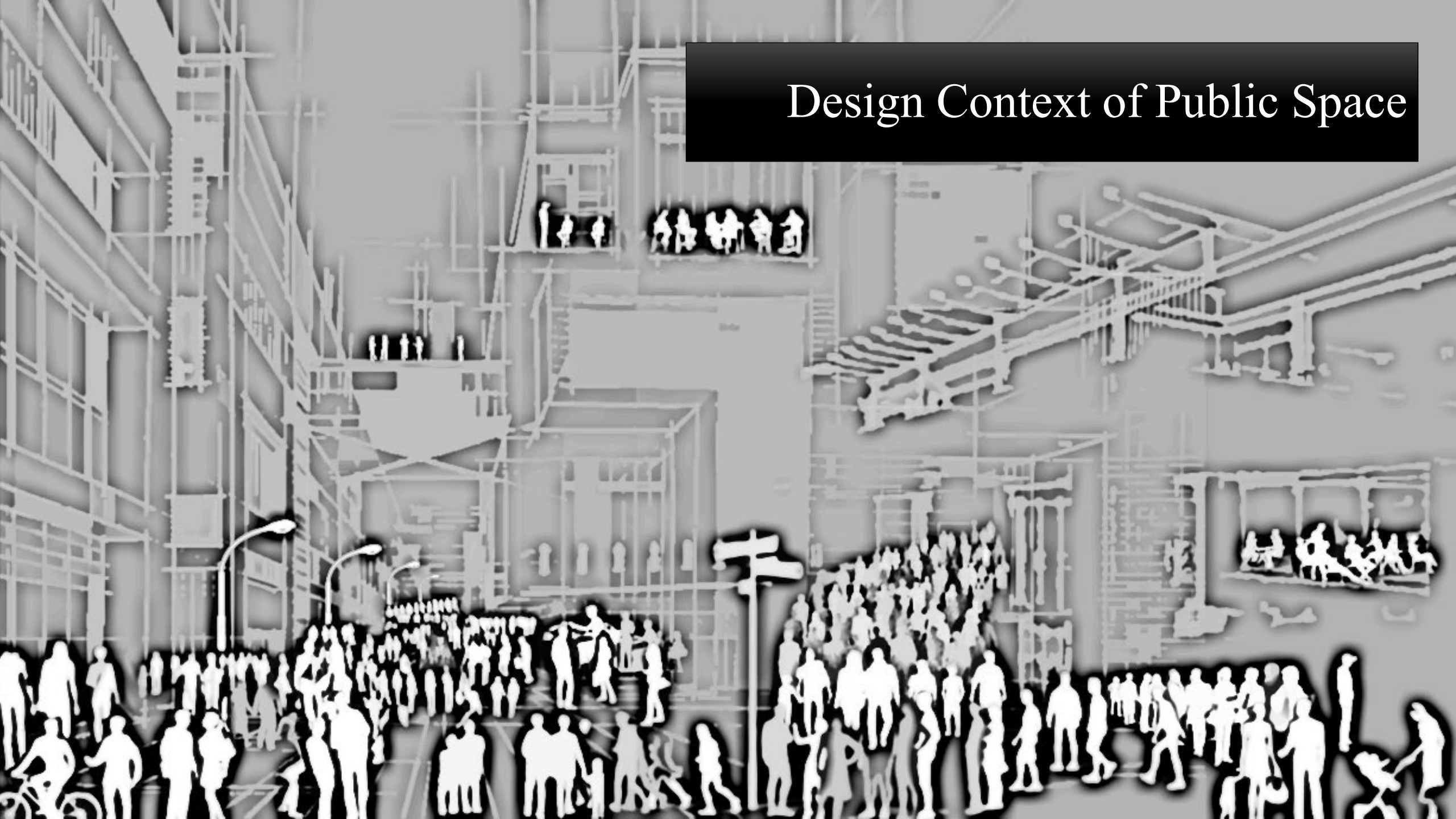
- *interpretation in terms of inhabitation in space*
- explicit spatial meaning
- ecological and complex approach
- historical and spatial contextualization of human beings

Urban Interiority



- *not limited to the physical enclosure of the environment*
- beyond the fixed boundaries of interior or urban
- porosity of the boundaries
- negotiating boundaries
- it can be explained and experienced through:
 - sensorial encounter,
 - personal engagement,
 - social interaction

Design Context of Public Space

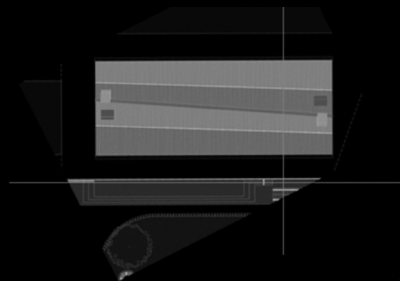


“... this feeling of being immersed, surrounded, and enclosed – transcends the experience of indoor enclosures and extends to the out-of-doors in gardens, squares and parks bounded by trees or low walls” .

Michael Benedict

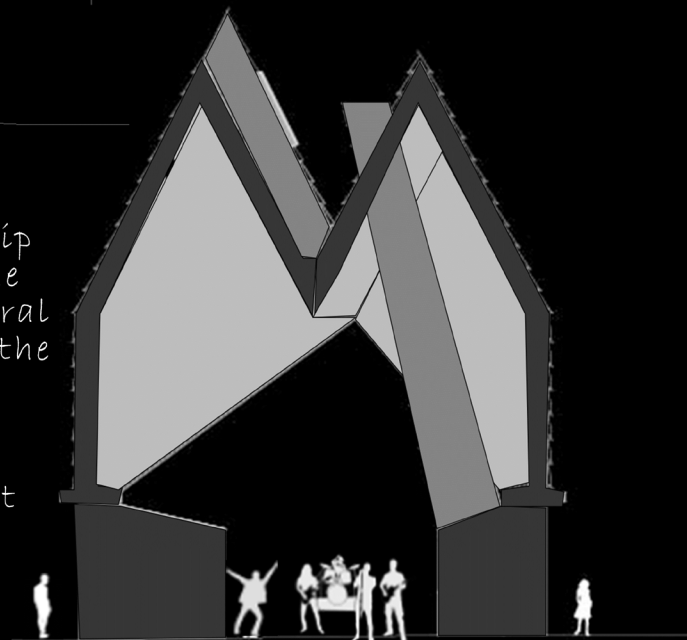


Formation of Interiority in Exteriority, Stadhsal (market hall), Ghent (2012)

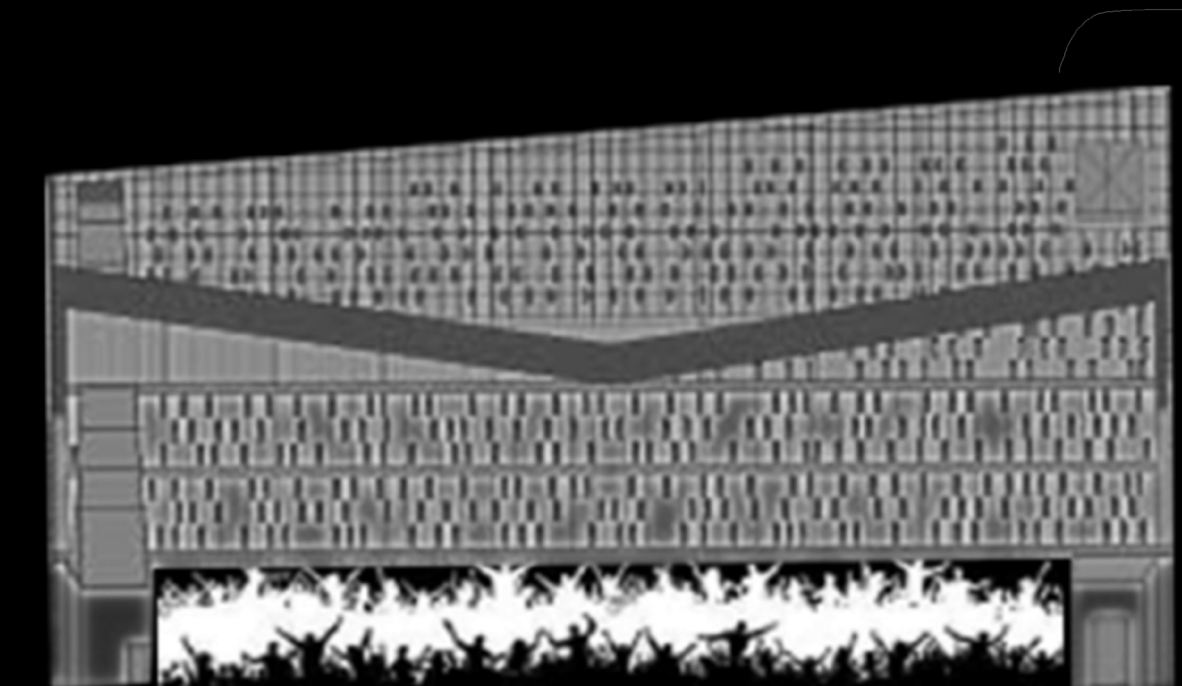


Permeability of interior into exterior
The inside embraces the outside with a modulated wooden ceiling, where light is scattered inside through small windows and question the traditional dualities of inside and out.

The relationship between the architectural shell and the inhabited interior, making spaces that flow.



CROSS SECTION



ELEVATION

By using a wooden finish, the structure pays respect to the historic fabric of the area.

Interiority in Exteriority
experience of inside while being physically outside, intended to represent freedom with a sense of being in confinement.

Questioning the Duality of Inside and Outside, Stadhsal (market hall), Ghent (2012)

Interiority as Psychological Reflection



“Interiority is not detachment from the world, it is a particular kind of relationship with the world, which is reflexive, observational and most importantly, “work of memory”.

Richard Sennett

“... the body as the primary site of knowing the world”, and the continuity of inner and psychological life, ... called interiority, and the material world, exteriority.

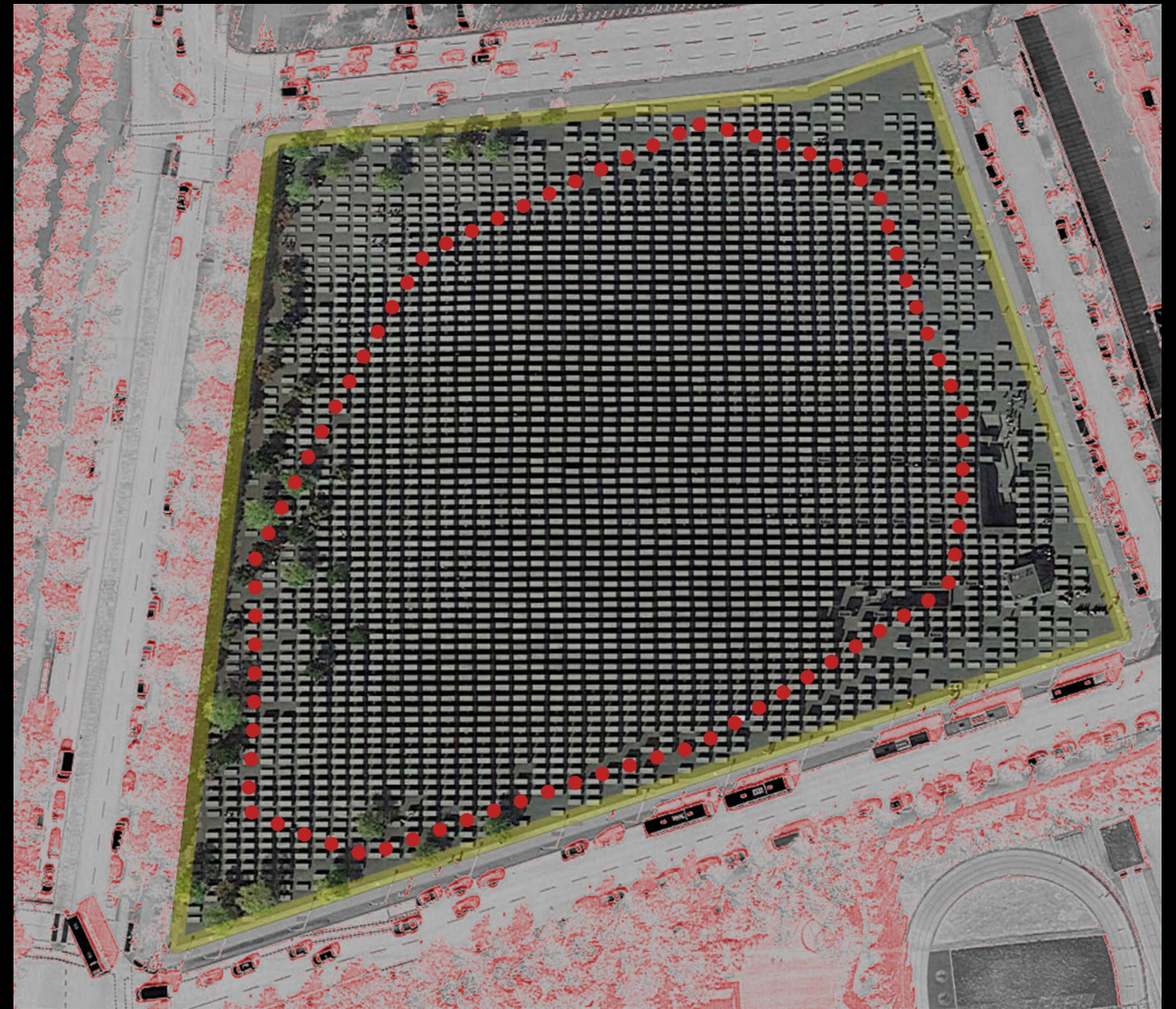
Maurice Merleau-Ponty

*“.. the affective potential of the space focusing on
memory-making”*

Russell Rodrigo

*“.. a work of memory... as an embodied expression of
interiority through physical and emotional engagement”*

Richard Sennett

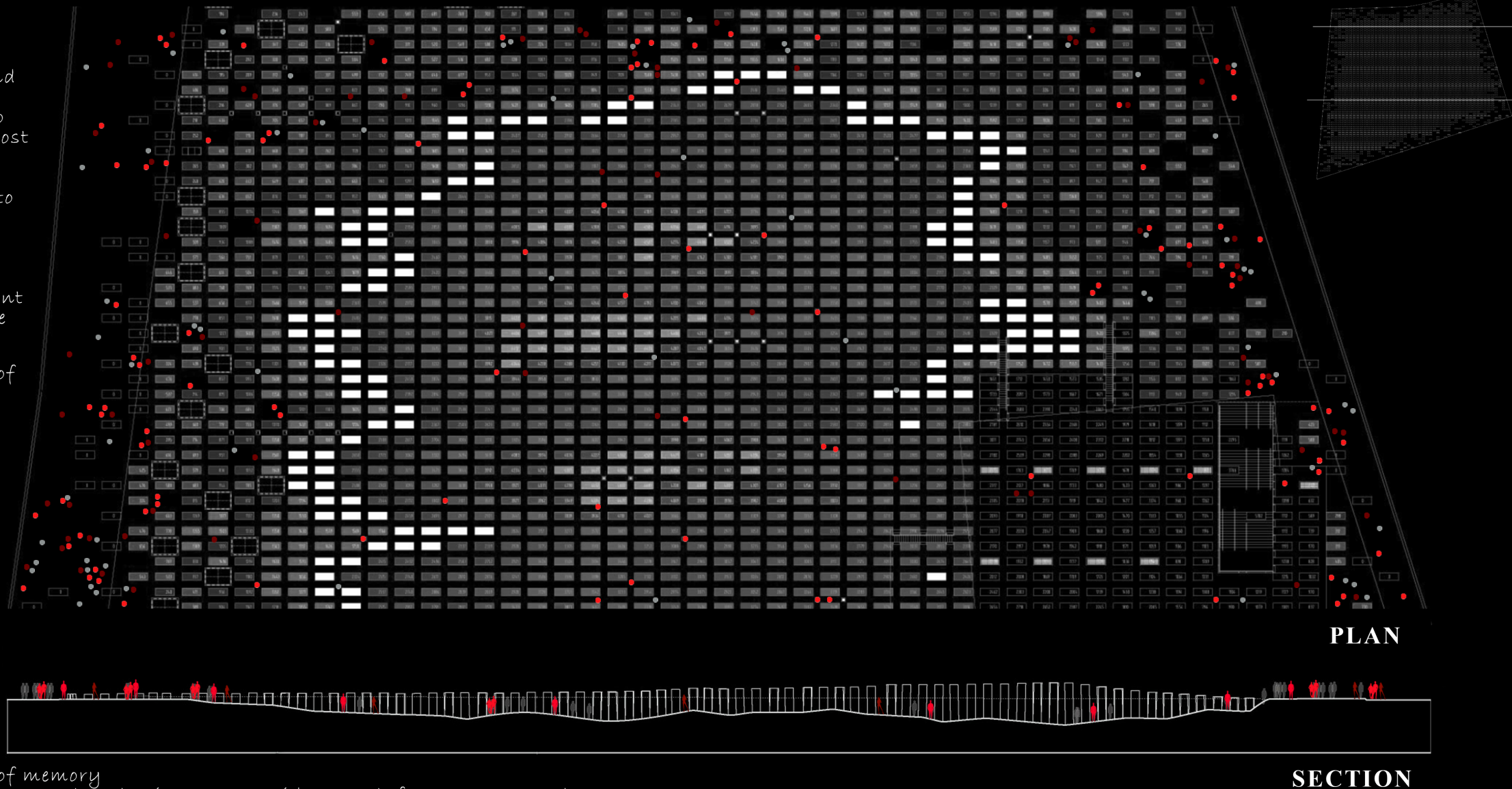


Individual and Collective “work of memory”, Memorial to Murdered Jews of Europe (2005)

Performative Interiority
The open-form and flexibility of the field enables it to anticipate, and host predicted and unpredicted occurrences and to adjust to future changes. It also gives it the character of unfolding an event in time and space

Collective Work of Memory
The low-heighted stelae around the peripheries of the field form social spaces, places for people to sit together and either recall or create shared memories. It evokes a sense of freedom as no activities are restricted.

Individual work of memory
The distance between each stelae is 920mm, wide enough for one person only to pass through most of the spaces. As one moves within the field, a feeling of isolation and disconnection from rest of the world creates a feeling of subjectivity allowing for a deeper level of contemplation.



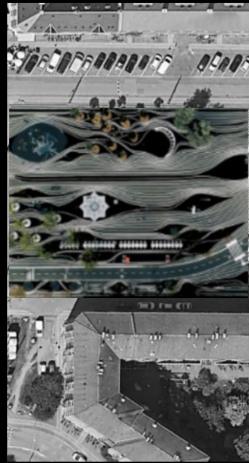
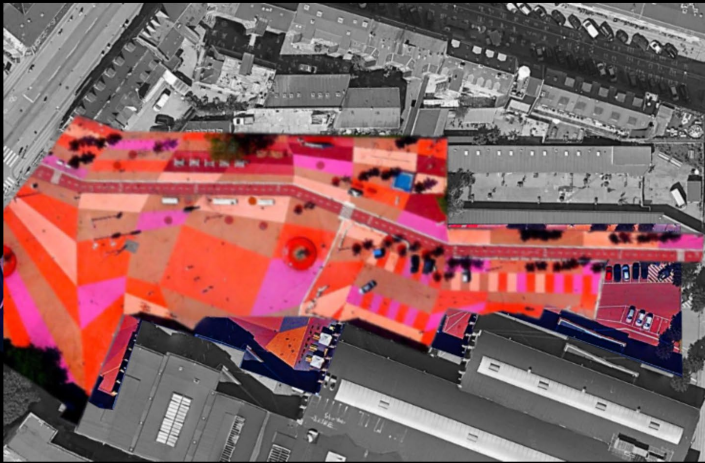
Imagined and Inhabited Interiority, Memorial to Murdered Jews of Europe (2005)

Public Interiority



“... “public interiority” - is a perceived condition ... While we frequently experience interiority inside structures, public interiority is also a perceived condition found in the public sphere, without structure”.

Liz Teston



SITE MAP

Interiority as an Expression of the Quality of Space
The focus on public space as a space considered as public and illustrates the societal values and people's relations. Space where people appear, move, act, become conscious, experience pleasure, and perceive freedom of personal interiority.

".. interiority as an expression of the qualities of urban space, freed from the constraints of architectural forms".

Jacqueline Power

Interiority as an Expression of Qualities of Urban Space, Superkilen Park (2012)



“... the interaction between a person and the built environment shapes the perception of inside-feeling places”

Liz Teston



“.. the opportunity of observational cruising, as it is not about engaging the outside but observing it”

Richard Sennett



Interiority as an Expression of Qualities of Urban Space, Superkilen Park (2012)

Interiority in Environmental / Ecological Realm



Interiority can also be explored and conceptualized in the environmental or ecological realm, such as the natural flow of light and air within a space.

*the landscape interiority, formed by the
alignment and juxtaposition of natural elements,
or the sensory interiority within the natural
environments.*



Interiority in the Ecological Realm, Paley Park, NYC (1967)



PLAN

Spatial Interiority in asense of safety, seclusion and privacy is created by limited visual access, inward-facing movable seating and informal arrangement of elements

B ▶

Landscape Interiority created by Honey Locust trees and thick Ivy on the walls



Interiority in the Ecological Realm, Paley Park, NYC (1967)

Thermodynamic Interiority created by the seasonal changes in tree shade controlling the light and shade, as well as evaporative cooling effect caused by waterfall.



Auditory/ Acoustic Interiority created by sound masking effect of the white noise (up to 90 db) produced by water fall as well as by the sound barrier of low tree canopy

Interiority in the Ecological Realm, Paley Park, NYC (1967)

Programmatic Interiority



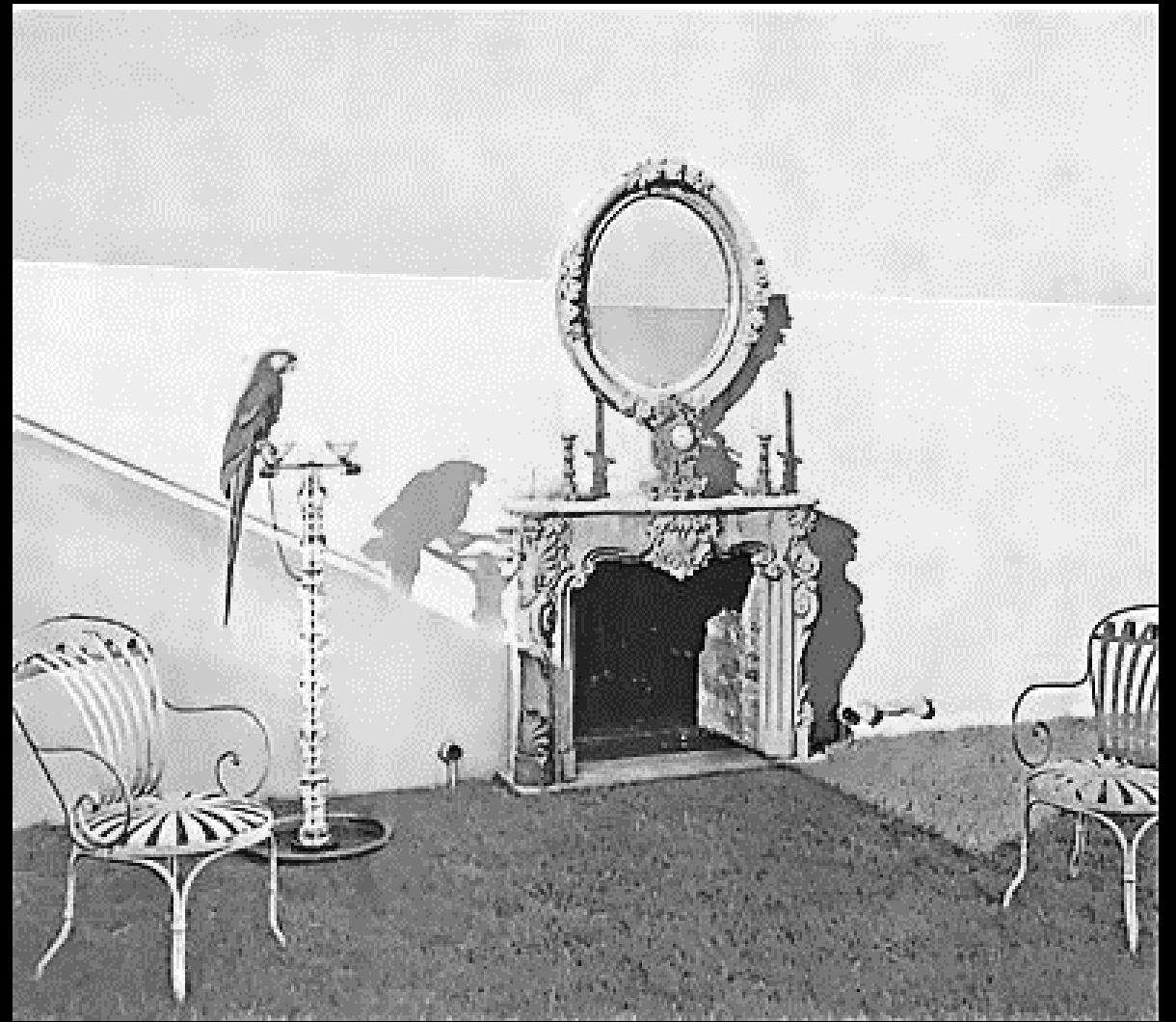
“The primary idea of urban interiority emerged through the belief that urban space was not only enclosed but also defined by the difference of its actual use, emerging from the practice of open-air rooms to the effort of placemaking for the community.”

Jacopo Leveratto



“... a plan proceeds from within to without...”

Le Corbusier



Surrealism of Le Corbusier's Beistegui apartment Roof Garden, 1929 -33

CONCLUSION

The comprehension of interiority is regarded as a prospect to retort to various design questions of public space intended for an improved individual and collective experience. Through multiple interpretations of interiority, this paper discussed and synthesized some iconic cases and illustrated the potential paradigm of the design practice of urban (or exterior) public space. In the broader context of my PhD research, I will analyze whether this paradigm of interiorized public spaces can be reversed through research in design context and explore how these interpretations of interiority can be “exteriorised” for the interior public spaces.

Paradigm of Interior Public Space

- complex settings with a continuous flow of space
- places for gathering and interaction
- promoting freedoms of movement, association and action
- advocating consciousness of the self and others

Experience of Interiority

- beyond the traditional understanding
- transition, movement, and ephemerality
- an engagement and not a spatial condition

Continuity of the Public Realm

- beyond the architectural façade
- permeability of boundaries;
- a blurred threshold between interiority and exteriority

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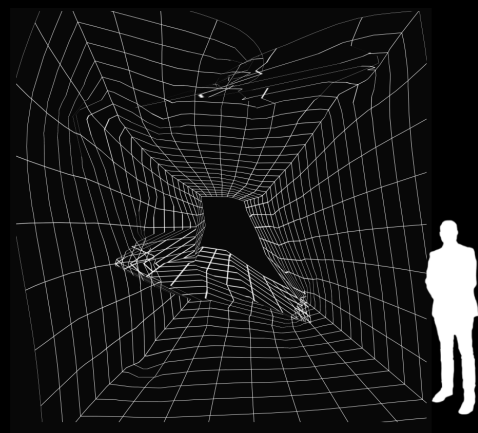
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“... outside and inside are both intimate – they are always ready to be reversed.”

Bachelard, Gaston



Thank You

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