

Active Frontage

Architecture

What makes a ground floor contribute to the street, and how it is graded.

Active

- Many doors along the length
- Windows you can see through
- Uses that change through the day
- Fine grain, narrow plots
- Some spill out onto the pavement

Dead

- One door per hundred metres
- Blank wall, louvre or car park
- Plant rooms and substations at grade
- Long single-use frontage
- Servicing along the main street

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

Jan Gehl's rule of thumb: roughly 15 to 20 doors per 100 metres marks the liveliest frontage.

Put the plant, bins and servicing on the least public side at the start.
Retrofitting an active frontage is very hard.