

Types of Public Space

Architecture

The main kinds of public space, and what each is actually good at.

Match the type to the behaviour you want.

Type	Good for
Street	Movement, encounter, trade
Square	Gathering, events, arrival
Park	Recreation, rest, greenery
Pocket space	Short daily pauses
Courtyard	Semi-private, residents
Linear route	Walking, cycling, connection

William Whyte's 1980 study found sitable space, sun, food and something to watch predicted use better than design quality.