

The Street Section

Architecture

The ratio of height to width, and why it decides how a street feels.

Enclosure comes from the ratio of building height to street width, not from the style of the buildings.

ratio = height : width

18 m tall, 18 m wide

feels like a room

1:1, strongly enclosed

12 m tall, 24 m wide

common good street

1:2, comfortable

9 m tall, 54 m wide

reads as open land

1:6, no enclosure

THE COMMON MISTAKE

✗ **Setting every building back for light**

✓ **Vary the setback deliberately**

Uniform setbacks widen every street at once, so the scheme loses enclosure. Daylight is better solved by orientation and block depth.

Beyond about 1:4 a street stops reading as a defined space. Below about 1:1 daylight and privacy become the constraint.