

# Threshold and mediation devices in the domestic space approach

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## Abstract

This article sets out to discuss the boundary condition between the spheres of public and private / the exterior and interior in contemporary housing project, namely the intermediate territory between the two.

Therefore, it will be given special attention to the theoretical framework on relations that are determined between the two sides of a boundary, with particular emphasis on the social sciences domain and taking into consideration the contributes of Georges Teyssot in his essay "*A topology threshold*", present in *Theory of Architecture: Twelve essays*, as well as "*Les rites de passage*", from the author Arnold van Gennep, who also explores the concept of "*boundary*" and "*threshold*". Then, based on the analysis of the rites of passage in human behavior - as it is a culturally constructed condition, it will be established a connection towards the field of architecture, mainly focusing on the notions of "*doorstep*" of Alison and Peter Smithson, and the concept of "*in-between*" set out by the architect Aldo Van Eyck.

In architectural design the space "*between*", although ambiguous, sets the negotiation of the boundary between the private and the public sphere, as a principle of integration, dialogue, evasion and transition.

Finally, we will try to assess which are the architectural elements in the domestic space - such the door, the sill, the window, the wall, etc. - , that convey this specificity as

mediation devices and enable a frank dialogue and negotiation between both domains.

Keywords: **threshold, domestic space, mediation devices.**