URBAN THRESHOLD

New Experimental Architectural Typologies

Urban Threshold is a proposal for a new typology of urban living that layers a series of thresholds of interaction.

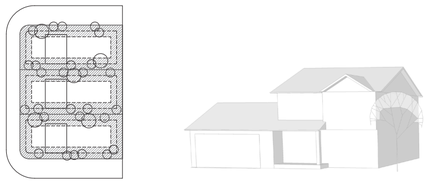
It is founded on the concept of 'elemental living' where the essential aspects of shelter, amenity, gathering together and quiet retreat are integrated in a layered interface of inside and outside spaces, light filled voids, filtered buffer spaces, connective garden courts, rooftop terraces, lantern conservatories and studio hubs.

The idea within the scheme is to reconfigure current planning rules to enable the repurposing of boundary setbacks to usable habitable zones. Vertically stacked volumes of open and enclosed living space explore a more compact fit of dwelling types around shared and cultivated spaces of green relief. The pattern of these green ventilation spaces enables the dwelling types to 'breathe' and ensures separation between interfacing living spaces across planted groves. Permeable 'brise soleil' type screen walls articulate these porous thresholds capturing light, sun access and outlook for the interfacing dwellings through sylvan, dappled cultivars of space. More solid enclosing wall zones define adjoining and abutting boundaries between dwelling types, integrating utility risers, service access, indoor and outdoor storage and acoustic isolation within deep set wall spaces.

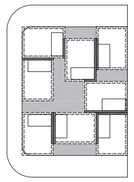
Importantly, the dwelling 'shell' is an envelope of layered transitional zones offering inside and outside amenity and light filled living choices. The volumes are conceived as interstitial spaces of layered thresholds to connect and extend the spaces, drawing in as well as filtering out the interactions and exchanges of the urban interface.

In this frame, the spatial intervals experienced in the ordinary routine of the day, are tuned according to a sense of propinquity (nearness) and distance (separation). Both spontaneous interaction and quiet reflection is possible. In keeping with an experimental focus, this proposal posits a more intimate urbanity within a frame of articulated habitable volumes. Permeable and breathable thresholds of spatial interval and layered enclosure offer a new type of urban living.

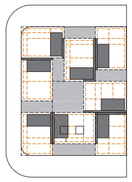
If the form taken by conventional architecture is an "object", then this [building] is a "void", or the exact reverse of an object. An architectural form has been erased. This void, however, embraces a sequence of human experiences, ... thus discover[ing] the potential of architecture to act as an experience or phenomenon rather than as an object. Kengo Kuma



Existing Conventional Threshold

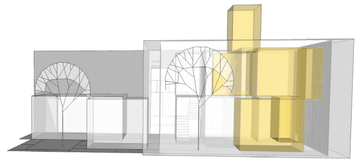


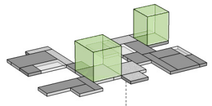
New Envelope Threshold



New Living Threshold

Architecture is to generate various senses of distances...
One can be alienated yet connected. Close and yet separate...
These interactions transformed ad infinitum with motion.
People can discover places for habitation in those cadences of space. Sou Fujimoto, Architect

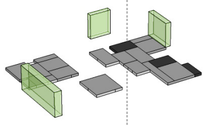




Green rooftop terraces

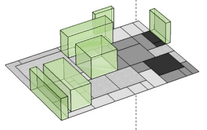
Light filled glazed winter conservatory spaces

Integrated vertical green walls

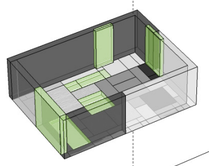


Herb and fruit tree gardens, water gardens, contemplative gardens

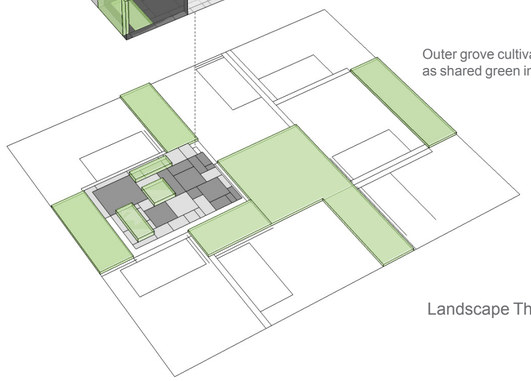
Inner garden court spaces as private green interface



Porous wall perimeters as permeable and brise soleil interface to adjacent grove spaces

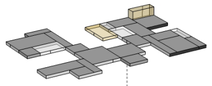


Covered outdoor carport zone open sided interface to garden courts to enable flexible use as covered outdoor living space

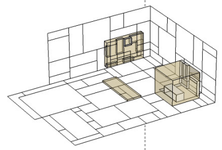


Outer grove cultivar spaces as shared green interface

Landscape Threshold

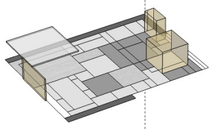


Subtracted volumes and voids within roof plane for 'space within a space' indoor and outdoor living zones



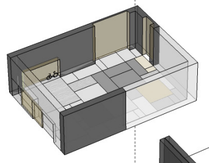
Integrated built in joinery within deep set perimeter wall zones for wall libraries, back lit displays, kitchen pantry, linen storage, robes, fold down divans

Layered insertions of timber planes and screens



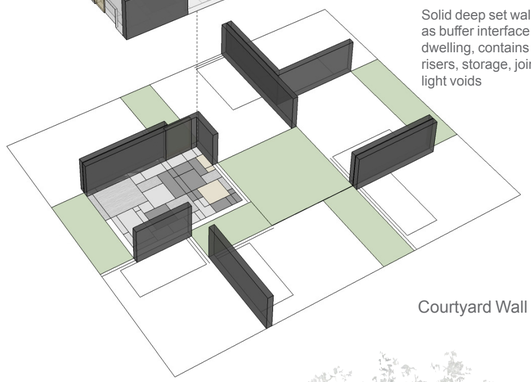
Provision for one person lift riser for whole of life amenity. Adaptable inclusions for affordable and flexible housing options

Openable and transparent wall planes to adjacent landscape threshold

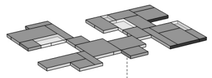


Integrated outdoor wall storage within deep set wall zones for garden utensils, bicycles, canoes, outdoor gear, bbq, outdoor kitchen

Solid deep set wall perimeters as buffer interface to adjacent dwelling, contains utilities, risers, storage, joinery and light voids



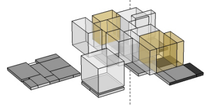
Courtyard Wall Threshold



Spaces of light and layered visual transparency

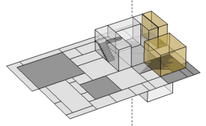
Integrated ventilation voids, rain spaces and air zones

Articulated interface to garden courts and voids



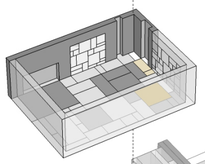
Dry areas interface with built in joinery zones and hearth spaces

Wet areas interface with light voids, rain spaces and open air vertical green walls



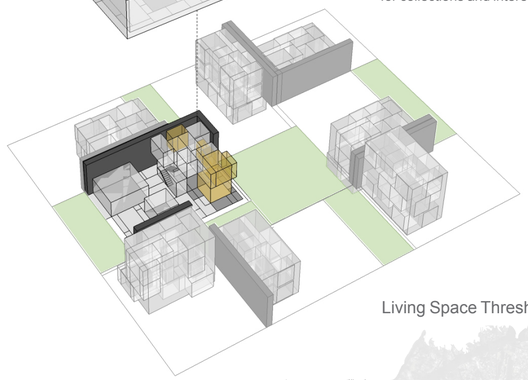
Openable wall planes from inner living spaces to outer living spaces

Shaded cool summer retreat spaces



Inner core spaces layered for acoustic control and sound sensitive interests

Undercroft earth embedded temperature controlled spaces for collections and interests



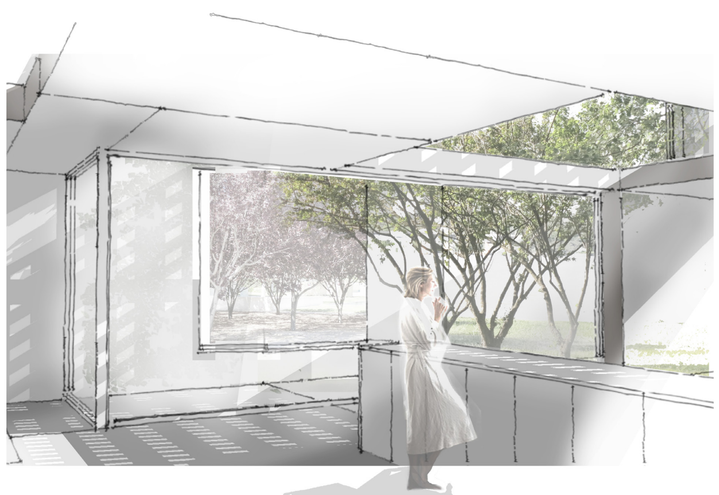
Living Space Threshold

Elemental Living

Adaptable interchangeable spatial zones . Filtering of urban interface. Layering of inside outside living thresholds. Connected spatial scales. Integration of 'breathing' spaces for light, air and amenity.

Affordability Strategy

The compact living typology of our Urban Threshold concept addresses affordability through a costing strategy of repeatable modular components and layered spatial conditions. The series of thresholds enables adaptable and responsive design tuned to the particular urban siting and the dwelling needs of the occupants. Elemental components of enclosure are intended as a set of interchangeable built zones and integrated spaces. Additional studio pods and excavated undercroft spaces can be reduced or added to the building packages in accordance with the funding capacity and life stage of the inhabitant. Economically modest material selection can be made for both solid and porous courtyard walls, internal linings and in built joinery without impacting on the spatial condition offered. Modular components could extend to pre made panel systems of graduated brick, light transmitting concrete block and brise soleil configurations. In this way the cost parameters can be mediated to suit an affordability option while maintaining the full range of threshold conditions and spatial permeability.



...creating a particular condition rather than a particular architecture
Kengo Kuma