

CONCLUSION AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The partial findings presented in this paper are part of a wider research that investigates transitional spaces in relation to human well being with the aim of providing guidelines for an architect in the early design stages. In particular, the importance of the porch as a climatic moderator in temperate Mediterranean latitudes has been clarified. Since environmental potential is well exploited only if it anticipates the human expectations, the method presented makes the effort to integrate different and sometimes contrasting needs especially in terms of daylight and sunlight.

Further evaluations can be performed taking in account other design features. In particular, the material effect is to be investigated: on one side in terms of exterior finishing, taking in account the surfaces' multi-reflectances for a more precise assessment of the illuminance levels and eventually the occurrence of glare; on the other side the thermal effect due to re-emission of long-wave radiation.

All the design choices modify the building exterior appearance with consequent effects on multisensory perception and on the integration within the surrounding context, especially in the case of building renewal or in an extremely dense urban context. Resolving all of these questions is a complex issue; therefore, the priorities of a project should be defined in relation to the specific user needs and balanced with the external constraints in order to reach a satisfactory compromise.

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