Threshold space for dwelling:
A study of HDB neighbourhood precinct

by

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Abstract

Chapter 1 introduces the topic of the threshold as a transitional space in regulating the private
and public domains as well as interpersonal contacts. This spatial form as one of the
important elements of the Asian culture is often overlooked in the design and planning of our
living environment. The scope of study of the threshold is narrowed to the neighbourhood
precinct of the HDB public housing estate within the different hierarchy of spatial domains.

Chapter 2 looks into the characteristics of the threshold space with reference to traditional
examples of the verandah and the five-foot-way. This will lead to establishing the physical
and spatial characteristics of the threshold space. The study into the spatial behaviour within
this domain attempts to draw relations to its physical characteristics.

Chapter 3 traces the transformation of our living environment as well as thresholds within the
public housing. The different hierarchy of spatial domains and the different threshold that
exist between them is established within the HDB housing estate. This defines the specific
area that the analysis will be done.

Chapter 4 documents a case study on a precinct development in Choa Chu Kang. This will
look into the different thresholds that exist within the different hierarchy of spatial domain.
The characteristics of the threshold spaces will be analysed here in its qualities as well as the
appropriated usage and activities.

Chapter 5 concludes with recommendation in the improving the threshold spaces within the
precinct neighbourhood. The constraints and limitations will also be highlighted.

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