The abstract

"[...] modern cultures suffers from a divide between the inside and the outside. It is a divide between subjective and worldly experience, self and city."

"The reason the polarities matter today is because of what lies in between."

Richard Sennett
'The Invisible in Architecture'
[The 'inside' and 'outside' is used here in terms of private and public respectively.]

The city somehow, in its process of mediating differences, has gradually blurred the boundary between the notion of private-ness and public-ness. The blurring of the boundary is a consequent effect with the presence of thresholds; openings. These thresholds seem to have gained their significance following the birth of the city where urbanisation took charge in reorganising people and activities; the containment of them. But for practical purposes, thresholds naturally became inevitable architectural elements where 'interactive patterns' consequently take place through them. The birth of thresholds gave rise to two aspects of 'interactive patterns' - the visual and the physical. It is these two aspects that form the main part of the discussion.

The intention is to 'investigate' psychological reactions and implications with the notion of private-ness and public-ness in mind. The framing nature of thresholds tend to highlight the visual exchange between the observer and the observed and vice versa; the subject-object reversal. Similar to that in photography where the photographer observes through the view-finder of a camera to 'detect' the to-be-photographed. Openings can therefore be compared to that of the aperture in a camera with the only difference in the interchangeability of the 'photographer' and the 'to-be-photographed' position. The existence of such interchangeability indicates an undefined 'dichotomy' or rather a duality - the notion of the private and public spheres; the blurred 'boundary. The questions arising from the above are:
1. What is/are the implication of such undefined dichotomy in the light of interactive behaviour - the notion of private-ness and public-ness?

2. Should such dichotomy be eradicated?

3. And if it should be, what are the possibilities following the direction of such eradication?

In other words, can the private and public spheres be fused into one to increase qualitative interaction?

Community living has been the government’s major concern in high-rise, high-density housing environments. Taking this cue, it therefore provides a platform for the investigation of the private-public ambiguity where interaction occurs. Since the domestic sphere is where the notion of private-ness is of utmost importance, the ‘investigation would then begin with the public housing corridor-unit and conclude with possible concept proposals.