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6 THE SPACES AROUND

Our judgements of towns and cities tend to be based much more upon the nature of spaces between buildings than upon the perceived qualities of the buildings themselves. And just as there are accepted ways of form-making in the arena of architectural design, so are there accepted ways of making external spaces. The impact of new building upon existing settlements can have profound consequences if an existing urban 'grain' is not responded to sympathetically. Conversely, when establishing complexes of new buildings, it is important to establish a hierarchy of spaces between buildings which can be 'read' as clearly as that within buildings.

CENTRIFUGAL AND CENTRIPETAL SPACE

Ways of making spaces within buildings are, not surprisingly, equally applicable to estab-

lishing external spaces and a sense of enclosure induced within them. Furthermore, when considering the creation of external spaces between and around buildings, it is helpful to return to the notion of type in considering two distinct spatial types; centrifugal space and centripetal space (Ashihara).

The distinction between the two spatial types is best expressed by considering the role of the column as a spatial generator. A single column in space can define a space around it, the size of which depends upon the height of the column but the definition of which depends upon the interaction of the column and the observer (**Figure 6.1**). Therefore, a column defines a space around it in a radial fashion; this is centrifugal space.

But four columns positioned in some proximity with each other to form a 'square' will interact and induce a space enclosure (**Figure 6.2**). A centripetal order is established to define a space which even at this most basic level approximates to 'architecture without a