THE UNIT'S EDGE

EXPLORING THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE DOMAINS IN RESIDENTIAL SETTINGS FOR OLDER PERSONS

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ABSTRACT

This monograph explores the architectural boundary between the private domain in residential settings for older persons. In two retirement communities that encouraged personalization of resident entryways, quantitative and qualitative research methods were employed to compare different dwellings' edge treatments. This exploratory study addressed three major areas: 1) How are these edges used? 2) What factors influence their use? and 3) To what extent did the use of these areas provide a means for resident self-expression and promote socialization with others? Key study findings result in a typology of edge uses and architectural design guidelines.

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Note: All Biosketch Photographs accompany the interview text.
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