

# SCALE OF SPACE

## ▶ SPATIAL AWARENESS

This class activity is preferably led by your architect. Complete this activity before students interview their clients, and after they have completed the 20-questions both individually and in pairs.

### Materials needed:

- 100' measuring tape, 25" measuring tape, paper & clipboard — kids measure and answer questions, teacher records responses.
- Ability to go outside on and around the school grounds, access to various spaces around the school.

### 1) Start in the classroom

- Measure the space — calculate area in square feet.
- Have students stand shoulder-to-shoulder in one corner in a 'square' formation — measure the area they cover, calculate area in square feet.
- Have students stand arms length apart from each other, so that they can turn in circles without touching. does the class 'fill' the room?
- Answer questions (below)

### 2) Closet or small office (less than 8' x 8' in size)

### 3) Gymnasium/Cafetorium

### 4) School Office

### 5) Baseball or football field

### 6) Under a large tree or at the edge of a wooded area

### 7) Outside against a tall blank wall (pretend no windows)

### 8) Teacher or architect may identify additional places to visit.

## Questions (ask in each space)

- How many people usually use a room this size? Would you call this a public or private space?
- What is this room used for? Is the space too big, too small, or just right for what it's used for?
- How many people could be in this room before it no longer works for the users? (Test it.)
- Could this space be used for more than one purpose? Why or why not?
- Imagine being alone in this space. How does it feel to stand alone in the middle? With a small group? Or against a wall? Is there a difference? Discuss.
- What is the light like in this space? Does this room's activities need lots or just a little light? Is there daylight? What would the room be like with/without sunshine or views to the outside?
- Can people outside the building see into this space? Why/how or why not? What do you see during the day? What would you see at night when the lights are on? What does this 'transparency' do to the privacy of the space?

Visit as many different size spaces as possible, return to the classroom and discuss. When complete, re-visit the section of the PowerPoint presentation with examples of Sacred Spaces — ask some of the same questions about the places and spaces on the screen. Lastly, review the three sites asking the same questions except in the context of what COULD be there.

Lastly, ask students to re-visit their paired responses in light of this discussion. Thinking about how different kinds of spaces feel, would they change or add detail to their personal sacred space ideas?