Porto, OMA, Rem Koolhaas and Ellen van Loon, 1999–2005

Fig. 93: Cubature of the architectonic shape

The plaza around the structural body fulfills the function of a city square and opens itself up to the surroundings with a clear edge along its boundaries. The open effect is achieved by eliminating the exterior threshold space, which means the building is drawn into the intensity of the surrounding city. This was achieved by creating a sufficient depth on the exterior side of the threshold space, which is formed by the facade of the two cuboid concert halls (fig. 95). The lower surface is an open boundary on all sides. The interior threshold space is delimited toward the outside by the complex, sharp-edged cubature of the structural body (fig. 94) and the exterior staircase develops out of the logic of the interior. The stairs indicate entrance and inside.

The threshold space is made up of staircases, a passageway, and two vitrines. In traversing it, you experience the space as continuous. The vitrines function as an interface between the threshold space and the city square. The exterior threshold space has an open boundary on all sides. The interior threshold space is delimited toward the outside by the complex, sharp-edged cubature of the structural body (fig. 94) and the exterior staircase develops out of the logic of the interior. The stairs indicate entrance and inside.

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