

### Three types of architectural space explained

- Void**      Hold your two hands to make a cup. If your hands are the same size as mine, the air you are holding has about the same weight as 36 grains of rice. This is to show that the atmosphere—a type of space that is usually classified as “void” in the mass-void diagrams of architectural drawing—has substance. The real void begins seven miles above us where the atmosphere thins to almost nothing.
- Line**      Put your hand on the surface of the wall. You could think of this surface as the boundary between the mass of the wall and the so-called void of the air. Now, smell the wall and feel its temperature. The smell is the evaporation of some parts of the wall into the air. The coolness is water vapor absorbed from the air into the wall. This is to show that you cannot really draw a clean line between the wall and the air. It is impossible to describe exactly where one material begins and the other ends.
- Mass**      Note the solidity of the floor. Consider that the floor material, like all matter, is made up of atoms and that atoms are mostly space between the tiniest, vibrating bits of actual mass. When you draw a solid, such as in an architectural cross section, it is still okay to show this mostly empty space as opaque, the way you might draw a spinning propeller with a completed circle.

