

### **The Porch as a mediating structure.**

“The Porch, that performative and transitional space, allows in a controlled way, the house and the street to interact and is the space where identity is articulated and acted.”

“The Street indicates the world with its unpredictable events, its actions and passions (DaMatta 209) and the house pertains to a controlled universe, where things are in their proper places.”

“The porch as such can be seen as a border. To use Victor Turner’s term from *Dramas, Fields and Metaphors*, it is a liminal space - that is, a midpoint of transition between two positions. Each character who occupies the porch in the three novels is a liminal character, operating or trying to forge a connection between the house and the street. That is, all the characters metaphorically used as porch figures are in transition, at personal midpoints, both in their own constructions of identity and symbols of community between the house and the street.”

Excerpt taken from - [1999 The Women On/Of the Porch: Performative Space in African-American Women 's Fiction.](#)  
By Lajuan Evette Simpson, Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College.

The porch then, is a space where the street and the house can interact. An decorative/architectural adhesive between the outside and inside worlds.