‘By stretching and playing out definitions like ‘art’ and ‘architecture’, theoretical reflection provides standpoints from which to explore what we might call critical spatial practice.’

‘I suggest a new term, ‘critical spatial practice’, which allows us to describe work that transgresses the limits of art and architecture and engages with both the social and the aesthetic, the public and the private. This term draws attention not only to the importance of the critical, but also to the spatial, indicating the interest in exploring the specifically spatial aspects of interdisciplinary processes or practices that operate between art and architecture.’

I first introduced the term ‘critical spatial practice’ in my article Jane Rendell, ‘A Place Between Art, Architecture and Critical Theory’, Proceedings to Place and Location (Tallinn, Estonia: 2003) pp. 221-33 and later consolidated and developed the concept in my book Jane Rendell, Art and Architecture (London: IB Tauris, 2006). Since that time, the same term has been taken up by individuals such as Nicholas Brown in his reading groups and blogspot, Judith Rugg in her seminars at the RIBA, London, from around 2008; Eyal Weisman to describe activities as part of the ‘MA: Research Architecture’ at Goldsmiths College of Art, London; and most recently by Marcus Miessen to identify the ‘MA: Architecture and Critical Spatial Practice’ launched in 2011 at the Städelschule, Frankfurt.

See for example:

http://www.walkinginplace.org/iprh/
http://criticalspatialpractice.blogspot.co.uk/2006_01_01_archive.html
http://criticalspatialpractice.org/
http://www.staedelschule.de/architecture/272.html