

- public participation in urban planning: a review of experiments and potentials', *Design Studies* 28, 289-307.
- Huang, Y. and Long, G. (2003) 'Jiangou gongzhong canyu chengshi guihua jizhi' ('Constructing mechanism of public participation in urban planning in China'), *Guihua Shi (Planners)* 19, 56-9.
- Larkham, P. J. (1990) 'Conservation and the management of historical townscapes', in Slater, T. R. (ed.) *The built form of Western cities: essays for M. R. G. Conzen on the occasion of his eightieth birthday*. (Leicester University Press, London) 349-69.
- Liu, W. (2004) 'Gongzhong canyu yu chengshi sheji' ('Public participation and urban design') *Jianzhu Xuebao (Architectural Journal)* 5, 10-13.
- Samuels, I. (1999) 'A typomorphological approach to design: the plan for St Gervais', *Urban Design International* 4, 129-41.
- Sanoff, H. (2000) *Community participation methods in design and planning* (Wiley, New York).
- Whitehand, J. W. R. (2009) 'The structure of urban landscapes: strengthening research and practice', *Urban Morphology* 13, 5-27.
- Whitehand, J. W. R. and Gu, K. (2007) 'Extending the compass of plan analysis: a Chinese exploration', *Urban Morphology* 11, 91-109.

## The development of an urban atlas of Portland

**Howard Davis and Hajo Neis**, Department of Architecture, School of Architecture and Allied Arts, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403, USA. E-mail: [hdavis@uoregon.edu](mailto:hdavis@uoregon.edu)

A web-based project, based at the Portland Urban Architecture Research Laboratory (PUARL) of the University of Oregon, is being developed to organize geographically-based information about urban history, current urban planning, architecture, buildings, open space and urban sustainability. It is intended to be a resource for architects, planners and urban designers in the city as well as students and researchers in the academy, and citizens of Portland. The resulting atlas will be freely available to everyone.

The City of Portland and its Metropolitan Area are well known for their planning achievements, including the urban growth boundary and progressive transportation and land-use policies. Portland is also the only major Metropolitan Region in the United States with an elected government with decision-making powers. But Portland lacks an overview of the city and metropolitan area with respect to issues of urban morphology, building typology and open space character, including ecological and sustainable features. The ongoing work on a new Portland Urban Plan by the City of Portland and the complementary work by the University of Oregon Portland makes this work more pertinent and relevant.

The atlas is one of the first projects that is being handled by the new Portland Urban Architecture Research Laboratory (PUARL). The intention is that the city as a whole, as well as areas

immediately outside the city that are part of the Portland Metropolitan Area, be represented through typical building configurations located at various places throughout the city. The representation will be through maps, drawings and historical and contemporary photographs.

The atlas deals with a range of scales, from the entire city, to individual neighbourhoods, street blocks and buildings. It will be possible, for example, to see distributions of particular building types over the entire city, relationships between street patterns and housing density, relationships between building permit applications and property values, and relationships between commercial activity and housing density. These sorts of correlations are normally not readily available, as information is contained in different kinds of sources. The atlas will bring different sources together within a common cartographic framework, allowing the user to readily visualize new relationships.

The data come from a range of sources, including historical and contemporary zoning, tax lot maps, insurance maps, contemporary planning and infrastructure maps and documents, historical photographs, oral histories, building permit applications and visual architectural documentation such as building plans and elevations. Having this variety of information in one place, and linked to particular geographical areas, will allow the user of the atlas to see and understand a particular place

from a number of different points of view, providing an understanding that is as holistic as possible.

A major innovation of the atlas is its open-source character. It is being developed with protocols that allow it to be continuously updated as information becomes available and as researchers are available to work on it. It is currently being prepared as a website helping to increase the understanding of urban structure in terms of physical urban structure, urban architecture, and sustainability issues and

improvement. An initial experimental website has been started that exhibits aspects of the urban block study and urban neighbourhood studies (<http://puarl.uoregon.edu>). Eventually the atlas will show the architecture of various urban blocks as they have changed over time, in detail, and in their overall urban context. It will also help to identify urban districts and areas, providing their densities and building typologies and their potential for modification and adjustment toward higher sustainability.

---

### **Revisiting *New towns of the Middle Ages*: a conference and field seminar in memory of Professor M. W. Beresford, Winchelsea, England, 21-23 May 2010**

This conference took place in one of the most renowned examples of a medieval 'new town' in England. The aim was to examine how recent historical, geographical and archaeological research has changed and challenged views about 'New towns of the Middle Ages', particularly in the period since the publication of Maurice Beresford's important book on this subject, which appeared in 1967. The conference was also a celebration of Beresford's intellectual contribution to the study of medieval towns and urban planning.

Conference speakers explored the societies, landscapes and material cultures of medieval 'new towns', placing them in an international comparative context, and in their own local settings. To this end, Winchelsea provided an important case study, with papers exploring its history and archaeology, by specialists such as David Martin and Casper Johnson. There was also an attempt to revisit the historical connections between medieval new towns of Gascony and England, a thesis developed by Beresford, and one that Jean Loup Abbé (University of Toulouse) helped to reconsider through a paper based upon new research on *bastides* in south-west France. This was really the premise for subsequent papers. First, there were two given by geographers, concerning topography and morphology (Keith Lilley and Terry Slater), and questioning Beresford's tendency to separate out 'planned' and 'organic-growth' towns. They instead provided a Conzenian approach: a more complicated story of urban development, with wide morphological variations in medieval 'town planning'. Two archaeologists (Jeremy Haslam and Patrick Ottaway) then delved into the material culture of

medieval new towns. Since urban archaeology in the UK was largely in its infancy when Beresford wrote *New Towns*, there was much to add. They queried the distinctiveness of 'new towns' as a category since their archaeologies are not particularly unique. Then it was the turn of historians, led by Christopher Dyer, and helped by David Martin's appraisal of Winchelsea, to show how 'new towns' and 'old towns' actually had much in common, leading some to begin to question whether the term 'new town' should be abandoned altogether.

The use of discussants, including Neil Christie and Richard Goddard, provided the opportunity for the speakers' views to be questioned further by participants, and as was fitting for a conference commemorating Beresford – himself a great advocate of adult education – the audience covered a wide range of backgrounds, some specialists, some not, but all of whom enjoyed a compelling series of papers, and were treated after the conference to a field-trip around the impressive remains of 'New Winchelsea'. The event was convened by Winchelsea Archaeological Society, largely through the efforts of Richard Comotto, a local resident, with programming advice being provided by Keith Lilley. It demonstrated not only the continuing broad appeal of the subject matter, but also the importance of connecting academic and non-academic worlds, which Beresford would doubtless have approved.

*Keith Lilley, School of Geography, Queen's University, Belfast, Northern Ireland, BT7 1NN, UK. E-mail: k.lilley@qub.ac.uk*

---