

- 104.
- Gauthier, P. (2005) 'Conceptualizing the social construction of urban and architectural form through the typological process', *Urban Morphology* 9, 83-93.
- Griffiths, S., Jones, C. E., Vaughan, L. and Haklay, M. (2010) 'The persistence of suburban centres in Greater London: combining Conzenian and space syntax approaches', *Urban Morphology* 14, 85-99.
- Groth, P. (2004) 'Workers' cottages and minimal-bungalow districts in Oakland and Berkeley, California, 1870-1945', *Urban Morphology* 8, 13-25.
- Kirfan, L. (2011) 'Understanding the links between inherited built forms and urban design: Athens and Alexandria as case studies', *Urban Morphology* 15, 39-53.
- Kropf, K. (2009) 'Aspects of urban form', *Urban Morphology* 13, 105-20.
- Lin, Y., De Meulder, B and Wang, S. (2011) 'From village to metropolis: a case of morphological transformation in Guangzhou, China', *Urban Morphology* 15, 5-20.
- Noizet, H. (2009) '*Fabrique urbaine*: a new concept in urban history and morphology', *Urban Morphology* 13, 55-66.
- Osmond, P. (2010) 'The urban structural unit: toward a descriptive framework to support urban analysis and planning', *Urban Morphology* 14, 5-20.
- Reeve, A., Goodey, B. and Shipley, R. (2007) 'Townscape assessment: the development of a practical tool for monitoring and assessing visual quality in the built environment', *Urban Morphology* 11, 25-41.
- Rego, R. L. and Meneguetti, K. S. (2010) 'Planted towns and territorial organization: the morphology of a settlement process in Brazil', *Urban Morphology* 14, 101-9.
- Whitehand, J. W. R. (2009) 'The structure of urban landscapes: strengthening research and practice', *Urban Morphology* 13, 5-27.

Glossaries and dictionaries of urban morphology

Teresa Marat-Mendes, Instituto Universitário de Lisboa (ISCTE-IUL), DINÂMIA-CET, Escola de Tecnologias e Arquitectura, Departamento de Arquitectura e Urbanismo, Avenida das Forças Armadas, 1649-026 Lisboa, Portugal. E mail: teresa.marat-mendes@iscte.pt

It is 25 years since Pierre Merlin and Françoise Choay (1986) undertook their report on urban morphology in France, Italy, Great Britain and the United States on behalf of the French Ministère de l'Équipement et du Logement. Contributed to by a number of international experts, the report was later published as the *Dictionnaire de l'urbanisme et de l'aménagement* (Merlin and Choay, 1988), making it available to a larger French-speaking readership. In celebrating the anniversary of Merlin and Choay's work, it is timely also to reflect on dictionaries, glossaries and similar works covering the field of urban morphology that have subsequently been produced.

Over the past 25 years the major growth of urban areas and the great changes in their character have had significant implications for the way in which urban morphologists analyse and reflect about cities. There has also been recognition of the advantages conferred by the multidisciplinary of urban morphology as a field of study at a time of growing compartmentalization of knowledge. But at the same time a number of problems of the field have become evident. Basic sources of information have become dated and, partly as a consequence of being a field of knowledge approached by several

disciplines, in many different cultures, languages and countries, the lack of widely accepted terminology has become an impediment. Information needs to be updated and made accessible to the variety of scholars, researchers and practitioners interested in urban morphology. In particular this is needed by young researchers, but also by people in mid-career who are on the periphery of urban morphology or moving into it from other fields. Much of what is currently available on the Internet lacks quality control and much of what is in print is out-of-date or covers only a fraction of the field.

Newcomers to the field searching for ready-made solutions might, from the title and recent date of publication, be attracted by *Urban Morphology* (Surhone *et al.*, 2010), but this turns out to be a miscellany of Wikipedia articles, lacking editorial input or justification for their selection: as an urban morphology collection it lacks substance, rigour and logic. It could scarcely be more remote from fulfilling the need for an up-to-date coherent index of terminology that would help to provide the basis for organizing conceptual frameworks and connecting individual studies to those frameworks for which Whitehand (2006) has argued.

Most of the dictionaries and glossaries of urban morphology or closely related fields are out-of-date or not available in English. In addition to Choay and Merlin's (1988) *Dictionnaire*, there are John Henry Parker's (1989) *A concise glossary of architectural terms* (a reprint of the first edition of 1896), Larkham and Jones's (1991) *A glossary of urban form* and the glossary of technical terms in urban morphology annexed to Conzen's (2004) *Thinking about urban form*. The latter, despite its relatively recent date of publication, largely relates to much earlier work. Robert Cowan's (2005) *The dictionary of urbanism* contains a number of urban morphological terms but lacks the advantage of having the rich selection of information provided by numerous contributors, such as is available in Merlin and Choay (1988), the online glossary of Larkham and Jones that is available on the ISUF website (<http://www.urbanform.org/glossary.html>) and the French glossary available at the Séminaire Robert Azuele online resource (<http://www.arturbain.fr/>). In Portuguese, there is *Vocabulário Técnico e Crítico de Arquitectura* (Rodrigues *et al.*, 2005) and, in Italian, German, English and French, *Town-planning glossary* (Venturi, 1990).

This 'viewpoint' does not purport to itemize all the available glossaries and dictionaries that include urban morphology, but it does suggest some of the main problems and opportunities faced by glossary compilers in this field. Ideally future glossaries should reconcile terminology with the cultural context and historical period in which it occurs, but at the moment this must seem like a counsel of perfection. As we take stock of Merlin and Choay's achievement 25 years ago, we need to be sensitive to the major changes in urban morphology that have taken place in the interim.

References

- Conzen, M. R. G. (2004) *Thinking about urban form: Papers on urban morphology 1932-1998* (Peter Lang, Oxford).
- Cowan, R. (2005) *The dictionary of urbanism* (Streetwise Press, Tisbury, UK).
- Merlin, P. and Choay, F. (1986) 'A propos de la morphologie urbaine (France, Italie, Grande-Bretagne, Etats-Unis)'. Rapport Laboratoire Theories des Mutations Urbaines en Payés Développés/CNRS 1244/Institut Français de l'Urbanism/Paris VIII, Plan Urbain, Mars (Ministère de l'Équipement et du Logement, Paris).
- Merlin, P. and Choay, F. (1988) *Dictionnaire de l'urbanisme et de l'aménagement* (Presses Universitaires de France, Paris).
- Larkham, P. J. and Jones, A. N. (1991) *A glossary of urban form* Historical Geography Research Series 26 (Institute of British Geographers, London).
- Parker, J. H. (1989) *A concise glossary of architectural terms* (Bracken Books, Oxford), reprint of the 1896 edn.
- Rodrigues, M. J. M., Sousa, P. F. and Bonifácio, H. M. P. (2005) *Vocabulário Técnico e Crítico de Arquitectura* (Quimera, Coimbra).
- Surhone, L. M., Timpledon, M. T. and Marseken, S. F. (eds) (2010) *Urban morphology: metropolitan area, city, town, village, street, lot, building, Goethe, geography, geology* (Betascript Publishing, Mauritius).
- Venturi, M. (1990) *Town-planning glossary* (Arsenale Editrice, Venezia).
- Whitehand, J. W. R. (2006) 'Towards a more integrated approach', *Urban Morphology* 10, 87-8.

Cities, nations and regions in planning history

The proposed theme for the Fifteenth International Planning History Society Conference is 'Cities nations and regions in planning history'. The conference will take place in São Paulo, Brazil from 15 to 18 July 2012. It will explore connections, discontinuities, tensions and superimpositions, both in the processes of urbanization and in planning. Proposals of papers and sessions should preferably address one or more of the following sub-themes:

1. Planning history and the geographic, political and institutional scale

2. Planning cities and urbanization processes: tensions, convergences and social issues
3. Cities, modernization and cosmopolitanism
4. Urban networks in world processes
5. Cities and the symbolic representation of the nation
6. Architecture and the city

The deadline for the receipt of proposals of papers and sessions is 31 October 2011. Further information is available from the Conference Convener, Professor Dr Maria Christina da Silva Leme (e-mail: crisleme@usp.br).
