

- Conzen, M. R. G. (2004) 'M. R. G. Conzen's notes on 'Urban morphology: its nature and development'', in Conzen, M. R. G. *Thinking about urban form: papers on urban morphology, 1932-1998* (Lang, Oxford) 278-9.
- Gu, K. (2001) 'Chengshi xingtai de lilun yu fangfa ('Urban morphology: an introduction and evaluation of the theories and the methods'), *Chengshi Guihua (City Planning Review)* 12, 36-41.
- Hillier, A. (2010) 'Invitation to mapping: how GIS can facilitate new discoveries in urban and planning history', *Journal of Planning History* 9, 122-34.
- Koster, E. A. (2006) 'Revisiting Conzen's *Alnwick* data', *Urban Morphology* 10, 146-7.
- Larkham, P. J. and Morton, N. (2011) 'Drawing lines on maps: morphological regions and planning practices', *Urban Morphology* 15, 133-51.
- Moudon, A. V. (1992) 'A catholic approach to organizing what urban designers should know', *Journal of Planning Literature* 6, 331-49.
- Song, F., Xu, L., Hou, A., Zhang, J. and Wang, J. (translators) (2011) *Chengzhen pingmian geju fenxi: Nuosenbolan Annike anli yanjiu (Alnwick Northumberland: a study in town-plan analysis)* by Conzen, M. R. G. (China Architecture and Building Press, Beijing).
- Whitehand, J. W. R. (1987) *The changing face of cities: a study of development cycles and urban form* (Blackwell, Oxford).
- Whitehand, J. W. R. (1988) 'Urban fringe belts: development of an idea', *Planning Perspectives* 3, 47-58.
- Whitehand, J. W. R. (1994) 'Development cycles and urban landscapes', *Geography* 79, 3-16.
- 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. (2006) 'Research on Chinese urban form: retrospect and prospect', *Progress in Human Geography* 30, 337-55.
- Whitehand, J. W. R. and Gu, K. (2007) 'Urban conservation in China: historical development, current practice and morphological approach', *Town Planning Review* 78, 643-69.
- Whitehand, J. W. R., Gu, K. and Whitehand, S. M. (2011a) 'Fringe belts and socioeconomic change in China', *Environment and Planning B: Planning and Design* 38, 41-60.
- Whitehand, J. W. R., Gu, K., Whitehand, S. M. and Zhang, J. (2011b) 'Urban morphology and conservation in China', *Cities* 28, 171-85.

Urban morphology in higher education

Vítor Oliveira, CITTA – Centro de Investigação do Território, Transportes e Ambiente, Faculdade de Engenharia, Universidade do Porto, Rua Roberto Frias 4200-465 Porto, Portugal. E-mail: vitorm@fe.up.pt

Urban morphology is an interdisciplinary field. This key characteristic has both advantages and disadvantages. One of the disadvantages is the difficulty of providing a sound urban morphological education. There is a lack of degree courses in urban morphology. Furthermore, where urban morphology appears within degree courses in other disciplines its role tends to be minor. While many reviews of urban morphological research have been produced over the years, systematic reviews of urban morphological education have been few (for some notable exceptions see Moudon, 1995, and Larkham, 2001, 2003). It may therefore be of interest to describe recent developments in Portugal.

Higher education institutions in Portugal are structured according to four different groups: public institutions (including universities and polytechnics), private institutions (including universities and polytechnics), concordat/religious institutions, and

military/police institutions. In total, the four groups include 135 institutions. A recent review involved an analysis of all these institutions mainly based on their curricula.

The first stage was the identification of the curricula that effectively incorporate the study of urban form. It was found that the study of urban form is being promoted in ten Portuguese institutions. These include public and private universities, but not polytechnics. Urban morphology seems to be more integrated within public universities' curricula. As expected, this integration is confined to faculties and departments of architecture, geography, planning and engineering (in this order of importance).

Eight of the fifteen public universities in the country have courses that include the study of urban form. Three factors underlie these findings. The first is the geographical location of universities. Universities along the Portuguese coastline

(Minho, Porto, Aveiro, Coimbra, and the four universities in the capital city, Lisbon) tend to better integrate morphological aspects in their curricula than universities located in the interior of the country (Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro, Beira Interior and Évora) and on the islands of the Azores and Madeira. The only exception is the University of Algarve, which is also located on the coastline. The second factor is the size of the university expressed by the number of students (these universities have between 3000 and 30 000 students). Larger universities seem to incorporate morphological aspects in their curricula more readily than smaller ones, the exception being Lisbon University Institute. The last factor is the diversity of a university's subject coverage as expressed in its different faculties and schools. Universities with more faculties tend to integrate morphological aspects more satisfactorily in their curricula, though again there are exceptions: the University of Aveiro and Lisbon University Institute.

In broad terms, eight institutions do incorporate urban morphological theories, concepts and methods at some stage. Nevertheless, a fundamental weakness in all these institutions is that urban morphology is introduced at some time in the course but it does not follow a sound, continuous line through the whole curriculum. The specific content of the urban morphological component varies according to institution, though common aspects can be identified. One of these is the persistence of some 'urban morphological classics'. While in architectural curricula the main references seem to be Lynch (1960), Cullen (1961) and Rossi (1966), in geographical curricula urban morphology is represented in the urban geography textbooks of Carter (1972) and Pacione (2001).

One of the most interesting examples is the University of Porto, the largest university in the country. It includes 13 faculties, one institute and one business school; it offers almost 300 degree courses and it has more than 30 000 students. Urban morphology is taught in three different faculties of this university: architecture (FAUP); arts, in the department of geography (FLUP); and engineering, in the department of civil engineering, where it is part of planning (FEUP).

The Master's Degree in Architecture in FAUP is structured in 5 years. The whole curriculum, in English, can be accessed at http://sigarra.up.pt/faup_uk/PLANOS_ESTUDOS_GERAL.FORMVIEW?p_Pe=5. The city is introduced to students in the first year in a practical class, 'Architectural Design I'. Despite the continuity of this class

throughout the degree, it lacks a focus on the city, as a whole, until the last year. Instead, in the second, third, and fourth years, students approach the city in three theoretical classes – 'Geography II' (in the second year), 'Urban Planning I' (in the third year), and 'Urban Planning II' (in the fourth year). Only in the fifth year of the degree does the city become a really major concern. This is notably expressed in two disciplines, 'Architectural Design V' and 'Territory and Urban Form'. As in most architectural schools, FAUP has a clear focus on buildings. Even when the city is considered, lecturers and students tend to place most emphasis on the analysis, and particularly the design, of buildings, and not on streets and plots.

FLUP's Department of Geography offers a Bachelor's Degree in Geography, structured in three years. The whole curriculum, in English, can be accessed at http://sigarra.up.pt/flup_uk/PLANOS_ESTUDOS_GERAL.FORMVIEW?p_Pe=725. The city, in its morphological dimension, is introduced to students in the first year, in the discipline of 'Cartography'. In contrast to FAUP, in FLUP, the second year – particularly the discipline of 'Urban Geography' – provides the richest experience in morphological terms. From an urban morphological point of view the course ends, as it begins, with the discipline of cartography providing the most valuable insights on urban form. As in FAUP, FLUP's mainstream perspective on the city is framed by the specific contents of geography.

Urban morphological theories, concepts and methods can be found in some degrees offered by faculties and departments of Portuguese institutions of higher education. Nevertheless, even in the most interesting cases, such as the University of Porto, these morphological theories, concepts and methods have a 'marginal' role in the approaches promoted by each particular faculty and department.

Efforts should be made not only to integrate urban morphology in the curricula of Portuguese institutions where it does not exist, but also to promote more interdisciplinary perspectives and less disciplinary ones (architectural, geographical and planning) in those curricula where urban morphology already exists.

References

- Carter, H. (1972) *The study of urban geography* (Edward Arnold, London).
 Cullen, G. (1961) *Townscape* (Architectural Press,

- London).
- Larkham, P. J. (2001) 'Teaching urban form', *Urban Morphology* 5, 119-23.
- Larkham, P. J. (2003) 'The teaching of urban form', in Petruccioli, A., Stella, M. and Strappa, G. (eds) *The planned city?* (Uniongrafica Corcelli Editrice, Bari).
- Lynch, K. (1960) *The image of the city* (MIT Press, Cambridge, MA).
- Moudon, A. V. (1995) 'Teaching urban form', *Journal of Planning Education and Research* 14, 123-33.
- Pacione, M. (2001) *Urban geography: a global perspective* (Routledge, New York).
- Rossi, A. (1966) *L'architettura della città* (Marsilio, Padova).

ISUF 2014: Our common future in urban morphology



The historic core of Porto and the D. Luis I bridge over the Douro River (photograph by Vítor Oliveira).

The Twenty-First International Seminar on Urban Form (ISUF2014) hosted by the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Porto, will take place in Porto, Portugal, from 3 to 6 July 2014. The theme of the conference is 'Our common future in urban morphology' and topics to be covered include:

- Urban morphological theory
- Urban morphological methods and techniques
- The evolution of urban form
- Agents of change
- Revisiting urban morphological classics
- Multidisciplinarity in urban morphology
- Comparative studies of urban form
- Integrated approaches
- Teaching urban form
- The relations between research and practice (planning, regeneration, conservation)

The organizers and the Council of ISUF invite participation in the Conference by interested academics and professionals. Abstracts of

proposed papers should be submitted by 31 January 2014. Authors will be notified whether their paper has been accepted by 28 February 2014. The deadline for registration and fee payment is 31 May 2014. A conference website providing more detailed information will be launched shortly.

Post-conference excursions will take place in Lisbon (including the Monastery of the Hieronymites and the Tower of Belém), the historic centre of Guimarães, and the Alto Douro wine region. All these places are represented in the World Heritage List.

The Conference Organizing Committee comprises Vítor Oliveira (University of Porto), Paulo Pinho (University of Porto), Fernando Brandão Alves (University of Porto), Michael Conzen (University of Chicago), Jorge Correia (University of Minho), Mário Fernandes (University of Porto), Kai Gu (University of Auckland), Teresa Marat-Mendes (Lisbon University Institute), Nuno Pinto (University of Coimbra) and Jeremy Whitehand (University of Birmingham).
