

## ISUF President's Report

There is much during this past year for which members of ISUF can be thankful. Our journal, *Urban Morphology*, now in its 17th year, continues to publish high-quality research, with, as always, a particularly special effort to include contributions in English from non-native speakers. The book reviews and commentary on the field also aim for international and cross-cultural coverage and the journal serves as the only general clearing house for information about and reflection on activity in urban morphology worldwide. As ISUF's most enduring scientific contribution to knowledge, our gratitude for the arduous editorial work involved goes to the Honorary Editor, Jeremy Whitehand, and his similarly unpaid assistants Peter Larkham, Karl Kropf, Susan Whitehand and Ian Morley. Likewise, we are greatly indebted to Richard Whitehand in Sweden for his yeoman service in maintaining ISUF's website with wonderful efficiency. In an era when scientific organizations are increasingly run by paid staffs in expensive office space and their journals given up to commercial companies as profit centres, the maintenance of *Urban Morphology* – run not for profit but by volunteers interested only in intellectual stimulation independent of superficial popularity or marketing pressures – is a remarkable testament to the timeless value of the field.

Our annual international conferences bring us to new and morphologically interesting cities. The School of Architecture and Built Environment at Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands hosted last year's meeting, for which Nicola Marzot is due our sincerest thanks for a splendid occasion.

One of the most exciting developments over the last 2 years has been the emergence of a very energetic new ISUF affiliate, the Portuguese Network of Urban Morphology, led by Vítor Oliveira and Teresa Marat-Mendes. Not only has the group, based in Portugal, drawn in Brazilian and other Portuguese-speaking colleagues worldwide, but has also launched a Portuguese-language online journal of urban morphology. ISUF welcomes these initiatives with hearty congratulations. Our Italian affiliate network has also been very active this year, presenting a year-long celebration 50 years after the first appearance of Saverio Muratori's ground-breaking contributions to the field with a series of conferences around Italy, and a capstone symposium at the ISUF Delft meeting. Another session at Delft introduced the publication of the new Italian translation of the British classic, *Alnwick, Northumberland: a study*

*in town-plan analysis*, which joins the Chinese-language edition (2011) as a contribution to broadening theoretical and methodological dialogue in the field. These editions balance the English translation of Gianfranco Caniggia's seminal work, *Composizione architettonica e tipologia edilizia: lettura dell'edilizia di base*, issued in 2001.

Of the five task forces I commissioned to examine the goals, operations, and challenges of ISUF in contributing to the development of urban morphology (on conferences, journal, website, morphopedia, and research and practice), the first three have completed their work, while the latter two, with longer-term tasks, continue. The Task Force on Research and Practice in Urban Morphology, ably chaired by Ivor Samuels, made valuable recommendations to ISUF Council at Delft (reported in *Urban Morphology*, vol. 17, no. 1, 2013, p. 40), and these are being implemented as circumstances permit. Notably, two bursaries have already been approved to assist researchers in studying the experience of urban planning interventions that follow and apply urban morphological principles. It is hoped these two projects and those that follow will offer case studies in the value to planning and development agencies of urban morphological analysis. Peter Larkham chairs the Task Force on the Development of a Morphopedia, a plan to create a curated mini-encyclopedia of international concepts in urban morphology for the ISUF website, and his call for assistance was also carried in the previous issue of *Urban Morphology* (p. 33). Volunteers to contribute entries for the Morphopedia are earnestly solicited.

As I relinquish my responsibilities as President of ISUF and place them in the experienced hands of Giancarlo Cataldi, I wish him, the Council, and the membership continued, and indeed increased, success in carrying the association forward, in seeking to maintain the broad-based personal contacts that are such a striking feature of our far-flung group, and in cultivating a greater relevance for ISUF than ever before in the study of urban morphology worldwide and the implementation of morphologically sensitive policies and practices in more and more cities.

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### Third Conference of the Portuguese Network of Urban Morphology, Coimbra, Portugal, 27- 28 June, 2013

The third annual meeting of PNUM was held in the City of Coimbra, in the oldest university in Portugal. It was hosted by the University's Department of Civil Engineering in collaboration with CITTA (Faculty of Engineering of the University of Porto) and with the ACIV (Association for the Development of Civil Engineering). The Organizing Committee was chaired by Nuno Norte Pinho. The Scientific Committee, which included A. Pais Antunes, J. Correia, K. Meneguetti, M. Fernandes, N. Norte Pinto, P. Pinho, T. Marat-Mendes, V. Medeiros and W. Rossa, was chaired by Vítor Oliveira.

The general theme of the Conference was 'Urban form in territories of Portuguese heritage: analysis, design, quantification', while the sub-topics were 'Analysis, design and quantification of urban form', 'Urban form in territories of Portuguese heritage' and 'Urban form in Portuguese-speaking countries', thus taking into consideration the variably-defined universe of

Portuguese-related urban structures. This third conference in the series was considerably larger than its two predecessors. There were 153 presentations, in comparison with 60 in the first conference and 96 in the second. Some 55 of the presentations were Brazilian-led, reflecting a close connection with the only Portuguese-speaking Latin American country. The programme was made up of mainly parallel sessions, with a mixture of both established researchers and those in the early stages of their research activity. From the host university came its most prominent urban researcher, Prof. Mário Krüger, who gave the first keynote lecture, and Prof. Walter Rossa, who reflected on the central position in morphological studies held by Kubler's *The shape of time*. In her keynote lecture, Prof. Staël de Alvarenga Pereira Costa, from the Federal University of Minas Gerais and convener of the ISUF 2007 conference, compared the transformations undergone by the neighbourhood of Islington in London with those of the 'Bairro dos



Figure 1. The Patio das Escolas, viewed by Conference participants during their guided tour (photograph by Madelena Cunha Matos).

Funcionários' in Belo Horizonte, highlighting the role played by land speculation and legislation.

There was a rich offering of special thematic sessions. These themes and their co-ordinators were: 'Cinema and urban form' (L. Urbano), 'Remote sensing, spatial analysis and urban form' (J. A. Tenedório), 'Teaching urban morphology' (V. Oliveira and T. Marat-Mendes), 'Urban form: regulation and implementation' (J. Carvalho), 'Urban morphology and natural risks' (Lusitano dos Santos), 'Coimbra and central densities' (J. A. Bandeirinha), 'Urban project and the teaching of architecture' (G. Canto Moniz), 'Design and transformation of the Portuguese colonial urban space in the long nineteenth century (1778-1926)' (A. Santiago Faria and S. Mendiratta), and 'Urban form in city peripheries' (Portuguese Association of Urban Planners, co-ordinated by Arch. Rui Florentino).

During the Conference Vítor Oliveira's book *A evolução das formas urbanas de Lisboa e do Porto nos séculos XIX e XX* was launched and was the subject of a presentation by CITTA's director, Paulo Pinho. Unfortunately, a general strike prevented the scheduled visit to the Machado de Castro Museum. However, much better news was that the Conference was almost immediately preceded by the inscribing of the University of Coimbra as a UNESCO World Heritage site, during the 37th session of the World Heritage Committee. The two original 'poles' of the site – the Alta and Rua da Sofia – intertwine with the city's fabric.

The general mood of the city was one of delight and fulfilment, and this to some extent infused the Conference participants.

The last event was a guided tour of the main sites of the Patio das Escolas (where the former royal palace has become the home of the University – Figure 1); the Porta Férrea (iron gate); and the very beautiful Biblioteca Joanina (Dom João V's Library). Conference participants were able to share the experience of the many generations of students and faculty as they walked the winding, narrow and steep streets down to the city centre, following the Rua do Quebra-Costas, passing the fortress-like Sé Velha (the old cathedral) and through the Arco de Almedina. Architects and engineers from the Centro Historical Centre's Office provided a briefing on the medieval and early-modern urban fabric and its future. After crossing the main shopping street, Ferreira Borges /Visconde da Luz, and visiting the Praça do Comércio, the Conference was finally closed, as the participants were received in the Town Hall next to the Monastery of Santa Cruz by Prof. Clara Almeida Santos, the University's Vice-Rector for Culture and Communication, and the Mayor.

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## Portuguese Network of Urban Morphology: Report

This report describes the main activities of the Portuguese Network of Urban Morphology (PNUM) between July 2012 and July 2013. The third year of activities of PNUM has consolidated one of the most promising aspects of this network – the linkage between the Portuguese and Brazilian communities of urban morphologists. Three aspects should be highlighted: first, Frederico de Holanda (Universidade de Brasília) and Stael Pereira da Costa (Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais) have been elected to the Scientific Council of PNUM; secondly, more than half of the papers submitted to the *Revista de Morfologia Urbana* over the past year were written by Brazilian researchers; and thirdly, 50 per cent of the presenters in the PNUM 2013 Conference came from Brazil.

One of the major elements for the consolidation

and development of this Portuguese-speaking network is the establishment of a biannual journal in the Portuguese language. Over the past year, the *Revista de Morfologia Urbana* has been receiving papers, viewpoints and book reviews. The first number of the *Revista* will be published online in December. It will include four papers – three original articles and the Portuguese translation of the influential 'British urban morphology: the Conzenian tradition' (Whitehand, 2001), originally published in *Urban Morphology* in October 2001. The new articles focus on: i) the dichotomy in historical studies of urban form between 'regular' and 'irregular' forms; ii) the description and explanation of the informal urban forms of Maputo, the capital of Mozambique; and iii) the presentation of a new method for morphological research and planning practice.

The PNUM 2013 Conference on 'Urban form in territories of Portuguese heritage: analysis, design, quantification' took place at the Universidade de Coimbra on 27-28 June 2013. Since its launching in October 2012, the Conference website attracted visitors from 70 countries and all inhabited continents. Of 220 abstracts submitted to the Conference, 150 survived the vetting process and formed the basis for presentations at PNUM 2013 (an eBook containing the Conference papers will be available at <http://www.pnum2013.dec.uc.pt/>). The two most represented countries at the Conference were, as expected, Brazil and Portugal, followed by Belgium, China, Germany, México, Spain, The Netherlands and Venezuela. As always, rich morphological debates were not confined to the paper sessions. Many fruitful discussions took place during the social events of the conference. Before returning to their cities of origin some participants took part in a field exploration of Universidade de Coimbra, Alta and Sofia, recently classified as a UNESCO World Heritage site. A detailed description of PNUM 2013 is provided by Madalena Cunha Matos (Universidade Técnica de Lisboa) in this issue of *Urban Morphology* (pp. 108-9). The organizers of the Conference, led by Nuno Norte Pinto, are to be congratulated on their organization of this remarkable and very productive event.

The Twenty-First International Seminar on Urban Form (ISUF 2014) will be organized in collaboration with PNUM. For the first time an ISUF conference will take place in Portugal. ISUF 2014 will be hosted by the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Porto, from 3 to 6 July 2014. Preparations for the conference have been in progress for some time. The theme of the conference is 'Our common future in urban morphology'. It includes the key role of the environment in the debate on the physical form of cities, and it recognizes the need to identify the fundamental issues that should be placed on the agenda of urban morphology. Indeed, 'Our common future in urban morphology' must involve a careful reflection on what should be our contribution as urban morphologists, how it could be part of wider integrated research on cities, and

how this could be applied in day-to-day practice. Over the 4 days of the conference 10 'streams' will be pursued: i) urban morphological theory; ii) urban morphological methods and techniques; iii) the evolution of urban form; iv) agents of change; v) revisiting urban morphological classics; vi) multidisciplinary in urban morphology; vii) comparative studies of urban form; viii) integrated approaches; ix) teaching urban form; and finally, x) the relations between research and practice (planning, regeneration, conservation). More detailed information can be found on the conference website at [isuf2014.fe.up.pt](http://isuf2014.fe.up.pt).

Recently a number of members of PNUM have been preparing a comprehensive book on the study of urban form in Portugal. It is in three parts: i) an overview of Portuguese urban morphology, including the disciplinary backgrounds that are particularly relevant in the national context; ii) a description of a set of specific morphological approaches, including space syntax, cellular automata and agent-based modelling; and iii) reflections on the relationship between morphological analysis and the design of the contemporary city. It is hoped that the book will be published in 2014.

PNUM was established at the ISUF Conference in Hamburg in August 2010. The progress made over the last 3 years, under the umbrella of ISUF, has been extremely gratifying. PNUM is now firmly established within the world network of urban morphology.

## Reference

Whitehand, J. W. R. (2001) 'British urban morphology: the Conzenian tradition', *Urban Morphology* 5, 103-9.

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## Latino urbanism

The *Journal of Urbanism* (Volume 5, Number 2-3) includes articles on 'Latino urbanism: defining a cultural urban form' (by E. Talen), and 'Patterns

and forms of Latino cultural landscapes: southwest Detroit, a case of incremental re-adaptive use' (by J. J. Lara).

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## Twentieth International Seminar on Urban Form, Brisbane, Australia, 17-20 July 2013



**Figure 1. Michael Conzen and Giancarlo Cataldi are introduced by Paul Sanders at the plenary session on traditions, techniques and trends in urban morphology.**

For its 20th annual gathering, ISUF made its first incursion into Oceania. ISUF 2013 was held at Queensland University of Technology (QUT) in Brisbane, Australia. The participants convened on the QUT campus, located next to the Brisbane River and the city's luxurious botanical garden, on the edge of the business and administrative district. The flawless organization and the quality of the setting contributed greatly to the success of a conference attended by over 100 participants and marked by a collegial atmosphere. In addition to a guided tour of Brisbane, many attendees seized the opportunity to attend pre-conference tours in Auckland, New Zealand with Kai Gu (University of Auckland) as well as post-conference tours in Melbourne with Rosemary Kennedy (QUT) and in Sydney with Marco Pompili (University of New South Wales). ISUF participants also had the possibility to attend the one-day pre-conference 'City-making superforum', organized with the Urban Design Alliance (UDAL) and devoted to recent urban design and city-making practices in

Queensland.

With the theme 'Urban form at the edge', the conference programme included 25 paper sessions and five interspersed plenary sessions, including a joint ISUF-UDAL plenary session on urban design and research in Australia. The other plenary sessions were on the origins of Brisbane's urban form (Paul Sanders, QUT) and the evolution of its newer suburban developments (Tony Hall, Griffith University); the planning of informality, as exemplified by the city of Maputo (Jose Forjaz); the relationship between research and practice in urban morphology, in the context of the ISUF Task Force on this topic (Vitor Oliveira, Universidade do Porto); and finally, traditions, techniques and trends in urban morphology, a session in which the retiring President, Michael Conzen and the new President, Giancarlo Cataldi offered inspiring reflections on the discipline and its evolution (Figure 1).

For his part, Cataldi introduced a schematic model designed to summarize the Italian approach

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to urban morphology. He first set about identifying five dialectic pairs: building types and building organism; project and construction; environmental insertion and reading; building materials and environment; and finally, time cycles and spatial scales. Such pairs allow, for instance, for a distinction to be drawn between the materiality of the architectural object (labelled the 'building organism') and its internalized mental representation (that is, the 'building type'), and between the 'raw' resources offered by the 'environment' and the 'building materials' that nature could supply when the said resources are fecundated by culture. By laying out the first four dialectic pairs to create a diamond-shaped figure, Cataldi then proceeded to illustrate a feedback loop – running along the four sides of the figure – that synthesized the oscillation between the concrete reality and its mental representations and between the inherited environment and its transformation through cognitive and embodied practices. In the last part of his presentation, Cataldi developed the schematic model further by incorporating time cycles and spatial scales. In doing so, he illustrated how, when aggregated, buildings create villages that would, in some cases, develop into towns and cities. In association with other artefacts deposited by history, such buildings, villages and cities form a 'whole', a cultural landscape that testifies to the geographical and cultural experience of the local population.

Conzen began his talk by defining urban morphology as 'the study of the built form of cities [which] seeks to explain the layout and spatial composition of urban structures and open spaces, their material character and symbolic meaning, in light of the forces that have created, expanded, diversified, and transformed them'. After briefly evoking early attempts at developing a systematic approach to the study of urban form during the nineteenth century and presenting a summary of genealogies of modern urban morphology in different national contexts, Conzen delivered his own attempt at synthesizing the multifaceted nature of the discipline. He did so in particular by producing interesting tables meant to chart how an array of physical and spatial objects have been studied with varying levels of intensity by using morphological approaches that have stemmed from, and borrowed from, a variety of disciplines. Conzen suggested that we should acknowledge the emerging geo-ecological approach in addition to the four initially identified by Karl Kropf, namely the process-typological approach of the Italian school, the historico-geographical approach

developed by the British school, the configurational approach of the Space Syntax school, and finally, the spatial-modelling methods based on mathematical simulation.

The ideas put forward by Conzen and Cataldi demonstrate the breadth and depth of morphological studies while shedding critical light on some of the complexities associated with any effort to define the scope of the discipline, leaving aside establishing what would constitute the core theoretical assumptions of a unified research programme.

To conclude his address, Conzen revisited Jeremy Whitehand's list of 'issues in urban morphology' for the benefit of ISUF 2013 participants. It is interesting to note how some of these issues permeated the conference, even if they were not formally addressed from a theoretical or epistemological standpoint, although a notable exception was the relationship between research and practice to which a plenary session was devoted. I have in mind in particular Euro-American myopia, the need for comparative studies, and, to a lesser extent, the over-reliance on urban morphological classics, if this theme can be understood to include 'a tendency to focus on traditional topical matter'.

The conference comprised 84 presentations, grouped according to six sub-themes: Cities on the edge; Off centre; On the edge of the city; Edge cities; Regional centres; and Pushing the edge. The play with the word 'edge' is amusing and endearing. However, the notion relates to a number of subjects that have been addressed recurrently at ISUF meetings, in particular in recent years. It is interesting to note, for instance, that the emergence and evolution of new urban forms at the periphery of seemingly ever-expanding metropolises appears to catch the attention of a growing number of morphologists. Such issues, which depart from the discipline's canonical work on multi-secular urban settlements, allow urban morphology to engage with conditions that are at the heart of the contemporary city's struggle to trace a path towards a more sustainable future with renewed relevance. The question of how new technologies and techniques are pushing at the edges of the empirical front while pointing to yet uncharted theoretical territories is similarly stimulating.

But the notion of 'edge' resonated in yet other ways in a conference held in Australia. I cannot resist the impulse of relaying a nice anecdote here. Conference organizer Paul Sanders had graciously accepted to share his impressions of ISUF 2013 immediately after the closing session. While

discussing over a coffee, he scribbled a world map in which the longitudinal central axis was meant to bisect Australia. Seen from such an unusual vantage point, UK and Continental Europe as well as the north-eastern part of North America appear in peripheral positions, whereas Australia and parts of Asia occupy a central location, while being surrounded by Africa and the Persian Gulf as well as South America. As expected by the organizing committee, due to its location the Brisbane conference attracted a very large percentage of contributions devoted to Australian and Asian cities and more broadly to urban realities in the southern hemisphere, taking into account in particular the Brazilian contributions. As usual, the African continent remained under-represented, although the participants had the privilege of hearing retired professor and planner Jose Forjaz speak at length about the planning challenges faced by Maputo in Mozambique.

By drawing attention to so-called geographical edges, ISUF 2013 did indeed spotlight parts of the world that are experiencing rapid and unbridled urbanization – urbanization that produces complex urban configurations in which the informal cohabits with the deliberately planned and where infrastructures that could instill a new spatial order in otherwise amorphous conurbations seem to linger a few steps behind urban development. As some of the papers illustrated, there might be more than strictly fortuitous resemblances between Chinese unregulated urban villages and Indian or Brazilian informal settlements; for similar conditions might well produce similar effects. Beyond the observation of the dramatic, yet predictable, social

and environmental problems that arise when the rapidity of development coincides with a paucity of means, such a juxtaposition of studies points to exciting prospects for urban morphology. First, these studies engage with urban realities that constitute a new terrain for the discipline, which translates into opportunities for methodological and theoretical advances. Secondly, they shed light on the potential fertility of conducting comparative studies of new spatial configurations produced by rapid urbanization in the different cultural and geographical contexts of the southern hemisphere. Thirdly, these studies generally aim to contribute to better understanding of the morphogenetic processes at play as well as to articulate proposals to remedy their shortcomings. Such a common interest in both fundamental and applied research calls for a further exchange of these reciprocal perspectives. It is also perfectly congruent with ISUF's often-repeated objective to favour the transfer of morphological knowledge into practice.

Let us thank the ISUF 2013 organizing committee for a very pleasant, well organized and most stimulating conference and, above all, for emphasizing problems and considerations that might very well move from the edges of our discipline to its core in the coming years.

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## ISUF business meetings, Brisbane, Australia, July 2013

The Twentieth International Seminar on Urban Form held at Queensland University of Technology was preceded by a Council meeting on 17 July and ended with a General Meeting of ISUF on 20 July. This report summarizes the main matters discussed at these meetings.

### President's report

The President, Michael Conzen, thanked the editorial team and the Webmaster, pointing out that as an academic organization with its own journal and website ISUF was almost unique in its

voluntary, non-commercial mode of operation. He welcomed the strong efforts that had recently been made to enrich dialogue across language barriers and noted the growing strength of regional networks concerned with the study of urban morphology. His comments stimulated a discussion on alternative ways of reaching members and facilitating interaction, and it was agreed to investigate greater use of the website for this purpose. The work of the two 'long-term' task forces established in 2011 was progressing, although the development of the morphopedia probably required stronger support from a wider group. Some progress was apparent in the

examination of 'research into practice' in urban morphology and two case studies had been established, both concerned with the application of urban morphological principles in practice, one in Porto, Portugal and one in Newcastle upon Tyne, UK. These case studies should provide the first contributions to a 'good practice catalogue'. Michael Conzen welcomed the incoming President, Giancarlo Cataldi.

### Secretary-General's report

The Secretary-General outlined arrangements for future Conferences. ISUF would meet next in Porto, Portugal in July 2014. Vítor Oliveira outlined the Conference arrangements and proposed programme. The offer to hold the 2015 Conference in Mersin, Turkey was a welcome sign of the growing strength of urban morphology in Turkey. There was concern over the current political situation in Syria, however, and the proximity of Mersin to the Syrian border. It was stressed that ISUF was eager to participate in a Conference in Turkey, but Council agreed that it was not possible to make a positive decision at the moment with regard to 2015 and recommended that the proposal be held over until a later date. A proposal to hold a small Conference in Rome in 2016 had been made and it was agreed to explore the possibility of bringing this forward to 2015. The proposal from Professor Wowo Ding to hold the 2016 Conference at Nanjing University, China was approved.

### Treasurer's report

Michael Barke reported that ISUF's financial position remained strong, with a substantial positive balance. Membership levels had increased slightly, the Delft Conference had produced a surplus and savings had been made in the distribution of the journal. Whilst institutional subscriptions remained steady, there was a significant turnover of individual members relating to the policy of including a year's membership as part of each conference package. Council had provided financial support for two activities concerned with promoting urban morphology: Karl Kropf had been awarded a grant to pursue the creation of a 'Repository of urban tissue', and a project led by Ivor Samuels to create a catalogue of best practice in the application of urban morphology had also been supported.

### Editor's report

Jeremy Whitehand reported that there had been a continued rise in the number of articles submitted to *Urban Morphology*, although this had not been matched by a rise in the number that referees had found acceptable. It was disappointing that many submitted articles were found to be defective. He emphasized that good articles were not rejected. Authors contributing to all sections of the journal have continued to be widely spread geographically and from many different language areas. Thanks were extended to an outstanding editorial team and to the many referees, most of whose reports had been thorough and prompt. The mean time-lag between the receipt of an article and the communication of a decision to the author was only 3 weeks (the longest was 8 weeks). The mean time-lag between the receipt of the revised versions of articles and publication was about 4.5 months.

Distribution of the issues in 2012/13 had been undertaken by the printer, Henry Ling Ltd, UK. The first of these (Volume 16, Number 2) generally took much longer than previous issues to reach destinations, but the second (Volume 17, Number 1) generally arrived in good time. In both cases the cost was significantly lower than that of the previous method of distribution.

Paul Hess, Wendy McClure, Yisan Ruan and Emily Talen had completed their terms on the Editorial Board and were thanked wholeheartedly for the work they had done. Their successors, François Dufaux, Kwang-Joong Kim, Brenda Scheer and Giuseppe Strappa, were welcomed to the Board.

### Webmaster's report

The Webmaster, Richard Whitehand, reported an increase in usage of the website although there were variations from one part of the website to another. Viewings of the conferences page had changed little over the past 3 years, averaging 360-390 per month, but viewings of the bibliography had doubled over the same period and those of the glossary had nearly tripled. The number of institutions subscribing to *Urban Morphology* that had registered for online access had increased slowly but it was still only about two-thirds of the approximately 200 subscribing institutions. In almost all cases online access had been made available within 48 hours of receipt of application by the Webmaster. Online open access is currently available for all issues of *Urban Morphology* up to

and including 2003 (2002 and 2003 had been added to open access since the last Webmaster's Report). As one would expect, the most downloaded articles tend to be those on open access.

### Changes to Council membership

The terms of service of Michael Conzen as President and Peter Larkham as Council member were completed. Michael Conzen was succeeded

as President by Gianfranco Cataldi, and three vacancies for elected Councillors were filled by the re-election of Teresa Marat-Mendes and Marco Mareto, and the election of Ivor Samuels. Wendy McClure was co-opted on to the Council.

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## *Revista de Morfologia Urbana*

*Revista de Morfologia Urbana* is a new peer-reviewed journal focused on the physical forms of cities and the agents and processes shaping them. It will be published online in Portuguese, biannually in July and December, by the Portuguese Network of Urban Morphology (PNUM), and will have a website in Portuguese and English. Publication will be in collaboration with the established journal *Urban Morphology* under the auspices of ISUF. The contents will include an editorial comment, scientific papers (the core of the journal), viewpoints, reports, book reviews, and notes and notices. From time-to-time the journal will include translations from other languages of fundamental papers in the field of urban morphology (abstracts or full texts).

Submitted articles must be original and not under consideration by any other journal. They must be in Portuguese, not exceed 6000 words in length, and include an abstract of less than 200 words and up to five keywords. The title of the paper, the abstract and the keywords should be in both Portuguese and English. Viewpoints (also subject to peer review, and written in Portuguese) and book reviews should not exceed 1000 words. Submissions, other than book reviews, should be sent by e-mail, to the Editor (vitform@fe.up.pt). Book reviews should be sent by e-mail to the Book Review Editor (marat-mendes@gmail.com).

For more information go to <http://pnum.fe.up.pt/index.php/journal-of-urban-morphology/>

## A morphological encyclopaedia for the ISUF website?

At the same time that a Working Group led by Ivor Samuels is reviewing additions to the ISUF website on urban morphology in practice (see *Urban Morphology* Volume 17, Number 1, pp. 40-3), past President Michael Conzen is recommending other additions. In particular it is suggested that a morphological encyclopaedia should be developed, with contributions from all of the research and practice traditions and nationalities represented by ISUF's diverse membership.

Currently the most-visited and most-downloaded website pages are the Glossary and Bibliography. Yet the content originally uploaded is now dated and anglocentric. Despite an invitation on these web pages to e-mail updates and additional material, only a handful of suggestions have been

received over the past 5 years. Moreover, there are other contributions that could usefully extend the website, and provide valuable information for both new users and existing ISUF members.

This could form a 'morphopaedia' (Michael Conzen's working title) which should be a first point of call for those interested in urban morphology – a Wikipedia equivalent. However, as ISUF needs *authoritative* content this would not be a true 'wiki' resource as content would be mediated by an editorial team. Those wishing to contribute to discussions on developing this resource, or to contribute new material, are invited to contact Peter Larkham (e-mail: [peter.larkham@bcu.ac.uk](mailto:peter.larkham@bcu.ac.uk)).

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