

and which were published in volumes such as these two.

The earlier book, *Interpreting basic buildings*, examines the evolution of housing types as the main urban component and is organised according to a range of levels of resolution or scale, from individual buildings, streets and blocks, to settlements and their organisation at a sub-regional scale. The approach emphasises the continuity of change over time as represented, for example, by the cultural mutation of the type from a single cell primitive shelter to different forms such as courtyard and row houses. The main focus is on Italy but Northern European forms, derived from timber as opposed to masonry construction, are also included.

The second volume, *Interpreting specialised buildings*, starts with a preamble by Gian Luigi Maffei in which he clearly explains process typology as aiming to solve ‘the crisis of modern-day architecture where products clash with each other and violently conflict with the living fabric of their surroundings because they are usually the products of a mere solipsistic formalist exercise performed by project architects’. He asserts that architects should proceed by ‘extracting the laws of behaviour, development and mutation in regulating man-made structures from existing buildings’. There would not be ‘an acritical acceptance of past construction methods’ but an incorporation of their work ‘into the unbroken tradition of codified laws and behaviours of particular cultural areas’ (Maffei, 2017, pp. 10–11).

The book explains how special buildings derive from basic residential buildings to accommodate an increased range of functions and as churches, monasteries and hospitals: they act as landmarks in the urban organism. It argues that they were designed by architects as opposed to housing, which had been the work of end users. They were, therefore, more susceptible to influences outside the local culture. This concept is explained by the greater ‘level of intention’ of the architect who often creates a building removed from the architectural language of the local culture. This concept is illustrated by comparing two churches, one of the fourteenth century and the other of the twentieth century.

These concepts are developed in the first chapter which explores the dialectical relationship between the specialised building as landmark and the urban organism. The second chapter is a detailed discussion of the way in which special types have evolved. Multi-storey apartments are included here, although the way in which the term ‘stairwell’ is used to

define types in this discussion is not always clear. Since the multi-storey apartment block has become such a widespread and fundamental element of the modern urban fabric, one wonders whether it has transmuted into a basic type.

Both books are veritable treasure-chests of illustrations, mainly line drawings that are identified as Tables. There are plans, sections and elevations of individual buildings, urban tissues and whole settlements. They include plans, sections and elevations of Roman temples in Baalbek, Pienza city centre, a town centre in Ethiopia, Japanese courtyard housing, nineteenth-century blocks in Copenhagen, Pennsylvania Station, New York, and Muratori’s Bologna office building. The sources for most of these line drawings are given in *Interpreting basic buildings* where student theses are acknowledged as the origin of most of them. However, no sources are given for the illustrations in *Interpreting specialised buildings* and it is regrettable that only a few have an indication of the relevant scale, although there are some helpful illustrations that compare plans of different buildings drawn at the same scale.

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Building regulations and urban form, 1200–1900 edited by *Terry R. Slater* and *Sandra M. G. Pinto*, Routledge, Abingdon, UK, 2018, 329 pp. ISBN 978–1–2724–8537–3.

This notable book gathers different perspectives on the relationships between building regulations

and urban form, between the high-medieval period and the end of the nineteenth century, in different areas of Europe and its colonial empires. The book addresses a relevant gap. Indeed, despite the importance of the theme, there are few systematic studies addressing specifically the impact of ‘regulations’ – as distinct from modern planning systems – on the physical form of cities. This is true for literature in general and for this journal in particular, despite the number of papers and viewpoints on medieval town planning (including Slater’s participation in a rich debate in the early days of *Urban Morphology* and an ISUF working group on ‘legislation and urban form’). The book has its origin in the 12th International Conference on Urban History, held in Lisbon in 2014, particularly in the session on ‘Urban regulation and urban morphology, 1200–1900’, coordinated by Slater and Pinto. The book is a compilation of the papers presented in that session, to which four additional chapters as well as the editors’ own chapters and an introductory chapter were added.

The introductory chapter identifies the main themes of the book: regulation in early societies (including the religious perspective), regulation aiming to prevent or limit the destructive power of urban fires, regulation to distinguish between public and private, regulation in relation to environmental concerns, colonial empires and absolutist regimes, and the differences between town planning and the small-scale incremental enhancement (framed by particular regulations) of the urban landscape. In this chapter, Slater and Pinto also inform readers that, despite the nature of the book, it does not contain the main theories, concepts and methods that make up the urban morphological body of knowledge. This is largely because most of the authors are not familiar with, and have not published in, this field. Yet, despite the absence of specific morphological language, the book addresses building regulations that have to a large extent structured the physical form of cities, from Scandinavia to the Mediterranean, over 7 centuries.

In addition to this introduction, the book comprises fourteen chapters organized in a more or less chronological sequence. The first three chapters address regulations prepared in the fourteenth century. Mohd Muhamad focuses on the ‘Tunis book’, a fourteenth-century regulatory framework written in Tunis, to debate Islamic building regulations, under the framework of the Islamic school of law. In particular, he discusses three issues of the ‘Tunis book’: prevention of harm or damage, the wall as a boundary between neighbours, and

streets and utilities. Sandra Pinto analyses the regulation of private building activity in medieval Lisbon. She explores the influences of the Islamic framework (described by Muhamad in chapter 2) and describes a system of control aiming at mediating quarrels between neighbours. Ana Scaric analyses the regulations that framed, and the agents (particularly the patricians) that participated in, the development of Trogir (Croatia) in the late-Medieval period.

The key role of streets in the communes of Tuscany in the late-Middle Ages and Renaissance is addressed by David Friedman. The Netherlands are the case studies for chapters 6 and 7. Heidi Deneweth investigates how the first regulations with an impact on private property (bye-laws) were introduced in different cities in the southern part of the Netherlands, with a focus on Antwerp and Bruges (in today’s Belgium) in the period between 1200 and 1700. Drawing on their recently published *Atlas of the Dutch urban landscape* (Abrahamse and Rutte, 2016), Jaap Abrahamse and Reinout Rutte compare building regulations in Elburg and Amsterdam (with a focus on the fourteenth and seventeenth centuries), making evident their continuity over time – while acknowledging the evolution from a reactive to a proactive nature – and the increasing importance of environmental concerns.

Terry Slater examines a number of neighbouring towns in the English midlands (Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwick, Coventry and Birmingham), addressing the regulations that shaped their physical character from 1400 to 1800. Building permits (or *alignment* authorizations) as a tool for improving streets and ‘beautifying’ the city of Lyon, from 1580 to 1770, is the theme of the chapter by Bernard Gauthiez and Olivier Zeller.

Chapters 10 and 11 focus on European colonies in the American continent. André Bélanger and Anne Bordeleau debate the differences between the French and English cultures in relation to fire risk control, based on the examination of Quebec City’s regulations, after the English conquest. Claudia Murray studies the Spanish colonies in Latin America in the eighteenth century, exploring the action of the different agents involved in the implementation of planning and regulations. Rob Goodbody shares with Murray the focus on agency (municipal bodies) when exploring the regulation of urban growth in Dublin, from 1750 to 1850.

Ottoman urban regulations are the theme of chapter 13 and, indirectly, of chapter 14. Işıl Çokuğras and Irem Gençer analyse the capital of

the empire, Istanbul, in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, portraying an evolution from a focus on individual cases to the consideration of the urban space as a whole. Changing from Ottoman to Bavarian rule in 1833, Athens has suffered profound physical transformations in order to achieve the status of kingdom capital; that is the theme of Dora Monioudi-Gavala's chapter. Finally, in chapter 15, Mart Siilivask assesses the increasing impact of building regulations, framed by an ideal regularity, on the urban space of Livonian towns from 1697 to 1904.

Understanding the history of urban form, as well as the main agents and regulations that have been shaping that form over time, is fundamental for scientifically describing and explaining past and present, and for prescribing possible futures. That understanding is not static; it has been changing, or more rigorously it has been improving, over recent decades. Several misunderstandings have been corrected: for instance, the idea that medieval cities were not planned. *Building regulations and urban form* is of fundamental importance as it demonstrates that the shaping of European (and colonial) urban landscapes is to some degree the result of regulation. It shows that, whether motivated by fire prevention, mediation of conflicting private interests or environmental concerns, regulations were a fundamental element in planning, developing and changing urban landscapes over 7 centuries.

Reference

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Maputo: (auto)organização e formadínâmica urbana by David Leite Viana, U. Porto Edições, Porto, Portugal, 2019, 296 pp. ISBN 978–989–746–214–6.

The central question of this book – ‘How to adjust formal methods of urban analysis to informal

processes of urban shape transformation?’ – is analysed using Mozambique's capital Maputo as a case study. This is addressed by discussing different perspectives on self-produced built environments and through a presentation of a hybrid methodology that combines quantitative and qualitative approaches. As is suggested by the book's subtitle, ‘(self)organization and urban form-dynamics’, the author investigates how social dynamics interact with urban morphology, applying a method that he names ‘Trac(k)ing’ (‘tracing by tracking’) adapted from the ‘kinetic approach’ (Mehrotra, 2013). The book derives from the postdoctoral research of the author, supervised by Vítor Oliveira (who has published extensively on urban morphology) and Isabel Raposo (a leading expert in studies of socio-spatial dynamics and self-produced built environments in lusophone contexts), thus reflecting the aim to address jointly the concerns of urban morphology and the social processes that shape – and are shaped by – them.

To undertake this ambitious goal, the author studies nine neighbourhoods within three urban districts in Maputo. Formal and informal commerce and industries, public facilities and other features are mapped: these shape the experience and the daily uses of these urban areas. This is combined with space syntax tools to compare these uses with topological qualities (integration, connectivity, choice, synergy) according to the theory of the *Social logic of space* (Hillier and Hanson, 1984). The extensive fieldwork in Maputo – also supported by a local academy – contributes to a thorough study that covers multiple dimensions of the built environment.

The reader is guided through a sequence of chapters in which the context, arguments and results of the study are thoroughly discussed. The first chapter introduces the approach of the research, namely discussing the existing formal methods of urban analysis and their applicability to investigate informal processes of urbanization, and explaining the specificities of production of the built environment. Chapter two addresses urban morphology and its different ‘schools of thought’, contrasting the current study with existing approaches. It highlights that most of these approaches have been applied within Western and consolidated urban areas, whereas the emergent urbanization in the Global South may form a ground-breaking area of experimentation. The third chapter explains the methodology of ‘Trac(k)ing’ (consisting of the combination of morphological, functional and experiential cartographies), pointing out the