

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.

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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

adaptations and complementarity of perspectives that have been introduced in this study. Chapter four appears as the central, and more extensive, part of the book, starting with the context of urbanization of post-colonial Maputo, followed by the thorough analysis of the nine neighbourhoods.

Various thematic surveys are presented (integration, connectivity, uses of industry and commerce, public transport, amongst many other aspects) through maps and diagrams that illustrate the differences in character, dynamics and representations of each of these urban areas at different scales. The fifth, and concluding, chapter discusses what can be learnt from this research, such as the interrelations between planned and informal urban spaces, and the possibilities of the combination of morphological tools and qualitative perceptions to generate a deeper understanding. The potential of the approach for other cities and investigations is also discussed.

The set of complementary texts – the preface by Álvaro Domingues, the presentation by Carlos Nunes da Silva and the afterword by Mário do Rosário – presents a variety of views, from geography and architecture and from Portugal to Mozambique, that highlight this book as an ‘open work’ (Eco, 1989), rather than enclosing a single argument or defending a particular perspective on such a complex, diverse and rich subject. Therefore, this book opens up a field of reflection amongst urban studies and epistemologies, schools of morphological analysis and socio-spatial observation, with contributions in diverse dimensions and fields. It contributes to enlarging studies on urban morphology, especially by testing and expanding the use of space syntax tools beyond the most usual contexts of planned and consolidated Western urban areas. The book is a welcome contribution to studying their application to rapid urbanization and self-produced urban areas, discussing their potential against a highly complex background. It questions the limits of space syntax tools and complements them with diverse methods of qualitative surveying, both for understanding urban dynamics and for acting as a support tool for decision-making regarding urban policies and built environment interventions.

Furthermore, this research contributes to reframing the debates on urban studies, urban

epistemologies and knowledge from the South (Roy, 2005; Pieterse, 2015; Sousa Santos, 2016), discussing the conceptions of (in)formality and the need to overcome dual understandings of urban areas (formal/informal, centre/periphery, colonial/post-colonial). It highlights how these dual, antagonistic and preconceived notions fail to translate the actual dynamics and richness of social and cultural manifestations, and the processes of rupture and continuity (Coquery-Vidrovitch, 1992; Raposo and Oppenheimer, 2007) that mark processes of rapid urbanization and self-produced urban experiences.

Therefore, this book is likely to be of significant interest both for experts in urban morphology and for professionals and students who may be curious to learn more on the dynamics of the built environment and on Mozambique’s capital in particular.

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