

Charter (1931), CIAM (1933), the Venice Charter (1964), the Edinburgh Symposium (1974), and the Amsterdam Charter (1975). Following this chronological and thematic account, the book contributes to dialectic understanding of the tension between conservation and modernity. It also traces how intellectual boundaries have developed and conservation consciousness has evolved from individual historical monuments towards a more holistic environmental approach to historical urban landscapes at the turn of the twenty-first century.

The concept of urban landscape conservation is grounded in the discipline of 'urban morphology' where the correlation between urban form and people is studied through its socio-spatial processes (Larkham, 2005). The book achieves its main objective of highlighting simultaneously the social context of Maibud, its urban form and its evolution over time. Another contribution of this book can be found in its methodological approach. It links the concepts of Conzenian 'morphology' as developed in Britain, and 'typology' as widely practised in Italy in the work of Muratori and Caniggia (chapter 3). The concept of 'typological process' is similar to Conzen's idea of 'dynamic morphology' in that they both try to reconstruct the pattern of changes and continuity in the course of history. However, in Muratorian typology the tendency is to move from a building to a larger scale through a typological interpretation. The author suggests that a combination of both schools of thought provides a 'conversation-led methodology' for the management of historical urban landscapes in specific Iranian contexts (pp. 55–6).

Taking Maibud as a case study, the evolution of ancient settlements is traced chronologically, thematically and methodologically. Within this overall picture, three key morphological elements of the city are explored: the town plan, building types, and construction materials. It is interesting to see how the articulations between these elements from micro to macro city structure form and transform different patterns over several millennia. The typological examinations reveal flexibility, homogeneity, sustainability and vulnerability in the evolution of these patterns. The chronological table illustrating the evolution of the size of mud brick is another interesting part of the book (p. 204). It explains how a flexible, adaptable, available and often low-cost raw material can both respond to and cause the emergence of very different urban patterns.

Finally, the book contributes to a better understanding of Islamic urbanism in general and

Persian urbanism in particular, about which there are relatively few publications in English. The book is well-written, easy to read and logically structured. In addition to the useful collection of reading material suggested at the end of each chapter, there is a glossary to facilitate the understanding of Persian terminology by English readers.

## References

- Larkham, P. J. (2005) 'Understanding urban form?', *Urban Design* 93, 22–4.  
 Rogers, R. (1999) *Towards an urban renaissance: final report of the urban task force* (Routledge, London).

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**Street trees in Britain: a history** by *Mark Johnston*, Windgather Press, Oxford, UK, 2017, 358 pp. ISBN 978-1-911188-23-0.

In many ways this book follows on from and complements Mark Johnston's earlier volume 'Trees in towns and cities: a history of British urban arboriculture' (Johnston, 2015; reviewed in this journal (Hopkins, 2016)). In both books the role of ideas from continental Europe, the development of a specialist horticultural press and especially the growing powers of municipal authorities from the 1830s onwards are identified as key factors in the expansion of planting schemes and the proactive management of urban trees in the United Kingdom.

In the introduction Johnston (pp. 3, 5–6) describes how the second book emerged from the research for the first. A great deal of material on street trees remained to be used, and it is hugely welcome that it has been brought together in this comprehensive and accessible form. Scholars will also appreciate the wide-ranging bibliography of contemporary and modern, primary and secondary sources.

Whereas the focus of 'Trees in towns and cities: a history of British urban arboriculture' could be summarized as being on trees, arboriculture and arboriculturalists, the focus of this second book is on the townscapes that they created and continue

to create, particularly at the street and neighbourhood scale.

The core of the book presents the results of Johnston's research in five chapters that provide a wealth of examples of the approaches to the incorporation of trees in urban developments. These chapters are organized by time period (Victorian, Edwardian and twentieth century) and by location type (suburbia, spa and seaside resorts, and garden cities and streets).

The book succeeds by accumulating telling details. In 1919 the London Borough of Bermondsey was responsible for only 376 street trees; under the auspices of the Council's Beautification Committee this had risen to 6156 by 1927 (p. 181). A photograph of the Birmingham, UK, suburb of Handsworth taken in 1905 is described as showing 'several remnant limes, perhaps 70 years old, protruding several feet into the road along the northern side, even though there are footways on both sides of the road. These were probably hedgerow trees that were left standing in the roadway when this was widened. The trees had disappeared by 1917 before the area became more urbanised' (p. 134).

Not all the examples included are equally rich but they all add to the emerging overall picture. That picture is not a homogeneous one. Of particular interest are the comparisons that can be made regarding the chronology of tree planting and development. Examples are provided of existing trees being retained and incorporated into new developments, planting taking place contemporaneously with development and tree planting being undertaken in existing developments. Note is also made of contrasting examples where some seemingly similar developments were planted with street trees and others were not.

There are also plenty of examples of the different choices made regarding which tree species to plant. While lime and London plane may have been the commonest species, they were far from the only ones, thus adding another element of diversity to the urban landscape. In addition to the examples provided in the central chapters of the book, Johnston later provides further analysis of changing attitudes and tastes regarding what makes a good street tree. The poplar, for example, was initially chosen for its rapid growth and tolerance of air pollution; it became less popular as its less attractive characteristics in an urban setting of an invasive root system and brittle branches became apparent.

What also comes through strongly is a sense of experimentation, of learning, of discarding ideas

that did not work or became less suited to changing circumstances. This can be seen in planting distances, the location of planting in relation to the highway, pavement or grassed verges, where those were present, as well as in the species that were used.

Streets and the routes that they follow have also been subject to considerable changes. Perhaps the most significant change is the increase of vehicular traffic, but the management of street trees has also had to accommodate the demands of infrastructure both above ground (street lights, electricity, tram lines) and below ground (water supply and sewage removal, gas and the movement of electricity and telecommunications networks underground).

The book concludes with a consideration of current issues in the management of street trees. Urban morphologists will be familiar with processes of change that can include modification and replacement. The fact that the townscape elements being studied are also living organisms means that additional factors will affect their longevity but the language and frame of reference are consistent. Also familiar will be the processes of convergence and divergence as the character of different neighbourhoods change over time. In that regard Johnston (p. 159) observes that despite the significant involvement of municipal authorities and idealistic town planning movements, 'in all this research it is hard to escape the conclusion that whatever the time or place, in residential districts street trees and the wealthier residents tend to go together'.

Overall this book provides an incredibly valuable and fascinatingly illustrated account of the history and diversity of a significant aspect of Britain's urban forest and its contribution to the urban landscape.

## References

- Hopkins, M. I. W. (2016) Review of 'Trees in towns and cities: a history of British urban arboriculture' by Mark Johnston, *Urban Morphology* 20, 178–9.
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