

while on the other re-evaluating the INA-Casa districts for their historic function as a 'laboratory of verism'. From such experimental practices, Muratori was later able to draw the reflections contained in an extensive passage of *Architettura e civiltà in crisi*, considered by Mareto to be a sort of manifesto of Muratori's architectural neo-realism. It should, however, be noted that the term 'neo-realist' seems to be more relevant (from the point of view of formal intentions — unless the Italian historical period in its entirety be included under the same label) in relation to Quaroni and Ridolfi's Tiburtino, which was explicitly inspired by the sporadic and picturesque model of the Italian village. This is in stark contrast to the Tuscolano by Muratori and De Renzi, which was inspired by the model (no less picturesque) of Scandinavian neo-empiricism. This is in fact where Pier Paolo Pasolini in 1962 shot the film *Mamma Roma*, one of the last cinematic expressions of Italian neo-realism: probably a chance circumstance, but offering suggestions that could favour Mareto's thesis.

In any case, Muratori's studies of working history in Rome and Venice were what determined the crucial leap in the quality of his final urban projects, resulting from the dialectic between 'reading' and 'design', perhaps the most important and widely shared theoretical contribution of the Italian school. At the end of his book, Mareto therefore presents the three projects in Naples, Rome and Venice as paradigmatic examples of the potential benefits derived from the application of Muratori's concept of working history. Designers of prospective districts are offered a new methodological tool, no longer based on arbitrary reasoning but scientifically derived from the very evolutionary process of the city. The 'readings' of this process, as different as they are, can only produce a finite number of solutions, all to some extent scientifically sound.

Mareto analyses the three projects. He describes their conceptual genesis and innovative value with accuracy and critical participation, although unfortunately this is not always matched by the quality of the images. Amongst the mentioned innovations, the attention, based on landscape, to the morphology of locations, is clearly visible in drawings and models. In the Loggetta and Magliana projects, the interpretation of the original ridge directions in the area (probably derived from his studies of Rome) translates into a project in which the ridges are primary axes of the urban layout. These axes integrate in a single design the three basic components of urban form

(paths, fabrics and building types), resulting in a wide range of homogeneous and consistent solutions. An in-depth linguistic analysis of these might have led to solving the 'aesthetic' problem concerning cities — achieving the correct balance between typological uniformity of fabrics and morphological (and architectural) variety of individual buildings.

In his analysis of the three projects presented in 1959 to the Venetian competition for the Barene di San Giuliano (San Giuliano Sandbank), Mareto in conclusion highlights the methodological innovation of the project proposal. The entry is not made up of alternative solutions, but rather presents three successive stages of a single design process, which Muratori viewed as a symbolic summary of the entire working history of the lagoon city, thus indicating 'a possible route to a morphological approach to city design'.

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**Atlas of urban expansion** by *Shlomo Angel, Jason Parent, Daniel L. Civo and Alejandro M. Blei*, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Cambridge, MA, USA, 2012, 404 pp. ISBN 978-1-55844-243-6.

The *Atlas of urban expansion* is a probably of little relevance to the expert researcher of urban form. However, for the introduction of undergraduates to matters of fundamental import to morphological study it will have some worth. Outlining urban change in more than 100 cities, the *Atlas of urban expansion* is basically intended to help people 'better understand and plan for the massive expansion of cities' (p. 1) and by doing so to 'increase awareness and help residents, policy makers, and researchers around the world come to terms with the expected global urban expansion in the coming decades' (p. 1). However, owing to the way information is presented, in particular the lack of detailed urban analysis and the numerous maps lacking in detail, it would be difficult for an urban morphologist interested in, for example, plot patterns and their evolution to find much use for the atlas. Nevertheless, with its general consideration of urban land cover, expansion and density, the

atlas will be of value to students interested in broad historical and contemporary urban change.

Comprising five chapters: 'The dynamics of global urban expansion', 'Understanding and measuring urban expansion', 'The global sample of 120 cities, 1990-2000', 'Historical perspectives on 30 cities, 1800-2000', and 'Urban, national, and regional data', the atlas is in some respects attractive. The colourful illustrations readily capture attention. The maps in the chapter on the global sample of cities, make it very easy to identify changes in urban sprawl at the end of the last century, and easily-readable charts facilitate rapid grasp of changes in population size, amounts of open space, urban density, fragmentation, compactness, and the scale of new development. Charts allow the reader to compare local change to regional and global developments. Presenting the evolution of cities in Africa, Asia, North America, South America, Australasia and Europe, the atlas is useful in portraying local, regional, and global shifts.

The discussion of historical perspectives on 30 cities between 1800 and 2000 reveals longer-term sprawl, density change, and population growth in 30 megacities, including Beijing, Buenos Aires, Chicago, Istanbul, Kolkata, London, Manila, Paris, Sao Paulo, Sydney, Tehran and Tokyo. Tables and charts convey the scale of urban change in, for example, Shanghai, a place that experienced monumental suburban expansion after 1989. In the case of Manila, it is possible to distinguish growth outside of the *intramuros* (the Spanish colonial walled settlement) prior to 1918 and the immense sprawl occurring from the early-1970s onwards. Notwithstanding the expansion of its metropolitan population from 3.7 million to 17.3 million between 1971 and 2002, Manila has maintained approximately the same level of urban density. In contrast, the growth in the population of Shanghai, from 7.3 to 10.8 million between 1973 and 1989 was associated with a reduction in population density of over 60 per cent (p. 309). In relation to each city's footprint, openness index, built cohesion, scale of infill and extension, there is much in a factual sense to learn of the world's 'great cities'. However, there is a paucity of analysis and explanation. How and why changes have occurred are largely overlooked.

The fact that the *Atlas of urban expansion* does little to explain processes and patterns of urban change will inevitably disappoint many readers. Yet with its large number of maps and its raw data it can offer a taster to what urban evolution, both in

historical and contemporary contexts, is about. As the authors comment, the atlas makes 'it possible to compare cities in terms of their metric values on key attributes of urban expansion' (p. 4). It is disappointing that the attempt was not made to provide more explanation of the patterns revealed.

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**Transforming townscapes. From burh to borough: the archaeology of Wallingford AD800-1400** by Neil Christie and Oliver Creighton with Matt Edgeworth and Helena Hamerow, Society for Medieval Archaeology Monograph 35, London, UK, 2013, 475pp. ISBN 978-1-909662-09-4.

Wallingford was one of a series of fortified settlements founded by Alfred the Great as part of his response to Viking attacks. It is located on the River Thames some 50 miles west of London and controlled a ford and the passage of vessels on the river. It grew to become Berkshire's county town and was the location of one of William the Conqueror's castles. But in the later Middle Ages it went into a sharp decline, dwindling into a small local centre. It has been left with a spectacular set of earthworks from both the *burh* defences and the castle.

'Townscape' in the title of this monograph is not used in the established sense of the word. It is not concerned with three-dimensional groupings of buildings and space but with changes in town plan and its utilization over time. However, it has much to offer on these matters.

The *Burh to Borough* project was established in 2001, and in 2008 it received a major grant for 3 years from the Arts and Humanities Research Council. This publication explains the findings to date, although work continues, notably in garden test pits. In the study of a new, evolving and then declining town the project had six aims. First, it addressed Wallingford's origins. The town like some of Alfred's other foundations, for example Cricklade and Wareham, is generally regarded as a *de novo* creation. But in a long settled country that does not mean a clean slate. There had been stray finds of Iron Age and Roman pottery, and a large