

attention from researchers and scholars that it deserves. This, he implies, might be due to its simplicity, moderate scale, and humble usage which perhaps renders it inconsequential to many researchers. However, as he also points out, the shophouse as an element of social congregation, and one that reflects the choices and daily habits of people, indeed does merit our attention.

In the final part of *Living over the store* the decisions undertaken by public bodies that have served to privilege single use at the expense of mixed use are addressed. The blame for this planning mistake is attributed to the influence of modernism, and the adoption of zoning in modern cities. Recognition, however, is given to the fact that over time this practice has been increasingly criticized for creating artificial environments in cities, at the expense of vibrant communities. One of the possible alternatives to the problematic zoning of cities, as the author emphasizes, is the re-adoption of the shophouse and, in a sense, *Living over the store* represents a manifesto advocating a reappraisal of this sustainable feature of our metropolises. Finally, it is not surprising to be told that a book of this nature requires a great deal of investment of time. However, the result in this case needs to be commended for its depth and detail. It not only bridges a gap in this type of study, but also serves as a compelling and fascinating reference for scholars and researchers.

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A evolução das formas urbanas de Lisboa e do Porto nos séculos XIX e XX by *Vítor Manuel Araújo de Oliveira*, Universidade Porto Editorial, Porto, Portugal, 2013, 205pp. ISBN 978-989-746-007-4.

The study of urban form from a historical standpoint contains many little-explored aspects, especially relating to the use of graphic representations as a source of information and method of analysis. Vítor Oliveira's book makes a major contribution to rectifying this deficiency by the method he adopts and the excellent review of the literature on the evolution of urban form that he

provides.

Starting with two examples – Lisbon and Porto, two major Portuguese cities – Oliveira creates a basis for discussing the theories and scope for exploring the evolution of urban form. Moreover, he uses a new, almost unknown, method: cartography redrawn. In this light he questions the importance of cartography and iconography as sources for urban form study, and proposes to 'redesign' the cartographic source as a method for examining urban form. Important topics are discussed that are given little insight in other academic fields. By highlighting urban form as an object indispensable for urban planning the author opens a new perspective for urban study.

The book is structured in several parts. There is a literature review and section on theoretical substantiation, which is broad in its coverage but incorporates several discussions on the evolution of urban form. In relation to methodology the author focuses on such matters as historical reconstruction, the study of historical documents, and archaeological projects. His important literature review connects urban planning with urban morphology. It raises numerous issues concerning the concept of typology and the relationship between urban form and human activities that result from the historical processes of formation and transformation. He also analyses urban form through the study of Italian typology and French urban form, the normative approach, and space syntax. Reviewing the range of approaches in search of how best to examine urban form, the author considers how these approaches can be applied to understanding Portuguese urban morphology.

However, despite the excellent theoretical-methodological analysis of the study of urban form and its relationship to urban planning, the author does not maintain the same depth of analysis in his examination of the cities of Lisbon and Porto. Here the book becomes more descriptive than analytical, and this presents a problem in relation to the images employed. Oliveira makes clear the importance of cartography and iconography in urban studies, but presents plans that are sometimes too small. This hinders understanding of urban processes in the two cities, particularly for any reader who does not have intimate knowledge of them. Unfortunately the descriptions of the opening of the avenues and streets that accompanied the growth of the two cities are hard to comprehend without proper graphical representations. One cannot readily appreciate the growth of the cities by superimposing plans that are over-reduced in size. Larger-scale plans are required. Furthermore, the

tables presented in Chapters 4 and 5 could be better understood if accompanied by explanatory drawings of the regions to which they refer. Detailed information on parts of Lisbon and Porto would have helped the reader to appreciate how their urban structure has been changed over the past two centuries or so.

Nevertheless, the book presents a new methodology that will be beneficial to urban historians. The method that has been applied to these Portuguese cities opens the possibility of further case studies employing a similar approach.

This book enables different phases of urban development to be recognized in Portugal. The utilization of plans and their redesign gives a fresh understanding of different urban forms. There is

the basis here for identifying and appreciating the morphological strategies adopted in Lisbon and Porto. Cartographic redesign, as the author states, is a key to not only studying the form of cities but can be used as a tool applicable to urban planning within the contemporary city. And it is here that Oliveira's book makes a major contribution to the study of urban form: not just in what it presents, but also in what it facilitates in the future.

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ISUF 2014: Our common future in urban morphology

The Twenty-First International Seminar on Urban Form (ISUF2014), hosted by the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Porto, will take place in Porto, Portugal, from 3 to 6 July 2014. The theme of the conference is 'Our common future in urban morphology' and topics to be covered include:

- Urban morphological theory
- Urban morphological methods and techniques
- The evolution of urban form
- Agents of change
- Revisiting urban morphological classics
- Multidisciplinarity in urban morphology
- Comparative studies of urban form

- Integrated approaches
- Teaching urban form
- The relations between research and practice (planning, regeneration, conservation)

The deadline for registration and fee payment is 31 May 2014. Further information is available on the Conference website (isuf2014.fe.up.pt/).

Post-conference excursions will take place in Lisbon (including the Monastery of the Hieronymites and the Tower of Belém), the historic centre of Guimarães, and the Alto Douro wine region. All these places are represented in the World Heritage List.

Meeting of the Council of ISUF

The next meeting of the Council of ISUF will take place during the Conference of ISUF to be held in Porto, Portugal 3 to 6 July 2014. Any matters that members of ISUF wish to bring to the attention of the Secretary-General of ISUF, Dr Kai Gu, should

be communicated to him at the School of Architecture and Planning, University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, Auckland, New Zealand (e-mail: k.gu@auckland.ac.nz) by 1 June 2014.
