

new forms of local landmarks.

Chapter 5 is dedicated to 'objects'. These are discussed as physical interventions that may generate or activate the potential, or latent meaning, of a place (p. 189). Arts and installations have a central role in the discussion, and their role as potential landmarks to navigate space or frame select views is illustrated. This chapter also illustrates different experiences and provocations. In some cases objects provide elements in the city, in others the allegorical representation of the built environment through artworks is the centre of the discussion.

To sum up, the aim of the book is quite ambitious, illustrating possible ways of understanding the contemporary city. The range of ideas and case studies presented is valuable, and there is an up-to-date review of current literature. Mainstream philosophers are quoted to provide a theoretical background to the discussion and suggest new interpretations of views about the navigation of built space. An introductory overview of the selected tools is provided, but the discussion is not developed with a common approach across the five main topics investigated. In some chapters, the review is particularly broad, covering physical and digital realms, geographical discourses and detailed design solutions. Different experiences are compared to provide a general introduction to each topic, the first two chapters covering their topics in a multidisciplinary way. In other sections, for example on 'films' or 'marks', the discussion focuses on a specific aesthetic or ideological approach: several examples are given, but they do not cover a range of positions as in the earlier chapters. Great importance is given to the use of the arts in defining new ways of navigating the urban environment. This is an interesting approach although not innovative. Visual cues have been applied to the urban fabric since ancient times; also films are now a well recognized method of reading, designing and understanding the built environment.

The book is an interesting introduction to alternative ways to read cities and a valuable collection of experiences about navigating urban form. It does not introduce new ideas. It provides an advanced summary of current debates in art and new media more than in urban studies or design.

Mirko Guaralda, School of Design, Queensland University of Technology, Gardens Point Campus, 2 George Street, Brisbane, QLD 4000 Australia. E-mail: m.guaralda@qut.edu.au

Avaliação em planeamento urbano by Vítor Oliveira, U. Porto Editorial, Porto, Portugal, 2011, 301 pp. ISBN: 978-989-8265-70-8.

Vítor Oliveira presents a multifaceted discussion of urban morphology and the urban planning process. He suggests a distinct methodological framework for evaluating urban planning practice in Portugal through a comparative analysis of two Portuguese cities and their municipal plans (*plano director municipal*). The book introduces a fresh perspective on the evaluation of urban planning. While strongly engaging with the current Portuguese situation, Oliveira uses his knowledge of international methods to provide a wide critical perspective on evaluative practices.

The chapter on 'Evaluation in planning' provides a literature review of three topics: the historical development of planning evaluation theory and methods of evaluation; an analysis of contemporary discussion of regional and urban planning; and an analysis of current practice in planning evaluation. References to publications on evaluation methods make an important contribution to this chapter. From the perspective of urban-economy evaluation he isolates five approaches for analysis: cost-benefit analysis; planning balance-sheet analysis; goals-achievement matrix; multi-criteria analysis; and environmental impact assessment. His analysis of contemporary discussions on regional and urban planning recognizes the value of Lichfield, Kettle and Whitbread's *Evaluation in the planning process* (1975) for introducing many issues considered in *Avaliação em planeamento urbano*. He takes up the issue addressed by these authors of how to integrate evaluation into planning. Work by Alexander and Faludi (1989) on the 'policy-plan/programme-implementation process', the European Commission's 'Means for evaluating actions of a structural nature', the 'plan implementation evaluation', and Richard Norton's methodology are primary references on which Oliveira builds the theoretical and methodological framework of his book.

The following chapter takes the investigation of planning evaluation into issues associated with urban form (see also Oliveira and Sousa, 2012). The main concern of this chapter is to understand how urban planning practice has been approached, and has influenced the form of the city. Urban morphology emerges as a crucial issue. This chapter also provides for Portuguese readers an interesting international perspective on urban

morphology. Oliveira not only acknowledges two of the three schools of urban morphology, as introduced by the International Seminar on Urban Form (Moudon, 2001) – namely the Italian and Anglo-Saxon schools – but also the normative and qualitative approaches of urban morphology in relation to urban planning. At the same time he tries to close the gap between planning evaluation and the literature of urban morphology. This chapter concludes by evoking a promising line of future research on urban morphology by exploring an international panorama of planning practices in relation to urban morphology. Oliveira thereby provides possible methodological frameworks for the introduction of mechanisms to control urban form at different scales.

Chapter 3 introduces a methodological framework for evaluation of municipal plans. The review of the international literature and the assessment of Portuguese municipal planning instruments is highly informative. The methodology is placed against the evaluative methods identified in Chapter 1, providing the reader with opportunities for further thought. Matters relating to the implementation stage of urban plans are built on by providing criteria for evaluating the performance of plans. The fact that any plan, at any stage, can be evaluated to improve its quality and local planning procedures encourages further comparative studies.

Chapters 4 and 5 present the results of the application of the proposed methodological framework to Lisbon and Porto. With reference to the *Plano director de Lisboa* (dating from 1994) and the *Plano director do Porto* (dating from 2006), Oliveira analyses and compares two distinct realities: the first concerns a municipal plan that was already approaching the end of its life of implementation; the second a municipal plan that was implemented very recently. The methodological framework relates not only to the planning system relevant to each municipal plan and its legal framework, but also to the urban management process and the changes occurring within the street layout and the built fabric. Thus a broad perspective is provided of the impacts of the different decisions affecting urban form performance. In Chapter 6 the two aforementioned case studies are compared, and in Chapter 7 final conclusions are drawn.

Despite a number of charts and tables testifying to the planning management processes and the proposed methodological framework, the book lacks images that could usefully illustrate and reinforce urban realities to the reader. Such images could also have contributed to the bridging of

theory and practice. Planning management and planning evaluation could have been conveyed in the less abstract way presented by Holanda and Tenorino (2010).

A systematic, coherent evaluation of urban planning practice is presented in *Avaliação em planeamento urbano*. Oliveira demonstrates the need to bridge the gap between planning theory and planning practice, and in so doing he reveals the need to integrate the evaluative instruments that seek to inform planners and stakeholders about current decisions and their future outcomes in urban design. A promising area of research for urban morphologists is set out.

References

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Teresa Marat-Mendes, ISCTE, Instituto Universitário de Lisboa, DINÂMIA' CET, Arquitectura e Urbanismo, Av. Das Forças Armadas, 1649-026 Lisboa, Portugal. E-mail: teresa.marat-mendes@iscte.pt

Arquitetura e urbanidade edited by *Frederico de Holanda*, FRBH Edições, Brasília, Brazil, 2011, 2nd edition, 222 pp. ISBN 978-85-64222-04-5.

Arquitetura e urbanidade (Architecture and urbanity) is a major book for urban morphologists prepared by Frederico de Holanda and a number of his colleagues (Claudia Garcia, Eliel Silva, Franciney França, Gabriela Tenório, Geraldo Batista