

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.

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**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

and Vicente Barcellos) in the University of Brasília. First published in 2001, this is the second edition. It is composed of seven chapters, four by Holanda and three co-authored with his colleagues. Two of the seven chapters amplify the versions in the first edition.

Fundamental issues relating to urban morphology are raised in *Arquitetura e urbanidade*. The first, notably, is debate on space syntax and the relation between space and society. Holanda has made a number of contributions to this subject in recent decades. His perspective is rooted in the Brazilian morphological tradition. Indeed, the main goal of the book is to understand how the configuration of Brazilian cities and buildings affects the social life of their residents, workers and visitors: how it has an influence, through a system of barriers and permeability, pedestrian movement and interaction; and, how it enables, or restrains, the human need to meet different sorts of spaces.

Another important concern of the book is the concept of 'urbanity'. Like many authors, from Jane Jacobs to Lars Marcus, Holanda brings this concept to the centre of the debate in *Arquitetura e urbanidade*. Drawing on previous research work, and a book on Brasília published last year (Holanda, 2011a), the author argues that 'urbanity', in physical terms, should mean an increase of built forms in relation to open spaces: an increase in the number of doors facing the public space system, so as to reduce the number of blind walls; and finally, the reduction of 'segregated' spaces. This concept of urbanity provides the framework for the evaluation exercises that are developed in the book.

The diversity of urban scales is fundamental to the thesis offered. Indeed, the main arguments of the book are grounded in rigorous morphological analysis carried out at many different scales: the city-region (Brasília metropolitan region, including both the capital city and the satellite cities, in chapter 2), the city (*Nova Iorque*, a small town in the state of *Maranhão*, in chapter 4), the street (the so-called W-3 in the capital city, in chapter 3), the urban block (the SQN-109 *superquadra* in Brasília, in chapter 5) and finally, the plot and the building (including both a sample of 27 residential buildings in Brasília metropolitan region, in chapter 6, and Holanda's own house, in the satellite city of *Sobradinho*, in Chapter 7).

The relation between morphological description and explanation, on the one hand, and design prescription, on the other – both in planning and architecture – is also explored. Indeed, Holanda offers the reader a detailed description of how he consistently bridges the gap between a quantitative

analytical methodology and a sensitive design process. He illustrates this linkage with examples of buildings constructed in recent decades.

Another significant issue is the evaluation of urban form. A rigorous method is proposed for assessing both projected developments and their implementations. He visits the objects of evaluation (urban areas and buildings), speaks to their residents, and develops an 'applied morphology' that assesses the actual performance of urban tissues and buildings. Furthermore, Holanda incorporates 'time' in this evaluation method, returning to the evaluation objects to understand how urban forms perform over time.

Finally, this book contributes to understanding the city of Brasília, a settlement built after the so-called *Plano-Piloto* (prepared in 1957). Holanda has already published some remarkable books on the Brazilian capital, and on its main designers, Lucio Costa and Oscar Niemeyer (see Holanda, 2010, 2011a, 2011b). What has made, and what still makes, Holanda's work so relevant for those who want to know more about this iconic city is that, although Holanda has a real passion for Brasília, he offers us a scientific evaluation of the city. He clearly identifies its main strengths today, and the opportunities it must capitalize on in the near future. He also points out the fundamental problems of, and the threats to, Brasília, in environmental, social and economic terms.

The origins and the main developments of the 'configurational approach' in Brazil (and to a certain extent, in Portugal) cannot be properly understood without knowing the work of Frederico de Holanda. This book is a clear example of his rigorous, but passionate, contribution to urban morphology. It is to be hoped that an English version of this book will become available in the near future.

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