
Portuguese-Language Network of Urban Morphology: Report

This report describes the main activities of the Portuguese-Language Network of Urban Morphology (PNUM) between July 2013 and July 2014. In 2014, after organizing annual conferences in Porto, Lisbon and Coimbra, the Portuguese-language group faced a greater challenge of collaborating in the organization of the Twenty-First International Seminar on Urban Form. This year's ISUF conference took place in Porto between 3 and 6 July and contained a record number of papers. Over 550 abstracts were submitted. Almost 400 presentations, from 50 different countries, were included in the conference programme, comprising 80 parallel sessions structured in ten main themes, and five plenary sessions. The plenary sessions included presentations on: i) the urban form and structure of Porto; ii) a book dedicated to Jeremy Whitehand (Larkham and Conzen, 2014); iii) different approaches to the study of urban form – Conzenian school, German morphogenetic tradition, Muratorian school, and space syntax; iv) an ISUF project on a repository of urban tissue; and, finally, v) the work of the ISUF Task Force on Research and Practice in Urban Morphology, including the Porto Charter and four case studies developed under the umbrella of the good practice catalogue, in Porto, Newcastle upon Tyne, Ahmedabad and Saint Gervais Les Bains. A description of ISUF 2014 is provided by Ian Morley (Chinese University of Hong Kong) in this issue of *Urban Morphology*.

In 2015, PNUM will face another great challenge. For the first time the annual conference of the Portuguese-Language Network will take place outside Portugal. With the general theme 'Urban configuration and the challenges of urbanity', it will be held in the city of Brasilia, on 25-26 June. It will include five main sub-themes: i) recent urban transformations – new impacts, new challenges; ii) social inequality in cities; iii) urban configuration and cultural heritage; iv) the modern city legacy; and, finally, v) total urbanization: *metapoles*. The organizing committee and the scientific committee of PNUM 2015 will be chaired, respectively, by Gabriela Tenorio and Frederico de Holanda of the Universidade de Brasilia.

In December 2013, a major new project of PNUM was launched, the *Revista de Morfologia Urbana*. Indeed, the *Revista* is one of the major elements for the consolidation and development of

the Portuguese-Language Network, bringing to the debate in urban morphology a number of researchers that until now, due to the language barrier, were not publishing in scientific peer-reviewed journals. The two first numbers of the *Revista*, published in December 2013 and July 2014, include papers from Portuguese and Brazilian researchers on studies of 'regular' ('planned') and 'irregular' ('spontaneous') historical urban form; the application of fractal geometry in the study of urban areas (focusing on the fragmentation of the urban fabric); a new method, *Morpho*, for urban morphological research and planning practice; the study of the informal urban forms of Maputo, the capital of Mozambique; and an assessment of the Preservation Plan for the Urban Complex of Brasilia recently prepared for the Brazilian capital. These two numbers of the *Revista* also included the Portuguese translation of two influential papers, originally published in *Urban Morphology*, 'British urban morphology: the Conzenian tradition' (Whitehand, 2001) and 'Saverio Muratori and the Italian school of planning typology' (Cataldi *et al.*, 2002). As in the case of *Urban Morphology* a number of viewpoints, book reviews and notices complete the contents of the *Revista*.

One of the issues that has been part of the debate in both PNUM and ISUF conferences is teaching urban form. In the next year, the Portuguese-Language Network will continue to explore this issue through the launching of the first PNUM Workshop on Urban Morphology. The workshop will take place in the city of Porto, at the end of the first semester, and will be hosted by the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Porto. The workshop will be developed in conjunction with ISUF 2015 in Rome and PNUM 2015 in Brasilia. The theme of this 1-week workshop, designed for students, researchers and practitioners, is 'Different approaches in the study of urban form', a theme that has been an object of intense debate in ISUF 2014. The main morphological approaches will be presented and then participants will be invited to make their 'morphological choices', applying one of these approaches in the analysis of a particular area in the city of Porto. It is our goal that the workshop, the *Revista* and the annual conference have a central role in the activity of PNUM in coming years, contributing to the promotion of the study of urban form in Portuguese-language countries.

References

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- Larkham, P. J. and Conzen, M. P. (eds) (2014) *Shapers of urban form: explorations in morphological agency* (Routledge, New York).
- Whitehand, J. W. R. (2001) 'British urban morphology:

the Conzenian tradition', *Urban Morphology* 5, 103-9.

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Change of Book Review Editor

Dr Ian Morley has completed his term as Book Review Editor of *Urban Morphology*. His successor is Professor Pierre Gauthier, Department of Geography, Planning and Environment, Concordia University, 1455 de Maisonneuve W.,

Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3G 1M8 (E-mail: pierre.gauthier@concordia.ca). Future correspondence concerning book reviews and books intended for review should be sent to Professor Gauthier.

ISUF 2015: City as organism: new visions for urban life

The Twenty-Second International Seminar on Urban Form (ISUF 2015), hosted by the Faculty of Architecture of Sapienza, University of Rome, will take place in Rome, Italy, from 22 to 26 September 2015. The theme of the conference is 'City as organism: new visions for urban life'. Topics to be covered include:

- New and historical landscapes
- Infrastructural networks
- Modern constructions and Mediterranean identity
- Urban growth and fringe belts
- Contemporary design for historical cities
- Urban aesthetics and new developments in urban design
- Eco-cities
- Urban morphology and urban regeneration
- Reading and designing urban fabric
- Urban form and meaning
- Urban knots
- Architectural heritage preservation methods

The organizers and the Council of ISUF invite participation by interested academics and professionals. Abstracts of proposed papers should be submitted by 15 January 2015. Authors will be

notified whether their paper has been accepted by 1 March 2015. More information is available on the conference website (<http://rome2015.isufitaly.com>).

Post-conference excursions will take place in Rome (E42-EUR), Hadrian's Villa (Tivoli) and to the historical town of Todi.

The Conference Scientific Committee comprises: Giancarlo Cataldi (University of Florence, Italy), Michael Conzen (University of Chicago, USA), Kai Gu (University of Auckland, New Zealand), Ivor Samuels (University of Birmingham, UK), Jean-Francois Lejeune (University of Miami, USA), Vitor Oliveira (University of Porto, Portugal), Piero Ostilio Rossi ('Sapienza' University of Rome, Italy), Jeremy Whitehand (University of Birmingham, UK).

The Conference Organizing Committee comprises: Giuseppe Strappa, Chair ('Sapienza' University of Rome, Italy), Alessandro Camiz ('Sapienza' University of Rome, Italy), Paolo Carlotti ('Sapienza' University of Rome, Italy), Anna Irene del Monaco ('Sapienza' University of Rome, Italy), Matteo Ieva (Politechnic of Bari, Italy), Marco Maretto (University of Parma, Italy), Nicola Marzot (University of Ferrara, Italy, and TU-Delft, The Netherlands), Dina Nencini ('Sapienza' University of Rome, Italy), Fabrizio Toppetti ('Sapienza' University of Rome, Italy).
