

The memory of Lisbon streets. Morphology and Morphogenesis.¹

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Abstract

It is understood, like many authors who addressed the urban morphology, that the city can be studied from its shape, therefore from the shape of the elements that compose it.

Considering the morphological diversity of existing streets in the consolidated and readable urban fabric of Lisbon, the work proposes the construction of a typological framework, representative of the morphological and morphogenetic diversity of the predominant element in the constitution of public space - the Street.

Considering the streets as urban facts, initially it is established a database of the morphological diversity of the streets and by the method of typological analysis we intend to define the types of streets and sort them regarding its Form (layout; size; *partitio*; afforestation) and Origin (*topos*, initiative, conception, production) and thus constitute a typological framework of its diversity. Furthermore, we aim to prepare a synthesis cartography that illustrates the different morphological and morphogenetic types within the city.

As a greater purpose, we intend to contribute to the interpretation and conscious production of a legible public space in the contemporary city, not only in the case study, but also in cities of Portuguese cultural urban matrix, overcoming the current physical fragmentation of the urban fabrics.

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In this seminar we intend to present a part of the ongoing work that will be integrated in the dissertation, which corresponds to the importance of the persistence of fragments and traces of the preexisting city on the operations that have shaped new urban layouts in Lisbon.

Thus, we chose two moments that refounded the city of Lisbon and, in addition to characterize the processes in which are obvious changes, ruptures and innovations inherent to each of the proposals of the *ex-novum* city, in particular the types of streets that made up these new urban layouts, we intend to identify the continuities of the previous city in each of the existing operations. Our purpose is to illustrate the importance of the persistence and permanence of the traces, which exists also in the processes of addition or juxtaposition of urban fabrics, to the intelligibility of the city and for its recognition and appropriation by the inhabitants.

For this study we chose two significant operations in the urban history of Lisbon that match the (re)definition of the *urbis* through the formation of new spaces that intended, more or less assumedly, to answer the needs and aspirations of the *polis* in each period and are based, mostly, on drawing streets in order to define the urban layout: the design and construction of “Pombaline Baixa”, from the mid XVIII century, and the “Avenues”, from the second half of the XIX century.

However, despite the disruptions and innovations, it is identified and emphasized the continuity and persistence of fragments and traces of the preexisting city in each of these operations.

Even in these new parts of the city, beyond the obvious transformations, we find fragments and traces of the preexisting city. In the city “à *continuité de vie*”, Lavedan distinguished between the permanence and persistence of these fragments and impressions that can be identified in the layouts and the directions in the cities when he enunciated the Law of the Persistence of the Plan that Pierre Pinon recently recovered.

In the cases of the “Baixa” and the “Avenues” persistence and permanence are also found, and in each case facilitated the subsequent appropriation and the recognition of the new city by its inhabitants in each period. In addition to improved intelligibility generated by the continuity of morphological elements, directions, traces, fragments and toponymy, the result of an integration capability and suitability of these features in the new urban fabric, there is a sense of efficiency of the intervention, a principle of economy in the act of designing.

Thus, the layout of the new streets interpreted the old paths and followed the directions of their traces. In these cases, the synthesis between the urban models of each time and the creative *mimesis* of the places conformed the new city from its memory.

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