

## **Hybrid spaces between the building and the urban tissue: forms of urbanity**

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The stand alone - building in its plot has been replacing the once dominant building-fronts as pieces of a block. This fact has likely triggered the major change in the city's morphological structure. Today we inhabit amidst these two situations, considering the way a building posits in the urban tissue, either be in traditional quarters merged in the "historical city centre", or in the single-standing buildings of the "modern city", or yet in a variety of borderline situations. In this context, architectural interventions have been playing a key role on what can be called the urban character and the rehabilitation of urban identities.

Although the building can be said to be the least resilient element of the urban tissue, there are quite a few example where the building sets-up a spatial construction that goes beyond the conditionalities of plot built-up area and tries to introduce rather permanent features of urbanity. In Lisbon, two examples can illustrate this situation: the Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus [Nuno Teotónio Pereira and Nuno Portas 1962-1976] located in a quarter of the Avenidas Novas district, and the Belem's Cultural Centre [Vittorio Gregótti and Atelier Risco 1988-1993] located in a border-like urban area along the Tagus riverbank, both generating spaces of articulation and transition – courtyards, passages, pathways, archades – originally built by the building layout and its specific functional programme but also actually meshing with the pre-existent urban tissue. Not brought about by mere chance, these buildings are the result of deliberate project strategies that aim towards a continuity between a building's interior and its functions and the surrounding urban environ, and as a result adding new places to the city's public and collective domain. Thus these places tend to narrow the gap between public and private space and, at the same time, as these places stand has mediators or transition places of the urban living, they then generate what we call the city's hybrid spaces. From observation, it is possible to conclude that when architectural interventions are carried in compact historical quarters, project strategies usually involve a "carving-out" of the quarter's built-up volume so as to open walkthroughs between the inside block and the surrounding streets trying to widen the pathway's network and peoples's freedom of movement for example. Whereas, in less dense urban tissues where stand-alone public buildings dominate, it is

usually the building's interior layout or its limits generating those hybrid spatial configurations which incrementally add to urban complexity.

The proposed morphological reading of the city combined with an interpretation of the building's typology, is thus the contribution to current knowledge. It aims to deepen the understanding of those spatial situations traditionally left outside the urban design and architecture bodies of knowledge. The objective of this article is to characterize and read a selection of hybrid urban spaces so as to understand how they generate or add complexity to urban spatial configurations, specifically in their relation to the urban tissue. A number of case studies will be presented comparing typical urban situations and identifying the invariable common features of hybrid urban spaces. This approach stands for a morphological interpretation grounded on the uses and the spatial properties of these hybrid spaces. All the case studies presented are located in Lisbon.

*Key words: Building, Urban tissue, Hybrid spaces, Urbanity, Lisbon.*