

Third Conference of the Portuguese Network of Urban Morphology, Coimbra, Portugal, 27- 28 June, 2013

The third annual meeting of PNUM was held in the City of Coimbra, in the oldest university in Portugal. It was hosted by the University's Department of Civil Engineering in collaboration with CITTA (Faculty of Engineering of the University of Porto) and with the ACIV (Association for the Development of Civil Engineering). The Organizing Committee was chaired by Nuno Norte Pinho. The Scientific Committee, which included A. Pais Antunes, J. Correia, K. Meneguetti, M. Fernandes, N. Norte Pinto, P. Pinho, T. Marat-Mendes, V. Medeiros and W. Rossa, was chaired by Vítor Oliveira.

The general theme of the Conference was 'Urban form in territories of Portuguese heritage: analysis, design, quantification', while the sub-topics were 'Analysis, design and quantification of urban form', 'Urban form in territories of Portuguese heritage' and 'Urban form in Portuguese-speaking countries', thus taking into consideration the variably-defined universe of

Portuguese-related urban structures. This third conference in the series was considerably larger than its two predecessors. There were 153 presentations, in comparison with 60 in the first conference and 96 in the second. Some 55 of the presentations were Brazilian-led, reflecting a close connection with the only Portuguese-speaking Latin American country. The programme was made up of mainly parallel sessions, with a mixture of both established researchers and those in the early stages of their research activity. From the host university came its most prominent urban researcher, Prof. Mário Krüger, who gave the first keynote lecture, and Prof. Walter Rossa, who reflected on the central position in morphological studies held by Kubler's *The shape of time*. In her keynote lecture, Prof. Staël de Alvarenga Pereira Costa, from the Federal University of Minas Gerais and convener of the ISUF 2007 conference, compared the transformations undergone by the neighbourhood of Islington in London with those of the 'Bairro dos



Figure 1. The Patio das Escolas, viewed by Conference participants during their guided tour (photograph by Madelena Cunha Matos).

Funcionários' in Belo Horizonte, highlighting the role played by land speculation and legislation.

There was a rich offering of special thematic sessions. These themes and their co-ordinators were: 'Cinema and urban form' (L. Urbano), 'Remote sensing, spatial analysis and urban form' (J. A. Tenedório), 'Teaching urban morphology' (V. Oliveira and T. Marat-Mendes), 'Urban form: regulation and implementation' (J. Carvalho), 'Urban morphology and natural risks' (Lusitano dos Santos), 'Coimbra and central densities' (J. A. Bandeirinha), 'Urban project and the teaching of architecture' (G. Canto Moniz), 'Design and transformation of the Portuguese colonial urban space in the long nineteenth century (1778-1926)' (A. Santiago Faria and S. Mendiratta), and 'Urban form in city peripheries' (Portuguese Association of Urban Planners, co-ordinated by Arch. Rui Florentino).

During the Conference Vítor Oliveira's book *A evolução das formas urbanas de Lisboa e do Porto nos séculos XIX e XX* was launched and was the subject of a presentation by CITTA's director, Paulo Pinho. Unfortunately, a general strike prevented the scheduled visit to the Machado de Castro Museum. However, much better news was that the Conference was almost immediately preceded by the inscribing of the University of Coimbra as a UNESCO World Heritage site, during the 37th session of the World Heritage Committee. The two original 'poles' of the site – the Alta and Rua da Sofia – intertwine with the city's fabric.

The general mood of the city was one of delight and fulfilment, and this to some extent infused the Conference participants.

The last event was a guided tour of the main sites of the Patio das Escolas (where the former royal palace has become the home of the University – Figure 1); the Porta Férrea (iron gate); and the very beautiful Biblioteca Joanina (Dom João V's Library). Conference participants were able to share the experience of the many generations of students and faculty as they walked the winding, narrow and steep streets down to the city centre, following the Rua do Quebra-Costas, passing the fortress-like Sé Velha (the old cathedral) and through the Arco de Almedina. Architects and engineers from the Centro Historical Centre's Office provided a briefing on the medieval and early-modern urban fabric and its future. After crossing the main shopping street, Ferreira Borges /Visconde da Luz, and visiting the Praça do Comércio, the Conference was finally closed, as the participants were received in the Town Hall next to the Monastery of Santa Cruz by Prof. Clara Almeida Santos, the University's Vice-Rector for Culture and Communication, and the Mayor.

Madalena Cunha Matos, Faculdade de Arquitectura, Universidade Técnica de Lisboa, Rua Sa Nogueira - Polo Universitario Alto Ajuda, 1349-055 Lisboa, Portugal. E-mail: mcunhamatos@fa.utl.pt

Portuguese Network of Urban Morphology: Report

This report describes the main activities of the Portuguese Network of Urban Morphology (PNUM) between July 2012 and July 2013. The third year of activities of PNUM has consolidated one of the most promising aspects of this network – the linkage between the Portuguese and Brazilian communities of urban morphologists. Three aspects should be highlighted: first, Frederico de Holanda (Universidade de Brasília) and Stael Pereira da Costa (Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais) have been elected to the Scientific Council of PNUM; secondly, more than half of the papers submitted to the *Revista de Morfologia Urbana* over the past year were written by Brazilian researchers; and thirdly, 50 per cent of the presenters in the PNUM 2013 Conference came from Brazil.

One of the major elements for the consolidation

and development of this Portuguese-speaking network is the establishment of a biannual journal in the Portuguese language. Over the past year, the *Revista de Morfologia Urbana* has been receiving papers, viewpoints and book reviews. The first number of the *Revista* will be published online in December. It will include four papers – three original articles and the Portuguese translation of the influential 'British urban morphology: the Conzenian tradition' (Whitehand, 2001), originally published in *Urban Morphology* in October 2001. The new articles focus on: i) the dichotomy in historical studies of urban form between 'regular' and 'irregular' forms; ii) the description and explanation of the informal urban forms of Maputo, the capital of Mozambique; and iii) the presentation of a new method for morphological research and planning practice.