
Portuguese Network of Urban Morphology: Report

This report describes the main activities of the Portuguese Network of Urban Morphology (PNUM) between July 2011 and July 2012. Throughout this year, PNUM has been promoting the study of urban form in Portugal, and not least encouraging debate between researchers in the different Portuguese universities and practitioners from both private enterprise and public administration. PNUM has been also contributing to the promotion of debate on the physical form of cities in Brazil. Indeed, it is most rewarding for us that almost one-third of the PNUM membership (the network has about 500 members) is comprised of Brazilian researchers and they were strongly represented in this year's conference.

The PNUM 2012 conference on 'Urban morphology in Portuguese-speaking countries' took place at the Instituto Universitário de Lisboa on 5-6 July 2012. Of 165 abstracts submitted, 100 survived the vetting process and formed the basis for presentations at the conference. The conference attracted 140 participants and included presentations on the eight Portuguese-speaking countries, although not all authored by researchers based in those countries. The three most represented countries at the conference were Portugal, Brazil and Mozambique, followed in descending order by Cape Verde, São Tomé and Príncipe, Angola, Guinea-Bissau, and East Timor. The promotion of African countries' participation in PNUM's future conferences should be recognized as a key challenge. Presentations also focused on two former Portuguese territories, the administrative region of Macau, in China, and the city of Diu, in India. A detailed description of PNUM 2012 is provided by Renato Leão Rego (Universidade Estadual de Maringá) in this issue of *Urban Morphology* (p. 166).

One of the main goals of PNUM is the maintenance of a strong relationship with ISUF. The participation of Portuguese and Brazilian researchers in ISUF Conferences has been increasing in recent years. While the recent Portuguese participation in these conferences has included an average of 10 papers, Brazilian participation consisted of nearly 40 papers in Montréal 2011 (it was the most represented country after Canada), following the presentation of 20 papers in both Hamburg 2010 and Guangzhou 2009.

Participation of Portuguese and Brazilian researchers in *Urban Morphology* is steadily growing. After the launching of this journal in

1997, it took almost a decade for the first Portuguese paper to be published. While the Ouro Preto Conference of 2007 stimulated increasing Brazilian contributions (the first Brazilian paper was published in 2008), it is evident that the establishment of PNUM in 2010 influenced the increase in the representation of Portuguese researchers in *Urban Morphology*. Currently, researchers from Portuguese-speaking countries have published 6 papers, 7 viewpoints, and 7 book reviews in *Urban Morphology*. Although this is a very positive achievement, we do feel that some researchers in Portuguese-speaking countries are not participating in this forum of international debate on the physical form of cities, and the actors and processes shaping it, because writing an article in English is a major undertaking, even if these researchers are accustomed to speaking and reading English (see also Whitehand, 2012). This was one of the reasons for the creation of a Portuguese-speaking journal, closely connected with *Urban Morphology*.

Revista de Morfologia Urbana will be published online, biannually, in July and December, by PNUM. The first number should be published in December 2013. The journal will be in Portuguese and will be subject to peer-review. Publication will be under the auspices of ISUF. Translation of fundamental papers in the field of urban morphology – abstract or full text – might be a feature. The journal's structure will be similar to *Urban Morphology*, as follows: i) editorial comment; ii) scientific papers (the core of the journal); iii) viewpoints; iv) reports; v) book reviews; and vi) notes and notices. More detail on the *Revista de Morfologia Urbana*, including information on the editorial board and the procedure for submission of papers, can be found at <http://pnum.fe.up.pt/index.php/journal-of-urban-morphology>.

In addition to the preparation of *Revista de Morfologia Urbana*, another major event in the next year will be the organization of the third PNUM conference. With the title 'Urban form in territories of Portuguese heritage: analysis, design, quantification', the conference will take place in the old city of Coimbra – in the Faculty of Sciences and Technology of the University of Coimbra on 27-28 June 2013. The organizing committee led by Nuno Norte Pinto (Universidade de Coimbra) is already working on the preparation of this conference – for more information see the conference website at <http://www.pnum2013.dec.uc.pt/>.

The establishment of an annual conference and a biannual journal are two major elements for the consolidation and development of our network. Perhaps the major achievement of our second year of activities has been the development of a sound linkage between the Portuguese and Brazilian communities of urban morphologists. It is my strong belief that the third year of activities will firmly establish PNUM within the world network of urban morphology.

Reference

Whitehand, J. W. R. (2012) 'Issues in urban morphology', *Urban Morphology* 16, 55-65.

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Second conference of the Portuguese Network of Urban Morphology, Lisbon, Portugal, 5-6 July 2012

PNUM 2012 was held in Lisbon in early summer. Organized by Teresa Marat-Mendes, Mafalda Samapayo, Paula André, Rosália Guerreiro, and Maria João de Oliveira, it took place at the Instituto Universitário de Lisboa (ISCTE). Focusing on 'Urban morphology in Portuguese speaking countries', the conference covered a broader academic arena than the first PNUM conference which concentrated on Portugal.

Authors from eight countries in four continents (Europe, America, Africa and Asia) presented 96 papers. Most of the Portuguese-speaking countries, namely Portugal, Brazil, Mozambique, Macau, Cape Verde, São Tomé and Príncipe, Guinea-Bissau, and East Timor featured in the presentations. Portugal provided the largest group of authors, followed closely by Brazil. Nearly 130 researchers, academics, practitioners, and students attended, by no means all of them having taken part in previous ISUF events.

At the start of the proceedings, the Director of the Departamento de Arquitectura e Urbanismo, the President of PNUM, and the Organizing Committee welcomed the participants. The ensuing programme consisted of a series of parallel sessions, each session comprising six presentations followed by a closing debate. There were also keynote presentations on 'Brasília – modern city, eternal city'; 'Continuities and discontinuities of the Portuguese urban culture – eighteenth to twentieth century'; and 'Urban morphology and the social condition: urban public space'. A 'round table', to which a number of eminent architects contributed, concluded the conference.

The relationships between urban morphology and space syntax, town planning history, sociology and professional practice were all considered at

some point in the programme. Disciplines to which connections with urban morphology were explored included history, art history, law, architecture and town planning. There was a broad conspectus of urban morphological research that is in progress within the Portuguese-speaking community, including coverage of the contemporary city, colonial towns, new towns, medieval towns and capital cities. Abstracts and full papers can be accessed at <http://repositorio-iul.iscte.pt/handle/10071/3633>.

In the course of the conference, participants had the opportunity to hear the mother language through varied accents. The *Porto de Honra* cocktail was also an opportunity for social intercourse. The participants who attended the visit to Lisbon Castle enjoyed exceptional vistas.

During the conference the President of PNUM, Vítor Oliveira, announced the launch of the *Revista de Morfologia Urbana (Portuguese Journal of Urban Morphology)*, which will be published online, biannually, in July and December, by PNUM. The first number is due to be published in December 2013. With a format similar to that of *Urban Morphology*, this new journal will be in Portuguese.

This conference clearly reflected the growing interest of Portuguese-speaking researchers in the field of urban morphology. Participants left Lisbon looking forward to the next PNUM encounter, which will be next year in Coimbra.

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