THE URBAN DESIGN READER

Edited by Michael Larice and Elizabeth Macdonald

THE THIRD TYPOLOGY
From Oppositions 7 (1976)
Anthony Vidler

GETTING TO KNOW THE BUILT LANDSCAPE: TYPOMORPHOLOGY
From Ordering Space: Types in Architecture and Design (1994)
Anne Vernez Moudon

Reading by Dalal Farhat HARB dh1203490
Instructor: Dr. M. Essam Hallak
Introduction to TYP-MORPHOLOGY

- **Typology** Refers to the study of categorized form types in architecture and increasingly in urban design and landscape architecture as well. As opposed to building type, which refers to functionality, architectural typologies refer to the form characteristics of buildings.

- **Morphology** is the study of larger urban structures, pattern and for issues, it is the study of the form of human settlements and the process of their formation and transformation. The study seeks to understand the spatial structure and character of a metropolitan area, city, town or village by examining the patterns of its component parts and the process of its development.

- **TYPO-MORPHOLOGY**: Special attention is given to how the physical form of a city changes over time and to how different cities compare to each other. Some Researchers have taken to combining the terms into a new term “TYPO-MORPHOLOGY”
“Critiques” and “Urban Components”

From Houses, Palaces, Cities (1984)

Leon Krier

- Failure of Modern Town planning
- Critiques: Town and Country
  [ The Cities within the city]
- Critique of Zoning
- Critique of Industrialization
- The Idea of re-construction
- Urban Components
- The Dialectic of building block & urban space
- The limits of the perimeter block
- The street & the scale of the building block
- High urban density & the modern critique of the building block
“Critiques” and “Urban Components”

From Houses, Palaces, Cities (1984)

Leon Krier
Editors’ Introduction

- Prior Modernism: Cities and their buildings were derived from intuitive experiences, traditions, local culture, and available resources.
- In Contract, Modernist designers and planners transcended cultural and local resource constrains to provide solutions to social problems through revolutionary approaches to the urban forms. [Radical break].
- Arising in Europe in the 1960s [ same time of Jane Jacob call for planning and design reform in USA ] a number of designers began questioning the modernist break with traditional urbanism, such as: Aldo Rossi, Carlo Aymonino, Robert and Leon Krier.
Editors’ Introduction

- Theories of typology can be traced back to concepts of Platonic ideal form.
- Quatermere de Quincy: Type was more a rule for creating form, rather than a visual model of what was to be created.
- Accordingly, the practice of typology requires classification of physical form elements into groups based on: Geometry, use, period of time, symbolism, construction type, style, etc.
- Designers often use Typology as a kit of tools to be referenced.
- Vidler avoided external validations of Typology, opting instead for one that is internally self-referential the city itself.
- The new Typology arises for many of the same reasons: The desire for continuity in urban form, the importance of function in form-making, And as a critique of an unsatisfactory modernism.
- Vidler’s third typology can be read as advocacy for empirically-based research in urban form and a contemporary urban design practice associated with the importance of public space and every day urbanism.
From the middle of eighteenth century, two distinct typologies have informed the production of Architecture:

1. Developed out of the rationalist philosophy of the Enlightenment, and initially formulated by the Abbe Lauugier, proposed that a natural basis for design was to be found in the model of the primitive hut.

2. Growing out of the need to confront the question of mass production at the end of the nineteenth century, and most clearly stated by Le Corbusier, proposed that the model of architectural design should be founded in the production process itself.

This third Typology, like the first two, is clearly based on reason and classification as its guiding principles and thus differs markedly from those latter-day romanticisms of “townscape” and “strip-city” that have been proposed as replacements for Modern Movement urbanism since the fifties.
The Concept of the city as the site of a new Typology is evidently born of a desire to stress the continuity of form and history against the fragmentation produced by the elemental, institutional and mechanistic typologies of the recent past.

For this Typology, there is no clear set of rules for the transformation and their objects, nor any polemically (argument) defined set of historical precedents. The continued vitality of this architectural practice rests in its essential engagement with the precise demands of the present and not in any holistic mythicization of the past.
Editors’ Introduction

Review of three European Schools of Thoughts: by Anne Vernez Moudon

- MURATORI and CANIGGIA in ITALY

  Traditional TYPO-MORPHOLOGICAL Pattern: The New Will Harmonize With The Old

- CONZEN and the Urban Morphology Research Group in ENGLAND

  Referring to the Geographer M.R.G CONZEN: Has No Prescriptive Motivation, Focusing Strictly On Research and Analyses

- The VERSAILLES’ School in France

  Uses TYPO-MORPHOLOGICAL Methods to develop Socio-Critical Critiques Of Cities, And Evolving Over Time.
Morphological Tissues of:

a)  Raehoja Plats, Tallinn
b)  Cavendish and Hanover Square, London
c)  Pioneer Courthouse Square, Portland
TYPO-MORPHOLOGY

is an unusual approach to urban form:

1. It considers all scales of the built landscape from the small room or garden to the large urbanized area.
2. It characterizes urban from as a dynamic and continuously changing entity immersed in a dialectic relationship with its produces and inhabitants.
A Typo-morphological approach to defining type differs from other approaches in three ways:

1. Type in Typo-morphology combines the volumetric characteristics of built structures with their related open spaces to define a built landscape type:
   - In opposition to the monumental, site-less typology of Durand
   - The element that links built spaces to open is the lot or parcel, the basic cell of urban Fabric.

2. The inclusion of land and its subdivisions as a constituent element of type makes land the link between the building scale and the city scale.

3. The built landscape type is a Morphologentic. Not a Morpheohological, unit because it is defined by time, the time of its conception, production, use, or mutation.
MURATORI and CANIGGIA in ITALY

- **Saverio Muratori** & his follower **Gianfranco Caniggia** analyzed the city building process in traditional Italian towns.
- Their analyses rest on extensive classifications of buildings and related open spaces extending from their state to their various mutations over time.
- Their work had a major impact on design theory and Practice in **Italy** and **North America**.
Sk. Schematic representation of the typological process of residential buildings at three scales - building type, building tissue, urban fabric. The diachronic process is the mutation of the leading type and occurs in a sequence of phases. In the figure below, for every leading type a limited and indicative number of synchronic variants are shown according to their position in the block, topography, etc. All synchronic variants slowly lead to the formation of a new leading type that can be identified only after remarkable transformations have become apparent. The leading type in a given period can only be found in the contemporary developments of that period, for existing and consolidated urban fabrics can only accommodate small-scale mutations. In the figure, crises are indicated by vertical cuts. The specific case corresponds to the period of the Black Death in Europe (1348) after which the city no longer develops until the nineteenth century, but changes its fabric through adaptive variants. At the end of the crisis, when the city begins to expand again a loss of spontaneous conscience begins to surface, and the leading type is recreated by merging local synchronic processes with building models imported from leading cultural areas. The typological process continues at its own pace despite the break with history claimed by the Modern Movement, at least in Western Europe, although at present the urban fabric seems unable to recover from urban ruptures.
• **Muratori** is recognized as the early pioneer of the Typo-Morphological trend in Italian architecture.

• **Aldo Rossi & Carlo Aymonino** became seminal for Italian architects who, to this date, see urban morphological analysis as a necessary preparatory step for design.

• **Muratori**: The structure of cities could only be understood historically, with building typology as the basis of urban analysis.

• **Muratori**: Urban form and structure, are an aggregate of many ideas, and actions which are manifested in given buildings and their surroundings spaces, and called **Edilizia**.
Muratori – ‘operational history’
Explains the human environment as made of “built objects” at four different scales: The building, The group of buildings (the fabric), The city and the region.

Each object is a complex entity made of elements, structures, systems and organisms.

The built environment is an organism made of components that are them-selves organisms.

All built objects that are affected by planning and design activity must be studied from the scale of the single building to the scale of territory within which buildings are set.

Physical cities are not an object but a process: cities are built incrementally with many small elements being juxtaposed. An understanding of the formation and transformation of cities is guided by the analysis of the mutation of the type through both time and space.

Spontaneous Conscience ------- Critical conscience
Caniggia strictly associates the concept of route to the formation of the building tissue. He distinguishes several different kinds:

1. Matrix route, existing both in spontaneous and planned form in a territory before any construction takes place.

2. planned building routes that follow the matrix routes.

3. Connecting routes, linking the first two categories.

4. restructuring routes, intervening in mature tissues as conjunctions of new urban poles.

Examples of tissues on matrix routes
Caniggia – town planning tool
Modularity in the built landscape (Imparted) This diagram shows how a typical turn of the century apartment building in San Francisco fits into its host fabric. Reading from the bottom up: Rooms are grouped to form apartments, which are then grouping to form the apartment building; the land subdivision pattern organizes the position of buildings within the block; blocks fit into the city according to the layout of the streets; and the network of streets fits into the landscape.
Debates Surrounding the Muratorian School

- Aymonino & Rossi: They established that the modernist and the traditional city differed in at least two areas: 1] In the ways individual buildings related to the city as a whole. 2] In the ways individual buildings were designed. [None of the Italian Typo-morphologists analyzed the modernist city systematically]

- Rossi’s Principal concern was to demonstrate the power of what he called the autonomy of architecture. Elaborating on Muratori’s case against functionalism. Aymonino claimed: the relationship between typology and morphology has been reversed, with building types defining individual environments that do not serve a collective urban form, such as malls and serve a collective urban form, such as malls and office parks.

- However: Aymonino and his colleagues accepted the reversed relationship between building and city as part of an irreversible change in the socioeconomic forces that shaped the city.

- As Muratori and Caniggia: The traditional relationship between building and city must be restored in the contemporary city
Debates Surrounding the Muratorian School

The Basic question became:

*Can there be and should there be any continuity between existing and new building types?*

Building Typology and Design Theory:

- Historian **Guilio Carlo Argan (1965)**: Highlighted his identifications in two *moments*:
  1. The Typological moment: When the rules of design and building used in the past (*posteriori Type*).
  2. The moment of invention, When the artist answers the historical and cultural questions through a critical approach (*Priori Types*)
Building Typology and Design Theory:

- Muratori and Caniggia Scorned a Priori building types as arbitrary inventions by architects; they believed that the architect’s creative work must be harnessed by common building traditions. But Aymonino, Rossi, and others thought that designers, in creating a new, were free to interpret the historical city as they wished. Justifying the architect’s freedom from past conventions.

- Aymonino: ...Urban Analysis does not provide a structure for architectural intervention. In fact, it is wrong to assume a direct relationship of cause and effect between the two: this leads to the academic embalming of architecture, shown clearly in the projects of Muratori’s and his school.

- In contrast, Muratori and later Caniggia defined architectural design intervention as conditioned by what they call pre-existing structures: “As a technician, the architect must fit his work into the growth and transformation processes that take place in any city, and witness the dialectic between buildings and their fabric.

- This Critical examination cannot be based superficially on style and experience, but must rely on knowledge of the historical processes shaping urban form.
Building Typology and Design Theory

These distinct positions lead to two radically different approaches to design theory:

1. Theory rests entirely on the history of city building and its analysis.
2. Theory that is defined solely by the architect, and which may or may not borrow from the history.
City of Bologna’s Restoration

The Project was the labor of Italian architects who collaborated with Caniggia and hence operated within the theoretical tenets of a Typo-Morphological approach.

However, the impact of this work remained small, limited as it was by the perceived uniqueness of the city, and its particular social and historical heritage.
Conzen’s townscape is a Palimpsest of society and culture on which features of particular periods stand out while others are obliterated over time.

However, Conzen describes his complete method as three pronged:

1. Town Plan, primarily a tow-dimensional carto-graphic representation of a town’s physical layout
2. Building fabric; made of building and related open space.
3. Land use pattern, and building utilization; detailed land use

Conzen’s clear identification of the plan and of its basic elements as analytical tool sets an important point of departure for Typo-Morphological analysis.

The composite town plan is made of Plan Units [street, lot, building size and shape]. Plan Units contribute to the stratification of the townscape, in layers; the formation and deposit into starta.

Compatible with Caniggia’s research. Caniggia provide an approach to the definition of Building Types and Conzen to the types of Urban Fabric.
Conzenian Morphology

MRG CONZEN

- Began the relatively new discipline in UK around 1968. Alnwick, Northumberland
- Took inspiration from the Italians – Saverio Muratori, Gianfranco Caniggia
- Luigi Candida (1959) – study of formal characteristics / process of addition in Veneto rural houses
- Thus, carried out Study of plots (lots in US), streets and block patterns right up to settlement patterns and its development over the ages
- Now specifically called ‘Conzenian Urban Morphology’
The study illustrates Conzen’s methodological contributions, Regional soil structure, ancient road network, the old town’s site topography, and surrounding field structure all explain the town’s layout. Urbs, suburbs, and original plot structure- still readily visible in today’s fabric- are reconstructed as well.
Alnwick, Northumberland (Conzen 1960)

At the center of the analysis is the formation of the Burgage, the basic plot of land that is narrow and deep.

Burgage is a medieval land term used in England and Scotland, well established by the 13th century. A burgage was a town ("borough") rental property (to use modern terms), owned by a king or lord.
The burgage cycle (Image: Larkham 1996: 175). Exploiting proximity to pedestrian traffic and the opportunities for access, trade and commerce, the first building — the ‘plot dominant’ — is built on the street frontage or head of the plot. As the land uses on the plot and within the building change over time, the initial building is extended vertically and/or horizontally towards the rear of the plot. Exploiting access at the back of the plot, the tail of the plot may become built up. The intermediate space — originally fields or gardens — may also be built upon in the form of freestanding buildings or, more typically, through horizontal additions. There might also be vertical growth in terms of building height. New and larger buildings may replace the initial buildings. Over time and with continuing development, the open spaces within the plot are reduced to small courts. As greater densities are achieved by creating rooms without direct access to the street and without adequate light and air, development reaches its choke point. After this there may be a partial or complete clearance before total redevelopment. There might also be changes in the plot pattern as plots are amalgamated to create development sites for larger buildings or truncated by a new mid-block alley, thereby creating independent plots (Larkham 1996: 175)
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London – Roman

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The Urban Morphology Research Group

- Flowing Conzen’s research contribution, several historical geographers in 1980s formed the Urban Morphology research Group at The University of Birmingham
- Their Mission is to conduct research in urban Morphology and to integrate it with more traditional concerns in Geography field
- P.J. Larkham has applied Conzenean method to preservation projects. He and others have assembled a glossary of terms used in Conzenean analysis which illustrate the group’s commitment to morphological study
Elements of U.S. suburban residential forms: houses, lots, and streets
These illustrations show levels of resolution in the built landscape.
a] Houses and Lots
b] Street Pattern
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The Urban Morphology Research Group
In France, Sociologists, historians, geographers, and planners all worked together with architects to achieve an improved understanding of the city. The resulting approach to Typo-Morphology not only is oriented to issues of design and geography but also can incorporate literary and social science perspectives.

The Versailles School stands between the Italian and the British schools, and addresses issues of both design and the city-building process.
Intellectual Climate Contributing to the Formation of the School

Henry Lefebvre

argued that the contemporary construction and house production methods crushed people’s natural instincts for appropriation and weakened the relationship between people and their environments.

Philosopher

Henri Lefebvre was a French Marxist philosopher and sociologist, best known for pioneering the critique of everyday life, for introducing the concepts of the right to the city and the production of ... [Wikipedia]

**Born**: June 16, 1901, Hagetmau, France

**Died**: June 29, 1991, Navarrenx, France

**Education**: University of Paris
LADRHAUS: a dual Purpose

- The original group of researchers expanded and formed LADRHAUS [Laboratoire de Recherche]
- The Dual purpose of descriptive research and identification of design models permeates all of the French work and adds complexity to the field of Typomorphology
- [Elements of Urban Analysis] book by [Panerai et al 1980], stipulates that the knowledge derived from urban analyses enhances the ability to describe and discuss the city as a socio-physical phenomenon, and thus sets the design of the city within the broad, multidisciplinary intellectual framework of the humanities and social sciences.
As a conclusion of all these historical studies, the process of defining the Typo-Morphology approach includes 4 steps:

1. The choice of the scale at which the analysis will be conducted
2. The classification of building types, which involves the selection of criteria on which the typological process rests
3. Elaborate on the tools available for refining the classification process
4. Generating Typology by relating one type to the other
CONCLUSION

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<td>3. Land use pattern, and building utilization; detailed land use</td>
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<td>Urban form and structure are an aggregate of many ideas, and actions which are manifested in given buildings and their surroundings spaces, and called <em>Edilizia</em>.</td>
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<td><strong>Alnwick, Northumberland</strong> study illustrates their methodological contributions; Regional soil structure, ancient road network, the old town’s site topography, and surrounding field structure all explain the town’s layout. Urbs, suburbs, and original plot structure.</td>
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<td>Sociologists, historians, geographers, and planners all worked together with architects to achieve an improved understanding of the city. The resulting approach to Typo-Morphology not only is oriented to issues of design and geography but also can incorporate literary and social science perspectives.</td>
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Thank You 😊