



BOOK NOTES

Inclusive urban design: streets for life by *Elizabeth Burton* and *Lynne Mitchell*, Architectural Press, Oxford, UK, 2006, 176 pp. ISBN 0-75-066458-4. This book, by an architect/urban planner and a chartered town planner, the first of its kind, is a primer on designing street spaces to accommodate the elderly and disabled. Part 1 makes the case for dementia-friendly streets and reviews how older people experience the built environment. Part 2 offers six principles of good design, defined as familiarity, legibility, distinctiveness, accessibility, comfort and safety. They are applied to design features at all scales, from street layouts to signage, and discussed with the aid of site plans, photographs and drawings. Part 3 further develops the concept of 'streets for life' as a major component of sustainable and inclusive design, and examines issues of practicality (including a check-list of desired elements), conflicts with competing requirements, and the overall quality of life for older people in outdoor environments.

Return to the center: culture, public space, and city building in a global era by *Lawrence A. Herzog*, University of Texas Press, Austin, TX, USA, 2006, 273 pp. ISBN 0-292-71262-6.

This book is an analysis of the revitalization of the urban core areas of Spanish and Latin American cities in three different realms: Spain, Mexico, and the United States-Mexico transfrontier zone. It begins with an overview of concepts associated with globalization and the transformation of public plazas in Spanish and Latin American cities. Chapters 2, 3 and 4 focus on Spain, starting with a chapter on the emergence of town squares in Spain, with an extended discussion of Madrid. The next two chapters consist of case studies of recent transformations and revitalization of historic centres in Madrid and Barcelona. Two chapters then focus on Mexico. The first of these summarizes the historical development of plazas in Mesoamerica; the second addresses recent revitalization efforts in Mexico City, Mexico and Queretaro, Mexico. Chapter 7 explores the transfrontier zone with discussions of Tijuana, Mexico, Santa Fe, New Mexico, San Antonio, Texas, Phoenix, Arizona, Los Angeles and other cities in northern Mexico and the south-western United States. Each of these

examples is placed within its historical context. Urban morphologists will find this book effective in its communication of the processes and contexts of change in these urban cores, but will need to look elsewhere for detailed spatial analyses.

E40°: an interpretive atlas by *Jack Williams*, University of Virginia Press, Charlottesville, USA, 2006, 248 pp. ISBN 978-0-8139-2585-1. This richly-illustrated volume documents the diversity of urban forms found in the small towns of the United States' Appalachian Mountains, from Alabama to Maine. Williams, a landscape architect, presents photographs, topographic maps, detailed site plans, figure-ground illustrations, and historical maps to illustrate analyses of towns in five different geographic- and form-clusters: the courthouse square towns of Alabama, transportation-linked towns in Alabama, towns of the bituminous coal fields (Kentucky, Virginia, and West Virginia), towns of the anthracite coal valleys of Pennsylvania, and coastal towns in Maine. The book begins with an elegant contrast between Camden, Alabama and Camden, Maine which highlights not only the wide range of forms and processes to be taken up by the book, but also introduces the wide range of visual source material. The discussion of the use of visual source material in this opening chapter sets an effective context for the remainder of the book. Urban morphologists will find numerous presentations of town forms placed in the context of narrative analyses of influences ranging from the conjunction of public and private realms to economic change.

Crisis and creativity: exploring the wealth of the African neighborhood edited by *Piet Konings* and *Dick Foeken*, Brill, Leiden, The Netherlands, 2006, 254 pp. ISBN 90-04-15004-8. This book offers a detailed look at contemporary processes of change and urban development in the cities of sub-Saharan Africa. Twelve authors – geographers, planners, anthropologists and sociologists – from Europe, Africa and the United States offer an on-the-ground examination of the ways in which African urban dwellers have shaped their neighbourhoods and their lives in response to local conditions. The case

studies include examples from Kenya, Cameroon, Uganda, Nigeria, Ghana, Tanzania, Togo, Chad and Mauritania. Although the chapters vary greatly in accordance with the differing disciplinary affiliations of the authors, there is careful attention to urban form and development and historical context in most of the chapters. A chapter on Kampala, for example, details the process of plot acquisition, subdivision and land use in an urban neighbourhood; a chapter on an Accra neighbourhood includes a street-by-street analysis of land use and building patterns. Thus while the book does not provide a systematic analysis of urban form *per se*, it offers a wealth of information to augment an exploration of sub-Saharan urban form.

Cities in transition: globalization, political change and urban development edited by *Rita Schneider-Sliwa*, Springer, Dordrecht, The Netherlands, 2006, 333 pp. ISBN 1-4020-3866-6. *Cities in transition* was originally published in German in 2002 as *Städte im Umbruch, Die Neustrukturierung von Berlin, Brüssel, Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh Stadt, Hong Kong, Jerusalem, Johannesburg, Moskau, St Petersburg, Sarajewo und Wien*. As the German title makes clear, the chapters include case studies of eleven cities undergoing very different types of transformation during the process of globalization. The premise of the book is, in fact, that globalization does not necessarily produce uniformity in urban contexts, given the multiple and widely varying local factors that affect urban development. Rather, globalization is seen as a process which may initiate or influence the paths of urban change. The majority of the authors are geographers: most of the chapters deal extensively with the spatial outcomes of globalization and other recent political, economic, and social changes. All of the chapters are illustrated with maps at different scales: few, however, provide plot-level detail. The English translation is natural and quite readable. In her summary, the editor identifies five processes of globalization that were identified as particularly influential in the book – ‘the re-establishment of hegemony’ for Jerusalem and Berlin, ‘power transferred’ for Hong Kong and Sarajevo, the ‘collapse of ideology’ for Moscow, St. Petersburg and Johannesburg, ‘horizons expanded’ for Vienna and Brussels, and ‘development handicaps’ for Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi. Ultimately, the book illustrates ‘the role of local forces and processes that continue to regulate and determine urban development in the era of globalization’.

Designing sustainable cities in the developing world edited by *Roger Zetter* and *Georgia Butina Watson*, Ashgate Publishing, Aldershot, UK, 2006, 210 pp. ISBN 0-7546-4355-7. This compilation of case studies, edited by two planners based at Oxford Brookes University, is divided into two parts: Part I is on ‘Urban form and transformation’ and Part II is on ‘Designing people-based environments’. The book is written as a set of case studies aimed at urban designers. Most of the authors are practising designers who have lived and worked in the cities they analyse. Part I does not address urban morphology *per se*, but does take up relevant themes such as conservation and development, renewal and design, cultural representation and continuity. A particular strength of the book is that it gathers together a number of case studies of places under-represented in the literature on conservation – the cities of Bhutan and Myanmar/Burma; Morelia, Mexico; Bijapur, India; and Cape Town, South Africa. For example, the discussion of Burmese design outlines historical principles in Burmese architectural design, their transformation with the coming of trade and colonialism, and the recent influences of new building materials and higher-density design. Other chapters in the first section address the city of Bethlehem and an historic area in Mexico City. The second part includes case studies of Belém, Brazil; Makkah City, Saudi Arabia; and Mexico City. Although the book is amply illustrated with photographs, it has few maps or plans which might better inform morphological analysis.

Post-suburban Europe: planning and politics at the margins of Europe’s capital cities by *Nicholas Phelps*, *Nick Parsons*, *Dimitris Ballas* and *Andrew Dowling*, Palgrave Macmillan, Basingstoke, UK, 2006, 231 pp. ISBN 978-0-230-00212-8. This concise volume is a product of shared interest and opportunity amongst an interdisciplinary group, not a major funded project; so it is not comprehensive and all-inclusive. Nevertheless it conveys some interesting information about what is currently occurring on the fringes of major European cities: Athens, Madrid, Paris, Helsinki and London. Three readable and informative chapters set this research in context, and there is a brief conclusion. Although not focusing specifically on urban form, there is much here of relevance in terms of the changing nature of suburbia and post-suburbia, and the processes and agencies of the production of urban form in these fringe locations. Perhaps more could

be made of the comparative aspect, but this is nevertheless a useful addition to the burgeoning literature on suburbia.

African urban experiences in colonial Zimbabwe: a social history of Harare before 1925 by *Tsuneo Yoshikuni*, Weaver Press, Harare, Zimbabwe, 2007, 162 pp. ISBN 13 978-1-77922-054-7. A sequence of photographs of Salisbury, one of the oldest parts of Harare, in 1895/6, 1910, and the 1930s illustrates the processes described in the book: the infilling of the district as it developed into a 'segregated location for urban Africans'. Although it is primarily a social history, the book offers a rich and detailed history of the development of the African settlement at Harare. It chronicles not only the development of that settlement, but also the gradual differentiation of space in Harare during the early-twentieth century with the emergence of a business and light industry district, a red-light zone, and a specific hierarchy of urban space, from the colonial bungalows of the north-east to the recent migrants' zone in the south-west. Eventually the growth of the city was spurred by the eviction of black Africans from the central city into settlements at the periphery. These settlements eventually matured into suburbs. The book makes a substantial contribution to understanding the process of urban growth in the context of the segregationist policies of Zimbabwe. Although it lacks systematic morphological analysis, it contains a wealth of information about the form of the city during this pivotal period. There are several hand-drawn, black-and-white sketch maps/diagrams at the end of the book which assist with illustrating the physical layout of the settlement. The author of the book, a social historian of Zimbabwean urban history, was a professor at Senshu University in Japan before he died in 2006.

Loose space: possibility and diversity in urban life edited by *Karen A. Franck* and *Quentin Stevens*, Routledge Press, Oxford, UK, 2007, 303 pp. ISBN 13 978-0-415-70117-4. This book, edited by an American architect and a British urban designer, poses an interesting question for urban morphology: how do we define, classify, or otherwise analyse and discuss spaces within the city that are used in multiple ways, and often not as intended by their designers? In their opening chapter, the editors present a wide range of approaches to thinking about such 'loose space',

from considerations of the urban public realm to the 'benefits and risks' of loose space. The chapters that follow are organized along four themes identified by the editors: appropriation, tension, resistance, and discovery. Contributed primarily by academic architects, they cover a wide range of case studies, from New York City to Guadalajara, and Bangkok to London. The question they attempt to answer is perhaps stated best in the book's final chapter: 'what can planners learn from processes that take place without planning and whose essential characteristic is spontaneity, and what role can they play in this process?' (p. 282). The book is richly illustrated with black and white photographs, but lacks maps.

Space and place in the Mexican landscape: the evolution of a colonial city by *Fernando Núñez*, *Carlos Arvizu*, and *Ramón Abonce*, Texas A&M University Press, College Station, TX, USA, 2007, 182 pp. ISBN 13 978-58544-583-7. This is a well-illustrated introduction to the conceptualization of space in Mexico (presented as comprising four elements: religiosity, centralism, enclosure, and attachment to the land) and the development of colonial cities in Mexico. Much of the book is devoted to a detailed case study of the growth of the city of Santiago de Queretaro, 200 km north-west of Mexico City. The city's development is considered from pre-colonial times to the year 2000. Numerous maps, plans, diagrams and photographs accompany the text. Although presentation is primarily at the scale of the city as a whole, rather than individual plots and blocks, a masterful overview of changing urban form is provided. It would serve well both as an introduction to Mexican urban form for non-specialists and an interesting case study for specialists.

Topologies: the urban utopia in France, 1960-1970 by *Larry Busbea*, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Press, Cambridge, MA, USA, 2007, 229 pp. ISBN 13 978-0-262-02611-6. Reflecting the French *avant-garde* tendency known as 'spatial urbanism', this book places the spatial urbanists in context, and then discusses the futuristic visions of a number of them, with emphasis on the work of Yona Friedman and Michel Ragon. The discussions include not only the rationale for the designs themselves, but also the critique of the designs by notable contemporary architects and the social and cultural movements

that prompted both the designs and the responses to them. The book is richly illustrated with colour and black-and-white drawings, as well as a few black-and-white photographs of completed architectural projects.

Urban imaginaries: locating the modern city

edited by *Alev Çinar* and *Thomas Bender*, University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, MN, USA, 2007, 290 pp. ISBN 978-0-8166-4802-3. This is the product of a gathering of former fellows of the Project on Cities and Knowledge (New York University, 1997-2001) at Kemer, Turkey. The common theme in all the case studies is the role of collective imagination in the shaping of space and place in modern cities. This is not a book on urban morphology *per se*, indeed the authors are primarily political scientists, sociologists, and historians rather than geographers, planners and architects. Yet their exploration of the nature of the city and the linkages between imagination, perception and space are worth consideration in the context of urban morphology, as they address the ambiguities of the modern urban existence. As the editors observe, the chapters ‘focus on how, amid such ambiguity and indistinctness, the city is nevertheless imagined as at once indefinite and a singular space and on how this space is shared by a population with various cultural commitments and translocal attachments and yet understood as a distinct entity... the emphasis of these chapters is on the city as a field of experience’. Anthony King takes up this theme in his introductory essay. The ten case studies are divided into three parts. Part I ‘The city and its boundaries’ analyses Istanbul, Los Angeles, and Haussmann’s Paris. Part II, ‘Competing narratives of the city’ considers Douala (Cameroon), Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, and Tel Aviv. Part III, ‘The city and the vision of the nation’ is about Ankara and the steel towns of India, Aman, and Beirut. Despite a lack of maps and other illustrative materials, the ten case studies contribute some remarkable new perspectives on the nature of urban space.

World city syndrome: neoliberalism and inequality in Cape Town by *David A. McDonald*, Routledge, New York, USA, 2008,

355 pp. ISBN 978-415-95857-8. David McDonald presents neo-liberalism and the quest for world city status as the third in a series of three

major impacts on Cape Town’s social, political, and physical form, which began with colonialism and apartheid. He begins by testing Cape Town against the standard measures of ‘world city’ status – from headquarter locations and international connectivity to homogenization of landscapes and growing disconnection from its hinterland. He finds Cape Town competitive on all of these measures except that of headquarter locations, and he identifies the city as fulfilling the tendency of World Cities to have increasing inequality. This last finding is the theme of the remainder of the book. Although the book begins with several chapters on the city’s economic character, its heart (for urban morphologists) lies in two chapters at the centre of the book. Here we learn of the physical and political transformations of Cape Town since 1994. The political structure has been reformed away from race, yet spending and investment patterns remain virtually unchanged. In terms of physical transformations, McDonald finds both public and private urban development aimed at creating an effective home for commercial interests, with provision of basic infrastructure for the poor being an unevenly-realized side benefit. There are similarities to other cities striving for a higher place in the ‘world city’ hierarchy, yet the extremely racialized landscape on which this is taking place remains unique.

Building site Enschede: a city re-creates itself by *Theo Baart* and *Ton Schaap*, NAi,

Rotterdam, The Netherlands, 2007, 126 pp. ISBN 90-5662-589-4. This is a book of photographs and plans describing the transformation of a foundering textile-producing city in the Netherlands during the early twenty-first century. The short accompanying text was written by one of the city’s urban planners, who began work in the city in 2005, after the current transformation was well under way. Although the combination of this brief buoyant commentary and the full-page photographs of green gardens and cheerful new façades may present an overly rosy portrait of this place, nonetheless it is interesting to follow the transformation of derelict industrial space into public, commercial and housing space, much of which is scheduled for completion within the next few years. The most dramatic transformations can be seen in various plans to redevelop the derelict railway line, which was lined with defunct industrial structures and ran through the centre of the city.

The printed image in early modern London: urban space, visual representation, and social exchange by *Joseph Monteyne*, Ashgate, Burlington, VT, USA, 2007, 286 pp. ISBN 978-0-7546-6019-4. This innovative book uses 85 prints – primarily pamphlets, broadsides and maps – produced in London during the seventeenth century to illustrate changing perceptions of urban space during this critical period in London's history. The analysis is arranged in five chapters, each devoted to a different aspect of London's seventeenth-century urban space and culture. These begin with a discussion of the social space of the coffee house in Chapter 1, followed by chapters successively devoted to the plague, the Fire of London, and the mock procession of the pope. The final chapter focuses on the Frost Fair of 1683-84 – the redistribution and establishment of new urban spaces in response to the freezing of the River Thames during those years. The chapters analysing the plague, the Fire of London and the Frost Fair in particular should be of interest to urban morphologists. In all three, Monteyne finds a re-ordering of the city as people moved either temporarily or permanently toward its margins. During the plague, printed matter illustrated the dramatic movement of people out of the central city and into newly-forming settlements at the periphery. After the Fire of London had left the city 'confused' and filled with spatial ambiguity, Monteyne argues, the process of describing and illustrating the fire itself can be perceived as a collective effort to impose order and spatial hierarchies on what had become intensely disordered space. Monteyne contends that the new spaces claimed and formed during the Frost Fair were reified and integrated into London's urban identity through illustrations at the time. All of the prints Monteyne uses for his analysis are reproduced as full-page black-and-white illustrations throughout the book.

Roman Pompeii: space and society by *Ray Laurence*, Routledge, London, UK, 2007, 216 pp. ISBN 978-0-415-39125-2. This second edition of a book originally published in 1994 is well-illustrated and contains a wealth of

archaeological evidence addressing aspects of Pompeii's urban form, ranging from town planning to the role of urban space in the 'production' of adult citizens. Pompeii is discussed in the context of other Roman cities and what is known of their planning. This edition is a significant revision of the first, on the basis of recent scholarly work. It includes two new chapters: one on the property market and one on citizenship, and a substantial revision of the chapters on public spaces and neighbourhoods. The book is richly illustrated with maps on a wide range of themes. One of the additions to the chapter on neighbourhoods is a map of wheel-rut depth in the city's streets, which Laurence uses to theorize about traffic patterns and the functions of different neighbourhoods. Other maps detail the locations of a wide range of land-use functions, from bakeries to brothels.

The Mellah of Marrakesh: Jewish and Muslim space in Morocco's Red City by *Emily Gottreich*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, IN, USA, 2007, 201 pp. ISBN: 0-254-21863-2. The walled Jewish quarter in Marrakesh is analysed here in its physical, social and cultural contexts. This distinctive urban district was first established during the mid-sixteenth century. Gottreich analyses the imprint of the relationships between Muslims and Jews in Marrakesh on the form of different spaces both within the city itself and in its hinterlands. She focuses on the distinctive character of Jewish settlements in Moroccan settlements (in comparison to European ghettos). The book is well illustrated with maps, photographs, and diagrams. One interesting aspect of the changing nature of this area is its transformation through population growth. In the mid-sixteenth century the Jewish quarter was one of the most attractive areas of the city, and housed less than 4000 people. By the early twentieth century, however, not only had flood damage and land expropriations diminished the size of the settlement, but the population had swelled to over 20 000. Gottreich uses this transformation as a starting point to analyse the changing nature of the city's urban form.