

Announcement of the award of an ISUF Bursary for evaluating the use of urban morphology in practice

The first bursary has been awarded to Mafalda Leite de Faria Coelho da Silva of the University of Porto for an evaluation of the urban morphological dimension of the *Plano Director Municipal* (PDM) of Porto and its contribution to the process of city building. The PDM was ratified and published in 2006. It proposed a regime of form-based zoning which identified ten types of tissue covering the whole municipal territory. In accordance with the main goal of maintaining the character of the city, the zone boundaries and regulations correspond, as far as possible, to the tissues identified in analysis.

The plan is available, in Portuguese at:

http://balcaovirtual.cmporto.pt/PT/cidadaos/guiatematico/info_geo/tpgr/pmot/PlanoDiretorMunicipal%28PDM%29/Paginas/PDM.aspx

The study will expand past research, in particular from an evaluation of the morphological dimension of this plan (Oliveira, 2006) and from an analysis of fifty planning applications approved following plan ratification. It will analyse how urban morphology has been used in Porto planning practice over the last six years, the extent to which the morphological contents of the plan (particularly in the regulatory code and in the zoning plan) have facilitated its operation, and finally the main strengths and weaknesses of the application of urban morphology in this Portuguese city

It is intended to have the project completed for presentation to the Brisbane ISUF conference this year.

Mafalda graduated from the University of Porto, Faculty of Sciences with a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Sciences and a Master's degree in Ecology, Environment and Territory. She has worked as a trainer of high-school students on a professional environmental course and as a field supervisor for a public institute financing agriculture. For the last three years, she has been working in CITTA, the Research Centre for Territory Transport and Environment, on the Sustainable Urban Metabolism for Europe (SUME) project, exploring the relation between the way cities are built and their demand for resources. She is also working on the EVIDENCE project dealing with analysis and decision support systems in planning, financed by the Portuguese Science and Technology Foundation. In this context she is working on Morpho, a methodology for assessing urban form.

The work will be supervised by Vítor Oliveira, assistant professor at the *Universidade Lusófona do Porto* and a researcher at CITTA, the Research Centre for Territory, Transports and Environment, in the Faculty of Engineering, University of Porto. He graduated in Architecture with an MSc in Planning and Design of the Built Environment, and a PhD in Civil Engineering from the University of Porto.

References

Oliveira, V. (2006) 'The Morphological Dimension of Municipal Plans', *Urban Morphology* 10, 101-113.

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Oxford, 30 March 2013

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