

Periurban Spatial Dynamics

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This study describes the evolution of the open space systems of five case studies from the urban fringe of Oporto Metropolitan Area, during fifty years of urban growth. It uses the cartographic redrawing technique to recreate their public space grids at four different moments, and space syntax to explore the configurational evolution of their spatial systems. Besides the confirmation of Space Syntax as a particularly relevant tool for the analysis and planning of suburban areas, the study conclusions include the clarification of the configurational differences between rural and urban grids, the evidence of different suburban growth patterns and the demonstration of a strong relation between such patterns and the evolution of the systems syntactic intelligibility.

Keywords: periurban; morphology; space syntax; intelligibility