

The study of urban form in CITTA

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Since the establishment of CITTA, the Research Centre for Territory, Transports and Environment, in the beginning of this decade, a systematic morphological research has been carried out in its Unit One.

The first part of the paper overviews different approaches in the study of urban form, paying particular attention to the Portuguese context. After defining the position of the research centre in the national context, the paper identifies the main approaches, theories, concepts, methods and techniques that are being used in CITTA's morphological research on the city of Oporto. Three aspects of the research deserve particular attention: i) the development of the cartographic redrawing method; ii) the link between two concepts established by the Conzenian School (morphological period) and by Space Syntax (integration); and finally, iii) the knowledge acquired on the morphogenetic history of Oporto.

The last part of the paper focuses, as it would be expectable due to the nature of the research centre, on moving from description and explanation to prescription, contributing as such for bringing city form back into planning.

Keywords: Urban morphology, urban form, Oporto, Conzenian school, space syntax