

Maputo: between density, fragmentation and formless?

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Maputo reveals [sub]contour lines stamped by individual self-forms. Express themselves on a very intricate territorial reality (marked by non definition – between formal and the informal), in which take root (and/or gravitate) particular microstructures (dwelling and productive-commercial) of urban [sub]forms between the infrastructure (fluxes, public/collective spaces and urban services) and the superstructure (of Nature, as major urban connection).

Exist the atrophy of the structural relation between project and city form, aggravating the fragility of the net of nexus established between types and programs, set on fluidity, fragmentation and on non calculated hazard, but with high creative potential – induced by imagination and spontaneity inherent to subjectivity, which conform renewal city forms, tested in different planning options (colonial and post colonial) such as image-plans, management-plans and structure-plans.

Reticular urban form allows linear and sequential lectures of structural morphological elements. On the other hand, today's prolific complex forms overlaps without precise limits as the ones of the colonial grid. The actual urban mosaic set the platform of uncertainty and the unforeseen. The city became so extensive and plural that it's no longer possible to look at Maputo as a polish structure.

The good city shape melts itself on a hybrid and solving composition in which its contour lines, as legible artefact (with unique identity and clear limits), were replace by the non determination of the urban space. Can one say that Maputo's city form is, simultaneously: compact city (density); sprawl city (fragmentation); city without form (formless)? The article will focus this question.

Keywords: Maputo city form, urban structure, compact city, fragmented city, city without form.