

Public Spaces Form: a possible analytical framework

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The discussion of urban form has gained particular relevance in the context of the exhaustion of the modernist city model. From the mid-50th century XX, several movements, relatively independent of each other, challenged the modernist city paradigm, and seek to overcome its increasingly obvious limitations: the type-morphological studies of urban fabric; analysis the urban landscape, the relationship between the configuration of urban spaces and their use and the movements of public participation.

Despite the relevance of some of the studies, such as those developed by Gordon Cullen, Edward Bacon, Kevin Lynch or Spiro Kostof, the analysis of urban landscape and in particular of its formal elements of composition have faced a systematic difficulty in establishing a framework for shared references, support for continued line of investigation.

This study aimed to build a framework of analysis of the elements of formal composition of public space built in the city of Oporto during the twentieth century. The aim is to use this framework as an instrument on analysis that will extend the discussion of the variables of its membership beyond the strict dichotomy between open / closed space. It is also our objective to create a lexicon to support the discussion of the transformation of public space, common to both laymen and professionals and to expand the discussion of public space beyond the limits of the defense and reaction covering a prepositional dimension.

This analytical framework will be built with the support of an interactive platform for viewing geo-referenced information with an Internet connection - Autocad Map 3D - which will allow to collect, organize and view statistical information and mapping, incorporating various types of data - maps, images and alphanumeric data. In this way we create an expandable base structure for public space analysis having as base the analytical framework and several operators GIS software.

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