

network structure, identified by Alastair Morrison in 1966. This book necessarily goes into some depth and detail on some of these issues, but the effort can bear fruit, by tackling certain problems at source.

To do so, this book combines two basic strands: the 'design debate', which is most directly related to the outward orientation of the book, and the 'nature of structure', which represents the theoretical 'interior'.

The first strand – 'the design debate' – relates to professional concerns about how the roles of the street may be reconciled, what forms of street pattern are desirable, and how they might be designed to create desirable functional urban layouts. The challenge of the design debate is introduced in Chapter 2.

The second strand is an in-depth investigation into 'the nature of structure', and how various structures may be described and analysed, and how such abstract structures underpin the urban and street patterns built out on the ground. The investigation of the nature of structure includes scrutiny of types of *street*, and the basis for their arrangement in 'hierarchies' (Chapter 3), types of *pattern*, and how they may be classified (Chapter 4); how streets may be represented and analysed as *routes* (Chapter 5) and as assemblies or patterns of *route structure* (Chapter 6). The different kinds of structural issue are then drawn into a single conceptual framework (Chapter 7), which in a sense represents the convergence and conclusion of the core research content of the book.

From here, design concerns phase in again, with advocacy for possible applications to practice, in terms of systems of *streets* (Chapter 8) and how these may be used to generate *patterns* (Chapter 9). The book ends with consideration of how the system developed can both support the existing 'good practice' of functional urbanism, as well as pointing towards the city of the future (Chapter 10).

BOX 1. ORGANISATION OF THE BOOK

A series of Boxes, one per Chapter, is used to highlight some key points or concepts that support the understanding of the rest of the book.

Chapters 1 to 7 each have a corresponding Appendix in which supporting material is presented.

Key terms are presented in a Glossary.