

Urban design is a legitimate concern for architects, planners and landscape architects. It is, therefore, reasonable that the subject matter of urban design should inform the curricula of those disciplines. Urban design, however, is itself a nascent discipline. That is, it is potentially the core subject area for University undergraduate degree courses leading to a qualification in that subject. For urban design to achieve respectability as a discipline it requires its own body of theoretical literature supported by research, its own history and method together with a wide range of techniques. Urban design has a large and distinguished body of theoretical works starting with the work of the subject's founding father, Camillo Sitte (1901). The first three volumes in this series on urban design aim to join that growing body of theoretical literature. The extent of the literature in this subject can be gauged by the bibliographies at the end of each of the three earlier volumes. This volume, however, does not include a bibliography, relying instead on references at the end of each chapter. There are books which can reasonably be defined as History of Urban Design, though many are an extension of the treatment of an allied subject such as architecture or city planning. Few books on history take the evolution of the design of urban public space as the main theme of the text, treating other matters such as city morphology or building design as subsidiary. Nevertheless, it could be argued that there is, indeed, a body of literature on the history of urban design. Similar arguments cannot be raised with regard to a literature of urban design method. This seems to be an almost totally neglected area. This book aims to introduce the topic to the reader. It is by no means an exhaustive treatment of urban

design method, being limited by length and by the interest and expertise of the authors. Individual techniques are not explored in depth since each technique could be, and in many cases has been, the subject matter of a specific book. Nevertheless, a number of techniques are illustrated by example or case study. Where techniques are discussed they are located within the structure of the design process. This book, therefore, aims to develop a logical framework for a process which includes problem definition, survey, analysis, concept generation, evaluation and implementation. It is this framework which is presented here as a discourse towards the development of an urban design method.

I have worked with three young practising environmental designers in the development and preparation of this manuscript. It is their expertise in the fields of aesthetic control, design brief formulation, environmental impact studies and project management which provides the practical background so important for a study of method and technique. Where possible, techniques have been illustrated by case studies, some of which draw on the experience of one of the authors. This book should be regarded as a practical guide, one which the authors themselves would have found useful as students or in the early years of their professional careers. The book has been organized so that each chapter can stand alone and can be read for purposes of reference. Each chapter provides guidance which, hitherto, students and practitioners in this field have had to discover for themselves, often with some difficulty, since methods and techniques for urban design is a broad topic thinly spread in published form.

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