

POLYTECHNIC OF TORINO  
FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE 1  
Degree in Architecture  
**Honors theses**

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**The streets and the concept of town: a way to evaluate urban configuration**

by Sara Demaria

Tutor: Franco Corsico

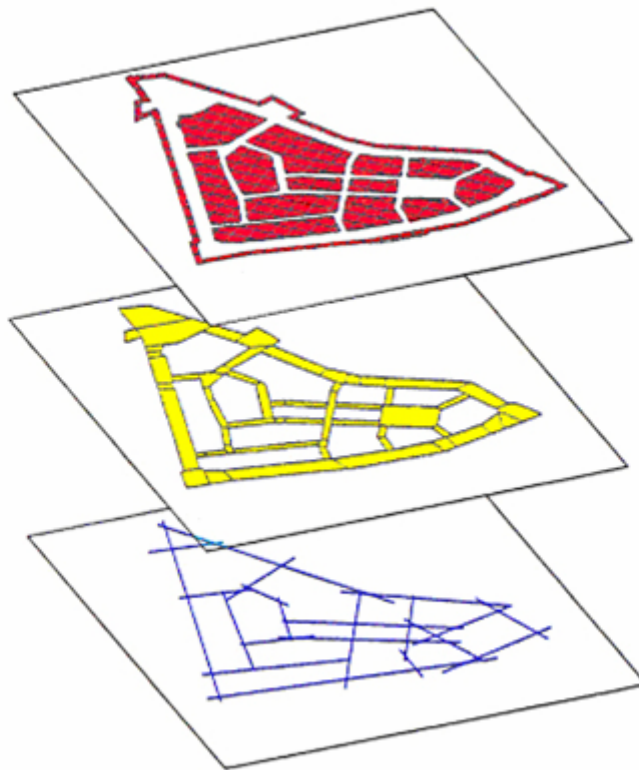
Co-tutor: Giuseppe Roccasalva

The relationship between town and street is certainly very close, and if we talk about streets as public, joint space, we will no doubt talk about towns. We cannot imagine a town with no streets. The thesis has its starting point in the author's interest in towns and built spaces designing, paying a particular attention towards the importance of urban distances – the streets – as morphologically well-founded constituents in Space Syntax.

If we examine the role of the street in Space Syntax, we find new and interesting sides, which suggest a new reading and provide a new meaning of the street: it is seen as a generative factor, a key element producing the morphological configuration.

Moreover it comes out that there is a basic relationship between space morphology and activities that people perform in public spaces – activities which influence social behaviour in towns.

The main aim of Space Syntax approach is to demonstrate that a relationship exists between architecture and space, space and society. The research that has been carried on in Space Syntax methodology demonstrated that space can be seen as a social resource. This is due to the syntax of its pattern. Research in Space Syntax deals with built environment – in specific cases the street – which is seen as the main variable.

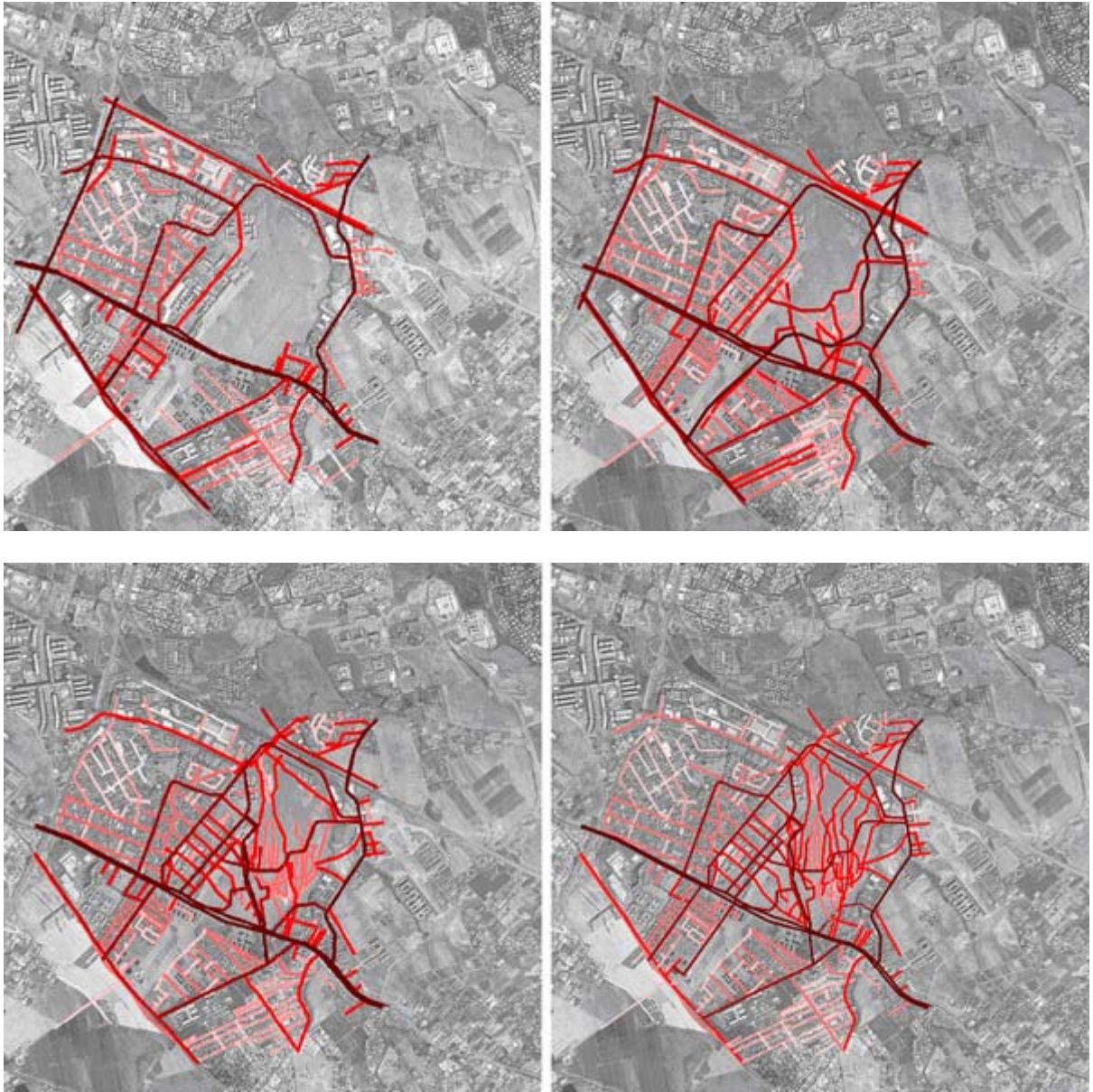


The representation of public space in Space Syntax: shift from the convex map to the axial map

Space Syntax theory has been first developed to be applied to the urban environment of streets in a town which we can define “compact”. However it can also be enlarged and worked out to be applied to other spaces in the town. The changes in modern towns can now be read through Space Syntax criteria. This program shows new elements and it proposes a new specific reading in the interpretation of open spaces.

The choice of having examined an intermediate urban structure is new in the application of Space Syntax methodologies: in particular, the urban structure which has been studied belongs to typical modern suburbs. The aim is to recreate those values of modern towns, to keep and to increase the value of typical suburbs features – for example, open spaces.

In the conclusion of the thesis, the author wants to demonstrate some fields in which Space Syntax methodologies can be applied in unusual way: it has been shown that open spaces have the important task of linking and integrating the surrounding urban structure, creating in this way links between new centralities.



Synthesis of processing by Axial Map on Romanina Area

In the open space of suburbs, the distances which are not destined to cars tend to be conceived as cycle-lanes or for pedestrians alleys which have nothing to do with the context. We usually think of open spaces as lonely places, which people rarely use. For this reason the author has thought of considering open spaces from a different point of view: *from the outside to the inside*. Applying Space Syntax methodology we can see that an appropriate configuration of open spaces is sufficient to improve the integration among different elements in a larger context: we can think, for example, of cycle-lanes as a connecting element of a larger area.

This application wants to be the first – original – attempt to bring innovations to Space Syntax methodology and it shows that this theory can be a good aid in the analysis of spatial configuration of towns.

For further information, e-mail:

Sara Demaria: [sara.demaria@gmail.com](mailto:sara.demaria@gmail.com)