



CHALMERS

## Theories in Spatial Morphology

ECTS credits: 5.0 + 2.5

Level: PhD

Grading: P/F

Language: English

Course leader: Lars Marcus ([lars.marcus@chalmers.se](mailto:lars.marcus@chalmers.se))

Course coordinator: Meta Berghauser Pont ([meta.berghauserpont@chalmers.se](mailto:meta.berghauserpont@chalmers.se))

Urban space is the primary medium whereby urban processes are structured and shaped in urban design. The field of spatial morphology is therefore critical for research in urban design; as a means to support future urban design, as a means to deepen our understanding of the performance of cities both as wholes and in their parts, and as a means to understand the evolution and development of cities over time. This course gives a comprehensive introduction to the field of theory in spatial morphology with some in-depth investigations on particular contemporary theories.

### Objectives

The objectives of the course are to give PhD-students a good introduction to the field as a whole and its history and origins so that they will be able to position their own work as well as others in relation to different directions and traditions within the field. The students will also be given a developed presentation of the principal traditions of the field with emphasis on some contemporary theories with particular interest for architectural research. The second module will give an introduction to spatial morphology as a research methodology where the students will be given opportunities to develop ideas and reflect on how this could be applied and be made to support their own PhD-projects.

## Syllabus

The course is based on a series of lectures/seminars that addresses central topics in the field of spatial morphology, stressing academic context, historical development, critical traditions, current trends and methodological application. The format will be combined lectures and seminars.

The course consists of two modules with the following objectives: (i) spatial morphology – history and contemporary directions (ii) spatial morphology as a research methodology.

A central point of departure in the first module is the exchange and tension between the two major fields concerned with urban space: Architecture and Geography. Particular attention will be given the traditions Theory in Urbanism, Spatial Morphology, Spatial Analysis, Space Syntax and Spacematrix. Students will be asked to write a paper where they reflect on the notion of *space* in urban studies.

During the second module we will particularly address the methodological use of spatial morphology in research, where the students with their research projects as point of departure will discuss and present ideas on how this can be applied in these projects. This will also be the theme of a paper assignments.

After taking the course the students should be able to:

### Module 1 (5.0 ECTS)

- Recognise the origins, history and major traditions in the field of spatial morphology.
- Have an understanding for the position of spatial morphology in a context of urban and architecture theory.
- Have an understanding of the methods and theories of two contemporary directions in the field of spatial morphology: space syntax and spacematrix.

### Module 2 (2.5 ECTS)

- Have a good understanding of spatial morphology as a research methodology.
- Apply the methods and theories of two contemporary directions in the field of spatial morphology: space syntax and spacematrix.

## Schedule

	Module	Lectures/seminars	Paper deadline	Venue
1	Spatial morphology – history and contemporary directions	12 October 13:00 - 13 October 17:00  16 November 13:00 - 17 November 17:00	7 December 2016	Chalmers Architecture, Gothenburg
2	Spatial morphology as a research methodology	14 December 13:00 - 15 December 17:00	11 January 2017	Chalmers Architecture, Gothenburg

## Exam requirements

Lectures and seminars inclusive pre-course assignments and writing of paper.

## Participation

The course is open for the ResArc doctoral students as well as other doctoral students. The course is limited to 16 students (minimum amount of 5 students). Enrolled ResArc students will have priority if the number of applicants exceeds this limit. Module 2 can only be attended after finishing module 1.

## Application

Give your name, e-mail address, affiliation, the title of your thesis (project), if you are enrolled ResArc student and which module(s) are you applying for using the following link <http://www.chalmers.se/sv/institutioner/arch/forskning/Forskarutbildning/Sidor/Application-to-Theories-in-Spatial-Morphology-.aspx>

Deadline for registration is Monday the 19th of September 2016. Please register for module 1 or for the block consisting of modules 1 and 2.

## Literature (preliminary)

David Harvey. (2006). "Space as Keyword" in, D. Harvey, *Spaces of Global Capitalism - Towards a Theory of Uneven Geographical Development*, Verso, Londres, pp. 119-148.

Bill Hillier. (1996). "Cities as movement economies" in, B. Hillier, *Space is the machine*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK, pp. 149-182.

Leslie Martin & Lionel March (1972). "The grid as generator", in, L. Martin & L. March, *Urban space and structures*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK, pp. 6-27

Berghauer Pont, M. and Haupt, P. (2010). *Spacematrix. Space, density and urban form*, NAI Publishers, Rotterdam.

Hillier, B. & Hanson, J. (1984). *Social Logic of Space*, Cambridge University Press.

Martin, L. and March, L. (1972). *Urban space and structures* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).

Gauthier, P. and Gilliland, J. (2006). 'Mapping urban morphology: a classification scheme for interpreting contributions to the study of urban form', *Urban Morphology*, 10(1).

Kropf, K. (2009). 'Aspects of urban form', *Urban Morphology*, 13(2), 105-120.

Moudon, A. (1997). 'Urban morphology as an emerging interdisciplinary field', *Urban morphology*, 1, 3-10.

Pinho P. and Oliveira V. (2009). 'Different approaches in the study of urban form', *Journal of Urbanism 2*: 103-125.

Whitehand, J. (2012). 'Issues in urban morphology', *Urban Morphology*, 16(1), 55-65.