

# Theories in Urban Morphologies

7.5 credits

F1A5040

## Course description / Course PM

### *Introduction*

The course Theories in Urban Morphologies gives a comprehensive introduction to theories and methodologies in urban morphology as a research field, with some in-depth investigations on particular contemporary theories. The course will also include some practical exercises to help introduce students to urban morphological analysis, and how they can include them in their research work.

### *Objectives*

The objectives of the course are to give the PhD-students a rich introduction to the field as a whole and its histories and origins so that they will be able to position their own work as well as that of others in relation to different directions and traditions within the field. The students will also be introduced to the principal traditions of the field and more closely familiarized with some contemporary theories with particular interest for architectural research. The course is structured in three thematic modules: Architectural & Urban Morphology, Urban Form & Spatial Analysis, and Urban Studies and Spatial Theories. There will be a principal introduction to urban morphological research methods after which students will be able to identify how different traditions understand and work with urban form. Through opportunities to develop ideas and reflect on how urban methodology could be applied in research work, the students will be able to see how these theories and methods can be made to support their own PhD-projects.

After taking the course the students should be able to:

- Recognise the origins, history and major traditions in the field of urban morphology
- Have a certain familiarity with a couple of the major contemporary directions in the field of architectural and urban morphology;
- Have a good understanding of urban morphology as a research methodology
- Have an understanding for the position of urban morphology in a context of urban and architecture theory

### *Syllabus*

The course is taking place at KTH Architecture in Stockholm, and is structured in three main modules: Architecture & Urban Morphology, Urban Form & Spatial Analysis, and Urban Studies & Spatial Theories. Between these three occasions there are follow up sessions on Zoom, and the course finishes with an assignment where students choose their individual focus by primarily addressing the content of one of the modules. Each module includes lectures, literature seminars and assignments. A central focus is to elaborate on the fields concerned with urban space: architecture and geography. Particular attention will be given the traditions urban morphology, architectural morphology, spatial analysis, space syntax theory, which are

contextualized in relation to a wider field of urban studies. Lectures and seminars will address the theories, histories, and methodological use of urban morphology in research and the students will be given the opportunity to apply such method in their ongoing PhD-research projects. Each module will build on preparatory reading but also have one short assignment linked to the theme, and students will get the chance to develop their ideas etc. in an in-depth assignments addressing one of the themes/modules.

#### *Exam requirements*

Lectures, seminars and minor assignments (4,5 p)  
Writing of paper/Assignment (3 p).

#### *Literature*

Literature will distributed before the course starts.

#### *Registration*

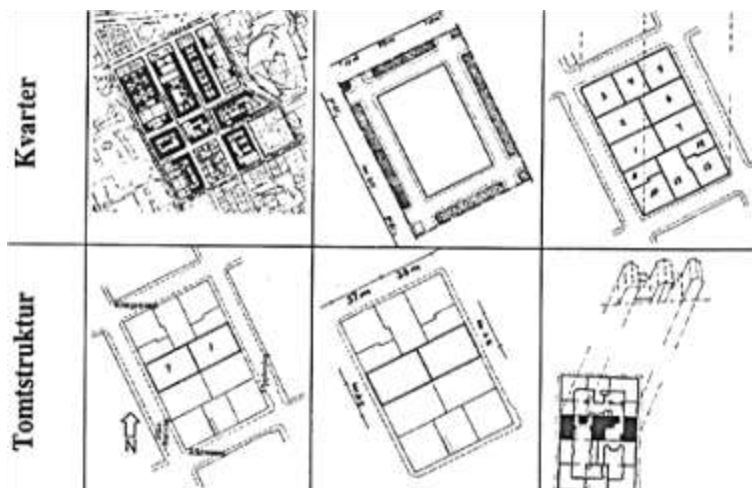
ann.legeby@arch.kth.se

#### *Dates*

Module 1: 10-11 February, Architectural & Urban Morphology  
Module 2: 14-15 March: Urban Form & Spatial Analysis  
Module 3: 31 March-1 April: Urban Studies and Spatial Theories  
Module 4: 22 April: Final meeting, presentation of paper/assignment (Zoom).

#### *Teaching organisation/team*

Daniel Koch, Chen Feng, and Ann Legeby at KTH in collaboration with Meta Berghauser Pont and Lars Marcus at CTH.



Abdella Abarkan 2003. Bebyggelsemönster och stadsmorfologi. Stockholm: KTH.

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## Course description / Course PM addendum

While each module will have specific literature tied to it, all participants will also be expected to read *one* book in the wider area of Architectural, Spatial and Urban Morphology. The choice is open, but provide a list of suggestions below. The book reading will be bookended by a small discussion about the books and choice of book in the first meeting, and a seminar at the end of the course where you make a brief presentation of the book for fellow course participants followed by discussions. You thus do not have to choose before the course, the list is provided for you to be able to begin considering before the course starts.

Why you read the book you choose is up to you. If you consider a book not in the list we ask that you confirm with the course leaders, and if you have particular interests relevant to the course, we may be able to help find an alternative. We advise against anthologies and collections, since the purpose is reading through a longer, more cohesive theoretical work.

- Berghauer Pont, Meta & Per Haupt, *Spacematrix: space, density and urban form* (NAI, 2010).
- Choay, Francois, *The rule and the model* (MIT Press, 1997).
- Conzen, M.R.G., *Thinking about urban form: papers on urban morphology, 1932-1998* (Peter Lang, 2004)
- Dovey, Kim, *Framing places: Mediating Power in Built Form* (Routledge, 1999)
- Hanson, Julianne, *Decoding Homes and Houses* (Cambridge University Press, 1998)
- Hillier, Bill and Julianne Hanson, *The Social Logic of Space* (Cambridge University Press, 1984).
- Hillier, Bill, *Space is the Machine: a configurative theory of architecture* (Cambridge University Press, 1996).
- Komossa, Susanne, *The Dutch Urban Block and The Public Realm: Models, rules, ideals* (Vantilt, 2010)
- Lynch, Kevin, *The image of the city* (MIT Press, Cambridge, MA, 1960)
- Maffei, Luigi & Gianfranco Caniggia, *Interpreting Basic Buildings* (Altralinea Edizioni, 2017 [2001])
- Malfroy, Sylvain & Gianfranco Caniggia, *A Morphological Approach to Cities and Their Regions* (Triest Verlag, 2021 )
- Markus, Thomas A., *Buildings & Power: freedom and control in the origin of modern building types* (Routledge, 1993)
- Panerai, Phillippe, Jean Castex, Jean Charles Depaule & Ivor Samuels, *Urban Forms: Death and Life of the Urban Block* (Routledge, 2004)
- Psarra, Sophia, *The Venice Variations: Tracing the Architectural Imagination* (UCL Press, 2018)
- Steadman, Philip, *Building Types and Built Form* (Matador, 2014)
- Torres García, Miguel, *Seville: through the urban void* (Routledge, 2017)
- Vernez Moudon, Anne, *Built for Change: Neighborhood Architecture in San Francisco* (MIT Press, 1986)
- Wilson, A.G., *Complex urban systems*, (Prentice Hall, Edinburgh Gate, 2000).