

Urbanism in the Making

A handbook of survival

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Abstract

Urbanization is increasing uncontrollably with accelerating speed and the problems this is causing can be seen at the symptoms they produce. Gentrification, sprawl, slums, ecological disasters, psychological effects on people are some of many problems having to do with cities. Majority of the problems appeared after industrialization and most have not been dealt with and many more are emerging. As this situation continues, urbanism is gaining a lot of attention from theorists, scholars, and people around the world, as the field that studies the phenomenon of urbanization and the urban environment. However, urbanism, as a concept, is not clearly determined and as developed as the pace in which urbanization grows and the theories seem to lack awareness of the size of the issue. Urbanism remains passive to the contemporary problems that are appearing, because by the time a theory is providing strategies to solve existing problems, new ones are emerging. Adding to this, what urbanism is and how it is implemented are still vague questions with even more vague answers. Through my research, I did not find a clear, and acceptable by all, definition of urbanism and that shows the complexity of the subject. This is an issue that has contributed, together with the magnificent speed that cities have grown with, to the borders between urban and rural disappearing. The result is a situation that cannot be described yet, but must become a source of research within urbanism, in the upcoming decades.

This research first tackles the questions of what urban and urbanism is, to later proceed to what urbanism is concerned with. The goal is to orient oneself to the making of urbanism. A detailed cataloging of all the theories that have emerged through the years in a historical and thematic context shows what the trend has been through the decades and which problems urbanism as a broad term has decided to work with. The hope is that there will appear a pattern that can teach all new urbanists about the history of the profession and the mistakes that have been made, so that in the future the discourse about urbanism can be made on more solid grounds and on pragmatic problem solution rather than futuristic hopes and assumptions. This research will reach contemporary years so that it can be understood where the field is headed to. Successively, it is an insight into where cities might be headed, if solution finding tackles problems that appeared in the past, up to contemporary ones and the possible ones that might appear in the future.

Urbanism is a field of research and is in constant movement and in evolution. Therefore, this research is aware that by the time of its publication it will already be outdated. Nevertheless, the goal for this research is to provide a stepping stone to further research within the field.

Definition of Urbanism

Urbanism is a concept that is difficult to define. Some definitions try to determine it by describing it in detail and some are purposely vague, enhancing the idea that this subject is very complex and difficult to grasp. The table below (Figure 1) shows some definitions that were found during my research but none of them actually define urbanism in its overall meaning.

The interesting thing about urbanism is that it inherits both theory and practice. A definition of urbanism must provide in its description these two parts.

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the character of life in the cities; urban life, organization, problems, etc. 2. the character of life in the cities; urban life, organization, problems, etc. 3. movement of the population to, or concentration of the population in, the cities <p style="text-align: right;">- Webster's New World College Dictionary</p>	<p>- Urbanism is the study of cities - their geographic, economic, political, social and cultural environment, and the imprint of all these forces on the built environment.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- Old Wikipedia definition</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The culture or way of life of city dwellers. 2. Urbanization. 3. The theory of city planning. <p style="text-align: right;">- The American Heritage Dictionary</p>	<p>- Urbanism is the study of the characteristic ways of interaction of inhabitants of urban areas with the built environment. It is a direct component of disciplines such as urban planning and urban sociology.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- New Wikipedia definition</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the study of cities, their geographic, economic, political, social and cultural environment 2. the culture or way of life of people who live in cities 3. urbanization <p style="text-align: right;">- English Wiktionary</p>	<p>-Urbanism means that we should use urban principles based on walkability and placemaking to design and build communities.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">-The Gazette.</p>

Table 1: Definitions of Urbanism

The most consistent definition of urbanism comes from a sociologist in 1938. Louis Wirth describes urbanism as a *"characteristic mode of life that may be approached empirically from three interrelated perspectives: (1) as a **physical structure** comprising a population base, a technology, and an ecological order; (2) as a **system of social organization** involving a characteristic social structure, a series of social institutions, and a typical pattern of social relationships; and (3) as a **set of attitudes and ideas**, and a constellation of personalities engaging in typical forms of collective behavior and subject to characteristic mechanisms of social control."*

(L. Wirth, Urbanism as a Way of Life, The American Journal of Sociology, Vol. 44, No. 1. (Jul., 1938), pp. 18-19)

Although Louis Wirth came up with this definition in 1938 and envisioned the urban environment according to that times ideas, his definition explains very well which perspectives must be considered when discussing urbanism. Urbanism is an approach to life in cities, which is the result of social concentration, masses of people gathering to create societies. It researches this behavior and its needs for a sustainable existence. Since this behavior has existed for as long as humankind, consequently urbanism has been a topic of thought and practice from the very beginning. Thus, as humankind evolves, so does urbanism.

This can be experienced in the multitude of urban environments in the planet, both in a historical and a geographical context. As a physical structure, as Louis Wirth described one of its perspectives, it is always in development. A multitude of different urban environments have existed throughout mankind's existence on this planet and it constantly evolves as it takes advantage of the newest technology. The perfect city has been a subject of speculation for many hundreds of years. Cities that started as small towns grew organically, other cities were built new, based on Hippodamus system, and others bear signs of many different layouts of urban planning. However, urban planning has always tried to adapt to the advances of humankind in technology, philosophy and arts. Renaissance provided A major change in urban planning occurred after the industrialization. The ability to harness nature gave humans the power over it and added a new use in cities, that of the industrial production. Since then, rational logic has been dominant in the thought process behind urban planning. This rationality affected the whole world and all the fields of human creation, through modernism.

As a system of social organization, urbanism approaches the effects this has on urban life. A common example is the analysis of different effects capitalistic societies and communistic societies have had on their environment. The change of political hierarchy in countries, from right to left and vice versa can be seen on social benefits and their approach to urban planning policies. On the other hand, social patterns can change the nature of a place. Some places concentrate high social dynamics and as such constitute very important urban spaces. Cities change societies and societies change cities. Thus urbanism in the perspective of social organization is dynamic.

Urbanism as a set of attitudes and ideas, describes what Louis Wirth, observed in his time, as collective social behavior. He saw a difference between urban and rural people, which then, at the start of the urbanizing world was very evident. By now, these differences are small and constantly declining. However, in the aspect of collective social behavior the cities act as hubs of such behaviors. In places with larger masses of people, there is higher probability of finding common social ideas and creating social norms. The cities create dynamic social existence, between different and counter acting ideas which in turn shape the places around them.

“Urbanism is seen by many as a special way of living, although types of urbanism have existed for centuries. Always, however, urbanism has been dynamic, always to some degree extending its influence outward. But modern urbanism is even more dynamic and more outreaching in character” p.2

(Anderson N., Aspects of Urbanism and Urbanization, Bonn, Germany, from Urbanism and Urbanization by Ishwaran K., International Journal of Comparative Sociology, Vol. IV, No. 2, Leiden, E. J. Brill, Netherlands, 1963, p.1-6)

Urbanism is a concept that must be impartial. Yet the theories about urbanism either describe a condition, problematic at most, or suggests a solution, all based on the context it is provided with. Therefore, there are minimal instances of theories discussing urbanism in its entirety. Most of them focus on one aspect of a problem or a possible solution, sometimes both. At the speeding rate of urbanization, it has remained stable, offering only theoretical and philosophical approaches to a situation whose effects are increasing upon the population and the planet.

Urbanization can be defined as a population shift from rural to urban areas, or else to say the gradual increase in the proportion of people living in urban areas, and the ways in which each society adapts to change. The world's population is becoming increasingly urban. 2007 is the year usually reckoned to be the turning point when city dwellers formed the majority of the global population for the first time in history. Today, 54 per cent of the world's population lives in urban areas, a proportion that is expected to increase to 66 per cent by 2050. Projections show that urbanization combined with the overall growth of the world's population could add another 2.5 billion people to urban populations by 2050, with close to 90 percent of the increase concentrated in Asia and Africa, according to a new United Nations report launched in 2014.

(Source: UN Online, 10 July 2014, World's population increasingly urban with more than half living in urban areas)

The importance of Urbanism

The insufficiency of Urbanism



Picture 1: Urbanism is passive, as paintings on a wall (credit: author)

Rem Koolhaas, in his paper "What Ever Happened to Urbanism", criticizes its inability to act. *"Urbanism, as a profession, has disappeared at the moment when urbanization everywhere – after decades of constant acceleration – is on its way to establishing a definitive, global "triumph" of the urban condition."*

(R. Koolhaas, "What Ever Happened to Urbanism?" (1994), in S,M,L,XL, OMA, (with Bruce Mau), The Monicelli Press, New York, 1995, pp. 959/971.)

The speed with which urbanization is growing is increasing with every year. Urbanization isn't a concept that is connected to cities but rather to the urban mode of life. This mode started from the first time the human species created settlements. It continued growing from villages to towns and cities. Human interaction expanded this concept even more into a globalized image of the city, as it can be seen in contemporary years. The urban mode of life has been exported with ship voyages and the colonies throughout the early centuries of exploration, with conquests and wars and lastly political and economic influences. All these issues have had a great impact upon the world, not to mention the cities. The overall effects of urbanization affect the whole planet. Scientific researches prove the connection of urban mode of life to effects such as the climate change. This uncontrollable force causes many more disastrous problems. The multitude of these problems and the magnitude of their seriousness is not equally observed on the evolution of urbanism as a concept. Urbanism progressed slowly but very methodical and organized until the age of industrialization. This progress brought forth the concept of the masterplan

which was designed by technocrats. This theory was later described as rational urbanism. This continued strongly throughout the movement of modernism but changed as more examples of failed urban designs emerged. As a reaction to rational urbanism, new theories such as new urbanism, landscape urbanism, cooperative urbanism, and tactical urbanism became the most widely accepted theories. However, the speed of urbanization was not equally matched by the speed of the evolutionary theories of urbanism. This resulted in some extraordinary examples of urbanism but also to many of the urban problems the cities are facing today. It is the bad examples that are showing the importance but also the insufficiency of current discussion about urbanism. These are four chosen examples from the world that have different causes but they all culminate to the importance of urbanism.



Example 1: Mexico City (Online Source Reddit: FOTO: OVER)

Example 1: Mexico City

The image of Mexico City Sprawl presents the example of **uncontrolled urban planning** and constructions **made by contractors**. In 1900, the population of Mexico City was about 500.000. It has reached 9 million people in 2015. This example shows that without policies and building regulations a dystopian urban form like this one is taking place. The cause, in this example, is the lack of supervision and control from officials on the ongoing problem of overpopulation. In this case, urbanism is letting private contractors to profit from this problem by urbanizing the landscape. The urban form is chaotic with scattered constructions without public spaces.



Example 2: Slums in Dharavi, Mumbai of India (photo credit: Geography Blogs)

Example 2: Slums in Dharavi, Mumbai, India

The image of Dharavi in India shows the example of **uncontrolled urban planning** and construction **made by people**. Dharavi slum was founded during the British colonial era. The slum grew because of an expulsion of factories and residents from the peninsular city center by the colonial government, and from rural poor migrating into urban Mumbai. It is a multi-religious, multi-ethnic, diverse settlement with a total population close to 1 million. Dharavi has suffered from many epidemics and other disasters yet is one of the most productive areas (*BBC Online, Life in a Slum*). It is a different dystopian urban form this time created by people. This example shows that passiveness to the overpopulation of cities is leading people to take control and find solutions themselves by creating new urban areas in the form of slums. These areas do not provide a good quality of life for the people nor is it providing the city with an efficient expansion of housing.



Example 3: Urban Sprawl in Rio Rancho, New Mexico, USA (Wikimedia Commons photo by Brady Salazar)

Example 3: Urban Sprawl in Rio Rancho, New Mexico, USA

The image of Rio Rancho in United States of America shows the example of **controlled urbanism** and construction **made by contractors**. Rio Rancho was created as a housing development in the 1960s. Most of the inhabitants came from big cities. It is the third-largest and also one of the fastest expanding cities in New Mexico with a population close to 100.000 people. USA have a long history of implementing new ideas of urbanism. Urban sprawl, as seen here in Rio Rancho, is a concept that has been criticized much over the years. Its problems are visible by the dependency of this area on the use of the car, the lack of public spaces and a sense of community. This picture shows how urbanism, in favor of cars, can create new areas in the desert where only infrastructure connects them to the world. In this case, officials, planning regulations and contractors cooperated and all agreed on this form. Even so, a multitude of problems is present and the fact that this area is still existing and growing can only be explained by sociological factors.



© Greg Girard and Ian Lambot

Example 4: Kowloon City, Hong Kong, China (credit: Greg Girard, Ian Lambot)

Example 4: Kowloon City, Hong Kong, China

The image of Kowloon City is an example of **semi-controlled urbanism** and construction **made by people** with help from developers. Previously a Chinese military land, English rule surrounded it. Settlers built these buildings and kept adding constructions on top of it until it housed over 30,000 people in 300 buildings. Urbanism is present, even in a distorted way by the existence of planned areas in the upper corner of the image, yet it is absent in the management of the city block of Kowloon City. It is inside the city, yet still outside of it. The construction can be described as an urban settlement, which unlike the slums is imitating urban city form.

These examples are examples of urbanism. Urbanism is always existent, and it needs to prevent situations like the examples shown before. Urbanism must help in the creation of effective places. Urbanism must not be perceived as something static, like a painting on an exhibition, finished and ready to be presented in an understandable way (Picture 1). Urbanism must have in its definition the notion of action. Urbanism is a sum of many conditions that create livable environments. These conditions are evolving, and urbanism must incorporate that into its concept. This is the notion of action through time that should be considered along with every other condition when examining and implementing designs of urbanism. The examples of the two paintings show that duration needs to be added to the equation of urbanism. Duration in time means that urbanism caters for today but also for tomorrow. Therefore, a

painting closer to the work of Jackson Pollock (Picture 2) describes urbanism more accurately. If this can be imagined as a moving picture where drips of color are being added and removed throughout time, then somehow, the definition of urbanism can be grasped.



Picture 2: Jackson Pollock: Drip Painting, 1951. Woodshed Art Auctions.

Fragmentation of Urbanism

The multitude of approaches

“**New Urbanism** is an urban design movement that originated in the United States of America in the 1980s. It intends to promote a sustainable urban environment and calls for a return to the classic principles of town planning. It opposes to modernist city design and the urban sprawl.

(Barnett, 1996; Duany, Plater-Zyberk, Speck, 2000; Rykwert, 2000)

“**Landscape urbanism** offers an implicit critique of architecture and urban design’s inability to offer coherent, competent, and convincing explanations of contemporary urban conditions. In this context, the discourse surrounding landscape urbanism can be read as a disciplinary realignment in which landscape supplants architecture’s historical role as the basic building block of urban design.”

(Waldheim 2006, 37)

“**Participatory urbanism** promotes new styles and methods for individual citizens to become proactive in their involvement with their city, neighborhood, and urban self-reflexivity.”

(Foth, 2008,420)

“**Tactical Urbanism.** Short-term, community-based projects - from pop-up parks to open streets initiatives - have become a powerful and adaptable new tool of urban activists, planners, and policy-makers seeking to drive lasting improvements in their cities and beyond. These quick, often low-cost, and creative projects are the essence of the Tactical Urbanism movement.”

(Mike Lydon, Anthony Garcia, 2015)

It is very important to take in account every drop of color that creates the painting of urbanism without forgetting to discuss the whole. Urbanism is a concept that has always been in discussion but has lost its cohesion through the decades. Ever since the critique on the rational urbanism model started, new theories of urbanism have emerged. As discussed previously they all emerged as a form of dissatisfaction with the previous model. The most notable are in historical appearance, **new urbanism, landscape urbanism, participatory urbanism (tactical urbanism)** in the most recent years. The discussion on the insufficiency of urbanism and its failures is always welcome and new ideas are agreeably good. However, it is very wrong to discuss urbanism only through the dissatisfaction of it. There are more than three hundred different new typologies of urbanism (not all of them scientifically accepted) and all of them are created out of the dissatisfaction of former models. When a subject has not been discussed, or has not been given the attention needed, then a new theory emerges. This birth of new theories does not always come with the idea of common good, but sometimes the egomania of people drives them to produce new theories to stir conversation that can draw attention to their profession. This has led to the fragmentation of urbanism and is, responsible for its inability to remain a flexible and versatile problem-solving concept. The need to have a holistic, inclusive model for urbanism is evident by the multitude of the approaches that it consists of. By this date I have counted 294 theories about urbanism.

Alphabetic list of Urbanisms:

2nd Rate Urbanism
Accessible Urbanism
Adaptive Urbanism
Advanced Urbanism
Aerial Urbanism
Aftermath Urbanism
Aggregate Urbanism
Agora Urbanism
Agrarian Urbanism
Agricultural Urbanism
Airport Urbanism
American Urbanism
Anti-Urbanism
Aqua Urbanism
Arctic Urbanism
Armature Urbanism
Asset Urbanism
Augmented Urbanism
Barrio Urbanism
Beautiful Urbanism
Behavioral Urbanism
Bicycle Urbanism
Big Urbanism
Big Box Urbanism
Binational Urbanism
Bingo Urbanism
Biophilic Urbanism
Biopoetic Urbanism
BioUrbanism
Black Urbanism
BLVD Urbanism
Blue Urbanism
Blockbuster Urbanism
Bootstrap New Urbanism
Border Urbanism
Braided Urbanism
Brand Urbanism
Bricole Urbanism
Brutal Urbanism
Bypass Urbanism
Capsular Urbanism
Cinematic Urbanism
Clean Urbanism
Cloud Urbanism
Cognitive Urbanism
Collaborative Urbanism
Colonial Urbanism
Combinatory Urbanism
Communal Urbanism
Compact Urbanism
Comparative Urbanism
Computational Urbanism
Conscious Urbanism
Consumer-based Urbanism
Container Urbanism
Contested Urbanism
Cosmopolitan Urbanism
Creative Urbanism
Crisis Urbanism
Critical Urbanism
Cultural Urbanism
Cyclic Urbanism
Decentralized Urbanism
Delta Urbanism
Denied Urbanism
Dialectical Urbanism
Digital Urbanism
Direct Urbanism
Disconnected Urbanism
Distributed Urbanism
Disurbanism
DIY Urbanism
Domestic Urbanism
Domic Urbanism
Drive-By Urbanism
Drive-to Urbanism
Dynamic Urbanism
Dystopian Urbanism
Ecological Urbanism
Ecosystemic Urbanism
Editable Urbanism
Editing Urbanism
Educational Urbanism
Electronic Urbanism
Emergent Urbanism
Engaged Urbanism
Entrepreneurial Urbanism
Ephemeral Urbanism
Episodic Urbanism
Equitable Urbanism
Ethical Urbanism
Everyday Urbanism
Nomadic Urbanism
Non Urbanism
Nonconforming Urbanism
Now Urbanism
Nuclear Urbanism
European Urbanism
Evolutionary Urbanism
Exotic Urbanism
Experimental Urbanism
Fast Forward Urbanism
Field Urbanism
Fine-Grained Urbanism
Food Urbanism
Forest Urbanism
Fractal Urbanism
Free Market Urbanism
Free Cell Urbanism
Freedom Urbanism
French Urbanism
Future Urbanism
Galactic Urbanism
Game Urbanism
Gated Urbanism
Generic Urbanism
GeoUrbanism
Geographical Urbanism
Global Urbanism
Good Urbanism
***Google Earth** Urbanism
Greater Urbanism
Green Urbanism
Green Wedge Urbanism
Growing Urbanism
Guerrilla Urbanism
Gypsy Urbanism
Handmade Urbanism
Hands-On Urbanism
Healthy Urbanism
Heritage Urbanism
Heterotopian Urbanism
Hidden Urbanism
High-Tech Urbanism
Holistic Urbanism
Holobiont Urbanism
Holy Urbanism
Hybrid Urbanism
Immanent Urbanism
Inclusive Urbanism
Incomplete Urbanism
Independent Urbanism
Indigenous Urbanism
Industrial Urbanism
Informal Urbanism
Infrastructural Urbanism
Instant Urbanism
Insurgent Urbanism
Integral Urbanism
Intelligent Urbanism

Intercultural Urbanism
Interior Urbanism
Introvert Urbanism
Inverted Urbanism
***iPhone** Urbanism
Irresponsible Urbanism
Islamic Urbanism
Jacobsean Urbanism
Kinetic Urbanism
Knowledge Urbanism
Landscape Urbanism
Layered Urbanism
Lean Urbanism
Life Urbanism
Light Urbanism
Lite Urbanism
Living Urbanism
Magical Urbanism
Market Urbanism
Mechanized Urbanism
Mediterranean Urbanism
Messy Urbanism
Micro Urbanism
Middle Class Urbanism
Military Urbanism
Minor Urbanism
Medieval Urbanism
Mobile Urbanism
Most Valuable Urbanism
Multicultural Urbanism
***MySpace** Urbanism
Network Urbanism
Neoliberal Urbanism
Neo Medieval Urbanism
New Suburbanism
Next Urbanism
Next American Urbanism
Noir Urbanism
New Urbanism
New American Urbanism
New Media Urbanism
Occupancy Urbanism
Olympic Urbanism
Open Source Urbanism
Opportunistic Urbanism
Opportunity Urbanism
P2P Urbanism
Pacification Urbanism
Paid Urbanism
Parametric Urbanism
Participatory Urbanism
Permanent Urbanism
Petro Urbanism

Planetary Urbanism
Political Urbanism
Pop-Up Urbanism
Post Urbanism
Post-Colonial Urbanism
Post-Critical Urbanism
Posthuman Urbanism
Post-Ideological Urbanism
Postmodern Urbanism
Post-Oil Urbanism
Post-Traumatic Urbanism
Potential Urbanism
Pre-War American Urbanism
Propagative Urbanism
Provocative Urbanism
Queer anti-Urbanism
Quasi-Urbanism
Radical Urbanism
Rational Urbanism
Real Urbanism
Recombinant Urbanism
Re-cyclical Urbanism
Regional Urbanism
Relational Urbanism
Resilient Urbanism
Retrofit Urbanism
Retrofuture Urbanism
ReUrbanism
Revanchist Urbanism
Riparian Urbanism
Rogue Urbanism
Roman Urbanism
Ruled Urbanism
Rural Urbanism
Sea Urbanism
Second Rate Urbanism
Sensorial Urbanism
Sensory Urbanism
Serene Urbanism
Situational Urbanism
Slow Urbanism
Slum Urbanism
Slumdog Urbanism
Small Urbanism
Smart Urbanism
Social Urbanism
Socially Restorative Urbanism
Soft-Core Urbanism
Speculative Urbanism
Splintering Urbanism
Stadium Urbanism
Starbucks Urbanism
Steppe Urbanism

Stereoscopic Urbanism
Subaltern Urbanism
Sub-arctic Urbanism
Subsurface Urbanism
Suburban Urbanism
Sustainable Urbanism
Tactical Urbanism
Temporary Urbanism
Tent City Urbanism
Topo Urbanism
Trace Urbanism
Traditional Urbanism
Trans-Border Urbanism
Trans-Disciplinary Urbanism
Transgressive Urbanism
Translucent Urbanism
Transnational Urbanism
True Urbanism
Tumour Urbanism
Turbo Urbanism
Typological Urbanism
Umbrella Urbanism
Underground Urbanism
Unitary Urbanism
Upcycled Urbanism
User-Generated Urbanism
Utopian Urbanism
Vernacular Urbanism
Vertical Urbanism
Village Urbanism
Virtual Urbanism
Visual Urbanism
Volumetric Urbanism
Walkable Urbanism
Water Urbanism
Waterscape Urbanism
Weak Urbanism
Web Urbanism
X-Urbanism
Xeriscape Urbanism
Yuppie Urbanism
Zip Car Urbanism
Zombie Urbanism
Zoomorphic Urbanism
Urban Acupuncture
Urban Hacking
Urbanism of Conflict

*These urbanisms are included in the BLVD Urbanism

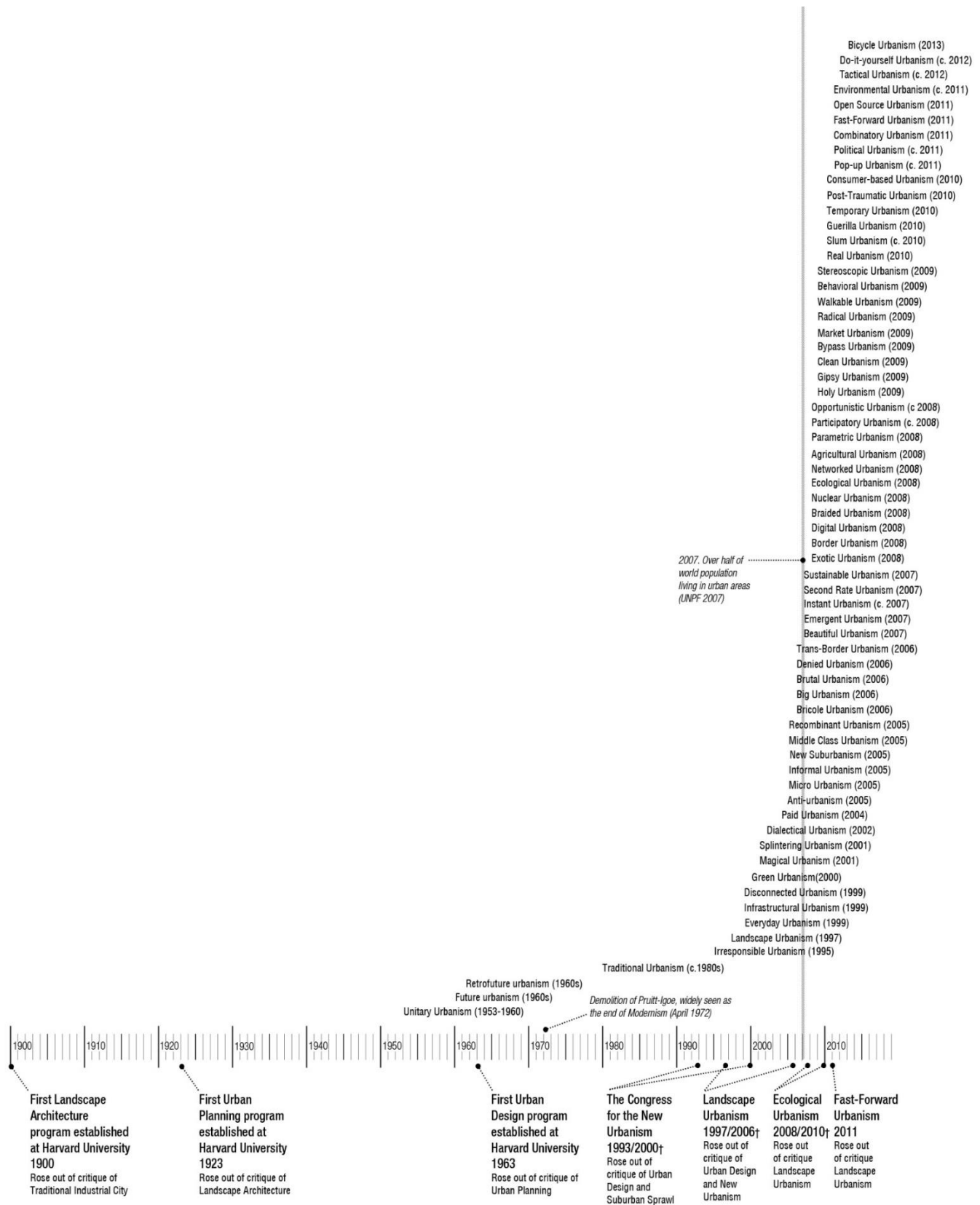


Table 1- Graph of urbanism theories and year of publication (Source: Dongsei, K., *Learning from Adjectival Urbanisms: The Pluralistic Urbanism, GLOBALIZING ARCHITECTURE / Flows and Disruptions*, Columbia University, 2014

Kim Dongsei, another student from Columbia university, approached a similar subject which he addressed as “Adjectival urbanisms: The pluralistic urbanism”. In his essay he analyses the multitude of theories existing within the concept of urbanism to question whether this is good or bad. In the graph he has created he shows clearly how the discussion about urbanism has risen very much since 1993, when the Congress for the New Urbanism enabled much of its future discussion. It can also be seen that after 2007, the year from which over half of the population is living in urban areas, there are two to ten new theories about urbanism every year. And lastly, to show how important the discussion has become, the graph shows thirty-one urbanisms created from the 1950s to 2007 while there have already been thirty-five urbanisms from 2007 to 2013, and there are many more as my list of urbanisms have proved.

Kim concludes:

“First these theories a framework that help critique current urban conditions and existing conceptual framework that lead to new alternatives and theoretical innovations.”

“Secondly, they provide a representation of a healthy evolution of thoughts in the larger discourse of urbanism that makes itself relevant and potent for the period and stakeholder they operate for.”

“Thirdly it has to do with the pluralism inherent in the notion of urbanism and the provocations generated by these adjectives that engender theoretical innovations and refinements’ Hence move the discussion forward.”

(Dongsei, K., Learning from Adjectival Urbanisms: The Pluralistic Urbanism, GLOBALIZING ARCHITECTURE, p 447 / Flows and Disruptions, Columbia University, 2014)

As mentioned before, urbanism is dynamic, but this power needs to be channeled towards making itself better. While the problems of urbanity are multiplying, so are the voices expressing them and their solutions. This is a never-ending process that needs to find a core of reference. The pluralism of perspectives in urbanism provide the inclusion of every voice but these voices need to comprehend that they belong to a bigger tree called urbanism in which they are its branches. The ideal outcome would be for every theory to add its concept into urbanism and to create a synthesis of ideas that would lead to the positive evolution of the city.

“The creativity and inventiveness, always unpredictable and rarely disciplined has been responsible for most of the advances in urbanism and industrialism.”

(Nels Anderson, Aspects of Urbanism and Urbanization, Bonn, Germany, from Urbanism and Urbanization by Ishwaran K., International Journal of Comparative Sociology, Vol. IV, No. 2, Leiden, E. J. Brill, Netherlands, 1963, p.1-6)

*“[...]the blessing and curse of **branding urbanism** - something for everyone, but not everyone for one thing.”*

(Katrina Johnston-Zimmerman, Urbanism By Any Other Name, THINK.urban, February 26, 2017)

Typologies of urbanism

Parts of a whole

The multitude of approaches in urbanism show a dual significance to its concept. It shows the great number of discussion and intellectual pursuit on the subject, which means that it does not remain stable at a theoretical level. Secondly, it shows that many opinions, instead of cooperation, are published just to produce literature, on a subject that is highly relevant and important to be practiced effectively today. Instead of a concept that can radically change and develop at the rate of growing urbanization to solve urban problems, it has been stuck in parts of theories about one subject concerning urbanism.

This research focuses on how the different approaches combined create the perspective of urbanism. Mentioned below are the types of urbanisms that summarize the multitude of approaches into their subject of discussion. These typologies are created by Jonathan Barnett in his short guide to 60 of the newest urbanisms. These typologies are not exclusive to other subjects but they all interrelate to each other at some point. The main subject addressed is taken into account when creating these typologies.

Systems Urbanisms: *Urbanisms that resulted from the concept of cities as the products of systems, and cities as problems in systems design.*

Green Urbanisms: *Urbanisms that add, sustainability, ecology, landscape, agriculture and biophilia as subjects of consideration.*

Traditional Urbanisms: *Advocates the return to the virtues of traditional design where street space is designed by buildings and the centerpiece of the design is the public space and the community.*

Community Urbanisms: *Advocates power of decision making by communities, as in a town meeting.*

Sociopolitical Urbanisms: *Advocates the political and social subjects or the exclusion of them that affect urban form.*

Headline Urbanisms: *Some of the urbanisms maintain just a description of the situation and not a particular position or point of view.*

(J. Barnett, American Planning Association, 2011).

Very important for this research is to outline a new typology of urbanisms to diversify it from the rest. These would be the **Technological and Digital Urbanisms**. These urbanisms add to the discussion the effects of the accelerating development of technology and digital media and their continuously increasing use in creating and affecting socio-spatial environments.

The placement of the theories into typologies show us where the weight of interest lies in the research of urbanism through the decades. The last decades have been characterized by many movements and theories about local and bottom-up actions. In addition to that, the technological evolution adds chapters

to every theory but also creates new ones that discuss smart cities and the correlation between digital perspective and reality.

Conclusion

Urbanism in the making

The paper examined the definition of urbanism, its fundamental values, and its role in providing solutions to urban problems caused by growing urbanization. This role is strongly criticized by showing examples of dystopic city forms and by questioning the absence of urbanism or its input when it is present. The research into the cause of this passiveness of urbanism led to the realization that it has neglected its basic concepts of theory and practice in favor of theory. In the rapid growth of urbanization, after industrialization, urbanism has been able to show a multitude of approaches but few of them have actually made impact on the urban form, and that with debatable effects. This preference on the theoretic part of urbanism has led to its fragmentation into different approaches that seek to improve the concept. Albeit these approaches do not always have objective reasons behind them. Some of them are being imagined just to satisfy philosophical approaches of the human ego of its thinkers. Most of them though, came into fruition out of the dissatisfaction with the current model of urbanism. These conditions of dissatisfaction are perceived, in most cases, as conditions that can lead to holistic inclusive concept of urbanism that can prove more effective than the current approaches. This view additionally helps us to comprehend the composition of the variety of approaches in urbanism. The understanding of these approaches further leads us into conceptualizing, describing, and mobilizing a new understanding of urbanism in its entirety. This concept takes into consideration all the conditions that provide improvement of the quality of urban life and the environment, but not in a static fashion as a term that is sealed and locked but in a flowing fashion that is acceptant to changes.

The future brings much uncertainty. Many more issues will appear, and many more voices will be heard. Urbanism needs to address these, but not through the scope of adjectival urbanisms, but through a core that represents them all and many more. Urbanism has to be reinvented into a concept that can drive evolution forward and answer the challenges that will appear. Urbanism is in a making process and all parties are contributing to the perception of it. What needs to be done, is to gather all these approaches into a common one, that is going to tackle all issues of the world, and start planning for the future.

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