

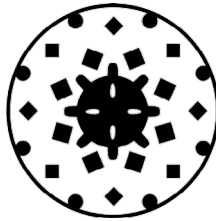
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THE (HIGH DENSITY) METROPOLIS
AND REGION IN PLANNING HISTORY

20TH IPHS BIENNIAL CONFERENCE
JUNE 28 2024 (ONLINE)
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The International Planning History Society (IPHS) is dedicated to the enhancement of interdisciplinary studies in urban and regional planning history worldwide. The theme of urban transformation is critical now due to the new information and technological revolution, the contradistinction of the neoliberal and centre-planned economy, local identity and globalisation and new roles and uses of urban heritage.

Urban history has witnessed continuous changes, which included transformations of urban plans and objects, changing images or identities of certain spaces or whole cities.

This proceedings volume follows in its structure the organisation of the conference panels. Each presentation comprises an abstract, or a peer-reviewed full paper, traceable online with a DOI number. The full conference proceedings ebook, as well as all full papers individually are published online on the website of the proceedings books series:

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City and River Transformation of Contemporary Riverscapes

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Abstract

The life of cities located near rivers has been linked to the river itself since time immemorial – it has served as a trade route, a source of food and water, and a defensive shield. The urban fabric of those cities has also been shaped under the influence of the nearby water body. Over time, this close symbiosis has weakened somewhat – the riverbanks of many cities have become occupied by industrial developments and powerful port infrastructures. The city seems to have turned away from the river, so today it is relevant for the two “neighbors” to rediscover each other. Nowadays, the waterfront is the new public space, and the river is one of the most important elements of the city, creating its unique identity. Examples of Western European cities clearly show that the banks of the rivers flowing through the cities can be their most attractive and lively place. There is a rather mixed pattern of activities along the river and on the riverbanks themselves, with several recreational functions dominating rather than one, etc. The authors of the presentation conducted a study in 2023. The object of the study was Kaunas – Lithuania’s second largest city. The location of Kaunas is quite rare and unique – the city is located at the confluence of two rivers. These rivers have played a significant role in the life of the city for a long time, but over time that role has diminished. The analytical research seeks to rediscover the rivers: it aims to assess the natural and anthropogenic elements of the river valleys and their interrelationships, and to propose scenarios for the management of the riparian areas, considering the current socio-cultural context, the functions and the typology of the riverbanks.

Keywords

natural environment, city and river, contemporary riverscapes, riverbank, Kaunas

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