

Pandemics and Urban form: *The Course of Empire*

Alessandro Camiz

Özyeğin University
alessandro.camiz@ozyegin.edu.tr
(now d'Annunzio University of Chieti–Pescara)
alessandro.camiz@unich.it

"La fantasia altro non è che memoria o dilatata o composta" (Vico, 1744).

"Fantasy is nothing but memory, either dilated or composed" (Vico, 1744).

Pandemics and Urban form

In March 2020 when COVID-19 arrived in Türkiye, Özyeğin University organised a multidisciplinary research team entitled *Covid-19 Foresight and Solution Development Team*. Within that initiative, we proposed an international conference on Pandemics and Urban Form in order to explore how the pandemic was affecting urban form and life in different countries. It took a while to organise the conference, which had to be entirely online. Due to the lockdowns affecting different countries, and the ongoing pandemic travel restrictions, we organise the conference entirely online using the ZOOM platform. By joining forces with INTBAU, UK; University of Trento in Italy, Nanjing University in China Kuwait University in Kuwait, and University of Idaho in the United States, we are able to organize this as an international event, including the four continents and we did. So i'm very grateful to the conference co-chairs: Mohammed Alajmi, Kuwait University, Kuwait; Mosè Ricci, University of Trento (now "Sapienza" University of Rome), Italy; Wowo Ding, Nanjing University, China and Xiao Hu, University of Idaho, United States for their cooperation in writing the conference call for papers which was launched in May 1st 2021. The call was organised on three different conference tracks: learning from history, shedding light on the contemporary world and the world is waiting for us to take action, in order to include history, social studies, design and planning, looking at the past, the present and moreover the future.

We received 87 abstract proposals, which were peer reviewed by the conference scientific committee, consisting of 120 international members, thanks to all of them for their contribution in selecting the papers. Abstracts of papers and posters in English were submitted online using the Microsoft Conference Management Toolkit, a free platform for conference management, thanks to Microsoft for this service. We should underline that the platform is not very user friendly: we therefore do hope that Microsoft will be able to improve it in this sense. Out of the selected abstract proposals, only 55 delegates registered for the conference. The conference finally included 55 papers, 6 keynotes speakers, and 1 Roundtable on pandemics and climate change. We would also like to express special thanks the following for the patronage to the conference: International Seminar on Urban Form - ISUF; "Storia della città", Centro internazionale di studi per la storia della città, fonti d'archivio e patrimonio architettonico-ambientale; ISUF-ITALY and the Cyprus Network of Urban Morphology, CyNUM.

The conference lasted 3 days, from April 18th to April 20th 2022, with sessions ranging from 10.00 AM to 20:30 PM (Turkish time). There were 30 chairs and co-chairs helping us in coordinating the 13 different sessions that the conference included. Finally, there were 128 delegates registered for the conference and attending online.

The participating countries are visible in the maps (fig. 1, 2). Even though we were not able to include Australia, we had some participants from the surrounding Malaysia and Indonesia. We were able to include the four continents in the event and are very happy about this. We published the book of abstracts before the conference (Camiz, Al Hussein and Linnik, 2022), and distributed it for free, PDF format, to all the conference delegates.

The Course of Empire

When we published the call for papers, obviously many scholars criticised our initiative. Some declared that the pandemic crisis is not going to affect the urban form, therefore having the conference no scientific relevance, why would you need to organise it? We can reply today, that the conference not only has shown that there has been some meaningful changes in the built environment in the present time, but also looking back into history, it has underlined how most of the improvements in planning and design of urban settlements were in the past determined as a response to pandemics. In fact, the denial of effects of the pandemics seems to be one of the understandable human responses to such a tragedy, which just to recall it here, caused over 7 million deaths worldwide in 2 years, and substantially changed everyone life for its duration.

Just to conclude few words about the image we have used for the conference poster, so the zoom conference background, the cover of the book of abstracts, and finally the cover of this book.

This is a painting by Thomas Cole, entitled Destruction and belonging to a cycle of 5 paintings, called the Course of empire, accomplished between 1833 and 1836. The cycle depicts the very same imaginary landscape as changing across time, and perhaps besides the specific subject is a metaphor of the cycles of history. All those paintings were done using the oil on canvas technique and are now part of the New Historical Society Collection in New York City.

Starting from the Savage state, to the Arcadian and or Pastoral state, to the Consummation of Empire, Destruction and Desolation, the cycle depicts the very same landscape as changing hence the action of human beings.

The growth of a city in that same landscape and its destruction, somehow may correlated with the evolution of the territorial cycles as described by Saverio Muratori, (1967) or the Morphological periods analysed by Conzen (1960). The core notion of this cyclical understanding of History, as Giambattista Vico taught us, is that History moves in cycles, therefore what happened before, might happen again in a following cycle. Finally, I would like to express my sincere apologies to all the authors for the delay in the publication of this book, in the meantime I moved from Özyeğin University, Istanbul to University of Chieti-Pescara in Italy, and that transition took over most of my time for over a year.

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Fig. 1 Thomas Cole, *The Course of Empire. The Savage State*, oil on canvas, 1833, New York Historical Society, New York City, NY, US.



Fig. 2 Thomas Cole, *The Course of Empire. The Arcadian or Pastoral State*, oil on canvas, 1834, New York Historical Society, New York City, NY, US.



Fig. 3 Thomas Cole, *The Course of Empire. The Consummation of Empire*, oil on canvas, 1836, New York Historical Society, New York City, NY, US.



Fig. 4 Thomas Cole, *The Course of Empire. Destruction*, oil on canvas, 1836, New York Historical Society, New York City, NY, US.

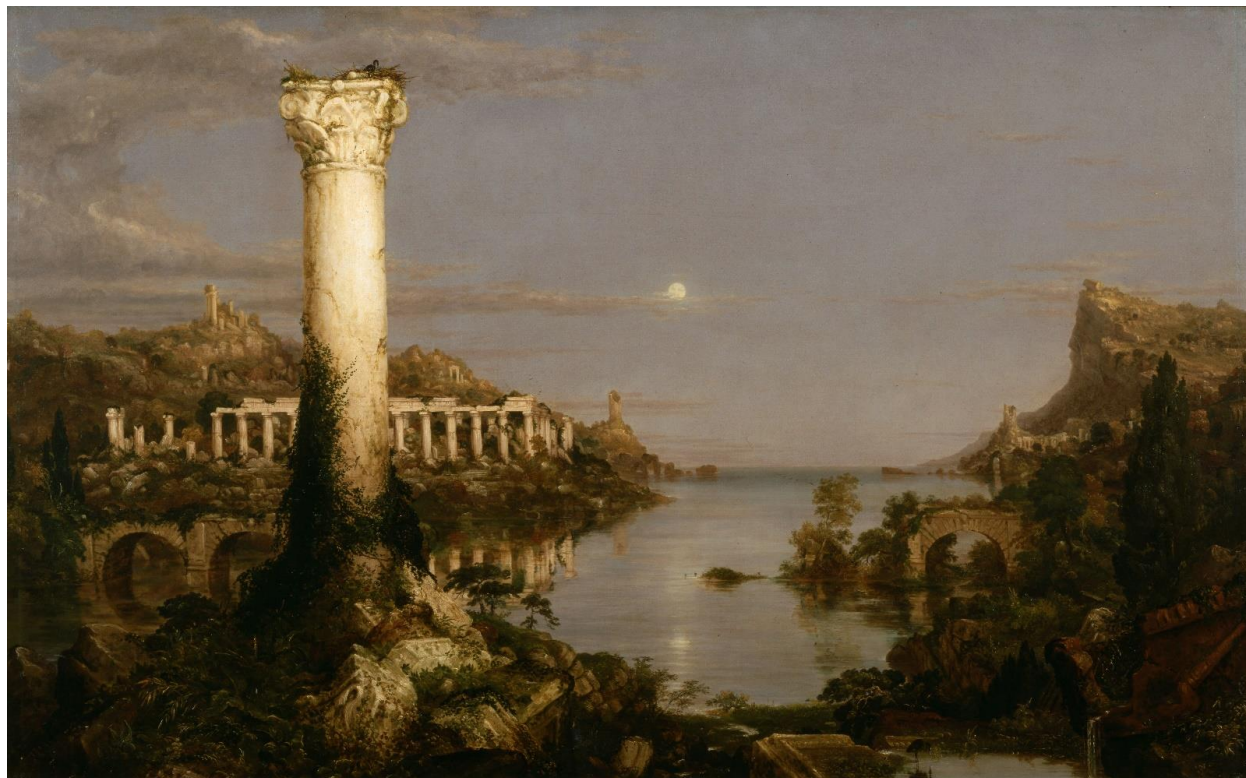


Fig. 5 Thomas Cole, *The Course of Empire. Desolation*, oil on canvas, 1836, New York Historical Society, New York City, NY, US.

Dynamic Research on Urban Morphology books - 7

PANDEMICS AND THE CHANGING BUILT ENVIRONMENT LEARNING FROM HISTORY, PLANNING OUR FUTURE

Proceedings of the First International ONLINE conference, on
Pandemics and Urban Form, PUF2022, April 28th-30th 2022, Istanbul,
Turkey

Edited by

Alessandro Camiz

DRUM Press
Istanbul, 2024

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April 28th-30th 2022, Istanbul, Turkey

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Alessandro Camiz

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Thomas Cole, *The Course of Empire. Destruction*, oil on canvas, 1836, New York Historical Society, New York City, NY, US.

All the Papers in this volume were double blind peer-reviewed by the conference's scientific committee

First International ONLINE conference, on Pandemics and Urban Form, PUF2022, April 28th-30th 2022, Istanbul, Turkey
First International online conference, on Pandemics and Urban Form, PUF2022, April 28th-30th 2022, Istanbul, Turkey, Pandemics and the changing built environment. Learning from history, planning our future

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pandemicsandurbanform@gmail.com

<https://pandemicsandurbanform.ozyegin.edu.tr/>

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The conference

PANDEMICS AND THE CHANGING BUILT ENVIRONMENT. LEARNING FROM HISTORY, PLANNING OUR FUTURE

First International ONLINE conference, on Pandemics and Urban Form, PUF2022

April 28th-30th 2022, Istanbul, Turkey

Organized by INTBAU, Nanjing University, University of Trento, Özyeğin University, University of Idaho, Kuwait University

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Contacts:

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PUF2022 CALL FOR PAPERS

Wowo Ding

Nanjing University

Alessandro Camiz

Özyeğin University (now D'Annunzio University of Chieti–Pescara)

Mohammed Alajmi

Kuwait University

Xiao Hu

University of Idaho

Mosè Ricci

“Sapienza” University of Rome

2020 was an extraordinary year for all countries in the world. The pandemic has spread and has not ended yet, confirming that the world is dramatically changing. The scholars in the field of the built environment are increasingly discussing the relationship between survival and urban form, two concepts once closely linked. Besides this, the pandemic has brought us other questions: how can people get along with nature, how should we regulate social behaviours, and should we use science and technologies to improve the built environment? We have experienced unprecedented changes in our social behaviours since the COVID-19 pandemic. These changes, permanent or temporary, have made our cities different from the cities we lived in one year ago. This new society includes a completely different retail pattern, a reduced use of public transportation, an increased and multipurpose use of residential spaces, the exploitation of online activities, a reduced use of public spaces such as offices, stadiums, museums, theatres, schools and universities, but also streets, parks and squares. Some scholars have recently been discussing such transformations, noticing that most of them were already ongoing but received an acceleration since the pandemic, while others consider them to be completely new. We believe that in the long or medium term the new social pattern will be followed by substantial changes in the built environment, and that we should understand these changes to plan and design for the future, to mitigate the diffusion of new airborne diseases and to meet new social demands. This conference will have three tracks: it will use history as a mirror to analyse the present condition and to re-examine urban form, it will provide a meeting point for researchers and ideas on urban environment and health and consider new design and planning solutions. The international conference on Pandemics and the changing built environment will take place in a blended form in April 2022. We intend it as the first of a yearly series of meetings for scholars interested in pandemics and the transformations of urban form. We welcome proposals for papers and posters related to the conference topics. Abstracts of papers will be double peer reviewed by an international scientific committee before acceptance. We encourage scholars, planners, architects and city managers to propose abstracts.

Conference track 1: Learning from history

Historical plagues and urban transformations

Pandemics, territorial cycles and morphological periods

The Justinian plague and the collapse of classical cities

The black plague and the Renaissance

The Spanish flu and the modernist manifesto

Conference track 2: Shedding light on the contemporary world

The impact of the pandemics on the physical space

Changes in social behaviours and in the built environment

Smart working and new office spaces

Public health policies and their effects on the built environment

Virtual spaces/communications and the effects on real spaces

Climate change, pollution and waste treatment

Online education

Conference track 3: The world is waiting for us to take action!

- The impact of the built environment on public health
- Design and future solutions for public health
- Technologies, design and smart cities
- Architectural responses to COVID-19
- Hospital design and COVID-19
- Pandemics and open spaces, roads and parks
- New housing and building types
- Planning for health in the built environment
- From global metropolis to sustainable small towns
- Public transportation: airports, subways, train and hyperloop stations and bus terminals

Conference website: <https://pandemicsandurbanform.ozyegin.edu.tr/>

Ozyegin University Faculty of Architecture and Design was established in April 2012 with the Department of Architecture which had first 60 students in 2012-2013 Academic year. The new building of Faculty of Architecture and Design opened its doors in the spring semester of 2019-2020 academic year with studio spaces for 1,400 students, 26 classrooms, 9 students and research laboratories, and a model - digital model - design-do (wood-metal) and ceramic workshops.

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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Abstract submission deadline: **NOVEMBER 21st, 2021**

Pandemics & the changing built environment
Learning from history, planning for tomorrow

Call for papers

Tracks

- Learning from history
- Shedding light on the contemporary world
- The world is waiting for us to take action!

Timeline

- Call for papers announcement: May 21st, 2021
- Abstract submission deadline: October 21st, 2021
- Notification of acceptance: December 1st, 2021
- Registration deadline: January 1st, 2022
- Program publication: January 21st, 2022
- Conference: April 28th-30th, 2022
- Full paper submission deadline: June 1st, 2022
- Proceeding Publication: Winter 2022

Visit the website below to register and for further information
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Fig. 1 Keynote speakers' poster (Design: LucAi Al Hussein, 2022).



Pandemics & the changing built environment

Learning from history, planning for tomorrow

Call for papers

Tracks

- Learning from history
- Shedding light on the contemporary world
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Timeline

- Call for papers announcement: May 21st, 2021
- Abstract submission deadline: October 21st, 2021
- Notification of acceptance: December 1st, 2021
- Registration deadline: January 1st, 2022
- Program publication: January 21st 2022
- Conference: April 28th-30th, 2022
- Full paper submission deadline: June 1st, 2022
- Proceeding Publication: Winter 2022

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Organized by: International Network for Traditional Buildings, Architecture & Urbanism (INTBAU), Nanjing University, Kuwait University, University of Idaho, University of Trento, Özyeğin University, Dynamic Research on Urban Morphology (DRUM)



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graphic designed by: Luai Al Hussein

Fig. 2 Conference poster (Design: Luai Al Hussein, 2022).



Fig. 3 Conference venue: Özyeğin University, Istanbul (Photo: A. Camiz, 2018)



Fig. 4 Conference venue: Özyeğin University, Faculty of Architecture and Design, Istanbul (Photo: A. Camiz, 2022)



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