T.R.
GEBZE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE SCHOOL

CRITIQUE OF SAMENESS: METACITIES' URBAN CHARACTER

MUHAMMED EMİN KUŞASLAN

A THESIS OF MASTER OF SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE

ASSOC. PROF. DR. SEDEF ÖZÇELİK

JANUARY 2025

T.R.
GEBZE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE SCHOOL

CRITIQUE OF SAMENESS: METACITIES' URBAN CHARACTER

MUHAMMED EMİN KUŞASLAN

A THESIS OF MASTER OF SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE

ASSOC. PROF. DR. SEDEF ÖZÇELİK

JANUARY 2025

T.C.
GEBZE TEKNİK ÜNİVERSİTESİ
LİSANSÜSTÜ EĞİTİM ENSTİTÜSÜ

AYNILIĞIN ELEŞTİRİSİ: METAKENTLERİN KENTSEL KARAKTERİ

MUHAMMED EMİN KUŞASLAN

YÜKSEK LİSANS TEZİ
MİMARLIK ANABİLİM DALI

DOÇ. DR. SEDEF ÖZÇELİK

OCAK 2025

MASTER of SCIENCE JURY APPROVAL FORM

A thesis submitted by Muhammed Emin KUŞASLAN, defended on 28/01/2025 before the jury formed with the 20/01/2025 date and 2025/06 numbered decision of the GTU Graduate Administration Board, has been accepted as a MASTER of SCIENCE thesis in the Department of Architecture.

JURY

MEMBER
(THESIS ADVISOR) : Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sedef ÖZÇELİK

MEMBER : Assoc. Prof. Dr. Senem KAYMAZ

MEMBER : Assist. Prof. Dr. Nüket İpek ÇETİN

APPROVAL

Gebze Technical University Graduate Administration Board

…..…/…..…/..…… date and ……/…….. numbered decision.

SIGNATURE/SEAL

To my family and friends.

ABSTRACT

Urban characters that initiate to resemble one another despite being located in different parts of the world due to globalisation. The concept of world cities has brought about a shared global urban character. Cities have moved away from their local urban identities toward a globalised identity, resulting in cities with similar aesthetics and features. This change has led to a loss of urban uniqueness. The primary aim of this study is to identify the relationships and consequences of sameness driven by globalisation in metacities and examine its impact on the morphological components of urban character. Urban character refers to the general aesthetic and atmospheric relationships of the urban area, which are shaped by the architectural terminologies that have developed over time as a result of historical experience. Since the late 19th century, cities have undergone significant changes due to industrialisation, urbanisation, and globalisation, establishing a hierarchy among themselves. Urban areas influenced by globalisation are categorised based on their demographic size as metacities, megacities, metropolises, major cities, cities, towns, villages, and hamlets. Among these, metacities, defined as the world's largest cities with populations exceeding 20 million, show stronger similarities in their urban characters. The sameness of metacities driven by globalisation is analysed through the morphological components of urban character: urban geography, urban patterns, and urban silhouettes. These morphological elements are understood through sub-parameters such as urban landscape, urban land use, types of building blocks, urban sprawl, urban light, skyline profiles, urban landmarks, nightscape, materiality and tectonics.

The study examines nine metacities in 2024—Tokyo, Delhi, Shanghai, Dhaka, São Paulo, Cairo, Mexico City, Beijing, and Mumbai. The global sameness of metacities is linked to factors such as intercity competition, the creation of prestige or branding spaces, and the loss of unique identities. Relationships among metacities in different locations are explored in terms of the actors and roles that influence urban character within the framework of global architectural identity. To fully understand how globalised architectural interaction affects and is affected by urban needs, the study investigates the impact of planning conditions, driven by political and economic factors, on urban character. Consequently, the research analyses the actors and decision-makers shaping metacities, starting from architectural materials. The methodological approach employs an interpretive historical qualitative method to examine the morphological parameters of urban character in these nine metacities, addressing the main research question and its sub-questions. Using a 9-step strategy, the study documents architectural and visual analyses of these cities through architectural materials. The findings from the analysis of visual materials are used to conceptualise the sameness relationships among the cities by examining their geography, patterns, and silhouettes. By addressing the debate on global urban sameness, the study explores pathways for achieving unique urban characters and identifies data for use in future research.

Keywords: Sameness, Urban Character, Globalisation, Urbanisation.

ÖZET

Küreselleşmeye bağlı olarak, dünyanın farklı lokasyonlarında yer almasına rağmen birbirlerine benzemeye başlayan kent karakterleri ortaya çıkmıştır. Dünya kentleri olgusu, ortaya çıkan ortak bir küresel kent karakterini de beraberinde getirmektedir. Şehirler yerel kentsel kimliklerden uzaklaşarak küreselleşmiş bir kentsel kimliğe doğru yönelmiş ve bunun sonucunda benzer estetik ve özelliklere sahip şehirler ortaya çıkmıştır. Bu durum kentlerin özgünlüğünü kaybetmesine yol açmıştır. Çalışmanın genel amacı, metakentlerde küreselleşmenin etkisiyle ortaya çıkan aynılaşma ilişkilerini ve sonuçlarını belirleyerek, bu durumun kentsel karakteri oluşturan temel morfolojik unsurlar üzerindeki etkisini incelemektir. Kent karakteri, bir kentin yaşanmış dünya geçmişinin bir sonucu olarak zaman içinde oluşan mimari terminojileri tarafından belirlenen genel kent estetik ve atmosfer ilişkilerini ifade eder. Endüstrileşme, kentleşme ve küreselleşme kapsamında 19. yüzyılın sonundan günümüze kadar büyük bir değişim geçiren kentler kendileri arasında bir hiyeralşi oluşturmuştur. Küreselleşme ile gelişen kentler, demografik açıdan büyüklüklerine bağlı olaraktan metakent, megakent, metropol, major city, city, town, village ve hamlet olmak üzere ayrılmaktadır. Kent hiyeralşisinde yirmi milyon nüfusun üzerinde yer alan dünya'nın en büyük kentleri olarak tanımlanan metakenlerin kent karakterleri arasında kurmuş oldukları benzerlik ilişkileri daha kuvvetli gözükmektedir. Metakentlerin globalleşmeye dayalı aynılaşması, kent karakterinin morfolojik bileşenleri olan kent coğrafyası, kent patterni ve kent silüeti üzerinden incelenmektedir. Kentlerin bu morfolojik bileşenleri de alt parametereler yardımıyla anlaşılabilmektedir. Bu morfolojik öğeler, kentsel peyzaj, kentsel arazi kullanımı, bina blok türleri, kentsel yayılma, kentsel aydınlatma, silüet profilleri, kentsel simge yapılar, gece manzarası, materyalite ve tektonik gibi alt parametreler üzerinden anlaşılmaktadır.

Çalışmada 2024 yılında metakent tanımıyla eşleşen Tokyo, Delhi, Shanghai, Dhaka, Sao Paulo, Cairo, Mexico, Beijing ve Mumbai incelenmektedir. Metakentlerin küresel ölçekte aynılaşması, kentler arası görülen rekabet ilişkileri, kentlerin prestij veya branding mekanları oluşturması, özgün kimliklerini kaybetmeleri gibi konularla ilişkilendirilmektedir. Global mimari kurgunun oluşumunda farklı lokasyonlarda yer alan metakentler arasındaki ilişkiler, kent karakterine etki eden aktörler ve rolleri üzerinden de araştırılmaktadır. Küreselleşmiş bir mimari etkileşimin kentin ihtiyaçlarını nasıl etkilediğini ve bunlardan nasıl etkilendiğini tam olarak anlamak için bu araştırma, politik ve ekonomik faktörler tarafından yönlendirilen planlama koşullarının şehirlerin karakteri üzerindeki etkisini incelemelidir. Bu nedenle çalışma, mimari malzemeden yola çıkarak metakentleri şekillendiren aktörleri ve karar vericileri analiz etmektedir. Metodolojik yaklaşım, araştırmanın ana sorusu ve yardımcı sorularını kapsayan bir bağlamda bu 9 metakentin kent karakterlerinin morfolojik parametreleri üzerinden incelenmektedir ve incelemeyi yaparken yorumlayıcı tarihsel niteliksel yaklaşım yöntemini kullanmaktadır. Çalışma 9 adımdan oluşan taktiklerle, mimari materyaller üzerinden mimari ve görsel bir okuma belgelemeyi hedeflemektedir. Görsel materyallerden elde edilen analizler ile 9 metakentin kentin coğrafyası, patterni ve silüeti incelenerek elde edilen çıktılar kavramlaştırarak kentler arasındaki aynılaşma ilişkileri incelenmektedir. Global kent aynılaşması tartışması üzerinden kentlerin özgün kent karakterine ulaşmanın yolları araştırılmış ve ilerideki çalışmalarda kullanılanacak veriler tespit edilmiştir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Aynılaşma, Kentsel Karakter, Küreselleşme, Kentleşme.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to begin by thanking everyone in my life who believed in me. The support of the incredible people I met has been invaluable throughout my journey. I sincerely appreciate their encouragement and trust.

I extend my deepest gratitude to my supervisor, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sedef Özçelik, for her unwavering support, strength, and insightful critiques. Her deep commitment to academic excellence, knowledge, and extensive experience have significantly enhanced the quality and depth of my dissertation.

This thesis is a consideration of the love and support I received from my family and friends during this significant journey of academic purpose. Their encouragement helped me navigate challenges and stay committed to my goals. I would like to thank my parents for their years of sacrifice. I am especially grateful to my family for their constant belief in me and to my wonderful sister, Sena. Her joy and support have been a source of comfort and motivation, and I am truly thankful for that.

My appreciation also goes to the faculty and staff in the Department of Architecture at Gebze Technical University, whose resources and assistance have been invaluable. Their academic atmosphere in our lectures motivated us; it has been a cornerstone of my research experience. I would like to acknowledge my peers for their perseverance during their own academic journals and our valuable discussions about architecture.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the architects who existed long before we arrived. They put many ideas into the world, some reasonable and some inadequate but unique. Thank you for being brave enough to think differently and building something special.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ABSTRACT	vi
ÖZET	vii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	viii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	ix
LIST OF SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS	xi
LIST OF FIGURES	xii
LIST OF TABLES	xv
PROLOGUE	xvi
1. INTRODUCTION	1
1.1. Problem Background	1
1.2. Problem Statement, Research Question, Objective and Aims	4
1.3. Potential Limitations	5
1.4. Definitions and Clarifications	6
1.4.1. Defining Urban Character	6
1.4.2. The Formation of Urban Identity	8
1.4.3. The Notion of Urban Scale: The Hierarchy of Urban Areas	10
1.4.4. Metacity: The Largest Urban Area	16
2. THE NARRATIVE OF URBANISATION	18
2.1. Dramatic Global Rise of Urbanisation	21
2.2. Urban Character and Its Components	28
2.2.1. Urban Geography	29
2.2.2. Urban Pattern	32
2.2.3. Urban Silhouette	37
3. THE CONCEPT OF SAMENESS REGARDING GLOBALISATION	52
3.1. The World City: Urban Competitiveness	52
3.2. The Architecture of Neoliberalism	55
3.3. City Branding and Imagenable City	57
3.4. City Makers	60
3.5. Loss of the Uniqueness of the Cities	62
3.6. Interlude: The Concept of Sameness Regarding Globalisation	73
4. METHODOLOGY	75
4.1. The Interpretive Historical Qualitative Approach	75
4.2. Methods	77
4.3. Tactics	78
4.4. Sampling: The Metacities	83
5. FINDINGS: THE METACITY CHARACTER	90
5.1. Urban Character of Tokyo	90
5.1.1. Urban Geography of Tokyo	90
5.1.2. Urban Pattern of Tokyo	90
5.1.3. Urban Silhouette of Tokyo	91
5.2. Urban Character of Delhi	101
5.2.1. Urban Geography of Delhi	101
5.2.2. Urban Pattern of Delhi	101

5.2.3. Urban Silhouette of Delhi 102
5.3. Urban Character of Shanghai 112
5.3.1. Urban Geography of Shanghai 112
5.3.2. Urban Pattern of Shanghai 112
5.3.3. Urban Silhouette of Shanghai 112
5.4. Urban Character of Dhaka 123
5.4.1. Urban Geography of Dhaka 123
5.4.2. Urban Pattern of Dhaka 123
5.4.3. Urban Silhouette of Dhaka 123
5.5. Urban Character of Sao Paulo 134
5.5.1. Urban Geography of Sao Paulo 134
5.5.2. Urban Pattern of Sao Paulo 134
5.5.3. Urban Silhouette of Sao Paulo 134
5.6. Urban Character of Cairo 145
5.6.1. Urban Geography of Cairo 145
5.6.2. Urban Pattern of Cairo 145
5.6.3. Urban Silhouette of Cairo 145
5.7. Urban Character of Mexico 156
5.7.1. Urban Geography of Mexico 156
5.7.2. Urban Pattern of Mexico 156
5.7.3. Urban Silhouette of Mexico 156
5.8. Urban Character of Beijing 167
5.8.1. Urban Geography of Beijing 167
5.8.2. Urban Pattern of Beijing 167
5.8.3. Urban Silhouette of Beijing 167
5.9. Urban Character of Mumbai 178
5.9.1. Urban Geography of Mumbai 178
5.9.2. Urban Pattern of Mumbai 178
5.9.3. Urban Silhouette of Mumbai 178
6. DISCUSSION: THE CRITIQUE OF SAMENESS 189
6.1. Urban Geography of Metacities 189
6.2. Urban Pattern of Metacities 191
6.3. Urban Silhouette of Metacities 198
6.4. The Critique of Sameness in the Metacity Character 207
7. CONCLUSION 212

EPILOGUE 216
REFERENCES 217
BIOGRAPHY 261
PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS FROM THE THESIS 262

LIST OF SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CTBUH	:	Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat
ft	:	feet
IBC	:	International Building Codes
ISS	:	International Space Station
m	:	meter
NAC	:	New Administrative Capital
RQ	:	The Research Question
UCLG	:	United Cities and Local Governments
UK	:	United Kingdom
UN	:	The United Nations
UN-Habitat	:	United Nations Human Settlements Program
USA	:	The United States of America
vs.	:	versus

LIST OF FIGURES

	Page
Figure 1.1: Urban Character of Seoul	8
Figure 1.2: The shrinking map of the world through innovations in transport which "annihilate space through time"	12
Figure 1.3: Share of Population Living in Urbanized Areas 1810-2023	13
Figure 1.4: Tokyo: The First Metacity	17
Figure 2.1: New York City Tenements	20
Figure 2.2: Manhattan, 1910	23
Figure 2.3: The Palace of Westminster, with a German Graf Zeppelin hovering above during the 1930s, London	23
Figure 2.4: Tract housing	24
Figure 2.5: Urban Area	25
Figure 2.6: Urbanisation Process	26
Figure 2.7: Singapore Urban Landscape	31
Figure 2.8: Types of Urban Blocks	34
Figure 2.9: Urban Patterns	35
Figure 2.10: The Otis Elevator	39
Figure 2.11: Home Insurance Building	39
Figure 2.12: Tower of Babel	40
Figure 2.13: The Woolworth Building, New York	43
Figure 2.14: Daytime and Nighttime Light Comparison of Köln Rotterdam and Rome	45
Figure 2.15: Burj Khalifa, Dubai	46
Figure 2.16: New York Skyline	47
Figure 2.17: Skycraper Evolution Between 1880 - 1950	49
Figure 2.18: Skycraper Evolution Between 1950 - 2000	50
Figure 2.19: Skycraper Evolution in 21st Century	51
Figure 3.1: Similar Car Designs from Different Brands	58
Figure 3.2: Similar Burgers	58
Figure 3.3: Metropolises of the World - A	64
Figure 3.4: Metropolises of the World - B	65
Figure 3.5: Megacities of the World	66
Figure 3.6: Metacities of the World	67
Figure 3.7: Annual Global Building Material Use during 2000-2017 by Material and Region	72
Figure 4.1: Metacities of the World	84
Figure 5.1: The Urban Landscape of Tokyo	92
Figure 5.2: Urban Land Use of Tokyo	93
Figure 5.3: Tokyo: Types of Building Block	94
Figure 5.4: Urban Sprawl of Tokyo	95
Figure 5.5: Urban Light of Tokyo	96
Figure 5.6: Tokyo Urban Skyline	97
Figure 5.7: Nightscape of Tokyo	98
Figure 5.8: Urban Landmark: Tokyo Tower	99
Figure 5.9: Structure Example: Mori JP Tower	100
Figure 5.10: The Urban Landscape of Delhi	103
Figure 5.11: Urban Land Use of Delhi	104

Figure 5.12: Delhi: Types of Building Block 105
Figure 5.13: Urban Sprawl of Delhi 106
Figure 5.14: Urban Light of Delhi 107
Figure 5.15: Delhi Urban Skyline 108
Figure 5.16: Nightscape of Delhi 109
Figure 5.17: Urban Landmark: Lotus Temple 110
Figure 5.18: Structure Example: Supernova Spira 111
Figure 5.19: The Urban Landscape of Shanghai 114
Figure 5.20: Urban Land Use of Shanghai 115
Figure 5.21: Shanghai: Types of Building Block 116
Figure 5.22: Urban Sprawl of Shanghai 117
Figure 5.23: Urban Light of Shanghai 118
Figure 5.24: Shanghai Urban Skyline 119
Figure 5.25: Nightscape of Shanghai 120
Figure 5.26: Urban Landmark: Oriental Pearl Television Tower 121
Figure 5.27: Structure Example: Shanghai Tower 122
Figure 5.28: The Urban Landscape of Dhaka 125
Figure 5.29: Urban Land Use of Dhaka 126
Figure 5.30: Dhaka: Types of Building Block 127
Figure 5.31: Urban Sprawl of Dhaka 128
Figure 5.32: Urban Light of Dhaka 129
Figure 5.33: Dhaka Urban Skyline 130
Figure 5.34: Nightscape of Dhaka 131
Figure 5.35: Urban Landmark: Banglar Taj Mahal 132
Figure 5.36: Structure Example: Dhaka City Centre 133
Figure 5.37: The Urban Landscape of Sao Paulo 136
Figure 5.38: Urban Land Use of Sao Paulo 137
Figure 5.39: Sao Paulo: Types of Building Block 138
Figure 5.40: Urban Sprawl of Sao Paulo 139
Figure 5.41: Urban Light of Sao Paulo 140
Figure 5.42: Sao Paulo Urban Skyline 141
Figure 5.43: Nightscape of Sao Paulo 142
Figure 5.44: Urban Landmark: São Paulo Museum of Art 143
Figure 5.45: Structure Example: Platina 220 144
Figure 5.46: The Urban Landscape of Cairo 147
Figure 5.47: Urban Land Use of Cairo 148
Figure 5.48: Cairo: Types of Building Block 149
Figure 5.49: Urban Sprawl of Cairo 150
Figure 5.50: Urban Light of Cairo 151
Figure 5.51: Cairo Urban Skyline 152
Figure 5.52: Nightscape of Cairo 153
Figure 5.53: Urban Landmark: Cairo Tower 154
Figure 5.54: Structure Example: Iconic Tower 155
Figure 5.55: The Urban Landscape of Mexico 158
Figure 5.56: Urban Land Use of Mexico 159
Figure 5.57: Mexico: Types of Building Block 160
Figure 5.58: Urban Sprawl of Mexico 161
Figure 5.59: Urban Light of Mexico 162
Figure 5.60: Mexico Urban Skyline 163
Figure 5.61: Nightscape of Mexico 164

Figure 5.62: Urban Landmark: Museo Soumaya 165
Figure 5.63: Structure Example: Torre Mitikah 166
Figure 5.64: The Urban Landscape of Beijing 169
Figure 5.65: Urban Land Use of Beijing 170
Figure 5.66: Beijing: Types of Building Block 171
Figure 5.67: Urban Sprawl of Beijing 172
Figure 5.68: Urban Light of Beijing 173
Figure 5.69: Beijing Urban Skyline 174
Figure 5.70: Nightscape of Beijing 175
Figure 5.71: Urban Landmark: CCTV Building 176
Figure 5.72: Structure Example: China Zun 177
Figure 5.73: The Urban Landscape of Mumbai 180
Figure 5.74: Urban Land Use of Mumbai 181
Figure 5.75: Mumbai: Types of Building Block 182
Figure 5.76: Urban Sprawl of Mumbai 183
Figure 5.77: Urban Light of Mumbai 184
Figure 5.78: Mumbai Urban Skyline 185
Figure 5.79: Nightscape of Mumbai 186
Figure 5.80: Urban Landmark: Mumbai TV Tower 187
Figure 5.81: Structure Example: Trump Tower Mumbai 188
Figure 6.1: The Urban Landscape of Metacities 191
Figure 6.2: Urban Pattern of Metacities 194
Figure 6.3: Urban Sprawl of Metacities 195
Figure 6.4: Urban Light of Metacities 196
Figure 6.5: Skyline of Metacities 200

LIST OF TABLE

	Page
Table 1.1: The Structure of Thesis	xix
Table 1.2: Definitions and Approaches for "Identity"	9
Table 1.3: World Population (By Billion) between 1804 and 2024	12
Table 1.4: Urban Hierarchy	14
Table 1.5: The Hierarchy of Urban Areas	15
Table 1.6: Population of The Metacities in the World, 2024	16
Table 2.1: The Components of Urban Character	29
Table 4.1: Tactics of the Study	78
Table 6.1: The Urban Landmarks	203
Table 6.2: Structural Examples from the Urban Silhouette	206
Table 6.3: The Metacity Character	211

PROLOGUE

The phenomenon of world cities brings a shared global urban character. The resemblances emerging from the globalisation of cities have begun to corrupt the uniqueness of urban character. Cities have driven away from local urban identities toward a globalised urban identity, resulting in cities with similar aesthetics and features. This has led to the sameness of urban environments. Within the scope of studies on cities, this thesis gains significance in addressing this issue. The highly contemporary topic has been chosen as a research subject at the urban scale, encompassing the disciplines of architecture and urban planning. The study's concern with the sameness observed in cities is rooted in a search for scientific answers regarding future-oriented, distinctive architecture. This framework investigates cities' rise after the Industrial Revolution and the impact of 20th-century high-rise building technology on urban design. While analysing these associations with urban systems, the components of urban character—geography, pattern, and silhouette—were determined. The resemblances observed in urban characters were examined through metacities at the top of the urban hierarchy.

The interaction of global architecture with cities has led to a sameness of urban geography, patterns, and silhouettes, causing cities to share similar aesthetic features and lose their uniqueness. In this context, cities are portrayed as prestige notions or imaginable spaces with branding and competitive dynamics. The research discusses the factors that determine a metacity, the development of urban character, changes over time, and the relationships formed through morphological elements within the urban context. By investigating the effects contributing to global sameness in metacities, the study addresses a relatively rare topic in the academic world. The critical approach it adopts toward reading resemblance through urban character lends importance to the research.

The topic of the study is not a standalone research endeavour but critically incorporated as a part of a more extensive global architectural conversation. Therefore, it should be conducted in every metropolitan area to bring new materials to the big picture. The relationship of each metropolitan area is essential, and discussing their relationships requires in-depth terminology specific to each city, conducting assistance

from fields such as architecture, urban planning, history, policy, sociology, geology, geography, and ecology related to the city.

The architectural similarities on a worldwide scale that big cities face features of urban morphology. It is a complex, intricate system that is noticeable across different disciplines and extends to extraordinary scales in different cities throughout the ages. The globalising world has established associations with each other, driving global cities to carry a similar urban character. It has entangled the parameters that affect the construction of cities in different parts of the world. This idea is particularly questioned and discussed broadly within the main research questions of the thesis. The thesis adheres strictly to the following structure within the framework of exploring similarities. The structure of the thesis is as follows.

Chapter 1 of the thesis opens the conversation around the urban character. Starting with the background of the problem, research questions, objective and aims. This chapter slowly builds up the dialogue about the urban character. This clarifies the definitions of character and identity in built environments and the overall concept of their role. The narrative of the historical context of industrialisation and globalisation has been debated within the positive and negative results of the driving points in urban areas. The hierarchy of the urban has also been systematically categorised in this chapter.

Chapter 2 is a detailed review of the historical journey in the 20th century, focusing on urbanisation. This chapter is focused on the big city phenomena, a composition outlined through the historical journey of the 20th century, the dramatic journey of urbanisation, and the spread of tall building typology in the skyline. It also categorises the components of the urban character.

Chapter 3 is concerned with the consequences of globalisation in big cities. This territory forms the introductory preface for research question one and involves the third research question. This chapter critically examines the concept of sameness within broader arguments, concentrating on determinations as a trailer for the methodology

Chapter 4 is the methodology that explores the sameness amongst 9 metacities around the globe based on the components of the urban character. These 9 metacities were tested by the research questions of the thesis. Using the interpretative historical quantitive approach for the methodology, this chapter records the data parameters of 9 metacities, searching for the similarities. Components of the urban character are used to collect the visual data to reach the parameters systematically.

After the application of the visual frameworks, the parameters have been reviewed in Chapter 5. This is a highly critical chapter as it gives a whole experimental flow field of the findings and builds up the actors and their roles in information on the urban identity. The comparison is made between the 9 metacities in today's architectural era. Conclusions are drawn, and research questions for further investigations are outlined, alongside strategies and plans regarding possible techniques for the future of the cities. Chapter 6 contains the discussion of the study where Chapter 7 holds the conclusions **Table 1.1.**

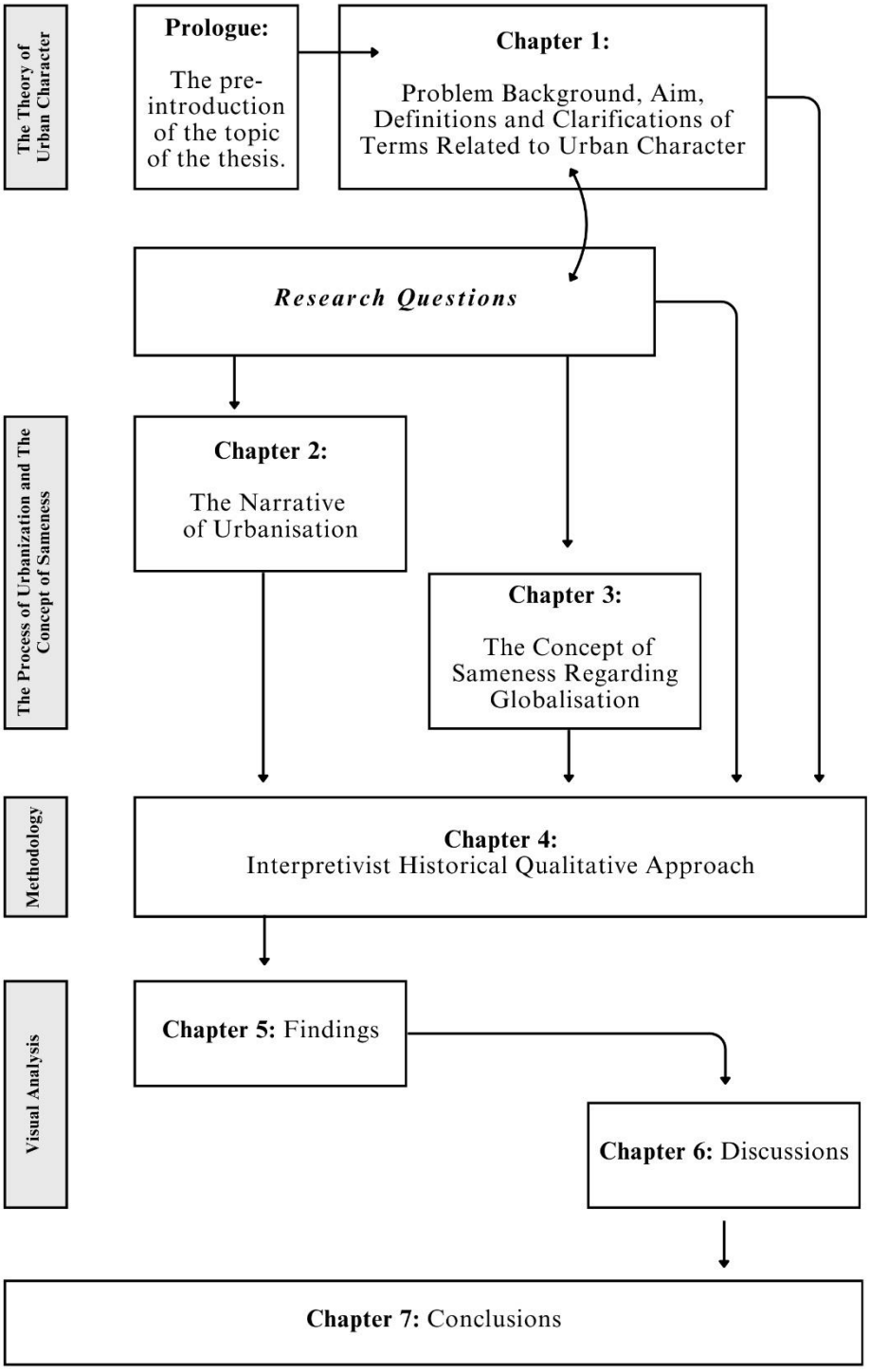


Table 1.1: The Structure of Thesis **[Author].**

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Problem Background

In the context of "the world becoming the global village" **[Majerska-Pałubicka, 2020]**, there have been dramatic changes in urban morphology towards the big city phenomenon. Economic transition and industrialisation self-legitimise, spreading forces to rural areas, which are absorbed or obliterated by larger living units, and becoming critical to industrial production and consumption **[Lefebvre, 2003; Williams, 2019].** Industrialisation engendered a rapid construction paradigm through standardisation, uniformity, stereotypes and repetitive design. During a considerably long period of the 20th century, shifts in the production method of the built environment, technological advances, and the standardisation of urban spaces have led to similar urban atmospheres and the loss of unique urban character **[Sakar, 2019].** Urban areas were designed with a national identity, avoiding compositions for building typologies that would be recognisably representative of any distinct nation with a distinctive identity **[De Botton, 2008].** While these compositions start functioning as fabricated, standardised, fast-built products or machines, the global cities' character begins to lose uniqueness. Consequently, structures lose their unique characteristics, becoming serving products of the urban mechanism. This sensation appears in the urban framework by replicating matching structures across global cities, uniform skylines, and comparable urban geography in inclusive urban settings. Globalisation and urbanisation have led the urban planning of metropolitan areas and have delivered the same global architectural identity. Over the past two centuries, cities have undergone multiple changes in their mechanisms. Since the beginning of the 19th century, with extraordinary technological trends and findings in developing architecture, the character of urban areas has tended to follow the evolution of urbanisation **[Freestone, 2000; Knox and McCarthy, 2011; Glaeser et al., 2020].** In return, the phenomenon of high-density urban hierarchies has been shaping the context of urban characters.

The urban character of metacities confronts the issue of covering their unique identity. The resemblance between the characters of these metropolitan areas mainly emanates from the essential components and features that shape a city. The components of urban character are crucial factors in comprehending and exploring the complexities of big cities. The urban character surrounds the critical parts of urban morphology, including the pattern, silhouette, and geography. The way to meet the urban character is to read about the components that make the city a city through the local cultural, social, historical, economic, and aesthetic forces on metropolitan design and architectural planning **[Cox, 2022].** Although these architectural parameters are essential for learning about the cities' identity, the roles of prominent actors, stakeholders, and decision-makers are imperative to the cities' uniqueness. The global architectural design approaches, actions and decisions have overshadowed the uniqueness and significance of local culture and localisation **[Treasures, 2024].** The replication of matching facades, uniformity in height and scale, consistent material usage, similar planning reviews, identical structural elements, the influence of global architectural firms, and the attachment to widespread design scenario tendencies collectively influence the resemblance of high-density metropolitan identities.

Urban hierarchies have developed as a reflection of shifting socioeconomic, ecological, political, religious, technological, economic, and cultural factors of a specifically built area; therefore, to associate these complex patterns and layers, their practical process must be considered **[Rossi, 1984].** Globalisation is the central force that creates international competition among cities for economic investment, and this phenomenon greatly influences urban policy and composition **[Rapaport, 2013].** This topic has been a subject of all-encompassing debate in the literature. Some scholars consider globalisation the main source of monotonous, similar, and repetitive architecture within big cities. Architecture, which began to cross through interactions between cities due to globalisation, started to threaten the distinctiveness of city character and produced homogeneous and generic architecture based on global identity **[Eldemery, 2009; Ayna, 2011].** The base delivery approach for addressing the charges and sensations of lack of place uniqueness is promoted by the plan to manifest the economic benefits brought through global attractiveness and globalised urban competition with space-making determinations. On the other hand, globalisation is also viewed as a positive consequence of the built environment, delivering

opportunities through global innovative information to develop new urban identities, forming a respectful interaction between old and new forms that coexist in the context of the urban area **[Majerska-Pałubicka, 2020].** This research projects a broadcast for the findings of the breakdown for forthcoming architectural and urban planning practices, and it promotes unique urban development to break the cycle of sameness in urban identity in the future.

In today's contemporary architectural discussions, one of the main topics for cities is trying to preserve their character. In attempting to specify the character of such a process, focusing on its physical aspects is the most promising way to get a whole picture **[Kropf, 1996; Mirmoghtadaee, 2004].** The physical identity of a place refers to the differentiation of the shape and design of a city, making each city unique and different from others **[Ahmadi et al., 2009].** Although the sources about urbanisation, globalisation and the impact of capital on architecture are widespread, few studies deliver criticism based on the identity and character of cities, which are directly based on the expression of the sameness of cities. It is essential to determine the factors associated with the studies carried out in this field within the scope of philosophy that shapes the urban identity so that the cities can maintain their uniqueness.

Metacities, illustrated within the urban hierarchy based on population size, were selected for analysis in this study. Metacities designate the highest position in the urban hierarchy, most impacted by globalisation. As of today's contemporary architectural era, there are 9 metacities worldwide, each with a population exceeding 20 million and decisive global interconnectedness. The study investigates the urban character of 9 metacities: Tokyo, Delhi, Shanghai, Dhaka, Sao Paulo, Cairo, Mexico, Beijing and Mumbai. By illustrating the resemblances in the architectural representation of the metacities around the globe, the study strives to compare the features and the factors contributing to the sameness in the urban's distinctive character. To fully understand how a globalised language influences and is influenced by local forces and needs, this research must examine the impact of planning conditions driven by political and economic factors on the character of cities. Therefore, from the architectural material, the study analyses the actors and the decision-makers that shape the metacities. The metacities are investigated using architectural tools based on the components of urban character: geography, patterns, and silhouettes. The data received from this investigation is used to discuss issues such as urban competitiveness, urban branding,

loss of uniqueness of the cities, detachment from localization, and the associations established by actors with these cities, all within the framework of global sameness.

Metacities were chosen for the study because they portray urban areas that are most impacted by global resemblances. Their high density, considerable populations, and often uncontrollable urban development align them reasonably to study based on the main research question. The worldwide interconnectedness and dependencies of metacities are reflected in their architecture, influenced by economic and political factors. The main research question is *"Why do the 9 metacities located in different regions of the world contribute to the presence of similar urban characters?"* and it could have also been asked for the megacities and metropolises. By assessing the dynamic configurations of cities that develop and change, megacities and metropolises can become a metacity one day. Moreover, these cities share a global connectedness, similarities in design elements and effects of politicians, business owners and architecture firms as well. This issue should be addressed for further academic investigation in the future.

1.2. Problem Statement, Research Question, Objective and Aims

Problem Statement: Globalisation and urbanisation have produced a global big-city phenomenon, leading to a challenge for 9 metacities around the world to preserve their unique urban character.

The main research question as follows:

RQ: Why do the 9 metacities located in different regions of the world contribute to the presence of similar urban characters?

The supporting question as follows:

- What are the main components of urban morphology that define urban character?

The overall objective of the study is to analyse the interplay between the comprehensive relationship and implications associated with the resemblance influenced by globalisation in metacities and discern its impact on the essential morphological elements constituting the urban character.

To reach the answer to these questions and meet the study's objective following aims have been set:

- Defining urban character and identity.
- Categorising cities within the urban hierarchy based on their size.
- Mapping how cities are formed in the globalised world.
- Specifying the parameters that lead to global resemblance in urban characters.
- Analysing the morphological characteristics of 9 existing metacities worldwide through geography, patterns, and silhouettes, and operating a systematic study.

1.3. Potential Limitations

The research is a mechanism based on a critique of sameness within the borders of examining the morphological relationships of cities through the parameters of the city character and determining their actors. It's important to acknowledge the potential limitations of this research, such as the scope of the study.

Hierarchical classifications such as megacity, metropolis or major city are frequently used in different sources. However, since the phrase metacity is a new definition in the literature, the classification ranges depending on the sources. Most of the old resources and even some of the latest reliable sources still put megacities at the top of the urban hierarchy instead of metacity. On the other hand, The UN recognises the metacity as cities surpassing 20 million in population size **[UN, 2006; Mohler, 2010; Mcgrath and Pickett, 2011; Kostaropoulou, 2017].** The Harvard Business Review notices the classification of the "*meta city*" as the expanded form of the city, which is a web of cities that perform as a global unit and are connected to a prominent economic hub **[Florida et al., 2023].** In this investigation, the multidimensional global characteristics of metacities were investigated, accepting the definition that are made by these resources. The study focuses on 9 metacities, each with a population exceeding 20 million. Current population data was obtained from **Worldometer [2024]**, which demonstrates that these 9 cities meet the standards for being categorised as metacities.

The selected cities are Tokyo, Delhi, Shanghai, Dhaka, São Paulo, Cairo, Mexico City, Beijing, and Mumbai. These cities were analyzed through the morphological components of urban character: geography, patterns, and silhouettes. Architectural

representation tools were employed to study each city, scientifically concentrating on global architectural similarities and differences. The findings were linked to aspects such as urban competitiveness, city branding, loss of uniqueness of the cities, the concept of localization, and relationships with actors, which were explored through specific structures. This study addresses a scientific issue related to architecture and urban planning. The sameness observed among metacities is discussed based on findings derived from architectural data.

1.4. Definitions and Clarifications

It is crucial to explain specific terms that are used throughout this thesis. In this chapter, clarifications that are commonly used in the thesis have been described. This investigation contributes to understanding by examining how and to what extent urban identity is characterised within components of urban morphology.

1.4.1. Defining Urban Character

The notion of character is often expressed as the prevalent atmosphere or ambience experienced in the built environment **[Dovey et al., 2005].** The character of a place maintains different forms and depends on various factors, such as identifying the place and its relationship **[Cox, 2022].** Therefore, the description of the identity of a place is more likely to vary depending on who is tracing it. For instance, an architect would build a different relationship based on the identity of a city, while a sightseer would incorporate a different context with the city. 'Character' is infrequently expressed as an unattached category; instead, it shifts between the other fields of expertise, with the concept of sensation or 'atmosphere' serving as an intermediary **[Dovey et al., 2005].** Hence, in pursuing to uncover and examine a place's urban character or identity, it is not conceivable to express such a notion simply through a factual report, nor is it viable through complete phrases such as 'real' or 'true' identity and character.

The term ' urban character ', a significant concept in the spatial field of architecture and urban planning studies, has been actively used by scholars in the past decade. It has been defined as the state of cognition, an outcome of the lived-world background and something being formed over time **[Relph, 1976; Jackson, 1994].** The term refers to a city's overall visual aesthetics and atmosphere, which is determined by its

architectural terminology. Urban character is a decisive notion, with the ability to form images in someone's intellect that have never been comprehended before **[Mahendra et al., 2020].** Character is a set of layers; all the factors that give the city its identity are things that make it distinguishable from others. That concept complicates the urban areas because it comprises several systems and composite elements **[Youssef and Esam, 2023].** As it is a multidisciplinary and dynamic term, urban character is a being of the elaborated factors. The term is frequently engaged throughout the thesis and may be considered as one of the most important terms.

Urban areas serve as gateways for the global economy, with central cities operating as telecommunications hubs for the national economy and acting as symbols, marketing labels, and anonymous entities **[Gleeson et al., 2014, Supriyadi, 2018].** Improving urban areas isn't just about getting more gadgets or spreading things out; it's about concentrating on what's important: people, their relationships, and how they connect with the world around them **[Mumford, 1961].** This might change how cities are rebuilt, trying to balance small community benefits with big-city perks. Even though the urban area should be a caring place that nurtures its people and builds a sense of community. Overall, all the marks of the economic changes, wars and changes in technology occurred in the twentieth century, and the urban character of the cities mainly changed **Figure 1.1.** This was pivotal in the movement between the territories of rural space and the urban space. **Mumford [1961]** demonstrates that before the prevailing built format of cities existed, there were more undersized communities of settlements such as hamlets, shrines, villages, camps, caches, caves, and cairns. These areas were the spaces where the communities gathered, socialized, and lived together. The settlements spread further along rural borders and the nearby horizon, shaped by the intersection of influential energy, power, and financial factors all coming together. Initially, this sensation of settlement was mainly seen near big rivers and in distinct territories.



Figure 1.1: Urban Character of Seoul **[Sappho, 2024].**

1.4.2. The Formation of Urban Identity

Urban identities play a crucial role in architecture and urban planning. There are different perceptions in literature about the formation of urban identity. The term reflects the dichotomy between its tangible and intangible components, precisely forming perceived feel and ambience, and how this contributed to the city's urban character **[Arefi and Aelbrecht, 2022; Cox, 2022].** Terms such as *"place identity", "sense of place", "genius loci", "character of place"* and *"city image"* have been used to express different facets of urban identity **[Mansour et al., 2023].** Identity is insinuatingly portrayed as character, goals, and origins, as it commonly refers to the *"self-image"* **[Fearon, 1999].** Identity has long been part of the dialogue and breakdown in many fields, such as urbanism, psychology, literature and philosophy, resulting in multiple representations **Table 1.2.** Overall, identity is a term that studies the core of a particular being, thing or place and describes the nexus relationships.

Author	Definition
(Hegel 1812) (p.38-39)	*"Self-equal in its abdolute negativity, through which otherness and relation-to-other has vanished in its own self into pure equality-with-self"*
(Frege 1967) (p.20)	*"Identity is the relation between names, understood as signs expressing senses, of denoting the same denotation."*
(Erikson 1968) (p.15)	*"Identity and identity crisis have in popular and scientific usage become terms which alternately circumscribe something so large and so seemingly self-evident that to demand a definition would almost seem petty, while at other times they designate something made so narrow for purposes of measurement that the over-all meaning is lost, and it could just as well be called something else"*
(Relph 1976) (p.62)	*"The identity of place is not a simple tag that can be summarized and presented in a brief factual description... The identity of place takes many forms, but it is always the very basis of our experience of this place as opposed to any other."*
(Clifford 1988) (p.344)	*"Nexus of relations and transactions actively engaging a subject."*
(Hall 1990) (p.225)	*"Cultural identities come from somewhere, have histories..Far from being eternally fixed in some essentialised past, they are subject to the continuous 'play' of history, culture and power."*
(Giddens 1991) (p.4)	*"Self-identity, is not something that is just given, as a result of the continuities of the individual's action-system, but something that has to be routinely created and sustained in the reflexive activities of the individual."*
(Jenkins 1996) (p.4)	*"Identity refers to the ways in which individuals and collectivities are distinguished in their social relations with other individuals and collectivities."*
(Anholt 1998) (p.3)	*"Competitive identity is a new model for enhanced national competitiveness in a global world, and one that is already beginning to pay dividends for a number of countries, cities and regions, both rich and poor.*
(Ferguson 2009) (p.15)	*"Notions of identity that emerge... are constituted as relations rather than entities. In the context of everyday life, identities describe how people and things are interconnected."*

Table 1.2: Definitions and Approaches for "Identity" **[Author]**.

Ultimately, due to the resonant impact of global connectedness, identity encompasses the physical elements such as geography, silhouette or pattern that define a city's character. However, in this context, there is a growing trend of architectural solutions that confront globalisation's challenge in urban development **[Majerska-Pałubicka, 2020].** The character of a place is its unique blend of cultural, social, financial, and physical qualities **[Çetin, 2011].** Urban identity has an dynamic procedure, growths or shrinks, can be recognised through architectural representation tools, and has intertwined with cultural, political, and economic factors.

The density of urban areas poses issues, whereas it gives a powerful array of conceivable users for public spaces in most regions of the central business district. Where 3000 individuals an hour pass by a spot, many errors can be made in the master planning, and a spot may nevertheless turn into a place that could be well used **[Whyte, 2001].** The discrepancies between rural and urban characters have resulted in increased

rural-to-urban migration despite both being essential for life. **[Agergaard et al., 2021; Studysmarter, 2024]**. If most people reside solely in small villages, contemporary culture can only partially thrive. Conversely, if most people only live in the big cities, the world will suffer because there are not enough people in the right places to look after it **[Alexander et al., 1977].** Urban and rural characters have advantages and disadvantages regarding their identity; it is crucial to consider population size and economic power to classify the hierarchy.

1.4.3. The Notion of Urban Scale: The Hierarchy of Urban Areas

A city is understood when seen, yet cannot be demonstrated by a single factor. A city fully functions like an organism, exclusively like the human body. The complexity of the cities conveys a settlement with a notably high-density environment that usually has a separate administration system for maintaining and providing services. Few to mention: the transportation network serves as the circulatory system, waste and treatment systems as the excretory system, and green areas and valleys as the main components of the respiratory system. These elements are vital to the city's functioning and impact its operational quality **[Beyazlı, 2015].** Cities vary in hierarchy, with their visual aspects and aesthetic quality contributing to their financial and social dimensions. Cities come in all features and sizes, with assorted ranks of development by their economy. Urban aesthetics includes materials, buildings, streets, and the entire urban layout, creating patterns and textures **[Çetin, 2011].**

The contemporary urban phenomenon has a hierarchy of scale that is defined differently according to complexity and surpasses the analytical tools and instruments of different practical fields. **Lefebvre [2003]** states urban phenomenon is based on descriptive methods; ecology describes the "habitat" of inhabited sites and neighbourhoods. Phenomenological description, which is more nuanced, studies the links between urban dwellers and the site; it studies the environment and boundaries of urban areas. Empirical description emphasizes morphology, which is the definition used in this study since it is an architectural and urban-related field. This approach accurately measures what individuals see and do within an urban framework, a given city, such as a megapolis, as a dispersed city that forms an administrative and political whole, including urban functions even when the older forms and structures have disappeared.

If there was a transformation period in the politics and economy at the end of the 20th century, how profoundly this change impacted the urban hierarchies should be assessed. Considerable indicators of radical change exist across various urban areas, including labour processes, consumer habits, geographic and geological groups, and state powers and practices. The urban phenomenon reflects a temporal process involving continuous change and transformation by growing or shrinking **[Almusaed and Almssad, 2019].** According to **Harvey [1997],** from 1945 to 1973, the postwar period of sustained growth was underpinned by specific practices of labour control, technological formatting, consumption patterns, and a defined form of political-economic power. The defeat of this system in 1973 observed the beginning of a term characterized by continuous change, turmoil, and uncertainty. This shift propelled the emergence of a new accumulation regime based on flexible labour processes, adaptable markets, increased geographic mobility, and rapid changes in consumer patterns. The contrasts between contemporary political-economic practices and those of the postwar growth period are significant enough to make a hypothesis of a flexible accumulation regime meaningful.

Industrialization, urbanisation, and globalisation are key factors contributing to the concept of "time-space compression" **Figure 1.2.** Today's economic policy, marked by globalisation, suggests a strong case for the notion that spatial barriers have been overcome as if they were collapsing into urban society. The experience of time-space compression combines the everyday images of the global village. With this definition, **Harvey [1997]** also examines the international relations in the urban hierarchy, highlighting how network analysis of the cities can reveal the reduced significance of physical distance for cities' knowledge sharing and the legal, social, political, and architectural importance in their contexts. The convergence of cities is connected to the increased accessibility made possible by advancing technologies. This movement is creating a future where metropolitan areas dominate, often referred to as the 'New Urban World', with big cities becoming increasingly influential worldwide as the sources of new trends **[Glaeser, 2020].** While cities experience these global transformations due to their dynamic infrastructures, they underwent substantial population growth **Table 1.3, Figure 1.3.**

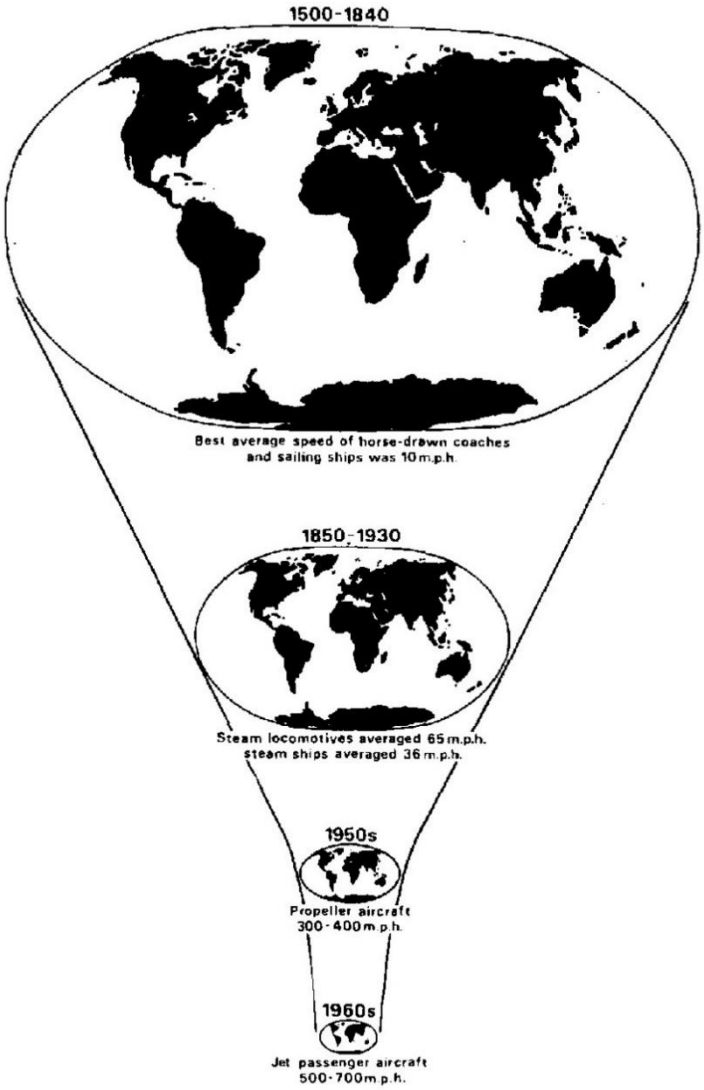


Figure 1.2: The shrinking map of the world through innovations in transport which "annihilate space through time" **[Harvey, 1997].**

Table 1.3: World Population (By Billion) between 1804 and 2024 **[Worldometer, 2024].**

Year	1804	1850	1900	1930	1950	1960	1974	1980	1987	1998	2010	2022	2024
Population	1	1.2	1.6	2	2.55	3	4	4.5	5	6	7	8	8.2

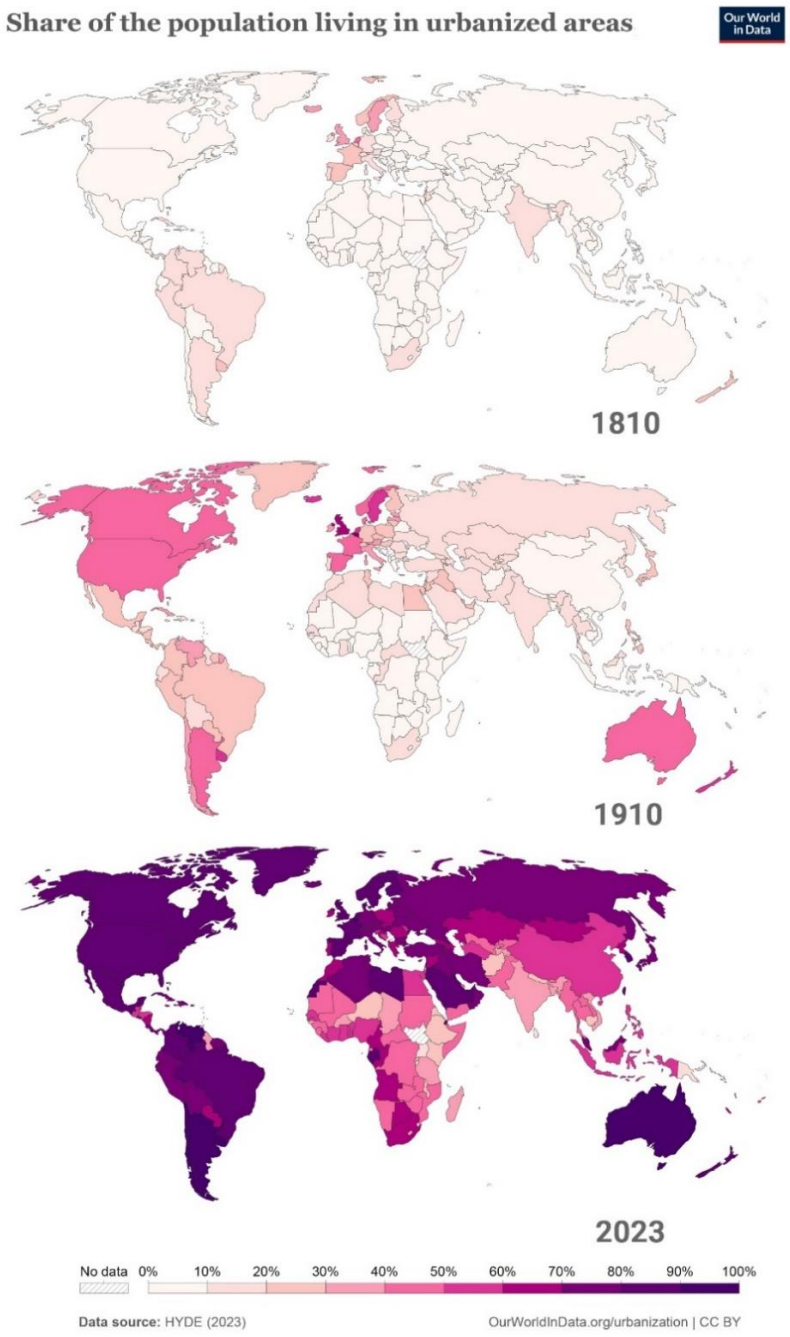


Figure 1.3: Share of Population Living in Urbanized Areas 1810-2023 **[HYDE, 2023].**

Urban areas are not monolithic structures; they are dynamic geographies where complex social inputs interact practically and sometimes dramatically. The interplay of factors like horizontal networks, vertical hierarchies, urban paradigms, and their subversions shape the character of a city and put it in the hierarchy **[Kostaropoulou, 2017]**. Settlements take their names from their sizes; therefore, the density in a living

territory relates to demographic changes in the urban space. United Cities and Local Governments is a global organization that is concerned with representing and protecting the interests of local governments on the world stage. **UCLG [2016]** categorises urban areas based on complexity, density, and development level The hierarchy can categorically characterise urban and rural areas as metacities, megacities, metropolises, major cities, cities, towns, villages, and hamlets **Table 1.4.**

Table 1.4: Urban Hierarchy **[Author]**.

HAMLET	VILLAGE	TOWN	CITY	MAJOR CITY	METROPOLIS	MEGACITY	METACITY
<100	100-5K	5K-50K	50K-1M	1M-5M	5M-10M	10M-20M	20M<

Hamlets and villages are the smallest rural settlements in the hierarchy. A town is smaller than a city but more extensive than a village, with houses, basic amenities, and places of work, while a city is a densely populated community with non-agricultural professionals, including a literate elite **[Macleod, 2023; Knox and McCharthy, 2011].** Unlike hamlets, villages and towns, it is the nature of cities to be malleable and easily changeable **[Harvey, 1997].** Major cities are highly populated urban areas with 1-5 million residents, such as Dubai, Cape Town, Manchester, Mecca, and Hiroshima, each with unique backgrounds, cultures, and societies.

The term metropolis refers to the "mother city" as the founding state of a territory in Ancient Greece and became a universal term for large urban areas in the twentieth century. Its precise usage commonly specifies the primary city of a nation, emphasized by the definite article preceding it— the metropolis **[Rodger, 2012].** The UN defines megacities as having over 10 million people as potential stamina for global change and new cultural experiments, which they simultaneously codetermine, influence, and initiate **[Janoschka, 2019].** The metacities are the largest urban areas in the big city phenomena and urban hierarchy **Table 1.5.**

Table 1.5: The Hierarchy of Urban Areas **[Author]**.

The Hierarchy of Urban Areas			
Hamlet	**Village**	**Town**	**City**
• Smallest urban settlement. • Hamlets have few families. • Contains very few buildings and services. • A hamlet typically doesn't usually have a place for worship. • Some hamlets can be used as an administrative community.	• A settlement with a place of worship and a central meeting point. • Neighbourhood community • Agriculture and livestock-based economy • Dependence on natural resources • There may be a doctor's practice and a primary school	• Land prices are lower; basic services are cheaper compared to the cities • Basic amenities and services • Local economic centres • Limited public transportation • Community events, local festivals • Local municipality	• Considered to be a large town • Extensive systems for housing • Sanitation • Transportation options • Wide range of services, but not as many as major cities • Regional government • Major Brands • Local culture
Major City	**Metropolis**	**Megacity**	**Metacity**
• More popular than cities, usually stands out for a specific reason • High population density • Business Centres • Variety of Brands and Stores • Strong Services for education, health and transportation. • Regional cultural significance	• Large Cities • Mother city • Comprehensive social services • Strong Central Business Districts • Services with options based on price • Advanced public transit and highways • Comprehensive infrastructure • National cultural centre	• Very large urban area • Environmental issues such as ecological footprints and pollution. • Social issues, such as inequality, employment, • High Prices for land, residential buildings and offices • International cultural impact	• Most populated cities in the world • Expensive metropolitan life • Complicated Transportation Systems • Environmental issues, social issues, employment issues • Massive Centres for business • Global cultural influence

1.4.4. Metacity: The Largest Urban Area

UN-Habitat's State of the World's Cities report recognised a new type of urban area called a metacity, which refers to massive, sprawling cities with populations surpassing 20 million **[UN, 2006; Mcgrath and Pickett, 2011].** In 2006, A metacity, or metapolis, portrays an exceptionally advanced phase of urbanisation. Following the Industrial Revolution's cities, the metacity represents a different form, unlocking gates to the third development of modern urban centres **[Kostaropoulou, 2017]**. The World Population Review contains a breakdown of the most populated urban areas globally for 2023 and 2024. It provides understandings into the growth rates of these metacities along with their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) figures, as shown in **Table 1.6.**

Table 1.6: Population of the Metacities in the World, 2024 **[Worldometer, 2024].**

"This is a new breed of city — the metacity." **[Mohler, 2010].**

Population					City GDP 2023 (USD Million)
Metacity	**Country**	**2024 Population**	**2023 Population**	**Growth Rate**	
Tokyo	Japan	37,115,035	37,194,105	-0.21%	2055.69
Delhi	India	33,807,403	32,941,309	2.63%	500
Shanghai	China	29,867,918	29,210,808	2.25%	663.87
Dhaka	Bangladesh	23,935,652	23,209,616	3.13%	160
Sao Paulo	Brazil	22,806,704	22,619,736	0.83%	261.64
Cairo	Egypt	22,623,874	22,183,201	1.99%	102
Mexico City	Mexico	22,505,315	22,281,442	1%	250.45
Beijing	China	22,189,082	21,766,214	1.94%	618.64
Mumbai	India	21,673,149	21,296,517	1.77%	277.98

In Greek, "meta" means "after" as a chronological sequence and means "along with." as a spatial coexistence. **Mohler [2010]** has interpreted 'meta' as a double adherence status, both contrasting to the attributes and, at the same time, along with them, and this is how meta-polis writes history: by conscience. In this case, the meta-polis can be portrayed in either temporal or spatial terms, as a chronological sensation, successiveness, or a colonial sensation, attendance. Under the compressive character of 'meta,' urban territories are perceived as meta-cities, with the urban dipole remaining conjunct and strongly referential to the outside **Figure 1.4.** It signifies a

universal dominance of civic life and a liberation from the constraints of history and geography, moreover, encouraging new perspectives.



Figure 1.4: Tokyo: The First Metacity **[AirlinesBee, 2024].**

2. THE NARRATIVE OF URBANISATION

The contextualisation of the urban character carried the practical outcomes of the new technologies. Industrialisation and urbanisation changed the way urban areas work. In the 19th century, thinkers were simultaneously enthusiasts and enemies of modern life, wrestling inexhaustibly with its ambiguities and contradictions; their self-ironies and inner tensions were a primary source of their creative power. Meanwhile, according to **Berman [1981],** in the 20th century, successors have lurched far more toward flat totalization. These decades have a narrative of significant events beneath them, focusing on a narrative based on machine aesthetics, urban competition or political dilemmas **[Harvey, 1997]. Soja [2000]** introduces the idea that space has been marginalised, and there has been a spatial turn in architectural spaces. Meanwhile **Lefebvre [2003]** views the metropolisation process as a comprehensive collection of specialised perspectives from the global phenomenon field or domain to propose several ways to impact the urban society, its reality and deep-seated trends, its actuality and virtuality. On the other hand, **Harvey [2002]** emphasizes that capital transforms the world to overcome its crises, that there is a dynamic connection between space and time, and that cities are a structure that continues prestigious transformation, consumption and production. It can be argued that cities can be abandoned with their capital. It is also possible to demonstrate that there is a political and economic statement in the urban character.

The process of capital transforming the urban context marks the beginning of a new era initiated by industrialisation in the 19th century. Referring to **Lefebvre's [1974]** declaration of the place of the unexpected for the urban context, **Harvey [1985]** highlights that cities make it possible for all kinds of positive or negative possibilities to occur. **Harvey's [2002]** urban theory demonstrates the paradoxes in urban space's social and spatial structures by referencing the inherent paradoxes of capital. Here, capital accumulation and urbanisation processes coalesce through investments in the metropolitan areas on one topic and social expenditures to reproduce labour power on the other **[Şengül, 2000; Sönmez, 2012; Gündüz, 2020].** Capital uses urban space efficiently for accumulation; moreover, it transforms and structures the physical environment and social relations within it to reproduce inequalities. According to

Harvey [2002], the inequity is a product of the paradox between capital and labour power. The characterisation of cities according to the accumulation logic of urban space formed through capital implies that it upholds inequalities in the reproduction of labour power.

The production process that aims to continue uninterruptedly and continuously has begun by separating the complex procedures and processes involved in the production processes into straightforward aspects, delivering a division of labour and rational regulation of the workflow. The change also immensely impacted industrial technology and sector methods, providing new labour cases. These circumstances also led to rural-to-urban migration, providing urban growth and delivering labour for the newly formed factories **[Knox and McCarthy, 2011; Hustwit, 2011].**

Factories encircle the city like a ring, surrounding and compressing the industrial cities' administrative and commercial centres **[Berman, 1981; Harvey, 1997].** The productive unit loses its flexibility, becomes dependent on high-volume production to substitute its fixed costs, and becomes increasingly vulnerable to new market demands and technical collapse that are bound to change over time. Due to mechanisation in industrial cities, resources were focused on producing a limited number of product types, making standardisation an outcome of the production **[Utterback, 1994; Koçak, 1996].** Standardisation of the techniques has redefined the industrial city's understanding of production. This approach contains the philosophy that could characterise the sense of place in the urban context by opening possibilities to mass production by capital. According to **Kunstler [1994],** the economy and urban area configuration differed during the early days of factories and big cities. Buildings were short, usually 6 stories at most, and they were without elevators. People used to go around mostly on foot. The city skyline was simple, with church steeples and ship masts, whereas things changed fast.

Industrial cities are distributed unequally, containing different conditions. **Bauman [2000]** links freedom and social inequality by explaining that resources and values determine the freedom ratio. Resources refer to a person's material possessions or social capital, while values represent the freedom to choose the most logical goals from various options. For instance, an individual may use their last cash to pay rent or buy a new phone. Thus, **Bauman [2000],** a person's resources and values determine their freedom. Social inequality describes differences that emerge socially among people,

which are made and maintained through human relationships **[Önür, 2022].** Industrial development and population growth radically started to transform the face of the nation's cities. There were many outcomes, such as noise, traffic jams, pollution, health issues and slum culture. Internalizing its negative environmental externalities conveys an unstable and poorly enforced implementation in many parts of the world **[UN-Habitat, 2003; Patel and Burra, 2004; Davis, 2006; Piketty, 2014; Simandan, 2020].** In the industrial cities, men would constitute the primary workforce in industrial cities where the number of female workers increased due to the growing workforce. Meanwhile, child labourers were often found working in unsafe conditions. The factories hired many workers, often living in crowded and dirty places called tenements **Figure 2.1.** Tenement buildings did not have good conditions as there were no rules about how they should be built, so they did not need fresh air or running water.



Figure 2.1: New York City Tenements **[Young, 2013].**

Industrialisation changed the understanding of economic activities in the urban character. Since it was the rising period of better-quality and less costly production processes in the vertical dimension, the growth mainly ensued with the emergence of

machines **[Schmookler, 1966; Landes, 1969; Rosenberg, 1974; Howitt, 1999; Pomeranz, 2000; Lucas, 2002; Strulik, 2014; Alkın, 2016; Atar, 2021]**. Additionally, **Landes [1969]** states that the consequence of this era has been a massive expansion in the output and variety of goods and services in urban areas. The post-industrial city included trolleys used for mass transit, transportation systems such as subways and cable cars and skyscrapers. The economic activity alters according to the seasons and international market fluctuations. On the other hand, as **Walters [1996]** demonstrates, *"An industrial society is a game against fabricated nature"* underscores the potential centralisation of human-machine relationships, and this procedure involves energy to transform the natural set into a technical setting. In that aspect, the association of socio-economic life changed within the forthcoming anticipations, practices and habits from pre-industrial to industrial society. In this viewpoint, the Industrial Revolution was instituted from a profitable balance of earlier capitalism between population and existing resources **[Hill, 1969; Lucas, 2002; Ateş, 2008]**. From the Industrial Revolution onwards, the global economy evolved and incorporated, and the urban areas became more dependent on each other. This approach has framed the occurrence of urbanisation.

2.1. Dramatic Global Rise of Urbanisation

In the developing world, urbanisation, the global growth of urban spaces, became noticeable in the 20th century **[Brockerhoff, 1999; Tilly, 2008; UN-Habitat, 2015; UN, 2018; Bodo, 2019]**. As **Harvey [1985]** and **Sassen [2001]** declare, the international mobility of capital and its growing swiftness contribute to specific conditions of articulation among different geographic areas and transformations in the role played by these areas in the world economy. Urbanisation began to develop in different temporalities and pioneered architectural design and identity change. It was challenging to prospect the actual growth rates or the trend of urbanisation in less developed urban areas due to the inconsistency of what should be decided or expressed as an urban place and the unavailability or lack of quality of their actual population data **[Davis, 1955; Timberlake, 1987; Clark, 1998]**. The process portrayed by high densities and the "*symbiosis between urban and rural areas"*, composing *"new prototypes of considerable land use"* that give these areas a new character, which could also be recognised in other regions of the globe where the urban reality is expanding

rapidly **[Singh, 2015].** A considerable number of the urban areas in developing countries cannot manage the needs of the growing population; therefore, the urban dwellers change to informal sectors for employment options **[Gündoğan and Biçerli, 2009].**

Jacobs [1961] expresses that cities have problems with *"organised complexity"*, like in the life sciences. They offer situations where a half-dozen or several dozen quantities vary simultaneously. Like the life sciences, cities do not demonstrate a specific issue in organised complexity, which, if understood, describes all. Urban areas are being analysed into many such issues or segments, which, as in the case of the life sciences, are also related to each other **Figure 2.2.** The variables are many, not helter-skelter; they are interrelated in the bigger picture. As many scholars discussed, all the aspects of uncontrolled rapid urbanisation lead to issues such as the spread of infectious and non-communicable diseases, environmental issues, poor nutrition, delays in the services, congestion, environmental degradation, inadequate housing and heightened crime rates **[Moore et al., 2003; Alirol et al., 2011; Eckert and Kohler, 2014].** In the context of rapid urbanisation**, Zukin [2009]** demonstrates that urban areas continuously strive to target investors and wealthy guests and authorise people with substantial financial means **Figure 2.3.** This approach emphasises a broad approach to re-urbanisation marked by shifts weakening conventional industries' power and associated lifestyles. The migrations to urban spaces introduced diverse tastes and concerns, enriching the urban landscape and society. However, these changes also contribute to economic disparities and cultural barriers, separating rich and poor and different age groups **[Davis, 1955; Clark, 1998].**



Figure 2.2: Manhattan, 1910 **[Mlbpark]**.



Figure 2.3: The Palace of Westminster, with a German Graf Zeppelin hovering above during the 1930s, London **[CBW]**.

After the 1920s, In USA with the result of automobile era, the large-scale suburbanisation of the city, and the product of the middle class dream happened **[Alexander, 1965]**. Tract housing was started to be used in urban planning when the request for cheap housing pervaded **Figure 2.4.** This sort of urban planning divides the residential area from the urban planning strategy and extremely regards the scale

of the residential area, laying a foundation for the planning of contemporary urban residential areas. Suburbanisation, the migration from rural to suburban areas, moved accommodation farther from jobs and major centres compared to the 1930s, forcing longer journeys **[Hall, 2014].** This reflected planners' intention for traditional urban layouts and politicians' desire for a vital economic base. The tract housing is a prominent example for the sameness that could be noticed in the urban identity with a scale of city, town or village.



Figure 2.4: Tract housing **[Seibold, 2015].**

During the Great Depression in the 1930s, individuals, companies, institutions, and governments were in a position where they had to respond with critical reactions to the clear economic crisis trends. Despite resistance from workers against assembly line production and concerns over centralised control, this period marked a new beginning as **Harvey [1997]** declares which is large-scale planning and rationalising labour processes. In Europe, automobile industry mainly targeted high-skilled workers, the wealthy, and elite consumers. Beyond automobiles, industries like shipbuilding, transportation equipment, steel, petrochemicals, tires, electrical goods, and construction became vital parts of economic growth and development. **Jacobs [1961]** names traffic arteries, gas stations, parking lots, and drive-ins as influential and insistent instruments of the city **Figure 2.5.** The arrival of the automobile's evolution as transportation conformed precisely with the interval during which the objective of

the suburbanised anti-city was formed architecturally, sociologically and financially. The proper decision-making and application of government policies eventually allowed the architectural reflections of economic hardship to be addressed. The advancement in living standards, authority over economic crisis tendencies, and maintenance of mass democracy allowed the powerful to manage competition.

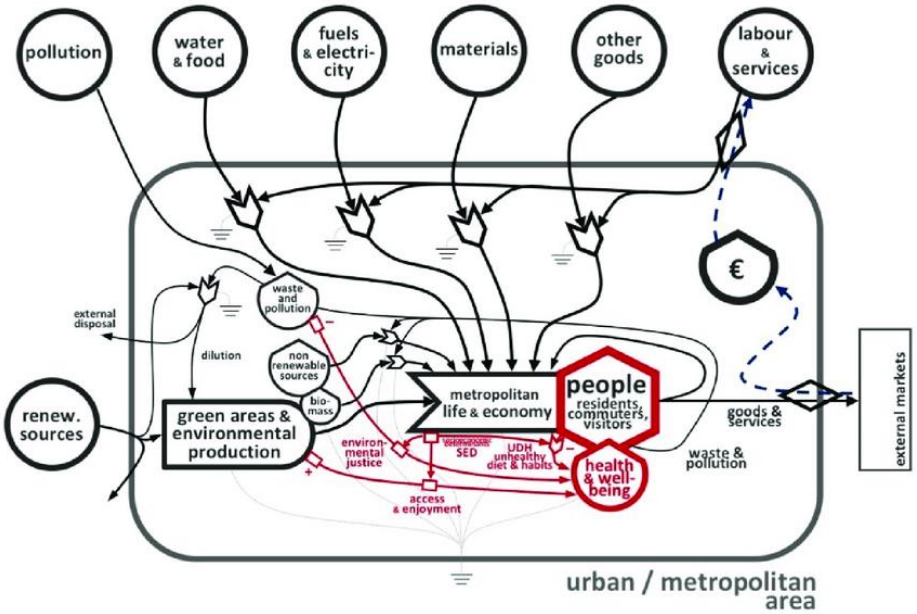


Figure 2.5: Urban Area **[Cristiano et al., 2021].**

Industrialisation and urbanisation played a significant role in the development of modernism, primarily through the rise of machines, transportation systems, skyscrapers, bridges, and all kinds of architectural and engineering sensations. Along with these innovations, as **Harvey [1997]** states, came instability and insecurity, which were part of the social changes of the time. Modernism could have been seen as a catalyst in the United States until 1945. In contrast, modernism took on greater significance in Europe as a driving force for social change, making cities like Paris and Vienna key centres in the history of intellectual and aesthetic modernism. Even today, these cities have managed to preserve their local character despite the forces of globalisation.

After World War II, Europe encountered a boom burb with new arrangements and cities replacing or modifying older ones, leading to a "tipping point" where the old became rarer than the new, carrying political and symbolic meanings **[Appleyard, 1979].** Meanwhile, America became the top industrial nation because other nations

were destroyed or harmed, giving it a great economic advantage. This led to a huge construction boom as **Kunstler [1994]** demonstrates that all in the Modernist style, which was seen as the right and proper style, representing righteousness, democracy, and independence. According to **Berman [1981]** modernism is considered a struggle to adjust to a continuously changing world, it becomes an evident that no method of modernism can be definitive because the constructions and accomplishments will inevitably turn into prisons and whited sepulchres that must be escaped or transformed for life to continue. The social area for controlled consumption and enforced inactivity is set up and planned **[Lefebvre, 1971].** This urban social spot is clear and, when analyzed, shows irrationality beneath apparent rationality, incoherence beneath an ideology of coherence, and disconnected parts linked only by language.

What's left of modernist thinking today is mainly about criticising, breaking down, and withdrawing the illusions from things. **Touraine [2002]** expresses that modernists live within a cloud that protects them from anything that disrupts reason and the natural order of things. Their point of view is not so extensively about building a brand-new world, but it's about getting rid of the makings that convey clear thinking and feeling light because of it. The moral ambition of modernism was the reliance on the machine. That led to the rise of bureaucratic power and rationality, which began to dominate in the urban areas **Figure 2.6.** In architecture and planning, this shift was evident in avoiding local design and focusing on simplicity and function.

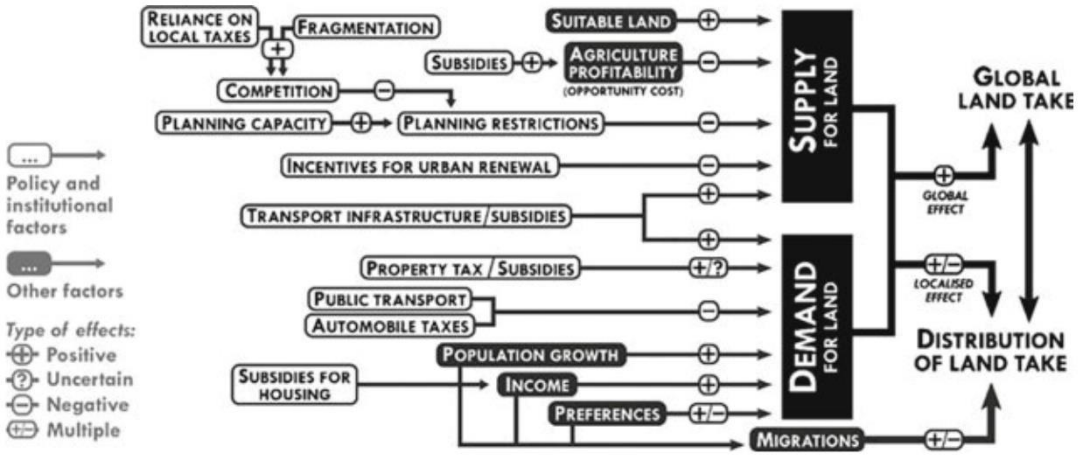


Figure 2.6: Urbanisation Process **[Cristiano et al., 2020].**

In the 1960s, Jane Jacobs condemned the absence of vitality and over-emphasis on functional divisions in the big cities of the USA **[Culpin, 2018]**. During this period, the research process of urban and environmental behaviours, perception, and awareness slowly occurred. Norberg Schulz emphasises *"place spirit"* calling for local styles and meaningful architectural spaces **[Hu and Chen, 2018].** He criticises the functionalism in urban development, claiming that traditional community features and connections to nature have vanished in the urban identity.

In the 1970s, Postmodernism appeared as an intellectual, cultural and architectural movement that responded against the concepts of modernism **[Jencks, 1977; Foster, 1983; Jameson, 1991; Docherty, 1993; Urry, 1995**; **Harvey, 1997].** Postmodern works are playful and even self-mocking, frankly adopting commercialism in opposition to the self-contained style of high modernism. Literary critic **Eagleton [1987]** implies that Postmodernism's perspective toward traditional culture is discourteous, with a deliberate lack of depth that mocks any metaphysical severe meaning. Such an approach can actually lead to a disturbing aesthetic of fragmentation and provocation. In contrast, **Lyotard [1984]** views Postmodernism as a proper response to the constant worldview of modernism. Modernism promotes standardisation, simplification, and uniformity, whereas postmodernism values diversity and heterogeneity as liberating forces in redefining cultural discourse. Fragmentation, ambiguity, and deep mistrust of universal, comprehensive narratives are central traits of postmodern thought, which aims to awaken from universalism. According to this view, it could be concluded that modernism played a role in the sameness in urban areas.

As **Harvey [1997]** describes, in the postmodern 1970s, this movement in architecture and urban design moved away from the modernist style, favouring simple, functional designs focused on large-scale, technologically efficient urban plans. Postmodernism views urban areas as inherently divided due to the layers of historical forms that continue to be a collage-like style. Overall, the result from such a technique can vary widely and may be impacted by regional traditions, personal choices, traditional influence, or the celebration of spectacle. In the postmodern era, visuals are foremost compared to stories. However, **Touraine [2002]** claims that this priority on visuals weakens feelings and makes individual identities less stable, even fading in some scenes. Even though, it is clear to say that post-modernism doesn’t separate different

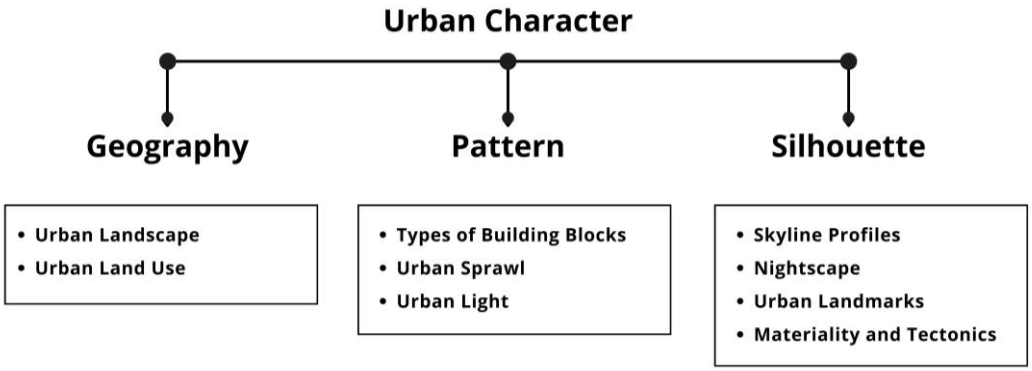
aspects of life like art and politics instead, it wants everything to be connected. This indicates that it also abandons the idea of looking at the world from afar and prefers direct interaction.

In the 19th century, social classes were essential, particularly in modern societies; meanwhile in the 20th century, nations became the priority. Then, businesses became powerful, especially in the United States, Japan, and Europe. Soon after, mass consumption became common in America, then Europe and Japan. Mass communication also became widespread, shaping desires and imagination in public life **[Touraine, 2002]** In the 20th century, alongside the movements and occurrences that impacted the statute of the urban areas in the new urban hierarchies, urbanisation played a major function. In this context, capital turns into a process. **Harvey [1997]** describes it as a reshaping of social life through commodity production, commenting that many urban residents in developed countries are part of this process and that it has specific consequences. The capital-driven internalised mechanism influences society, technology, construction methods, design approaches, and the city's identity. It provides growth through innovative destruction, creating new needs and new desires, and new desires creating new spaces.

2.2. Urban Character and Its Components

Urban character is not straightforward **[Dovey et al., 2005].** Scholars defined urban character as a condition of understanding and outcome of the lived-world experience and the attachment of existing distinct from other places **[Relph, 1976].** Some studies use the term with a concern of the purpose of the architectural space existentially and physically focusing on the economic aspects that are valuable in the urban areas; meanwhile, another adequate usage of the term is related to the sense of place and belonging **[Nairn, 1965; Ellul, 1976; Relph, 1976; Norberg-Shultz, 1993]**. According to **Neill [2004]**, the role of urban character should be comprehended as an essential tool in converting a city and with this identity, witnessed as a design and planning tool. This study examines the similarities between metacities and city characters' components. The urban character is divided into three components: urban geography, pattern, and city silhouette **Table 2.1.**

Table 2.1: The Components of Urban Character **[Author].**



The urban character is a context formed within the scope of the identity of urban geography, urban pattern and city silhouette, in which buildings obtain messages about the course of events and provide data about experienced situations, development, growth and change, aesthetics, politics and economic power **[Ford, 1992; Gottmann, 1991; Guggenheim, 1995; Harvey, 1997; Sev, 2009; Guggenheim and Söderström, 2010; Alotaibi et al., 2016; Gassner, 2009; Mikellides and Porter, 2018; Vijayasree, 2019].** When the relevant literature and software are scanned within the scope of the city character, there are many studies on the silhouette. Other than the architectural components contributing to urban character, economic and political forces also significantly shape the city's architecture **[Lefebvre, 1974; Harvey, 1997].** Urban character results from architects, developers, state, federal, city agencies, public authorities, landmark preservationists, historians, and ecologists **[Hustwit, 2011].**

2.2.1. Urban Geography

Urban geography is a "*spectacular living, dynamic system that is evolving with us*" that functions as an imperative domain for the urban character; therefore, support in green areas, livability, energy efficiency, and sustainability are part of the urban geography **[Florida, 2002; McGregor, 2023]. Jacobs [1961]** often mentions the human-scaled landscapes in urban spaces, whether on a neighbourhood or street-level scale. Urban geography is concerned with the local variability within a general urban context. Urban geography focuses on the image of "local variability within a general context. It is concerned with the attempt to understand both the distinctiveness of individual places

and the regularities within and between urban areas in terms of the spatial relationships of the built environment **[Knox and McCarthy, 2011].** Urban geography contains a wave of planning politics that is closely tied to social justice, underlining that environmental challenges are deeply rooted in social inequalities and power structures, not merely scientific or technical matters **[Harvey, 1996].** The quality of scale in structures, constructions, and trees is one of the most potent tools in juxtaposition, and regard has already been made to it in the case of recession **[Cullen, 1961].** Meanwhile, **McGregor [2023]** divides urban geographies into 10 interconnected systems: citizens, economy, energy, food, infrastructure, landscape, mobility, technology, water and waste.

The evolution of the distinctive identity is combined with the consequence of urban geography. In the temporal journey of urban areas, the influences of geography also shape their circumstances. What aspects make urban areas distinctive? Due to the context of the study being framed from a critical point of view towards sameness in the urban character, the geography is categorised as natural landscape, urban landscape, and urban landmarks as the conceivable parameters related to the scope of the study. The urban geography is shaped by the impact of its natural urban landscape on urbanisation. The newly defined urban landscape takes noteworthy stages in characterising the city by establishing new layers and composition associations. Besides, since urban landmarks are related to the city's recognition on a global scale, they are included within the scope of urban geography.

Many gatherings in an urban space happen in the urban landscape, such as parks, streets, and squares - spaces that collect people in a space. **Konijnendijk [2008]** claims that open urban landscapes suggest the future and invite action. On the negative side of urban landscape spaces, these areas can hold danger, as being open, alive and accessible can also mean being uncovered, exposed, and vulnerable. There is another significant discussion of the urban areas losing its observable natural landscape because of high density making a new urban landscape **[Sharratt, 2001].** The urban landscapes can sometimes be designed as centres or connectors to the main areas. On the other hand, the natural landscape is deeply rooted as it is a restricted public space or not designed by humans **[Hough, 1995; Ahern et al., 2006] Figure 2.7.** These areas are usually far from the city centre as they host other creatures living in the habitat, beyond the fact that the intended population does not use this fully designed area.

These forgotten places that exist on the borders of the city contain wildlife. They deliver shade and flowering groundcovers and wildlife habitats at no cost or care and against all the chances of gasoline fumes, contaminated soils, trampling, and maintenance men.



Figure 2.7: Singapore Urban Landscape **[Morrow, 2022].**

With the characteristics of cities foreshadowing those of the planet, urban landsacape is playing an increasingly important role within ecology **[Grimm et al. 2008].** Pickett et al. [2008] described the hardships urban ecologists encounter: *"Urban ecosystems are complex, dynamic biological–physical–social entities, in which spatial heterogeneity and spatially localized feedbacks play a large role"*. Specifically, urban ecologists foster ecological analysis and work with planners, architects and politicians on impacting whether urban areas additionally become more livable and sustainable **[Howard, 1833; Oke, 1980; Huang et al., 1990; Grimm et al. 2008; Gartland, 2008; Beatley 2010; Cook and Swyngedouw 2012; Pincetl, 2012; Wheeler, 2013; Childers et al. 2014; Hernández-Pérez et al., 2014; Parkinson, 2015; Wang and Akbari, 2016]**, so keeping a multiplicity of practices resolve the field of urban ecology to continue to evolve as a science while simultaneously delivering advantages to individuals living in cities. The diverse fields, objectives, and stakeholders have a voice in influencing urban landscapes.

The urban land use classifies buildings based on form, function, and construction for analysis in architecture and urban planning studies. Building typologies benefit professionals who comprehend the characteristics of different building types and make informed design and development decisions based on specific requirements and needs. According to **Archisoup [2024]**, land use can be based on the function can be classified as residential, commercial, cultural, educational, healthcare and industrial buildings. According to the structure's purpose and function, a mark is made in the urban pattern based on the land use. Another factor that influences the urban pattern is the building production scale. The interplay between the building production scale and the relationship of the output that the designers deliver to the pattern of the city is significant. Scale is not size; it is the inherent declaration of size that the structure makes to the eye. By and large, the two go hand in hand; a big structure has a big scale, and a small structure has a small scale **[Cullen, 1961].** The scale issue begins with a hierarchy of titles: neighbourhood, locality, place, and region. It proceeds to the broader scales of territory, nation-state, and globe. **Harvey [2002]** explains this as the region thus develops territorially at a specific geographical scale. Scaling is not, therefore, made viewing extraordinary to social matters. Arranging the spaces away from the street level is one thing; nevertheless, now the designers are taking away the street itself from the street level **[Whyte, 2001].** The bounding of ecosystems, implanted in higher-order systems, is also equally affected. Systems recognized at one scale give manners to others at another scale. Therefore, the question of 'appropriate' territorial description is required.

2.2.2. Urban Pattern

Urban patterns are how urban hierarchies are organised and spread across the built space. These patterns are influenced by geography, history, economy, and social and cultural aspects. According to **Alexander et al. [1977],** patterns echo the urban policy and economy into architecture. As it is deeply connected with governance and policy-making, each pattern describes an issue which repeatedly occurs in our environment and then describes the core of the solution a million times over, without ever doing it the same way twice. No pattern is an isolated entity, as this is a basic idea of the globe. An architectural space's construction will influence the building atmosphere and its surroundings as it is not an isolation **[Alexander et al., 1997; Zumthor, 2006].** The

built environment must also improve the world around it and within it so that the bigger world in that one place evolves more coherently and wholely, and the thing which can made as a place in the web of nature as it is made. The cost of land, conventionally assumed to be a significant deterrent today to building in the city for expanding businesses, has been steadily diminishing in ratio to construction costs and almost all other costs **[Jacobs, 1961].** The supply of achievable spots for commerce would increase considerably, and so could the distribution and convenience of their placement.

Urban blocks are the spaces within a city's streets divided into land plots for buildings. It is a morphological element that is tied to expectations and historical changes. The urban blocks can carry a single structure or an area with buildings that vary in size **Figure 2.X.** According to **Marchall [2005],** no straightforward explanation is used to capture street patterns. Some descriptors refer to the arrangement of streets, while others describe the shape of the interstices and the alignment of the routes. Urban block is the space within the pattern of a city that is subdivided into land lots for the structures. The degree of detail may differ not just between street patterns but also within the same group. City plans are used to comprehend the layout of building blocks. The main types of building blocks are often called grid, organic, radial and linear **[Conzen, 1960; Sitte, 1965; Bacon, 1974; Lavedan, 1974; Kostof, 1991].** Since patterns are adaptable and responsible dynamic beings, the needings should array a cohesive urban form **Alexander et al. [1977]** state therefore, in addition to the 4 fundamental patterns, consider network patterns, hub and satellite patterns, axial patterns, concentric zone patterns, sectoral patterns, curvilinear patterns and clustered patterns also as categorisations of the building blocks **[Burgess, 1925; Hoyt, 1939; Mumford, 1961; Rowe and Koetteri 1978; Calthorpe, 1993; Hillier and Hanson, 1984; Marshall, 2005] Figure 2.8. Figure 2.9.** How patterns are seen and shown as either 'blobs' or 'structures' depends on the eye of the beholder. Street type, arrangement, connectivity, and regularity influence the types of urban blocks. The terms "street grid" or "gridiron" accurately express a grid organised in elongated blocks and "checkerboard," which should consist of square blocks. For example, New York has a grid system designed to be simple, with wide streets that benefit the accessibility of the central business districts**.**

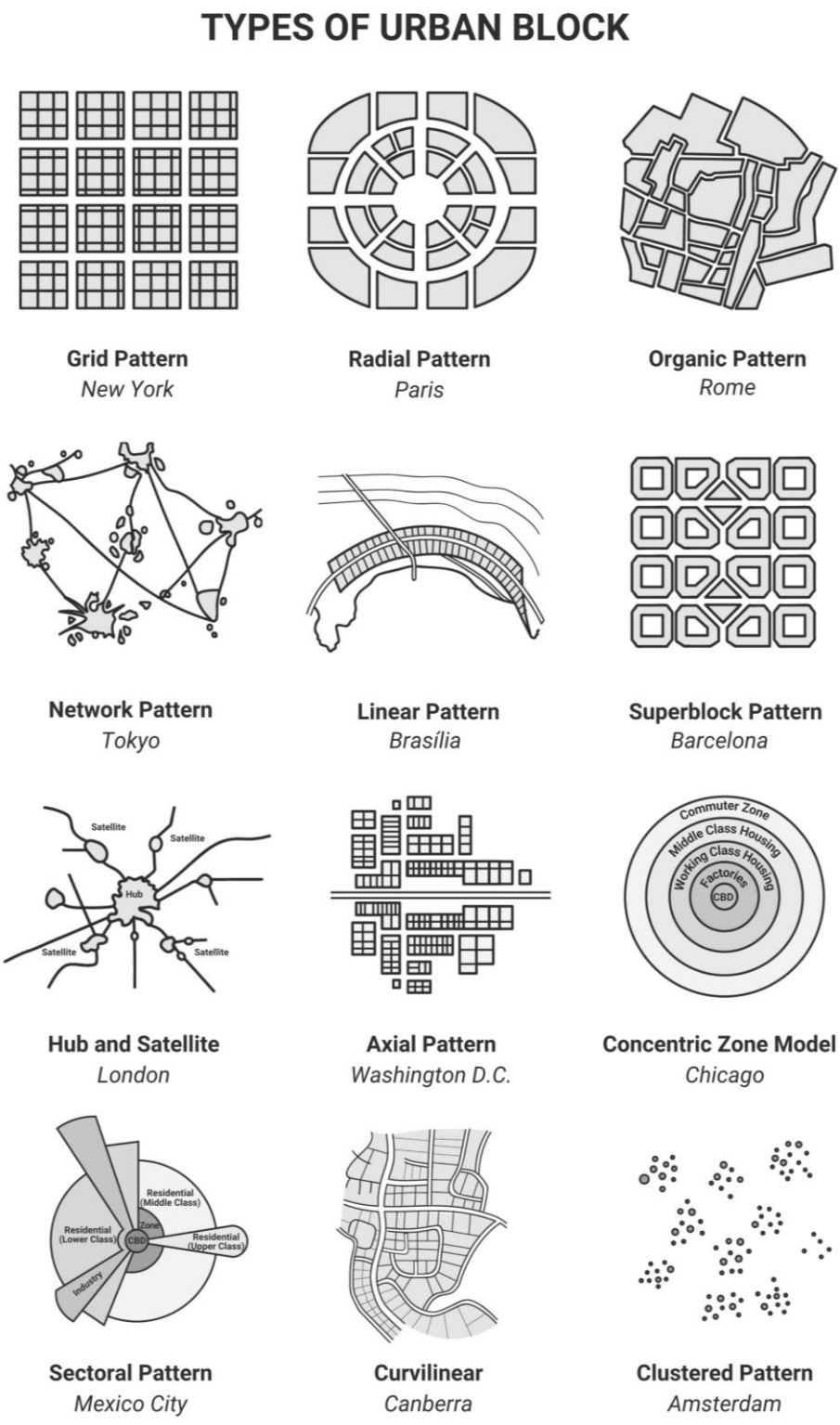


Figure 2.8: Types of Urban Blocks **[Author].**



Figure 2.9: Urban Patterns **[Ghisleni, 2023; Google Earth, 2024].**

Urban sprawl has been a parameter of the urban pattern as the subject has been discussed with both positive and negative aspects; however, in many studies comparing urban sprawl and dense cities, urban sprawl is the loser side because many studies have shown why urban sprawl causes a substantial number of economic and social problems **[Newman and Kenworthy, 1989; Downs, 1998; Ewing, 1997; Burchell et al., 1998; Walton, 2000; Freeman, 2001; Ding and Knaap, 2002; Ewing et al., 2002; Hasse and Lathrop, 2003; Foley et al., 2005; Kaya et al., 2009].** Urban sprawl is caused by unplanned, uncontrolled, uncoordinated and uniform land use that dominates low-density, linear, dispersed, leaping development, and it is possible to define it as an isolated type of development **[Nelson and Duncan, 1995].** Continuous urban sprawl leads to the degradation of living conditions and makes cities increasingly inhospitable **[Alexander et al., 1977]. Ewing et al. [2002]** conducted 22 measurable variables about urban sprawl and acquired 4 factors from these 22 variables. Residential area density, different land use types, attraction power of centres and accessibility as the parameters of urban sprawl.

The Central Business District (CBD) spatial organisation shows the importance of accessibility and relative location in understanding the urban pattern within the decisions based on values and land use. Since prestige depends on economic rent, rent depends on location, location depends on convenience, and convenience depends on nearness, the nearness of the spaces gains validity **[Harvey, 1985].** Their potential materials and fabric density could determine the apparent characterisation of the buildings **[Picard et al., 1988].** The way central business districts (CBDs) are spread out and how individuals interact with their surroundings additionally contributes to these urban patterns, underlining the blend of technology and social dynamics in urban areas. The issuance of work and goods across various areas, along with how individuals live and use resources, causes distinguishable patterns within the city. These patterns also illustrate the interconnection between technology and society in different parts of the city.

The urban light shapes cities' aesthetic appeal and safety, particularly during dusk. Urban lighting is an architectural element that not only assures safety but also contributes to the visual appeal and orientation of the spaces. The advances in lighting technology have led to innovations. These innovations allow for the change in the light of gas discharge lamps, change in the colour or brightness of public light, and adjusting

when to turn it on and off. The interplay of light and shadow in the urban topography influences the planning of the space. Moreover, it creates an atmosphere that reveals the spread and deepening of the space within different spaces. According to **Santen [2006]** urban light is an architectural element that is used to *"beautification of the city"*. His works capture the scenery of the cities that are captured during the daytime and nighttime of the public spaces**.** Public areas may have different conditions for lightning.

2.2.3. Urban Silhouette

Urban silhouette and urban skyline have been defined in different classifications, although both terms contain a closer meaning **[Mravunac & Šmit, 2020]. Gassner [2009]** expresses that the skyline forms the city view as a singular entity, the unity of one or many monumental buildings, and the association it designates with the horizon produced by the tallest structures in the city's symbolic and branding visual narrative. One of the definitions claims that *"Skyline, n.: the line where earth and sky meet; the horizon"* **[Kostof, 1991; Damisch, 2001; Gassnerr, 2009; Çobanlı and Ceylan, 2023].** Additional illustrations of the term silhouette can be provided for terms such as landscape, view, profile, contour, city view, horizon line, and urban portrait **[Aslan, 2019].** Skyline marks demonstrate some theoretical uses and speculative assets that urban character has favoured and continues to favour. The skyline, which physical factors have developed, provides valuable data about urban character **[Charney and Rosen, 2014].** The established urban silhouette against the horizon stands out as the brand and the image seeking to advance. Skyline profiles serve as a metaphor, extending beyond the city itself as they are more than mere postcards representing cities; they serve as exceptional aesthetical views of each metropolitan area.

In the 20th century, skyscrapers have become an essential part of the urban skyline and turned into a geographical phenomenon; tall and iconic buildings in city skylines have become a reflection of a city's aesthetics, politics and economic power **[Ford, 1992; Gottmann, 1991; Harvey, 1997; Sev, 2009; Guggenheim and Söderström, 2010; Alotaibi et al., 2016; Gassner, 2017; Mikellides and Porter, 2018].** Skyscrapers, as monumental embodiments of verticality and structural innovation, indelibly characterise the urban skyline and shape the identity of metropolitan areas through their commanding presence and aesthetic impact **[Ford, 1992; Smith, 1996;**

Heath et al., 2000; McNeill, 2005; Al-Kodmany et al., 2013]. The construction of skyscrapers, which significantly changed the silhouettes and skylines of cities, started in the last quarter of the 19th century **[Gottmann, 1991].**In the era of the staircase, all floors above the second were considered unsuitable for commercial purposes, and those above the fifth were deemed uninhabitable. Since the 1870s in Manhattan, the elevator has revolutionised to use all floors beyond the ground level, making them accessible and functional **[Koolhaas, 1997; Rubin, 2018]**. In 1852, Elisha Otis and his sons invented an elevator with a safety device called a "safety hoist" and showed it in the 1854 New York World's Fair **Figure 2.10. [Freeman, 2011]**. During the demonstration of his design, he rode the platform high into the air and then had the rope cut, but it only fell a few inches due to the brake before completely stopping.

Afterwards, he founded Otis Brothers, installing the first elevator in a five-story department store in 1874 New York City. In the following years, the first electric elevator was built by Werner von Siemens in 1880 in Germany **[Selim, 2019].** During the mid-19th century, the introduction of the elevator safety braking system unlocked unexplored prospects for tall buildings on the skyline. The Home Insurance Building, located in Chicago, considered the world's first steel-frame skyscraper, ascended to its remarkably exceptional size of 10 storeys during the 1890s by using tons of metal rather than just traditional forms of masonry, causing notable revolutions in the skyline of urban areas **[Ali et al., 2013; Al-Kodmany et al., 2013; Rubin, 2018; Vijayasree, 2019; Selim, 2019; Almusaed and Almssad, 2019] Figure 2.11.** Initially, "skyscraper" used to refer to 10-20 story buildings, whereas by the end of the 20th century, it expressed high-rises over 40-50 stories.

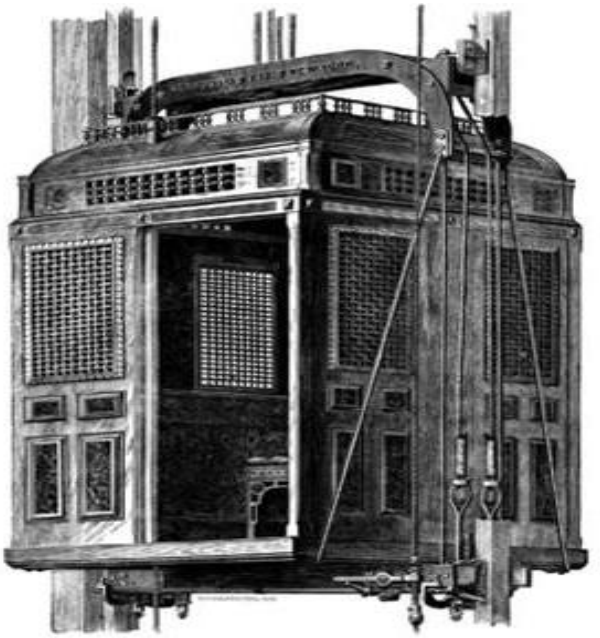


Figure 2.10: The Otis Elevator **[Boys, 2017].**

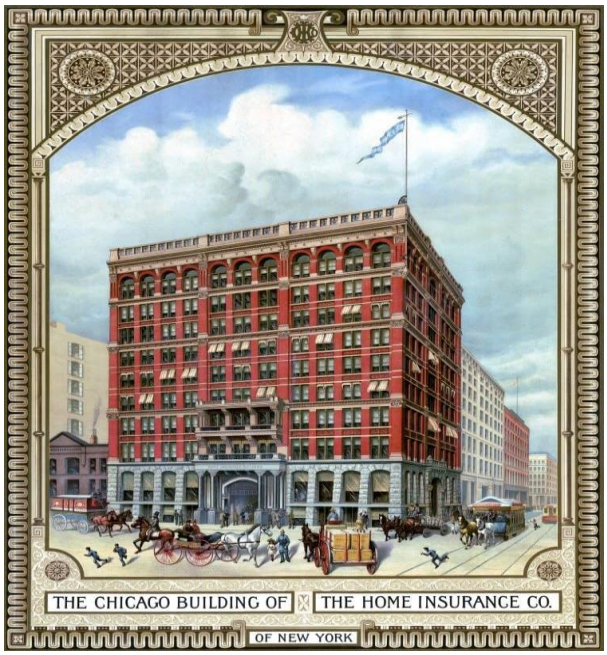


Figure 2.11: Home Insurance Building **[Prang and Co, 1997]**.

In the historical journey of urban areas, although high cathedrals, mosque minarets, and temples built in ancient times, which have a higher hierarchy in the skyline, have been seen as the heritage of their local culture and a reflection of the architecture, foreshadowing as a respectable architectural work in the architectural literature, however, the presence of skyscrapers has generated substantial architectural debate. The first point of view is that even though the first metal skyscraper is recorded as

"The Home Insurance Building", another hypothesis foreshadows that there is a vision based on the high-rise structure building philosophy from the period of the Tower of Babel, the first known multi-storey structure in history **[Wolde, 1994; Gmirkin, 2006]**. Religious literature contains essential data about the construction of the Tower of Babel. In Christianity, the Tower of Babel is described as "arrogance" and "disobedience to nature", as well as its meanings of "reaching the sky" and "approaching the creator", while in Judaism, it is narrated as "a lesson learned" **[JPS, 1985; Augustine, 2003]**. Although the "Tower of Babel" is not directly mentioned in Islamic literature, it is interpreted by some Islamic scholars and historians as a symbol emphasising the importance of the city of Babylon's submission to the will of the creator **[Al-Tabari, 1989]**. From an ecological perspective, the Tower of Babel arose because humans harmed nature and desired to control everything. In the context of these views, it is inaccurate to claim that establishing the needed philosophy of producing high-rise structures was only in the 19th-century **Figure 2.12.**



Figure 2.12: Tower of Babel **[Valckenborch, 2010]**.

From a second point of view, the concept carries skyscrapers as an architectural typology with a demand. Some scholars claim that tall structures are not a choice but an obligation of an architectural statement **[Corbusier, 1929; Bertaud, 2018; Glaeser, 2020].** There is also a view that skyscrapers could solve issues such as suburbanisation and urban sprawl in the cities **[Jackson, 1985; Sorkin, 1992].** Vertical architecture is guided and forced by the conditions within the scope of insufficient space and zoning rules based on the need for land, and the space within the architectural practice is analysed. The dominance of architects such as Le Corbusier's urban planning ideas, like his Radiant City concept, shaped postwar American development**.** Attending a commission meeting that was preparing a report on expansion plans said: *"You draw straight lines, fill the holes and level the ground; the result is nihilism!*" As a response, his statement was, "*I am sorry, but this is exactly what I want to do.*" **Corbusier [1929].** The Radiant City is an unrealised masterplan of the metropolitan machinery system by Le Corbusier in the 1920s as he designed these towers as a sanctuary for the workers, till now shifted into densely filled quarters and congested streets, all the required favours, following the commendable practice in America, will be constructed, conveying efficiency and economy of time and effort, and as a result the peace of mind which is so necessary **[Corbusier, 1963].** The radiant city brought an outlook of what the future of the skyline could be like. Regardless, some scholars were not pleased by the radical, strict and nearly totalitarian order, symmetry and standardisation approach to the design of new high-density housing typologies **[Jacobs, 1961; Alexander; 1977; Venturi and Brown, 1972; Jencks, 1977; Turner, 2007; Hseuh-Bruni, 2015].** As a response, they argued that this design approach is cold, concrete-based aesthetic elements of typology brought a resemblance to the urban skyline with the inhumane character of both communism and fascism.

Thirdly, there is another point of view with a considerable number of scholars focusing on the negative aspects of the standardised, fast-built, product-based construction methods that came within the modernism period with the design intentions of high-rise structures in the urban skyline **[Jacobs, 1961; Alexander; 1977; Venturi and Brown, 1972; Foucault, 1975; Wolfe, 1981; Sorkin, 1992; Kunstler, 1994; Zukin, 1996].** There was no precedent for tall buildings in classical architecture, era. Since there were no skyscrapers in ancient Rome, **Kunstler [1994]** indicates that Corinthian columns soaring twelve stories would appear "*ludicrous*". The Beaux Arts

architectural style thrived in expansive horizontal structures, such as urban train terminals, museums, and libraries, where traditional heights sufficed. Nonetheless, it is highly questionable whether there is one that successfully transposed classical elements into skyscraper design; therefore, it has yet to adapt the classical vocabulary to skyscrapers. On the other hand, **Alexander [1997]** focuses on cities being "*magnets,"* making it more challenging for small towns to survive; he underscores a statement about skyscrapers not providing benefits at all and primarily targeting wealthy users, as **Zukin [1996]** states. These structures are not cheap, do not save space, and often influence the city's appearance. Tall buildings redefine the social band in the urban as they could harm community ties, encourage crime, make things difficult for children, cost a lot to maintain, damage nearby areas, and block natural light and fresh air. **Whyte [2001]** claims that skyscrapers and megastructures are entirely internalised urban environments with their conditions and life-support approach.

There is a widespread fourth view that the trend of building tall skyscrapers worldwide shows how cities compete to showcase their economic strength, city's international image and global position **[Koolhaas, 1978; Berman, 1981; Willis, 1995; Harvey, 1997; King, 2004; Al-Kodmany et al., 2013; Mandujano-Salazar, 2016, Sklair, 2017].** The position of the arguments claims that the urban skyline has turned into a desirable visual postcard, a prestigious object, a showcase, a political landmark, a political statement and an economic power to represent its dominance over other urban skylines by potentially building the competition. The early years of the 20th century have been a new phase of advancements in technology. Therefore, it has formed new skyscrapers on the skyline of New York. The design phase of the Singer Building in New York was proclaimed by the makers in 1906, and it was intended to construct the tallest building in the world during its time. The director of the Woolworth Company wanted to capture attention for advertisement in his new structure, and he wanted it to be taller than the Singer Tower, which was the tallest building during that time. By the end of 1910, he decided it would be the world's tallest skyscraper, and he even measured the Metropolitan Life Tower to ensure his building would be higher. According to **Landau [1996],** the conversation the director made with the architect:

"How high do you wish your tower, now?" asked Architect Mr. Gilbert.

"How high can you make it?" Mr. Woolworth asked in reply.

"It is for you to make the limit", said Architect Mr. Gilbert.
"Then make it fifty feet higher than the Metropolitan Tower."

The dialogue between the architect and the contractor potentially is an example of the relationship and the procedure that has repeatedly occurred throughout the 20th century—the willingness to build the tallest building in the world **Figure 2.15. Koolhaas [1997]** claims that the Woolworth Building does not contribute any radical changes or ruin the life of the urban pattern. Nevertheless, he adds that it is considered to work miracles through the emanation of its physical presence, the idea of a larger mass than ever constructed before. It is also seen as disembodied antigravitational: Brute material has been constrained in its density and flung into the atmosphere to test its attractiveness.



Figure 2.13: The Woolworth Building, New York **[Finkelstein and Son, 2009].**

One of the terms of the urban silhouette is the urban nightscape. The urban nightscape can be treated as a re-introduction of the city during the night. The urban nightscape is as critical as how it looks during the daytime. The nightscape silhouette of a city can have more influence on the recognisability of the city. The differences between natural and artificial lighting at different times are the key factors that distinguish nightscapes from daytime landscapes. A Chinese urban planner, Wang Xiaoyan, indicated that nightscape does not explicitly convey nightscape lighting; nightscape design is part of

urban character design **[Shen, 2002].** The nightscape of a city affects the brand building of the city. With the illumination system, the cities can draw significantly remarkable sceneries as their "identification card" to the globe. For this objective, light combinations involve different light levels, colour temperatures, shadow and contrast relationships, energy efficiency and integrity to set the light in the public space. For instance, The Frankenplatz in Cologne, a pedestrian zone that is tied to the Rhine River, gives scenery of the water and the opposite bank. The steps function as seating for events such as musical activities and street interpretations on the court below. **Santen [2006]** claims that low lighting used during the nightscape does not disturb the scenery and illuminates the contrast in the levels **Figure 2.14.** Schouwburgplein Theatre Square is located in the centre of Rotterdam and is surrounded by the municipal theatre, concert hall, restaurants, and cafes. Red electric poles in the square can be positioned in different positions, such as lifting cranes, which reference the port's size. Fluorescent tubes are positioned here and there under perforated metal floor tiles, directing a concentrated mass of light onto the floor. This is a symbolic example of the design that is preferred for use with many design elements and social space. During the day, the public space is fully brightened with natural light. At night, a light distribution spreads in clusters with the accumulation of groups. The Piazza del Popolo stage in Rome is a large entertainment square where traffic circulates outside. The relatively small number of tall poles and a series of lights in this public square provide sufficient light for the entire space, including the surrounding walls. In doing so, it provides regional illumination rather than illuminating the entire area. Reflections on the wet ground also add extra liveliness to the atmosphere of the place. The water in the fountain is illuminated at night, providing a contemporary focal point.

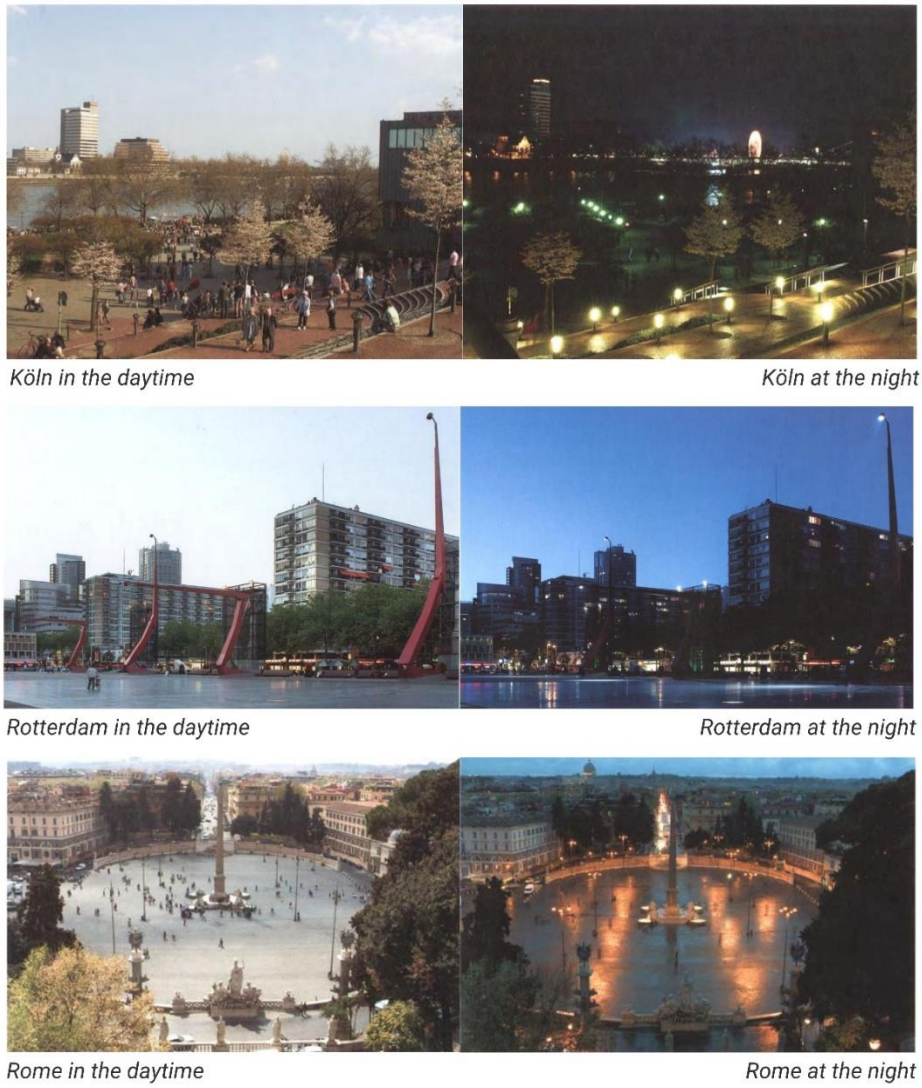


Figure 2.14: Daytime and Nighttime Silhouette Comparison of Köln, Rotterdam and Rome **[Santen, 2006].**

Political leaders have underwritten the construction of tall buildings to showcase their nations as emerging global economic powers. There is decisive evidence that aesthetic issues are the most consequential evaluators of environmental quality and aesthetical engagement for urban skyline, residents and workers **[Dornbusch and Gelb, 1977].** The historical geography of places can be created through capital **[Harvey, 1997].** This neoliberal speculation includes new products, technologies, spaces, and labour processes. For instance, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad of Malaysia supported the Petronas Towers to symbolise Malaysia's entry into the global economy. The 88-storey Petronas Tower in Kuala Lumpur has surpassed the Wills Tower **[Žaknić et al., 1998].** After only a few years, Taipei 101 in Taiwan became the tallest skyscraper in the

world. Following that, the ruler of Dubai transformed the city into a commercial corner with iconic structures like the Burj Khalifa **[Al-Kodmany et al., 2013] Figure 2.15.** Planning is a public enterprise that institutionalises political conflict among competing appeals opposing to shape the city's future **[Appleyard and Fishman, 1977; Taranath, 1988; Neuman, 1998].** In terms of high-rise architecture, governments have put more effort into strategies and planning for the city's image. The city's image represented the city worldwide, portraying an idea of the city's attractiveness**.**



Figure 2.15: Burj Khalifa, Dubai **[McLaughlin and Davies, 2024].**

Berman [1981] and **Koolhaas [1997]** describe the city of New York as the *"captive city of the sphere"* and *"capital of ego"* and as one of the urban silhouettes that contribute to modern architecture and global culture **Figure 2.16.** It significantly influenced global culture as it is the *"concrete jungle where dreams are made of."* **[JAY-Z and Keys, 2009]. Koolhaas [1997]** states that in a competitive setting, specialisations like science, art, poetry, and madness strive under ideal circumstances to create, destroy, and reshape the world of unnatural reality. The concept of *"Manhattanism"* embodies the program of existing entirely within a *"human-made world"*. Through this definition, **Koolhaas [1997]** emphasises the city's existence as a factory of human-created experiences and grieves the absence of natural elements. Most buildings during that time were designed to be the tallest building in the world. Similarly, The Empire State Building was aimed at being a skyscraper topping in height anything ever built by man, assembling in the internal layouts the most exacting necessities of the most critical tenant **[Koolhaas, 1997; Willis, 1997**; **Žaknić et al.,**

1998]. With its grid pattern, New York City provides a layered freedom through a two-dimensional discipline that was never intended for three-dimensional anarchy. From an architectural perspective, the street grid was introduced in 1811, as well as the 1901 housing code, the 1916 zoning laws, and New York public/private infrastructure investments **[Gordon, 2006]**. The city can be both orderly and fluid, embodying a metropolis of chaos. **Berman [1981]** highlights the dark factors that come with the change in the city from a personal experience, as gangs, extortion, murder and the symbolisation of neighbourhoods turned into garbage dumps.



Figure 2.16: New York Skyline **[Ibagli, 2009].**

Landmarks and monuments are structural elements that can easily be recognised globally through their influence, symbol, fame, and expression of local cultural momentum **[Milyani and Mofarni, 2017]**. Cultural landmarks are reflections of the community's identity, values, and history and may include historical sites, religious buildings, artistic structures, festivals, and other significant events. These expressions also originated in their chronological journey and tell quite a lot about their era, for it is the period in which architecture became a marketing factor and an event **[Schittich, 2018]**. The value of landmarks is not restricted to their creative or architectural matter but also surrounds their social, political, and economic impact on society. For example,

the Eiffel Tower is a structure with social and historical value in Paris, France. It was built by Gustave Eiffel for the 1889 World's Fair, which was intended to be temporary but then became a symbol of the city.

Since the urban silhouette is a detector, representational, and influential component to understanding the urban character, it is crucial to detect the parameters to read it. Factors such as complexity, skyline Profiles, building Density, material and texture are essential in urban silhouette **[Krippner and Musso, 2007; Huang et al., 2020; Godoy-Shimizu et al., 2021]. Heath et al. [2000]** works on silhouette complexity and facade integration by working on two factors and experimenting with the urban skyline. His work compares the urban skylines by using elevations and recording evidence of a connection between the complexity of the buildings that make up an urban skyline and popular preference. The existence of tall buildings represents either the admiration locals have for their city or the distaste some feel towards the visual blight. On one level, the primary focus of tall building designers is to meet practical requirements. However, they are expensive and create social inequalities and environmental issues. Overall, the urban skyline is deeply captivated by the forces of the political and economic statement **Figure 2.17, Figure 2.18, Figure 2.19**.

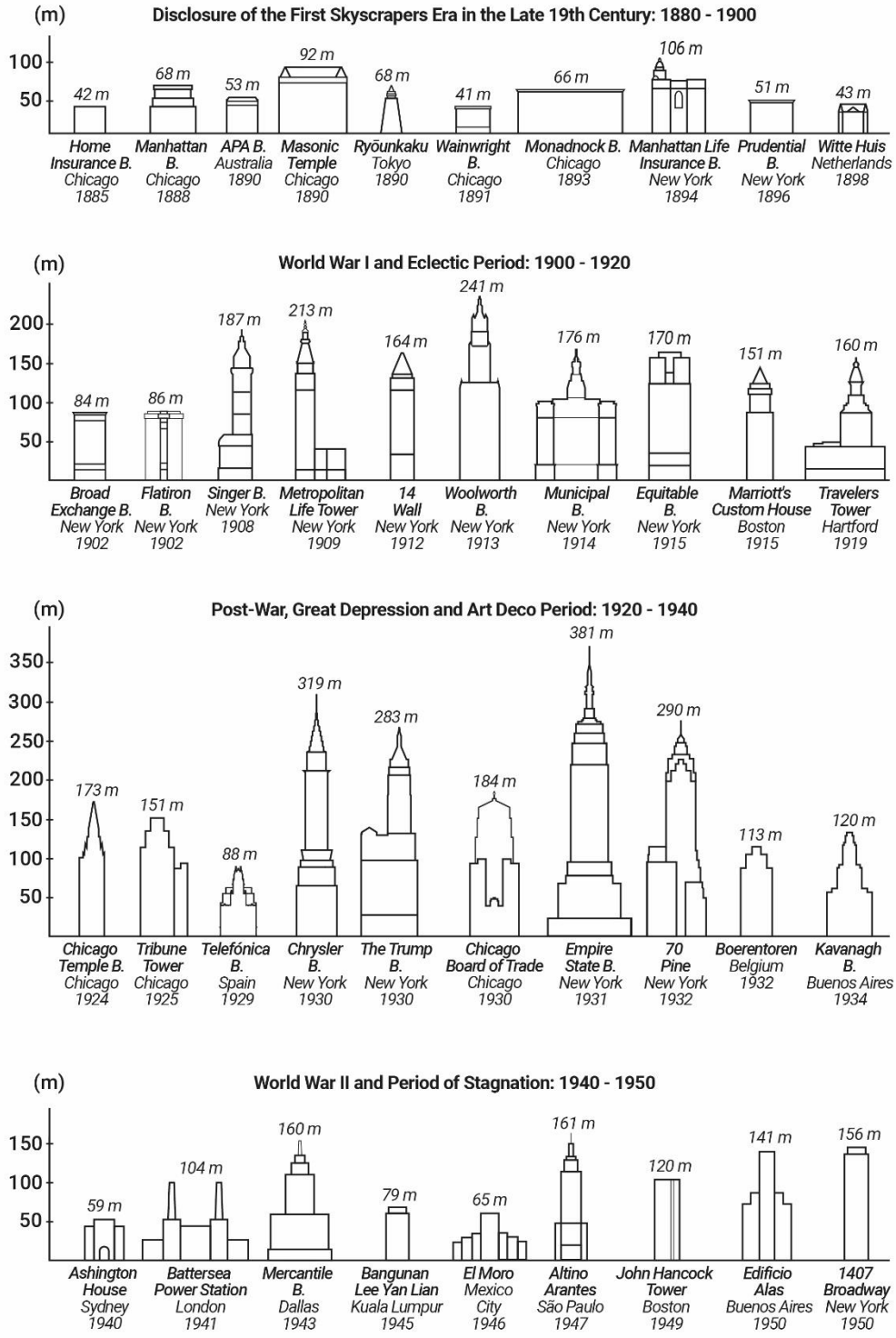


Figure 2.17: Skycraper Evolution Between 1880 - 1950 **[CTBUH, 2024].**

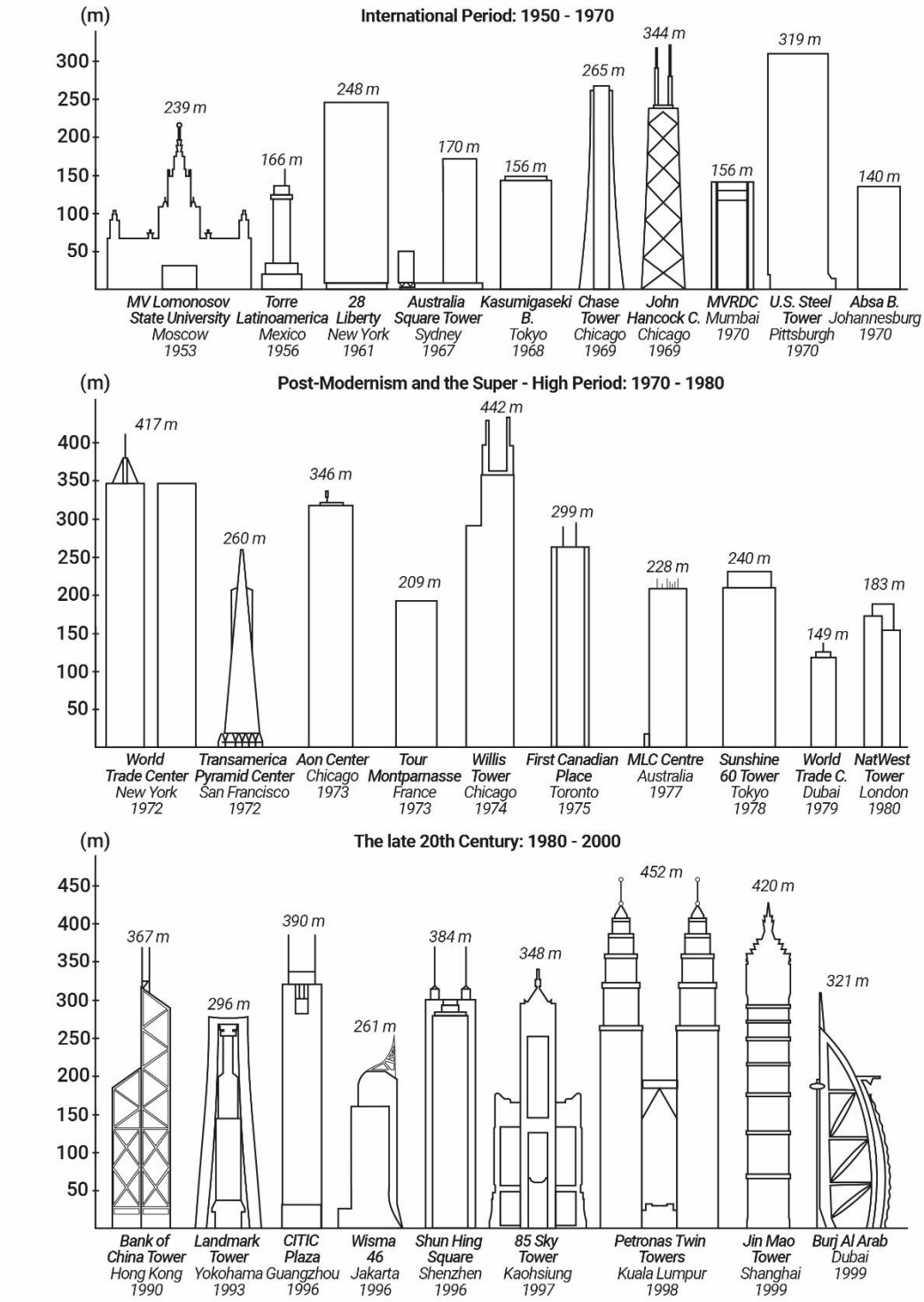


Figure 2.18: Skycraper Evolution Between 1950 - 2000 **[CTBUH, 2024].**

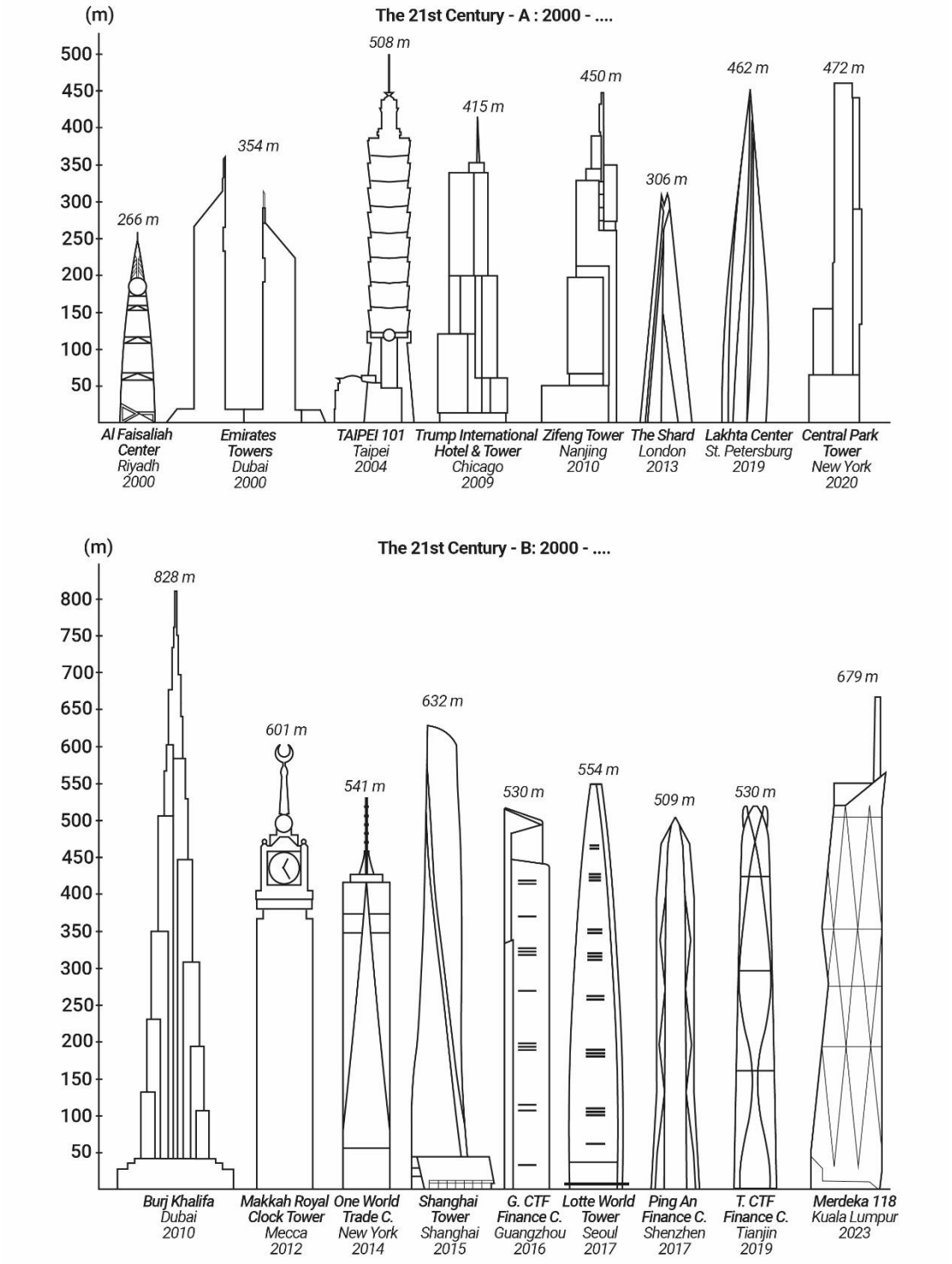


Figure 2.19: Skycraper Evolution in 21st Century **[CTBUH, 2024].**

3. THE CONCEPT OF SAMENESS REGARDING GLOBALISATION

Sameness is one of the constant terms that has points with the more comprehensive context of the relationship between urban characters in modern society. The term illustrates the equivalence of two related objects, events, spaces, people and so on; the concept of sameness is that one entity from a selected pack can be substituted for another without changing the structure, format or functioning of the body **[Ferguson, 2009].** If two pairs can be swapped, they are identical, by description, an instance of kind. That indicates that the individual is viewed in terms of the attributes that illustrate the hierarchy, and all additional separate aspects are repressed as unnecessary. All components of the set are duplicates in the understanding that they eventually work as synonymous and can be differentiated from one another only by the contingent fact of spatial separation. For example, this concept could be shown by the identical, unmarked headstones in a war graveyard, students recalled by their desks in a classroom, prisoners by their cells, factory workers by their spots on the production line, and soldiers by their numbers **[Ferguson, 2009].** Globalisation refers to the increasing connectedness of the world's economies, cultures, and populations through the cross-border exchange of goods and services, technological advancements, and the movement of investment, people, and data. The impacts of globalisation are multifaceted and frequently controversial. In the face of globalisation and urbanisation, urban areas exchange their heritage, using local traditions, architectural styles, and cultural parts to distinguish themselves. There different statements in the studies towards the understanding of the sameness to the urban identity**.**

3.1. The World City: Urban Competitiveness

In contemporary urban studies, global urban areas have been classified with conceptual terms such as *"the world city"* **[Hall, 1966],** *"informational city"* **[Castells, 1989],** *"the global capital"* **[Friedman, 1995],** *"entrepreneurial city"* **[Hall and Hubbard, 1996],** *"the transnational city"* **[Smith, 1999]** and *"the global city"* **[Sassen, 2001]** in different studies**.** Thus, an ever-expanding body of urban studies, the recognition of the eligible role of cities in globalisation procedures has been initiated while trying to comprehend

how globalisation changes cities and how cities re-work globalisation. Among these investigations, the *"world city/global city"* concept is critical in shaping contemporary research on the relations between globalisation and urban environments. **Hall [1966]** names these world cities as the world's business hubs. That emphasises the function of business hubs in the urban areas' centre. He underscored the vision of the global city as an urban planning issue and concentrated on dealing with financial growth and population density while preserving a livable, viable city. He also raised the issue of the global city as an environmental concern, which was largely ignored in the ensuing urban literature. **[Friedman, 1995]** restated the concept of international capital as the powerhouse of the capital economy, implying that cities such as New York, Chicago, Tokyo, London, Paris, Los Angeles, São Paulo, Rotterdam, and Zurich as top-tier centres in the global urban hierarchy. **[Sassen, 2001]** also notes how Tokyo, London and New York have developed as the geography of financial movement, reshaping the organisation of these cities.

There is a prevailing agreement in urban studies **[Ellin, 1996; King, 2004; Sklair, 2006; Eldemery, 2009; El Zeini, 2017]** that the globalisation impact on architectural production from the mid-20th century onwards inflamed the placelessness and the birthday of International Style. The concept can sketch international modernism as broad-minded and multifaceted despite its bourgeois roots, suggesting a shared cultural heritage of humanity, as was discussed in Chapter 2 of the dissertation. "*All that is solid melts into air"* apprehends a profound notion of modernist visionary, marked by its cosmic magnitude and duality of vitality and destruction. Regardless, this standpoint may primarily be a *"Western concern"*, according to **Berman [1981],** a vision first debated by Russian populists in the mid-19th century. They argued that the challenges of Western modernisation—such as community fragmentation, individual isolation, and class hierarchy and polarisation—might not be an inevitable fate for all but preferably a distinctive cultural phenomenon. Could other governments accomplish a better balance between tradition and modernity? This assumption indicates that *"all that is solid melts into air"* is a specific wording to the West. Modernist culture persists in fostering critical thinking and creativity in many non-Western societies despite governmental resistance.

As nations contend with the global market—struggling for capital and confronting cycles of development and disintegration—they are, as writer **Paz [1985]** noted,

"condemned to modernity." Thus, as the Global South welcomes modernisation, modernism is undergoing a renewal rather than obsolescence. The circumstances brought about by the contemporary globalisation of the architectural atmosphere echo the counterpart of modernism in the 20th century. For instance, the influence of modernism, as already highlighted, was similarly criticised for the sameness that occurred in the urban area. Changing the identities and characters of cities by not preferring traditional methods of regional and national architecture methods can also be applied in terms of urban character, but the marginalisation of design effects, such as lack of reality and suitability, are reflected in architecture **[Colquhoun, 1969; Ellin, 1996; Betsky and Adigard, 2000; King, 2004; Smith, 2008].** The similarities between globalisation and modernism can be outlined regarding the dominant position of politics and economics as essential characterising drivers. The loss of an authentic sense of place in design criteria, or the dominance of profit-driven factors over the uniqueness of a place, can illustrate the matching practices of globalisation and modernism **[Ellin, 1996; King, 2004].**

In understanding the concept of industrialization of construction, it negotiates with the procedure that delivers the standardization of building approaches, the review and control of the production and construction method, which provides the possibility of repetition and ongoing advancement **[Smaeili, 2023].** Some tall buildings have created a questioning term in the public's mind. For instance, the demolition of the Pruitt-Igoe housing project in St. Louis in 1972 has been ingrained in the minds of an era of architects and planners. The destruction happened in response to residential solid discontentment and high levels of illegal movement. To some parts of society, 'aesthetically unpleasant tall buildings' became synonymous with cheaply built, poorly maintained blocks of apartments or offices detached from the ground plane **[Ali et al., 2012].** These structures, which did not adequately consider the local needs of the users, have contributed to negative perceptions of tall buildings and often overlook the social and community aspects of the urban area. The rebuilding of architectural spaces since the 1980s shows signs of similar redevelopment forces **[Zukin, 2009].** The continuous basic procedure of suburbanization has continued to standardization, with houses in the area looking the same and storefronts displaying matching designs **[Hustwit, 2011].**

Overall, the international circulation of capital has allowed the development of global labour markets and world cities as there is a symbiotic relationship between these two **[Castells, 1984; Krugman, 1994; Friedman, 1995; Harvey, 1997; Storper, 1997; Chomsky, 1999; Beck, 2000; Sassen, 2001; Giddens, 2002; Mcneill, 2005; Reich, 2007; Bertolini, 2009; Standing, 2011; Kenny, 2011].** The dominant neo-liberal ideology conveyed and propagated the transformation from urban managerialism to urban entrepreneurship **[Harvey 1985; McLeod 2002; Lehrer and Laidley 2008]. Harvey [1997]** indicates that this urban entrepreneurialism is characterised by metropolitan zones being "*liberated*" from principally local state administration to the super-charged practice carried by globalisation, where urban policy is primarily overwhelmed by enterprise interests and learned via public-private collaborations.

3.2. The Architecture of Neoliberalism

The competitiveness of the cities lies in the neoliberal capital. **Harvey [2008]** highlights the late 70s to 80s as future historians should consider a pivotal moment in global social and economic history. Such significant changes are not accidental, prompting an explore how the new economic framework, often termed "*globalisation*", emerged from the remnants of the old system. Neoliberalism is portrayed mainly as a procedure which delivers neoliberal subjects be they: consumers, entrepreneurs or empowered localised citizens **[Leary-Owhin, 2016].** Foremost, neoliberalism is a theory of political and economic practices proposing that human well-being is best promoted by unblocking individual entrepreneurial crafts within a framework of private property rights, free markets, and free trade. The state's position is to develop and sustain this framework, confirming the quality of currency and establishing required services such as military, defence, police, and legal formats to conserve property rights and ensure market functionality. If markets need to accumulate more ideas or provinces like land or healthcare, the state should intervene to create them. Even with these processes, state involvement in markets should be limited, as the state needs more data to interpret market indications accurately, and influential interest groups may distort interventions for their convenience or benefit. However, the neo-liberalisation approach has caused considerable *"creative destruction"*, as **Harvey [2008]** conveys, impacting institutional frameworks, labour divisions, social relations, welfare systems, lifestyles, and emotional attachments.

Neoliberalism regards market exchange as a guiding ethic that replaces conventional moral beliefs, arguing that social welfare is maximised through increased market dealings. To simplify this, advanced information technologies must be accumulated and examined in comprehensive databases to report global market decision-making. The uneven geographical growth of neoliberalism displays its temporary nature, driven by political, historical, and institutional factors. Neoliberalization can either be regarded as a theoretical objective for reshaping capitalism or a means to restore conditions for capital accumulation and strengthen elite power.

Neoliberalization revived the inaccumulation of ternational capital acile supporting an elite's power. Its pursuits repeatedly justify movements that uphold elite power, depicting a pressure between neoliberal ideas and practices that have remade global capitalism. The opinion of the society alerted that civilisation's core values are in danger, as considerable nations lose voice due to competitiveness and policy trends. They argued that increasing arbitrary authority undermines individual rights and that faith in absolute moral standards and private property is vital for preserving societal freedom. Large financial institutions, specifically investment banks, use complicated examinations to drive judgments. In global cities, property fund managers use methods like disregarding cash flow to make judgments about commercial architecture, such as skyscrapers. These methods assist tenants, property owners, and financiers in planning and assessing threats as the property enterprise becomes more sophisticated. **Sassen [2001]** indicated that the global economic scenario depends on both standardised outcomes and technical systems, as well as on specialised areas of high finance. Over the past twenty years, each major urban empire that is the source of economic power has developed its source. While globalisation standardises features of the production mechanism, directing some to acknowledge that markets and urban economies are working with matching methods, this standardisation can happen alongside expanding specialisation.

In contrast, in recent history, each closed federal economy duplicated all roles required for international dealings, and specialisation was a relatively secondary aspect. Rebellion against bureaucratic routine and the search for flexibility produced new structures of power and control rather than creating the circumstances that would liberate us **[Sennett, 1998; Yu, 2013].** Turning the strategy into an agent of change within the country is, without doubt, the most challenging aspect of competitive

identity, and simplistic parallels with corporations and their efforts to encourage the workforce to 'live the brand' do not help much to resolve this dilemma **[Anholt, 2010]**. Government officials and additional stakeholders generally specify a city's aesthetic mainstream of urban character. If an urban character can be changed, transformed, or redesigned, then understanding what contributes to its identity, reputation and branding becomes an important discussion.

3.3. City Branding and Imagenable City

In today's contemporary society, as capital flows and competition driven by capitalist economies intensify, global market products increasingly follow a production model based on efficiency, predictability, and authority. Efficiency signifies desiring (or having desired for you by others) the optimum normals to a given end. Nevertheless, the optimum means to an end is infrequently found. It streamlines the procedure, simplifies the outcome, and arranges consumers or prosumers to function. Predictability constructs strategies towards market expansions. Having authority over other brands in the market requires not only experience and expertise but also strategic planning and the ability to manage the competitive environment effectively. The competitive process, which **Ritzer [2015]** calls "*McDonaldization*," leads to the creation of similar consumer products worldwide, intensifying competition among different brands **Figure 3.1.** One of the immediate objectives for companies in this competitive environment is to become a recognisable and trustworthy label, as gaining consumer trust raises the probability of a product being preferred over others **Figure 3.2.** However, the dynamic competition often results in different brands delivering almost matching products under the same concept, with even their appearances becoming strikingly identical **[Harvey, 1985; Koolhaas, 1995; Barber, 1996; Sennett, 1998; Bauman, 2000; Friedman, 2000; Ritzer, 2015; Singh, 2020].** When global idealisations are spread out to the cities, it is apparently more likely that the continuous glorification of the concepts intends only to allow trend-based consumption to persist.

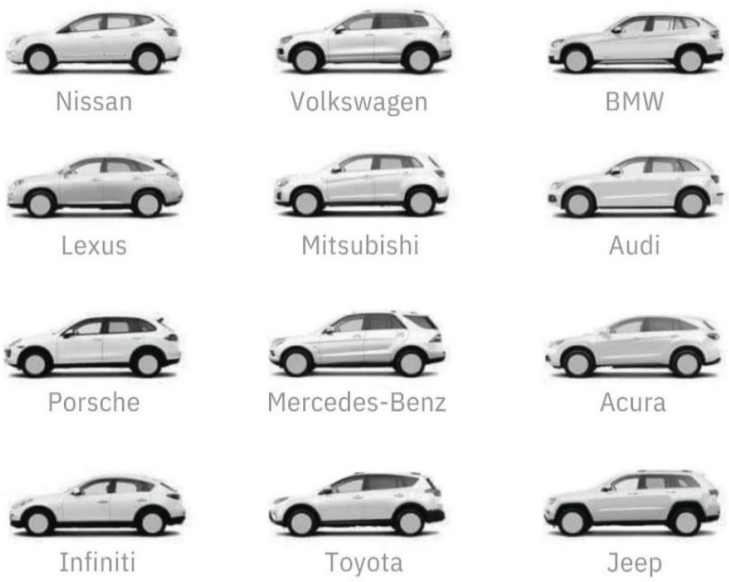


Figure 3.1: Similar Car Designs from Different Brands **[Singh, 2020].**



Figure 3.2: Similar Burgers **[Singh, 2020].**

In the fourth chapter of *"Disneyization of Society,"* **Bryman [2004],** refers to the term merchandising as *"the promotion of goods in the form of or bearing copyright images and logos, including such products made under license".* This description refers more to franchising, which uses existing visuals to create additional value and revenue. For example, a movie that releases a new series every year becomes a platform for

marketing an increasing number of spin-offs. It can act as a launching place for numerous spin-offs, and the movie is now a branded entity. According to **Bryman [2004]**, the roots of retailing also extend to phenomena that have become widespread through mass production, copyright logos, and visual advertisements. According to **Wolf [1999]**, releasing a hit film, TV show, or book is not enough on its own, as these products, despite their success, cannot be profitable by themselves. Success is only considered a true success when it becomes a franchise, and in doing so, it should become the centre of alternative product diversification and widespread distribution. The product diversification continues by producing sequels to the hit film series, maintaining the branded title, and encouraging continued consumption by the producer.

The term "city" evokes specific associations and concepts in one's mind. It's a typical centre of commerce, culture, governance, and social interaction, with a high population density and diverse economic, social, and cultural activities. It captures a scenery of familiarity towards what is expected from cities. **Collins [2003]** describes the New York City with his poetry: *"A man walks down the street, feeling the air and the city, mysterious in its perfect chaos. / Buildings rise like hands reaching, while the lights blink and hum stories too large to be contained in just one place. / The city speaks without saying a word but always keeps its secrets close."* This poetry is an example of a portrayal of a city, and although it is called *"New York City"*, the phrases used can also be used to describe other cities as it details the high-rise structures and high density.

Urban entrepreneurialism focuses on place marketing and representation of the *"imaginable city" to* fascinate global capital, business and tourism **[McLeod, 2002].** This policy produces the highest urban hierarchies, such as metacity, megacity, or metropolis, and condemns building a character based on branding. Cities' global branding conveys engagement in how they are illustrated, apprehended, and enabled as they become the prestige broadcaster for financial and tourism activities. How cities are intended to be promoted plays a role. In contemporary communities, people without expertise in the fields of architecture or urban planning can investigate a city's character through accessible visual materials aided by technology. While they may not comprehend the city's convoluted context, they can engage with readily available promotional materials. This trend reflects the urban manifesto—turning the city into a

striving space seeking outsiders' attention and interest **[Alexander, 1979].** As cities are produced to compete for international capital brand making, they carry the expected and recognisable urban forms that symbolise economic vitality, producing what **Koolhaas [1995]** terms the *"generic city"*. The Generic city is an internationally connected city that lacks historical identity or cultural heritage. Instead, it was assembled to be functional and efficiently interchangeable. The global interconnectedness of the generic city is the aesthetic portrayal of the imaginable cities.

The globalised commercial agenda produces imaginable urban spaces, which **Hitchcock et al., [1932]** argues are the *"Coca-Cola"* of architecture in that the buildings delivered do not identify or depict the place and local culture in the location they are built. The architecture's branding transforms the space's identity, which is indicated to be part of a concept that could characterise brand-based architecture. This intention of neoliberal discourse is at play in contemporary urban considerations. Addressing the production of the urban character is seen as comprehending modern signs in the city, nation, and various constructed worlds and as the vital material and visual area where competition occurs **[King, 2004].** The system is conjoined with the preoccupation of economic concessions for urban design and architecture, which depicts the breakdown of the statements for more holistic practice through integrating urban character.

3.4. City Makers

The city makers are concerned with urban character, particularly those in positions of power such as politicians, contractors, architectural firms, architects, economists, lawyers, sociologists, critics and environmentalists urban planners or engineers, significantly influence the character of urban environments as they are key decision-makers in the planning and undertaking procedures **[Jacobs, 1961; Young, 1990; Sassen, 1991; Koolhaas, 1995; Harvey, 2008].** Structures are shaped by technology, money, and fashion **[Brand, 1995]. Zukin [1996]** demonstrated the three notions of culture that make such a culture capital city like New York —ethnicity, aesthetics, and as a marketing tool—reshaping the urban character. Political leaders have wittingly used architecture to symbolise power in the urban silhouette as they wish to be heard globally **[Urry, 1990; Harvey, 2008].** Building the tallest structure in the world, producing architectural structures that maintain a diplomatic statement, and creating

spaces for tourism or financial mobility result from political decisions which are beyond the power of an architect or urban planner **[Castells, 1984; Lefebvre, 1991; Sassen, 1991; Koolhaas, 1995; Harvey, 2008; Florida, 2002; Davis, 1990].** The politics acts also creates a global architecture based on consumer culture and tourism effects that align with the state's decisions. This association based on competition becomes a political discourse with the gentrification of cities through neoliberal policies or the contemporary renewal of architecture. In addition, it serves as a tool of change capable of instilling mental control and intimidation, subsequently impacting political ideals in the public. The strategy is forecast, which provides the control mechanism that runs on people's emotions and can create the desired effects of the political power in place.

The global architectural design choices are often laboriously affected by clients such as contractors or architectural firms who are precise in showcasing design necessities and actively strive for Western firms that will produce this global, instead of local style desired architectural projects **[Faulconbridge, 2009; Rapoport, 2013].** Regardless, the broad agreement within urban studies is that these actors have had a global sameness mark on architectural production **[Cox, 2022].** Clients of the architects catch this corporate global architecture as a way of indicating that a city has combined the Western model of capitalism with establishments such as tall structures, more specifically with the philosophic statement of being seen as a globally competitive display of economic virility and political power **[Jacobs 2006; Cox, 2022],** and with architecture used to underscore a client's corporate triumph **[Faulconbridge, 2009].** In such a position, the client's attachment to global designs surpasses the architect's freedom.

The international interplay of the star architects increased by international mobility and connectedness of trade and society, including the urban space, where, according to **Eldemery [2009]**, the *"global culture of design is supported by architects who study what other architects are creating, no matter where"*. Italian architect Vitruvius presented three fundamental conditions for all exceptional architecture: *"firmitas, utilitas, and venustas"* **[Morgan, 1914].** In order to decide the quality of a structure, one should assess the technical means, the functional and applicable characteristics of the structure, and the aesthetic consequences. French architect Auguste G. Perret defined the quality of architectural space as an alive art that faithfully represents and

envisions its period through the representation of modern construction methods **[Sorkin, 1992].** Global sensations are attainable similarly, relying on many development methods and factors applied to standardise information, methods, techniques, design choices, and technologies **[Lo and Yeung, 1998]**. The new wave of technologies in electronics, robotics, telecommunications, trend materials, and biotechnology has given rise to a new technology paradigm that emphasises the role of world cities.

3.5. Loss of the Uniqueness of the Cities

Globalisation provides cities function multidimensionally, allowing for free flows of information and resources that benefit both businesses and individuals globally, shaping them as critical hubs for finance, trade, and culture **[Koolhaas, 1995; Sassen, 2001; Florida, 2002; Friedman, 2007; Dicken, 2015].** The globalising sensations and drivers are argued as being beneficial for the urban character through the phenomenon's potential as a fine line for the hybridisation of different cultures and its localisation, that being how the movement of individuals, opinions, cultures, etcetera, decodes, and remakes in a place **[El Zeini, 2017; Cheshmehzangi, 2020; Majerska-Paubicka, 2020; Cox, 2022].** As has been debated, the general agreement in the field of urban studies is that the identity of cities is not constant, steady being it is in a continuous state of flux and elaboration **[Relph 1976; Sepe and Pitt, 2014; Jarratt et al., 2019; Cheshmehzangi, 2020].** The potential development statue of urban space is a review of its society, socio-cultural and economics. In contrast to globalisation shaping global cities, there is an emerging perspective that globalisation has caused cities to lose their uniqueness and provide similar urban character **[Augé, 1995; Ibelings, 1998; Arefi, 1999; Soja, 2000; Betsky and Adigard, 2000; Damisch**, **2001; King, 2004; Sklair, 2006; Caruso, 2008; Eldemery, 2009; Anderson, 2015; Knox-Hayes, 2016; Moura, 2020].** A universal definition of aesthetic value in terms of particular formal qualities should not be desired; instead, it should be recognised that different formal qualities in composition will be desired and valued by different people at different times **[Mitchell, 1990].** Accordingly, within the literature, there is an argument about globalisation and its approaches and culture, which can deliver new ideas to build atmosphere procedures and contribute to a city's contemporary urban character as it changes.

Apart from the idea that all global cities or fully developed cities such as metacities, megacities or metropolises have a corresponding global character, there are also those in the literature looking at it from a broader perspective who uphold the statement that every city has a similar character **[Urry, 2000; Mouffe, 2005; Zukin, 2009; Anderson, 2015].** According to **Anderson [2020]** , today's designs might be more threatening to globalisation as they might be *"more destructive"* than the indifferent, modernist monoliths they replaced. The modernist glass towers made it clear that their occupants did not care about anyone; today's headquarters buildings carry the hypocrisy of corporate gentility. The largest companies have more power and money than many countries. These establishments leave their mark on buildings and cities like empires did in the past. **Schittich [2018]** mentions that, the phenomenon of event architecture is to a large extent due to rapidly progressing globalisation, not only because images of spectacular buildings or temporary structures very quickly spread across the planet, but also because in the era of low-cost airlines and mass tourism, the economic potential of travellers to be attracted is steadily growing. At the same time, the cities, which are populated by the same fashion labels, fast food restaurants, and uniform facades everywhere, are increasingly losing their distinctive faces – at a time when the uniqueness of the individual is gaining in importance like never before. According to **Lefebvre [1971]**, the cultural revolution should not be seen solely as something aesthetic or concentrating on culture. Shaping social reality with a fragmented culture reduced to moralism and ideology is not probable. This issue is covered by the role of "culture," with only philosophy retaining integrity and even demanding direction. The existing metacities, megacities and metropolises are documented as part of the conversation of the loss of the uniqueness of the cities **Figure 3.3, Figure 3.4, Figure 3.5, Figure 3.6**.

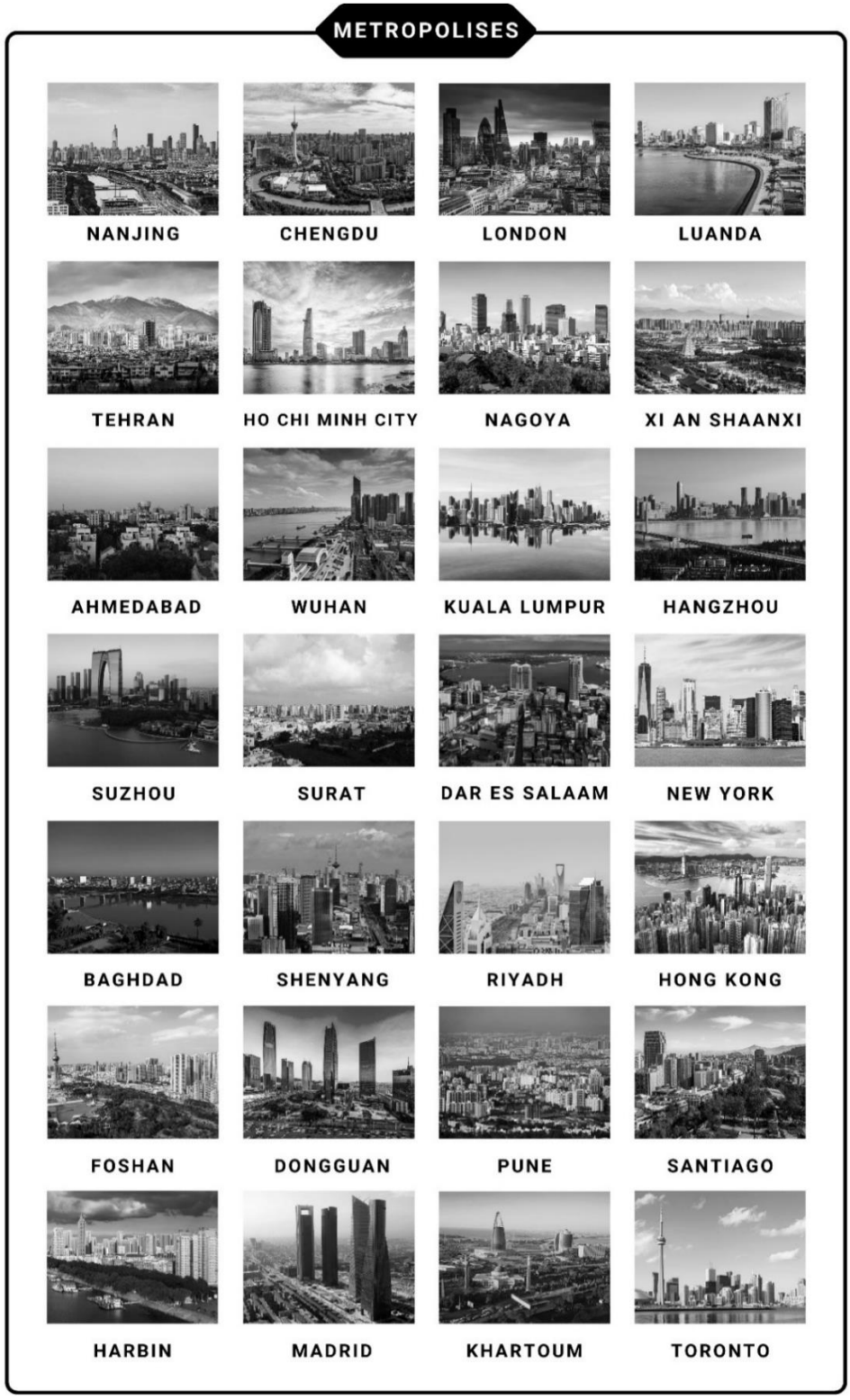


Figure 3.3: Metropolises of the World - A **[大面, 2018; Smith, 2017; Rolls, 2014; Gomes, 2017; Amirpashaei, 2019; Henley & Partners, 2024; RoutePerfect, 2024; Booking, 2024; Martino, 2024; Port, 2022; Yatırım, 2024; FDI, 2024; Fan, 2020; Bhadane, 2013; Wirestock, 2024; Spring, 2024; Gao, 2022; Saudia, 2024; Nextvoyage, 2017; Gem, 2024; Wonderfires, 2024; Jagtap, 2024; Planet, 2024; HassanPhills, 2021; Britannica, 2024].**



Figure 3.4: Metropolises of the World - B **[Sözlük, 2021; TripAdvisor, 2013; Gao, 2022; Chensiyuan, 2010; Five, 2024; Windmemories, 2022; Kayak, 2024; Bax and Monnier, 2018; Selbymay, 2011; Travel, 2024; Bergh, 2009; Pixie, 2023; Kapsch, 2024; OSD, 2020; Wikipedia, 2007; Ponchorello7, 2020; Pavone, 2017; Diken, 2022; Havacılar, 2021; Tatilsepeti, 2024; Escobedo, 2021; Eyeem, 2024; Flickr, 2024; Thambidurai, 2018]**.

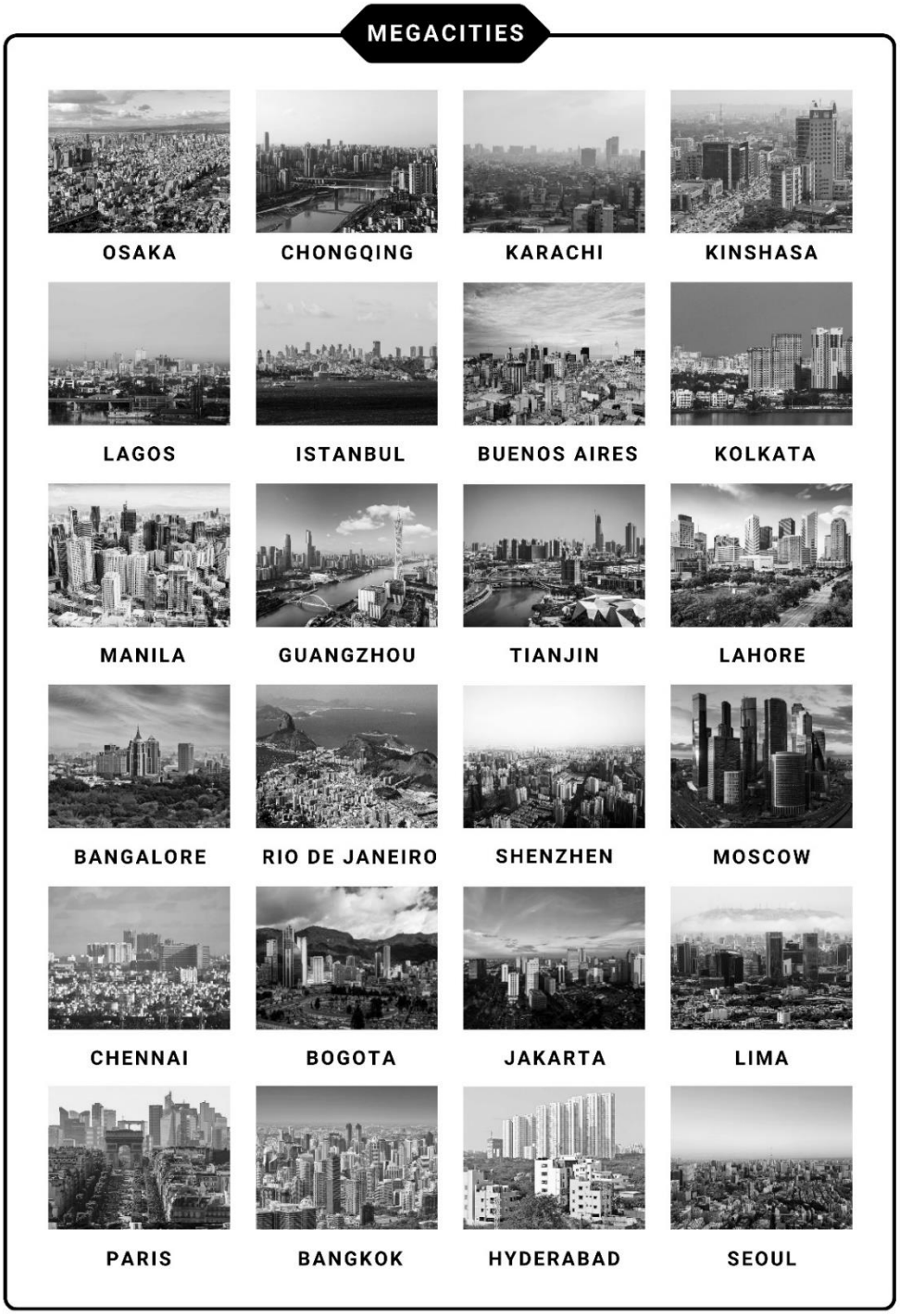


Figure 3.5: Megacities of the World **[Watt, 2015; Tansudeyouxiang, 2020; Shutterstock, 2020; Amazuku, 2024; Ub, 2016; Morlok, 2012; Curwick, 2024; Mapcarta, 2024; Manila, 2017; Ponchorello7, 2020; Pereira, 2014; Twib-SA, 2024; iStock, 2024; CKFH, 2024; Elbex, 2022; Depositphotos, 2024; Thambidurai, 2024; Yabandeh, 2022; Ticaret-Bakanlığı, 2024; Chernii, 2023; Ceylan, 2023; EveryPixel, 2023; Kumar, 2024; Springeditors, 2021]**.

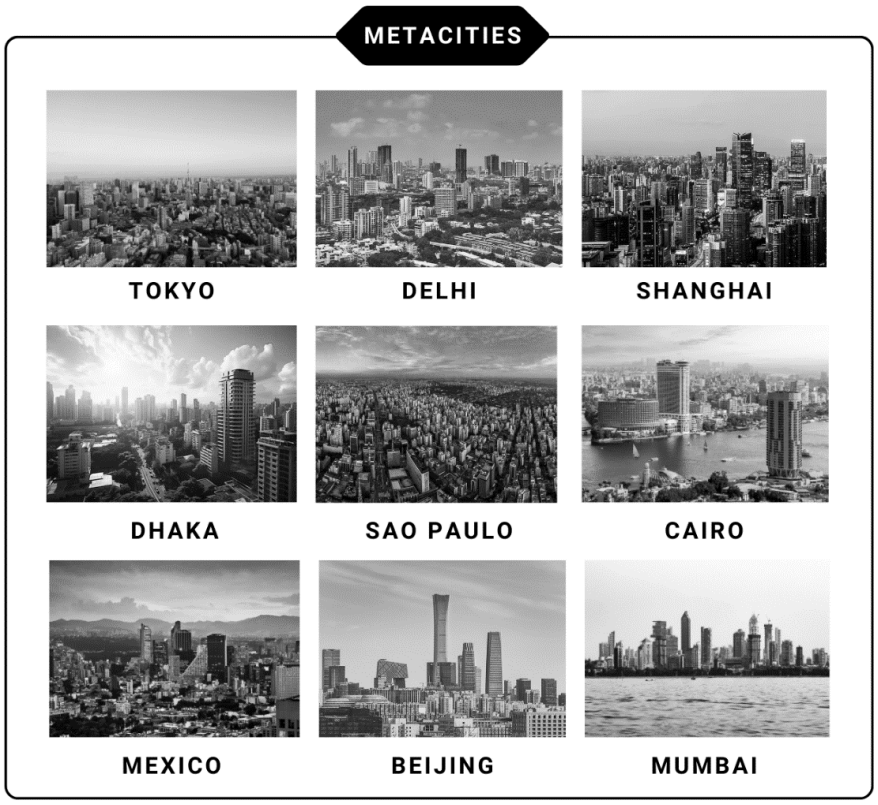


Figure 3.6: Metacities of the World **[KKC, 2019; Freepik, 2024; Photowall, 2024; Wikipedia, 2019; Freepik, 2023; Misr, 2024; Efe,2023; Uzunoğlu, 2024; Modi, 2022].**

Harvey [2008] uses the explanation of *"accumulation by dispossession"* to explain how the wealthy use the urban areas for accumulation, leaving the poor to suffer the consequences of gentrification and social exclusion **[Zukin, 2010; Sassen, 2014].** Instead of forcing their power, they attract it by offering big financial rewards in exchange for jobs, investments, and prestige. This declaration highlights the inequality between the poor and the rich. However, whether *"every city feels the same"* should be argued. **Augé [1995]** demonstrates that*"Everywhere looks like everywhere else and, as a result, anywhere feels like nowhere in particular"*. On the other hand, **Lefkowitz [2021]** is concerned about the sameness between the US cities; he names them *"the rise of the placeless places"*. Zoning is often the underlying explanation for the current situation of the character of American real estate and housing, while IBC codes guide construction; once a further idea is achievable, the industry quickly embraces it. In many large metropolitan areas, most land is zoned for single-family homes, limiting space for apartments. This inequality changes the prices, as seen in many big cities,

where restrictive zoning leads to high rents. The case mirrors an inadequate regulatory system with insufficient land for multifamily housing. As prices rise, fewer people control the development of cities, leading to places shaped by a select few.

According to **Lefkowitz [2021]**, developers often maximise their units on each lot due to zoning restrictions; however, this results in housing plans that are inadequately located and unsatisfactorily solved. The issue is not only about the cost but also a lack of creativity and care in architectural and urban planning, which is exacerbated by standardisation. Though globalisation is accused of being a consequential explanation for the loss of urban identity, this can be viewed as the *"same openness to global design approaches in design enlarged the designers"* capacity to be committed **[El Zeini, 2017; Cox, 2022].** The way of consideration directs to the presumption that cities work as a global central system and prioritise the commercial and touristic movements they establish among themselves. When this perspective is taken, it is an attitude that prioritises the influence of the actors. In addition, **El Zeini [2017]**, who stated this approach, reprioritised standardisation of design and argued that this impacted the formation of a global architectural identity.

In contemporary architecture, cities are often acknowledged for the functions that contribute to their vitality, visuality and identity. For instance, urban areas with a singular type of activity or business tend to have their identities significantly shaped by that prevailing position **[Sağlık and Kelkit, 2017].** The emergence of global cultures and the tendency to consume tradition in miscellaneous provinces have initiated an additional shift in architectural interpretations **[Dijar, 2009]**. Cities that welcome developed organisational constructions allow the decentralisation of power by many urban agents **[Cozzolino, 2022].** This domain is more complicated by architectural forms that withstand attention, exacerbated by mega-scale advertising strategies **[Giecewicz and Kwiecinski, 2019].** Branding in architecture is building landmarks and representative structures to create a new essence in a particular region that can be accepted as part of the universal identity **[Tokat, 2018].** Effective place branding captures and expresses various perceived characteristics of a place, providing a tool for reflecting on cultural understandings and integrating these reflections into the identity conversation **[Kavaratzis and Hatch, 2013].** Just before the crisis broke, New Yorkers were grumbling about their disenchantment with the city. Many beloved landmarks had disappeared, replaced by tall buildings. Most of the cities tend to lose

their unique character. According to **Eldemery, [2009]**, the force to globalise architecture mainly springs from two headquarters: the multidimensional culture of commerce and the culture of international design. These two particulars are being imported globally. Market expectations, client choices and enterprise plans drive the culture of marketing. These preliminary sources portray facilities such as sky-scraping business hubs, airports, chains of standardised hotels, malls full of all-too-familiar name brands that work globally and franchises of various other amenities **[**Augé**, 1995; Ibelings, 1998; Arefi, 1999; Betsky and Adigard; King 2004].** These recognisable places are the accusation of the branding creation by the global culture.

In the broader context, these architectural statements have been shared throughout the globe by their distinctive actors and roles under the name of globalisation. Therefore, it is physically connected with the character of the built environment. In the last decade, a contest for supremacy has become one of the architectural phenomena of global iconography, as represented by the race to the sky between the world nations to produce the world's tallest buildings or skyscrapers **[Fellahi, 2021].** Globalisation creates an identity, for example, to the emergence of so-called world cities—command centres such as New York, London, and Tokyo, which are critical players in the new concentrated financial system **[Friedman, 1995; Sassen, 2001; Knox and McCarthy, 2011].** Globalisation is the crossroads of national and international political power, trade, finance, advanced professions, information, luxury and mass consumption, arts, and culture. In the 20th century, world cities already acquired a reputation, relieving new characteristics while adopting new functions and expanding existing ones **[Hall and Pain, 2006].** It is reminiscent of architecture that is responsible for the creation of a global architecture dependent on energy-efficient technologies based on considerations of politics **[Hussaini et al., 2023].** Therefore, it destabilises and redefines how architecture is driven and what it produces. This approach recalls the principal influence of globalisation on urban phenomena. Architecture no longer holds the vulnerable marketing between familiar established ideas judged by clear rules of cost and benefit, or something experienced in person by the globalisation **[Jamal, 2009].** Globalisation makes structures seem virtual, saving them fresh and challenging to comprehend as they frame the cities with a brand-based culture.

The foremost case connected to locality is the area or the site itself. The local requirements of the space speak for themselves. The local culture, colours, religion, traditions, and historical context contribute significantly to localisation **[Tuan, 1977; Said, 1978; Urry, 2000; Ingold, 2000].** In an urban setting where the local culture is ignored or disregarded, social relations and practices do not only deliver a culture or ideology but also a concrete dynamic situation and mechanisms full of continuities and permanent determinations on the one hand, and tension, contradiction, solution, lack of solution, newness and natural changes on the other. In this regard, **Weber [1986]** put forward the hypothesis that the cultural meaning of individual actions is unconscious and disconnected from practice as a fundamental principle of interpretive sociology.

The scholars of locality come to the fore in the literature, contending that the influence of global architecture on urban identity leads to sociocultural inequalities in cities **[Soja, 1996; Zukin, 1996; Sassen, 2001; Held and McGrew, 2002; Lees et al., 2008, Harvey, 2008].** The contemporary planning movement – as something proceeding above just 'big urban design' – displays the basic concept that a city is not just a 'designed object' (the composition of an architect) but is almost like a living, growing 'organism', adjusted to its surroundings **[Çalışkan, 2011].** Mixed compositions and subjects recur across the chapters: the utopian roots and longing for true planning; the illustrative ties between planning discourse and more general trends in governance and society; the imposition of planning visions; the dictates of economic and political power; pressures between global powers and local identity; the commodification of arranging ideas; the inexorable rise of urbanisation; and the need for built space causes – now more than ever – to revalidate planning as a social-democratic lesson for human advancement **[Freestone, 2000].** Urban creativity suffers as wealthy developers and officials prioritize luxury development, hoping for trickle-down benefits. Media branding corrupts neighbourhood identity, catering to wealthy preferences. Emerging middle classes, drawn to this identity, unwittingly contribute to its demise **[Zukin, 2009]. Short [2004]** claims that one common view of globalisation is a wave of transformation sweeping away local distinctiveness, likening it to a tsunami of change wiping out the localities.

From an architectural point of view, global sensations are influenced and driven towards producing resemblances in the urban characters. This standing considers

building materials, design choices or facade designs. **Alexander [1979]** demonstrates an example of a flower for a distinctive identity. The coherence of a flower, with its cells working independently, relies on the genetic code orchestrating their unity. Similarly, architectural masterpieces are crafted through *"language"*. When the language is stiff, the buildings must be rigid. If the language is florid, the buildings will be formed. The language generates the structures which are made, and the buildings live or not, according to the life of the language they have. This should be considered when locality is the intention of the design paradigm.

The global material choices are as significant when they actively participate in the urban silhouette. Concrete is the most common building material worldwide **[Salvan, 1986]** as it is "made from materials which must contain the proper proportions of lime, silica, alumina and iron components" and is used to provide strength, versatility and durability. The feeling of being guided while freely wandering, something like a voyage of discovery, is enabled by a radiance inherent in the material composition, resulting in a unique creation **[Zumthor, 2006].** In the 21st century, the building materials commonly used in urban environments contain concrete, glass, steel, ceramics, PVC, plastic, composites, aluminium and various other materials in single materials, mixed materials, and composites **[Muhammad, 2020] Figure 3.7.** New architecture and urban forms are produced under the same social conditions as consumer effects, increasingly following patterns of standardisation and market differentiation **[Zukin, 1991].** The architectural choices indeed impact the character.

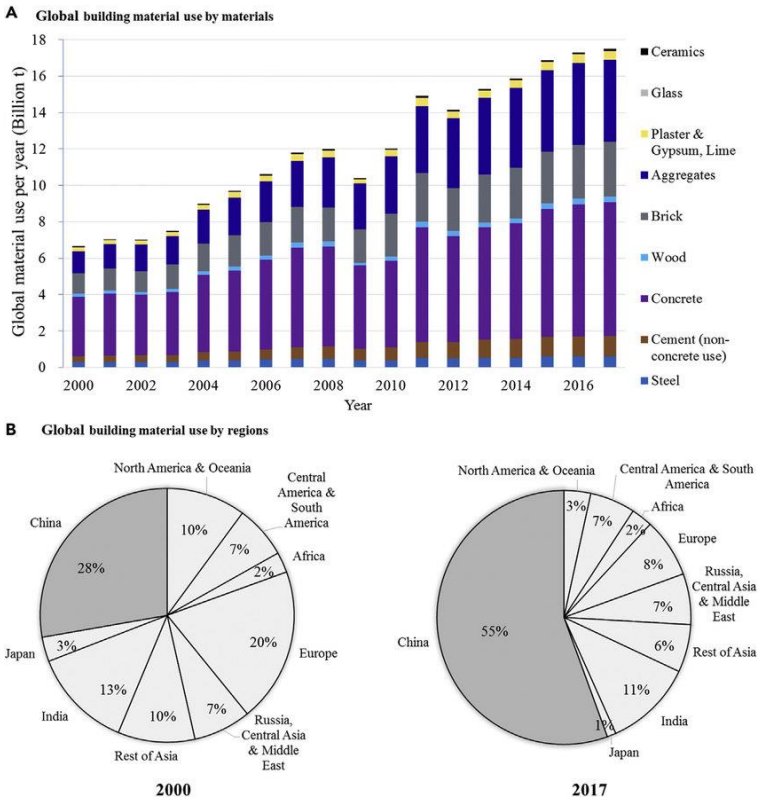


Figure 3.7: Annual Global Building Material Use during 2000-2017 by Material and Region **[Huang et al., 2020].**

In a society, there are and will always be universal or central as well as local or peripheral cultures to which people are attached by different motives and interests **[Eliot, 1949].** The framework for producing a place identity that addresses local needs is often referred to as localisation. The purpose is to build a better world, as **Harvey [2008]** argues, as the outcome of an era in which human rights ideals have taken centre stage, both politically and ethically. It does not fundamentally challenge the reasoning of the liberal and neoliberal market or the dominant states of legality and state action. After all, the primacy of private property rights and the profit margin over other rights runs counter to the concept of locality. The question of what kind of urban character is desired cannot be separated from the inquiry of what kind of social ties, relationships with nature, lifestyles, technologies and aesthetic values are desired. The right to the city is more than the individual freedom to access urban resources: it is the right to adjust ourselves by transforming the city. Moreover, since this transformation inevitably depends on exercising a collaborative power to reshape urbanisation

procedures, it is a collective rather than an individual right. Under these circumstances, embodiments of urban identity, citizenship and belonging—already terrorised by the catching malaise of a neoliberal ethic—evolve much harder to uphold.

Regardless, the perspective recognises that globalisation involves complex global and local exchanges, with impacts flowing in both approaches. For example, there is a global spread of ethnic and hybrid cuisines. The city is not just a passive recipient of global effects. The approaches and conflicts between globalisation and diversity intensified at the beginning of the twenty-first century. This unresolved tension increasingly directs to some issues akin to the nuclear catastrophe of the last century. The approach of localisation is affirmed to rethink architecture through local concepts. It opposes adopting narcissistic dogmas, which are economically costly and ecologically harmful. This approach maintains the value of unique projects within physical, social, and cultural constraints. Consequently, it sustains diversity while benefiting from universality **[Lefaivre and Tzonis, 2003].**In framing this discussion, each place is characterised by a culture that exists only insofar as procedures are conducted **[Pedeliento et al., 2019].** Overall, localisation is discussed as a contrast to globalisation. The impacts of such a concept highly transform the architectural space as a whole. Although localisation benefits the local culture, it is not the only impactful concept on critical thinking towards sameness. Ultimately, the actors have an impactful influence over architectural spaces.

3.6. Interlude: The Concept of Sameness Regarding Globalisation

The movement of capital impacts the competition among cities engaged in global architectural interchange. Urban competitiveness, built on political and economic practices, opens these contentions into architecture. This contest becomes noticeable and measurable in the urban geography, patterns, and skyline. Within their urban character, cities adopt an identity shaped by global architectural practices. Aspects such as advanced building technologies, standardised production methods, and construction techniques contribute to assembling a globally competitive identity. This competition is closely tied to the tendency of neoliberal capital.

When urban characters are assessed on a global scale, cities are affected by trade, economy, tourism, and architectural trends. The aspiration to be an imaginable and

recognisable city constructs an envisioned vision of urban identity. Cities are increasingly conceptualised as recognisable, desired, and foreseen entities. The vision of urban character correlates closely to the concept of an "imaginable city." In this context, city branding converts a city into a mark of prestige. Such cities aim to attract attention, designate a place in global culture, and become desirable and inviting. City branding successfully attracts individuals to it.

The loss of originality in cities is a central consideration of this thesis. The architectural resemblances between cities are seen as a result of globalisation. This association is tested within the methodology of the thesis. Besides, the loss of urban uniqueness is investigated through visual data, as it impacts cities' aesthetic and visual coherence.

Localisation, in contrast to globalisation, debates conclusions embedded in local contexts. It surrounds connections with local culture, the emergence of local architectural approaches, regional materials, and unique answers tailored to specific environments. Localisation brings a specific context to cities. The scope of a city's identity being tied to its locality can be understood through its architectural relationships, the materials used in its structures, and its interaction with the skyline. While localisation is not directly defined as a parameter under urban character in this thesis, it is a crucial factor in determining how local or global a city's identity is.

Actors are key formations in the process of urban sameness. Every building reflects either an architect's design vision or a developer's financial priorities. The influence of actors such as politicians, contractors, architectural firms, architects, economists, lawyers, sociologists, critics, environmentalists, urban planners, or engineers on the global sameness of cities is noticeable as they are the decision-makers and stakeholders. These actors and their roles are central to the conversation. The competition among global star architecture firms, or the focus of political leaders on creating iconic, eye-catching, and recognisable structures, underscores the extent to which a city has become globalised.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1. The Interpretive Historical Qualitative Approach

This master's thesis begins structuring the research on metacities by taking global sameness in the urban character as a concern and then examining the metacity character through geography, pattern and silhouette parameters. Within the scope of this study, the characters of the cities Tokyo, Delhi, Shanghai, Dhaka, Sao Paulo, Cairo, Mexico, Beijing and Mumbai, which are suitable for the definition of metacities, are examined separately through the parameters of the metacity character. The study examines why 9 metacities in different regions of the world contribute to similar urban characters, identifies the key components of an urban morphology that define the urban character and its uniqueness, and explores the roles of primary actors in shaping and potentially transforming urban identities.

This master's study was crafted based on the interpretive historical qualitative approach. As **Creswell [2017]** depicted, qualitative research is a multimethod principle involving an interpretive naturalistic technique to its significant issue. Qualitative investigators examine things in their natural surroundings, aiming to comprehend or interpret phenomena through the senses individuals convey. Qualitative research focuses on the examined use and display of various empirical materials such as case studies, personal narratives, reflections, life stories, interviews, observations, historical interactions, and visual texts that describe the natural environment and challenging points and meaning in individual lives. Some scholars recognise the qualitative approach for focusing on the context as it relies on textual, visual, or auditory data rather than numerical data. Moreover, this approach is highlighted for being flexible, inductive, interpretive, holistic and natural data collection **[Holloway and Todres, 2003; Bryman, 2006; Flick, 2007; Patton, 2015; Creswell, 2017; Denzin and Lincoln, 2018].** This technique benefits an architectural study considering the existing architectural data and urban visuals as the primary data.

Qualitative techniques rely on text and image data, have unique analysis steps specific to the research questions, and draw on diverse inquiry strategies **[Creswell, 2017]**. Qualitative research paradigms are categorised by **Gephart [1999],** paradigms into

three distinct categories—positivism, interpretivism, and critical postmodernism—commonly employed in psychological and sociological fields **[Jansen, 2004]**. All three perspectives differ in how they view the world, what knowledge they pursue, and how they create and evaluate it. Positivism concentrates on objective knowledge from evidence and science **[Crotty, 1998; Guba and Lincoln, 1994]**. Interpretivism aims to understand the actions and meanings individuals attribute to their backgrounds **[Schwandt, 1994]**. Critical postmodernism critiques accepted norms and shows that many realities are influenced by power **[Smith, 1987; Denzin and Lincoln, 2005].** No agreement exists on whether these three techniques can contend or function concurrently in the same study. **Geertz [1973]**, in his work "*The Interpretation of Cultures"*, underlines the value of *"thick description"* as a property of interpretive research. Thick description goes beyond only factual reporting (thin description) to provide detailed, layered insights into the meanings behind actions, behaviours, and cultural practices. In this context, the study should provide advantages in investigating observable cultural practices, their consideration of spaces, symbolisms and design insights.

The interpretive approach delivers a more comprehensive performance of the actors' opinions and philosophies. On the other hand, the historical approach depends on the occasions, actions, and results that occurred in a specific period. It focuses on the multidimensional changes rather than a single outcome. Interpretive research, frequently called qualitative research, situates meaning-making practices based on scientific exploration. In a strict sense, all breakdown involves interpretation. Interpretative historical qualitative research investigates social-physical phenomena within complex contexts to explain those phenomena in narrative form and a holistic fashion **[Schwandt, 1994; Crotty, 1998; Gephart, 1999; Creswell, 2017].** Interpretive qualitative research concerns understanding the meaning behind urban identity and its components, emphasising investigating the definition behind the actors and their roles and explaining phenomena in a narrative, holistic manner.

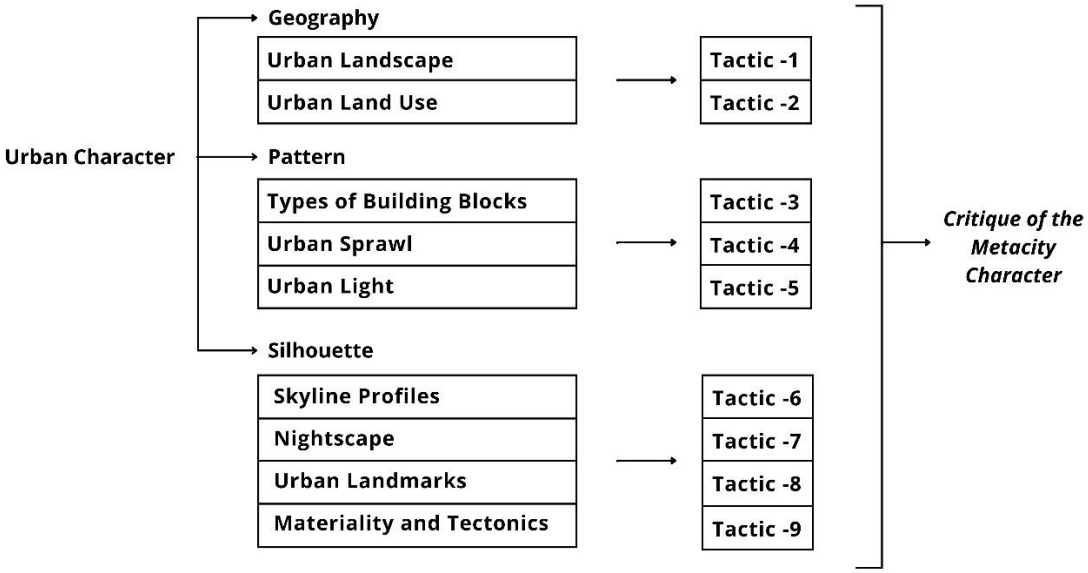
4.2. Methods

The interpretive historical qualitative approach can potentially question the relationship between the data collected and organised in a scientific study and the actors. Considering the perspective created by the research through components of the urban character and the actors of the sameness, the interpretive historical qualitative approach is suitable for the research's nature. The breakdown includes the critical examination of the visual data. In architectural studies, the *"critical thinking"* approach questions authors, actors, power discourses, and multidimensional constructions; meanwhile, it has become a dominant institution rather than producing new perspectives and alternative visions for action **[Crysler et al., 2012].** Since in this regime of criticality, theory plays a determining role in the design; it reduces architectural research to an illustration. The study wishes to conduct research based on a visual perspective rather than the quantitative data in laboratory scientific reports. Since the research contains visually understandable and testable questions, the study uses architectural materials related to the scope of the study as data.

The investigation is based on a critical evaluation process concerning visual aesthetics and the sameness of urban character; using a standard analytical technique is extremely difficult to be both strategic and solution-oriented. In the first step of the interpretative historical qualitative approach, data collection was initiated through designated architectural representations and urban planning documentaries. As part of qualitative research on 9 metacities that exist in today's urban geography and meet the definition of metacity, city maps were used at a scale where the relationships established by the parameters on the city character can be read. It portrays urban design as producing both theories and practices of designing and guiding urban forms in the macro, meso and micro scales **[Ardıçoğlu, 2022].** The macro-scale contains the borders of the country and overarching city or regional framework, considering spatial organisation and infrastructure; the meso scale focuses on neighbourhoods and districts, emphasising community identity and local interactions; meanwhile, the micro-scale analyses the buildings and public spaces, highlighting the details in the urban environment **[Hall, 2014].** Since the scope of this study requires an architectural investigation using different scales, it includes maps of macro, meso, and micro-scales used in urban research as the second step of the analysis. The study considers the

architectural data: city maps, plans, sections, and elevations. It is crucial for qualitative research to have a systematic structure. Since there are 9 metacity to explore, the study builds an analysis structure, implies it to each metacity separately, and then collectively overlooks them in the discussion **Table 4.1.**

Table 4.1: Tactics of the Study **[Author].**



4.3. Tactics

The order of the research is as follows:

1) Searching for aerial drone view of the urban landscape of the cities and the review of the urban landscape through urban cross-sections. Collecting Visual Data on Urban Silhouettes from 4 Different Perspectives.

- **Related Category:** Urban Geography. **Scale:** Macro.
- **Description:** The investigation reviews the interventions of "urban landscape" as a parameter of urban geography. After that, the visual data on urban silhouettes were collected employing visuals taken from 4 different perspectives. These images were cropped into a 2:3 vertical frame and placed side by side to investigate the parameters of urban silhouette.

- **Aims:** The preference is to study the parameters and their impact on the urban identity using architectural representations.
- **Sources Used:** The analysis uses urban cross-sections from Mantho's [2014] book *"The Urban Section: An Analytical Tool for Cities and Streets"*, which contains five metacities (Tokyo, Shanghai, Mexico City, Beijing, and Mumbai). The photographs were sourced from Google using the keyword "aerial drone view" Then, the high-resolution images were selected from the first 50 results, with further consideration given to how well the images document the city at an appropriate scale. The perspective shots for each metacity were searched, and high-quality visual narratives were selected from the first 50 images.

2) Evaluating investigations based on urban land use using master plans.

- **Related Category:** Urban Geography. **Scale:** Macro.
- **Description:** Evaluating the transformations in urban geography adopting master plans and land use plans to comprehend how they mirror parameters such as land use and urban sprawl to a city's identity over time.
- **Aims:** To observe how a city's identity is connected with urban land use.
- **Sources Used:** Master plans or city maps at the macro scale and maps elucidating land use have been used to interpret the scope of the analysis step.

3) The review of the type of building blocks using maps, plans, or satellite views.

- **Related Category:** Urban Pattern. **Scale:** Macro, Meso.
- **Description:** Review "types of building blocks" as parameters of urban patterns with architectural data.
- **Aims**: This step seeks to delve into the existing types of building blocks in metacities, apprehending how metropolitan areas are categorised based on their blocks. This is a visual review that strives to receive data on types of building blocks within metacity contexts, making extrapolations through architectural representations.
- **Sources Used:** The analysis uses urban pattern plans from Mantho's [2014] book *"The Urban Section: An Analytical Tool for Cities and Streets"*, which

contains five metacities (Tokyo, Shanghai, Mexico City, Beijing, and Mumbai). Urban landscape and land use data are combined and examined on city maps for the other 4 cities. While searching for two-dimensional architectural representation methods, resources such as Google Maps and Google Earth were predominantly used. Moreover, during this analysis step, the keywords such as "aerial view", "bird-eye view", "urban morphology", and "urban pattern" were searched to reach the actual pattern data of the metacities.

4) The review of urban sprawl using master plans.

- **Related Category:** Urban Pattern. **Scale:** Macro.
- **Description:** Evaluating the transformations in urban patterns by adopting urban sprawl maps to comprehend how they mirror the parameters of urban sprawl to a city's identity over time.
- **Aims:** To observe how a city's identity changes over time based on urban sprawl, which might be an urban pattern, and to specify their impact on the urban identity.
- **Sources Used:** Master plans or city maps at the macro scale, notably consisting of urban sprawl maps illustrating changes over time, have been used to interpret the scope of the analysis step.

5) Breakdown of the "Urban Light" using satellite images of the metacities.

- **Related Category**: Urban Pattern. **Scale**: Macro, Meso.
- **Description**: The fifth step concerns studying the light through satellite images to see the associations of light urban pattern.
- **Aims**: The purpose is to examine the consequence of light on metacities at night by interpreting urban centres, complexity, density, and distribution from light sources in satellite images.
- **Sources Used**: First and foremost, the nocturnal satellite maps obtained from NASA are preferred for metacities.

6) Analysing Urban Skylines Through Collected Visuals.

- **Category:** Urban Silhouette. **Scale:** Meso.

- **Description:** In the sixth phase of the investigation, urban silhouettes are analysed using collected visual data. These images are cropped to a 2:1 frame ratio for documentation. This step focuses on interpreting the parameters of urban silhouettes through panoramic metacity views.
- **Aims:** This phase seeks to explore the panoramic urban views of metacities in the ongoing debate about the loss of local and unique urban character.
- **Sources Used:** The images were searched using keywords such as "*urban panoramic skyline"*, and then high-quality photos were chosen from the first 50 horizontal results and cropped for documentation purposes.

7) Breakdown of the "Nightscape" using skyline images of the metacities.

- **Related Category**: Urban Silhouette. **Scale**: Meso.
- **Description**: This step concerns studying the light through the nightscape skyline of the metacities.
- **Aims**: It seeks to probe the city's identity formed at night by reviewing its silhouette.
- **Sources Used**: The first 20 "nightscape" images of the metacities on Google Images were used as part of the investigation.

8) Detecting the Urban Landmarks from Metacities.

- **Category:** Urban Geography. **Scale:** Micro.
- **Description:** The third phase focuses on the *urban landmarks*, which are the parameters of urban geography. Each city's famous and recognisable urban landmarks are selected and analysed in this phase. The top 20 popular urban landmarks on CTBUH and ArchDaily were reviewed to pick samples. The selected landmarks should not be pre-industrial architectural examples. For instance, ancient cities from Mesopotamia could not be included because the scope of the study explores contemporary architecture and considers a discussion based on current debates. Urban landmarks built before 1950 were not selected since the research explores globalisation and its architectural interactions with metacities.

- **Aims:** This phase aims to question the uniqueness of urban landmarks. While some examples are unique and authentic, others explore architectural imitation, interrogating whether they replicate landmarks from other countries.
- **The Selected Landmarks:** Tokyo Tower (1958), Lotus Temple (1986), Oriental Pearl Tower (1995), Banglar Taj Mahal (2009), São Paulo Museum of Art (1968), Cairo Tower (1961), Museo Soumaya (2011), CCTV Building (2012) and Mumbai TV Tower (1974).
- **Sources Used:** Urban landmarks from all 9 metacities were analysed using data from the "Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat (CTBUH)" website. Additional segments about the structures were gathered from ArchDaily. Architectural drawings such as site plans, floor plans, and sections were also conferred when required.

9) Examining the Influence of a Selected Contemporary Building on Urban Character Through Materiality and Tectonics.

- **Category:** Urban Silhouette. **Scale:** Micro.
- **Description:** At this stage, specific contemporary architectural examples are selected to examine how architects or firms designing modern structures in each city influence urban identity using global material choices and global designs. The analysis involves studying these architectural examples to explore their material and texture within the urban silhouette and their production scale within the urban silhouette. It also investigates the roles of actors and the years of construction. The examples were chosen from each city's most popular buildings, based on Google searches ranking in the top 20 skyscrapers, towers, or buildings. Selection criteria included height, popularity within the city, and construction dates after the 20th century. This aligns with literature emphasising the spread of tall buildings after the second half of the 20th century. These structure examples highlight changes in urban character and reflect the roles and design approaches of the involved architects and firms. The materials of the urban landmarks are also documented as scope of this step.
- **Aims:** The study aims to evaluate the extent to which these architectural examples based on the material and tectonics influence the urban character.

- **Selected Examples:** Mori JP Tower (2023), Supernova Spira (expected mid-2025), Shanghai Tower (2015), Dhaka City Centre (2012), Platina 220 (2022), Iconic Tower (2024), Torre Mitikah (2022), China Zun (2018), Trump Tower Mumbai (2021).
- **Sources Used:** Photographs were sourced using Google with the keyword "aerial drone view". High-resolution images were selected from the top 50 results, prioritising those that effectively document the city at a relevant scale.

In the analysis, the planned phases for each urban character were systematically examined separately for the context of each metacity. Subsequent findings were specifically investigated and grouped with consideration to the characteristics to each metacity.

4.4. Sampling: The Metacities

Metacities, as the world's most populous cities, are noteworthy statues of cities in the process of globalisation. These cities play a significant role in global decision-making processes at both economic and political levels. Affected by globalisation, the dynamic metacities engage in severe interactions across areas such as trade, culture, technology, and finance, becoming critical centres that shape global economic and social dynamics. Therefore, metacities are the most suitable topic to be studied in terms of the concept of sameness. As the study builds a critique on the global sameness within the cities, metacities are the most globally effected cities.

The scope of the study considers the morphological features of the urban character of metacities that exist in 2024. Cities carried as metacities are Tokyo, Delhi, Shanghai, Dhaka, Sao Paulo, Cairo, Mexico, Beijing and Mumbai **Figure 4.1.** These cities were selected as samplings of the study within the scope of metacity. Cities have inconsistent inhabitants because they have a system that can expand, shrink and transform. In addition, cities with megacity status hold the opportunity to become metacity in the future, which demonstrates that in forthcoming studies, more cities with a population overreaching 20 million may exist and become global metacity status. Within the scope of this study, 9 cities that will be considered as meta cities in 2024 are specified and examined.



Figure 4.1: Metacities of the World **[Author].**

Tokyo, with a population of 37,115,035, is the world's most populous metacity **[Worldometer, 2024].** It functions as a central global financial hub, activating the headquarters of significant financial institutions. In addition to financial organizations, the city is home to multinational corporations, insurance companies, and administrative centres for influential firms in Asia. Tokyo was an undersized defensive outpost known as Edo until the late 16th century. It gained prominence as the centre of the feudal state, established in 1603. After 1868, when the imperial capital moved from Kyoto, the city adopted Tokyo, meaning "eastern capital" **[Sorensen, 2002; Turna, 2024].** Tokyo's urban expension had a geometric design, instead being designated as "Tokyo-to" (Tokyo Metropolis) in 1943, a prefecture overseeing 23 central wards with autonomous local governments. Tokyo can be accurately phrased as "city of villages" as ward is unconnexted which outcoming as improvised roads linking them witha lack of overally aesthetic harmony **[Waley, 2006].** German architect Bruno Taut, during his 1936 visit, noted that Tokyo's disorganized city planning, describing its roadways as chaotic and directionless, and condemning the combination of architectural styles **[Hein, 2010].** The urban planning of the first metacity doesn't have long avenues, massive geometric blocks, narrow and unnamed roads without clear organisation. Wider roads cutting through older neighborhoods, main routes and showcasing the landmarks like Tokyo Tower instead of leading to them, showing little regard for symbols meant to represent the city and its culture **[Cybriwsky, 1991].** Tokyo Tower, a feature of the city's skyline which also resembles

the intentional towering steel design of the Eiffel Tower **[Sorensen, 2002].** This can be witnessed in the skyline.

Delhi, with a population of 33,807,403, is the second most populous metacity in the world. Located in India, New Delhi has an area of 42.7 km² and hosts 134 foreign embassies and high commissions **[Worldometer, 2024].** It is one of the fastest-growing cities globally. The urban planning of New Delhi features tree-lined, wide boulevards and is home to numerous national institutions, museums, and landmarks. Political governance remains a key aspect of the city's functioning, making it critical to challenge the representations assessed by consecutive rulers. This reinforces the condition of breaking loose from the systems of representations that associations have managed to assess the city and its inhabitants. Delhi's importance as one of Asia's largest grain markets cannot be understood clearly in periods of economic logic **[Dupont et al., 2000; Ram et al., 2024].** A variety of aspects, political and historical, as well as fiscal and cultural, come into play. These interplays are not the only explanations for the centrality of Delhi, whereas the centrality in the network of grain markets in north India is considerable, but the prevailing organisation of the grain commerce itself is also rather intricate.

Shanghai, with a population of 29,867,918, is known worldwide as a prominent port city; Shanghai is also the country's largest city and serves as a key hub for China's economy, finance, trade, and conveyance **[TPBO, 2023; Worldometer, 2024].** The metacity is located on the eastern coast at the most outlying point of the Yangtze River Delta; Shanghai is located and bordered by the East China Sea to the east, Hangzhou Bay to the south, and Jiangsu and Zhejiang regions to the west. Chongming Island, Shanghai's northernmost area, sits at the mouth of the Yangtze River, where it meets the sea **[NASA, 2019]**. The Shanghai metacity is a significant part of the "Yangtze River Delta Economic Region," which contains several cities from neighbouring provinces such as Jiangsu, Zhejiang, and Anhui. These areas are significant areas for the movement of trade and business. Shanghai is recognised for its display of Art Deco buildings, a legacy of the construction boom during the 1920s and 1930s, making it one of the cities with the most Art Deco arrangements in the world **[Loh, 2016].** The city is also famous for its numerous skyscrapers, particularly in the Lujiazui Peninsula, which is classified as the fifth city globally in terms of the number of skyscrapers **[IBT, 2015; HUD, 2015].** Notable illustrations include the 421-meter Jin Mao Tower and

the 492-meter Shanghai World Financial Center. Besides, at 632 meters, the Shanghai Tower is the tallest structure in China and at the same time, the second tallest structure in the world **[ArchDaily, 2023].** Overall, Shanghai maintains a significant position in the global economy and architecture.

Dhaka, with a population of 23,935,652, is the capital of Bangladesh and the fourth most populated metacity in the world **[Worldometer, 2024].** It is located in the central-southern part of the country, north of the Buriganga River, a channel of the Dhaleswari River. Dhaka is the most populous city in Bangladesh. Since it became the capital, the city's population, area, and social and financial diversity have grown significantly **[Akhter et al., 2018].** Along with the Narayanganj river port, located 10 miles (16 km) to the south, Dhaka is a noteworthy industrialised area. Due to rapid urbanisation, Dhaka has faced significant air pollution, leading to unanticipated consequences that pose severe health risks and challenges for its citizens **[Rahaman et al., 2023].** Although Dhaka city has tall structures that are influenced by global architecture, it has slums and notable spaces of local architecture.

São Paulo has a population of 22,806,704 that concentrates on different functions in distinct regions **[Worldometer, 2024].** The city centre is a business-oriented area, also home to historic buildings. The western part of the city is vibrant in terms of gastronomy, nightlife, science, and culture. At the same time, the southern region is the wealthiest area of the city, housing famous shopping malls and many luxury centres **[Britannica, 2023].** On the other hand, the far southern region is where São Paulo boasts the most natural geography. São Paulo is not precisely a "compact city." The urban area extends about 60 miles (100 kilometres) from east to west and more than 30 miles (50 kilometres) from north to south region **[Lima & Magaña-Rueda, 2018].** The Metacity occupies as many areas as downtown Houston. Unlike many other emerging world metacities and megacities, which have evolved more centralized by forming new commercial cores as their older central business districts have become less critical, São Paulo has retained its dispersed urban form **[Cox, 2012].** In recent years, most of the core-type commercial expansion has occurred on Avenida Paulista (two miles/three kilometres west of the city centre) and later on Luis Berrini.

Cairo, with a population of 22,623,874, is the capital city of Egypt **[Worldometer, 2024].** The metacity is located on the banks of the Nile River and is noted for being a spot to the only surviving wonder of the ancient world: the Great Pyramid **[Snow,**

2016]. Cairo, the biggest city in Africa, has hosted many different civilizations and cultures. As Egypt's political and economic centre, Cairo is separated into different districts and neighbourhoods, each with different development and income levels **[NASA, 2020].** The city's urban development has been boosting both upward and outward along the land of the Nile River, and new satellite cities have been built on the desert landscapes outside Cairo. New cities are being developed both within and beyond Cairo, though many still rely laboriously on the central city, which challenges the idea of a fully decentralized urban structure.

Mexico is a metacity with a population of 22,505,315 **[Worldometer, 2024].** Mexico City's skyline is a reflection of its architectural heritage and a consideration of the narratives implanted within its structures. From monumental landmarks to lesser-known structures, each city corner has a history above its atmosphere **[Torrado, 2021].** Mexico City has volcanic mountains, which make the mile-high city dramatically beautiful but also make air inversions that cloak it in trapped pollutants. On the other hand, population growth adds to the stress of new housing. Much of what gets built is informal; no designers need to apply **[Koehler, 2020]**. Visible from any high vantage in Mexico City is what can be called "the urban tsunami" **[Serrano, 2015].** Clay-coloured waves of informal housing appear to lap higher onto the mountains, encompassing the city like the edge of a valley.

Beijing is China's second metacity and capital, with a population of 22,189,082 citizens **[Worldometer, 2024].** The monumental approach slices north-south through the city as if a consequential tectonic movement had severed the urban grain. It builds an axis that operates for more than 20km, bombarding a meridian line from the borders of the Forbidden City, the palatial combination that lies at the centre of it all **[Holligan, 2016].** Beijing was arranged as a diagram of an organised, harmonious society designed to secure the citizens together in bricks and mortar under the supreme rule of the emperor **[Zhang, 1991].** It was to be an expression of decisive force as a capital of political activities.

Mumbai, with a population of 21,673,149 citizens, is the second metacity in India **[Worldometer, 2024].** According to **Villardière and d'Arthuys [2023]**, 50% of Mumbai citizens live in the slums as it divides the city into poor and the rich, which could easily be read throughout the urban pattern by the sharp contrasts between the slums and the newly built high rise buildings. The local authorities demolish hundreds

and thousands to build huge complexes. Seemingly, there is a connection between the slumps and the high-rise structures of Mumbai. Dharavi slums contain one million people living in just one square mile, causing issues such as lack of infrastructure, mobility problems, electricity, water pollution, and not having access to clean drinking water. According to **Villardière and d'Arthuys [2023]**, Babulal Varma, a developer in Mumbai, demolishes the slums to construct high-rise buildings with Omkar, a company focused on the construction and redevelopment industry. Over the first ten years, the firm made significant changes to the urban character of Mumbai by redeveloping 2.5 million square feet of space. The construction of buildings surpassing fifty floors has become necessary for Babulal Varma's design principles in reaction to the limited spatial availability in Mumbai's urban geography and growing population. **Villardière and d'Arthuys [2023]** record that the sprawl towards the wilderness invited wild animals into the geography of the urban Sanjay Gandhi National Park. That generates a conflict between locals and animals as leopard attacks rise in the urban habitat. Overall, the transitional movements in architecture and urban planning demonstrate that Mumbai's urban character contains sharp contrasts.

The study analyses the characteristics of metacities through the concepts of urban geography, urban pattern, and urban silhouette by using specific tactics across 9 metacities. In this analysis, each city is examined individually. Visual data is utilised to conduct these analyses. The selected cities are analysed based on the sub-parameters of city geography, which include landscape, urban light, and landmarks; the sub-parameters of city pattern, which include types of building blocks, building production scale, urban sprawl, and land use; and the sub-parameters of city silhouette, which include complexity, skyline profiles, building density, material, and texture. Decisions based on the global similarity relationship related to the silhouette are examined through the actors involved. This analysis is illustrated with specific building examples such as *Mori JP Tower (2023), Supernova Spira (expected mid-2025), Shanghai Tower (2015), Dhaka City Centre (2012), Platina 220 (2022), Iconic Tower (2024), Torre Mitikah (2022), China Zun (2018), Trump Tower Mumbai (2021)*. These buildings are selected as examples of the scale of structures that form the silhouette, and their relationship with global similarities and architectural interactions is explored through the actors and the underlying architectural plans. The discussion section includes tables summarising these findings. Landmark examples are also added to

analyse how individual buildings relate to the city's silhouette. The chosen landmark examples include *Tokyo Tower (1958), Lotus Temple (1986), Oriental Pearl Tower (1995), Banglar Taj Mahal (2009), São Paulo Museum of Art (1968), Cairo Tower (1961), Museo Soumaya (2011), CCTV Building (2012), and Mumbai TV Tower (1974)*.

5. FINDINGS: THE METACITY CHARACTER

The urban character of the 9 metacities identified as metacities in 2024 is analysed. The visual data used have been organised and classified according to the techniques outlined in the methodology. The analysis of urban character is conducted by documenting findings from visual data under the subcategories of the geography, pattern, and silhouette parameters. After analysing each of the 9 metacities separately, the findings are examined, collectively organized and discussed in the discussion section.

5.1. Urban Character of Tokyo

5.1.1. Urban Geography of Tokyo

Urban Landscape: A convoluted interaction between natural and built environments shapes Tokyo's urban landscape. While Mount Fuji remains a distant yet iconic backdrop, Tokyo's terrain includes lowlands, plateaus, and waterfronts along Tokyo Bay. The city's urban landscape consists of hyper-dense districts like Shinjuku and Marunouchi, contrasted by lower-rise, historic neighbourhoods such as Asakusa and Yanaka **Figure 5.1.**

Urban Land Use: Tokyo consists of the Metacity, the urban core, and seven surrounding prefectures. These maps illustrate the polycentric disposition, city distribution, and interconnection of the urban core on the southern shores, positioned near Tokyo Bay (Tokyo Wan) as a central core. **Figure 5.2.**

5.1.2. Urban Pattern of Tokyo

Types of building blocks: According to the urban pattern breakdown, the Tokyo metacity has grid, irregular, and network patterns. Tokyo metacity forms multiple polycentric disposition with urban corridors **Figure 5.3.**

Urban Sprawl: The distribution of polycentric analysis can be seen in the Urban Sprawl map. The first map provides information from pre-1670 to 1986 meanwhile

second map appears to be recent. It covers the historical borders of the metacity. While the urban core remains consistent, the periphery shifts with urban sprawl **Figure 5.4.**

Urban Light: In the data related to light, it is observed that the area with the highest light intensity is located in the city centre. It is also seen that the intensity decreases as it moves towards the surrounding areas to the north **Figure 5.5.**

5.1.3. Urban Silhouette of Tokyo

Skyline Profiles: The building production scale creates waves of distinction in the urban silhouette. Verticality is a defining feature, with clusters of skyscrapers forming distinct urban core, while residential mid-rises dominate suburban expansions **Figure 5.6.**

Nightscape: The skyline features a combination of high-rise structures and contrasting building heights. Tokyo's nightscape is a combination of hyper-illuminated recreation zones and residential areas **Figure 5.7.**

Urban Landmarks: The Tokyo Tower serves as an urban landmark that has shaped the city's geography. Standing at over 300 meters, the structure distinguishes itself from other structures with its red colour, implying an attachment of the urban landscape. The surrounding skyscrapers and apartment buildings emerge blurred and faint in comparison to their monumental presence in the skyline view **Figure 5.8.**

Materiality and Tectonics: Tokyo Tower, completed in 1958, utilizes a steel-frame construction with a red-and-white colour scheme, providing a striking contrast against the city's skyline. Inspired by the Eiffel Tower, its lattice structure incorporates lightweight steel elements that ensure stability while allowing for flexibility in response to seismic activity. The tower's exterior features a combination of painted steel and glass, contributing to its iconic appearance and providing functional elements like observation decks with expansive views of the city **Figure 5.8.** Completed in 2013, the Mori JP Tower is a contemporary design that combines steel and glass structures. Its high-strength steel and reinforced concrete structure support office spaces and public amenities **Figure 5.9.**



Figure 5.1: The Urban Landscape of Tokyo **[Freepik, 2024; Mantho, 2014; Shutterstock, 2024; Yaophotograph, 2024].**

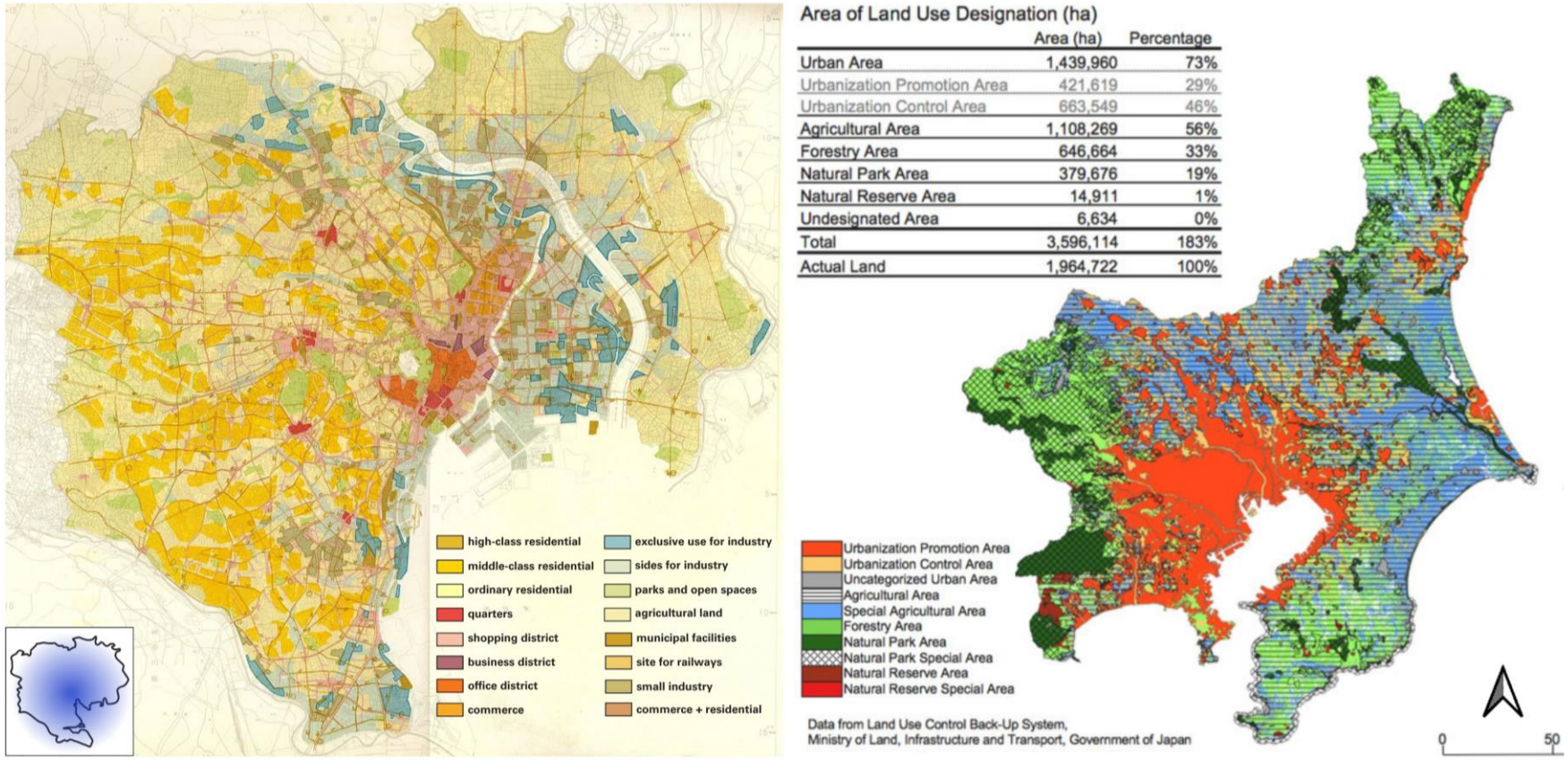


Figure 5.2: Urban Land Use of Tokyo **[Wissink and Hazelzet, 2012]**

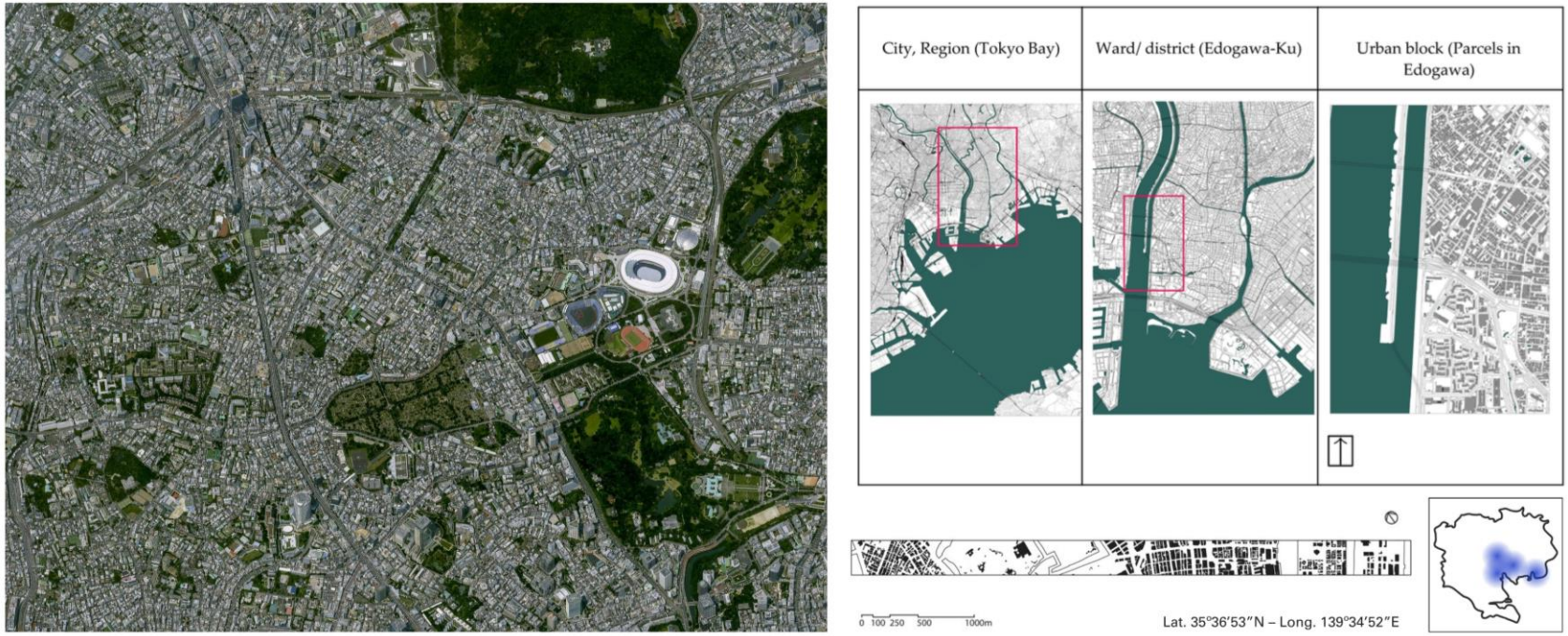


Figure 5.3: Tokyo: Types of Building Block **[Airbus, 2021; Krishnan et al. 2019; Mantho, 2014].**

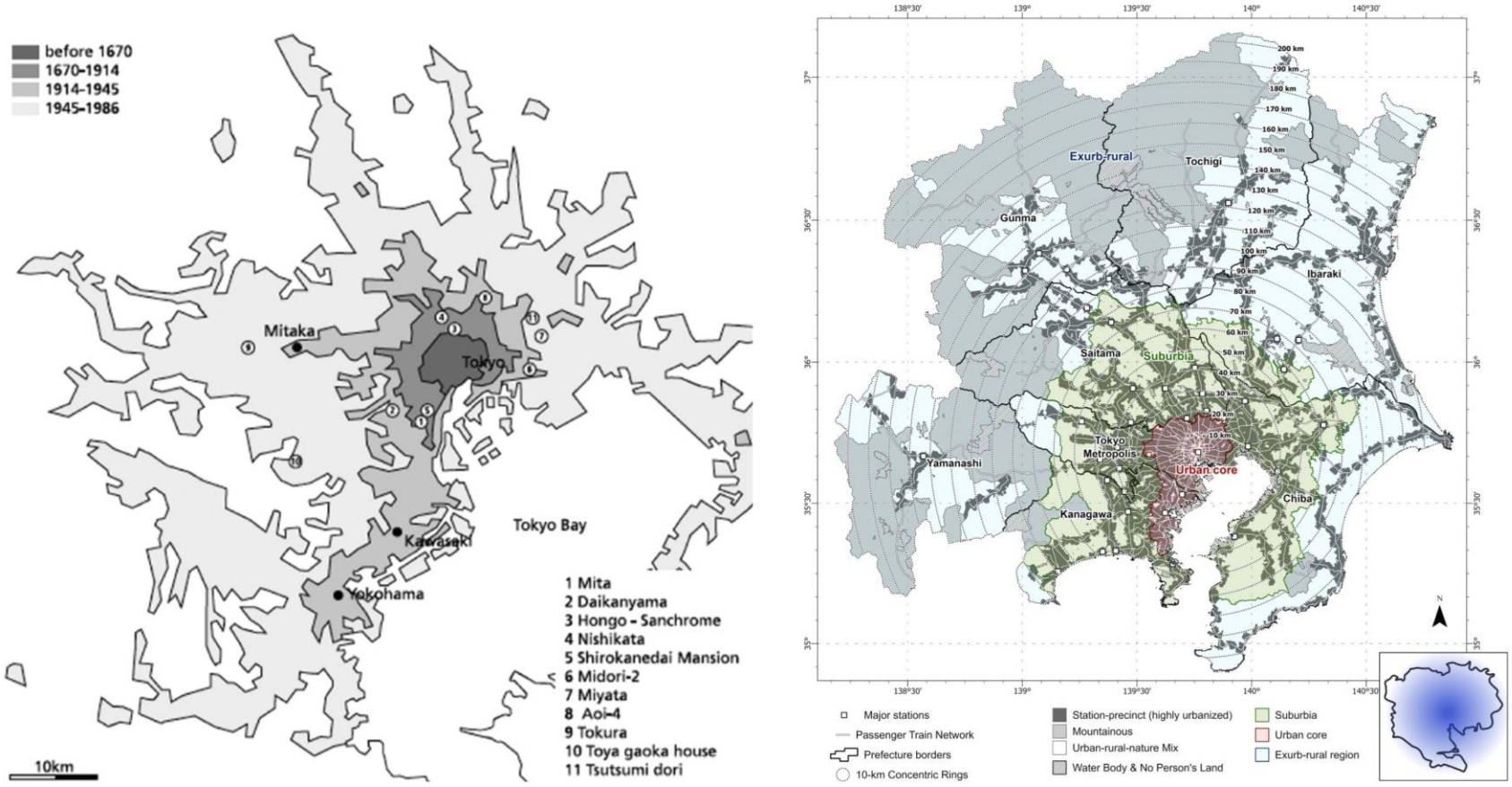


Figure 5.4: Urban Sprawl of Tokyo **[Tateishi, 2024].**



Figure 5.5: Urban Light of Tokyo **[NASA, 2013].**



Figure 5.6: Tokyo Urban Skyline **[Schwab, 2024].**



Figure 5.7: Nightscape of Tokyo **[Eyeem, 2024].**







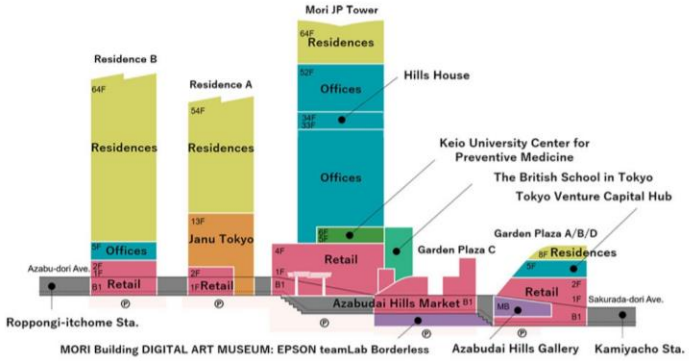
Landmark Name:
Tokyo Tower
Type:
Building
Status:
Completed
Completion:
1958
Function:
Telecommunications
Structural Material:
All-Steel
Height:
332.9 m / 1,092 ft



Figure 5.8: Urban Landmark: Tokyo Tower **[Yaophotograph, 2024; Freepik, 2024].**







Structure Name:
Mori JP Tower
Type:
Building
Status:
Completed
Completion:
2023
Function:
Residential / Office
Structural Material:
All-Steel
Height:
327.2 m / 1,073 ft
Floors:
65
Architect:
César Pelli
Architectural Firm:
Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects

#1 Tallest in Japan
#1 Tallest in Tokyo



Figure 5.9: Structure Example: Mori JP Tower **[Mori, 2023; Perri, 2023].**

5.2. Urban Character of Delhi

5.2.1. Urban Geography of Delhi

Urban Landscape: Delhi's urban landscape delivers a remarkable contrast between its historical and modern elements. The city is located in the Indo-Gangetic Plain, with natural features such as the Yamuna River and the Aravalli Range influencing its spatial structure. The urban form combines dense historical cores, like Old Delhi, with sprawling modern developments, creating a layered landscape of ancient and contemporary urbanism in New Delhi **Figure 5.10.**

Urban Land Use: The maps reveal that residential areas comprise a significant segment of the city's landscape. Certain roads create distinct divisions between building areas and constantly align with government zones. Water and state-owned buildings strongly influence urban patterns, making it hard to define a single urban core. Political spaces shaped by state-owned buildings and water features further separate the city's layout from a centralized structure **Figure 5.11.**

5.2.2. Urban Pattern of Delhi

Types of building blocks: Google Maps satellite images reveals Old Delhi's radial urban pattern with symmetry and hierarchy, contrasting New Delhi's axial pattern shaped by high-rise technology. These differences, especially in suburban areas, complicate defining a singular urban core. These marks constructs noticeable contrasts in the urban pattern, especially in the suburban areas where the newly constructed urban borders **Figure 5.12.**

Urban Sprawl: The city's sprawl from 1989 to 2010 shows development in clusters towards the north, south, east, and west. The city does not extend uniformly; instead, it broadcasts its surface area, demonstrating consistent densities and spread that continue uninterrupted along the axes **Figure 5.13.**

Urban Light: The urban light, similar to the urban sprawl map, demonstrates a concentration of axes illuminated by light arrangement **Figure 5.14.**

5.2.3. Urban Silhouette of Delhi

Skyline Profiles: The urban silhouette has been redefined by high-rise technology and megastructures built at different scales. Contrasts within the city skyline become more noticeable. Behind the high-rise building technology, and as indicated in the urban pattern critique, there are notable contrasts and differences, signifying the existence of socio-cultural differences within the urban skyline **Figure 5.15.**

Nightscape: Delhi's nightscape combines illuminated historical landmarks, vibrant markets, and modern lighting in business districts **Figure 5.16.**

Urban Landmarks: The Lotus Temple, completed in 1986, is a cultural landmark in Delhi. Its planned design creates an isolated space, separated by natural landscape and reflection of the culture. Built for worship, it facilitates gatherings and features a unique, symmetrical essence within the urban topography **Figure 5.17.**

Materiality and Tectonics: The Lotus Temple uses white marble supported by a reinforced concrete frame. Its panels merge modern materials with a shell-like design with an assertive local identity influence **Figure 5.17.** On the other hand, Supernova Spira is made with more global design influence as it combines glass, steel, and reinforced concrete in a spiralling design. The glass façade reflects the environment, while the steel frame ensures stability **Figure 5.18.**

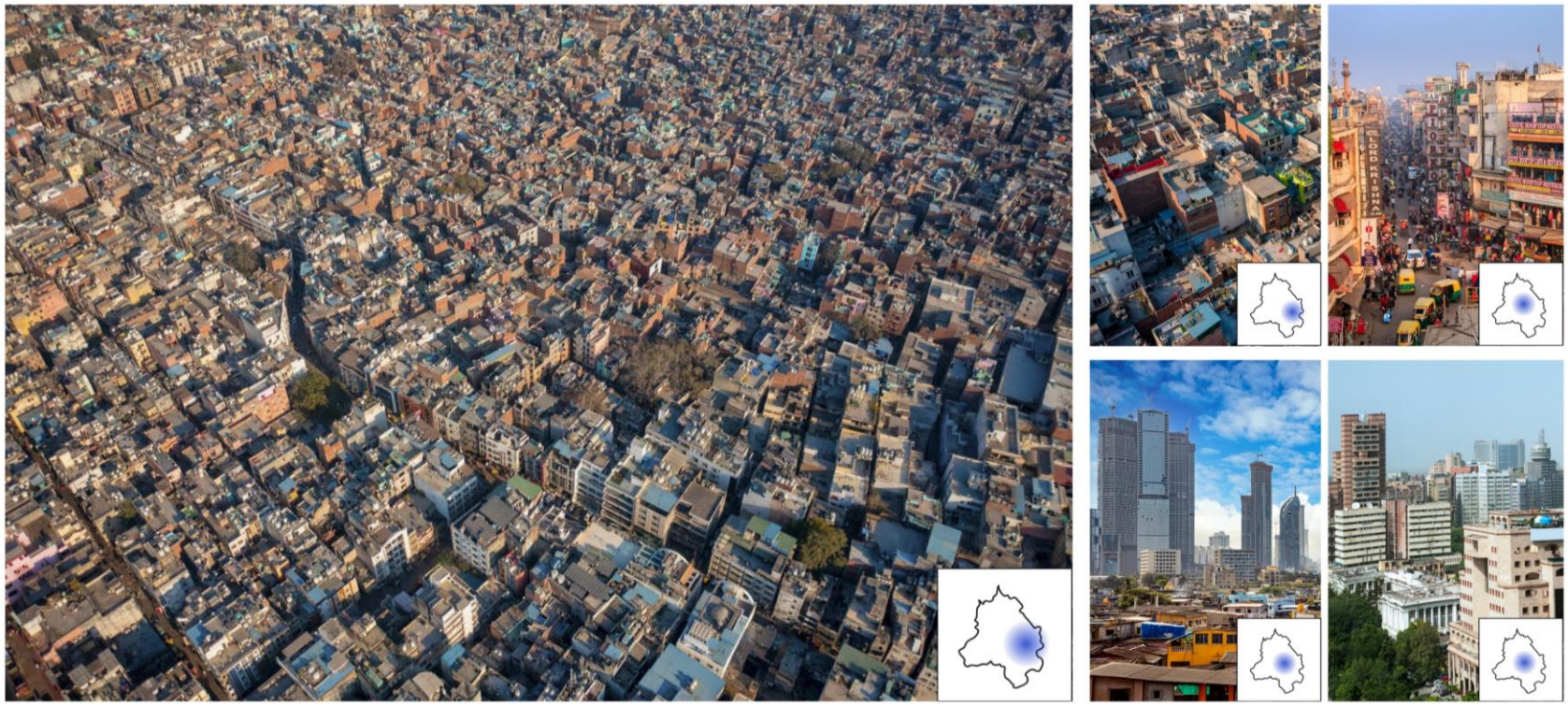


Figure 5.10: The Urban Landscape of Delhi **[iStock, 2018; Westend61, 2024; Steers, 2022; Kestria, 2024].**

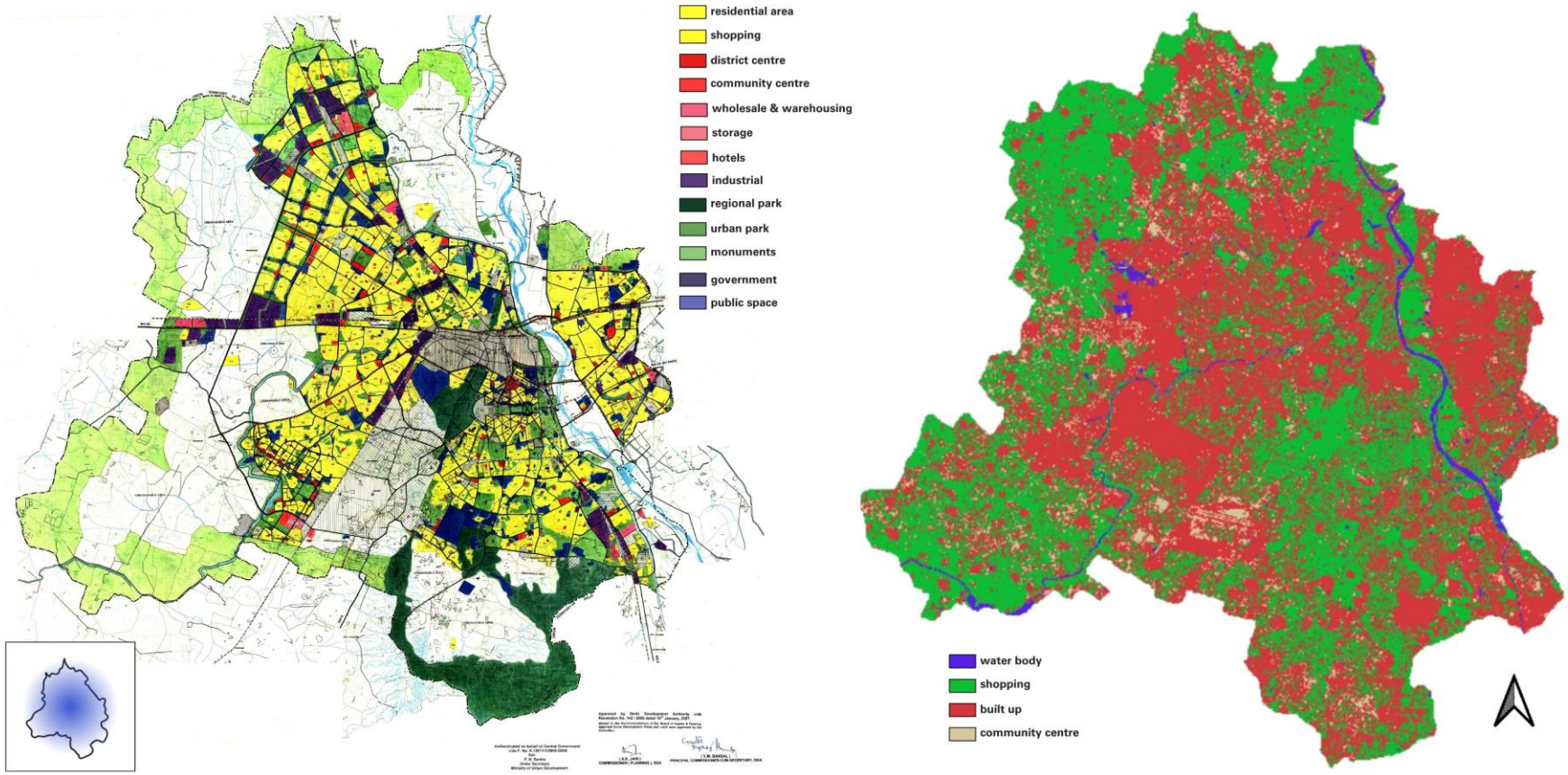


Figure 5.11: Urban Land Use of Delhi **[Infotech, 2021].**



Figure 5.12: Delhi: Types of Building Block **[Baweja, 2029; Google, 2024; Westend61, 2024].**

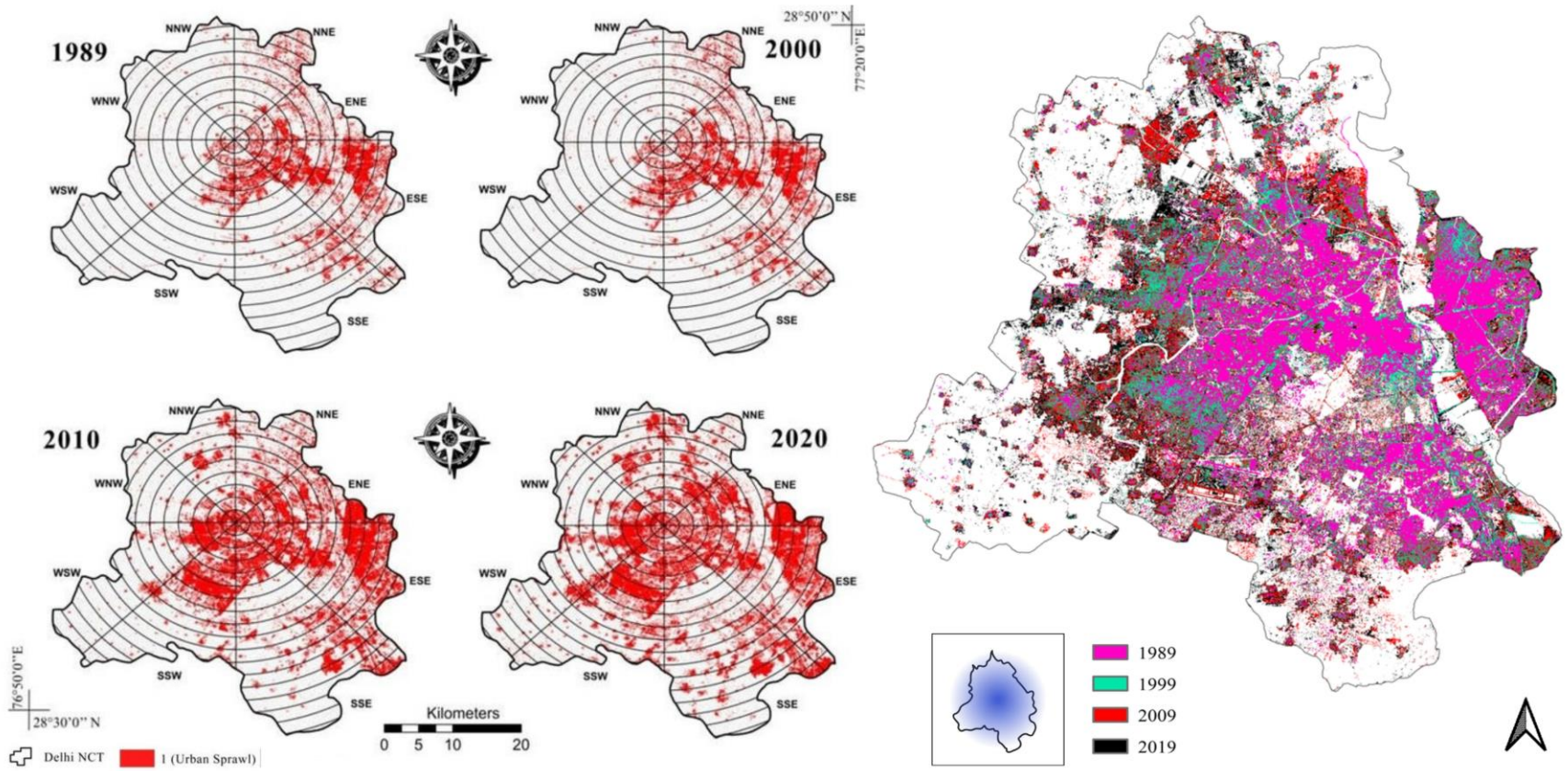


Figure 5.13: Urban Sprawl of Delhi **[Parveen et al., 2022].**



Figure 5.14: Urban Light of Delhi **[NASA, 2014].**



Figure 5.15: Delhi Urban Skyline **[BAO, 2024].**

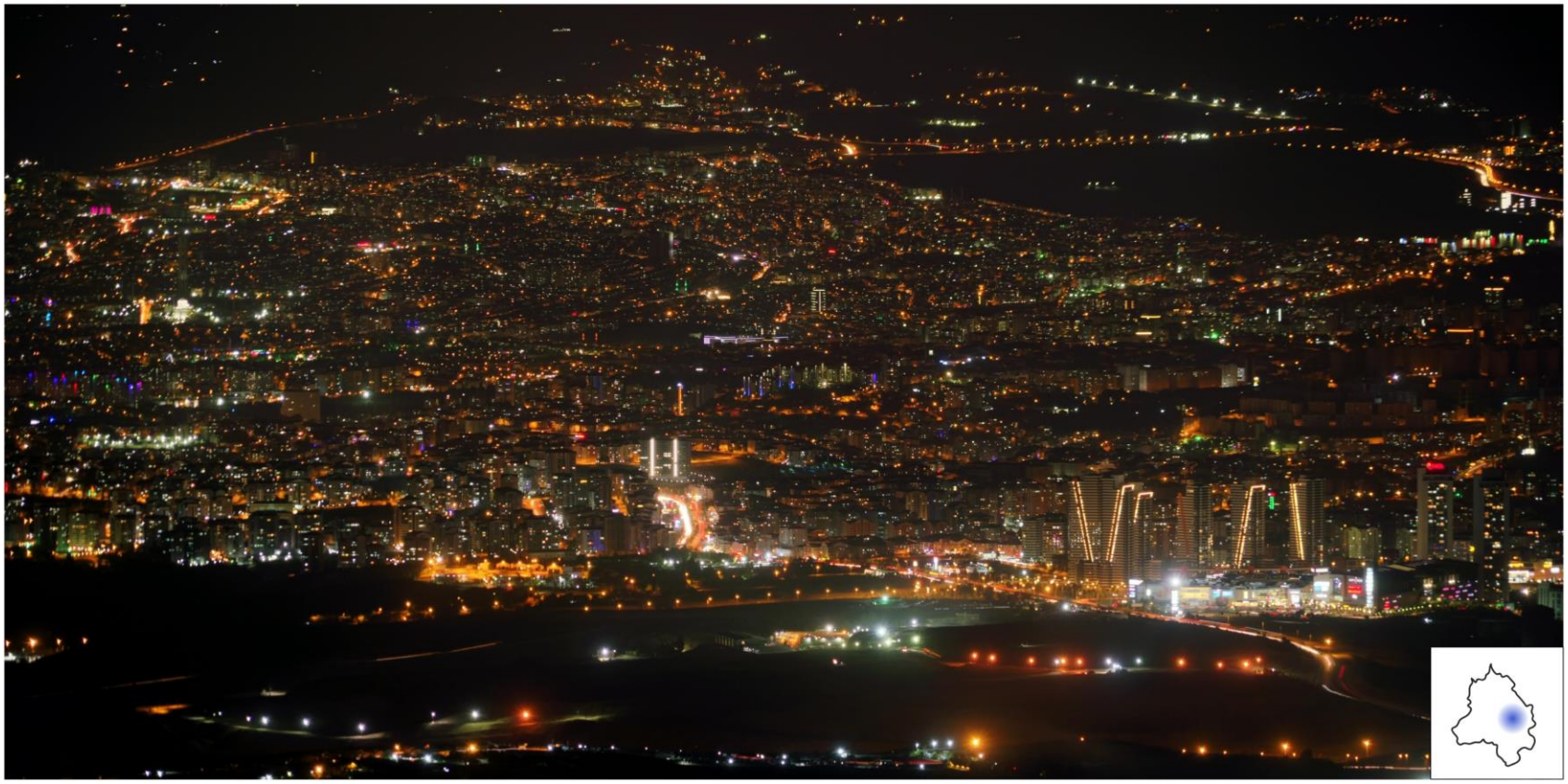
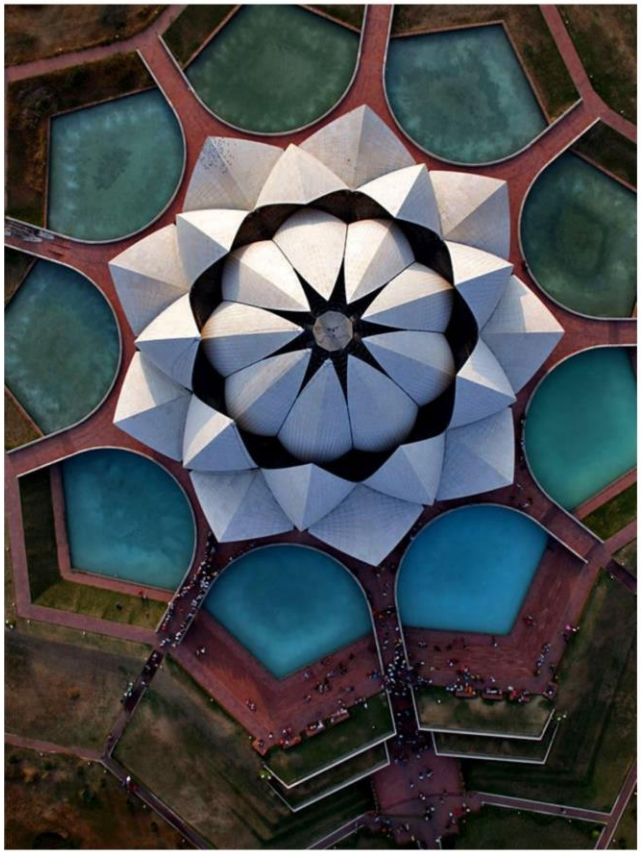
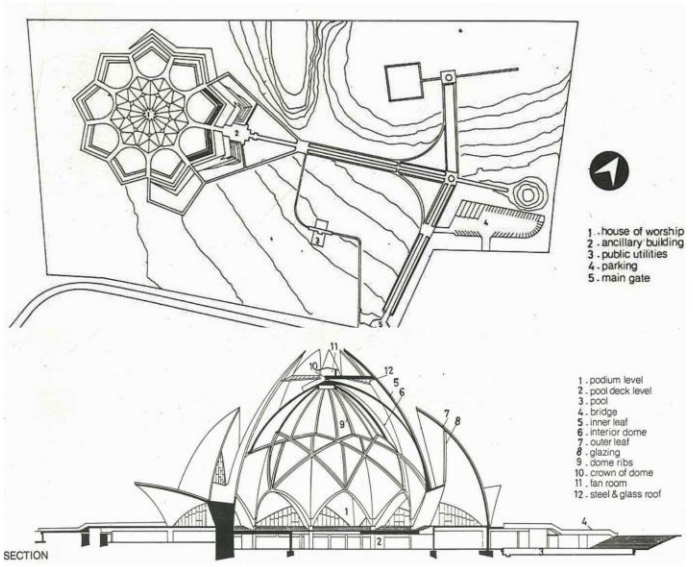


Figure 5.16: Nightscape of Delhi **[Vecteezy, 2024].**







Landmark Name:
Lotus Temple
Type:
House of Worship
Status:
Completed
Completion:
1986
Function:
Temple
Structural Material:
Marble and Concrete
Height:
34 m / 111 ft



Figure 5.17: Urban Landmark: Lotus Temple **[Architectuul, 2023; Sudotour, 2024; Britannica, 2024].**







Structure Name:
Supernova Spira
Type:
Building
Status:
On Hold
Expected Completion:
mid-2025
Function:
Hotel / Office / Residential
Structural Material:
All-Concrete
Height:
300 m / 984 ft
Floors:
80
Architect:
Er. Majid Hashmi
Architectural Firm:
Buro Happold



Figure 5.18: Structure Example: Supernova Spira **[Pinterest, 2020; Noida, 2024].**

5.3. Urban Character of Shanghai

5.3.1. Urban Geography of Shanghai

Urban Landscape: Shanghai features many clusters of building spaces along the Huangpu River. The city's waterfront and major roads following the linear axis of the river and the green spaces in the southwest and west. Additionally, urban sprawl along transportation corridors, such as highways and rail lines, demonstrates linear growth **Figure 5.19.**

Urban Land Use: Industrial and commercial spaces are concentrated in specific areas, while green spaces are mainly located in the southwest and west **Figure 5.20.**

5.3.2. Urban Pattern of Shanghai

Types of building blocks: Shanghai exhibits a combination of a linear grid and a hub-and-satellite pattern. In urban geography, high-rise buildings, taller structures, and even mega-structures are prevalent and coexist **Figure 5.21.**

Urban Sprawl: From 1985 to 2015, Shanghai's urban sprawl expanded in the northeast areas, with linear growth along transportation corridors and lower density on incorporated islands **Figure 5.22.**

Urban Light: The night map and nightscape view illustrate concentrated light in the eastern, northern, southern, and southeastern regions, emphasising the urban areas with commercial office buildings and business centres **Figure 5.23.**

5.3.3. Urban Silhouette of Shanghai

Skyline Profiles: The skyline view reveals a city dominated by tall buildings, significantly shaping Shanghai's urban identity **Figure 5.24.**

Nightscape: The neon-lit streets, especially in commercial areas, create a lively, bustling atmosphere, while the riverfront offers a tranquil view of the luminous city **Figure 5.25.**

Urban Landmarks: The Oriental Pearl Television Tower, a 488-meter structure since 1995, serves as a dominant urban landmark. The Shanghai Tower, more elevated than

the Pearl Tower, expresses financial and political conceptions. The tower is 488 metres and has a building produciton scale that stands out in its built space. Additionally, the tower stands out in the city skyline as a singular landmark, differentiating itself from the surrounding skyscrapers with its design **Figure 5.26.**

Materiality and Tectonics: The Oriental Pearl Television Tower is constructed with a combination of steel and concrete, featuring a distinctive spherical design that sits atop slender columns. The tower's steel framework provides structural stability, while its glass panels and painted spheres create a branding visual identity, incorporating modern engineering with aesthetic appeal **Figure 5.26.** The Shanghai Tower uses high-strength concrete and steel, with a spiralling design that maximizes structural integrity and energy efficiency. Its sleek glass façade echoes the surrounding environment, while its reinforced core and tapered shape enhance resistance to wind and seismic forces, showcasing advanced tectonic design principles **Figure 5.27.**

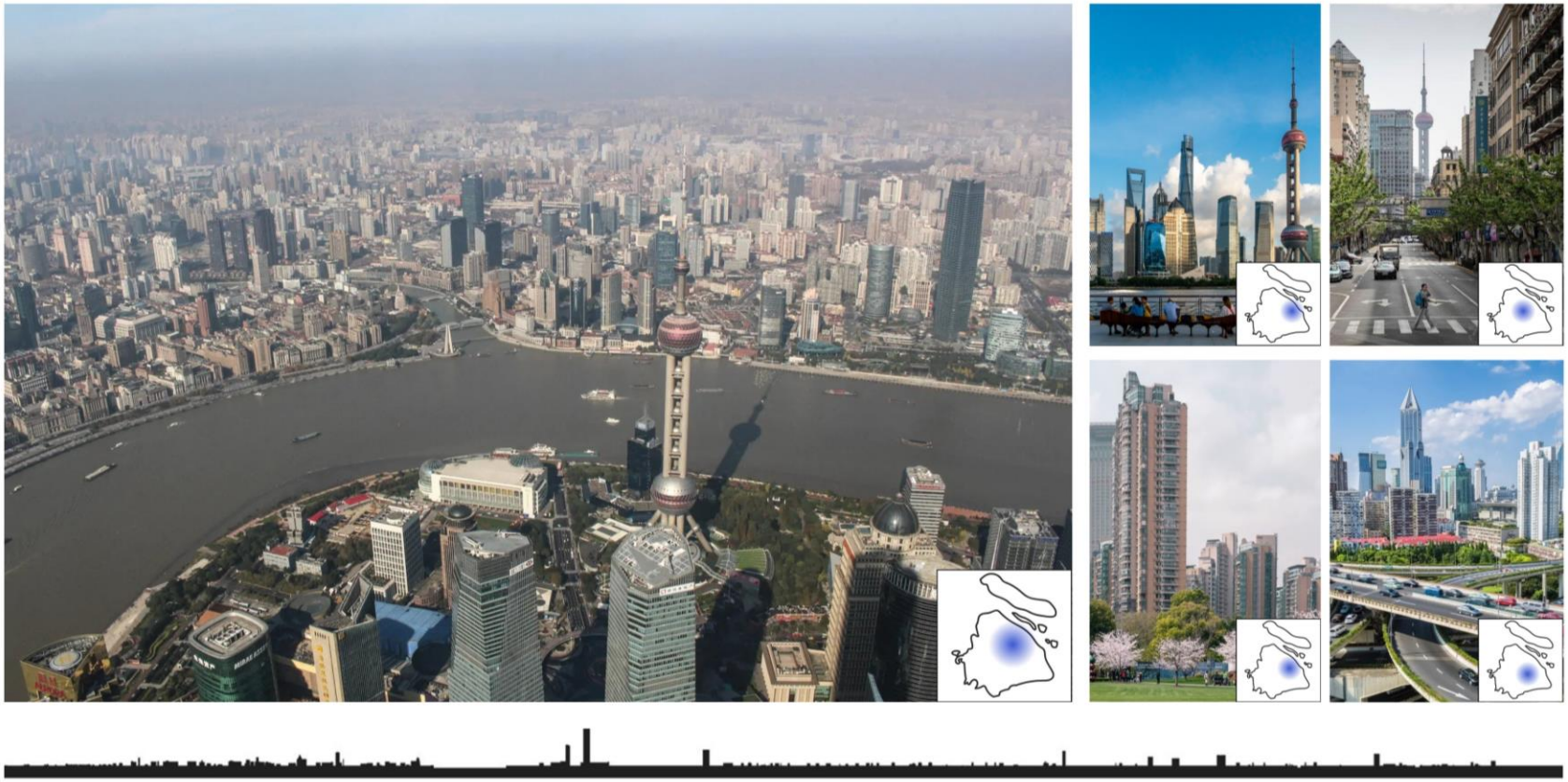


Figure 5.19: The Urban Landscape of Shanghai **[Genspark, 2024; Mantho, 2014; Wang, 2024; Shen, 2022; Satpalda, 2024; Smile4Travel, 2024].**

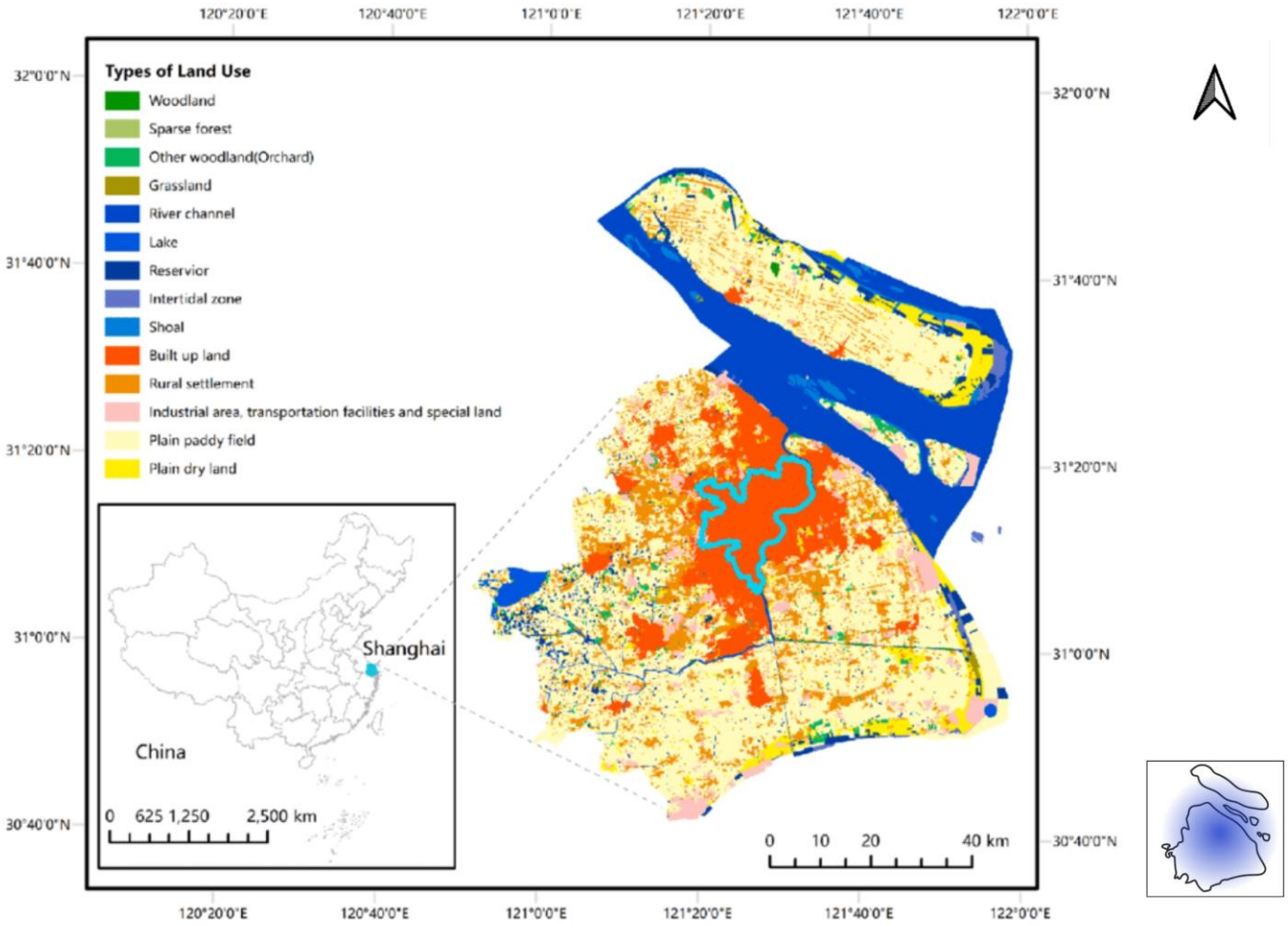


Figure 5.20: Urban Land Use of Shanghai **[Bai et al., 2018].**



Figure 5.21: Shanghai: Types of Building Block **[Mantho, 2014; Vecteezy, 2024].**

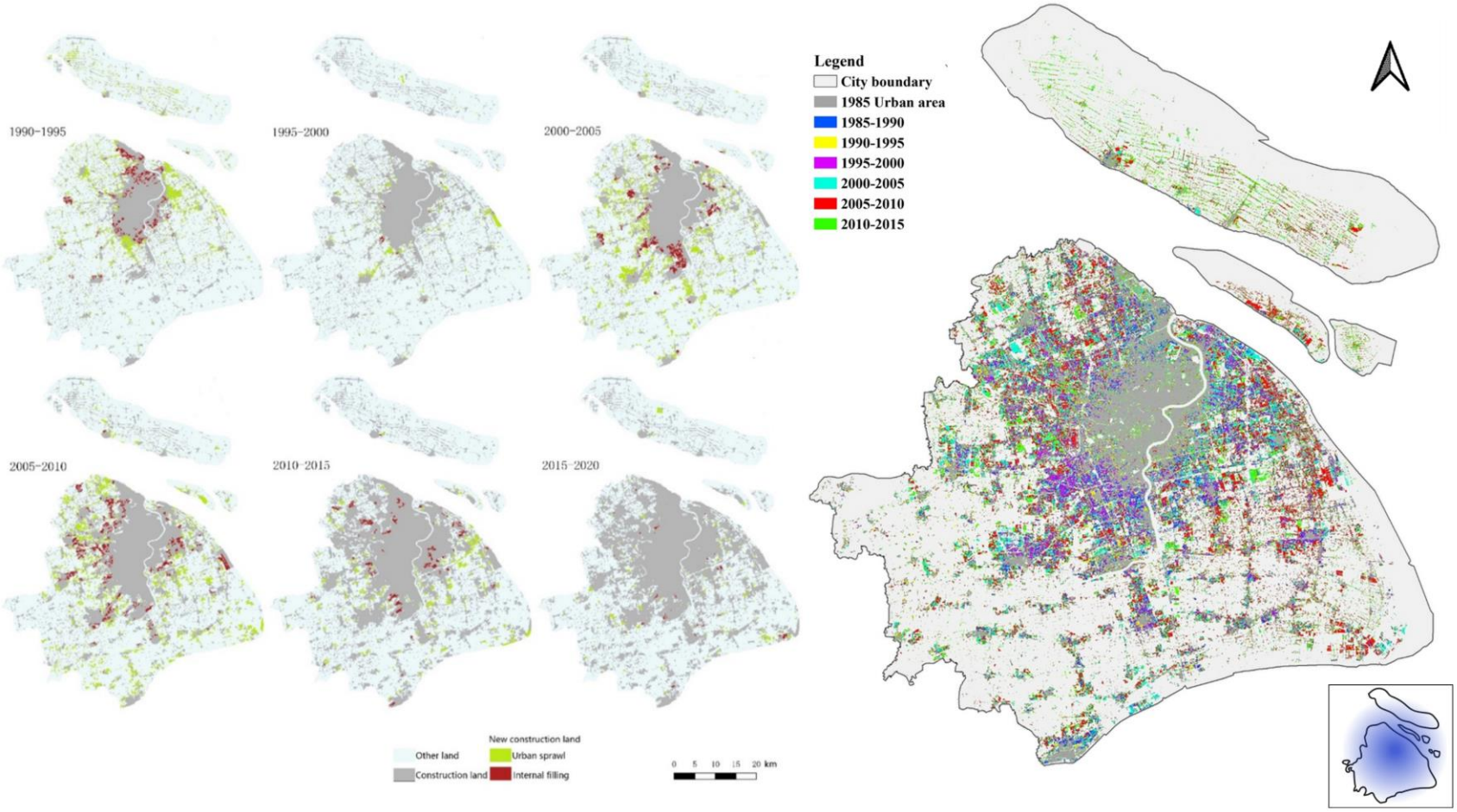


Figure 5.22: Urban Sprawl of Shanghai **; Wu et al., 2022].**



Figure 5.23: Urban Light of Shanghai **[NASA, 2014].**



Figure 5.24: Shanghai Urban Skyline **[Mosolf, 2024].**

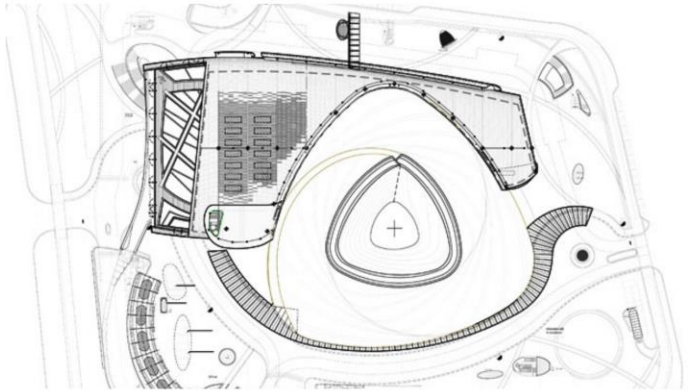


Figure 5.25: Nightscape of Shanghai **[Tärneberg, 2015].**



Figure 5.26: Urban Landmark: Oriental Pearl Television Tower **[Milliyet, 2018; Mottl, 2014].**







Structure Name:
Shanghai Tower
Type:
Building
Status:
Completed
Completion:
2015
Function:
Hotel / Office
Structural Material:
Concrete-Steel Composite
Height:
632 m / 2,073 ft
Floors:
128
Architects:
Arthur Gensler, Marshall Strabala, Jun Xia
Architectural Firms:
Gensler and Jun Xia

#1 Tallest in China
#1 Tallest in Shanghai

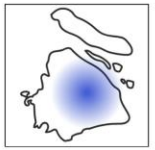


Figure 5.27: Structure Example: Shanghai Tower **[WFDD, 2015; Architect-1; 2014].**

5.4. Urban Character of Dhaka

5.4.1. Urban Geography of Dhaka

Urban Landscape: Dhaka's urban landscape is marked by widespread built-up areas, with agricultural and natural landscapes located at the periphery **Figure 5.28.**

Urban Land Use: The master plan of the metacity Dhaka shows that build-up areas are the most widespread spaces; meanwhile, pink areas are shown as bare natural landscape areas and light green as agricultural areas **Figure 5.29.**

5.4.2. Urban Pattern of Dhaka

Types of building blocks: The urban pattern consists of grid, cluster and curvilinear patterns. The satellite visuals display the contrast between high residential and slum areas. These patterns underline the different living conditions and socioeconomic status of the urban spaces even though they are located in the same metacity as the inequalities between the architectural spaces **Figure 5.30.**

Urban Sprawl: The urban sprawl maps depict the detailed expansion that begins from the southwest with the expansion towards the north **Figure 5.31.**

Urban Light: Nocturnal satellite images indicate clusters of light throughout the city, which are unevenly distributed, reflecting the varying urban conditions. These lights point to the concentration of built areas and highlight the relationships between different zones in Dhaka, even in the dark **Figure 5.32.**

5.4.3. Urban Silhouette of Dhaka

Skyline Profiles: Dhaka's skyline is formed of skyscrapers, office towers, and commercial buildings. The city's sprawl, with varying building heights and scales, consequences in a skyline marked by contrasts, highlighting both modern developments and older, low-rise structures **Figure 5.33.**

Nightscape: Dhaka's nightscape is vibrant in the commercial core, with brightly lit roads and buildings in the centre areas **Figure 5.34.**

Urban Landmarks: Banglar Taj Mahal is an urban landmark replicating India's Taj Mahal. Built in 2009, it serves as a funerary monument and offers a scaled-down version of the original **Figure 5.35.**

Materiality and Tectonics: Banglar Taj Mahal, a replica of the original Taj Mahal, features marble as its primary material **Figure 5.35.** On the other hand, Dhaka City Centre uses glass, steel, and concrete in its construction, forming a sleek, modern façade that complements the globilised architectural influence in urban silhouette **Figure 5.36.**



Figure 5.28: The Urban Landscape of Dhaka **[Westend61, 2014; Stocksy, 2024; Facebook, 2009; Pixabay, 2024].**

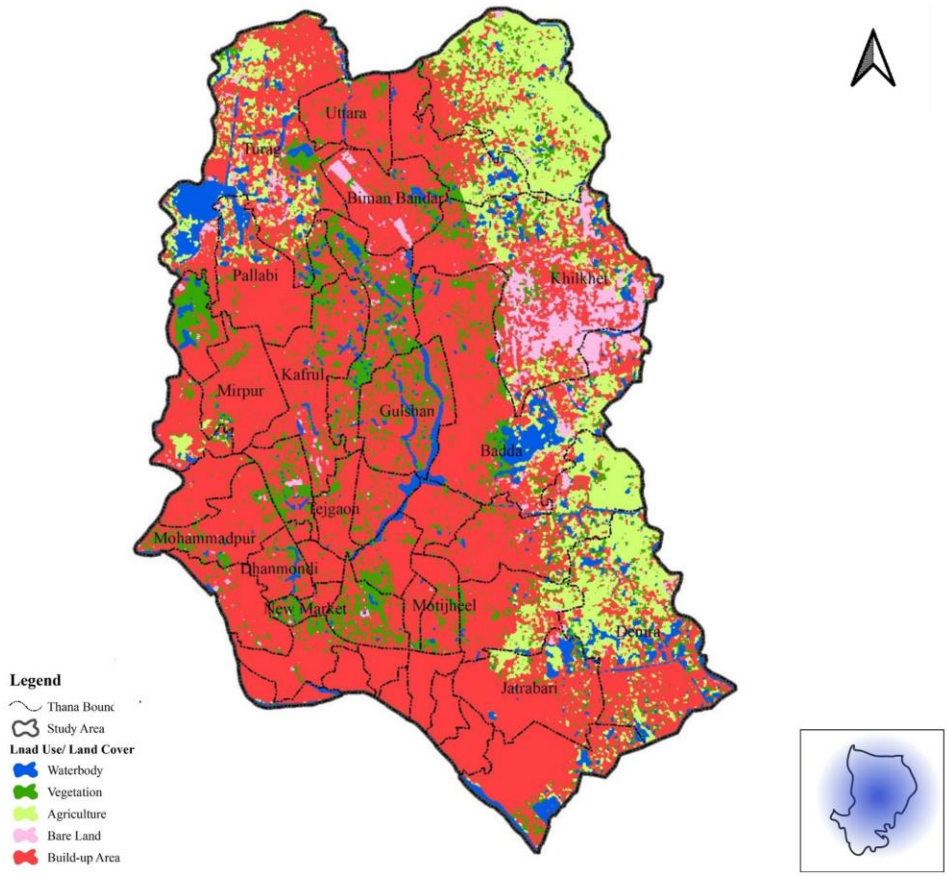


Figure 5.29: Urban Land Use of Dhaka **[Abrar et al., 2024]**



Figure 5.30: Dhaka: Types of Building Block **[LightCastle, 2022; Westend61, 2024; Litteralis, 2024; Rashid, 2023].**

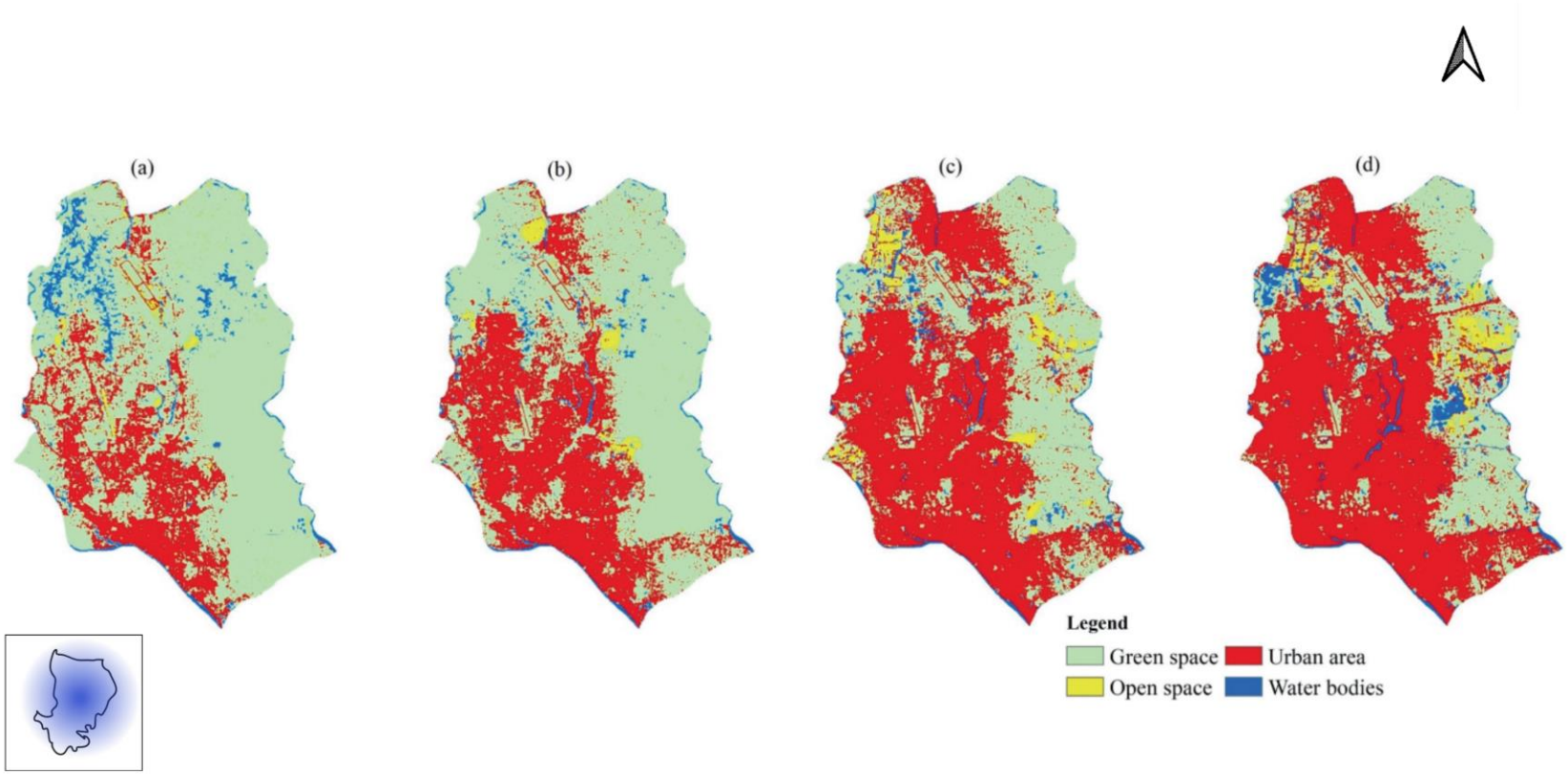


Figure 5.31: Urban Sprawl of Dhaka **[Rashid, 2023].**

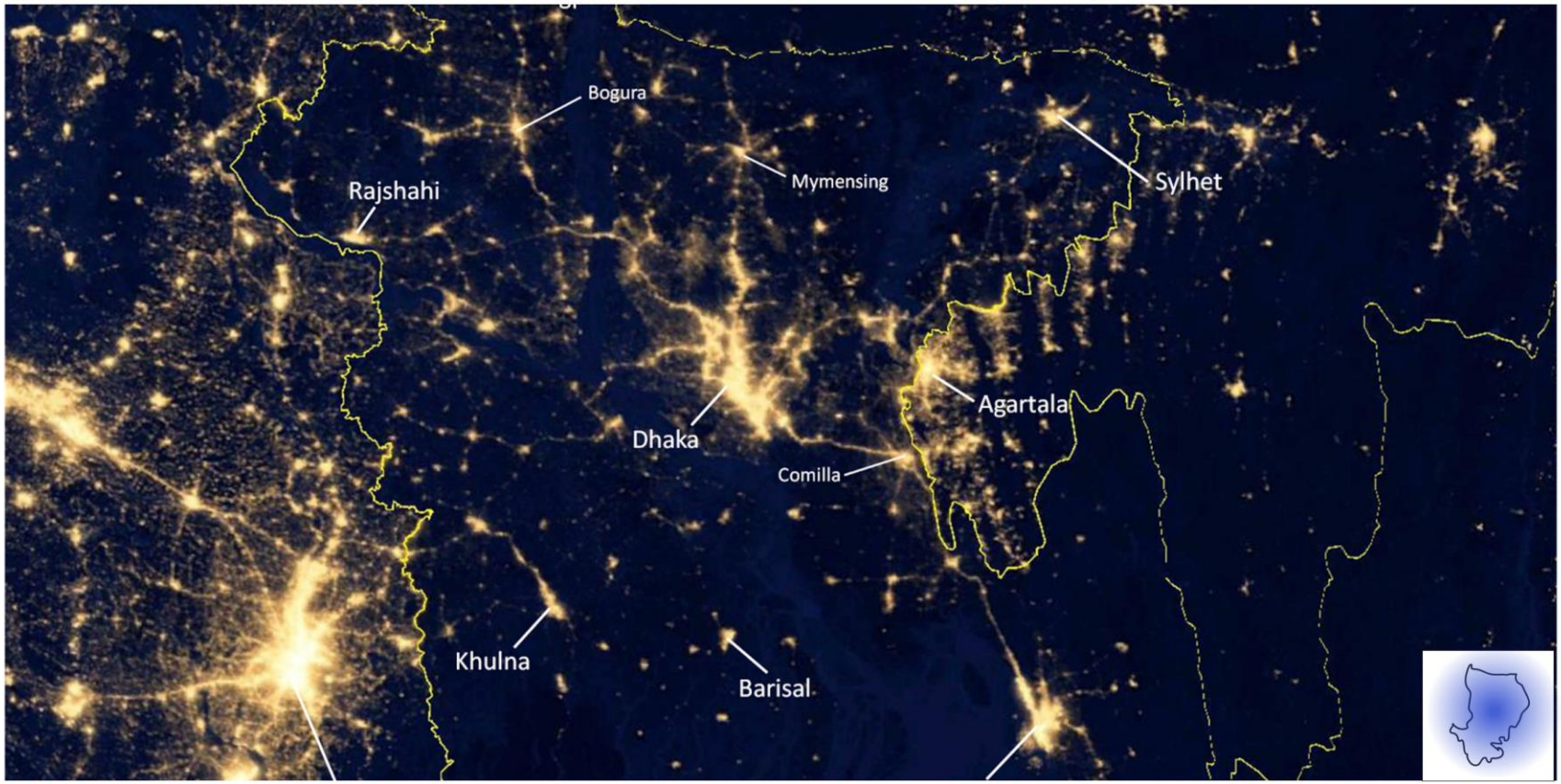


Figure 5.32: Urban Light of Dhaka **[Pinterest,2024].**



Figure 5.33: Dhaka Urban Skyline **[Concord, 2024].**

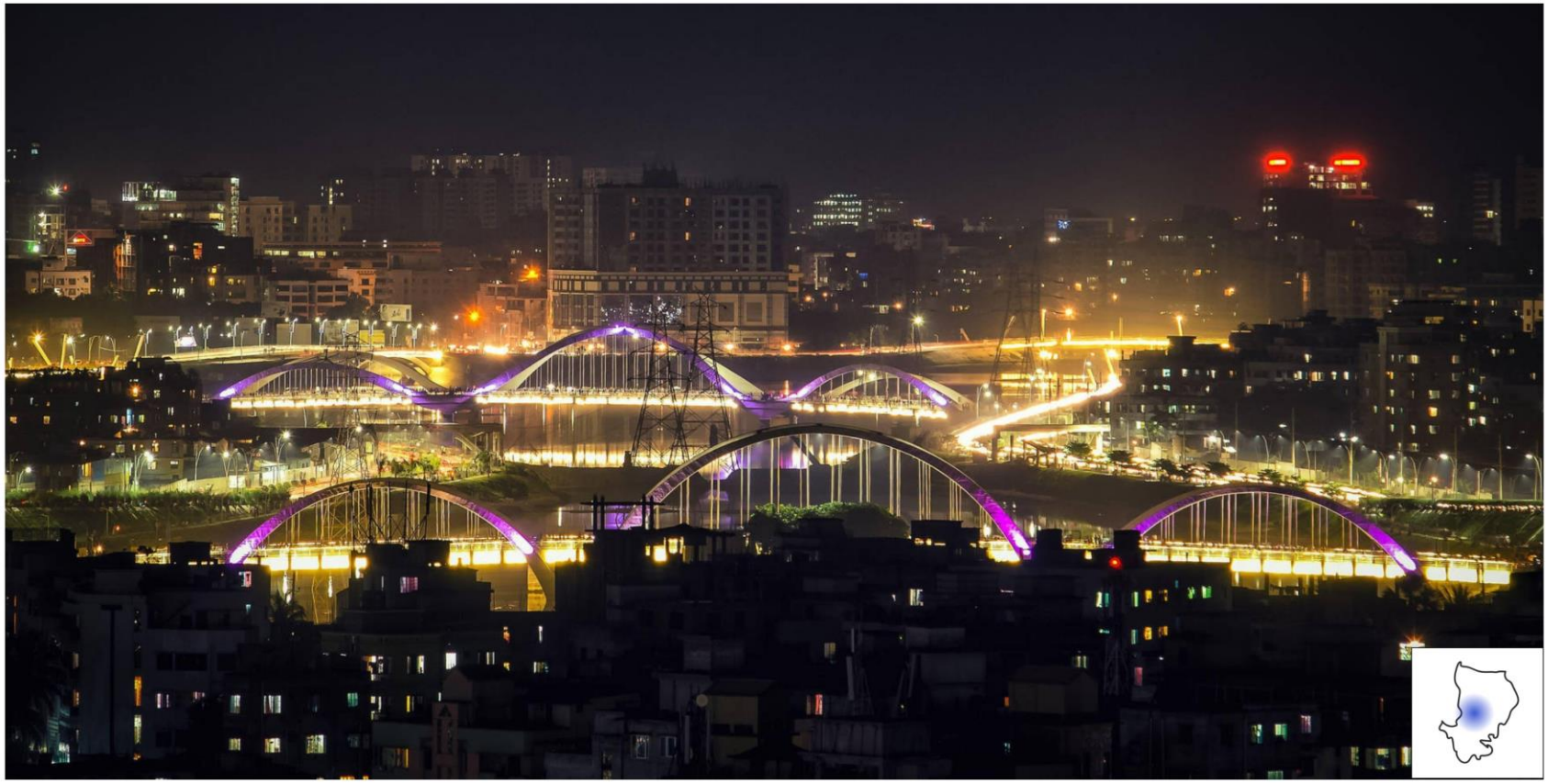


Figure 5.34: Nightscape of Dhaka **[Avione, 2019**



Figure 5.35: Urban Landmark: Banglar Taj Mahal **[Shafi,2009; Dás, 2015; TripAdvisor, 2022].**





Structure Name:
Dhaka City Centre
Type:
Building
Status:
Completed
Completion:
2012
Function:
Office
Structural Material:
All-Concrete
Height:
171 m / 561 ft
Floors:
37
Architect:
Orion Group
Architectural Firm:
Orion Group

#1 Tallest in Bangladesh
#1 Tallest in Dhaka



Figure 5.36: Structure Example: Dhaka City Centre **[Bproperty, 2020].**

5.5. Urban Character of Sao Paulo

5.5.1. Urban Geography of Sao Paulo

Urban Landscape: The São Paulo urban landscape comprises high-density, medium-density, and low-density structures, depicted in the master plan in yellow, red, and brown. Elevated areas with high-rise structures and depressions with low structures characterise the irregular urban landscape **Figure 5.37.**

Urban Land Use: The residential, commercial, and industrial zones expand outward unplanned and irregularly. High-rise buildings conquer the central skyline, while low-rise structures are mostly in the suburban and industrial zones. Densely built areas are specifically located in the Southern areas **Figure 5.38.**

5.5.2. Urban Pattern of Sao Paulo

Types of building blocks: The São Paulo metacity portrays hub-and-satellite, organic, and superblock patterns. The urban pattern also features a green corridor between suburban and residential areas **Figure 5.39.**

Urban Sprawl: Analysis of urban sprawl shows São Paulo's heavily urbanised area and its expansion from 2001 to 2008, with projections extending to 2030. The irregular urban expansion is evident between skyscraper-dominated urban contexts and informal housing **Figure 5.40.**

Urban Light: Nocturnal satellite imagery stresses densely populated and urbanised areas with illuminated zones. **Figure 5.41.**

5.5.3. Urban Silhouette of Sao Paulo

Skyline Profiles: The perspective and skyline views showcase the verticality in the central areas and the contrast with low-rise settlements on the periphery. The high-rise and low-rise structures build a hierarchy in the urban skyline. São Paulo exhibits a complex urban configuration with elevated areas featuring high-rise structures and depressions with low structures. Inequalities and spatial disparities are transparent in the contrast between these structures **Figure 5.42.**

Nightscape: The nighttime view of São Paulo's skyline narrates the spatial configuration of urban and rural characters within the city **Figure 5.43.**

Urban Landmarks: The São Paulo Museum of Art (1968) is a horizontal urban landscape design that promotes public space, serving as a recreational and cultural gathering area. Its integration into the city's narrative makes it a significant landmark **Figure 5.44.**

Materiality and Tectonics: The São Paulo Museum of Art uses reinforced concrete and glass, with the building raised on two beams. Its large glass windows offer views of the city, while the concrete structure underlines modernist simplicity **Figure 5.44.** Platina 220 uses glass, steel, and concrete for a sleek, modern design. The glass façade maximizes light and views, while the steel and concrete frame provides strength and stability **Figure 5.45.**



Figure 5.37: The Urban Landscape of Sao Paulo **[Wows, 2024; Pinterest; 2023; Góes, 2023; Geographic, 2020; Guides06, 2020].**

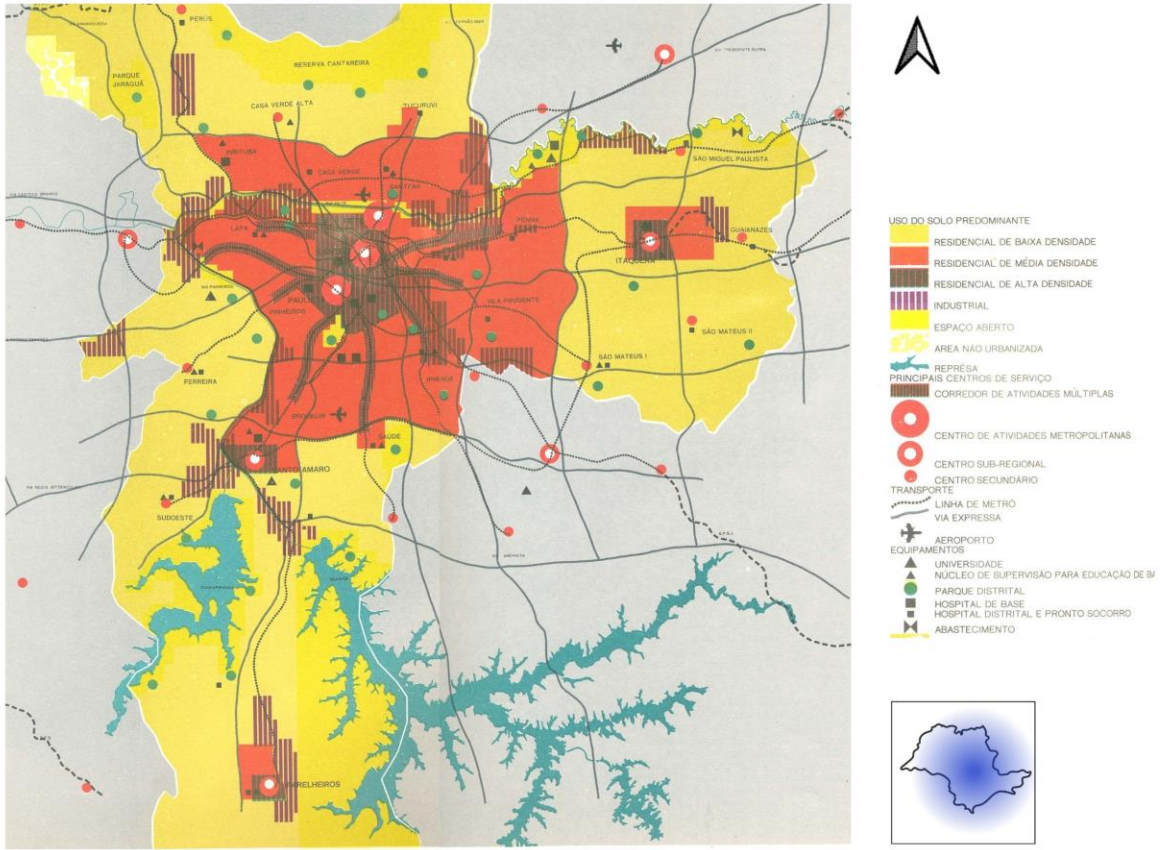


Figure 5.38: Urban Land Use of Sao Paulo **[Anelli, 2024].**



Figure 5.39: Sao Paulo: Types of Building Block **[Anelli, 2024; Khondrion, 2020; Reddit, 2021**

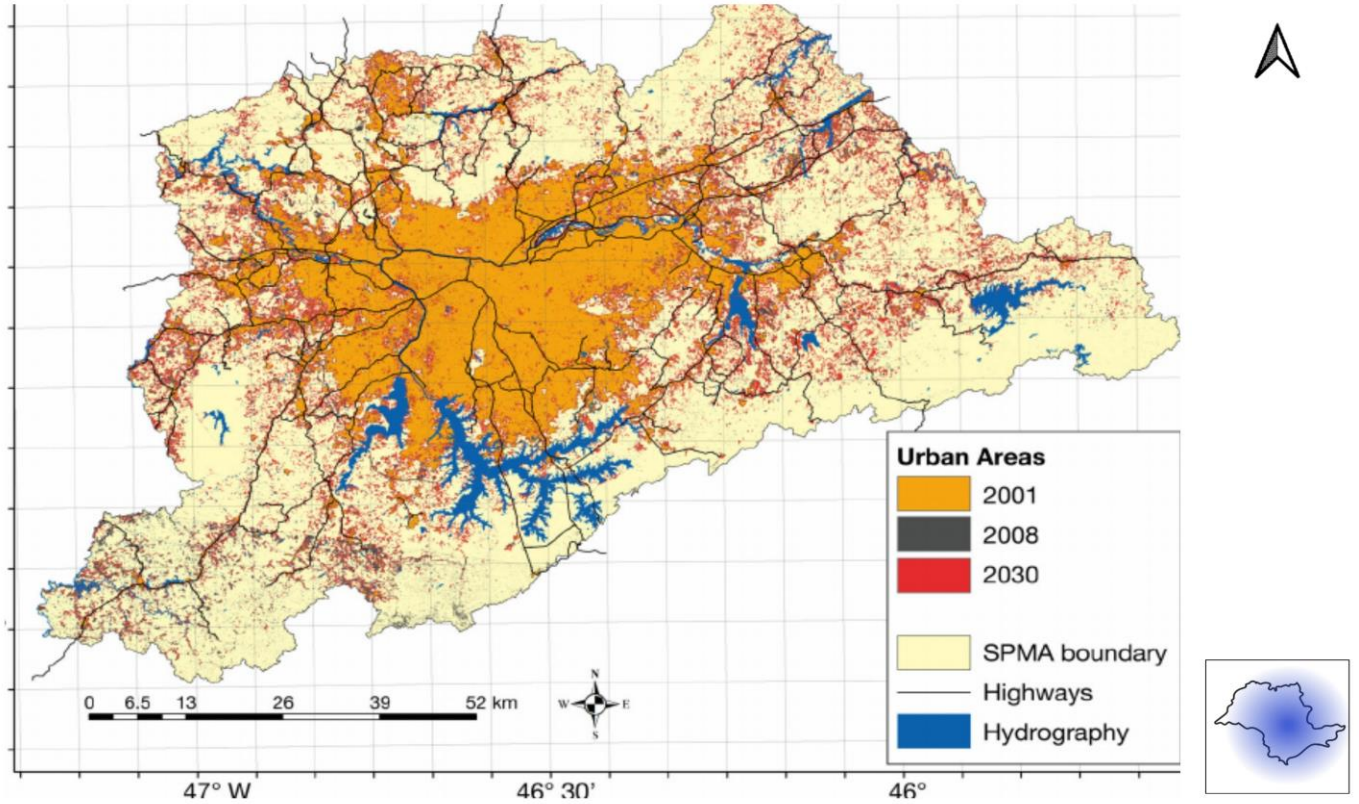


Figure 5.40: Urban Sprawl of Sao Paulo **[Anelli, 2024].**



Figure 5.41: Urban Light of Sao Paulo **[A-Haber, 2024]**



Figure 5.42: Sao Paulo Urban Skyline **[Cevitex, 2024].**



Figure 5.43: Nightscape of Sao Paulo **[Tours, 2024].**

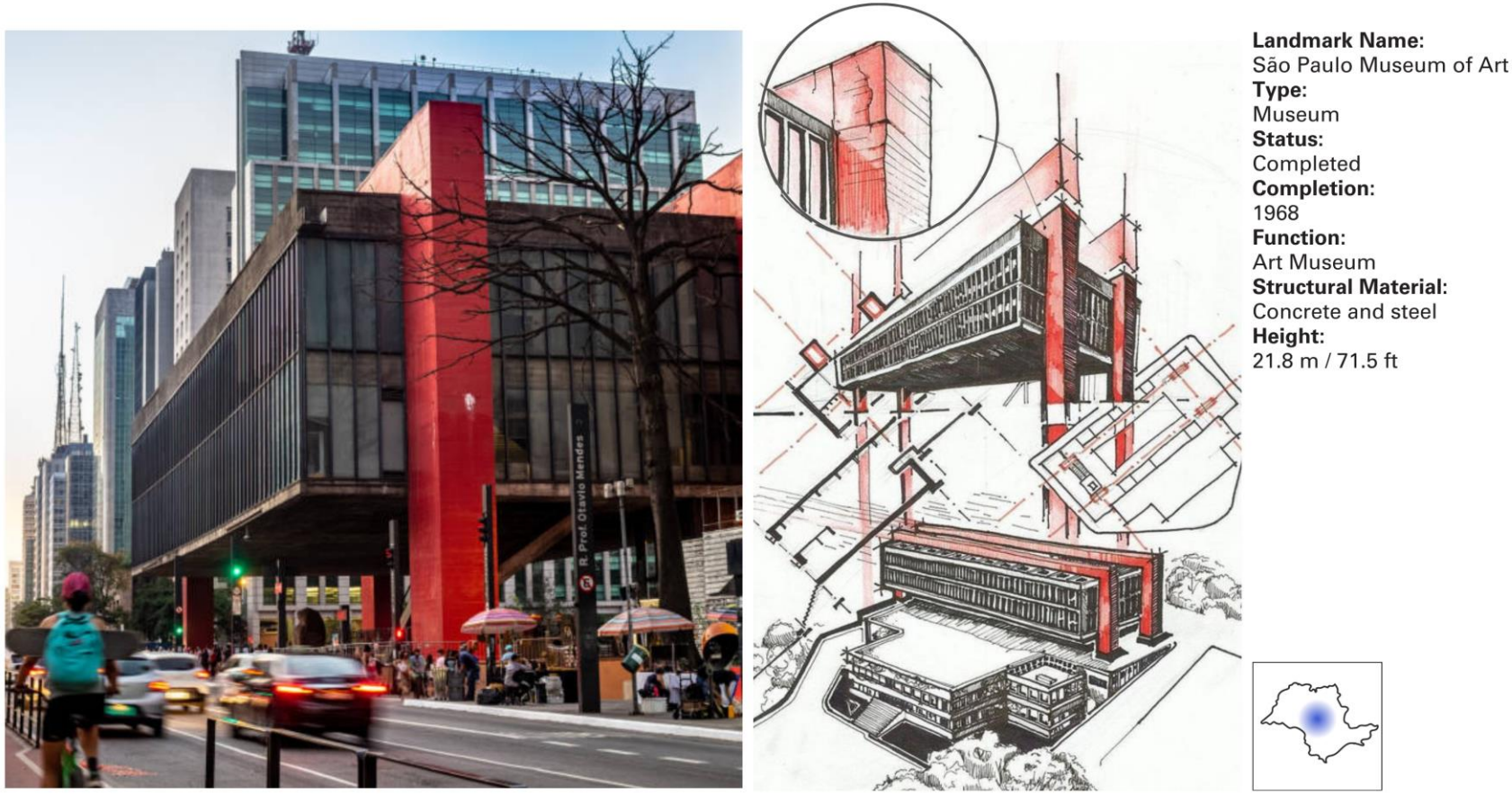
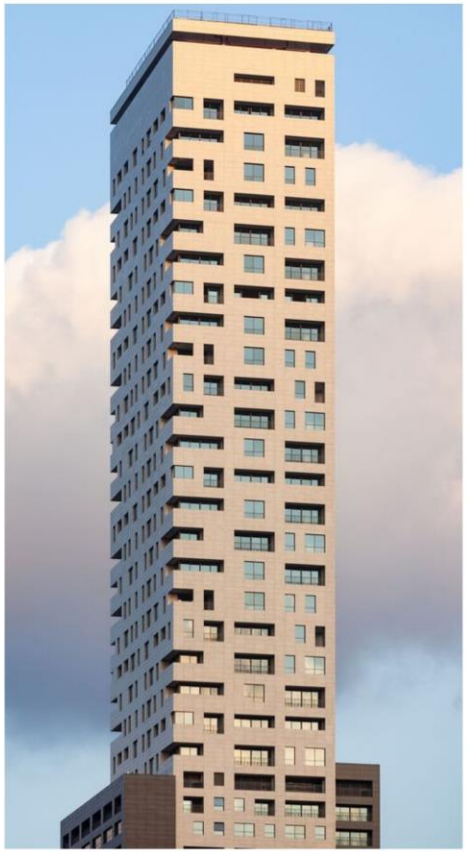
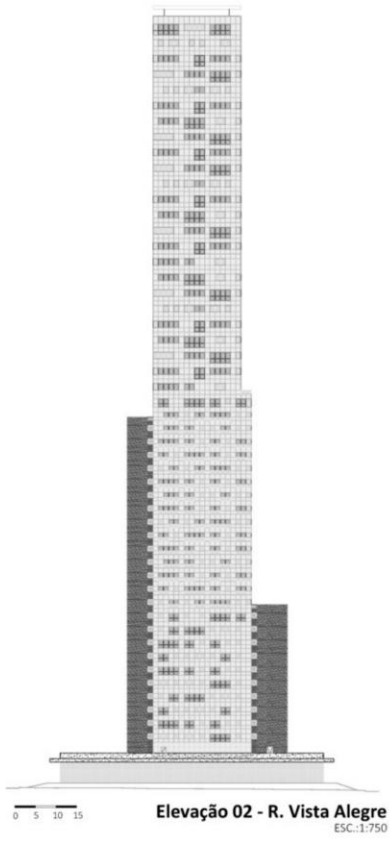


Figure 5.44: Urban Landmark: São Paulo Museum of Art **[ArchiSketcher, 2023].**







Structure Name:
Platina 220
Type:
Building
Status:
Completed
Completion:
2022
Function:
Residential & Office
Structural Material:
All-Concrete
Height:
171.7 m / 563 ft
Floors:
48
Architect:
Porte Engenharia e Urbanismo
Architectural Firm:
Königsberger Vannucchi Arquitetos Associados

#18 Tallest in Brazil
#1 Tallest in Sao Paulo



Figure 5.45: Structure Example: Platina 220 **[Archdaily, 2024; SkyscraperCenter, 2024].**

5.6. Urban Character of Cairo

5.6.1. Urban Geography of Cairo

Urban Landscape: Cairo's urban geography is densely impacted by the Nile River, which has significantly influenced urban settlements. Informal settlements have been built in farming territories to the northwest and north. The Nile River workes as a naturalistic separation line as it creates a hierarchy around the buildings with the water mass **Figure 5.46.**

Urban Land Use: The master plan outlines Cairo's land use, highlighting residential zones along the Nile River and informal settlements in agricultural areas. New developments, such as NAC (New Cairo), serve as planned economic and residential centers, reshaping the urban landscape **Figure 5.47.**

5.6.2. Urban Pattern of Cairo

Types of building blocks: Cairo's urban pattern includes organic and radial building blocks. Continuous ring districts form the core, surrounded by irregular urban sprawl. The Nile River naturally forms an axis **Figure 5.48.**

Urban Sprawl: Cairo's urban sprawl analysis captures changes between 1984 and 2014. Development expands toward the east and west deserts in clusters. The sprawl is characterized by organic forms and overlaps in the plan **Figure 5.49.**

Urban Light: The nocturnal view of Cairo highlights urban expansions, such as Sixth of October City and New Cairo, with bright, yellow-toned lights, while informal settlements and towns on the Nile Delta are slightly illuminated **Figure 5.50.**

5.6.3. Urban Silhouette of Cairo

Skyline Profiles: It contains not only the traditional low-rise structures but also densely high-rise buildings **Figure 5.51.**

Nightscape: The nightscape conforms historical heritage with modern developments, creating an aesthetic contrast in the dark **Figure 5.52.**

Urban Landmarks: The Cairo Tower has a simplicity of its lines and the reflection of its raw materials with its lack of decoration. The lack of surface decoration and structural use of reinforced concrete highlights the 187-metre-tall tower's design. The irregular diamond-shaped facade components sustain the external surface and deliver details of the façade **Figure 5.53.**

Materiality and Tectonics: The Cairo Tower is constructed with reinforced concrete. Its design, featuring steel mesh, enhances the tower's structural integrity while creating a distinctive visual appeal **Figure 5.53.** The Iconic Tower uses glass, steel, and reinforced concrete, creating a modern and sleek design. The glass façade allows for transparency, while the steel and concrete frame provides support and stability for its towering structure. The project intends to build a new centre for Cairo's modern business and residential hub **Figure 5.54.**



Figure 5.46: The Urban Landscape of Cairo **[Crackit, 2024; Business-Insider, 2023; BlazeTrip, 2024; CNN, 2024; Al-Qasid, 2024].**



Figure 5.47: Urban Land Use of Cairo **[Salah, 2014; Freepik, 2023].**



Figure 5.48: Cairo: Types of Building Block **[El-Khouly et al., 2023; Google, 2024].**

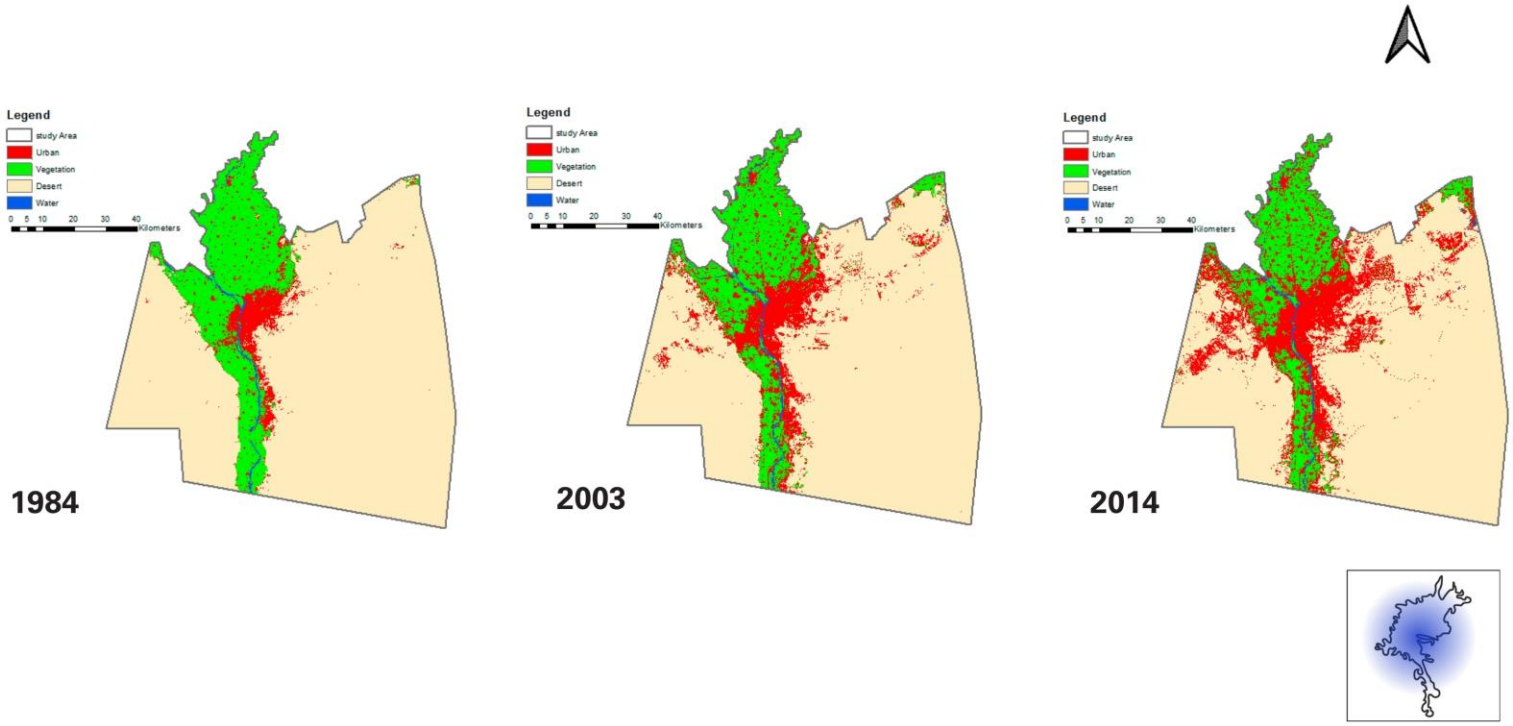


Figure 5.49: Urban Sprawl of Cairo **[Sabry, 2009].**



Figure 5.50: Urban Light of Cairo **[NASA, 2024].**



Figure 5.51: Cairo Urban Skyline **[Tilly, 2024].**

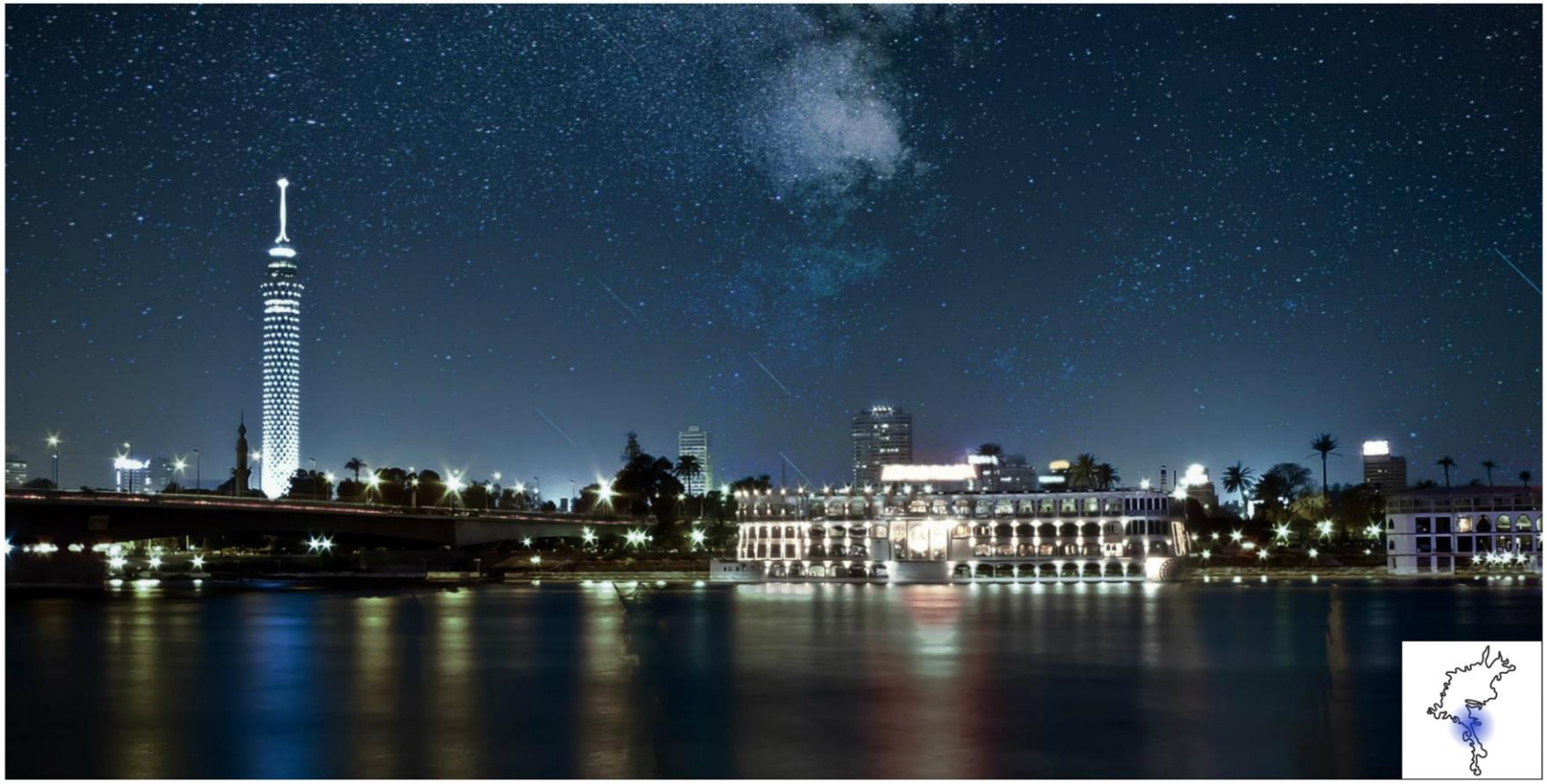


Figure 5.52: Nightscape of Cairo **[Arabnews, 2024].**



Landmark Name:
Cairo Tower
Type:
Museum
Status:
Completed
Completion:
1961
Function:
961
Telecommunications
Structural Material:
All-Concrete
Height:
187 m / 614 ft

Figure 5.53: Urban Landmark: Cairo Tower **[Travel365, 2024; Audiala, 2024; Yazied, 2024].**





Structure Name:
Iconic Tower
Type:
Building
Status:
Completed
Completion:
2024
Function:
Residential, Office
Structural Material:
Concrete-Steel Composite
Height:
393.8 m / 1292 ft
Floors:
77
Architect:
Dar al-Handasah Shair
Architectural Firms:
Dar al-Handasah Shair & Partners; Perkins+Will

#1 Tallest in Africa
#1 Tallest in Cairo



Figure 5.54: Structure Example: Iconic Tower **[Asu, 2023; Constructionreview, 2024].**

5.7. Urban Character of Mexico

5.7.1. Urban Geography of Mexico City

Urban Landscape: Mexico City features a natural landscape of mountains, volcanoes, and hills. The images and section visualise the clusters of skyscrapers, low-rise, and medium-rise buildings, creating artificial landscape borders **Figure 5.55.**

Urban Land Use: Northern Mexico City is highly urbanised, while southern areas retain natural landscapes. The master plan includes data on built areas, forests, and grasslands **Figure 5.56.**

5.7.2. Urban Pattern of Mexico City

Types of building blocks: Mexico City has sectoral, grid, and radial patterns, with zones such as CBDs, industrial areas, and residential areas (low-, middle-, and high-class), reflecting strategic planning and economic activity **Figure 5.57.**

Urban Sprawl: Between 1700 and 2000, Mexico City expanded significantly, with massive growth in the 1960s and the considerable modifications by 2000, shown in grey areas on the sprawl map **Figure 5.58.**

Urban Light: The night photograph from the ISS showcases Mexico City's urban density with clusters of lights that indicate conveyance webs, residential zones, and commercial districts, reflecting its crowded urban setting and aesthetic information **Figure 5.59.**

5.7.3. Urban Silhouette of Mexico City

Skyline Profiles: The hierarchy of the high and the low-sized residential structures build new artificial landscape borders and skyline marks. The skyline consists of different clusters and contrasts. There is a noticeable hierarchy between the surfaces, scales, material usage and height. The visuals detail the city's size, and the skyline is highly uneven, with masses of skyscrapers incorporated with low-rise and medium-rise buildings, mirroring varying stages of development and land use **Figure 5.60.**

Nightscape: In places like the Zona Rosa and Polanco, the night is alive with bustling nightlife, while more traditional areas retain a serene ambience after dark **Figure 5.61.**

Urban Landmarks: Museo Soumaya is a programmed and designed museum that reflects the eclectic taste of the collector, as well as the designer's desire to create a new urban landmark for a cultural purpose that serves the public. It has a rotated rhomboid form, supported by structural elements, and has a distinctive facade that voyages the surroundings. The reflective facade of the structure has a pattern of hexagons. The structure becomes an observable object in the city **Figure 5.62.**

Materiality and Tectonics: Museo Soumaya features a striking façade of curved aluminium tiles, giving the building a futuristic and reflective quality. The structure uses reinforced concrete and steel to support its organic form, while the shimmering surface of the tiles creates an ever-changing interaction with the light **Figure 5.62.** Torre Mitikah is built with glass, steel, and concrete. The building's glass façade uses natural light and views, while the concrete core and steel frame ensure structural stability and support **Figure 5.63.**



Figure 5.55: The Urban Landscape of Mexico **[Baronizan2, 2024; Mantho, 2014; UNAM, 2022; Efe, 2019; Imago, 2020; Gonzále, 2022].**

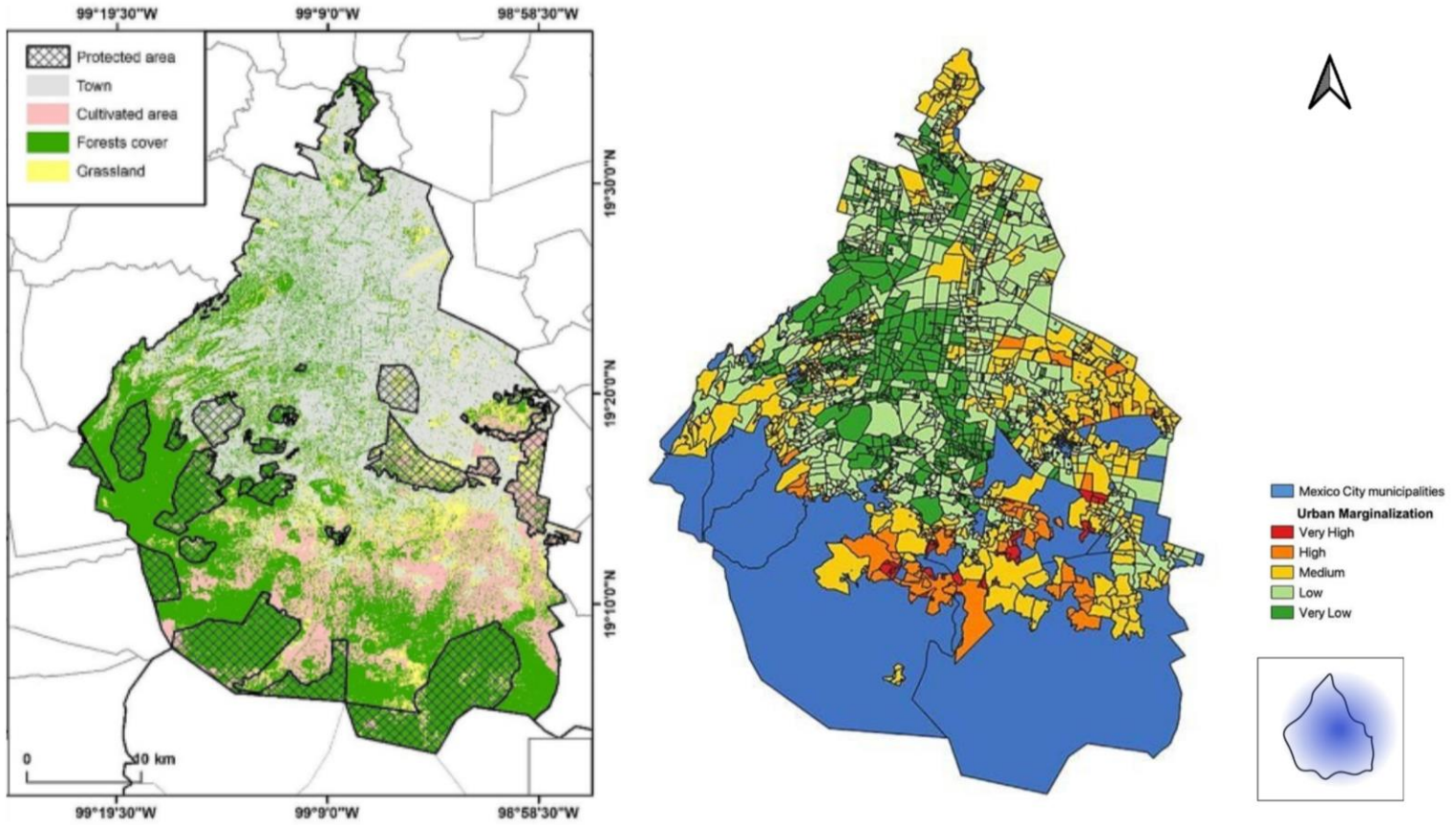


Figure 5.56: Urban Land Use of Mexico **[Hernández et al., 2024].**

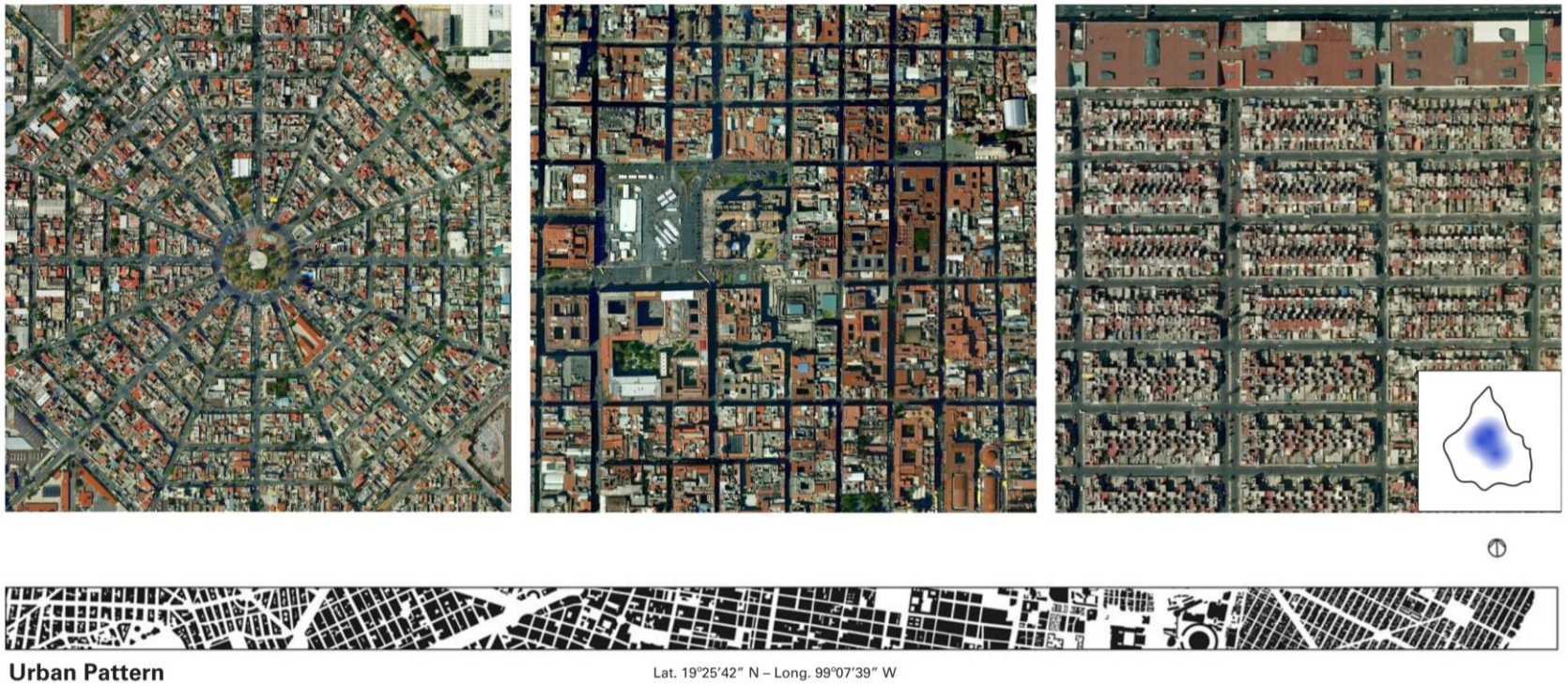


Figure 5.57: Mexico: Types of Building Block **[Sánchez-Cuenca, 2012; Zdimalova, 2017; Mantho].**

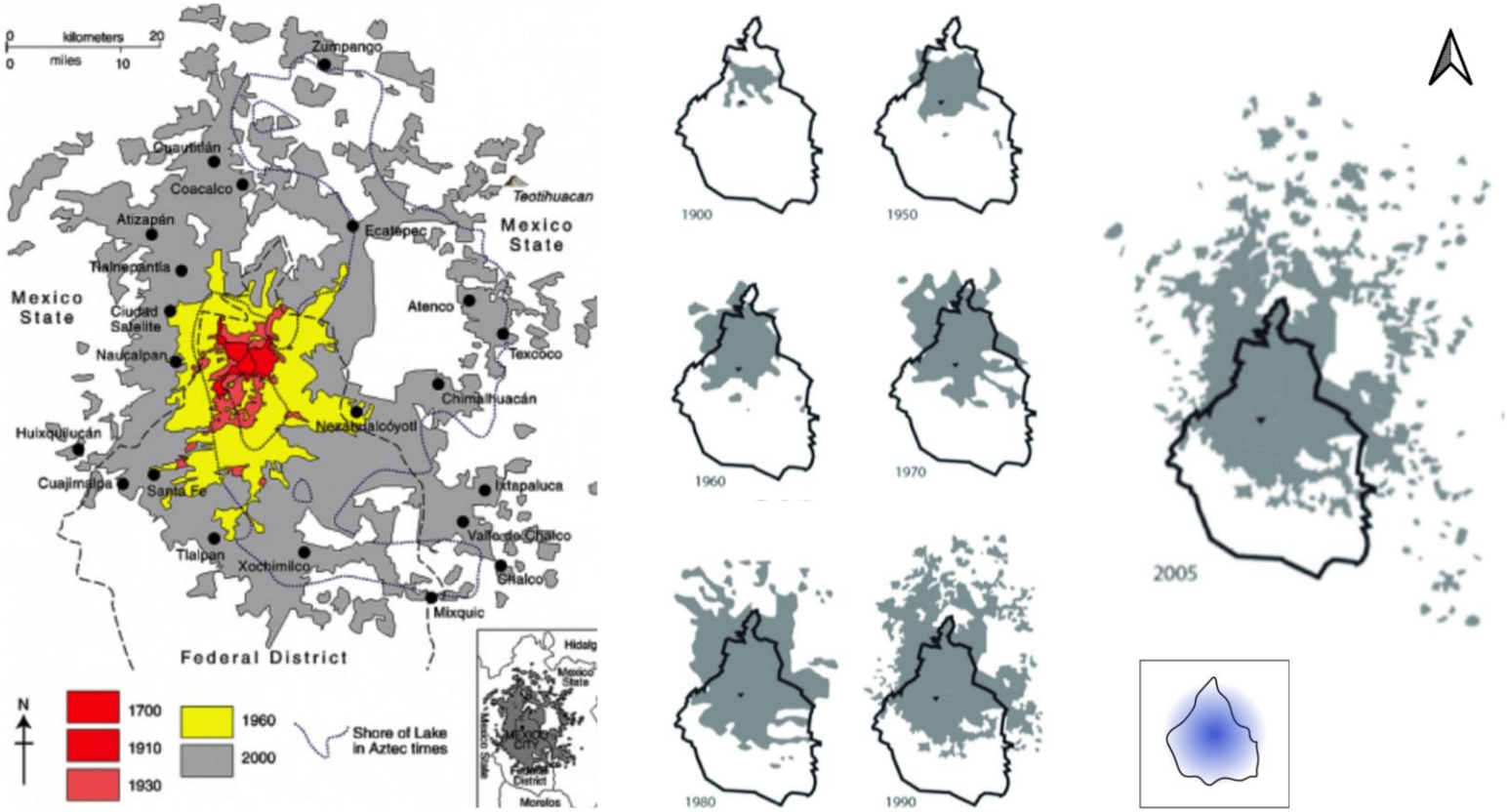


Figure 5.58: Urban Sprawl of Mexico [**Capron et al., 2017].**

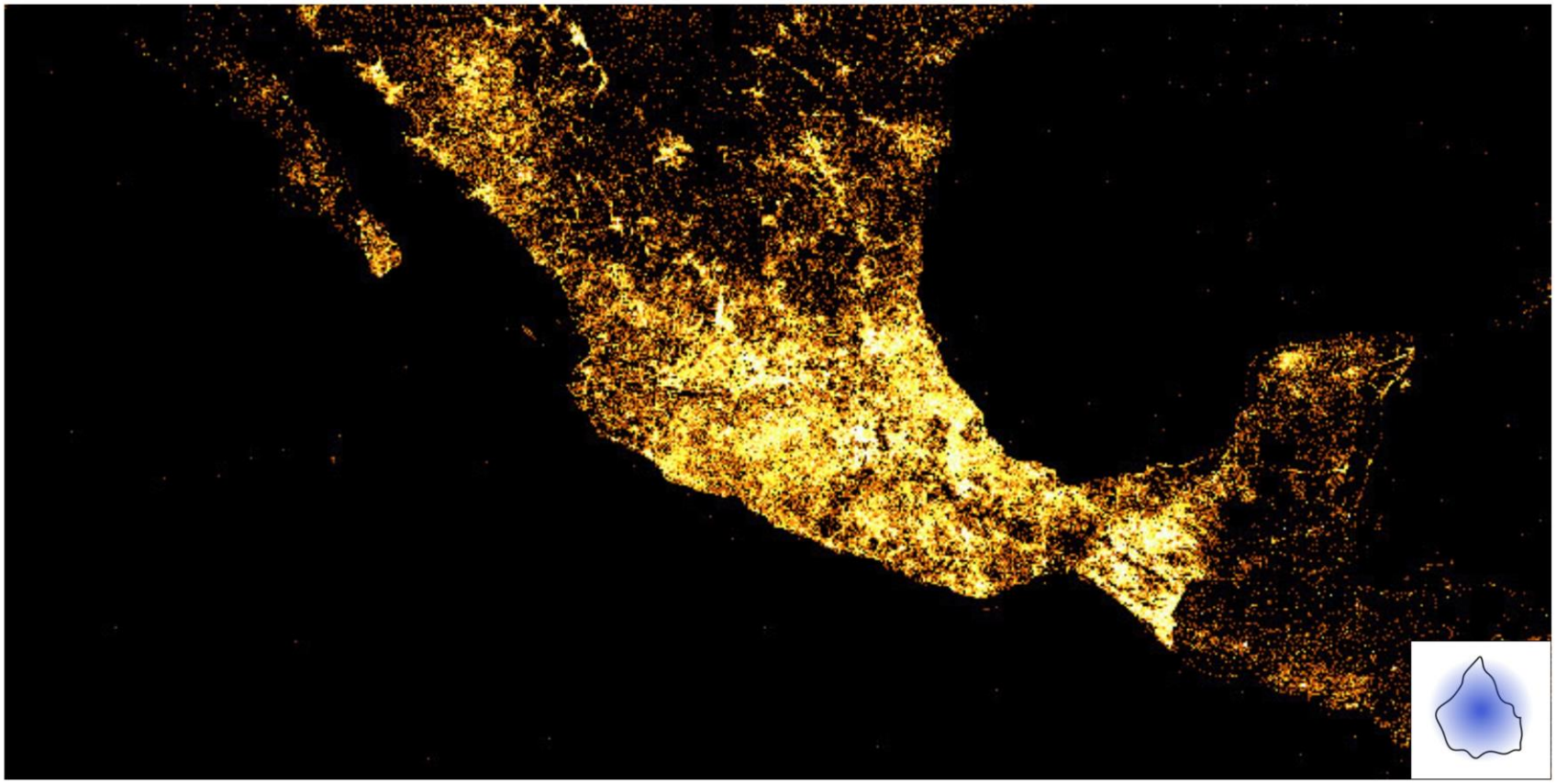


Figure 5.59: Urban Light of Mexico **[Diario, 2024].**



Figure 5.60: Mexico Urban Skyline **[OrangeSmile, 2024].**

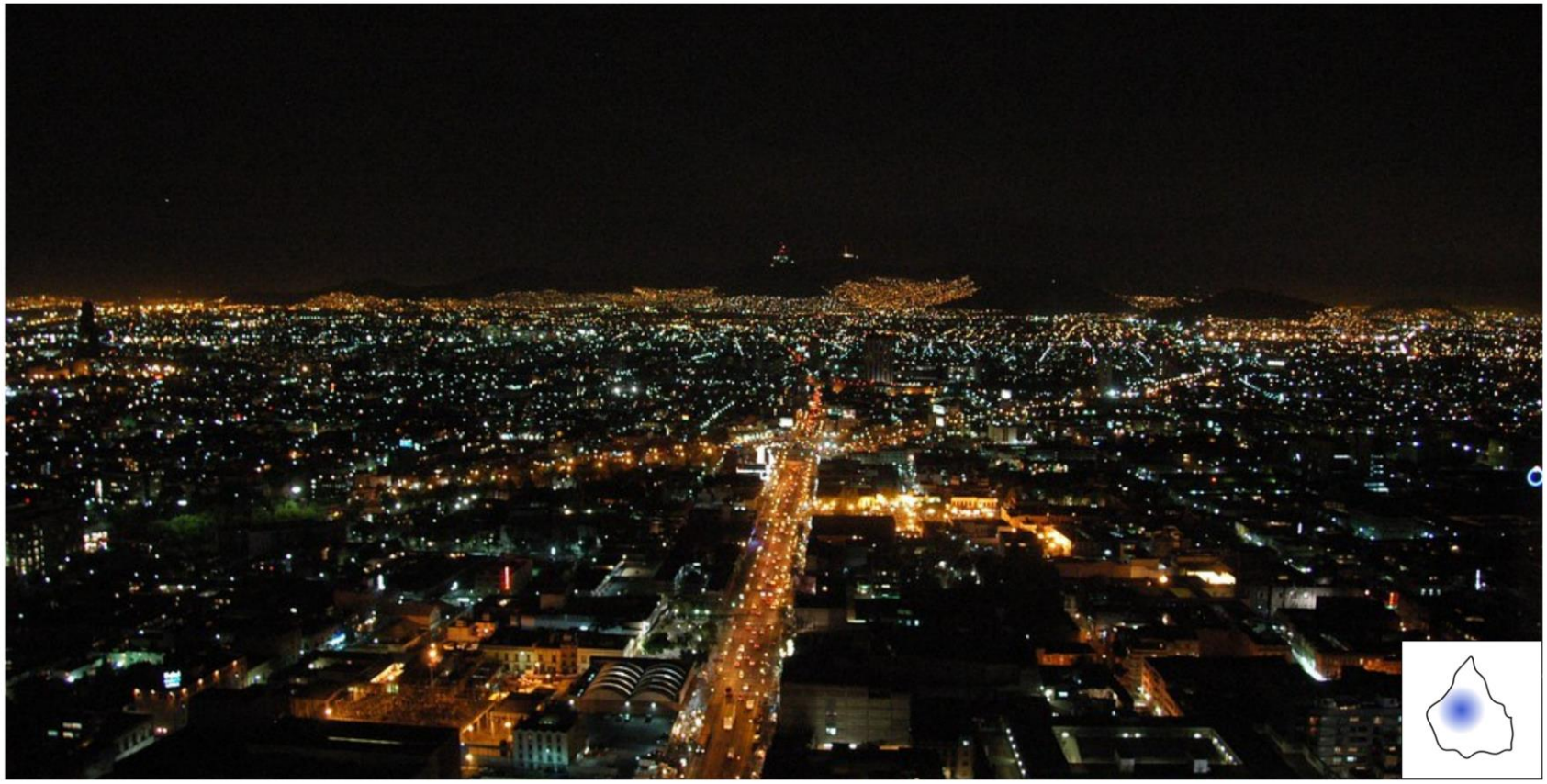


Figure 5.61: Nightscape of Mexico **[OrangeSmile, 2024].**



Landmark Name:
Museo Soumaya
Type:
Museum
Status:
Completed
Completion:
2011
Function:
961
Exhibition
Structural Material:
Aluminum, Steel, and Concrete
Height:
46 m / 151 ft

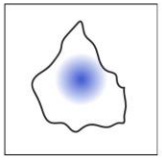


Figure 5.62: Urban Landmark: Museo Soumaya **[Smith, 2024; Lamudi,2024].**

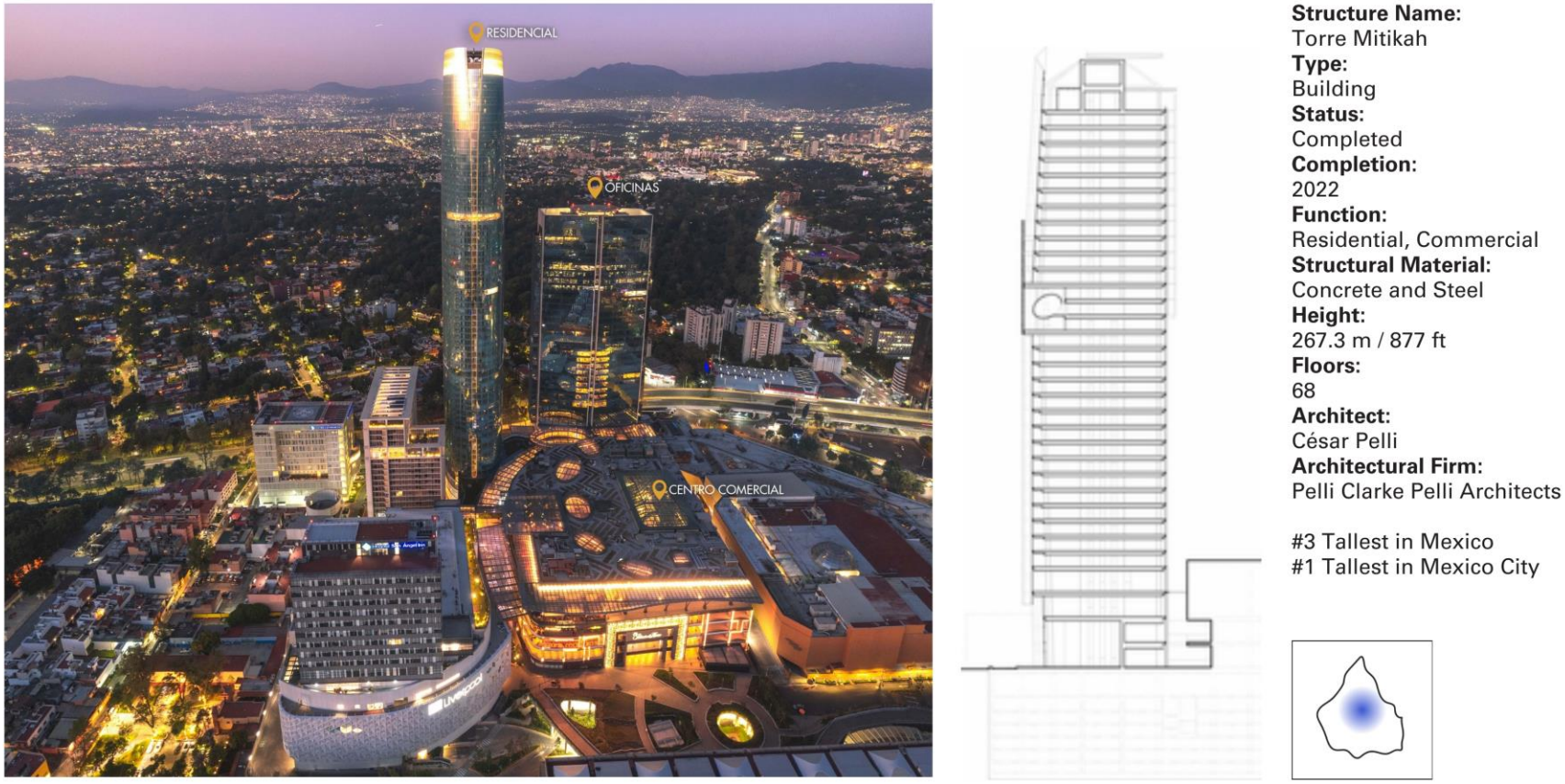


Figure 5.63: Structure Example: Torre Mitikah **[ArchDaily, 2014; Centrourbano, 2024; Mira, 2014].**

5.8. Urban Character of Beijing

5.8.1. Urban Geography of Beijing

Urban Landscape: Beijing's natural landscape includes mountains, plains, rivers, and forests, which significantly influence its historical development, urban planning, and environmental considerations **Figure 5.64.**

Urban Land Use: The city includes industrial zones, residential areas, central business districts, and trade centres, with a prevalent economic activity integrated into urban planning **Figure 5.65.**

5.8.2. Urban Pattern of Beijing

Types of building blocks: Beijing's urban layout reflects an axial pattern and a concentric zone model, forming a grid-like structure with ring roads radiating from the historical core **Figure 5.66.**

Urban Sprawl: Between 1984 and 2018, Beijing experienced noteworthy expansion, particularly from the southern to northern parts, while maintaining a central urban core **Figure 5.67.**

Urban Light: The city features brilliantly lit skyscrapers, dynamic light displays, and illuminated reflector façades, highlighting the city's layered qualities. Nighttime views from the International Space Station reveal clear quadrants, a grid pattern, and concentric rings of major roads. Nighttime urban geography displays the city's layered qualities, incorporating old structures with contemporary urban dynamics **Figure 5.68.**

5.8.3. Urban Silhouette of Beijing

Skyline Profiles: The skyline is dominated by high-rise structures with glass facades and superblocks. The panoramic view shows height restrictions in the urban core and organized spatial patterns that define the city's identity **Figure 5.69.**

Nightscape: Beijing's nightscape is defined by the glowing lights of its CBD skyscrapers, including the CCTV Tower and China World Trade Center. The

illuminated façades create a dynamic contrast between the vibrant urban core and the verticality of the high-rises, highlighting the city's growing skyline **Figure 5.70.**

Urban Landmarks: CCTV Headquarters was made by Rem Koolhaas and OMA in 2012. The urban landmark was made with steel and glass. The design has a visible facade movement consisting of a web of diagnosis that becomes dense in the areas of structural stress. That visual contains a design choice that is noticeable **Figure 5.71.**

Materiality and Tectonics: The CCTV Headquarters uses a combination of steel, glass, and reinforced concrete, with its bent shape supported by a complex structural framework **Figure 5.71.** The building's angular, glass façade reflects the surrounding city while the exposed steel frame emphasizes its innovative, modern design. China Zun features a sleek glass façade supported by a steel and concrete structure **Figure 5.72.**

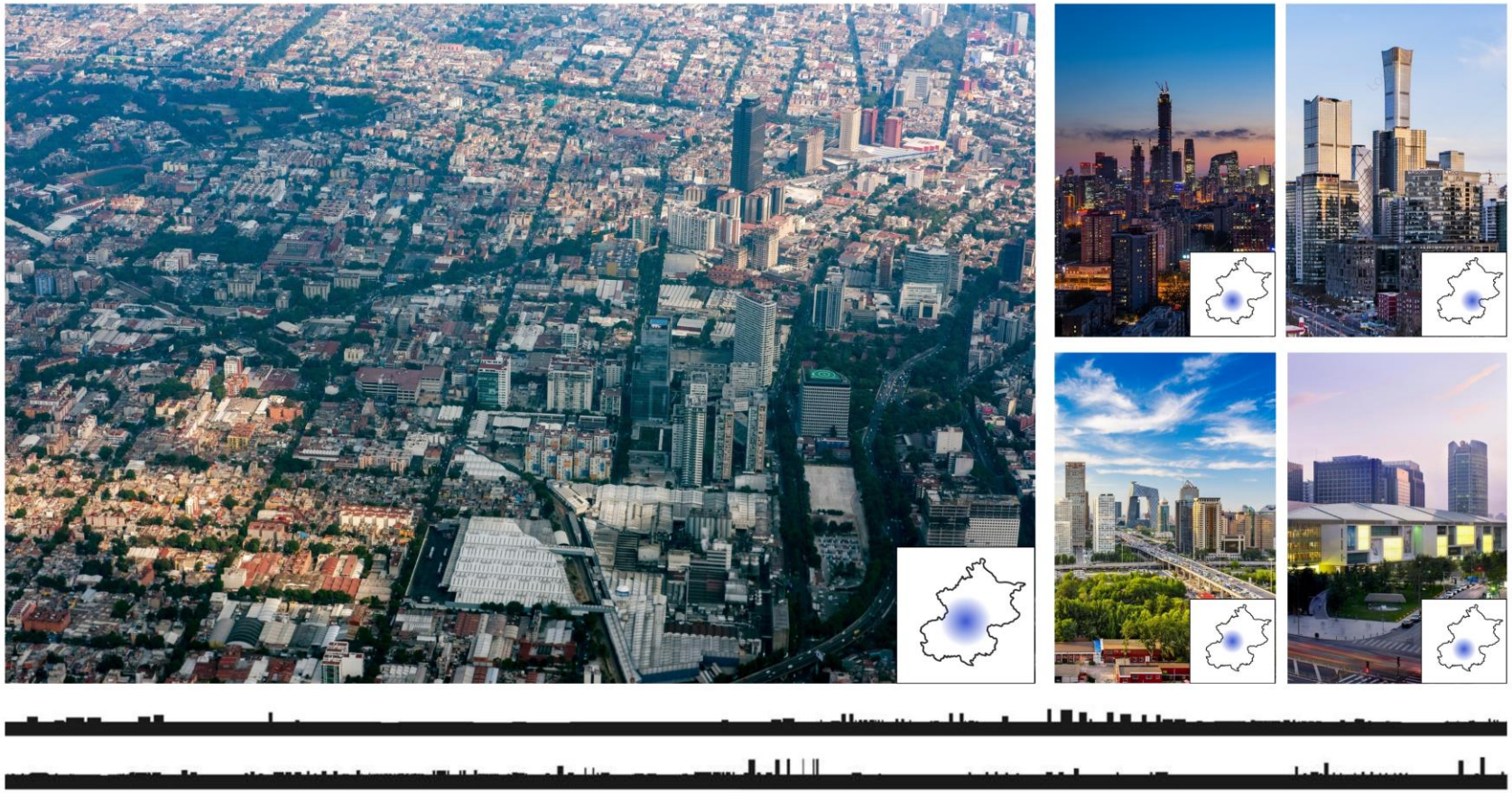


Figure 5.64: The Urban Landscape of Beijing **[Chen, 2017; Mantho, 2014; Uông, 2020; Lovepik, 2024; Ritz-Carlton, 2024; Berlin, 2023].**

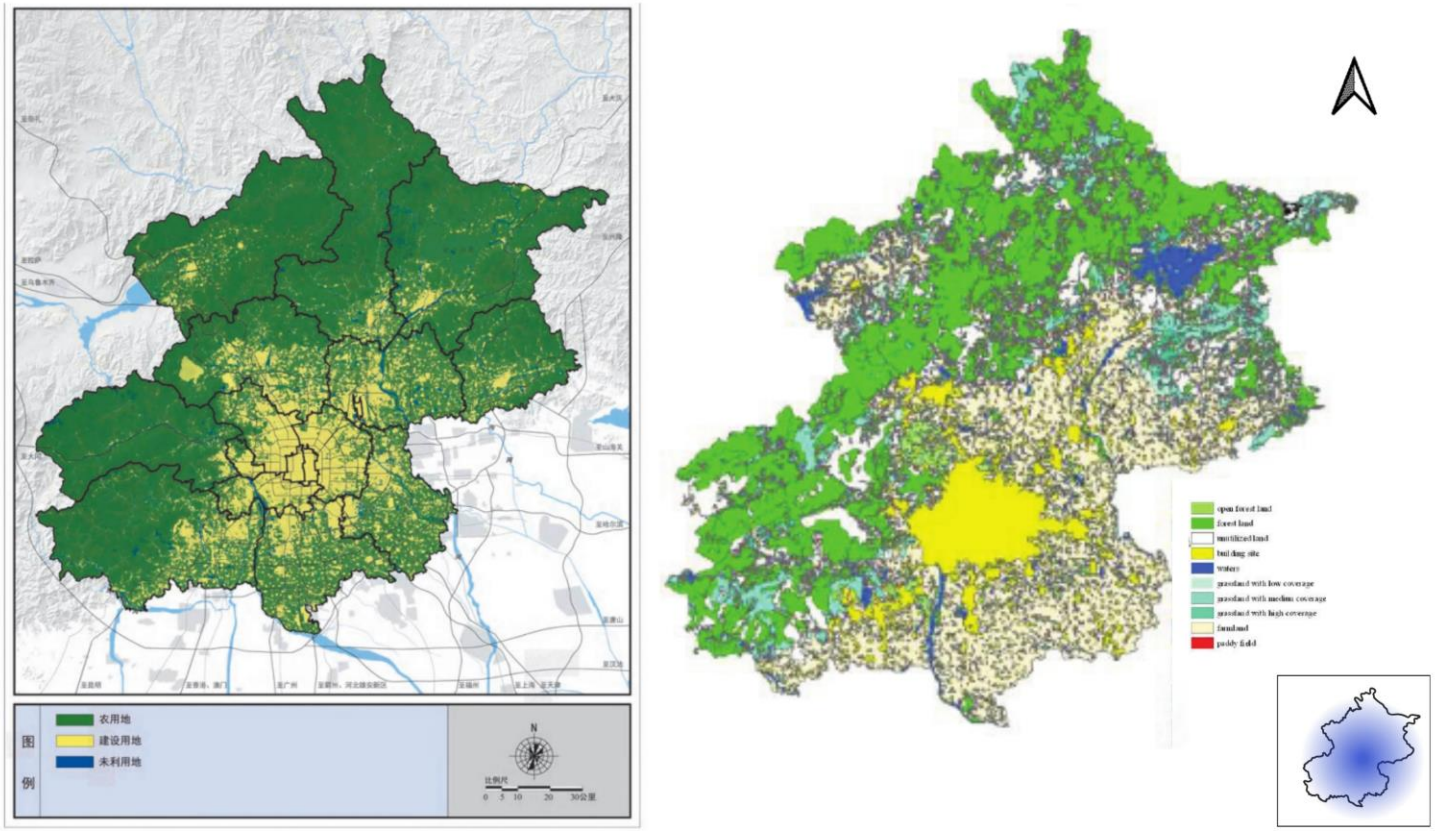


Figure 5.65: Urban Land Use of Beijing **[Fgw, 2022].**

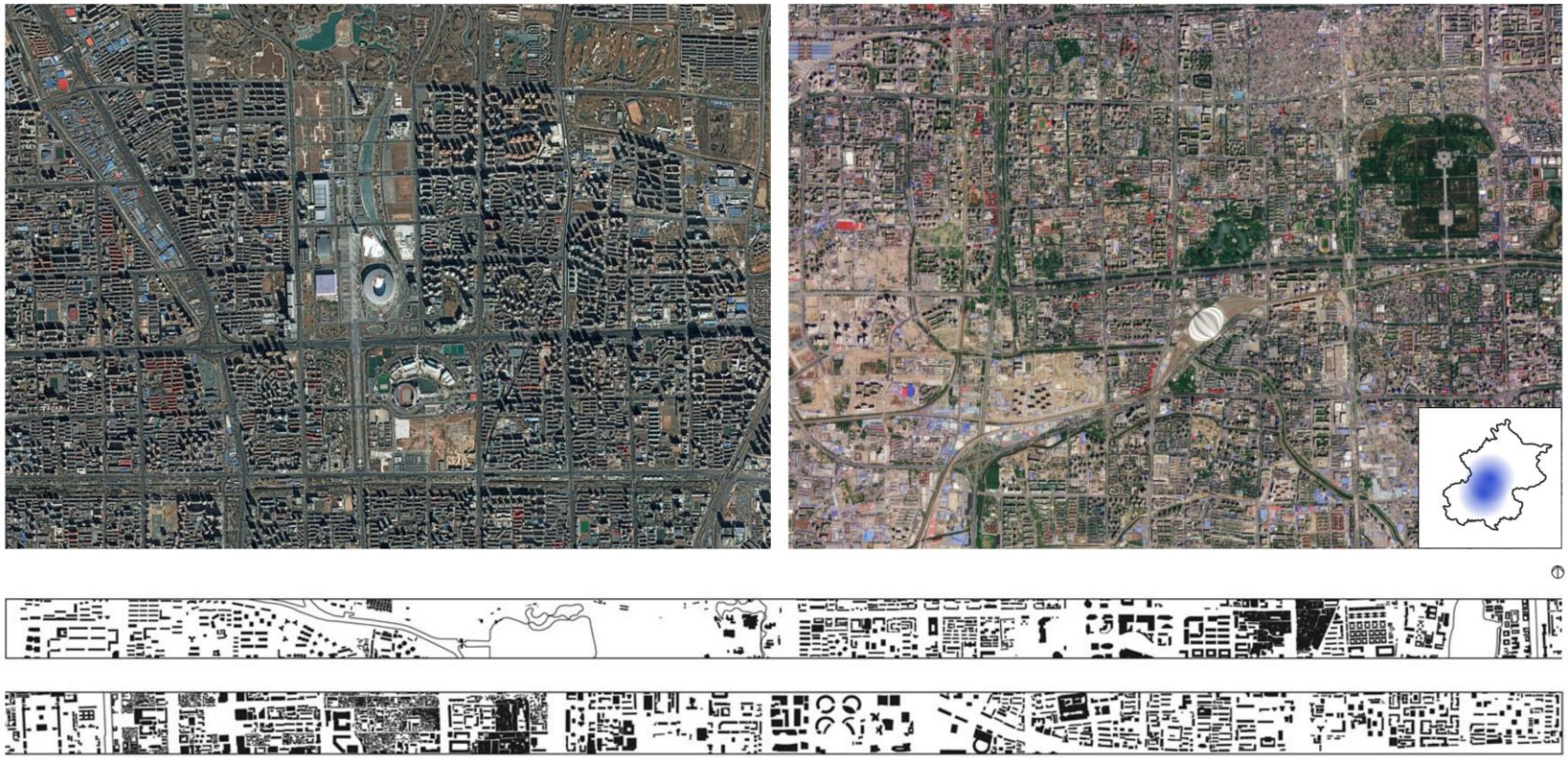


Figure 5.66: Beijing: Types of Building Block **[CNES, 2012; ESA, 2021; Mantho, 2014].**

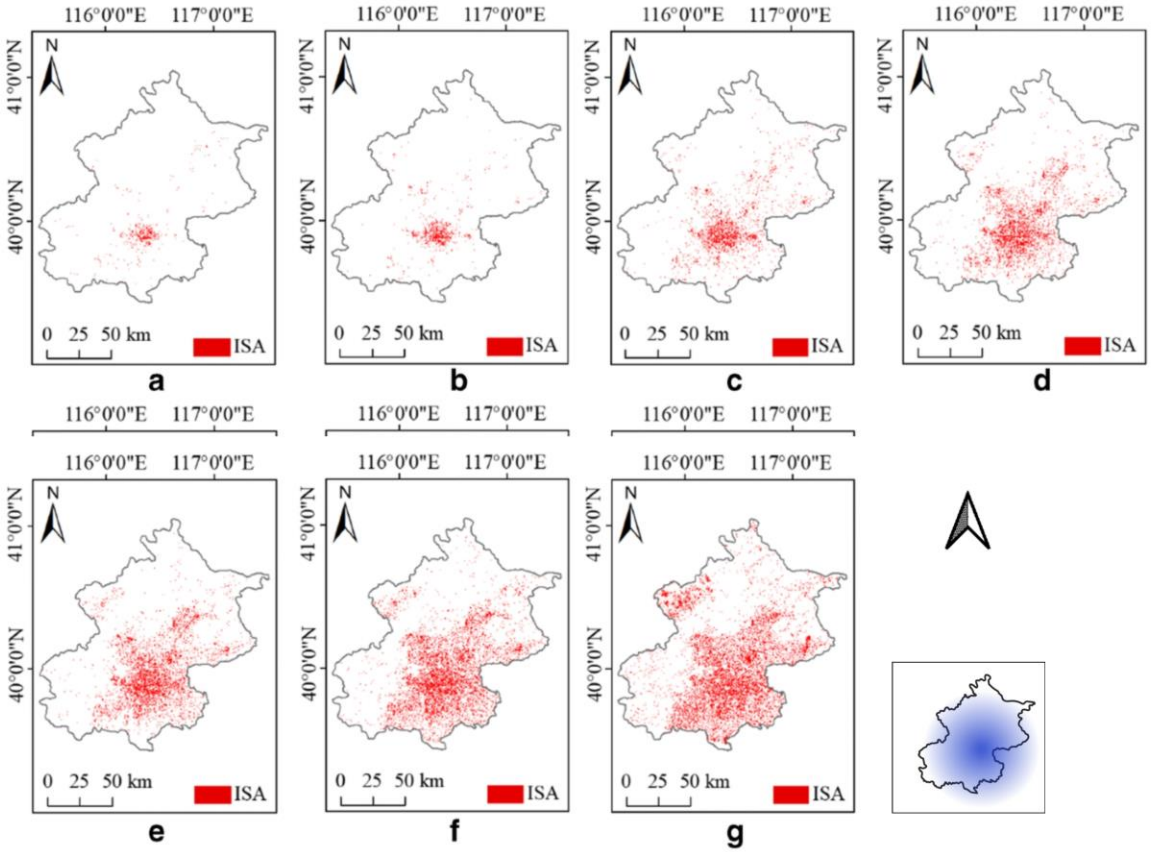


Figure 5.67: Urban Sprawl of Beijing **[Yin et al., 2021].**

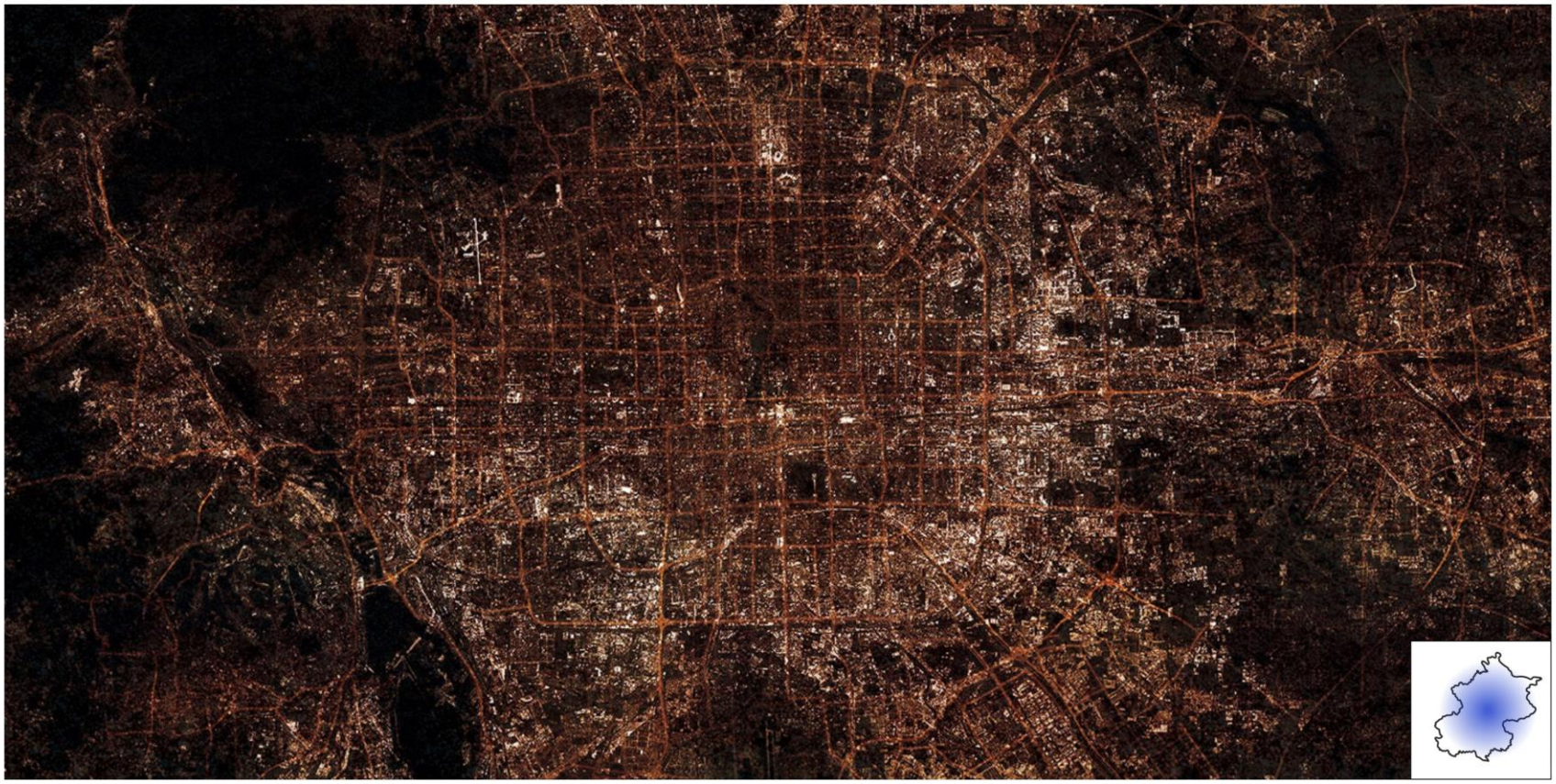


Figure 5.68: Urban Light of Beijing **[Kaktus, 2016].**



Figure 5.69: Beijing Urban Skyline **[Windstar, 2020].**



Figure 5.70: Nightscape of Beijing **[Hayes, 2021].**



Figure 5.71: Urban Landmark: CCTV Building **[Karmazina, 2020; Jarjous, 2015; Mimarobot, 2024].**



Structure Name:
China Zun
Type:
Building
Status:
Completed
Completion:
2018
Function:
Office
Structural Material:
All-Concrete
Height:
528 m / 1732 ft
Floors:
108
Architect:
Terry Farrell
Architectural Firm:
Farrells

#5 Tallest in China
#1 Tallest in Beijing

Figure 5.72: Structure Example: China Zun **[ArchDaily, 2019].**

5.9. Urban Character of Mumbai

5.9.1. Urban Geography of Mumbai

Urban Landscape: The landscape highlights urban areas and the particularly forests within the existing natural landscape. The urban section shows the natural relationships in the geography, detailing hierarchical scale and height relationships between structures, as well as building distances and sizes **Figure 5.73.**

Urban Land Use: Mumbai is a peninsula connected by the Arabian Sea to the west. Urbanised areas are predominantly concentrated in the southern and central parts, with northern suburban development **Figure 5.74.**

5.9.2. Urban Pattern of Mumbai

Types of building blocks: Mumbai has a grid and an irregular and superblock urban pattern. The urban plan indicates a grid pattern with orderly, side-by-side interpretations, while superblock structures crossing the grid are also observable. Alongside these, there is also an irregular spread scattered throughout the city **Figure 5.75.**

Urban Sprawl: The sprawl illustrates urbanisation between 1973 and 2010, transitioning from sparse urban distribution to a highly dense urban geography. Urbanisation follows two axes from the south to northern territories **Figure 5.76.**

Urban Light: The photograph of the night view of Mumbai metacity on the coast of the Arabian Sea was captured from the ISS as it orbited 261 miles above India. The city is split into two branches, north and south, which contain dense urban areas comprising multiple centres. The skyline consists of the yellow lights of high-rise buildings, while the streets beneath are active with traffic, street vendors, and bustling markets **Figure 5.77.**

5.9.3. Urban Silhouette of Mumbai

Skyline Profiles: The skyline of Mumbai is characterised by formal and informal housing, with a stark contrast in verticality and inconsistencies in building production

scale, reflecting the city's urban development. The urban skyline displays architectural inequality with contrasts between slums and high-rise structures **Figure 5.78.**

Nightscape: Mumbai's nightscape is a vibrant mix of illuminated skyscrapers, bustling streets, and historic landmarks **Figure 5.79.**

Urban Landmarks: Mumbai TV Tower features an aesthetic with clean vertical steel lines and a form that functions as a telecommunications tower. The structure was completed in 1974. The structure is strategically positioned amidst a blend of residential and financial buildings. It has been constructed to a height of 300 meters, contributing to the skyline of the urban environment **Figure 5.80.**

Materiality and Tectonics: The Mumbai TV Tower is constructed with reinforced concrete and steel, featuring a sleek, cylindrical design. Its structural frame supports the tall, slender form, while the tower's minimalist materiality enhances its visual prominence in the city skyline **Figure 5.80.** Trump Tower Mumbai combines glass, steel, and concrete, creating a luxurious, modern aesthetic **Figure 5.81.**



Figure 5.73: The Urban Landscape of Mumbai **[Bhatman89, 2024; Mantho, 2014; NoBroker, 2024; Dubaihaber, 2024; Qubi, 2023; Seyyah, 2017].**

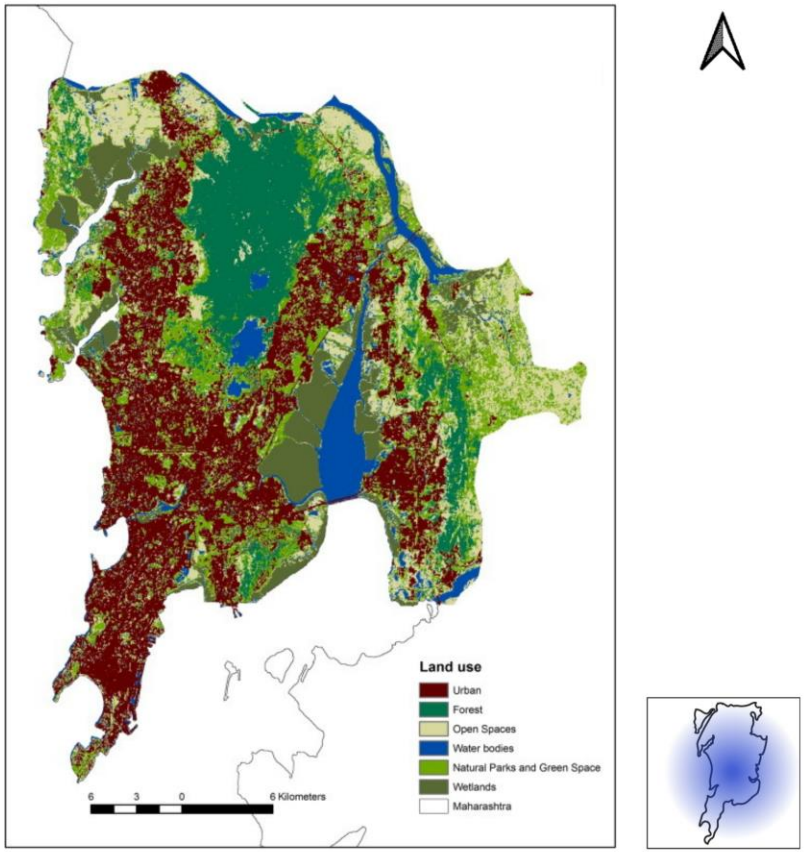


Figure 5.74: Urban Land Use of Mumbai **[Helbich, 2013].**



Figure 5.75: Mumbai: Types of Building Block **[Sadikova, 2024; Baratto,2020; Mantho, 2014].**

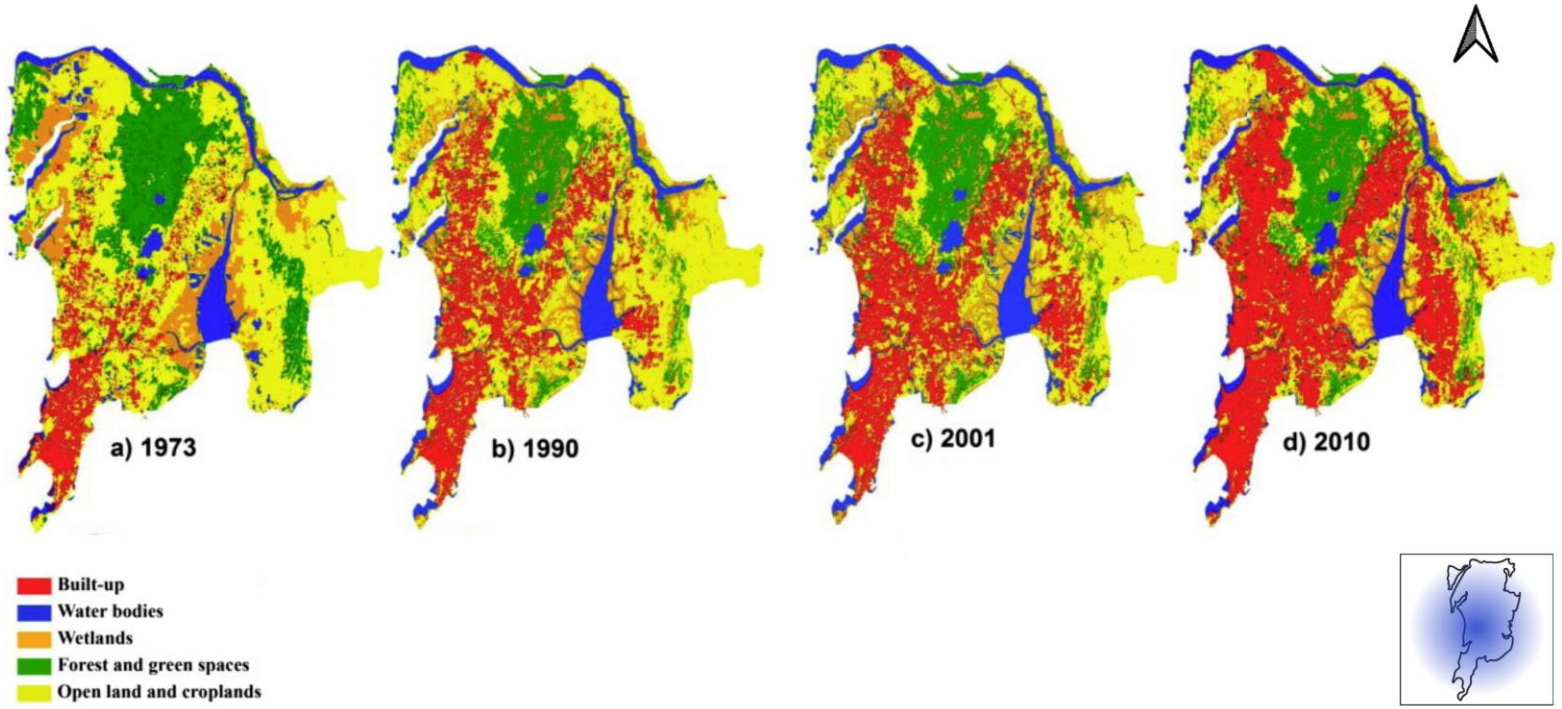


Figure 5.76: Urban Sprawl of Mumbai **[Vaz, 2014; Shafizadeh].**



Figure 5.77: Urban Light of Mumbai **[JetPunk, 2024].**



Figure 5.78: Mumbai Urban Skyline **[Machines, 2024].**



Figure 5.79: Nightscape of Mumbai [**Vijaydeep, 2024].**



Landmark Name:
Mumbai TV Tower
Type:
Tower
Status:
Completed
Completion:
1974
Function:
Telecommunications
Structural Material:
All-Steel
Height:
300 m / 984 ft



Figure 5.80: Urban Landmark: Mumbai TV Tower **[BBC, 2011; Cole, 2024].**







Structure Name:
Trump Tower Mumbai
Type:
Building
Status:
Completed
Completion:
2020
Function:
Residential
Structural Material:
All-Concrete
Height:
266.3 m / 874 ft
Floors:
79
Architect:
Padre D'Silva
Architectural Firms:
Padre D'Silva & Associates,
Lodha Group

#5 Tallest in India
#5 Tallest in Mumbai



Figure 5.81: Structure Example: Trump Tower Mumbai **[Kapl,2024; World Architects, 2014].**

6. DISCUSSION: THE CRITIQUE OF SAMENESS

The study is assessed, and it builds an interplay between the components of urban character and how these drivers influence perceptions of metacities. Its focus is on the drivers, components, actors, and roles that influence the potential resemblances of urban characters. The outcome of the breakdown for 9 metacity showcases the possible resemblances and differences among the urban character of the cities. In the research process, data for each metacity were obtained through 8 different steps based on the selected parameters. The collected data were analysed under categories as urban geography, pattern, and silhouette. The findings from the research are examined meanwhile as a critique of sameness.

Architectural and urban studies focusing on the built environment reveal that specific architectural conditions do not always deliver identical outcomes. In this context, the architectural representation methods and the scale of the study become significant. Ensuring consistency between the associated scale and the parameters used is crucial. Discussions on global architectural sameness on analysing similarities and differences, grounded in data delivered from these parameters. Data from each metacity has been collected and recorded separately. The analysis of resemblances and differences observed among the metacities delivers insights into the factors contributing to global architectural resemblances in urban character. Findings related to geography, patterns, and silhouettes from the metacities collectively initiate a comprehensive discussion.

6.1. Urban Geography of Metacities

The "*spectacular living, dynamic system that is evolving with us*" encapsulates the urban geographies' active influence on the character **[Florida, 2002; McGregor, 2023].** Urban geography is a reflection of the historical, geographical, political, and economic changes that are occurring in the metacity. As urban geography concentrates on the notion of “local variability within a general context; it is connected within the scope of the urban character **[Knox and McCarthy, 2011].** For the scope of the study, the urban landscape, urban light and landmarks are used as parameters of the urban geography, which is a morphological component of the urban character. As for the

discussion of losing the uniqueness of the metacities, the aerial views of the urban landscape of the metacities deliver an urban context with layers of densely redefined urban landscapes.

The land use data of the 9 metacities—Tokyo, Delhi, Shanghai, Dhaka, São Paulo, Cairo, Mexico City, Beijing, and Mumbai—demonstrate urban geography data shaped by varying economic, social, and historical factors. These cities typically feature massive commercial, residential, and industrial zones as they have more than one centre, although the proportion of land dedicated to each function varies significantly. For example, Tokyo's dense commercial cores have expansive residential neighbourhoods. In contrast, cities like Dhaka and Cairo experience different urban centres as there are new and old ones. Additionally, these metacities often exhibit polycentric structures, where multiple urban cores or clusters of activity, such as Beijing's central business district and Mumbai's diverse commercial areas, contribute to a decentralised land use.

As many metacities contain dense settlements, it is inaccurate to state that the cities' expansions are the same. During the research, the natural landscape of the metacities brings areas that are not suitable for urban context at all, such as the volcanic areas in Mexico City, forests in Mumbai, and mountains in Tokyo; meanwhile, in some metacities like Cairo and Shanghai follow the water as the natural axis for the expansion of the buildings. These spatial expressions can be classified as areas *of "organised complexity"* **[Jacobs, 1961].** The natural landscape of the local environment influences the potential construction discussions in the urban geography. However, the rapid construction shrinks the natural landscape areas **[Sharratt, 2001].** The forgotten spaces of the metacities consist of deeply rooted habitats as they are restricted public spaces or not designed by humans **[Hough, 1995; Ahern et al., 2006].** However, the expansion to the natural landscape can be dangerous for the citizens as well. For example, Mumbai has undergone a massive change in its urban character. **Villardière and d'Arthuys [2023]** report the sprawl towards the wilderness invited wild animals, such as leopards, into the geography of the urban Sanjay Gandhi National Park. This constructs a conflict between locals and animals as leopard attacks rise in the urban character **Figure 6.1.**



Figure 6.1: The Urban Landscape of Metacities **[Baronizan2, 2024; Bhatman89, 2024; Chen, 2017; Crackit, 2024; Genspark, 2024; Shutterstock, 2024; Westend61, 2014; Wows, 2024].**

6.2. Urban Pattern of Metacities

The urban patterns of the metacities confirm it is incredibly hard to define only one type of building block classification for each metacity. These cities are considered the world's biggest and most crowded cities, with more than twenty million people **[UN, 2006; Mcgrath and Pickett, 2011].** The urban phenomenon is a temporal process marked by constant evolution, either as growing or shrinking **[Almusaed and Almssad, 2019],** as metacities are considered more additional than stable beings.

Most scholars accept that the main types of urban blocks are called grid, organic, radial and linear **[Conzen, 1960; Sitte, 1965; Bacon, 1974; Lavedan, 1974; Kostof, 1991].** The type of urban blocks that are classified throughout the satellite images showcases that metacities such as Tokyo, Shanghai, Dhaka, Mexico, and Mumbai have grid

patterns; Delhi, Cairo and Mexico have radial patterns; Sao Paulo, Cairo, Tokyo, and Mumbai have an organic pattern; meanwhile none of the metacities considered to have a linear pattern at all. Although these urban blocks are fundamental, the study has found examples of Shanghai and Dao Paulo having hub-and-satellite patterns; Sao Paulo and Mumbai have superblock patterns.

As patterns are adaptable and dynamic entities, the conditions should form a cohesive urban layout **Alexander et al. [1977].** The study documents that most of the metacities consist of uneven and unstable urban expansion. It is possible to observe examples where local and global cultures distinctly redefined the identity of the metacities from the study. For instance, New Cairo is being established in a new location as a financial and political hub, forming a modern city centre. Meanwhile, Old Cairo hosts structures from ancient civilisations alongside buildings designed in later periods.

A similar approach can be seen in instances such as Old Delhi and New Delhi, Old Shanghai and New Shanghai, Old Beijing and New Beijing, or Old Mexico City and New Mexico City. These cities exemplify the historical urban tissue and fabric of their local heritage while being shaped by newly developed areas influenced by global architecture. This observation demonstrates that these 5 cities harbour 2 identities within their character.

There is a variety of scholars in the literature confronting that the consequence of global architecture on urban identity leads to sociocultural inequalities in cities **[Soja, 1996; Zukin, 1996; Sassen, 2001; Held and McGrew, 2002; Lees et al., 2008, Harvey, 2008].** These cities have 2 identities within their character outcomes as sociocultural inequalities in their system. Such a political statement of rebuilding a financial and political hub for a metacity should be a significant driver of the urban character.

Scale is not size; it is the inherent declaration of size that the structure makes to the eye of the observer. According to **Cullen [1961],** the scale issue starts with a hierarchy of titles: neighbourhood, locality, place, region and broader scales of territory, nation-state, and globe. The satellite images of the metacities showcase the building production scale differences between the structures. Almost all of the metacities contain socioeconomic differences that are observable in the satellite images. The global circulation of capital has resulted in the expansion of global labour demands

and world cities **[Castells, 1984; Krugman, 1994; Friedman, 1995; Harvey, 1997; Storper, 1997; Chomsky, 1999; Beck, 2000; Sassen, 2001; Giddens, 2002; Mcneill, 2005; Reich, 2007; Bertolini, 2009; Standing, 2011; Kenny, 2011].** As part of the urban competitiveness argument, the socioeconomic disparities marked in the breakdown occur in the neoliberal capital.

As **Harvey [2008]** expresses, the neo-liberalisation approach has caused considerable *"creative destruction"*. The irregular geographical expansion of neoliberalism depicts its temporary nature, operated by political, historical, and institutional aspects. Neoliberalisation can either be regarded as a theoretical objective for reshaping capitalism or a means to restore conditions for capital accumulation and maintain selected power. If such a description of neoliberal capital's transformative strength is accepted, the relationship between large-scale skyscrapers and informal housing settlements observed in urban patterns can also be understood. This allows for connecting the sources of socioeconomic disparities in examples of metacities.

In contrast, in metacities like Tokyo, Shanghai and Beijing, socioeconomic disparities are not as visibly evident through urban patterns **Figure 6.2.** In these cities, the majority of structures are composed of residential buildings and business centres. Additionally, when examining the urban patterns of cities like Tokyo and Shanghai, it becomes apparent that neoliberal capital has transformed these cities into financial hubs. Shanghai's meeting with globalisation in the early twentieth century shaped its identity, producing it as a major industrial centre **[Zukin et al., 2016].**

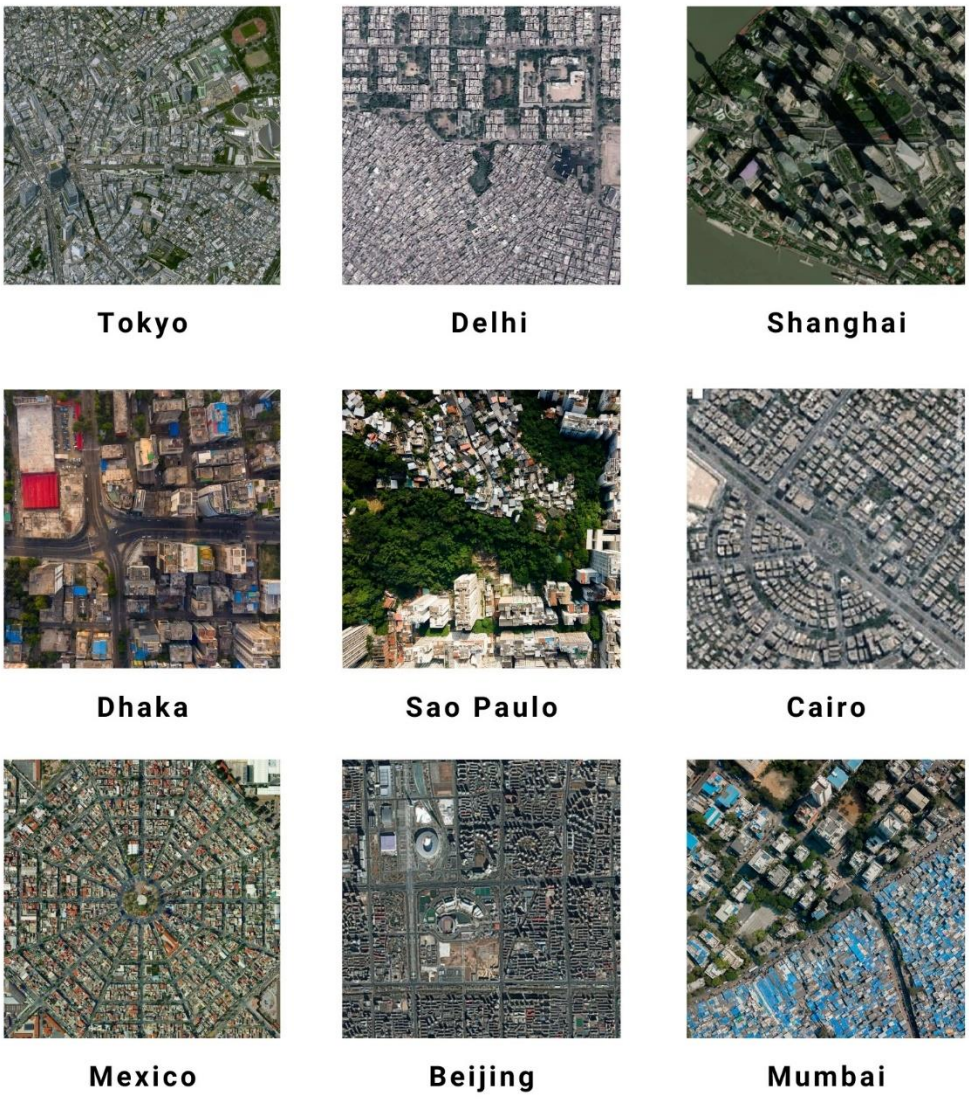


Figure 6.2: Type of Building Blocks of the Metacities **[Author].**

The study documents that most of the metacities consist of uneven and unstable urban sprawl. The uncontrolled expansion of the urban has been portrayed as the negative influence on the urban character of metacities because many studies have shown why urban sprawl causes a substantial number of economic and social problems **[Newman and Kenworthy, 1989; Downs, 1998; Ewing, 1997; Burchell et al., 1998; Walton, 2000; Freeman, 2001; Ding and Knaap, 2002; Ewing et al., 2002; Hasse and Lathrop, 2003; Foley et al., 2005; Kaya et al., 2009].** There is an outcome of uncontrolled rapid urbanisation in any city. The issues are connected with environmental issues, poor nutrition, delays in the services, congestion, environmental

degradation, inadequate housing and heightened crime rates **[Moore et al., 2003; Alirol et al., 2011; Eckert and Kohler, 2014].** According to the research, all of the metacities contain an observable dominant change in the period of the last century **Figure 6.3.**

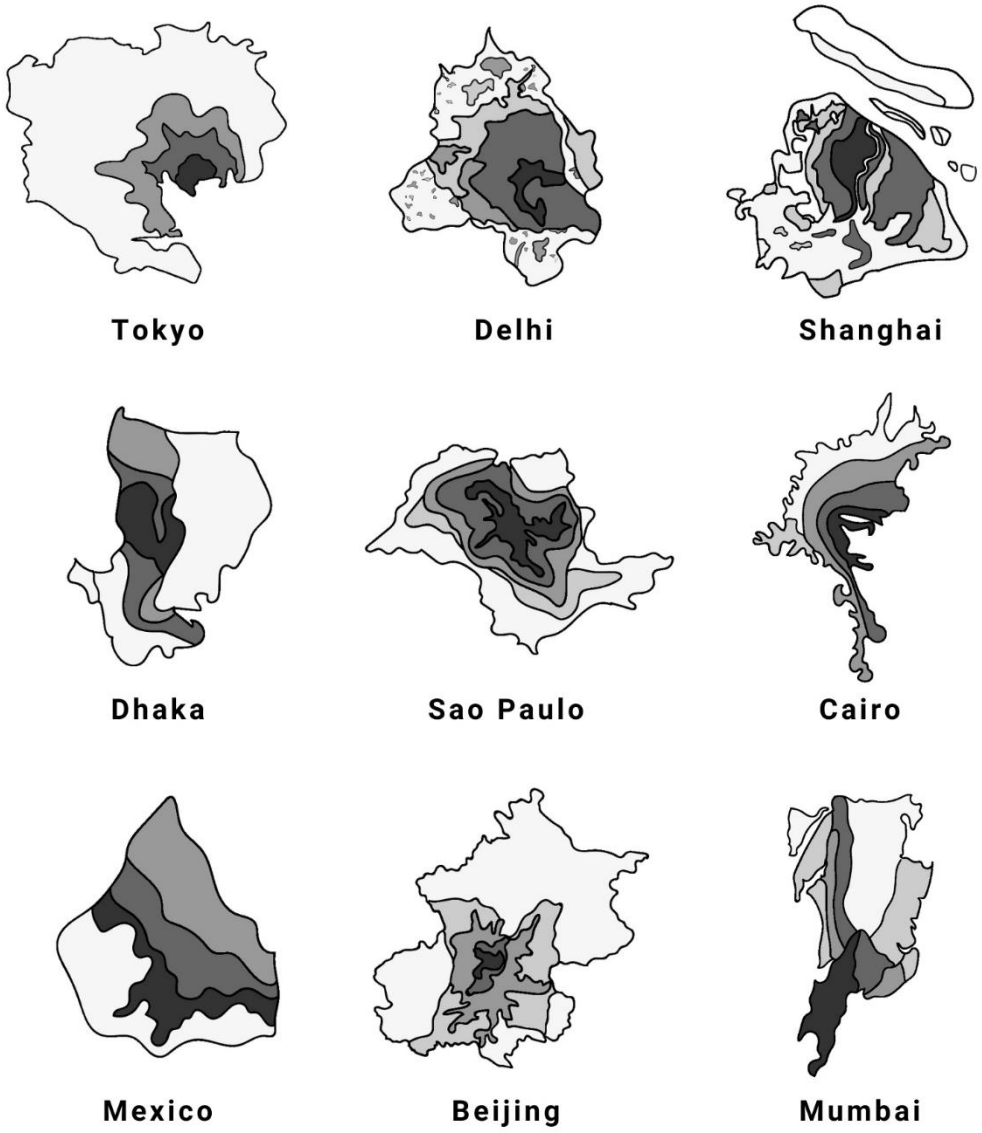


Figure 6.3: Urban Sprawl of Metacities **[Author].**

The urban pattern of the metacities that is observed in the researched nightscape images and nocturnal urban maps demonstrates the integration of light in the urban character **Figure 6.4. Santen [2006]** states that urban light is a morphological element used to " beautify the city". The research states that urban light is connected both with the urban silhouette and urban pattern since it delivers information to both components

of the character. It is a noteworthy parameter for detecting the potential densely used areas in the metacities. The urban light maps deliver data about the natural and urban landscapes of the geography as well. For example, the western and northern parts of Tokyo include mountainous areas, while the central, southern and eastern regions of Tokyo are predominantly flat and urbanised.

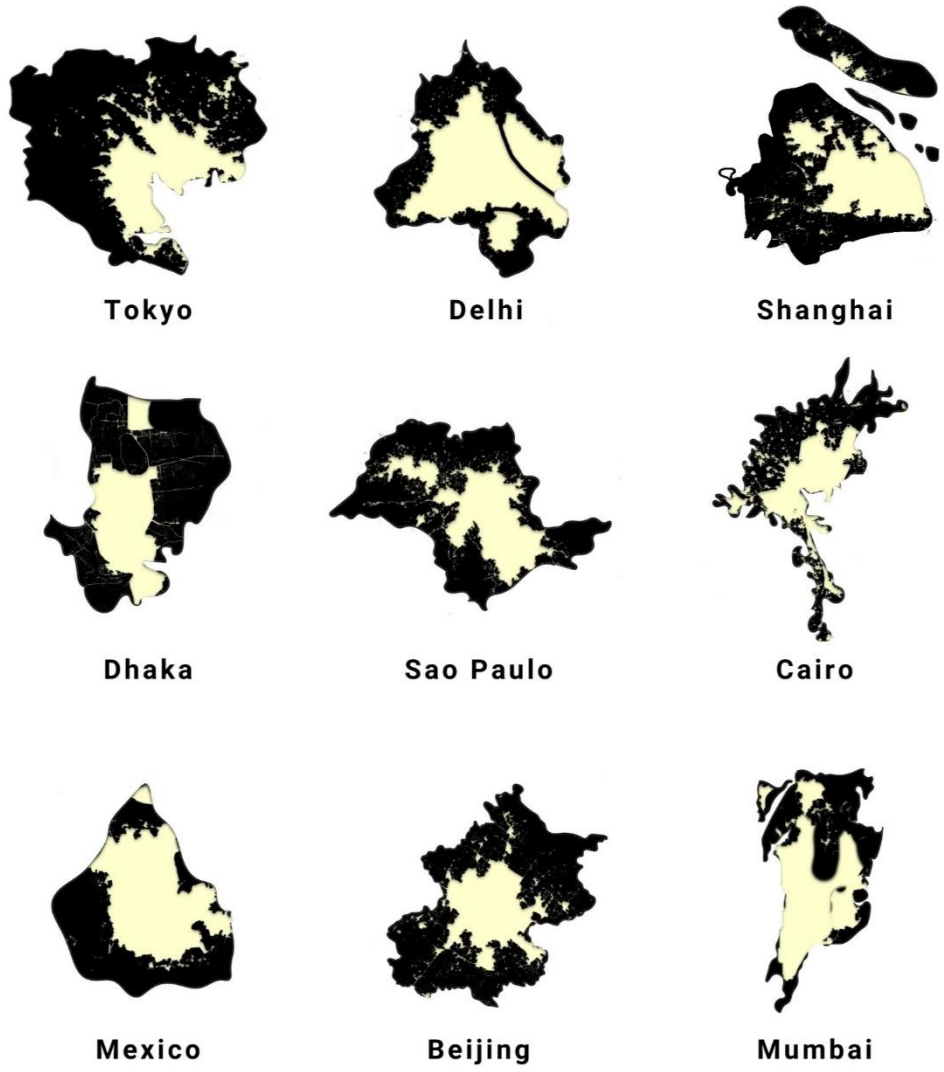


Figure 6.4: Urban Light of Metacities **[Author].**

The study indicates that metacities such as Cairo, Delhi, Dhaka, Mexico, Mumbai, and Sao Paulo significantly diverge from established urban characteristics, presenting a stark contrast between contemporary architecture and traditional urban context. The stark contrast that occurs in the urban pattern outcomes as in inequality. Inequality appears when resources and opportunities are unevenly distributed in urban communities, often based on traits like race, faith, gender, and citizenship, or it can

also derive from capital **[Piketty, 2014].** The metacity research indicates that these cities display a dual architectural composition. Capital, political influences, and professional architectural firms shape one scenario. Meanwhile, the other context mainly occurs from local citizens, often without formal design expertise, firm or even a professional architect. This distinction stresses urban development's complexities, where formal and informal structures showcase the community's socioeconomic conditions. These cities have an architectural process of gentrification. In **McLeod's [2002]** *"Imaginable City"*, the contrast between the dual characters from the study can be linked with the policy of producing a prestigious broadcaster of economic activities. The city's global branding characterises its intuition to become an *"imaginable city"* so that metacities can encore these activities. However, it negatively influences society as urban areas continuously strive to target the wealthy class, which forms inequality in the community, health disparities, educational gaps, crime rates and political polarisation **[Jacobs, 1961; Lees et al., 2008; Zukin, 2009].** However, from an architectural point of view, slums consist of inadequate housing, lack of sanitation, overcrowding, health issues, and limited access to clean water **[UN-Habitat, 2003].** For this reason, it is crucial to demolish the slums and reconstruct these areas for the public **[Turner, 1976; UN-Habitat, 2003; Patel and Burra, 2004; Davis, 2006].** The issue of inequality addressed by **Bauman [2000]** is the issue of combining freedom with social inequality, stating that resources and values determine the rate of freedom. This statement reflects the urban character.

In the context of urban sprawl**, Zukin [2009]** demonstrates that urban areas are designed to continuously strive to target the wealthy class of society. This creates economic disparities and cultural barriers that separate the rich and poor and different age groups **[Davis, 1955; Clark, 1998].** On the other hand, **Harvey [1985]** combines the city's prestige, relying on the economic rent, location, convenience, and nearness, and the nearness of the spaces gains validity. For example, the condition to profit from a city's resources for job opportunities conveys with it the need for living spaces and nearby areas. In contemporary architecture, self-sustaining buildings, such as megastructures with pharmacies, cafés, and parks, are produced in order to meet these needs. The spread of these megastructures in metacities is often linked to the idea of prestige. The closeness of different spaces also leads to the creation of unexplored patterns within the city. Additionally, it is apparent that financial activity influences

the architecture of all metacities, making these cities globally noteworthy. The polycentric financial distribution of metacities further contributes to these urban patterns, emphasising the interplay of technology and social dynamics in urban areas.

As for the scope of the study, the morphological findings of urban pattern, which is the component of the urban character, showcase that all of the metacities contain more than one type of building block. All of them contain land use and urban sprawl changes associated with rapid urbanisation. This sprawl is attached to the building production scale, which is considered to be tied to global architecture. There is an observable difference in the borders of the urban blocks in the metacities. The skyscrapers and informal buildings create a stark contrast in the satellite images. The scholars of locality contend that the consequence of global architecture on urban identity leads to sociocultural inequalities in cities **[Soja, 1996; Zukin, 1996; Sassen, 2001; Held and McGrew, 2002; Lees et al., 2008; Harvey, 2008].** The findings are connected within these arguments. Sociocultural inequalities are connected within the design, arrangement and sprawl of the choices made in the 2-D dimension by means of the urban pattern. As **Çalışkan [2011]** claims, even though the cities are not just the composition of an architect that is portrayed to be a "designed object, it is a context of "an organism" that grows, lives and changes adjusted to its surroundings.

6.3. Urban Silhouette of Metacities

When analysing the silhouettes of 9 metacities through their skyline and their complexity, the mass-volume-scale relationships generally reflect a newly constructed, redefined silhouette of built-up areas**.** As a silhouette is defined as a broader context than an urban skyline, the silhouette can be delivered for information such as landscape, view, profile, contour, city perspective, horizon, and urban portrait **[Aslan, 2019].** Therefore, one of the significant considerations of the silhouette perspective is to capture the central areas of cities without considering factors like colour, light, climate, or ecological relationships present in urban photographs, including removing the colour of the sky. The silhouette perspective does not provide material-related information but instead reflects the urban character of the metacities based exclusively on their skylines. Aside from a few specific structures, the newly built urban silhouette demonstrates comparable forms, heights, and scale relationships. When analysed from the perspective of an architect or urban planner, the hierarchical

scale, form, and design relationships of symbolic structures that distinguish themselves from others can be observed in how they stand out within the urban silhouette. However, at some point, streets and avenues begin to merge, making it challenging to differentiate one city from another. Arranging the spaces away from the street level is one thing; regardless, nowadays, architects are taking away the street itself from the street level **[Whyte, 2001].**

The skyline of the metacities showcases the bold statements of the actors and stakeholders involved with producing the urban character, especially those in positions of authority and control such as politicians, architects, contractors, design firms, economists, lawyers, sociologists, critics and environmentalists urban planners or engineers, significantly impact the identity of metacities as they are key decision-makers in the planning and undertaking procedures **[Jacobs, 1961; Young, 1990; Sassen, 1991; Koolhaas, 1995; Harvey, 2008] Figure 6.5.** Political leaders have wittingly used architecture to represent authority in the urban silhouette as they wish to be listened to globally **[Urry, 1990; Harvey, 2008].** Therefore, the border of producing the tallest structures or the iconic structures to create prestige, symbolism, branding, and competition is a diplomatic statement, and creating spaces for tourism or financial mobility results from political decisions which are beyond the power of an architect or urban planner **[Castells, 1984; Lefebvre, 1991; Sassen, 1991; Koolhaas, 1995; Harvey, 2008; Florida, 2002; Davis, 1990].** These hold the power of the political acts also create a global architecture established on consumer culture and tourism consequences that align with the state's decisions.

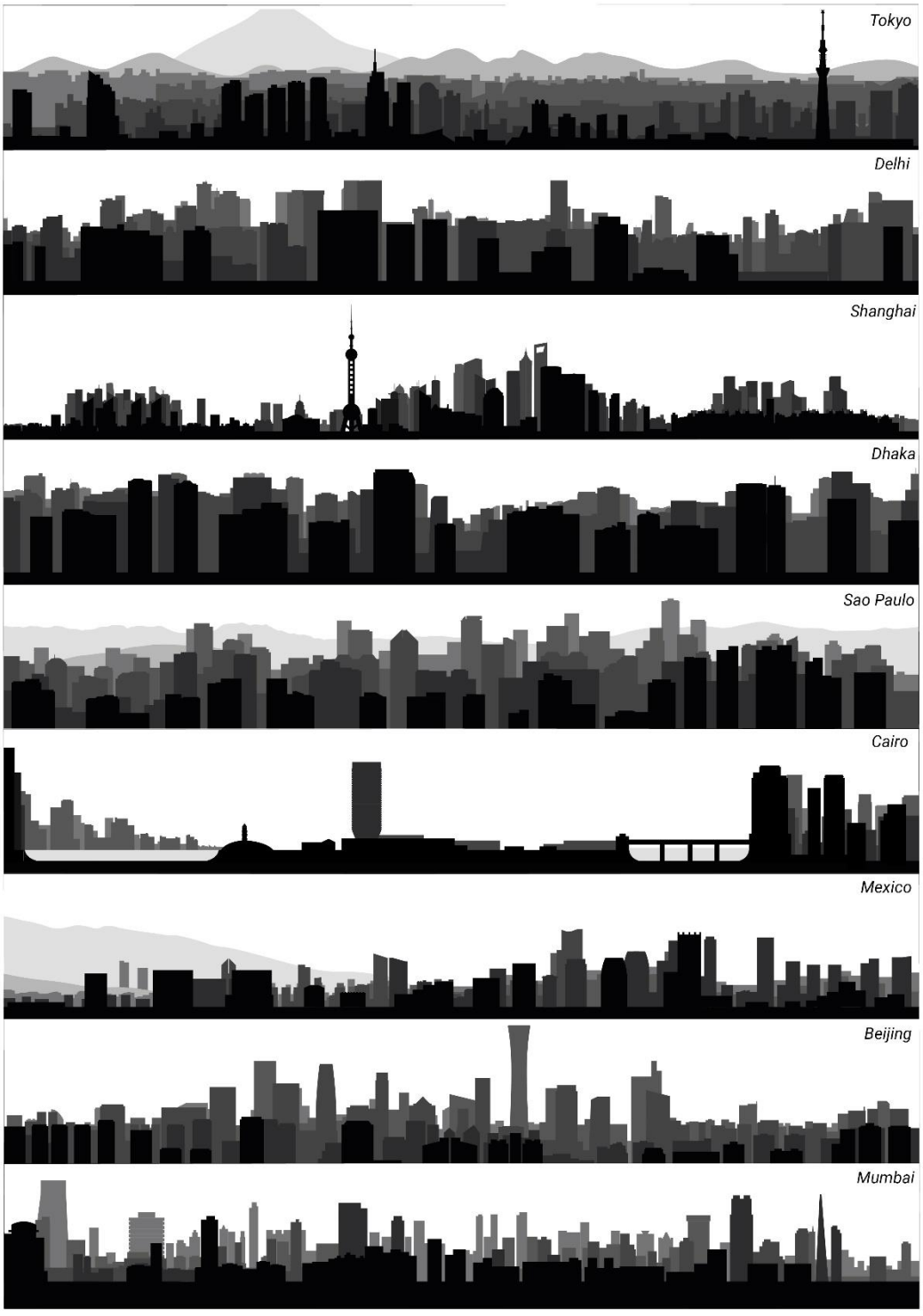


Figure 6.5: Skyline of Metacities **[Author].**

The nightscape skyline views of the nine metacities showcase the data about the city centres. Metacities like Tokyo, Shanghai, and Mumbai have tall, illuminated skyscrapers, creating a bright, vertical skyline. In Tokyo, the lights of modern buildings like the Mori Tower stand out, while Shanghai is known for the futuristic

structures near the waterfront. Delhi and Dhaka, with fewer tall buildings, have glowing urban centres, such as Delhi's Connaught Place and Dhaka's commercial zones. Cairo and São Paulo have a mix of both modern and older buildings, with Cairo's lights shining along the Nile River and São Paulo's skyline made up of mostly low-rise buildings. Beijing's skyline features modern buildings like the CCTV Tower, while Mexico City's combines tall buildings with surrounding natural landscapes. Though these cities all feature bright lights and tall buildings, their skylines differ based on history, culture, and development.

The monumental embodiments of verticality and structural innovation characterise the urban skyline through their existence and aesthetic consequence **[Ford, 1992; Smith, 1996; Heath et al., 2000; McNeill, 2005; Al-Kodmany et al., 2013].** As urban skylines turned into a geographical phenomenon, iconic and tall structures in urban skylines have become a reflection of a city's aesthetics, politics and economic power **[Ford, 1992; Gottmann, 1991; Harvey, 1997; Sev, 2009; Guggenheim and Söderström, 2010; Alotaibi et al., 2016; Gassner, 2017; Mikellides and Porter, 2018].** Meanwhile, some scholars claim that tall structures are not an alternative building plan for cities but an obligation of an architectural statement **[Corbusier, 1929; Bertaud, 2018; Glaeser, 2020].** As for the density that occurs throughout the urban sprawl, the metacities produce tall structures.

Urban landmarks and monuments are structures that can easily be recognised globally through their influence, symbol, fame, and expression of local cultural momentum **[Milyani and Mofarni, 2017]**, which builds a significant discussion related to the research question and the scope of the study. Urban landmarks are substantial structures that often distinguish themselves in the urban geography, forming a noteworthy position in the urban context as they are connected to the city's branding. The landmarks are a reflection of the community's identity, values and history, whereas the meaning of the structures tells quite a lot about their era, for it is the term in which architecture evolved as a marketing factor and an event **[Schittich, 2018]**. For the scope of the study, all of the chosen landmarks were the top 20 outcomes considered to be the urban landmarks of that city, and these structures are well-known and built in the 20th or 21st century. Picking a landmark that is older than 1950 would be unsuitable for the scope of the study since it is related to the issue and criticism of the sameness of the urban character of the metacities.The matter of landmarks is not

limited to their creative or architectural matter but also encompasses their social, political, and economic consequence on the community. Urban landmarks such as Tokyo Tower are located in an affluent and cosmopolitan area in the city and are also used as a mark of prosperity and aspiration in the portrayals. If someone has a view of the tower from his or her flat, it is realised that such a person has a noteworthy economic status. Meanwhile, if someone has an office that captures the view of the Tokyo Tower, that would mean that he or she works for an important corporation. Moreover, if someone goes to a recreational area or hotel with a view of the Tokyo Tower, it is understood that it is an expensive place **[Mandujano-Salazar, 2016; Paso, 2023].** So, the view of structures such as Tokyo Tower is obtainable to affluent residents. The structure redefines the atmosphere and its surroundings. Their urban landmarks are significant parameters of the urban geography that influences the character of the metacities **Table 6.1.**

In contrast to what is applied in today's architectural era, there is another point of view with a considerable number of scholars focusing on the damaging factors of the standardised, fast-built, product-based building construction techniques that arrived within high-rise structures in the urban skyline **[Jacobs, 1961; Alexander; 1977; Venturi and Brown, 1972; Foucault, 1975; Wolfe, 1981; Sorkin, 1992; Kunstler, 1994; Zukin, 1996].** Although the main design philosophy that is seen by the structural example study of the metacities **Table 6.2,** these structures are being designed just the way they are as to compete with other cities to showcase their economic strength, city's international image and global position **[Koolhaas, 1978; Berman, 1981; Willis, 1995; Harvey, 1997; King, 2004; Al-Kodmany et al., 2013; Sklair, 2017].** That influences the skyline by building a prestigious object or a political statement that is observed and builds dominance over other urban skylines by potentially building the competition. That creates an assumption of urban competitiveness within the metacities and between the other globally linked cities such as megacities, metropolises or even major cities.

Table 6.1: The Urban Landmarks **[Author].**

The Urban Landmark	Actors	Roles
Tokyo Tokyo Tower 1958	• Tachū Naitō • The Tokyo Tower Company	• Inspired by the Eiffel Tower • City Branding
Delhi Lotus Temple 1986	• Fariborz Sahba • Fariborz Sahba & Associates	• Cultural Symbol • Localisation
Shanghai Oriental Pearl Television Tower Tower 1995	• Jianguo Wei • Shanghai Modern Architectural Design	• Symbol in the Skyline • City Branding
Dhaka Banglar Taj Mahal 2009	• Enamul Karim Nirjhar • Enamul Karim Nirjhar	• The replica of the Taj Mahal • Replica
Sao Paulo São Paulo Museum of Art Museum 1968	• Lina Bo Bardi • Lina Bo Bardi	• Financial and Cultural Artery • Localisation
Cairo Cairo Tower 1961	• Naoum Shebib • Naoum Shebib, Ministry of Tourism of Egypt	• Symbol in the Skyline • City Branding
Mexico Museo Soumaya 2011	• Rem Koolhaas and Ole Scheeren • Oma	• Symbol in the Skyline • City Branding
Beijing CCTV Building 2012	• Fariborz Sahba • Fariborz Sahba & Associates	• Cultural Symbol • Localisation
Mumbai Mumbai TV Tower 1974	• P. K. Shah and N. B. Bhatia • Shah & Bhatia	• Symbol in the Skyline • Gentrification

As tall and iconic towers are considered to be the reflection of the city's aesthetics, politics and economic power **[Ford, 1992; Gottmann, 1991; Harvey, 1997; Sev, 2009; Guggenheim and Söderström, 2010; Alotaibi et al., 2016; Gassner, 2017; Mikellides and Porter, 2018];** some metacities contain towers as urban landmarks, forming a symbolism in the urban geography. Such as Cairo Tower in Cairo metacity **[Travel365, 2024; Audiala, 2024; Yazied, 2024]** an Oriental Pearl Television Tower in Shanghai metacity **[Milliyet, 2018; Mottl, 2014; Westend61, 2024].** Some urban landmarks are the reflection of the local cultures. For example, the Lotus Temple in Delhi was inspired by the Lotus flower, which is significant in Indian culture **[Architectuul, 2023; Sudotour, 2024; Britannica, 2024].** Some urban landmarks reflect the unique choice of design made by the architect, which is a composition for the newly built landmark. Museo Soumaya in Mexico City **[Smith, 2024; Lamudi,2024];** CCTV Building in Beijing **[Karmazina, 2020; Jarjous, 2015; Mimarobot, 2024]** and São Paulo Museum of Art **[ArchiSketcher, 2023]** are urban landmarks that have a distinctive feature that has no other structures, and they are known for the composition that is built the urban character.

The globalising architectural drivers argue a fine line for the hybridisation of cultures and its localisation, that is, how the motion of individuals, beliefs, cultures and remakes in a place **[El Zeini, 2017; Cheshmehzangi, 2020; Majerska-Paubicka, 2020; Cox, 2022].** However, building a replica and carrying similarities to an original structure is an act of sameness. In contrast to globalisation shaping global cities, the emerging perspective of globalisation has caused cities to lose their uniqueness and deliver matching urban character **[Augé, 1995; Ibelings, 1998; Arefi, 1999; Soja, 2000; Betsky and Adigard, 2000; Damisch**, **2001; King, 2004; Sklair, 2006; Caruso, 2008; Eldemery, 2009; Anderson, 2015; Knox-Hayes, 2016; Moura, 2020].** Tokyo Tower was not the first tower that was made with a towering intention. Tokyo Tower also resembles the intentional towering steel design of the Eiffel Tower **[Sorensen, 2002].** For another example, The Banglar Taj Mahal is an urban landmark replicating India's Taj Mahal. Built in 2009, it serves as a funerary monument and offers a scaled-down version of the original. The structure was built by Ahsanullah Moni, a Bangladeshi filmmaker, as an urban landmark for low-income Bangladeshi families; the construction of the 1.6-hectare complex took five years, from 2003 to 2008, and cost approximately $58 million. **[Shafi,2009; Dás, 2015; TripAdvisor,**

2022]. This example is a replica of the original structure that exists in India. The actors are the filmmakers and designers of the structure of the Banglar Taj Mahal. The role is to build a cultural landmark with a replica of the original structure. The consequence is carrying an Indian urban landmark to Bangladesh. This is a noteworthy finding that should be considered when building a structure. Should the original design surpass the borders of the local built environment and culture?

The structural examples from metacities consist of repeating material choices **Table 6.2.** Structures such as Mori JP Tower (2023) in Tokyo, Torre Mitikah (2022) in Mexico, Iconic Tower (2024) in Cairo contains steel meanwhile *Supernova Spira (expected mid-2025), Shanghai Tower (2015), Dhaka City Centre (2012), Platina 220 (2022), Iconic Tower (2024), Torre Mitikah (2022), China Zun (2018), Trump Tower Mumbai (2021)* made using concrete. This clarifies that concrete is the most used global building material in cities, as stated in literature **[Salvan, 1986].** The global influence of the same material choices also influences the urban skyline of the metacities.

Table 6.2: Structural Examples from The Urban Silhouette **[Author].**

Structures	Actors	Materials	Roles
Tokyo Mori JP Tower 2023	• César Pelli • Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects	• All-Steel	• Tallest Building in Tokyo • Financial Hub
Delhi Supernova Spira expected: mid-2025	• Er. Majid Hashmi • Buro Happold	• All-Concrete	• Megastructure community • Gentrification
Shanghai Shanghai Tower 2015	• Arthur Gensler, Marshall Strabala, Jun Xia • Gensler and Jun Xia	• All-Concrete	• Tallest Building in China • Urban Competitiveness
Dhaka Dhaka City Centre 2012	• Orion • Orion Group	• All-Concrete	• Tallest Building in Bangladesh • Urban Competitiveness
Sao Paulo Platina 220 2022	• Porte Engenharia e Urbanismo • Königsberger Vannucchi Arquitetos Associados	• All-Concrete	• Tallest Building in Sao Paulo • Financial Hub
Cairo Iconic Tower 2024	• Dar al-Handasah Shair • Dar al-Handasah Shair & Partners; Perkins+Will	• Concrete-Steel Composite	• Tallest Building in Africa • Urban Competitiveness
Mexico Torre Mitikah 2022	• César Pelli • Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects	• Concrete and Steel	• Tallest Building in Beijing • Localisation
Beijing China Zun 2011	• Terry Farrell • Farrells	• All-Concrete	• Symbol in the Skyline • Urban Competitiveness
Mumbai Trump Tower Mumbai 2020	• Padre D'Silva • Padre D'Silva & Associates, Lodha Group	• All-Concrete	• Financial Influence • Urban Competitiveness

6.4. The Critique of Sameness in the Metacity Character

Findings documented concerning the sameness of metacities were obtained when urban characters were analysed through the morphological components of geography, pattern, and silhouette **Table 6.3.** This section primarily includes a discussion of the topic, constructing arguments based on the main thesis question, and supporting sub-questions. The arguments are developed sequentially through discussions of **RQ**, marking the analysis of metacities within the methodological framework.

The character of space is tied to the prevalent atmosphere, ambiance, and aesthetics that exist in the built environment and depends on various factors, such as identifying the place and its relationship **[Dovey et al., 2005; Cox, 2022]** that is an outcome of lived-world experience and formation **[Relph, 1976; Jackson, 1994].** Meanwhile, urban identity is a term that studies the core of a particular being, thing, or place and describes the nexus of relationships **[Relph, 1976; Hall, 1990; Clifford, 1998; Ferguson, 2009]**; therefore, character consists of the broader aspects of the urban context. As it is associated with the borders of the research, there isn't anything stable in the concept of urban sprawl. The unstable and uneven expansion of dynamic metacity characters intensely ties in with **Harvey's [1997]** discussion about time-space compression, merging the everyday portrayals of the global village. As cities are globally attached, the data is delivered in seconds. Time-space compression examines the global connections in the urban hierarchy, emphasising how network analysis of the cities can reveal the reduced significance of physical distance for cities' knowledge sharing and the legal, social, political, and architectural significance in their urban contexts. The global convergence of cities is an accessibility made possible by technologies. In fact, this brings new materials to discuss, such as how metacities are being designed based on the data that could be accessible online.

Since the end of the 19th century, the urban character of the cities has undergone massive changes with industrialisation, urbanisation and globalisation **[Brockerhoff, 1999; Tilly, 2008; UN-Habitat, 2015; UN, 2018; Bodo, 2019]**. These periods have undergone a narrative established on machine aesthetics, urban competition or political dilemmas **[Harvey, 1997].** These influences are seen in the study findings. For instance, the potential desire to create the iconic and tallest urban landmark in the urban geography clarifies the potential influence that is made in the urban character of

the metacities. **[Ford, 1992; Gottmann, 1991; Smith, 1996; Harvey, 1997; Heath et al., 2000; McNeill, 2005; Sev, 2009; Guggenheim and Söderström, 2010; Al-Kodmany et al., 2013; Alotaibi et al., 2016; Gassner, 2017; Mikellides and Porter, 2018].** From The Oriental Pearl Television Tower in Shanghai to Cairo Tower in Cairo metacity, these urban landmarks are designed with the intention of being the symbol.

Since the urban character is not a straightforward being, in fact it is a dynamic, changing being **[Relph, 1976; Dovey et al., 2005];** the components of the urban characters are not stable either. As the scholars attach the urban character with a sense of place and belonging **[Nairn, 1965; Ellul, 1976; Relph, 1976; Norberg-Shultz, 1993],** within this association**,** the components of urban character should be comprehended as an essential tool in transforming a city and with this identity, witnessed as an economical and political design and planning tool. The dynamic, living urban geography of the 9 metacities provides significant insights through sectional and aerial views, as it can be observed in three dimensions or through cross-sectional analysis. They bring information about the urban landscape, urban light, urban landmarks as well as the natural boundaries, axial relationship of urbanisation, elevated spaces and depressions, the expansion of the urban landscape, densely built areas, redefined built landscape and the hierarchical relationships in the geography. The urban pattern of metacities brings data about the 2-D dimensions of space within the parameters such as type of building blocks, urban sprawl and land use as well as the building production scale, borders, hierarchical relationships, and the socio-economical influence of the architecture. The silhouette of the metacity brings data about the skyline and complexity while bringing data about actors and materials from the selected structures that were produced after 2010. The silhouette analysis also brings the relationship of the verticality, building elevations, relationships in building production scale, building heights, facades, roles and building philosophies.

Global recognisability, city branding, urban competitiveness, and the emergence of world cities are significant factors in discussing the role of the actors and stakeholders that are concerned with the urban character. Since actors hold the power and influence of the emergence of a structure in an urban context, they became highly significant **[Jacobs, 1961; Young, 1990; Sassen, 1991; Koolhaas, 1995; Harvey, 2008].** The literature has a wide range of understanding and definitions when it comes to recognisability, branding, and being unique in the spectrum of urban character.

There is a prevailing understanding in urban studies **[Ellin, 1996; King, 2004; Sklair, 2006; Eldemery, 2009; El Zeini, 2017]** that the globalisation mark on urban character from the mid-20th century onwards inflamed the placelessness and the birthday of International Style. The spread of these standardised architectural practices has given rise to today's urban competitiveness. **Zukin [2009]** asserts that ever since 1980, there have been signs of similar redevelopment forces in the urban context. In the world's cities, the actors of property fund managers or contractors disregard cash flow when making judgments about commercial architecture. **Sassen [2001]** demonstrated that the global economic scenario relies on standardised consequences, technical systems, and specialised zones of high finance. At the beginning of the 21st century, each central urban area that is the source of economic power has developed its source. While globalisation builds parallelism and identical segments of the production tool, leading some to accept that markets and urban economies are operating with methods, this standardisation can occur alongside expanding specialisation. The the trend of producing tall buildings globally demonstrates how cities compete to showcase their economic strength, metacity's global image and position **[Koolhaas, 1978; Berman, 1981; Willis, 1995; Harvey, 1997; King, 2004; Al-Kodmany et al., 2013; Mandujano-Salazar, 2016, Sklair, 2017].** According to the research, the 9 structures that were built after 2010 were selected in order to consider material, actors and roles donating to the global architectural influence that is seen within the urban skyline as a component of urban character. 8 of the 9 selected structures considers the same building material of concrete which is the most used global building material in cities. **[Salvan, 1986].** These selected structures also contain prestige, iconic symbols, or meaning for the skyline. César Pelli is the architect of Mori JP Tower (2023) in Tokyo and Torre Mitikah (2022) as well as its firm Pelli Clarke & Partners. These two structures are also the tallest buildings in Japan and China. The other architectural firms and architects are also considered as the star architects and star firms that contain multiple projects of skyscrapers and tall towers. These architects are Er.Majid Hashmi, Arthur Gensler, Marshall Strabala, Jun Xia, Orion, Porte Engenharia e Urbanismo, Dar al-Handasah Shair, Terry Farrell and Padre D'Silva.

Globalisation influences the character of metacities **[Augé, 1995; Ibelings, 1998; Arefi, 1999; Soja, 2000; Betsky and Adigard, 2000; Damisch, 2001; King, 2004; Sklair, 2006; Caruso, 2008; Eldemery, 2009; Anderson, 2015; Knox-Hayes, 2016;**

Moura, 2020]. The existence of metacities within global interactions involves an ongoing process due to their active and dynamic nature. This is prominent in the data obtained through geography, pattern, and silhouette analysis. The instinct for intense urbanisation is observed across all metacities. Despite having populations exceeding 20 million, these cities exhibit tendencies toward growth or decline. In addition to demographic features, data collected on the morphological features of cities—geography, pattern, and silhouette—reveal crucial insights into the sameness of urban characteristics. Verticality and vertical architecture in metacities are linked to urban competition, prestige production, and the concepts of branding **[Ford, 1992; Gottmann, 1991; Harvey, 1997; Sev, 2009; Guggenheim and Söderström, 2010; Alotaibi et al., 2016; Gassner, 2017; Mikellides and Porter, 2018].** The architectural output driven by political and financial narratives highlights the consumption-driven impact of urban character **[Harvey, 1997].** The degree to which a city establishes its uniqueness is closely tied to the narratives it produces, how it defines its character, and the perspective of those interpreting it. Metacities exhibit matching morphological features. They are observed as the largest, rapidly expanding, and proliferating cities of the world, challenging governance and planning **[UN, 2006; Mcgrath and Pickett, 2011].** While the patterns of these cities may not closely resemble each other, the influence of global interactions on their silhouette and geography is evident. Key actors in this dynamic include architects, politicians generating political narratives, and planners. The extent to which metacities have resemblances or differentiated is interpreted through morphological findings. The idea of cities being recognisable and identifiable spaces stems from urbanisation's constructed narratives, making it a factor that significantly impacts urban character.

Table 6.3: The Metacity Character **[Author].**

The Metacity Character			
Metacities	**Urban Topography**	**Urban Pattern**	**Urban Silhouette**
Tokyo	• Tokyo Bay as the urban core • densely built areas in the south • extending to the north, east and west. • redefined built landscape	• polycentric urban region • grid, organic, and network blocks • high density urban core • high-rise expansion	• verticality • inconsistency in building production scale • Irregular building heights • uninterrupted skyline context • Mount Fuji
Delhi	• New Delhi as the financial hub • densely built areas in the south • extending from middle • uneven and unstable expansion • building clusters, water bodies • redefined built landscape	• radial and axial patterns • Old Delhi's symmetry and hierarchy • New Delhi's global architecture • socio-economic diversity	• traditional low-rise structures in Old Delhi • high-rise buildings in New Delhi • stark contrast between global and local architecture • formal and informal housing
Shanghai	• the world city • densely areas in north and east • Huangpu River produces an axis • natural landscape in southwest and west • redefined built landscape	• grid and hub-and-satellite patterns • linear urban expansion • concentrated financial centres • waterfront	• verticality • inconsistency in building production scale • skyscraper-dominated context • high-rise and mid-rise structures
Dhaka	• uneven and unstable expansion • densely built areas in the north and east • redefined built landscape	• grid, cluster, and curvilinear patterns • socio-economic diversity • cultural heritage	• variations in building mass • stark contrast between global and local architecture • formal and informal housing
Sao Paulo	• uneven and unstable expansion • densely built areas in the south • elevated spaces and depressions in the redefined built landscape	• organic, hub-and-satellite and superblock patterns • socio-economic diversity • layered urban grid • contrasting land-use patterns	• verticality • high-rise buildings and low-rise buildings • formal and informal housing • skyscraper-dominated context
Cairo	• uneven and unstable expansion • densely built areas in the central and northern parts • desert landscape • redefined built landscape	• radial and organic urban pattern • continuous rings of expansion • Nile River creates a natural axis expansions • cultural heritage	• traditional low-rise structures • high-rise buildings in New Cairo • densely high-rise structures • stark contrast between global and local architecture • formal and informal housing
Mexico	• uneven and unstable expansion • northern area contains densely built areas • redefined built landscape	• grid, radial and sectoral pattern • CBDs • socio-economic diversity • cultural heritage	• uneven skyline • clusters of skyscrapers • low- to medium-rise buildings • volcanos, mountains, hills • formal and informal housing
Beijing	• artificial landscape • contemporary urban dynamics • redefined built landscape	• axial and concentric urban pattern • systematic growth • ring roads	• verticality • skyscraper-dominated context • uninterrupted skyline context • skyscraper-dominated context
Mumbai	• uneven and unstable expansion • hierarchical scale • redefined built landscape	• grid, organic pattern and superblock pattern • cultural heritage • contrasting land-use patterns	• verticality • inconsistency in building production scale • formal and informal housing

7. CONCLUSION

Urban areas in different locations around the world have begun to resemble one another due to globalisation. The emergence of a global architectural identity has created an image and prestige for how a city should present itself on a global stage. The sameness of cities initiates with a departure from local characteristics and gradually evolves toward embracing the image of a global urban character. The effort to symbolise architecture on a global scale within a city's urban context is closely tied to the city's atmosphere, aesthetics, image and recognizability. The components that define urban character specify a city's similarities, distinctiveness, recognizability, and relationship with locality. Nevertheless, the concept of sameness emerges in the urban character risks losing urban areas' uniqueness.

Cities have experienced consequential changes in size and scale since the 19th century, driven by many aspects such as population growth, industrialisation, urbanisation, and globalisation. From the late 19th century to the present, the urban phenomenon has appointed a hierarchy among urban areas. At the top of the urban hierarchy are metacities, which exhibit more notable global similarities in their urban character. These similarities demonstrate the cumulative aesthetic and atmospheric associations shaped by the historical evolution of fundamental morphological elements defining urban character. Morphological associations and decision-making play a crucial role in characterising the urban identity. An urban area is expected to meet certain criteria as part of its urban evolution. These include being based on a clear concept, becoming an economic or political hub, and drawing significant migration as a magnet. These factors reflect the sociocultural dynamics of urbanisation. Understanding a city’s morphology, however, requires architectural expertise and insight, underscoring the importance of key actors in shaping urban form and character.

Cities are dynamic areas with magnetic forces influenced by ongoing changes in population and global developments. Urbanisation and globalisation shape architectural features, which lead cities to evolve in what is expected and imagined. As cities grow, they attract people through financial, political, and social centres. These cities, connected by global networks, have developed unique identities shaped by industrialization and other historical processes. The narrative of an urban area is

often defined by its population size, with metacities at the top of this hierarchy and strong global connections. Metacities don't contain only one urban core. These cities have multiple centres and diverse building typologies. When examining their characteristics, some metacities show multiple identities, while many experience the loss of local identity. Due to global influences, metacities share some similar morphological traits, such as their skyline and urban geography. Despite being in different parts of the world and having distinct ecological contexts, these cities share a global architectural language.

In the context of metacities, their global connections are reflected in their architecture and urban character. The associations between geography and silhouette display ways of global similarity. In the framework, the competitive dynamics between cities should be considered. Scenarios built on prestige and branding could regain value by encouraging the preservation of originality. Being unique or less commonly found can generate awareness in architectural design and be perceived positively in this global architectural discussion. Prestige in a city or structure does not necessarily need to stem from alignment with global architectural trends. Instead, it can concentrate on creating awareness and standing out in the urban character. Tall and iconic buildings play a significant role in improving a city’s recognizability. Moreover, these structural arrangements serve as symbols of power or political statements that characterise the city. Nevertheless, aside from specific structures, the sameness of metacity characters is mostly driven by globally shared designs in urban geography, silhouettes, and spatial arrangements. These morphological components of the urban character form the causality for the similarities observed in metacities, contributing to the convergence of their urban identities.

The decisive global connections of metacities are deeply reflected in their architecture and urban character. Global similarities in the relationships between geography and silhouette are particularly prominent. These dynamics must be considered within the competitive relationships between cities. Systems based on prestige and branding can regain value by encouraging cities to preserve their uniqueness. Being less common or more distinctive in architectural design can create significant awareness and be received positively. In today’s interconnected world, completely severing a city’s global ties could result in considerable situations. Globalisation enables information to reach across different locations in seconds, and architectural influences operate

similarly. However, the lack of localisation in architecture and the resulting similarities between cities lead to the corruption of uniqueness and originality. As metacities adopt similar morphological characteristics, they begin to resemble one another, even in broadly different locations, forming cities that imitate each other in appearance, atmosphere, and aesthetics.

Many aspects result in the concept of sameness in the Metacity characters. From an actor-based perspective, it is noticeable that global architectural firms and star architects play a significant role. The international competition among star architecture firms leads to similar design approaches and forms, which, while backing their brand identities, often corrupts the exceptional character of cities. This globalised design philosophy, separated from local culture, geography, and identity, shifts metacities into transferable, branded urban contexts. The incapacity of cities to stay rooted in their exact locations results in a blurring of their unique characters and the global spread of similar features. The aspects of apparent buildings with similar size and height, resembling façades, standardised material choices, and vertical urban relationships impact urban' geographies and patterns; moreover, it creates parallels among urban silhouettes. Even the smallest interventions by global architectural firms in the skyline can have a profound impact on these identity changes.

In this context, criticising sameness from the perspective of actors reveals that developers also play a significant role. Contractors or developers, driven by neoliberal capital, conduct their competitive ambitions in ways that often subordinate the architectural profession. In essence, they shape the character of the city by purchasing it. This capital-driven urban competition consequences in architectural designs vying against one another. The rivalry revolves around topics like producing taller buildings, more eye-catching façades, and iconic, recognisable structures. These objectives stress the role of an actor closely tied to global city branding and competitive philosophies.

Sameness in urban character has a similar approach to how brands produce identical products. The accessibility of architectural discourse, combined with a global atmosphere centred on competition, prestige, and branding, poses a threat to encouraging unique urban identities. Globalisation makes detachment of metacities from their local contexts has resulted in similar relationships between skyline and geography, despite their distant locations. While patterns may display similarities or differences, examining metacities overall character reveals clear parallels and

commonalities. The drive to contribute to the global data pool, create iconic structures within skylines, and engage in global competition reflects a shift away from making unique and original cities toward responding to competitive global demands. Government policies that influence urban character also contribute to the sameness of the urban character of metacities through their political decisions. If these choices prioritized developing a city's unique character, discussions centred on local architectural identity could have emerged. However, since architectural designs serve as expressions of urban identity, examining metacities demonstrates that financial and political centralisation often overshadows efforts to create distinctive urban identities.

The study examines the global architectural sameness of metacities by analysing their character through morphological features such as geography, patterns, and silhouettes. The examination focuses on nine metacities recognised as such in 2024: Tokyo, Delhi, Shanghai, Dhaka, São Paulo, Cairo, Mexico City, Beijing, and Mumbai. The concept of sameness at the global scale is linked to topics such as urban competition, the creation of prestige or branding spaces, the loss of unique identities, and localisation. Future reflections should investigate other urban hierarchies, including megacities, metropolises, and major cities. Since urban areas are dynamic entities, conceivable political, economic, demographic, or technological developments can redefine and change their status or position within the order. It is essential to consider that existing metacities may lose their status due to future consequences. Investigating the degree to which these cities are globalised and their relationship to sameness remains a critical area for further studies.

EPILOGUE

Sameness can be observed in the characters of metacities located in different parts of the world. This study examines the metacities existing globally in 2024, questioning why cities with populations exceeding 20 million, despite being in far locations in the world; these metacities exhibit similar urban characteristics. The relationship between the sameness and the globalised world is emphasised in the study. The analysis focuses on the morphological parameters that shape a city's character: geography, pattern, and silhouette.

Metacities are the most populous urban centres in the world. These cities, of such immense scale, possess financial and political power and operate as dynamic mechanisms within the global context. Metacities represent the pinnacle of urban growth; they inherently aspire to urbanise further. Megacities, in turn, have a high potential to evolve into metacities in the future. It is worth questioning whether an urban hierarchy surpassing the metacity will emerge. Furthermore, the concept of sameness can also be examined in relation to megacities and metropolises. Significant cities, as big as for the economic and political considerations, such as New York, Dubai, and Istanbul, though not categorised as metacities, can perform as noteworthy case studies for documenting insights about urbanisation. This remains a topic for exploration in future studies.

REFERENCES

Abrar, R., Sarkar, S. K., Nishtha, K., Talukdar, S., Shahfahad, D., Rahman, A., Islam, A., & Mosavi, A. (2022). Assessing the spatial mapping of heat vulnerability under urban heat island (UHI) effect in the Dhaka metropolitan area. *Sustainability, 14*(9), 4945. https://doi.org/10.3390/su14094945

Adobe. (2020). Top view of suburban neighbourhood in São Paulo, Brazil. https://stock.adobe.com/tr/images/top-view-of-suburban-neighborhood-in-sao-paulo-brazil/159302688 (Accessed: August 21, 2024).

Agergaard, J., Kirkegaard, S., Birch-Thomsen, T., (2021). Between Village and Town: Small-Town Urbanism in Sub-Saharan Africa. *Sustainability.* 13.10.3390/ su130314 17.

A-Haber. (2024). *Geceleri uzaydan görülen şehirlerin eşsiz manzarası: Gazze detayı yürekleri dağladı, umutların ve hayallerin ışığı söndü*. https://www.ahaber.com.tr/ galeri/dunya/geceleri-uzaydan-gorulen-sehirlerin-essiz-manzarasi-gazze-detayi-yurekleri-dagladi-umutlarin-ve-hayallerin-isigi-sondu (Accessed: October 4, 2024).

Ahern, J., Leduc, E., & York, M. L. (2006). *Biodiversity planning and design: Sustainable practices*. Island Press. ISBN: 978-1-59726-109-8.

Ahmadi, V., Farkisch H., Irfan A., Surat M., & Zain, M. F. Z. (2009). A Theoretical Base for Urban Morphology: Practical Way To Achieve The City Character. Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities.

Airbus DS. (2021). *Pleiades Neo satellite image of Tokyo*. Airbus. https://space-solutions.airbus.com/newsroom/satellite-image-gallery/pleiades-neo/pleiades-neo-satellite-image-tokyo/ (Accessed: June 7, 2024).

AirlinesBee. (2024). Druk Air Tokyo Office in Japan. https://airlinesbee.com/offices/ druk-air-tokyo-office-in-japan/ (Accessed: July 5, 2024).

Akhter, H., Saquib, N., & Fatiha, D. (2018). Studying oppressive cityscapes of Bangladesh. *arXiv Preprint arXiv:1812.10413*.

ALJ. (2024). Bağdat. Al Jazeera. https://alj.com/tr/investments/menat-region/ (April 19, 2024).

Alexander, C., (1977), "A Pattern Language: Towns, Buildings, Construction", Oxford University Press.

Alexander, C., (1979), "The Timeless Way of Building", Oxford University Press.

Alexander, C. (1965). A city is not a tree. Architectural Forum, 122(1), 58-62.

Alkın, R. C. (2016). Introduction to the development of academic and scientific knowledge in Turkey, specifically in post-industrial society. *OPUS: International Journal of Society Researches*, 6(11), 1-20. https://opusjournal.net

Ali, A., Iftikhar, M., Nadeem, S., Subhani, A., & Pohlke, C. (2013). Phylogenetic analysis of Peste des petits ruminants virus: Short communication. *Advances in Animal and Veterinary Sciences, 1*(1), 32–34.

Ali, M. M., Al-Kodmany K., (2012). Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat of the 21st Century: A Global Perspective, *Buildings*, 2(4), 384-423.

Alirol, E., Getaz, L., Stoll, B., Chappuis, F., & Loutan, L. (2011). Urbanisation and infectious diseases in a globalised world. *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*, *11*(2), 131-141. https://doi.org/10.1016/S1473-3099(10)70223-1.

Al-Kodmany, Kheir & Ali, Mir & Zhang, Tingwei. (2013). Importing urban giants: Re-imaging Shanghai and Dubai with skyscrapers. Archnet-IJAR. 7. 22-42. 10.26687/archnet-ijar.v7i2.153.

Almusaed, A., & Almssad, A. (2019). City phenomenon between urban structure and composition. *In* Sustainability in Urban Planning and Design.

Alotaibi, F., & Sinclair, B., (2016). Tall Buildings, High Expectations, Towering Responsibilities: Critically Considering Skyscrapers, Urbanism and Sustainability. 10.1201/9781315226255-82.

Al-Tabari, M. (1989). *The history of al-Tabari* (V. M. F. (Ed.), Trans.). State University of New York Press.

Al-Qasid. (2024). Cairo. Al-Qasid TV. https://al-qasidtv.com (Accessed: October 6, 2024).

Amazuku. (2024). *Hamanye kandi amakuru mashya y'ibiri kuba ku bikorwa by'abanyamahanga biri mu murwa mukuru wa RDC, Kinshasa*. Amazuku. https://amazuku.com/hamenyekanye-amakuru-mashya-yibiri-kuba-ku-bikorwa-byabanyamahanga-biri-mu-murwa-mukuru-wa-rdc-kinshasa/ (Accessed April 18, 2024).

Amirpashaei, A. (2019). *Tehran in a clean day*. Wikimedia Commons. https://tr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dosya:Tehran_in_a_clean_day.jpg (Accessed: 4 April 2024).

Anelli, R. L. S. (2024). *Planning São Paulo*. Planum. The Journal of Urbanism. https://www.planum.bedita.net/planum-magazine/uma-janela-sobre-as-cidades-do-brasil/planning-sao-paulo (Accessed: October 4, 2024).

Ansari, K. (2021). "Petronas twin towers" Archestudy. https://archestudy.com/petronas-twin-towers/ (Accessed: July 9, 2024).

Anderson, D. (2015), “Imaginary cities: A tour of dream cities, nightmare cities, and everywhere in between”, Influx Press.

Anderson, D. (2020). “Why every city feels the same now: Glass-and-steel monoliths replaced local architecture. It’s not too late to go back.” The Atlantic. https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2020/08/why-every-city-feels-same-now/615556/ (Accessed: March 19, 2024).

Anholt, S. (1998). Competitive identity: The new brand management for nations, cities, and regions. Palgrave Macmillan.

Anholt, S., (2010). “Places: identity, image and reputation”, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Appleyard, D., (1979), “The Conservation of European Cities”, The MIT Press.

Appleyard, D., & Fishman, L. (1977). High rise buildings versus San Francisco: Measuring visual and symbolic impacts. In D. Conway (Ed.), Human response to tall buildings (pp. 81-100). Stroudsburg, PA: Dowden Hutchinson Ross.

ArabMLS. (2024). *Top new cities in Egypt.* ArabMLS. https://arabmls.org/top-new-cities-in-egypt/ (Accessed: October 5, 2024).

Arabnews. (2024). *Egyptian fertiliser company turns to hydrogen amid gas shortage.* Arab News. https://www.arabnews.com/node/2538701/business-economy (Accessed: October 5, 2024).

ArchDaily. (2023). *China's newly completed Shanghai Tower is now the 2nd tallest building in the world*. ArchDaily. https://www.archdaily.com/780048/chinas-newly-completed-shanghai-tower-is-now-the-2nd-tallest-building-in-the-world (Accessed: September 2, 2024).

ArchDaily. (2019). *KPF designs CITIC Tower, Beijing's tallest building.* https://www.archdaily.com/925885/kpf-designs-citic-tower-beijings-tallest-building (Accessed: September 29, 2024).

ArchDaily. (2014). *Proyecto Mitikah Tower de Richard Meir & Partners.* https://www.archdaily.mx/mx/02-322759/proyecto-mitikah-tower-de-richard-meir-and-partners/52c2d514e8e44eb764000121 (Accessed: September 28, 2024).

Archdaily (2024), *Edifício Platina 220 / Konigsberger Vannucchi Arquitetos Associados*. ArchDaily. https://www.archdaily.com.br/br/995961/edificio-platina-220-konigsberger-vannucchi-arquitetos-associados/63dd577242a2a8051d661766-edificio-platina-220-konigsberger-vannucchi-arquitetos-associados-foto (Accessed: October 4, 2024).

Architectuul. (2023). *Lotus Temple*. Architectuul.https://architectuul.com/architecture/lotus-temple (Accessed: October 2, 2024).

Architect-1. (2014). *Shanghai Tower: The tower in China*. Architect-1. https://architect-1.blogspot.com/2014/11/tower-in-china-shanghai-tower.html (Accessed: October 4, 2024).

Ardıçoğlu, R. (2022). *Urban design in macro, meso and micro scales*.

ArchiSketcher. (2023). *ArchiSketcher*. Pinterest. https://tr.pinterest.com/pin/796433515323893443/ (Accessed: October 4, 2024).

Archisoup. (2024). "Understanding building typology". Archisoup. https://www.archisoup.com/understanding-building-typology (Accessed: September 21, 2024).

Arefi, M. (1999). The global-local dialectic and the politics of urban design: The case of postmodern architecture in America. *Journal of Urban Design, 4*(1), 35-53.

Arefi, M., & Aelbrecht, P. (2022). Urban Identity, Perception, and Urban Design. *Springer Nature.*

Aslan, E. (2019). *Kent siluetlerinin kentsel miras açısından değerlendirilmesi: İstanbul örneği ve koruma önerileri* (Tez No. 544511) [Master's thesis, Kadir Has Üniversitesi Lisansüstü Eğitim Enstitüsü]. Yükseköğretim Kurumu Tez Merkezi.

Asu. (2023). *Download: IMS Engineering Faculty Resources.* https://ims.eng.asu.edu.eg/download?sid=OXnlbXFUd8%2Fpbj4oeTjhd69g5EPiZ%2BNGYm34oDrZ6bo%3D (Accessed: October 6, 2024).

Asya Yatırım. (2024). *Malezya devlet ihaleleri*. Asya Yatırım Proje. https://www.asyayatirimproje.com/malezya-devlet-ihaleleri/ (Accessed: April 1, 2024).

Ateş, D. (2008). Industrial Revolution: Impetus behind the globalisation process. *Yönetim ve Ekonomi*, 15(2), 1-12. Celal Bayar Üniversitesi.

Attar, M. A. (2021). Technology, growth theory, and the first industrial revolution. *Ekonomi-Tek*, 10(1), 1-21.

Audiala. (2024). *Tour du Caire.* Audiala. https://audiala.com/fr/egypte/gouvernorat-du-caire/tour-du-caire (Accessed: October 6, 2024).

Augé, M. (1995). "Non-places: An introduction to supermodernity", Verso.
Augustine. (2003). *The confessions of St. Augustine* (J. G. Pilkington, Trans.). Dover Publications. (Original work published ca. 400)

Avione. (2019). Dakka özel jet kiralama. Avione Jet.https://www.avionejet.com/tr/seyahat-rehberi/dakka-ozel-jet-kiralama (Accessed: October 4, 2024).

AYM Gestion. (2023). *Home* [Webpage]. AYM Gestion. http://aymgestion.com/en/ (Accessed: April 1, 2024).

Ayna, A. (2011). The impact of globalization on architecture - environment relations: Housing projects and design approaches. *The scale of globalization. Think globally, act locally, change individually in the 21st century* (pp. 17-21).

Bacon, E. (1974). *Design of cities*. Viking Press.

Bağımsız Havacılar. (2021). *Vietnam ile "Hava Ulaştırma Anlaşması" onaylandı*. Bağımsız Havacılar. https://www.bagimsizhavacilar.com (Accessed April 4, 2024).

Bai, Y., Wong, C. P., Jiang, B., et al. (2018). Developing China's ecological redline policy using ecosystem services assessments for land use planning. *Nature Communications, 9*, 3034. https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-018-05306-1

Barber, B. (1996). *Jihad vs. McWorld: How globalism and tribalism are reshaping the world*. Ballantine Books.

Baronizan2. (2024). *Mexico City: Aerial view cityscape panorama.* Freepik. https://www.freepik.com/premium-photo/mexico-city-aerial-view-cityscape-panorama_91095126.htm (Accessed: September 28, 2024).

Baratto, R. (2020). Social inequality, as seen from the sky. *ArchDaily*. https://www.archdaily.com/900023/social-inequality-as-seen-from-the-sky/ (Accessed: September 29, 2024).

Bauman, Z. (2000). *Çalışma, tüketicilik ve yeni yoksullar* (Ü. Öktem, Trans.). İstanbul: Sarmal Yayınevi.

Bauman, Z. (2000). *Liquid modernity*. Polity Press.

Baweja, R. (2020). *An open letter to my hometown*. Road Folk Mag. https://www.roadfolkmag.com/an-open-letter-to-my-hometown/ (Accessed: October 2, 2024).

Bax, P., & Monnier, O. (2018). *Ivory Coast seeks return of golden age with new roads, bridges* [Article]. Bloomberg. https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles /2018-05-31/ivory-coast-seeks-return-of-golden-age-with-new-roads-bridges?embedded checkout=true (Accessed: April 1, 2024).

B, Boys. (2017). *Going up! New York got its first commercial elevator 160 years ago*. Bowery Boys History. https://www.boweryboyshistory.com/2017/03/going-new-york-got-first-commercial-elevator-160-years-ago.html (Accessed: August 1, 2024).

BBC. (2011). Business trip: Mumbai. BBC Travel. https://www.bbc.com/travel/article/20111104-business-trip-mumbai (Accessed: October 1, 2024).

Beatley, T. (2010). *Biophilic cities: Integrating nature into urban design and planning*. Island Press.

Beck, U. (2000). *Risk society: Towards a new modernity* (M. Ritter, Trans.). Sage Publications.

Berman, M. (1981). All that is solid melts into air: the experience of modernity. New York : Simon and Schuster.

Bertaud, A. (2018). *Order without design: How markets shape cities*. The MIT Press.

Berlin. (2023). *Peking - A destination full of contrasts.* https://ber.berlin-airport.de/en/flying/airlines-ziele/inspiration-urlaub/dest-339-peking.html (Accessed: September 28, 2024).

Bertolini, L. (2009). The transnational city: The urban and economic implications of global capitalism. *Urban Studies, 46*(7), 1561-1576.

Betsky, A., & Adigard, E. (2000). The architecture must burn. Gingko Press.

Beyazlı, D. (2015) Kent Planlamada Birey, Kent, Kentlilik ve Kentlilik Bilinci.

Bhadane, R. (2013). *Surat* [Photograph]. Wikimedia Commons. https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=41430456 (Accessed: April 5, 2024).

Bhatman89. (2024). Aerial shots of Mumbai (Bandra Worli Sea Link and Atal Setu). Reddit.https://www.reddit.com/r/mumbai/comments/1b6usq5/aerial_shots_of_mumbai_bandra_worli_sea_link_and (Accessed: October 9, 2024).

BlazeTrip. (2024). *Kahire, Mısır'ı ziyaret edecek en iyi zaman.* BlazeTrip. https://tr.blazetrip.com/egypt-tr/kahire-misiri-ziyaret-edecek-en-iyi-zaman.html (Accessed: October 5, 2024).

Bodo, T. (2019). Rapid urbanisation: Theories, causes, consequences and coping strategies. *Geographical Research, 2*(3), 32-35. https://doi.org/10.22259/2642-9136.0203005

Booking. (2024). *Campanile Hotel Xi'an Dayan Pagoda Datang Night City Hotel* [Photograph]. https://www.booking.com (Accessed: April 4, 2024).

Bproperty. (2020). *Tallest buildings in Dhaka* Bproperty. https://www.bproperty.com/blog/tallest-buildings-dhaka/ (Accessed: October 4, 2024).

Brand, S., (1995), “How Buildings Learn: What Happens After They're Built”, Penguin Group US.

Britannica. (2024). Bahá'í Faith. Encyclopaedia Britannica. https://www.britannica.com/topic/Bahai-Faith (Accessed: October 2, 2024).

Britannica, (2023). São Paulo. Encyclopaedia Britannica. https://www.britannica.com/place/Sao-Paulo-Brazil/The-city-after-independence (Accessed: September 11, 2024).

Bryman, A. (2004). *The Disneyization of society*. *Sociology Compass, 1*(1), 15-32. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1751-9020.2006.tb00064.x

Bryman, A. (2006). Integrating quantitative and qualitative research: How is it done? *Qualitative Research*, *6*(1), 97–113. https://doi.org/10.1177/1468794106058877

Burchell, R. W., Listokin, D., & Galley, C. (1998). *Smart growth: Benefits and pitfalls*. *ResearchGate*.

Business-Insider. (2023). *Photos show Cairo, Egypt, being razed for modern development.* Business Insider. https://www.businessinsider.com/photos-cairo-egypt-razed-modern-development-2023-9 (Accessed: October 5, 2024).

Calthorpe, P. (1993). *The next American metropolis: Ecology, community, and the American dream*. Princeton Architectural Press.

Capron, G., González, S., Wigle, J., Diez, A. L., Monterrubio, A., Hidalgo, H., Guzmán, J. C., Castro, J., Huarte, C., Esquivel, M., & Flores, R. (2017). The urban food system of Mexico City, Mexico. *Urban Agriculture and Regional Development Journal*, 23(4), 112-130.

Caruso, A. (2008). *The feeling of things*. Ediciones Polígrafa.

Castells, M. (1984). *The city and the grassroots: A cross-cultural theory of urban social movements*. University of California Press.

Castells, M. (1989). *The informational city: Information technology, economic restructuring, and the urban-regional process*. Blackwell.

CBW. (2010). *View across Lambeth to the Palace of Westminster with German Graf Zeppelin overhead*. Alamy Stock Photo. https://www.alamy.com/view-across-lambeth-to-the-palace-of-westminster-with-german-graf-zeppelin-overhead-image478738448.html?imageid=FBD1B8EF-8954-42B7-918D1F0128E8FFEE&p=36552&pn=1&searchId=7fea3e770b5bd4f54b649940da387563&searchtype=0 (Accessed: June 19, 2024).

Centro Urbano. (2024). *Funo invertirá 500 MDP en Xoco.* https://centrourbano.com/revista/urbanismo/funo-500-mdp-xoco/ (Accessed: September 28, 2024).

Cevitex. (2024). *With over two decades of international business development, marketing and distribution experience...* Cevitex. http://www.cevitex.com/ (Accessed: October 4, 2024).

Ceylan, E. (2023, January 6). Avrupalılar gelişmiş bir kıtada olmalarına rağmen neden çok az gökdelen inşa ediyor? Webtekno. https://www.webtekno.com/avrupa-neden-az-gokdelen-h131195.html (Accessed: April 1, 2024).

Charney, I., & Rosen, G. (2014). Splintering skylines in a fractured city: High-rise geographies in Jerusalem. *Environment and Planning D*, *32*(6), 1088–1101.

Cheshmehzangi, A. (2020). Globalization, city branding and urban development in China. Routledge.

Chen, M. (2017). *Outer Beijing aerial view 01*. Wikipedia.

Chensiyuan. (2010). *Singapore city skyline 2010 day panorama*. Wikimedia Commons.https://tr.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dosya:1_Singapore_city_skyline_2010_day_panorama.jpg (Accessed: 17 April 2024).

Chernii, A. (2023). *Fog over Naples, Italy* [Photograph]. Pexels. https://www.pexels.com (Accessed April 19, 2024).

Childers, B., McInerney, D., & Seitz, P. (2014). Emotions in the classroom: Examining environmental factors and student satisfaction. *Learning Environments Research, 17*(2), 271–290.

Chomsky, N. (1999). *Profit over people: Neoliberalism and global order*. Seven Stories Press.

CKFH, J. (2024). *Pan de Azúcar, Rio de Janeiro* [Photograph]. Pixabay. https://pixabay.com/tr/photos/pan-de-azucar-rio-de-janeiro-4039023/ (Accessed: April 17, 2024).

Clark, B. R. (1998). *Creating entrepreneurial universities: Organizational pathways of transformation*. Pergamon Press.

Clifford, J. (1988). *The predicament of culture: Twentieth-century ethnography, literature, and art* (3rd printing ed.). Harvard University Press.

CNES. (2012). *Beijing, China: Satellite image*. Science Photo Library. https://www.sciencephoto.com/media/469073/view/beijing-china-satellite-image (Accessed: October 5, 2024).

CNN. (2024). *Egypt's new administrative capital: A look at the futuristic city.* CNN. https://edition.cnn.com/2024/03/20/world/gallery/egypt-new-administrative-capital-spc-intl/index.html (Accessed: October 5, 2024).

Coding Girls Manila. (2017). *Coding Girls Manila to partner with Women Who Code Manila's hackathon 2017*. Coding Girls Manila. https://www.coding girls.com/coding-girls-manila-partner-women-who-code-manilas-hackathon-2017-0 (Accessed April 1, 2024).

Cole, B. (2024). View of Worli at dusk with the Mumbai skyline in the distance. Brett Cole Photography. https://www.brettcolephotography.com/-/galleries/india/mumbai/-/medias/ed38a5c4-f621-4123-a623-7b852a2c88b3-view-of-worli-at-dusk-with-the-mumbai-skyline-in-the-distance (Accessed: October 1, 2024).

Collins, R. (2003). *The sociology of philosophies: A global theory of intellectual change*. Harvard University Press.

Colquhoun, A. (1969). *Modern architecture: A critical history*. Thames & Hudson.

Concord. (2024). *Top real estate company in Dhaka, Bangladesh*. Concord Real Estate. https://concordrealestatebd.com/top-real-estate-company-in-dhakabangladesh/ (Accessed: October 4, 2024).

Constructionreview. (2024). *Construction of Africa's tallest skyscraper in Egypt's new capital.* https://constructionreviewonline.com/construction-projects/construction-of-africas-tallest-skyscraper-in-egypts-new-capital/ (Accessed: October 6, 2024).

Conzen, M. R. G. (1960). *Alnwick, Northumberland: A study in town-plan analysis* (Institute of British Geographers Publication 27). George Philip.

Cook, I., & Swyngedouw, E. (2012). The urbanization of nature: Great expectations and challenging realities. *The Geographical Journal*, 178(3), 277-282. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1475-4959.2012.00478.x

Corbusier, L. (1963), "Towards A New Architecture", London: New York, Architectural Press.

Cox, John (2022) Defining 'urban character' and its influence on the physical outcomes of cities. PhD thesis.

Cox, W. (2012). *Evolving urban form: São Paulo*. New Geography. https://www.newgeography.com/content/003054-evolving-urban-form-s%C3%A3o-paulo (Accessed: September 11, 2024).

Cozzolino, S. (2022). On the spontaneous beauty of cities: neither design nor chaos. *URBAN DESIGN International.* 27. 10.1057/s41289-021-00170-w.

Crackit. (2024). *Lost Nile branch key to pyramid construction.* https://crackittoday.com/current-affairs/lost-nile-branch-key-to-pyramid-construction/ (Accessed: October 8, 2024).

Creswell, J. W. (2014). *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches*. Sage Publications.

Cristiano, S., & Zucaro, A., & Liu, G., & Ulgiati, S., & Gonella, F. (2020). On the Systemic Features of Urban Systems. A Look at Material Flows and Cultural Dimensions to Address Post-Growth Resilience and Sustainability. Frontiers in Sustainable Cities. 2. 10.3389/frsc.2020.00012.

Cristiano, S., & Zilio, S. (2021). Whose health in whose city? A systems thinking approach to support and evaluate plans, policies, and strategies for lasting urban health. *Sustainability, 13*(21), 12225. https://doi.org/10.3390/su132112225

Crotty, M. (1998). *The foundations of social research: Meaning and perspective in the research process*. SAGE Publications.

Crysler, G., Doan, P., & McClure, C. (2012). *The architecture of the everyday*. University of Minnesota Press.

CTBUH., (2024). “Tallest Buildings” SkyscraperCenter: Buildings. from https://www.skyscrapercenter.com/buildings (Accessed: April 1, 2024).

Cullen, G., (1961). “The Concise Townscape”, Architectural Press.

Culpin, E. G. (2018). *The Garden City Movement Up-to-Date*. Forgotten Books.

Curwick, B. (2024). *Buenos Aires skyline* [Photograph]. Pinterest. https://tr.pinterest.com/pin/138556126014521838/ (Accessed April 18, 2024).

Cybriwsky, R. (1991). Tokyo: The Changing Profile of an Urban Giant. West Sussex, England: John Wiley & Sons Ltd.

Çalışkan, O. (2011). Urban morphology and design: Introduction. *Built Environment.*

Çetin, B. C. (2011) Continuity and Change of the Urban Character of Sinop.

Çobanlı, F.T., Ceylan, M, (2023). Skyscrapers as a Factor That Affects the Urban Skyline in Istanbul. *Doğu Coğrafya Dergisi.* 10.5152/EGJ.2023.23058.

Damisch, H. (2001). *Skyline: The narcissistic city*. Stanford University Press.

Damisch, H. (2001). *The architecture of the image: Existentialism and architectural theory*. MIT Press.

Dás, A. (2015). *Taj Mahal in Bangladesh, a column* [Photograph]. Wikimedia Commons.https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tajmahal_in_Bangladesh,_a_column.jpg (Accessed: October 4, 2024).

Davis, M. (1990). City of quartz: Excavating the future in Los Angeles. *Vintage Books*.
Davis, K. (1955). The Origin and Growth of Urbanization in the World. American Journal of Sociology, 60, 429-437. https://doi.org/10.1086/221602

De Botton, A. (2008). “The Architecture of Happiness”, Vintage.

Demirci, T. (2021). Kentlerin aydınlatılması bağlamında ışık kirliliği sorunsalı ve İzmir büyükşehir ve ilçe belediyelerinin yaklaşımları. *Bitlis Eren Üniversitesi Sosyal Bilimler Dergisi, 10*(2), 72-80. https://doi.org/10.47130/bitlissos.966378

Denzin, N. K., & Lincoln, Y. S. (Eds.). (2018). *The SAGE handbook of qualitative research* (5th ed.). SAGE Publications.

Depositphotos. (2024). *City black*. Depositphotos.https://depositphotos.com/photos/city-black.html (Accessed: April 11, 2024).

Diario, J. (2024). *Estado, patrimonio perdido.* https://diariojudio.com/opinion/estado-patrimonio-perdido/401234/ (Accessed: October 1, 2024).

Dicken, P. (2015). *Global shift: Mapping the changing contours of the world economy*. The Guilford Press.

Diken. (2022). *Kiralardaki artış tersine göçe yol açtı*. Diken. https://diken.com.tr/kiralardaki-artis-tersine-goce-yolacti/%20Kiralardaki%20art%C4%B1%C5%9F%20tersine%20g%C3%B6%C3%A7e%20yol%20a%C3%A7t%C4%B1%202022 (Accessed April 17, 2024).

Dijar, K. A., (2009), Locating architecture, post-colonialism and culture: contextualisation in Algiers, The Journal of Architecture, 14:2, 161-183, DOI: 10.1080/13602360902867392

Ding, C., & Knaap, G.-J. (2002). Property values in inner-city neighborhoods: The effects of homeownership, housing investment, and economic development. *Housing Policy Debate, 13*(4), 701–727.

Docherty, T., (1993), "Postmodernism: A Reader", Columbia University Press.

Dornbusch, D., & Gelb, P. (1977). High rise visual impact. In D. Conway (Ed.), Human response to tall buildings (pp. 101-111). Stroudsburg, PA: Dowden Hutchinson Ross.

Dovey, K., Woodcock, I., & Wood, S. (2005). What is urban character?: The case of Camberwell. In "Proceedings of the 2nd State of Australian Cities National Conference" (SOAC 2005), Brisbane, Australia, 30th November - 2nd December, 2005.

Downs, A. (1998). *Political theory and public choice* (Vol. 1411). Edward Elgar Publishing.

Dubaihaber. (2024). Hindistan en hızlı büyüyen büyük ekonomi olmaya devam edecek: S&P. Dubai Haber. https://www.dubaihaber.com.tr/hindistan-en-hizli-buyuyen-buyuk-ekonomi-olmaya-devam-edecek-s-p/01/07/2024.html (Accessed: September 29, 2024).

Dupont, V., Tarlo, E., & Vidal, D. (Eds.). (2000). *Delhi: Urban space and human destinies*. Oxford University Press.

Eagleton, T. (1987). *The Ideology of the Aesthetic*. Basil Blackwell.

Eckert, S., & Kohler, S., (2014). Urbanization and Health in Developing Countries: A Systematic Review. World health & population. 15. 7-20. 10.12927/whp.2014.23722.

Efe, E. (2023). *Black and white panoramic view* [Photograph]. Pexels. https://www.pexels.com/photo/black-and-white-panoramic-view-of-skyscrapers-in-city-16111533/ (Accessed: April 1, 2024).

Efe, A. (2019). *Chapultepec: Volcán habitado desde hace miles de años, Ciudad de México.* https://elsiglo.com.pa/internacional/mundo/chapultepec-volcan-habitado-desde-hace-miles-anos-ciudad-mexico-DIES24131896 (Accessed: September 28, 2024).

Ekşi Sözlük. (2021). Başkenti, kendisinin en büyük şehri olmayan ülkeler *Ekşi Şeyler*. https://eksiseyler.com/baskenti-kendisinin-en-buyuk-sehri-olmayan-ulkeler (Accessed: 17 April 2024).

Elbex. (2022). *Digifort general brochure*. Elbex Technologies. https://www.elbextechnologies.com/wp-content/uploads/Digifort-General-Brochure-2022.pdf (Accessed April 1, 2024).

Eldemery, I. M., (2009). Globalization Challenges in Architecture. *Journal of Architectural and Planning Research 26:4.*

Ellul, J. (1976). *The ethics of freedom* (G. W. Bromiley, Trans.). Mowbrays.

El-Khouly, T., Eldiasty, A., & Kamel, B. (2023). *Monitoring the transformation in New Cairo's urban vitality and the accompanying social and economic phenomena.* ScienceDirect. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sci.2023.03.0390 (Accessed: October 4, 2024).

Eliot, T. S. (1949). *Notes towards the definition of culture*. Faber & Faber.

Ellin, N. (1996). *Postmodern urbanism*. Princeton Architectural Press.

El Zeini, M. (2017). *Urban transformations: Architecture and the globalised city*. Routledge.

Encyclopaedia Britannica. (2024). Toronto. *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. https://www.britannica.com/place/Toronto (17 April 2024).

Erikson, E. H. (1994). *Identity: Youth and crisis* (Revised ed.). W. W. Norton & Company.

ESA. (2021). *Beijing South Train Station, China*. Retrieved from https://www.esa.int/ESA_Multimedia/Images/2021/04/Beijing_South_Train_Station_China (Accessed: October 5, 2024).

Escobedo, D. (2021, September 12). *Skyline de Monterrey* [Photograph]. Wikimedia Commons. https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Skyline_de_Monterrey.jpg (Accessed April 1, 2024).

Eurostarshoteles. (2008). *Cuatro Torres Business Area* [Photograph]. Wikipedia. https://tr.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dosya:Cuatro_Torres_Business_Area.JPG (April 15, 2024).

Ewing, R. (1997). Is Los Angeles-style sprawl desirable? *Journal of the American Planning Association, 63*(1), 107–126.

Ewing, M. T., Pitt, L. F., & de Bussy, N. M. (2002). Employment branding in the knowledge economy. *Journal of Brand Management, 9*(4), 271–282.

EveryPixel. (2023). *Bangkok* [Photograph]. EveryPixel. https://www.everypixel.com /image-9359074350368251801 (Accessed: April 1, 2024).

Eyeem. (2024). *Modern buildings by sea against sky* [Photograph]. Freepik. https://www.freepik.com/premium-photo/modern-buildings-by-sea-against-sky_130460784.htm (Accessed April 16, 2024).

Eyeem. (2024). Rainbow bridge over a river in the city at night. Freepik. https://www.freepik.com/premium-photo/rainbow-bridge-river-city-night_123007266.htm#fromView=image_search_similar&page=1&position=26&uuid=07dbd8b9-3df7-4324-a04c-a9aac9ddbbe4 (Accessed: September 30, 2024).

Facebook. (2019). *Photo of Dhaka city*. Facebook. https://www.facebook.com/ photo/?fbid=10156470054427444&set=a.480709512443 (Accessed: October 4, 2024).

Fan, J. (2020). *CBD buildings by the lake*. iStock. https://www.istockphoto.com/tr /foto%C4%9Fraf/g%C3%B6l%C3%BCn-yan%C4%B1nda-cbd-binalar%C4%B1-gm1266768150-371449508 (Accessed: April 5, 2024).

Faulconbridge, J. R. (2009). Architectural firms, globalisation, and the impact of corporate architecture. *Urban Studies Journal, 46*(10), 2231-2248.

FDI. (2024). *The top 8 new best cities in China for setting up a business in 2024*. FDI China. https://fdichina.com/blog/the-best-cities-in-china-to-start-business/ (Accessed: April 10, 2024).

Fearon, J. D. (1999). What Is Identity (As We Now Use the Word)? *California: Stanford University*.

Fellahi, Nadjla. (2021). Globalization Processes in Architecture. 10.52460/issc.2021.002.

Ferguson, H., (2009), “Self-identity and everyday life”, Oxon: Routledge.

Fgw. (2022). *Beijing's "14th Five-Year" land resource protection and utilisation plan.* Beijing Municipal Commission of Development and Reform. https://fgw.beijing.gov.cn/fgwzwgk/zcgk/ghjhwb/wnjh/202208/t20220824_2799557.htm (Accessed: September 28, 2024).

Florida, R., Boutenko, V., Vetrano, A., & Saloo, S. (2023). The rise of meta-city. Harvard Business Review. https://hbr.org/2023/11/the-rise-of-the-meta-city (Accessed: September 1, 2024).

Flickr. (2024). *Victoria Harbour*. Flickr. https://www.flickr.com/ groups/ victoriaharbour/ (Accessed April 16, 2024).

Flick, U. (2007). Designing qualitative research. SAGE Publications.

Florida, R., (2002), “The Rise of the Creative Class, Revisited”, Basic Books.

Forty Forty Five. (2024). *Aerial photography of Tianjin city architecture landscape skyline*. https://www.example.com (Accessed: 17 April 2024).

Foley, J. A., Defries, R., Asner, G. P., Barford, C., Bonan, G., Carpenter, S. R., Chapin, F. S., Coe, M. T., Daily, G. C., Gibbs, H. K., Helkowski, J. H., Holloway, T., Howard, E. A., Kucharik, C. J., Monfreda, C., Patz, J. A., Prentice, I. C., Ramankutty, N., & Snyder, P. K. (2005). Human appropriation of net primary production and species diversity in agricultural landscapes. *Science, 309*(5734), 578–583.

Foucault, M. (1975). *Discipline and punish: The birth of the prison* (A. Sheridan, Trans.). Pantheon Books.

Ford, M. E. (1992). Motivating humans: Goals, emotions, and personal agency beliefs. SAGE Publications, Inc.

Foster, H., (1983), “The Anti-Aesthetic Essays on Postmodern Culture”, Bay Press.

Frege, G., (1967), "Begriffsscbrift, a formula language, modeled upon that of arithmetic, for pure thought", Cambridge, Massachusett: Harvard University Press.

Freestone, R. (2000). “Urban Planning in a Changing World: The Twentieth Century Experience”, Routledge.

Freeman, S., (2011). "Who invented the elevator?" HowStuffWorks.com. https://science.howstuffworks.com/innovation/inventions/who-invented-the-elevator.htm (Accessed: June 19, 2024).

Freepik. (2024). *Delhi*. Freepik. https://www.freepik.com/search?format=search&last_filter=query&last_value=delhi&query=delhi (Accessed: April 11, 2024).

Freepik. (2024). Evening city landscape high angle. Freepik. https://www.freepik.com/free-photo/evening-city-landscape-high-angle_27642991.htm#fromView=search&page=1&position=8&uuid=8f667c8d-198e-488e-9ea1-e3942f0c722f (Accessed: September 30, 2024).

Freepik. (2023). *Metropolitan city Milan map*. Freepik. https://www.freepik.com/photos/metropolitan-city-milan-map/4 (Accessed: October 4, 2024).

Freepik. (2024). Modern Tokyo street background. Freepik. https://www.freepik.com/free-photo/modern-tokyo-street-background_25969125.htm#fromView=search&page=2&position=22&uuid=871fa040-4525-4667-88c9-54cde9b1a39f (Accessed: September 30, 2024).

Freepik. (2023). *São Paulo*. Freepik. https://www.freepik.com/search?format=search&last_filter=query&last_value=sao+paulo&query=sao+paulo (Accessed: April 19, 2024).

Freepik. (2024). Urban landscape, Asian country skyscraper [Photograph]. Freepik. https://www.freepik.com/free-photo/urban-landscape-asian-country-

skyscraper_12977354.htm#fromView=search&page=1&position=1&uuid=8f667c8d-198e-488e-9ea1-e3942f0c722f (Accessed: September 30 2024).

Friedman, J. (1995). The world city hypothesis. In P. L. Knox & P. J. Taylor (Eds.), "World cities in a world-system" (pp. 315-331). Cambridge University Press. https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511522192.019

Friedman, T. L. (2000). *The lexus and the olive tree: Understanding globalization*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Friedman, T. L. (2007). *The world is flat: The globalized world in the twenty-first century*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Gao, J. (2022). *Black and white Chengdu* [Photograph]. iStock. https://www.istockphoto.com/tr/foto%C4%9Fraf/black-and-white-chengdu-gm1438682150-479128203 (April 11, 2024).

Gartland, L. M. (2008). *Heat islands: Understanding and mitigating heat in urban areas*. Earthscan Publications.

Gassner, G. (2009). Elevations, icons, and lines: The city abstracted through its skylines. In J. Davis, C. Dean, G. Gassner, S. Hall, & J. Keddie (Eds.), *Researching the spatial and social life of the city* (pp. 68–86). London School of Economics and Political Science. https://orca.cardiff.ac.uk/99117/

Geertz, C. (1973). *The interpretation of cultures: Selected essays*. Basic Books.
Genspark. (2024). *Top of Shanghai Observatory, Shanghai*. Genspark. https://genspark.ai/spark/top-of-shanghai-observatory-shanghai/e3129a75-11e8-3fda-ab2a-0585a7def49d (Accessed: October 4, 2024).

Geographic, N. (2020). *Las favelas de São Paulo se quedan sin comida, pero estas mujeres han intervenido*. https://www.nationalgeographic.es/historia/2020/05/favelas-sao-paulo-se-quedan-sin-comida-pero-estas-mujeres-han-intervenido. (Accessed: October 4, 2024).

Gephart, R. P. (1999). Paradigms and research methods in organizational research. In D. A. Buchanan & A. Bryman (Eds.), *The Sage handbook of organizational research methods* (pp. 4–21). SAGE Publications.

Ghisleni, C. (2023). *Types of urban blocks: Different ways of occupying the city* [Tipologias de quadras urbanas: Diferentes formas de ocupar a cidade] (T. Duduch, Trans.). *ArchDaily*. https://www.archdaily.com/962819/types-of-urban-blocks-different-ways-of-occupying-the-city (Accessed: July 19, 2024).

Giddens, A. (1991). *Modernity and self-identity: Self and society in the late modern age*. Stanford University Press.

Giddens, A. (2002). Globalisation and its consequences. *The global world: Essays on globalisation*. Polity Press.

Giecewicz, J., & Kwiecinski, K., (2019). Monotony & Repetitiveness in Architectural Design.

Glaeser E., Kourtit K., Nijkamp P., (2020), “Urban Empires Cities as Global Rulers in the New Urban World”, Routledge.

Gleeson, B., & Darbas, T., & Johnson, L., & Lawson, S., (2014). What is Metropolitan Planning? Griffith University.

Gmirkin, R. K. (2006). *Berossus and Genesis, Manetho and Exodus: Hellenistic history and the Hebrew Bible*. T & T Clark.

Godoy-Shimizu, D., Steadman, P., & Evans, S. (2021). Density and morphology: From the building scale to the city scale. *Buildings and Cities, 2*, 92–113. https://doi.org/10.5334/bc.83

Góes, R. (2023). *35 things to do in São Paulo, Brazil - By a local*. Go Ask a Local. https://goaskalocal.com/blog/things-to-do-in-sao-paulo (Accessed: October 4, 2024).

Gomes, C. (2017). *Luanda city, coast, aerial view* [Photograph]. iStock. https://www.istockphoto.com/tr/foto%C4%9Fraf/luanda-%C5%9Fehir-sahil-g%C3%B6kten-gm875150736-244329460 (Accessed: April 4, 2024).

González, A. (2022). *The aestheticisation of inequality: Contrasting landscapes on the periphery of Mexico City*. ArchDaily. https://www.archdaily.com/984712/the-aestheticisation-of-inequality-contrasting-landscapes-on-the-periphery-of-mexico-city (Accessed: September 28, 2024).

Google. (2024). *Cairo, Egypt.* Google Maps. https://www.google.com/maps (Accessed: October 4, 2024).

Google. (2024). *New Delhi, India* [Satellite imagery]. Google Earth. https://earth.google.com/web/ (Accessed: October 2, 2024).

Google Earth. (2024). *Chicago, Illinois, United States*. https://earth.google.com/ (Accessed: August 19, 2024).

Google Earth. (2024). *Mexico City, Mexico*. https://earth.google.com/ (Accessed: August 19, 2024).

Google Earth. (2024). *London, United Kingdom*. https://earth.google.com/ (Accessed: August 19, 2024).

Google Earth. (2024). *Tokyo, Japan*. https://earth.google.com/ (Accessed: August 19, 2024).

Gordon, D., (2006), “Planning Twentieth Century Capital Cities”, Routledge.

Gottmann, J. (1991). "The skyscraper and the skyline". In Archaeological, historical and geographical studies (Vol. 22, pp. 25–32).

Gottman, J. M., Katz, L. F., & Hooven, C. (1996). Parental meta-emotion philosophy and the emotional life of families: Theoretical models and preliminary data. *Journal of Family Psychology, 10*(2), 243–268.

Graham, S. (2006). Global cities and the modern architecture. *Urban Geography, 30*(4), 255-271.

Grimm, N. B., Faeth, S. H., Golubiewski, N. E., Redman, C. L., Wu, J., Bai, X., & Briggs, J. M. (2008). Global change and the ecology of cities. *Science*, 319(5864), 756-760. https://doi.org/10.1126/science.1150195

Guba, E. G., & Lincoln, Y. S. (1994). Competing paradigms in qualitative research. In N. K. Denzin & Y. S. Lincoln (Eds.), *Handbook of qualitative research* (pp. 105-117). London: Sage.

Guggenheim, A. (1995). The evolving city: Modernity and urban design. *American Journal of Urban Planning, 12*(2), 69-83.

Guides06. (2020). *Guides06*. https://www.guides06.com/ (Accessed: October 4, 2024).

Guggenheim, M., Söderström, O. (2010). "Re-shaping Cities: How Global Mobility Transforms Architecture and Urban Form", Routledge.

Gündoğan, N., & Biçerli, M. K. (2009). *Urbanization and labor market informality in developing countries*. 10th Asian Urbanization Conference, 18-21 August 2009. Anadolu University. https://avesis.anadolu.edu.tr

Gündüz, A. (2020). Zamanın ve mekânın dönüşümü: David Harvey'nin penceresinden sermayenin kentleşmesi. *International Humanities and Social Science Review*, *4*(1), 50.

Hall, P., (2014), "Cities of Tomorrow: An intellectual history of urban planning and design since 1880" (4th ed.). Wiley-Blackwell.

Hall, P. (1966). "The World Cities". Weidenfeld and Nicolson.

Hall, P., & Pain, K. (Eds.). (2006). "The polycentric metropolis: Learning from mega-city regions in Europe". Routledge.

Hall, S. (1990). *Cultural identities and diaspora*. In *Identity: Community, culture, difference* (pp. 222-237). Lawrence & Wishart.

Hall, T., & Hubbard, P. (1998). *The entrepreneurial city: Geographies of politics, regime and representation*. John Wiley.

Harvey, D., (1996), "Justice, Nature, and the Geography of Difference", Wiley-Blackwell.

Harvey, D., (1997) The Condition of Postmodernism, Trans.: Savran, S., Istanbul: Metis Publications.

Harvey, D. (2008). The right to the city. *New Left Review, 53*(2), 23-40.

Harvey, D., (2002), "Spaces of Capital Towards a Critical Geography", Routledge.

Harvey, D., (1985), “The Urbanization of Capital: Studies in the History and Theory of Capitalist Urbanization”, The Johns Hopkins University Press.

HassanPhills. (2021). Khartoum City, Sudan. X. https://x.com/HassanPhills/status/1349706853215830016 (April 8, 2024).

Hasse, J. E., & Lathrop, R. G. (2003). Land resource impact indicators of urban sprawl. *Applied Geography, 23*(3), 159–175.

Hayes, J. (2021). *Opinion: Making the smart city vision a reality*. IoT Tech News. https://iottechnews.com/news/opinion-making-smart-city-vision-a-reality/ (Accessed: September 28, 2024).

H. Finkelstein & Son. (2009). *Glossy color postcard of "The Woolworth Building and City Hall Park, New York City". Published by The American Art Publishing Co., New York City, #R-41094* (Accessed: July 1, 2024).

Heath, T., Smith, S., Lim, B., (2000). Tall Buildings and the Urban Skyline. *Environment and Behavior, Vol. 32 No. 4, Sage Publications, Inc* 541-556. 10.1177/00139160021972658.

Hegel, G., W., F., (1812), “Wissenschaft der logik”, Nuremberg: Aslant.

Hein, C. (2010). Shaping Tokyo: Land Development and Planning Practice in the Early Modern Japanese Metropolis. Journal of Modern History, 36(4), 447-484. doi: 10.1177/0096144209347737.

Henley & Partners. (2024). *Vietnam Wealth Management Forum Saigon* [Photograph]. https://www.henleyglobal.com/events/vietnam-wealth-management-forum-2024 (Accessed: April 9, 2024).

Held, D., & McGrew, A. (2002). *Globalisation/anti-globalisation: Beyond the polarised debate*. Polity Press.

Held, D. (2002). Globalization, city-regions, and urban governance. *Political Geography Journal, 15*(2), 66-75.

Hernández, P., Von Thaden Ugalde, J., Muench, C., Rodríguez, D., Arizmendi, M., Botello, F., & Prieto-Torres, D. (2024). Species richness and ecological connectivity of the mammal communities in urban and peri-urban areas at Mexico City. *Urban Ecosystems, 27*(6), 1781–1794. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11252-024-01553-x

Hernández-Pérez, I., Álvarez, G., Xamán, J., Zavala-Guillén, I., Arce, J., & Simá, E. (2014). Thermal performance of reflective materials applied to exterior building components—A review. “Energy and Buildings, 80”, 81-105. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enbuild.2014.05.008

Hill, C. (1969). *Reformation to Industrial Revolution*. Penguin Books.

Hillier, B., & Hanson, J. (1984). *The social logic of space*. Cambridge University Press.

Hitchcock, H.-R., Johnson, P., Barr, A. H., & Mumford, L. (1932). *The International style: Architecture since 1922*. W.W. Norton & Company.

Holloway, I., & Todres, L. (2003). The status of method: Flexibility, consistency, and coherence. *Qualitative Research*, *3*(3), 345–357. https://doi.org/10.1177/1468794103033004.

Holligan, A. (2016). The earliest planning document in history: The story of cities. *The Guardian*. https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2016/mar/17/story-cities-beijing-earliest-planning-document-history (Accessed: October 1, 2024).

Hough, M. (1995). Cities and Natural Process (2nd ed.). Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203643471

Howard, L. (1833). The climate of London: Deduced from meteorological observations made in the metropolis and at various places around it (3rd ed., Vol. 1). Harvey and Darton.

Howitt, P. (1999). Steady endogenous growth with population and R & D inputs growing. Journal of Political Economy, 107, 715-730.

HousingCo. (2024). Minerva. The Housing Company. https://thehousingcompany.in/?page_id=959 (Accessed: October 9, 2024).

Hoyt, H. (1939). *The structure and growth of residential neighborhoods in American cities*. Federal Housing Administration.

Hseuh-Bruni, A., (2015), "Le Corbusier’s Fatal Flaws – A Critique of Modernism", *The First-Year Papers, Trinity College Digital Repository, Hartford, CT.*

Hu, M., & Chen, R. (2018). A framework for understanding sense of place in an urban design context. *Urban Science, 2*(2), 34. https://doi.org/10.3390/urbansci2020034

Huang, Beijia & Gao, Xiaofeng & Xu, Xiaozhen & Song, Jialing & Geng, Yong & Sarkis, Joseph & Fishman, Tomer & Kua, Harn & Nakatani, Jun. (2020). A Life Cycle Thinking Framework to Mitigate the Environmental Impact of Building Materials. One Earth. 3. 10.1016/j.oneear.2020.10.010.

Huang, J., H. Akbari (1990). The Wind-Shielding and Shading Effects of Trees on Residential Heating and Cooling Requirements.ASHRAE Winter Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia, American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers.

HUD. (2015). *Shanghai's road to a global city: Innovations in human-centred design*. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. https://www.huduser.gov/portal/pdredge/pdr_edge_featd_article_081015.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com (Accessed: July 20, 2024).

Hussaini, I. U., Wakawa, B. U., Umar, A., Elnafaty, S. A., (2023). Architecture and the Politics of Nationalism in the Era of Globalization. *Journal of Art and Architecture Studies,* 12. 11-18. 10.54203/jaas.2023.2.

Hustwit, G. (Director). (2011). *Urbanized* [Film]. Plexifilm. Amazon Prime Video. https://www.amazon.com/Urbanized-Norman-Foster/dp/B006O5RH2Y (Accessed: August 3, 2024).

HYDE. (2023). "Share of population urban". In Our World in Data. Retrieved https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/share-of-population-urban (Accessed: July 18, 2024).

Ibagli. (2009). *Empire State Building from airplane*. Wikimedia Commons. https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/File:Empire_State_Building_Aerial.JPG (Accessed: July 16, 2024).

IBT. (2015). *Shanghai Tower: Asian tallest skyscraper presents a future vision of "vertical cities"*International *Business Times UK*. https://www.ibtimes.co.uk (Accessed: August 27, 2024).

İDA. (2016, 05 10). 80% of World Population Lives Under Skyglow, New Study Finds. https://www.darksky.org/80-of-worldpopulation-lives-under-skyglow-new-study-finds (Accessed: September 8, 2024).

Illumania. (2020). Lokhandwala Minerva - Mumbai. Illumania. https://www.illumania.com/Building-Facades/Lokhandwala-Minerva (Accessed: October 9, 2024).

Imago. (2020). *Mexico City: Aerial view of densely populated city at dusk.* https://www.imago-images.com/st/0097388298 (Accessed: September 28, 2024).

Infotech. (2021). *City master plan*. V2 Infotech. http://propdemo.v2infotech.net/city-master-plan (Accessed: October 2, 2024).

Ibelings, H. (1998). *Supermodernism: Architecture in the age of globalization*. NAi Publishers.

Ingold, T. (2000). *The perception of the environment: Essays on livelihood, dwelling, and skill*. Routledge.

iStock. (2024). *Bangalore photographs* [Stock photo]. iStock. https://www.istockphoto.com/tr/search/2/image-film?phrase=bangalore+foto%C4%9Fraflar (Accessed: April 11, 2024).

iStock. (2018). *Şehir hayatı - Ana Bazar, Paharganj, Yeni Delhi, Hindistan* [Photograph]. iStock.https://www.istockphoto.com/tr/foto%C4%9Fraf/%C5%9Fehir-hayat%C4%B1-ana-bazar-paharganj-yeni-delhi-hindistan-gm962826702-262977754 (Accessed: October 2, 2024).

Jackson, J. B. (1994), "A Sense of Place, a Sense of Time. New Haven", CT: Yale University Press.

Jackson, K. T. (1985). *Crabgrass frontier: The suburbanization of the United States*. Oxford University Press.

Jacobs, J., (1961), "The Death and Life of Great American Cities", Pimlico.

Jagtap, V. (2024). *Cityscape skyline of Pune city view from Bopdev Ghat, Pune, Maharashtra, India* [Photograph]. Shutterstock. https://www.shutterstock.com/tr/image-photo/19-january-2024-cityscape-skyline-pune-2415117541 (April 25, 2024).

Jamal, A. (2009). *The rise and fragmentation of Arab leadership in Israel*. Majallat al-Dirasat al-Filastiniyya, 67, 35-50.

Jameson, F. (1991). *Postmodernism, or The Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism*. Duke University Press.

Janoschka, M. (2019), Megacity. 1-3. 10.1002/9781118568446.eurs0520.

Jansen, H. (2010). The logic of qualitative survey research and its position in the field of social research methods. *Forum: Qualitative Social Research, 11*(2).

Jarjous, M. (2015). *Rem Koolhaas lecture at AUS.* Maisa Jarjous. https://maisa-jarjous.com/2015/03/28/rem-koolhaas-lecture-at-aus/ (Accessed: September 28, 2024).

Jarratt, D., White, H., & Miller, P. (2019). *Urban identity in a globalized world: The changing face of cities*. Routledge.

Jay-Z, & Keys, A. (2009). *Empire state of mind* [Song]. On *The Blueprint 3* [Album]. Roc Nation. (Accessed: November 8, 2024).

Jencks, C. (1977). *The language of post-modern architecture*. Rizzoli.

Jenkins, R., (1996), "Social Identity", Routledge.

JetPunk. (2024). Cities from above. https://www.jetpunk.com/user-quizzes/1734085/cities-from-above (Accessed: September 29, 2024).

JPS. (1985). *The Tanakh: The Holy Scriptures: The New JPS Translation According to the Traditional Hebrew Text*. Jewish Publication Society.

Kaktus. (2016). *Ночной глобус: как выглядят мировые столицы из космоса.* Kaktus Media. https://oper.kaktus.media/doc/336634_nochnoy_globys:_kak_vygliadiat_mirovye_stolicy_iz_kosmosa.html (Accessed: September 28, 2024).

Kapsch. (2024, April 22). *Fewer pedestrian accidents and better traffic flow in Florida*. Kapsch. https://www.kapsch.net/en/press/releases/ktc-20240422-pr-en (Accessed April 23, 2024).

Kapl. (2024). *Trump Tower Mumbai*. https://kapl.in/products/trump-tower-mumbai

Karmazina, T. (2020). *Вычурная фантазия: популярные здания с наклонным строением (Фото).* Telegraf. https://telegraf.com.ua/dom-i-sad/5345676-vyichurnaya-fantaziya-izvestnyie-zdaniya-s-naklonom-foto.html (Accessed: September 28, 2024).

Kavaratzis, M., Hatch, M., (2013), The dynamics of place brands: An identity-based approach to place branding theory. Marketing Theory. 13. 69-86. 10.1177/1470593112467268.

Kaya, M. D., Acar, Z., & Bayram, E. (2009). Yield components affecting seed yield and their relationships in sunflower (Helianthus annuus L.). *Field Crops Research, 112*(3), 142–148.

Kayak. (2024). *Jinan hotels* [Photograph]. Kayak. https://www.kayak.com/Jinan-Hotels.36184.hotel.ksp (Accessed: April 12, 2024).

Kostaropoulou, M. (2017). “Cities as meta-cities; The Center for Critical Design”. https://theccd.org/article/cities-as-meta-cities/ (Accessed: July 16, 2024).

Kenny, M. (2011). *The politics of identity: History, nationalism, and the prospect of peace*. Routledge.

Kestria. (2024). *Kestria India*. Kestria. https://kestria.com/members/kestria-india/ (Accessed: October 2, 2024).

Khondrion. (2020). *Expensive private school showing the wealth gap and income.* https://www.khondrion.com/Expensive-Private-School-Showing-The-Wealth-Gap-And-Income-m-3043745.htm (Accessed: August 21, 2024).

King, A. D. (2004). “Spaces of Global Cultures: Architecture, Urbanism, Identity”, Routledge.

KKC (2019). *『ネットワーク通信』2019年夏号（No.79）* [Network communication: Summer 2019 issue, No. 79] [PDF]. K.K.C. https://www.kkc.or.jp/society/network/nwt_79_web.pdf (Accessed: April 1, 2024).

Knox-Hayes, J. (2016). *The economic geography of financialization*. In *Handbook of economic geography* (pp. 265-279). Oxford University Press.

Knox, P., & McCarthy, L. (2011). "Urbanization: An Introduction to Urban Geography", Pearson.

Koehler, L. (2020, January 21). Urbanisation and urban development in Mexico. *Urbanet*. https://www.urbanet.info/urbanisation-and-urban-development-in-mexico/ (Accessed: August 21, 2024).

Koçak, D. (1996). *Konutlarda endüstrileşme ve teknolojik gelişmelerin mekan oluşumunda etkileri* (Master's thesis, Selçuk University). Selçuk University.

Konijnendijk, C. C. (2008). *The forest and the city: The cultural landscape of urban woodland*. Springer.

Koolhaas, R., & Mau, B. (1997). *S, M, L, XL*. Monacelli Press.

Koolhaas, R., (1978), "Delirious New York: A Retroactive Manifesto for Manhattan", The Monacelli Press.

Koolhaas, R. (1995). Urbanism as a global phenomenon. *Harvard Architecture Journal, 21*, 105-115.

Kostof, S. (1991). "The City Shaped: Urban Patterns and Meanings through History" (1. paperback ed., 3. print). Thames & Hudson.

Kratz, J. (2020). *Unratified amendments: Regulating child labor*. Prologue: Pieces of History. National Archives. https://prologue.blogs.archives.gov/2020/03/24/unratified-amendments-regulating-child-labor/ (Accessed: July 4, 2024).

Krippner, R., & Musso, F. (2007). *Basics façade: Apertures*. Birkhäuser Architecture.

Krishnan, S., Lin, J., Simanjuntak, J., Hooimeijer, F., & 3 other authors. (2019). Interdisciplinary design of vital infrastructure to reduce flood risk in Tokyo's Edogawa Ward. *Geosciences, 9*(8), 357. https://doi.org/10.3390/geosciences9080357 (Accessed: June 12 2024).

Kropf, K. (1996). Urban tissue and the character of towns. "Urban Design International, 1"(3), 247-263.

Krugman, P. (1994). *Geography and trade*. MIT Press.

Kumar, S. (2024). *S. Sandeep Kumar* [Author page]. Telangana Today. https://telanganatoday.com/author/s-sandeep-kumar/page/9 (Accessed: April 7, 2024).

Kunstler, J. H. (1994). *The geography of nowhere: The rise and decline of America's man-made landscape*. New York: Simon & Schuster.

Lamudi. (2024). *Property listing.* https://www.lamudi.com.mx/detalle/41032-73-16e59958b6eb-7221-634aa565-97bf-4217 (Accessed: September 28, 2024).

Landau S., B., (1996), "Rise of the New York Skyscraper", Yale University Press.

Landes, D. S. (1969). *The unbound Prometheus: Technological change and industrial development in Western Europe from 1750 to the present*. Cambridge University Press.

Lavedan, P. (1974). *L'urbanisme au Moyen Âge*. Presses Universitaires de France.

Leary-Owhin, M., E. (2016), "Exploring the Production of Urban Space: Differential Space in Three Post-Industrial Cities", Policy Press.

Le Corbusier. (1963). *The Modulor* (J. L. L. R. (Trans. & Ed.)). Faber & Faber.

Le Corbusier. (1929). *Vers une architecture* (F. J. Goldhammer, Trans.). Dover Publications.

Lee, S. (2022). *Jeju Sound Architecture*. Space Magazine. https://vmspace.com /eng/report/report_view.html?base_seq=MjMxNg (Accessed: August 10, 2024).

Lefaivre, L., & Tzonis, A. (2003). "Critical Regionalism: Architecture and Identity in a Globalised World", Prestel.

Lefebvre, H. (1971). Everyday Life in the Modern World. Rabinovitch, S., Trans., London: Allen Lane.

Lefebvre, H. (1974). "The Production of Space", Blackwell Publishing.

Lefebvre, H., (2003). "The Urban Revolution", University of Minnesota Press.

Lefkowitz, C. (2021). Why everywhere looks the same. "Medium". https://marker.medium.com/why-everywhere-looks-the-same-248940f12c4 (Accessed: March 10, 2024).

Lehrer, U., & Laidley, J. (2008). *Urban geography: An introduction*. Sage Publications.

LightCastle. (2022). *Bangladesh startup ecosystem update: Q3 2022*. LightCastle Partners. https://lightcastlepartners.com/insights/2022/11/bangladesh-startup-ecosystem-update-q3-2022/ (Accessed: October 4, 2024).

Lima, G. N. de, & Magaña-Rueda, V. O. (2018). The urban growth of the metropolitan area of São Paulo and its impact on the climate. *Weather and Climate Extremes, 21*, 17–26. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wace.2018.05.002

Litteralis. (2024). *Dhaka vector map: Detailed map of Dhaka city administrative area and cityscape* [Vector image]. Depositphotos.

https://depositphotos.com/tr/vector/dhaka-vector-map-detailed-map-dhaka-city-administrative-area-cityscape-536781030.html (Accessed: October 4, 2024).

Lo, C., & Yeung, I. (1998). *Globalisation and architecture: Examining the shift from local to global urbanism*. World Architecture Journal.

Loh, J. (2016). An Art Deco journey through SShanghai'sBelle époque. *Lonely Planet*. https://www.lonelyplanet.com (Accessed: August 20, 2024).

Lovepik. (2024). *Beijing urban modern architecture.* Lovepik. https://es.lovepik.com/image-401509213/beijing-urban-modern-architecture.html (Accessed: September 28, 2024).

Lucas, R. E. (2002). The industrial revolution: Past and future. In R. E. Lucas (Ed.), *Lectures on economic growth* (pp. 109-188). Harvard University Press.
L. Prang & Co. (1997). *The Chicago building of the Home Insurance Co. of New York, Illinois, Chicago*. Library of Congress. https://www.loc.gov/item/2010634573/

Lyotard, J.-F. (1984). *The postmodern condition: A report on knowledge* (G.Bennington & B. Massumi, Trans.). University of Minnesota Press.

MacLeod, R. (2023). "Remember this: How a hamlet becomes a village becomes a town". Newmarket Today. https://www.newmarkettoday.ca/remember-this/remember-this-how-a-hamlet-becomes-a-village-becomes-a-town-7453326 (Accessed: March 2, 2024).

Machines, R. (2024). Buy Lathe machine in Mumbai. Ravi Machines. https://ravimachines.com/lathe-machine-in-mumbai/ (Accessed: October 9, 2024).

Madacamp. (2011). *Betsileo*. https://www.madacamp.com/Betsileo (Accessed: July 10, 2024).

Mahendra, I. M., Paturusi, S., Dwijendra, N. K. A., Diasana, P. I. D. G. A., (2020). Urban Identity From the Perspective of Urban Atmosphere Case Study: Klungkung, Bali, Indonesia. *International Journal of Engineering and Emerging Technology*, 4. 10.24843/IJEET.2019.v04.i02.p05.

Majerska-Pałubicka, B., (2020). Architecture vs. Globalization. *IOP Conference Series: Materials Science and Engineering,* 960. 022078. 10.1088/1757-899X/960/2/022078.

Mandujano-Salazar, Y. Y. (2016). Tokyo Tower and Tokyo Skytree: History and Japan in Contemporary Japan. *Sociology and Japanese Heritage*, 15(2), 45-61.

Mansour, H. M., Alves F. B., Costa A. R., (2023). The Challenges in Understanding Urban Identity. *Education and Research in Spatial Planning: Perspectives and Challenges.*

Mantho, R. (2014). “The Urban Section: An Analytical Tool for Cities and Streets”, Routledge.

Mapcarta. (2024). *Kolkata*. Mapcarta. https://mapcarta.com/N3320334805 (Accessed April 8, 2024).

Marshall, G. (2005). The purpose, design and administration of a questionnaire for data collection. *Radiography, 11*(2), 131–136.

Marshall, S. (2005). *Streets and Patterns*. Spon Press.

Martino, C. (2014). *A view of Ahmedabad* [Photograph]. Flickr. https://www.flickr.com/photos/26148848@N06/ (Accessed: April 3, 2024).

Mcgrath, B. P., & Pickett, S.T.A., (2011). “The Metacity: A Conceptual Framework for Integrating Ecology and Urban Design”, *Challenges. 2011*. 10.3390/challe2040055.

McGregor, A. (2023). *Biourbanism: Cities as Living Systems*. Biourbanism Publishing Pty Ltd.

McGregor, T. (2023). “Think of cities as part of nature: A new perspective for urban development”. Activesustainability. https://www.activesustainability.com/climate-change/city-nature-climate-change/?_adin=11734293023 (Accessed: September 18, 2024).

McLaughlin, K., & Davies, R. (2024, July 11). *Burj Khalifa*. Digest. https://www.architecturaldigest.com/story/burj-khalifa (Accessed: July 11, 2024).

McLeod, J. (2002). *Cultural identity and the struggle for authenticity*. Routledge.

McNeill, D., (2005). “Skyscraper Geography” Progress in Human Geography 29.

Mikellides, B., & Porter, T. (2018). *Colour for architecture today*. Taylor & Francis Group.

Milyani, H., & Mofarhi, S. (2017). Unfolding architectural landmarks: What makes them so distinguished? *International Journal of Architecture and Urban Studies (IJAUS)*, 1(2), 59

Mimarobot. (2024). *CCTV Binası OMA [Project files]*. Mimarobot. https://mimarobot.com/tasarim/proje-dosyalar%C4%B1/photos/2233/cctv-binas%C4%B1-oma (Accessed: September 26, 2024).

Milliyet. (2018). *En çok milyarder hangi şehirde yaşıyor?* Milliyet. https://www.milliyet.com.tr/galeri/en-cok-milyarder-hangi-sehirde-yasiyor-2220990/14 (Accessed: October 4, 2024).

Mira, N. (2024). *¿Plaza Mitikah se enfrenta al pueblo de Xoco por cohetes de fiestas patronales?* https://noticiasenlamira.com/cdmx/plaza-mitikah-se-enfrenta-al-pueblo-de-xoco-por-cohetes-de-fiestas-patronales/ (Accessed: September 28, 2024).

Mirmoghtadaee, M. (2004). The Criteria for the Identification and Evaluation of the Physical Identity of Cities.

Misr, B. (2024). *BMVIP Newsletter* [PDF]. Banque Misr. https://www.banquemisr.com/-/media/BMVIP-NEWSLETTER-GLOBAL-AR.pdf (Accessed: April 18, 2024).

Mitchell, W. J. (1990). "The Logic of Architecture: Design, Computation, and Cognition", MIT Press.

Mlbpark. (2020). *경제 게시판*. https://mlbpark.donga.com/mp/b.php?p=91&b=bullpen&id=202006230044213222 (Accessed: August 29, 2024).

Modi, S. (2022). *BackBay skyline* [Photograph]. Wikipedia. https://tr.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dosya:BackBay_skyline.jpg (Accessed: April 4, 2024).

Modlar. (2023). *Cairo Tower*. Modlar.https://www.modlar.com/photos/1449 7/cairo-tower/ (Accessed: October 5, 2024).

Mohamed, H. A., Ezzeldin, S., & Ismail, M. R. (2019). *Assessment of fences as noise barriers: A case study in New Cairo, Egypt*. British University in Egypt, Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT), Faculty of Engineering, Ain Shams University.

Mohler, R. A., Jr. (2010). "From Megacity to Metacity - The Shape of the Future" https://albertmohler.com/2010/04/22/from-megacity-to-metacity-the-shape-of-the-future/ (Accessed: July 11, 2024).

Moore M, Gould P, Keary BS. (2003). Global urbanization and impact on health. Int J hygiene and environmental health. 206(4-5):269-78.

Mori. (2023). Mori Building announces new urban development project in Tokyo [Press release]. Mori Building Co., Ltd. https://www.mori.co.jp/en/company/press/release/2023/07/20230703150000004501.html (Accessed: September 30, 2024).

Morgan, M. (Ed.). (1914). *Vitruvius: The ten books on architecture*. Harvard University Press.

Morlok, B. (2012). *Modern Istanbul skyline at sunset* [Photograph]. Wikimedia Commons.https://tr.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C5%9Eehir_co%C4%9Frafyas%C4%B1#/media/Dosya:Modern_Istanbul_skyline.jpg (Accessed April 1, 2024).

Morrow. (2022). *Urban planning and development in Singapore – The economic considerations*. MORROW Insights. https://morrow.sg/morrow-insights-urban-planning-and-development-in-singapore-the-economic-considerations/ (Accessed: September 30, 2024).

Mosolf. (2024). *Shanghai*. Mosolf Group. https://www.mosolf-group.com/en/location/shanghai/ (Accessed: October 4, 2024).

Mottl, D. A. (2014). *Oriental Pearl Tower in Shanghai* [Photograph]. Wikimedia Commons. https://tr.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dosya:Oriental_Pearl_Tower_in_Shanghai.jpg (Accessed: October 4, 2024).

Mouffe, C. (2005). *On the political*. Routledge.

Moulin, A. (2024, January 8). *Quando ir a Santiago do Chile: melhores épocas para viajar*. [Photograph]. https://www.exemplo.com (Accessed: April 15, 2024).

Moura, E. S. (2020). *Architectural practices in a globalizing world: Displacing tradition and the postcolonial critique*. *Architecture and Culture, 8*(2), 183-202. https://doi.org/10.1080/20507828.2020.1771264.

Mravunac, I., & Šmit, K. (2020). Defining the city skyline: Urban and architectural approach between 1960 and 2020. *Prostor: Znanstveni Časopis za Arhitekturu i Urbanizam, 2*(60), 390–401.

Muhammad, F., & Wonorahardjo, S. (2020). Building Material in The Perspective of Energy Efficiency and Thermal Environment in TOD Area. IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Science. 532. 012021. 10.1088/1755-1315/532/1/012021.

Mumbai City Live. (2024). The spiritual Mumbai. Mumbai City Live. https://mumbaicitylive.com/spiritual-mumbai.html (Accessed: October 9, 2024).

Mumford L., (1961), “The City in History”, Harcourt Brace Janovich, Inc.

NASA. (2014). *City at night*. Earth Observatory. https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/83599/city-at-night (Accessed: October 4, 2024).

NASA. (2014). *Cairo at night*. NASA Earth Observatory. https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/85645/cairo-at-night (Accessed: October 2, 2024).

NASA. (2013). City lights over Tokyo and surrounding areas, including Chiba, Yokohama, and Tokyo Bay, as seen from the International Space Station (ISS036-E-30793) [Photograph]. NASA. https://www.nasa.gov/ (Accessed: September 30, 2024).

NASA. (2020). *Constructing Egypt's new capital*. NASA. https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/153237/constructing-egypts-new-capital (Accessed: July 18, 2024).

NASA. (2019). *World of Change: Sprawling Shanghai*. NASA. https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/world-of-change/Shanghai?utm_source=chatgpt.com (Accessed: September 11, 2024)

Nairn, T. (1965). *The break-up of Britain: Crisis and neo-nationalism*. New Left Review, 1(29), 1-22.

Neill, W. J. V. (2004). *Urban planning and cultural identity: The case of Berlin, Detroit, and Belfast*. Wiley-Blackwell.

Nelson, A. C., & Duncan, J. (1995). *Growth management principles and practices*. Island Press.

Neuman, W. L. (1998). *Social research methods: Qualitative and quantitative approaches* (3rd ed.). Allyn and Bacon.

Newman, P., & Kenworthy, J. R. (1989). *Cities and automobiles: An overview*. *The Global City, 13*(2), 111–118.

Nextvoyage. (2017). *Black and white photograph of tall buildings* [Photograph]. Pexels. https://www.pexels.com/es-es/foto/fotografia-en-escala-de-grises-de-edificios-de-gran-altura-805991/ (April 14, 2024).

NoBroker. (2024). *Sunteck Sky Park, Mira Road, Mumbai.* https://www.nobroker.in/sunteck-sky-park-mira-road_mumbai-prjt-8a9ffa82878e086c01878e97e62462f5 (Accessed: September 29, 2024).

OECD, (2018), "Rethinking Urban Sprawl: Moving Towards Sustainable Cities", OECD Publishing, Paris.

Oke, T. R. (1980). Boundary layer climates (2nd ed.). Methuen.

OrangeSmile. (2024). *Kültür gezileri: Meksiko.* https://www.orangesmile.com/gezirehberi/meksiko/kulturgezileri--1658079.htm (Accessed: October 1, 2024).

OrangeSmile. (2024). *Monterrey'nin renkleri - Gelenekler, festivaller, düşünce anlayışı ve yaşam tarzı.* https://www.orangesmile.com/gezirehberi/monterrey/gelenekfestivaller--1684228.htm (Accessed: September 28, 2024).

OSD. (2020). Ülke masalları bülteni [PDF]. T.C. Ticaret Bakanlığı. https://www.osd.org.tr/saved-files/PDF/2022/02/08/Ulke_Masalari_Bulteni_Ocak2020.pdf (Accessed April 7, 2024).

Önür, H. (2022). Bauman'da sosyal eşitsizlik meselesi. *Manisa Celal Bayar University Journal of Social Sciences*, *20*(1), 279-297. https://doi.org/

Paso, J., (2023). “Why is Tokyo so big? The real origins of Tokyo and why it’s a megacity.” https://www.ourmammothworld.com/post/why-is-tokyo-so-big-the-real-origins-of-tokyo-and-why-it-s-a-megacity (Accessed: July 20, 2024).

Park, R. E., & Burgess, E. W. (1925). *The city*. University of Chicago Press.

Parkinson, J. (2015). “The problem with the skyscraper wind effect”. BBC News. https://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-33426889 (Accessed: September 10, 2024).

Parveen, N., Siddiqui, L., Siddiqui, M., Sarif, M., Islam, M., Khan, S., Khanam, N., Mohibul, S., & Shariq, M. (2022). Monitoring built-up area expansion led by industrial transformation in Delhi using geospatial techniques. *Environmental Science and Pollution Research, 30*, 22776–22789. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11356-022-23221-3

Patton, M. Q. (2015). *Qualitative research and evaluation methods* (4th ed.). SAGE Publications.

Pavone, S. (2017). *Fukuoka, Japonya skyline* [Photograph]. iStock. https://www.istockphoto.com/tr/foto%C4%9Fraf/fukuoka-japonya-skyline-gm666153362-121404913 (Accessed April 17, 2024).

Paz, O. (1985). *The labyrinth of solitude and other writings* (L. Kemp, Trans.). Grove Press. (Original work published 1950).

Pedeliento, G., & Kavaratzis, M. (2019). Bridging the gap between culture, identity and image: a structurationist conceptualization of place brands and place branding. Journal of Product & Brand Management. 28. 10.1108/JPBM-01-2018-1735.

Pereira, C. (2014). *Cultura chinesa* [PowerPoint slides]. SlideShare. https://slideshare.net/slideshow/cultura-chinesa-35895931/35895931 (Accessed: April 1, 2024).

Perri, C. (2023). *Japan's tallest skyscraper: Perri Clarke and Partners completes Tokyo's Mori JP Tower*. ArchDaily. https://www.archdaily.com/1014800/japans-tallest-skyscraper-perri-clarke-and-partners-completes-tokyos-mori-jp-tower/65fb6ee7ca78f2017c83feb7-japans-tallest-skyscraper-perri-clarke-and-partners-completes-tokyos-mori-jp-tower-photo (Accessed: September 30, 2024).

Photowall. (2024). *Shanghai skyline* [Photograph]. Photowall. https://www.photowall.com (Accessed: April 19, 2024).

Picard, M., Godman, S., & Marcel, G. (1988). “The World of Silence”. Regnery Gateway.

Pincetl, S. (2012). The political ecology of the urbanization of nature: The case of Los Angeles. *Urban Geography*, 33(7), 891-918. https://doi.org/10.2747/0272-3638.33.7.891

Pinterest. (2024). Dhaka city map [Map]. Pinterest. https://tr.pinterest.com/pin/601160250268569616/ (Accessed: October 4, 2024).

Pinterest. (2020). Supernova Spirova [Pin]. Pinterest. https://tr.pinterest.com/pin/48976714676083597/ (Accessed: October 2, 2024).

Pixabay. (2024). *Dhaka city street view* [Photograph]. Pixabay. https://pixabay.com/photos/dhaka-city-dhaka-city-street-view-8202567/ (Accessed: October 4, 2024).

Pixeling Pixie. (2023). *City skyline* [Photograph]. iStock. https://www.istockphoto.com/tr/photo/city-skyline-gm1234567890 (Accessed April 1, 2024).

Pinterest. (2023). Pin on urban studies. https://tr.pinterest.com/pin/646548090235046489/ (Accessed: October 4, 2024).

Pomeranz, K. (2000). *The great divergence: China, Europe, and the making of the modern world economy*. Princeton University Press.

Ponchorello7. (2020). *Guadalajara, Jalisco, México* [Post]. Reddit. https://www.reddit.com/r/City/comments/lhmkia/guadalajara_jalisco_m%C3%A9xico/?rdt=49866 (Accessed April 9, 2024).

Port. (2022). *Wuhan locked down with COVID-19 misery set to continue*. Port Technology. https://www.porttechnology.org/news/wuhan-locked-down-with-covid-19-misery-set-to-continue/ (Accessed: April 2, 2024).

Qubi. (2023). Dünyanın en gürültülü 10 şehri. Qubi. https://www.qubi.com.tr/post/dunyanin-en-gurultulu-10-sehri%20%20%20%20%20%2022%20%C5%9Eub%202023%20D%C3%BCnyan%C4%B1n%20En%20G%C3%BCr%C3%BClt%C3%BCl%C3%BC%2010%20%C5%9Eehri (Accessed: October 9, 2024).

Rahaman, M. M., Islam, M. M., Islam, M. R., & Hasan, M. M. (2023). Urbanization, climate change, and public health: A systematic review of challenges and solutions. *Frontiers in Public Health*, *11*, 1269362.https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2023.1269362

Ram, Vernon , Sundaram, K.V. and Rao, R.V.R. Chandrasekhara. "Delhi". Encyclopedia Britannica (2024). https://www.britannica.com/place/Delhi (Accessed: December 21, 2024.)

Rapaport, A., (2005), "Culture, Architecture and Design. Chicago", IL: Locke Scientific.

Rapaport, A. (1969), "House Form and Culture. Englewood Cliffs", NJ: Prentice-Hall.

Rapaport, A., (2013), "Human aspects of urban form: Towards a man", Pergamon.

Rashid, K. J., Akter, T., Imrul Kayes, A. S. M., & Yachin Islam, M. (2023). Exploring the spatio-temporal patterns and driving forces of urban growth in Dhaka megacity from 1990 to 2020. In U. Chatterjee, N. Bandyopadhyay, M. D. Setiawati, & S. Sarkar (Eds.), Urban commons, future smart cities and sustainability (pp. 319–336). Springer Geography. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-24767-5_17

Reddit. (2021). *Inequality in São Paulo, Brazil* [Online forum post]. Reddit.https://www.reddit.com/r/UrbanHell/comments/lpck1o/inequality_in_s%C3%A3o_paulo_brazil/?rdt=41471 (Accessed: October 4, 2024).

Red Planet. (2024). *Harbin Polytechnic University* [Photograph]. https://redplanetchina.com/universities/china/harbin/harbinskij-politehnicheskij-universitet-21/?utm_source=seo_google&utm_medium=search (April 2, 2024).

Reich, R. B. (2007). *The future of success: Working and living in the new economy*. Vintage Books.

Relph, E., (1976), "Place and Placelessness", London: Academic Press.

Ritz-Carlton. (2024). *The Ritz-Carlton Beijing, Financial Street.* The Ritz-Carlton. https://www.ritzcarlton.com/en/hotels/bjsfs-the-ritz-carlton-beijing-financial-street/overview (Accessed: September 28, 2024).

Ritzer, G. (2015). *The McDonaldization of society: New century edition*. Sage Publications.

Rodger, R., (2012). The Significance of the Metropolis 1700-2000. 10.14361/transcript.9783839420430.85.

Rolls, M. (2014). *The city* [Photograph]. Flickr. https://www.flickr.com/photos/26148848@N06/15430277620/ (Accessed: 8 April 2024).

Rosenberg, N. (1974). Science, invention and economic growth. Economic Journal, 84, 90-108.

Rossi, A., (1984), "The Architecture of the City", The MIT Press.

RoutePerfect. (2024). *Nagoya RoutePerfect* [Photograph]. https://www.routeperfect.com/ (Accessed: 4 April 2024).

Rowe, J. B., & Preston, T. R. (1978). The banana plant as cattle feed: Growth of animals given different proportions of banana tops and sugar cane with molasses ad libitum. *Tropical Animal Production, 3*(3), 193–199.

Rubin, E., (2018). Skyscrapers and Tall Buildings. Oxford Research Encyclopedia of American History.

Sabry, S. (2009). *Poverty lines in Greater Cairo: Underestimating and misrepresenting poverty*. International Institute for Environment and Development. https://www.iied.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/migrate/10572IIED.pdf (Accessed: October 4, 2024).

Sadikova, V. (2024). Dharavi slum tour: Top 5 reasons to visit the heart of Mumbai. *Veronika's Adventure*. https://veronikasadventure.com/dharavi-slum-tour-5/ (Accessed: September 29, 2024).

Said, E. W. (1978). *Orientalism*. Pantheon Books.

Sağlık, E., Kelkit A., (2017). Evaluation of Urban Identity and its Components in Landscape Architecture. International Journal of Landscape Architecture Research.

Sailing Stone Travel. (2024). *Yangon's colonial architecture*. Sailing Stone Travel. https://sailingstonetravel.com/yangons-colonial-architecture/ (Accessed: April 27, 2024).

Sakar, S., (2019). Formation of Space and Urban Character; Izmir (Kemeralti) Case Study. 10.14744/planlama.2019.91886.

Salah, M. (2014). *Combining pixel-based and object-oriented support vector machines using Bayesian probability theory.* ISPRS Annals of the Photogrammetry, Remote Sensing and Spatial Information Sciences, II-7, pp. 67–74. https://doi.org/10.5194/isprsannals-II-7-67-2014 (Accessed: October 4, 2024).

Salem, M., Bose, A., Bashir, B., Basak, D., Roy, S., Chowdhury, I. R., Alsalman, A., & Tsurusaki, N. (2021). Urban expansion simulation based on various driving factors using a logistic regression model: Delhi as a case study. *Sustainability, 13*(19), 10805. https://doi.org/10.3390/su131910805

Salvan, G. S. (1986). Architectural building materials (3rd ed.). JMC Press.

Sánchez-Cuenca, J. (2012). Landscape morphology in Mexico City. *The Polis Blog*. https://www.thepolisblog.org/2012/12/urban-morphology-in-mexico-city.html (Accessed: September 29, 2024).

Santen, C. (2006). *Light zone city: Light planning in the urban context* (2006th ed.). Birkhäuser Architecture.

Sassen, S. (2014). *Expulsions: Brutality and complexity in the global economy*. Harvard University Press.

Sassen, S. (2001). "The global city: New York, London, Tokyo". Princeton University Press. https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctt2jc93q.

Satpalda, S. (2024). *Infrastructure*. Satpalda. https://satpalda.co/infrastructure/ (Accessed: October 4, 2024).

Sappho, S., (2024). Seoul from the plane. Flickr. https://www.flickr.com/photos/skinnylawyer/32455034626/ (Accessed: August 1, 2024).

Saudia. (2024). Fare detail [Photograph]. Saudia. https://www.saudia.com/tr-AE/Fare-Detail (April 7, 2024).

Schittich, C. (2018). *Gebäude, die Zeichen setzen / Landmark Buildings: Ein Blick in drei Jahrzehnte Architektur / A Review of Three Decades of Architecture*. DETAIL.

Schmookler, J. (1966). Invention and Economic Growth. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Schwab, A.(2012). *Wide angle skyline of downtown Tokyo with Mt. Fuji in the early morning, Sumida-ku, Tokyo, Japan* [Photograph]. Look photos. https://www.lookphotos.com/image/71141865 (Accessed: September 30, 2024).

Schwandt, T. A. (1994). *The SAGE dictionary of qualitative inquiry* (2nd ed.). Sage Publications.

Shutterstock. (2024). *Aerial view of Tokyo city skyline, Asahi building* [Photograph]. Shutterstock. https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/aerial-view-tokyo-city-skyline-asahi-1229276905 (Accessed: September 30, 2024).

Seibold, T. (2015). Low-income housing options in a neighborhood. Photo by iStock/David Sucsy (Accessed: July 10, 2024).

Selbymay. (2011, December 22). *View on Barcelona from Sagrada Familia* [Photograph]. Wikimedia Commons. https://tr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dosya:Barcelona_from_Sagrada_Familia_%282%29.JPG (Accessed: April 27, 2024).

Selim, H., (2019). Conceptual Framework To Understand Consequences Of Tall Building. Journal of Al-Azhar University Engineering Sector. 14. 1558-1577. 10.21608/auej.2019.64238.

Sennett, R., (1998). The Corrosion of Character: The Personal Consequences of Work in the New Capitalism.

Serrano, M. (2015). The makeover of Mexico City. *Harvard Gazette*. https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2015/02/the-makeover-of-mexico-city/ (Accessed: August 21, 2024).

Seyyah, P. (2017). Dünyanın en büyük çamaşırhanesi. Post Seyyah. https://www.postseyyah.com/spbgallery/dunyanin-en-buyuk-camasirhanesi/ (Accessed: October 9, 2024).

Sepe, M., & Pitt, M. (2014). The characters of place in urban design. *Urban Design International*, *19*(3), 178-192. https://doi.org/10.1057/udi.2013.32

Sev, A. (2009). Typology for The Aesthetics and Top Design of Tall Buildings. Journal of Science. 22. 371-381.

Shen, Q. (2022). *Image of Shanghai neighborhood* [Photograph]. Viator. https://www.viator.com/en-IE/blog/Shanghai-Neighborhood-Guide/l28352 (Accessed: October 4, 2024).

Shafi, S. (2009). *Taj Mahal replica in Bangladesh* [Photograph]. Wikimedia Commons.https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Taj_Mahal_Replica_In_Bangladesh.JPG (Accessed: October 4, 2024).

Shafizadeh, M. H., & Helbich, M. (2013). Spatiotemporal urbanisation processes in the megacity of Mumbai, India: A Markov chains-cellular automata urban growth model. *Applied Geography*, 40, 140-149. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apgeog.2013.01.009 (Accessed: September 29, 2024).

Sharratt, M. A. (2001). *The learning community: A practical guide to working with urban communities*. Pearson Education.

Shen, X. (2002). The generation of the concepts of nightscape and nightscape design. Journal of Shenyang Arch. And Civ. Eng. Univ. (Natural Science), 18(1), 21-24.

Shen, Z., & Gensler. (2022). 6 examples of LEED Platinum buildings. NPR. https://www.npr.org/ (Accessed April 17, 2024).

Short, J. R. (2004). "Global Metropolitan: Globalizing Cities in a Capitalist World". Routledge.

Shutterstock. (2020). *Karachi* [Photograph]. Shutterstock. https://www.shutterstock.com (Accessed April 17, 2024).

Simandan, D. (2020). Industrialization. In *International Encyclopedia of Human Geography* (2nd ed., pp. 255–260). Elsevier. https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-08-102295-5.10663-4.

Singh, R. B., (2015), "Urban Development Challenges, Risks and Resilience in Asian Mega Cities", Springer.

Singh, R. (2020). Copy + Paste: The legacy of sameness. School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture.

Sitte, C. (1965). *City planning according to artistic principles*. Random House.

Sklair, L. (2017). *The urban sociology of the global city*. Routledge.

SkyscraperCenter. (2024). *Platina 220*. The SkyscraperCenter. https://www.skyscrapercenter.com/building/platina-220/30100 (Accessed: October 4, 2024).

Smaeili, N. (2023). Identifying of The Influencing Factors of Design Standardization in the Industrialization Architecture: Review and Future Directions. 10.30495/ccd.2023.1977703.1185.

Smile4Travel. (2024). *Parks of Shanghai*. Smile4Travel. https://smile4travel.de/en/asia/parks-of-shanghai/ (Accessed: October 4, 2024).

Smith, D. E. (1987). *The everyday world as problematic: A feminist sociology*. Northeastern University Press.

Smith, M. P. (1999). *The transnational city: The social consequences of the international division of labor*. Blackwell.

Smith, N., (1996), "The New Urban Frontier Gentrification and the Revanchist City", Routledge. Smith, D. E. (1987). *The everyday world as problematic: A feminist sociology*. Northeastern University Press.

Smith, J. (2017). *Chengdu, Sichuan Province, China - Sichuan TV tower and downtown skyline in daylight* [Photograph]. Shutterstock. https://www.shutterstock.com/tr/image-photo/chengdu-sichuan-province-china-july-6-729768040 (Accessed: April 8, 2024).

Smith, J. (2008). *The architecture of modernity: Design, identity, and culture*. Architectural Press.

Smith, A. (2024). *15 best things to do in Mexico City*. Adventures of Alice. https://www.adventuresofalice.com/best-things-to-do-in-mexico-city/ (Accessed: September 28, 2024).

Snow, J. (2016). A guide to the holy city of Cairo, Egypt: The rich spiritual and religious history of Cairo adds an extra dimension to a visit to Egypt, where ancient sites and thriving communities continue to draw modern-day visitors. *National Geographic*. https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/article/guide-to-holy-city-mosque (Accessed: July 18, 2024).

Soja, E. W. (1996). Thirdspace: Journeys to Los Angeles and Other Real-and-Imagined Places. Blackwell

Soja, E. W. (2000). "Postmetropolis: Critical Studies of Cities and Regions", Blackwell Publishers Inc.

Sorensen, A. (2002). The Making of Urban Japan: Cities and Planning from Edo to the twenty-first century, Milton Park, Abington, Oxon: Routledge.

Sorkin, M. (Ed.). (1992). *Variations on a theme park: The new American city and the end of public space*. Hill and Wang.

Sönmez, F. (2012). *Kapitalist devlet ve kentsel mekânın dönüşümü: Stratejik-ilişkisel yaklaşım açısından Harvey ve Castells'in kent kuramları üzerine eleştirel bir inceleme*

(Master's thesis, Adnan Menderes University, Social Sciences Institute, Sociology Department). T.C. Adnan Menderes University.

Springeditors. (2021). *South Korea's love for hiking* | Eye on Asia. dataSpring. https://www.d8aspring.com/eye-on-asia/south-koreas-love-for-hiking (Accessed April 17, 2024).

Standing, G. (2011). *The precariat: The new dangerous class*. Bloomsbury Academic.

Steers, S. (2022). *India to classify data centres as infrastructure*. *Data Centre Magazine*. https://datacentremagazine.com/data-centres/india-to-classify-data-centres-as-infrastructure (Accessed: October 2, 2024).

Stocksy. (2024). Aerial view of Dhaka city [Photograph]. Stocksy. https://www.stocksy.com/photo/888146/aerial-view-of-dhaka-city(Accessed: October 4, 2024).

Storper, M. (1997). *The regional world: Territorial development in a global economy*. Guilford Press.

Strulik, H. (2014). *Economic growth and stagnation with an expanding population: Malthusian dynamics in a two-sector framework*. Journal of Population Economics, 27(4), 1047–1077. https://doi.org/10.1007/s00148-014-0518-3

Studysmarter. (2024). *Rural to urban migration*. StudySmarter. https://www.studysmarter.co.uk/explanations/human-geography/population-geography/rural-to-urban-migration/ (Accessed: June 4, 2024).

Spring, B. (2024). *New York City skyline in black and white* [Photograph]. Pexels. https://www.pexels.com/tr-tr/fotograf/siyah-ve-beyaz-kent-sehir-ufuk-cizgisi-8543169/ (April 1, 2024).

Sudotour. (2024). Interesting facts about the Lotus Temple. Sudotour. https://tourtravelresort.com/interesting-facts-about-the-lotus-temple/ (Accessed: October 2, 2024).

Supriyadi, Ery. (2018). Metropolization Process for enhancing local and regional planning : an experience of cirebon metropolitan, West Java. IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Science. 126. 012175. 10.1088/1755-1315/126/1/012175.

Şengül, H. T. (2000). Radikal kent kuramları üzerine eleştirel bir değerlendirme: Alternatif bir yaklaşıma doğru. *Amme İdaresi Dergisi*, 33, 32.

Tansudeyouxiang. (2020). *Çongçing bina sokak görünümü* [Photograph]. Pixabay. https://pixabay.com/tr/photos/%C3%A7ong%C3%A7ing-bina-sokak-g%C3%B6r%C3%BCn%C3%BCm%C3%BC-6172446/ (Accessed April 7, 2024).

Taranath, B. (1988). *Structural design for fire safety*. Prentice-Hall.

Tärneberg, O. (2015, May 18). *Sunset over the city* [Photograph]. Flickr. https://flickr.com/photos/otarneberg/18494591735/

Tateishi, E. (2024). The spatiotTokyo's socio-demography of the Tokyo capital region: a data-driven explorative approach. Review of Regional Research. 43. 10.1007/s10037-023-00198-1.

Tatilsepeti. (2024). *Avustralya Docklands otelleri*. Tatilsepeti. https://www.tatilsepeti.com/avustralya-docklands-otelleri (Accessed April 4, 2024).

T.C. Ticaret-Bakanlığı. (2024). *Genel bilgiler: Jakarta*. Ticaret Bakanlığı. https://ticaret.gov.tr/yurtdisi-teskilati/guney-dogu-asya/endonezya/genel-bilgiler (Accessed: April 29, 2024).

T.C. Ticaret Bakanlığı. (2020). *Ülke masalları bülteni* [PDF]. T.C. Ticaret Bakanlığı. https://www.osd.org.tr/saved-files/PDF/2022/02/08/Ulke_Masalari_Bulteni_Ocak2020.pdf (Accessed April 9, 2024).

Thambidurai, V. (2024). *Chennai* [Photograph]. Flickr. https://www.flickr.com/photos/35164268@N02/ (Accessed: April 19, 2024).

Timberlake, L. (1987). *Only one earth: Living for the future*. Earthscan Publications.

Tilly, B. (2024). *Baker Tilly appoints new regional director for Middle East and Africa.* https://www.bakertilly.global/news/baker-tilly-appoints-new-regional-director-for-middle-east-and-africa (Accessed: October 8, 2024).

Tokat, E., (2018). Iconic Structures In The Context Of Urban Identity And Branding. Atlas International Referred Journal On Social Sciences.

Torrado, P. (2021). *Curiosities and myths of Mexico City's most iconic buildings*. ArchDaily. https://www.archdaily.com/1022745/curiosities-and-myths-of-mexico-citys-most-iconic-buildings (Accessed: August 21, 2024).

Touraine A., (2002), "Critique of Modernity", Modernity.

Tours, I. (2024). "São Paulo by night: Tour in private with pick-up". https://www.ineedtours.com/it/sao-paulo-by-night-tour-in-private-with-pick-up_t_676789.html (Accessed: October 4, 2024).

TPBO. (2023). *Shanghai - City performance, brand strength, and reputation*. Place Brand Observer. https://placebrandobserver.com/shanghai-city-performance-brand-strength-reputation/?utm_source=chatgpt.com (Accessed: May 11, 2024)

Travel365. (2024). *Il Cairo: itinerario di 3 giorni.* Travel365. https://www.travel365.it/il-cairo-itinerario-3-giorni.htm (Accessed: October 6, 2024)

Treasures, T., (2024). *Every CITY Looks the Same!* [Video]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WQdLDMLrYIA (Accessed: July 17, 2024).

TripAdvisor. (2022). *Banglar Taj Mahal* [Attraction review]. TripAdvisor. https://www.tripadvisor.in/Attraction_Review-g668001-d9648129-Reviews-Banglar_Taj_Mahal-Narayanganj_Dhaka_Division.html (Accessed: October 4, 2024).

TripAdvisor. (2013). *Mirante Mangabeiras* [Photograph]. TripAdvisor. https://www.tripadvisor.com.tr/LocationPhotoDirectLink-g303374-d5003215-i85312701-Mirante_Mangabeiras-Belo_Horizonte_State_of_Minas_Gerais.html (Accessed: April 17, 2024).

Tuan, Y. (1977). *Space and place: The perspective of experience*. University of Minnesota Press.

Turna. (2024). *Japonya'nın görkemli başkenti: Tokyo*. Retrieved December 20, 2024, from https://www.turna.com/blog/japonyanin-gorkemli-baskenti-tokyo (Accessed: September 27, 2024).

Turner, P. (2007). *Urban theory: A critical introduction*. SAGE Publications Ltd.

The City Gem. (2024). *China: Discovering the hidden gems of Foshan's food scene*. The City Gem. https://thecitygem.com/articles/eateries/china-discovering-the-hidden-gems-of-foshan-s-food-scene-1727038909 (April 17, 2024).

Twib-SA. (2024). *Home*. Twib-SA. https://twib-sa.org/about (Accessed: April 8, 2024).

Uba, D. (2016). *Cityscape | Lagos, Nigeria* [Photograph]. Flickr. https://www.flickr.com/photos/deveshuba/26367505135 (Accessed April 11, 2024).

UCLG. (2016). *Annual report 2016*. https://www.uclg.org/sites/default/files/annual_report_2016.pdf (Accessed May 13, 2024).

UNAM. (2022). *International journal of environmental science and technology*. https://www.atmosfera.unam.mx/tag/international-journal-of-environmental-science-and-technology/ (Accessed: September 28, 2024).

UN, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division. (2018). "World urbanization prospects: The 2018 revision". https://population.un.org/wup/ (Accessed: July 6, 2024).

UN (2006). Urbanization: Mega & Metacities, New City States; UN-HABITAT: State of the World's Cities 2006/7; United Nations: New York.

UN, (2022). *Urbanization*. OurWorldInData.org/urbanization (Accessed: July 19, 2024).

UN-Habitat. (2015). *Habitat global activities report 2015: Increasing synergy for greater national ownership*. https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content

/documents/1726Habitat%20Global%20Activties%202015.pdf (Accessed:September 28, 2024).

Uông Tr. (2020). *Bắc Kinh - Sự hòa quyện hoàn hảo của hiện đại và truyền thống. Trung Quốc được mệnh danh là "trái tim" của đất nước.* Du Học Trung Quốc. https://duhoctrungquocriba.com/bac-kinh-su-hoa-quyen-hoan-hao-cua-hien-dai-va-truyen-thong/ (Accessed: September 28, 2024).

Urry J., (1995), "Consuming Places", Routledge.

Urry, J. (2000). *Globalization and the geographical imagination*. Polity Press.

Usui, H. (2018). Statistical distribution of building lot frontage: application for Tokyo downtown districts. Journal of Geographical Systems. 20. 10.1007/s10109-018-0268-3.

Utterback, J. (1994). Patterns of industrial innovation. *Technology Review, 97*(5), 22–29.

Uzunoğlu, C. (2024). *Metaverse in China: Transforming the future of eCommerce*. ecommercedb.com. https://ecommercedb.com/insights/metaverse-china-s-adoption/4542 (Accessed: April 1, 2024).

Valckenborch, L. (2010). *The Tower of Babel* [Painting]. Louvre Museum. https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q1339790 (Accessed: October 1, 2024).

Vanden Bergh, F. (2009). *Addis Ababa skyline* [Photograph]. iStock. https://www.istockphoto.com/tr/foto%C4%9Fraf/addis-ababa-skyline-gm182174818-10140665 (Accessed: April 7, 2024).

Vaz, E. (2014). Managing urban coastal areas through landscape metrics: An assessment of Mumbai's mangrove system. *Ocean & Coastal Management*, 98, 27–37. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ocecoaman.2014.05.020.

Vecteezy. (2024). *8K night New Delhi city lights long distance* [Video]. Vecteezy. https://www.vecteezy.com/video/12263202-8k-night-new-delhi-city-lights-long-distance (Accessed: October 2, 2024).

Vecteezy. (2024). *Satellite Shanghai map background loop spinning around China city air footage seamless panorama rotating over downtown backdrop* [Video]. Vecteezy. https://www.vecteezy.com/video/24487378-satellite-shanghai-map-background-loop-spinning-around-china-city-air-footage-seamless-panorama-rotating-over-downtown-backdrop (Accessed: August 21, 2024).

Venturi, R., & Brown, D. (1972). *The architecture of the city*. The MIT Press.

Vijaydeep. (2024). Hotel New Imperial, Mumbai. https://vijaydeeppalace.com/noclegi/mumbai/hotel-new-imperial/4699208 (Accessed: September 29 2024).

Vijayasree, Ar. V., (2019). A Study of Challenges in Designing and Construction of Skyscrapers. International Journal of Engineering Research & Technology (IJERT)

Villardière, P., & d'Arthuys, F. (Directors). (2023). *Mumbai* [Film]. IMDb. https://www.imdb.com/title/tt28378520/ (Accessed: August 14, 2024).

Waldrep S., (2013), "The Dissolution of Place: Architecture, Identity, and the Body", Ashgate Pub Co.

Waley, P. (2006). Re-scripting the city: Tokyo from ugly duckling to cool cat. Japan Forum, 18(3), 361 380. doi: 10.1080/09555800600947231.

Walters, M. (1996). *Globalisation*. Routledge.

Walton, D. J., & Lorimer, J. P. (2000). *Polymers*. Oxford University Press.

Wang, Y., & Akbari, H. (2016). Analysis of urban heat island phenomenon and mitigation solutions evaluation for Montreal. *Sustainable Cities and Society, 26*, 438-446.

Wang, G. (2024). *Lujiazui, the financial center in Shanghai, forms a perfect backdrop to the Bund area* [Photograph]. China Daily. https://govt.chinadaily.com.cn/s/202408/20/WS66c3fd63498ed2d7b7eb7233/china-further-relaxes-foreign-investment-restrictions-vows-to-promote-services-trade.html (Accessed: October 4, 2024).

Watt, A. (2015). *Osaka* [Photograph]. Flickr. https://www.flickr.com (Accessed April 7, 2024).

Weber, M. (1986). *The theory of social and economic organization*. Free Press.

Westend61. (2024). *Aerial view of historical and tourist attractions, capital city, New Delhi, India* [Photograph]. Westend61. https://www.westend61.de/en/photo/AAEF21942/aerial-view-of-historical-and-tourist-attractions-capital-city-new-delhi-india (Accessed: October 2, 2024).

WFDD. (2015). *Shanghai tower crowns the city's futuristic skyline*. WFDD. https://www.wfdd.org/post/shanghai-tower-crown-citys-futuristic-skyline (Accessed: October 4, 2024).

Westend61. (2024). *Aerial view of densely populated Mohammadpur Geneva refugee camp, known as Bihari Camp, in Dhaka, Bangladesh* [Photograph]. Westend61. https://www.westend61.de/en/photo/AAEF21985/aerial-view-of-densely-populated-mohammadpur-geneva-refugee-camp-known-as-bihari-camp-in-dhaka-bangladesh (Accessed: October 4, 2024).

Westend61. (2024). *Aerial view of an empty junction in Dhaka city centre, view of the Gulshan Circle roundabout in Dhaka, Bangladesh* [Photograph]. Westend61. https://www.westend61.de/en/photo/AAEF11018/aerial-view-of-an-empty-junction-

in-dhaka-city-centre-view-of-the-gulshan-circle-roundabout-in-dhaka-bangladesh (Accessed: October 4, 2024).

Westend61. (2024). *Aerial view of a large city road crossing the residential district at sunset in Dhaka, Bangladesh* [Photograph]. Westend61. https://www.westend61.de/en/photo/AAEF10531/aerial-view-of-a-large-city-road-crossing-the-residential-district-at-sunset-in-dhaka-bangladesh (Accessed: October 4, 2024).

Westend61. (2024). *Aerial view of Shanghai skyline with Oriental Pearl Tower in foreground with passing Huangpu River, China* [Photograph]. Westend61. https://westend61.de/en/photo/AAEF04481/aerial-view-of-shanghai-skyline-with-oriental-pearl-tower-in-foreground-with-passing-huangpu-river-china (Accessed: October 4, 2024).

Wheeler, T., & von Braun, J. (2013). Climate change impacts on global food security. *Science, 341*(6145), 508–513.

Whyte, W. H., (2001), "The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces", Conservation Foundation.

Wikipedia. (2007). *Čitagongas* [Article]. Wikipedia. https://www.wikiwand.com/lt/articles/%C4%8Citagongas (Accessed April 18, 2024).

Wikipedia. (2019). *Dakka*. Wikipedia. https://crh.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dakka

Williams, R. J. (2019). “Why cities look the way they do (1st ed.)”. Polity.

Willis, C. (1997). “Form follows finance: Skyscrapers and skylines in New York and Chicago”, Princeton Architectural Press.

Willis, D. (1995). *Theories and practices of urban planning*. Routledge.

Windmemories. (2022). *Central Business District of Zhengdong New Area* [Photograph]. Wikimedia Commons. https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:20220812_Central_Business_District_of_Zhengdong_New_Area.jpg (Accessed: April 17, 2024).

Windstar. (2020). *What to do in Beijing/Tianjin, China in 24 hours.* Windstar Cruises Blog. (Accessed: September 29, 2024).

Wirestock. (2024). *An aerial view of the city of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania* [Photograph]. Depositphotos. https://depositphotos.com/editorial/aerial-view-city-dar-salaam-tanzania-535634486.html (April 1, 2024).

Wissink, B & Hazelzet, A. (2012). Social Networks in 'Neighbourhood Tokyo'. Urban Studies. 49. 1527–1549. 10.1177/0042098011415437.

Wolde, Z. (1994). *The Tower of Babel: A historical study of the tower of Babylon in the Bible and ancient history*.

Wolf, E. (1999). *Envisioning power: Ideologies of domination and crisis*. University of California Press.

Wolfe, T. (1981). *The new journalism: With an anthology* (1st ed.). Harper & Row.

Wolfe, A. (1981). *The conflict of generations: The character and significance of the generation gap*. University of Chicago Press.

Wonderfires. (2024). *Travel to Dongguan* [Webpage]. Wonderfires. https://www.wonderfires.com/about/visit-us/ (April 25, 2024).

World Architects. (2014). *Trump in Mumbai*. from https://www.world-architects.com/en/architecture-news/headlines/trump-in-mumbai

Worldometer, (2024). World population. https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/.

Wows. (2024). *World of Warcraft special content*. Wows. http://wows.17173.com/content/07162024/100600595.shtml (Accessed: October 4, 2024).

Wu, C., Li, C., Ouyang, L., Xiao, H., Wu, J., Zhuang, M., Bi, X., Li, J., Wang, C., Song, C., Qiu, T., Haase, D., Hahs, A., & Finka, M. (2022). Spatiotemporal evolution of urbanisation and its implications for urban planning of the megacity, Shanghai, China. *Landscape Ecology*, *38*, 1–20. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10980-022-01578-7

Xian-Zhang, P., Qi-Guo, Z., Jie, C., Yin, L., & Sun, B. (2008). Analysing the variation of building density using high spatial resolution satellite images: The example of Shanghai City. *Sensors*, *8*(4), 2541–2551. https://doi.org/10.3390/s8042541

Yabandeh, M. (2022). *Cityscape panorama: Dış mekan manzara şehir* [Photograph]. Pixnio. https://pixnio.com/tr/media/cityscape-panorama-dis-mekan-manzara-sehir (Accessed: April 19, 2024).

Yaophotograph. (2024). The main street to Tokyo Skytree at sunrise [Photograph]. Freepik. https://www.freepik.com/premium-photo/main-street-tokyo-skytree-sunrise_11598269.htm#fromView=search&page=1&position=15&uuid=72162740-93e9-4802-bf2e-677ca6bfc6e2 (Accessed: September 30, 2024).

Yazied, M. (2024). *Torre del Cairo.* Freepik. https://it.freepik.com/foto-premium/torre-del-cairo_35824168.htm (Accessed: October 6, 2024).

Yin, C. L., Meng, F., Guo, L., & others. (2021). Extraction and evolution analysis of urban built-up areas in Beijing, 1984–2018. *Applied Spatial Analysis and Policy*, *14*, 731–753. https://doi.org/10.1007/s12061-021-09374-7

Young, M. (2013). *Cities 101: What are the rules to fire escapes in NYC?* Untapped Cities. https://untappedcities.com/2013/08/28/cities-101-what-the-rules-to-fire-escapes-in-nyc/ (Accessed: July 19, 2024).

Youssef, M., & Esaam, R., (2023). Revitalization Approaches to Maximize Heritage Urban DNA Characteristics in Declined Cities: Foah City as a Case Study. *Journal of Contemporary Urban Affairs.* 7. 56-72. 10.25034/ijcua.2023.v7n2-4.

Yu, Z., (2013) Regulation of Urban Character: Style, Colour and Historic Character in A Modern Chinese City - The Case of Harbin.

Žaknić, I., Smith, M., & Rice, D. B. (1998). "100 of the World's Tallest Buildings", Images Publishing.

Zdimalova, M. (2017). *Mathematics and its application in architecture and urban design of selected parts of Mexico*. In *Proceedings of APLIMAT 2017*.

Zhang, R. (1991). Beijing architecture since 1979. *Habitat International*, *15*(3), 99–116. https://doi.org/10.1016/0197-3975(91)90033-H.

Zukin, S., Kasinitz, P., & Chen, X., (2016). *"*Global cities, local streets: Everyday diversity from New York to Shanghai". Routledge.

Zukin, S. (1991). "Landscapes of power: From Detroit to Disney World*"*. University of California Press.

Zukin S., (2009). "Naked City: The Death and Life of Authentic Urban Places", Oxford University Press.

Zukin, S. (1996). "The cultures of cities". Blackwell.

Zumthor P., (2006). "Atmospheres: Architectural Environments. Surrounding Objects", Birkhäuser.

大面. (2018). **南京城市天**际线，秦淮河与城墙 *Nanjing skyline, Qinhuai River and city wall* [Photograph]. http://damian188.lofter.com/post/1f2596c5_ef46777b (Accessed: April 1, 2024).

BIOGRAPHY

Muhammed Emin KUŞASLAN is an architect from the megacity of Istanbul. When Muhammed was growing up, he was passionate about exploring the world, animals, space, and structures. What makes him over the moon is the concept of building something new. He passionately studied architecture, *"one of the most extraordinary fields in the world,"* according to his words, and graduated from Kadir Has University in 2021. It is safe to say that he lived on campus while working on projects, maquettes, and sketches during his architectural education. He has great respect for the most influential architects and their different visions.

Muhammed has a strong background in architectural design, drawing, and modeling. He participated in his junior architectural studies in 2019, experiencing his internship process while working with firms such as Emin İnşaat, Başyapıt A.Ş., and Aki Mimarlık. After graduation, he began working as an architect in an office environment on dwelling projects in Turkey. After a year, he started his master's studies while still working in an architectural firm. In 2023, he began working with GAL Interiors, designing projects and preparing technical layouts and drawings for USA store projects. Since the beginning of 2024, he has been working as a construction supervisor in the residential field in Istanbul, with responsibilities including site control, work follow-up, coordination, material ordering, quantity surveying, and providing drawing support to the architectural office. He is passionate about making designs, drawing, and building something thrilling.

Academically, his favorite subject is architectural design, where the studio sessions involved designing and drawing through thoughtful inquiry and exploration. He earned first place in a design competition in 2019, where he and a friend proposed a solution for an urban issue through design decisions during his college years. At Gebze Technical University, he began thinking, researching, and studying architecture within the scope of urban character, urban morphology, architectural design-related issues, space, spatial decision-making, and architectural design in 2023. In 2024, his article was published in a magazine for the first time. Along with his passion for the architecture sector, he is also interested in pursuing academic studies in architecture and urban planning.

Architecture is a responsibility to characterise the space with wisdom and care. An architect's duty is to transform beauty into art and space. Regarding his architectural career, Muhammed is interested in design, drawing, planning, and organization, all of which are essential aspects of architecture. He is eager to work on projects of different scales and is curious about both local and international project design processes.

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS FROM THE THESIS

Kuşaslan, M. E., Özçelik, S. (2024), "LOSS OF IDENTITY IN THE URBAN CHARACTER: EXAMINING THE SAMENESS IN URBAN SKYLINE DUE TO MASS-PRODUCED ARCHITECTURE IN ABU DHABI", A+Arch Design International Journal of Architecture and Design, 10(1), 1-23.