

HISTORICAL CORES AND URBAN SPRAWL



In order to comprehend the average size of historical cores in relationship to the overall dimension of cities, we carried out a redrawing of twenty case studies in the European and Middle Eastern regions (Aleppo,

Amsterdam, Barcelona, Berlin, Beirut, Cairo, Damascus, Jerusalem, Lisboa, London, Madrid, Marrakech, Milano, Mosul, Paris, Sanaa, Stockholm, Tripoli, Tunis, Wien). The cities are represented using three different colors: one for the historical core and older parts of the city with high density (average of 2.7 sqm/sqm); the second for the first extensions, carried out in the twenty-first century or early twentieth century at

a medium density level (approx. 1.5 sqm/sqm); and the third for urban sprawl, built in the second part of the twentieth century at low density (0.3–1.0 sqm/sqm). Calculations made on the basis of the redrawing allow one to identify that historical cores, on average, represent 1–4 percent of the total city, first extensions 3–6 percent, while the vast majority of the city, over 90 percent, is urban sprawl.

