

Preface

In September 2009, about 250 scholars and practitioners from 26 countries attended the Sixteenth International Seminar on Urban Form in Guangzhou, China. Centred on the theme of urban morphology and urban transformation, many of the conference papers presented recent developments in the study of urban landscapes that are of concern to architects, planners and geographers. The success of the conference reflected the increasing interest in spatial analysis of urban form and its significance for urban planning and design practice. Although the conference papers represented diverse perspectives and approaches to the physical urban environment, research of the Anglo-German geographical school, or Conzenian school, associated with M. R. G. Conzen and the Italian architectural school, the Caniggian school, associated with G. Caniggia and S. Muratori, were key components. The investigation of the traditions and recent practical applications of these two schools of thought has formed the basis of this book.

The Guangzhou conference, the first organized by the International Seminar on Urban Form in Asia, reflected the increasing research interest in Chinese cities at a time of their unprecedented growth and change. This book reviews the work of the Conzenian and Caniggian schools and exemplifies some of the ideas and methods associated with these schools, particularly in relation to changing Chinese urban form.

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hai, Hong Kong, Shenzhen and Guangzhou respectively. We are grateful to Professor Jingtang He, Professor Piper Gaubatz, Professor Jeremy Whitehand, Professor Michael Conzen, Professor Gian Luigi Maffei, Professor Nicola Marzot and Mr Haojun Ye for their keynote lectures. Finally, we should like to record our indebtedness to Professor Jeremy Whitehand and Mrs Susan Whitehand for their detailed guidance and generous assistance in the preparation of the conference and the publication of the book.

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