

Contents

	Prologue by Paul Drewe	9
	Introduction	11
Chapter 1	Theory of the Urban Web	15
Chapter 2	Urban Space and its Information Field	39
Chapter 3	A Universal Rule for the Distribution of Sizes	65
Chapter 4	Complexity and Urban Coherence	83
Chapter 5	Remarks on a City's Composition	115
Chapter 6	Connecting the Fractal City	139
Chapter 7	The Information Architecture of Cities	169
Chapter 8	The Structure of Pattern Languages	189

Chapter 9	Pattern Language and Interactive Design	211
-----------	---	-----

Chapter 10	Design Methods, Emergence, and Collective Intelligence	221
------------	--	-----

References	236
------------	-----

Subject Index	245
---------------	-----

A New Charter of Athens has been published in 2005, seventy years after its predecessor. The latter has provided the degree of mainstream urbanism until today. Over the years important changes have occurred in a very conceivable domain, changes that are characterizing future cities. The degree of mainstream urbanism cannot cope with this as the Athens Charter of 1933—according to Salinger¹—is based on two false premises: (a) it is desirable to maximize functions, and their packages; (b) the geometry within such package is homogeneous. Nevertheless, a city can be so well organized that it is impossible to locate them, because of a resistance, or a strong positive specific capacity or urban form that the urbanized habitat system holds there.² The structure of Pattern Language's Moreover, what homogeneous packages—combined with automobile dependence (Gandy's "under the arch"), by and large, involved urban mobility problem.

The New Charter of Athens may contain all the right sound bites—such as connectivity, sustainability and the like—but it will most be dominated by new instruments of design to become effective and to reassert the grounding powers of urbanism. The rise of ICT, for example, is a fact that has to be coped with in urban design. Salinger has asked the right question, that is "how to integrate physical connections with electronic connections" (see also *The Information Architecture of Cities*, Chapter 2). The *Tiered City* as a new paradigm translates into an integrated planning of land use and urban technology networks, including ICT.

Since Salinger has made an important contribution to the ongoing search for new instruments of urban planning and design, especially by showing how to protect the fractality, as well as by teaching us how to re-read time-honored classics, in particular Christopher Alexander. (It should be noted that Salinger's writings have also inspired the practical work of the foundation created by Prince Charles.)