

## Models and Diagrams in Architectural Design

Space syntax has had a wide success as a scientific, analytic theory and methodology reaching not only into architecture and planning but also into a wide range of disciplines and subjects including geography, archaeology, management theory or pedagogy. However, while space syntax has prominently contributed to design and planning practice, this success is not yet paralleled by a comparable level of success in its integration within design processes and design thinking. Recently computational design has become increasingly prominent in architectural practice, sometimes closely linked to ideas found in space syntax, concerned with spatial or social parameters, but more often linked to concepts of shape, surface, and building technology. The theories and methods associated with space syntax, on the other hand, present an important potential for direct input into the design process, which has been only partially explored. In this issue, we wish to focus on two shared aspects between design work in a broader sense, computational, parametric, or generative design, and space syntax: the use of generation and elaboration of spatial parameters, and the use of spatial models and diagrams. These are intricately interlinked, and tie directly with architectural design practice.

The Journal of Space Syntax therefore, issues a call focused on *Architectural and Urban Design*, more specifically the topic of *Computational Design, Modelling and Diagrammatic Thinking*. Of specific interest here is the use of models, diagrams and/or computational methods to generate, transform and develop design ideas and to challenge design knowledge. While the scope of the issue is wide, it is focused on design work, theory of diagrams, modelling and computation in design, and accepts papers in the whole range in-between. This theme simultaneously accepts and challenges the difference between primarily analytic and primarily generative models and diagrams, and seeks contributions that treat the integration of both kinds into the design process, and the ways in which they operate in relation to and through one another. We especially encourage integrated work that investigates the potential of configurational thinking, spatial diagramming and modelling, and integration of computational methods in the design process.

Finally, computational methods, modelling, and diagrammatic thinking in design raise not only analytical issues but also theoretical challenges. Hence, critical analysis and reflection over these processes, the results coming out of them and other effects on design work are of high interest.

There is no requirement for any individual paper to explicitly address space syntax. However, contributors are encouraged to consider questions that are central to space syntax, seen in a wide sense as modelling and analysis of spatial configurations, as well as in many other fields in the integration of analytic and computational models into design thinking and design processes. Any individual paper is not required to cover the whole range but can focus on specific questions. Papers will be evaluated primarily on their rigorous and original contribution to the theme of the call. As stated above, papers directly related to space syntax as well as topically relevant from other fields of work will be considered.

**Journal of Space Syntax is a peer-reviewed open-access online journal, available at [www.journalofspacesyntax.org](http://www.journalofspacesyntax.org), where earlier issues and more information can be found. Authors are advised to follow submission and author guidelines as found on the *JOSS website*.**

### **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS:**

**28 February 2014.**

**Abstracts should be between 500-750 words.**

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