

Built space, new technologies and networks : introduction¹

by Henry Bakis & Aharon Kellerman

Contemporary urban built space reflects not only new architectural concepts (e.g. post-modernism), but also changing communication networks technology and urban technical networks technology (water supply, transport, energy, etc.)².

The global flows of capital, information and experts has brought about similar designs in urban construction on a global scale, mainly for office buildings, shopping malls and high-tech industrial parks. The very construction of utilities inside new urban structures has changed, requiring the installation of “smart building” systems permitting central control of utilities and the provision of telecommunications networks.

It is thus important to examine both the veteran and new urban landscapes and networks in light of changing communications technologies as well as globalization trends. Another area of interest is human use and adaptation to new urban structures and telecommunication networks, notably issues of surveillance, traffic, and telecommuting.

We thought the topics chosen would stimulate many of our geographers, urban planners, architects, and social science colleagues because of their innovative approach.

1. Meeting organized by Netcom Association & IGU Commission 96 C04 (May 24-27, 1999); Venue of the conference: Facolta' di Architettura del Politecnico di Milano, E.N. Rogers Room, Via Bonardi 3, 20100 Milano.

2. The topic was chosen - and this introduction was written - with Prof. A. Kellerman, vice chair of the Commission, who served as scientific co-organizer of this Meeting. Many thanks to Arch. Carlo Ezechieli from the Politecnico de Milano for his help as local organizer (cezech@hotmail.com or: carloez@tin.it; Fax: **39-02-2046632)