

Review of: "A Conceptual Review of Discontinuity in Urban Design: The Morphological and Ethical Dimensions"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

These are my observations and requests for clarification:

- Better clarify the relevance of the topic investigated; to what extent does continuity and discontinuity in the morphological composition of the built environment respond to the current challenges of urban design? I am referring in particular to the aspects of climate-environmental mitigation and the quality of use of public space, aspects which I do not think are addressed in the paper.
- Many examples are cited in the paper, but it is not clear on what basis the selection of case studies is based, nor on what criteria were used to analyse them. The result is a certain randomness, which does not favor the methodological rigor of the treatment, nor its precision and clarity.
- The proposed theme appears interesting, but the treatment is rather confusing, with references to multiple topics, which are not then explored and developed with adequate rigor. The three interpretative keys used to illustrate the theme (linguistic and philosophical aspects, ethical implications, Western and Arab geo-cultural contexts) are not motivated and above all do not relate clearly to the treatment of the different types of discontinuities investigated (intellectual, in meaning, physical, morphological, functional, temporal, socioeconomic, in the architectural styles, etc.).
- The structural causes of the discontinuities are not investigated: well beyond the formal dimension of the project, discontinuities and urban inequalities are attributable to social and urbanization dynamics of a predominantly economic nature, which are difficult to govern by design activity and not always governable even by urban and territorial planning.
- There is a complete lack of data to support the theses advanced. How relevant are the discontinuities of the urban structure and what effects do they determine on its quality (aesthetic, morphological, use, environmental, etc.)? When, where and how are these discontinuities determined and for what reasons? A phenomenological and systematic investigation of the problem is lacking.
- In summary, the discussion is very long, but not clear in its structure and purposes. It is suggested to carefully outline the topic and develop it with a clearer and more finalized structure, in order to give useful indications to support the design activity in an operational and - if possible - intelligent use of the concept of discontinuity.