Morphology of urban organism in Cyprus. The effect of borders and political changes in the fringe belts of Girne, TRNC.

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The contemporary city is developing inside and outside the limits of administrative territorial entities, and sometimes the urban organism is out of the control of local town planning. Nevertheless city limits, within the formation process of urban tissues, develop through time changing status from dividing limits to centralizing areas (Caniggia and Maffei, 1979), (Strappa, 1995). The notion of “fringe belt”, as developed by M.R.G. Conzen and the school of urban morphology of the University of Birmingham (Conzen, 1960), (Whitehand and Morton, 2004), describes coherently the change of status of these areas. This paper analyses the formation and change of fringe belts in the city of Girne, TRNC (Kyrenia, Cyprus). The case study of Girne, TRNC, as developed after 1974, is an interesting example of change in urban growth within a different State and local authority which enhances the open fringe belt formation, as happens in most metropolitan areas, determining a scattered and unplanned urban growth. The post 1974 changes of the fringe belts of this city will contribute to the further comprehension of urban policies used in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus after the division of the island following the Turkish military occupation. The case study of Girne (Kyrenia) will be also useful for the discussion and the comparative analysis of post 1974 urban growth of cities in the south side of Cyprus (Charalambous and Hadjichristos 2011), following the latest trends of the research in urban morphology (Gu and Xu 2014) to understand the different land use policies, the property issue, the contemporary urban planning policies and the future urban design strategies in Cyprus.

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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

city as organism
new visions for urban life
City as organism. New visions for urban life
22nd ISUF | International Seminar on Urban Form

book of abstracts

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Graphic design by Antonio Camporeale
Logo by Marco Falsetti

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