CONSIDERATIONS ON URBAN AND BLOCK FORMATION OF THE OLD QUARTER IN CADIZ

カディス旧市街の都市形成と街区構成に関する考察

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This paper aims to clarify the process of historical evolution and the main characteristics of the morphology of urban tissues in the old town of Cadiz. The authors did extensive field work and research in this area in the year 2009, documenting 88 heritage buildings. Also, historical records from 2,217 buildings available in the planning office of Cadiz have also been taken into account in this research. In this paper, historical maps have been studied in order to elucidate the urban formation and evolution of this old town. Also, the main characteristics of the urban morphology are clarified by overlapping the historical formation process and an analysis of the current state of this old town. This paper concludes the characteristics of spatial formation of the old town in Cadiz in relation with the street system, block alteration and building density.

Keywords : Cadiz, urban formation, urban tissues, fortification, street system

1. Objectives.

This paper aims to clarify the urban and block formation of the old quarter in Cadiz, which is located in the South of Spain (Fig.1), based on fieldworks and analysis of historical maps. Authors discuss the features of Cadiz old quarter, which present peculiar characteristics in terms of urban form.

The fieldworks were conducted from January 2009 to November 2009 for the assessment of the heritage properties in San Francisco area, northwards the old quarter: 88 heritage properties were assessed during 10 months. Field surveyors visited the sites to take photographs, collected historical documents, including interviews to the inhabitants and drawing of block and dwellings. Also, data collection about urban elements was performed: Street width was measured on-site: building height was established taking into account the number of floors, taking as a mean value 4 meters for ground floor and 3 meters for the rest of floors. Both parameters were contrasted with available data from CAD and GIS files from the planning office of Cadiz.

All the data of this fieldwork were included in Cadiz PGOU (Plan General de Ordenación Urbana), which is an urban development plan that acts as the leading policy for urban planning in the municipality 1). With reference to the heritage properties in the old city, there are available records for 2,217 residential buildings with different protection categories, which provide with an extensive database of the whole area2).

The outcome of this fieldwork gave support to the hypothesis that the urban morphology and the housing typology in Cadiz do not match the usual pattern in Southern Spain. This state may supported by the peculiar historical, geographical and climatic conditions for this city.

Previous research by the authors in this field was mainly focused on the environmental performance of the extant housing typology in the old quarter of Cadiz 3),4),5).

Fig. 1 Location of the city of Cadiz within Spain
Available materials are focused on different elements of this old quarter. Fortification system is a major asset to discuss the historic urban development of Cadiz. Extensive description about the historical process that has driven the formation and evolution of housing typology in Cadiz has already been addressed in previous researches. Moreover, descriptive studies about urban landscape based on historical records provides us with information about urban morphology at a specific period.

This material provides with valuable information, but lacks discussion about urban morphology as an entity that interrelates all elements of urban design (streets, buildings, blocks...) For this reason, it was considered worth doing further research on this matter.

The objectives of the research focus on the clarification of the formation of the urban structure of the old quarter of Cadiz, which includes the following:

1) Establish a chronological evolution of the urban tissue of Cadiz and the fortifications system: identify the link between both structures.
2) Identify the remaining urban structures from each chronological epoch that pervades in the urban conglomerate.
3) Clarify a current state of the old quarter in terms of urban morphology, which includes building height, urban blocks and street design patterns, in relation with the two former points.

2. Urban formation of Cadiz

According to archaeological surveys, the city of Cadiz has been inhabited since the VII Century B.C by the Phoenicians, as well as after by the Romans. However, these vestiges were erased and replaced by the medieval citadel. Historical evolution of this city differs from other counterparts in South Spain, as the majority of the surviving urban structure of Cadiz dates from the 17th century to the 19th century. The earlier city has been consistently transformed by the development of the commercial harbour, as a hub of rich trade in commodities and ideas derived from alien influences.

In order to clarify historical formation of the urban tissue, extensive material compiled as historical archives has been used. As for plans and maps, AGS (Archivo General de Simancas) has 635 plans and maps of Cadiz, and SGE (Servicio Geográfico del Ejército) has 19 items. In the ICC (Institut Cartographic de Catalunya), 125 items about Cadiz were found. Amongst this extensive visual material, six historical views are useful to reconstruct the transformation process of Cadiz in relation with the main historical events.

Additional material is useful to make a figure of urban morphology at a given time. Inventory of historical names of streets public spaces in reference to their adjacent buildings population census, housing taxes records or administrative division of the old city.

The formation and evolution of Cadiz is described as follows:

a) 1513: The oldest picture recorded of the city of Cadiz dates back to 1513 (Fig.3.a). The prominent elements can be identified are the old castle and the medieval wall (Fig. 4.a, 01-04), the old castle (B) and Santa Catalina Church (C), in the
The formation and evolution of Cadiz is described as follows:

b) 1567: The image drawn by Antoine Van Den Vingaerde (Fig.3.b) shows an urban structure embracing the inner harbour, where Cadiz would benefit from trading. Urban development of outer suburbs is notorious. The San Francisco Convent (D) constitutes a remarkable landmark in the city, comprising the church, the convent itself and the adjacent urban space, Plaza San Francisco. Historical records from the works by Adolfo de Castro 129 proved that an old mill located nearby in (E), which dates back from 1550, was the seed of an emerging urban structure whose traces would emerge from previous orchards. Plaza de la Candelaria (F), dated from at least 1567, would be outlined next to a Convent with its adjacent orchards, depicted as an urban void (G). After the siege, further discussion was held amongst planners and military engineers about the most suitable system in order to protect Cadiz: a fortification system that would defend only half of the Peninsula was outlined 9), but finally works for a whole defensive system 6) planned by Cristobal de Rojas, which surrounded the entire peninsula, broke ground 7). First strategic points to defend were the mainland connection, solved by elements (05-07) and the inner harbour, with a defensive line (09-16). After these drastic changes, the population of the city would be around 10,000 inhabitants.

d) 1640-1660: Progressive development of the urban structure was accomplished after the 1596 siege. Development faces West side of the peninsula (Fig.3.d). This incipient development adopts low density plots, with built fronts to the street, and orchards in the back; this, together with historical records 129, lead to identify incipient urban structures such as the ones surrounding (E), which previously existed, Mina square (H), another public space adjacent to San Francisco Convent with its adjacent orchards.
Convent and San Antonio Square (I): This area features a new urban tissue with straight streets and uniform plot sizes. Also, westwards from (G), an incipient urban development is emerging. The expansion of the defensive system faces open sea, with the construction of elements (18-23). Another attack towards Cadiz in 1625 resulted in a failure for the English; this fact gave the population a sense of security and Cadiz population rose up to approximately 22,000 inhabitants.

e) 1714: The urban structure of Cadiz in the beginning of 18th Century is shaped by an important historical event. The trade with America was shared between Sevilla and Cadiz from 1680 and the city extended towards West, filling the emerging plots that were previously outlined. The city became denser, producing the characteristic urban structure with noble houses in the West area of the Peninsula. This can be clearly seen in Fig.4.e around (E), which is now a consolidated compact urban tissue. Also, new residential developments built around the former Santa Catalina Church (C) would be outlined as planned extensions of the city. In the historical view is also depicted Royal Hospital (J), which marks the limit for the future urban sprawl westwards. Nearby it can be seen the outline of Falla square (K), one of the most remarkable urban spaces in the Westside of Cadiz. By this time fortification system is completed and surrounds the entire peninsula.
Nearly reaching the maximum expansion, the city population at that time would be around 40,000 inhabitants.

In 1812, the urban tissue has reached its limit in the West (Fig. 3.d), and the remaining void spaces would be used as military compounds, parks and seaside promenades. The new urban structures in this period are greatly influenced by the publication in 1792 of the building ordinances 13) that would require for all buildings a façade and plan design in order to obtain a building permit, thus producing new areas with regular plot sizes and uniform building heights, mainly in the West area. Moreover, these ordinances combined with the commercial and economic outburst of the city, due to the monopoly of the trade with America from 1717, would produce a profound renovation of the existing building stock: it was a common trend at that time to add additional floors to existing buildings and reform the façade.

In this period, the old city hold the maximum population recorded up-to-date: 74,500 inhabitants. This, in turn, means one of the most densely populated old cities in Spain: according to Suarez-Canton 19, during the French siege in 1812, some authors claim that the city could have house about 100,000 inhabitants, and the urban evolution in this city, the following elements have been studied: Main urban public spaces and streets, block transformation, building height, street width and fortification system.

Fig. 5 depicts the main urban landmarks and streets that have shaped the evolution of old Cadiz, together with their approximate year of origin according to historical records. The spots help to trace back the main vectors that have driven urban sprawl in old Cadiz, with aid from figures 4 a-f. The oldest urban space (A) connects with point (C) Sta. Catalina church by natural pathways like S. Juan St. (1599), P. Chico St. (1599), Campo del Sur St. (1615) and Rosa St. (1598), which was know before as road to Sta. Catalina Castle: S. Juan de Dios St. (1644) and Merced St. (1627) provides easy access to historic suburbs. Early development of S. Francisco Convent, the second religious order to establish a compound in 1566 11) An old mill in (E) explains that early existence of C. de la Barca St. (1600), Manuel Rances St. (1604) and Cervantes St. (1566), which derive from old pathways but only due to exceptional circumstances 10).

From the beginning of 19th Century the old city is considered to reach its full capacity in terms of building extension, and the urban structure, as recognized nowadays, is formed. Cadiz would be enclosed by walls for nearly 400 years, and urban sprawl would not surpass its fortification until late 1930’s, nearly 400 years later than many Spanish cities 11).

3. Block formation of the old quarter of Cadiz.

In order to clarify the block formation
delimiting orchards. Plaza de la Candelaria (F), annexed to Convento de la Candelaria (1567), reformed on 1873 after the dismantling of the convent, set the spot for an early development of blocks in 16th C, and reformed during 17th C: O. Urquinaona St. (1602) provided this space with the North-South connection between open sea (S. Juan St.) and inner harbour (S. Francisco St.). Eastwards this area a limit is set by Sagasta St, whose curved outline is a consequence of the traces of an old pathway adapted to topography and the connection that provided between Baluarte de Puerto Chico (05) and S. Francisco Convent (D): its origin dates back to 1648 and its layout was gradually extended Northbound and Southbound, constituting a ring road around the existing city. Public space (G) has been an activity hub in the South area, since the establishment of Convento de los Descalzos (until 1830), and after that it was dismantled, so room was made for a new public square where a public market was built. Sacramento St. (1692) set a straight line for latter developments around (J) in 1667 and (K) in 1883. San Antonio square (I) (1656) was laid out on purpose during the planned urban expansion of 1650-1700 with a regular form that has pervaded until present time, in contrast with squares (A), (F) and (G), which were the product of many historical affairs affecting its form and space configuration.

Fig. 7 shows old city in terms of number of floors, in relation with urban density. It can be pointed out the difference between the Northwest area, with prevailing 4-story buildings, and the West area, where 2-3-story are predominant. Commercial expansion during 17th C and consequent urban reformation give support to this density in the proximity of the inner harbor, where the most representative urban manors are located; this dense area matches a temporal span for urban development ranging from second half of 16th C to first third of 17th C, when it was conformed, and from second half of 17th C to the beginning of 18th C, when it was heavily reformed. West area is formed by planned developments, comprising mainly tenant buildings with lower density.

Combining these variables in the analysis, three main urban pervading structures in Cadiz have been identified, with its subsequent subdivisions:

- **Central medieval core**: Formation of this area can be traced back to 15th C and spans to first half of 16th C, though it had been altered through time; morphologically, it is characterized by a typical medieval urban tissue, with irregular blocks, narrow and intricate streets (Fig. 10.a). Two subareas can be outlined attending block alteration. 1A, the very urban core of Cadiz matching the inner city inside medieval walls, is unaltered, (Fig. 10.b): only 15.4% of block surface has been altered from its inception. In contrast, subarea 1B has 94% of its block area as altered. In terms of building height no clear

![Fig. 9 Current situation of Cadiz old town and morphological units (2013)](image-url)

- **Inner urban belt**: This area was occupied from the second half of 16th C to first third of 17th C, delimiting heavily altered urban blocks. 4-5 meters wide streets are found in the inner and outer urban belt, mainly from O. Urquinaona St, Sagasta St. and further on, concurring with urban development from 17th C. Later expansion from this point predominantly consists on 5-8 meters wide streets, and streets wider than 8 meters, so that they are found almost exclusively in planned neighborhoods from the last decades of 17th C and 18th C.

- **North area of the inner belt**: This area was occupied from the second half of 16th C to first third of 17th C, delimiting heavily altered urban blocks. 4-5 meters wide streets are found in the inner and outer urban belt, mainly from O. Urquinaona St, Sagasta St. and further on, concurring with urban development from 17th C. Later expansion from this point predominantly consists on 5-8 meters wide streets, and streets wider than 8 meters, so that they are found almost exclusively in planned neighborhoods from the last decades of 17th C and 18th C.
Commercial expansion during 17th C and consequent urban and the West area, where 2-3-story are predominant. Between the Northwest area, with prevailing 4-story buildings, relation with urban density. It can be pointed out the difference realigned. Streets narrower than 4 meters can only be found in inextricably linked to streets that were widened, opened and further on, by means of street alignments and openings; an outer appeared between 1550-1660 and was heavily reformed and split approximately and that pervades unaltered today. Belt, in the form of planned districts that appeared since 1700.

From the inception to present time. Historical records and views, as has been set in terms of maintaining their original shape from back to 15th C and spans to first half of 16th C, though it had to make room for new buildings (Fig. 4 29-31) in the 20th 1912 in order to enhance the expansion of the inner harbor and subsequent urban expansion from early 17th C, delimiting commerce that was the inner harbor in 16th and 17th C, which of renovation and congestion around the main activity hub of the peninsula explain the absence of some historical tissues the presence of fortifications and the geographical limitation of the urban morphology: street design, block alteration and building density.

These conclusions pose new questions about residential building types in old Cadiz that will be addressed in a subsequent paper.

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Notes

*1.) According to historical records from the Roman author Veleyo Paterculo, the ancient city of Cadiz could have been founded in the year 1.104 B.C. However, there are no archeological evidence that can prove this hypothesis, so that it is established that Cadiz was inhabited from 5th Century.

*2.) According to Suarez Canton, the population would be around 5000 inhabitants, but other authors (Sancho, H. Estructura y perfil de mografico de la ciudad de Cadiz en el S. XVI) claim that it would surpass 1200 inhabitants.

*3.) These plots still remain in its original size. They feature a front of 15 varas (around 12.45 m) and 17 varas (around 14.11 m) from front to back, giving a plot size between 200-300 sqm.

*4.) According to historical records (I. Porquincho Moya) in this Century the population would increase gradually: 3.550 inhabitants in 1550 and 7.100 inhabitants in 1600.

*5.) The works by Pedro de Abreu (Historia del saqueo de Cadiz por los ingleses) give a detailed description about the parlous state of the city after the battle.

*6.) The modern walls in Cadiz were, in fact, part of a whole defensive system that was planned to cover the Atlantic Coast of Andalusia, protecting the ships that came from America.

*7.) This decision was, in fact, crucial and determined the latter development of Cádiz as a fortified city. Some authors state that this decision was supported by the fact that Spanish Royal Court feared not only foreign attacks, but also internal rebellion form the numerous foreign population living in Cadiz: others claim that the main reason was the convenience of defending Cadiz basically by sea, because once enemy could set foot on land, siege of the city would be unavoidable.

*8.) Between November 1st and November 7th, 10,000 men and 90 ships tried to capture one Spanish city and the ships coming from America. Finally Cadiz was chosen as their objective.

*9.) From 1680, the ships coming from America had the obligation of stopping in Cadiz before going to Seville: later, in 1717, the Casa de Contratacion was definitely transferred to Cadiz.

*10.) During the Spanish Independence war, between 1808 and 1814, Cadiz was the only city that was not controlled by the French. In Cadiz, parliamentarians from the whole nation gathered and the national assembly proclaimed the first Spanish Constitution in 1812. The city resisted the French attacks during 2 years.

*11.) Other Southern Spanish historical cities can account for having historic suburbs out of their fortifications, such as Triana in Seville (15th C), Santiago and San Miguel in Jerez de la Frontera (16th C) or Saquindun Córdoba (8th C).

*12.) The first religious order to establish headquarters in Cadiz was the Jesuits in 1564.

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