Continuity of Urban Fabric
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It is important that urban design achieves continuity of the urban fabric and streets, because this facilitates flows. Wherever movements occur, there is vitality and flow creates eyes on the street producing spontaneous surveillance.

The modern city has become principally a self-contained city, made up of separate cells. This creates discontinuities in the overall city texture and routes, which leaves the city vulnerable to a feeling of insecurity. In addition, discontinuity in a city’s urban fabric create dangerous spaces lacking any specific use.
Continuity with the existing streets and pedestrian routes

**POSITIVE**

- Ca’Brutta in Milan
  - Muzio’s design opened up an entire new street, allowing a more continuous flow of pedestrian traffic, relating to the existing streets and routes

- Città Studi
  - The Politecnico’s design in the urban context promotes continual student walking routes which are both related to the surrounding streets and to the university buildings themselves

**NEGATIVE**

- Bicocca
  - The new development fails to create a continuous space with its urban fabric creating a discontinuity

- Example from the handbook
  - “The new housing development breaks the continuity of the existing urban fabric.”
Positive examples

Ca’Brutta

Città Studi
Negative Examples

Example from Handbook

Bicocca
Clear orientation of pedestrians

**POSITIVE**

- Piazza Duomo
  - The duomo clearly provides an organized public space for pedestrians. The lack of cars and clear separation between public space and store entrances helps to orient pedestrians.

- Example in the book
  - “The organization of this square allows people arriving from the Ferry building to find their way clearly”

**NEGATIVE**

- Central Train Station in Milan
  - The lack of a clear exit and overwhelming piazza, with several adjoining streets leaves pedestrians lost and disoriented

- Loreto
  - Similar to the central station, the 8 adjoining streets leave pedestrians with no clear orientation especially with the several entrances to the metro station.
Positive Examples

Example from the handbook

Piazza duomo
Negative Examples

Central Train Station

Loreto
Easy and safe walking through the site

**POSITIVE**

- Example from the handbook
  - “The clear layout of this mall allows pedestrians to cross the area in safety.”

- Santa Giulia
  - The complete Norman Foster design provides for a very safe pedestrian condition, thanks to the addition of clear walking paths and the public surveillance from the presence of stores

**NEGATIVE**

- Rogoredo in Milan
  - While the Rogoredo metro station has safety flaws because of its combination of a metro stop and a train station, the poor lighting, decay and graffiti provide for a very unsafe condition, specifically at night

- Rubattino
  - The only walking entrance to the site passes under a train track and has no lighting and is unkept. In addition, the area’s high rises create very little ground level actions, creating an unsafe walking area throughout the site
Positive Examples

Example from the Handbook

Santa Giulia
Negative Examples

Rogoredo

Rubattino
**Built form compatible with the surrounding**

**POSITIVE**

- Example from the handbook
  - “This modern building fits well in the historical center of Milan”

- Torre Velasca in Milan
  - The modernist skyscraper attempts to recreate medieval Italian architecture to relate to its surrounding areas and to create a less invasive building in the surrounding public space

**NEGATIVE**

- Palazzo Lombardia
  - The new political seat of the region of Lombardia was designed by an American architecture firm and is a monument in itself with little to no reference to the local surroundings. The building was in fact protested by local inhabitants

- Ampliamento dell’Università Bocconi
  - The modernist building fails to blend with its local surroundings and also interrupts the existing walking paths of the sidewalk. This building has also been criticized by the local inhabitants
Positive Examples

Example from the Handbook

Torre Velasca
Negative Examples

Università Bocconi

Altra Sede della Regione Lombardia
Conclusion

The combination of continuity in an urban fabric, safe and clear pedestrian spaces and the compatibility of built forms and their environments, is essential to the safety of an urban space. All three of the aforementioned requirements in the continuity of an urban fabric can be made successful by intelligent urban designing.
And this is Marco