The relationship between the pattern of urban open space and increasing density

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Since the late-20th century, human experienced the unprecedented rapid development, while urbanization is also facing an unprecedented fast transformation. Buildings and urban spaces in metropolises are continuously breaking through previous meanings by performing with new patterns (including new forms and organizing ways). With rapid development of “architecture as urbanism”, more architects and scholars gradually are taking responsibilities for a positive result of urbanization. At the same time, during this period of urbanization, many large cities’ construction coverages already reach a threshold value, especially, metropolises like Hong Kong. Since the 1970s, limited land resources and pressures from economic development pushed the density (plot ratio) rising faster. Although density/plot ratio of urban areas in Hong Kong looks like extreme, high-rising development model in contemporary metropolises is not an exceptional case around the world. Therefore, this study for urban spaces in Hong Kong can be a typical paradigm for other developing or developed high-rise cities. This study put forward a new approach to tracing and rethinking how current pattern of urban open space (UOS) formed. It is operated in two cases in Hong Kong for systematically seeking better opportunities for future development of urban open space (UOS) system.

Due to natural limitations and contradictions between previous top-down and bottom-up approaches, many new urbanism studies tried to find a third way for achieving sustainable cities with ecological urban system and ecological urban forms. Form is essential and physical performance of buildings and urban spaces, while it has intimate relationships with its social-economical motivations and results. Depictions of before-and-after are far from enough for complex and diverse UOS system. Demands for a new visual expression can transcend various interests with new alternative reading context is strong in recent decades. This study put forwards the Level-Type framework for filling this gap and finding opportunities for UOSs spaces. It is created with main influences from the Level conceptions form Open Buildings and essential attributions from transformations of UOS in Hong Kong. Basic languages and analysis methods of urban morphology are imported in this study as methodology foundation. Some soft-wares are used to refine filter data and visualize forms of UOS in WanChai and MongKok cases. By comparing two cases with the Level-Type framework, three groups of critiques and developing opportunities are concluded for against some previous biases on previous study methods, cognition of driving force and influences on UOS in Hong Kong. This study devotes to put forward the Level-Type framework. Furthermore, it tries to develop typical analysis in Hong Kong for providing a precise, comprehensive and portable study paradigm for contemporary UOS in high-dense environment.