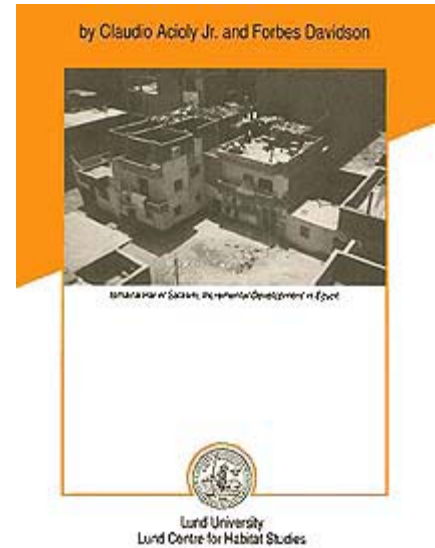


Density in Urban Development

by Claudio Acioly Jr. and Forbes Davidson



Summary

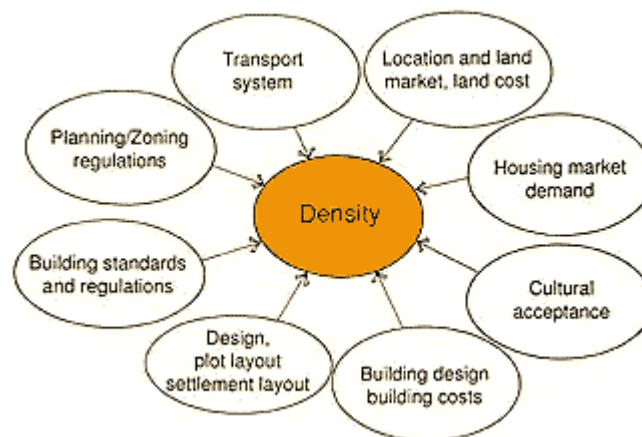
Employment, efficiency of infrastructure provision, access of low-income households to adequate shelter, and sustainability are all key issues in urban development. The problems are becoming more acute, especially in developing countries with increasing population pressure on cities.

It is difficult to generalize about density, particularly residential density, in an international context. Concepts of what is high and low density, and what is acceptable, are very specific to different continents, countries, cities and neighbourhoods. Even in these contexts, however, there are increasing calls for change - and changes are generally towards more compact cities. Although there is considerable resistance to increasing compactness, the costs of low density solutions are recognized.

This *Building Issue* is addressed to architects, urban planners, city managers and practitioners whose work and decisions directly affect the form, quality and sustainability of urban environments. The report intends to broaden their understanding of urban densities by highlighting the aspects that influence the density of cities, such as urban design parameters, planning regulations, urban standards, and their effects.

It is argued that sustainable human settlement development depends in part on how these professionals perceive and make decisions about the intrinsic benefits and disadvantages of densely occupied urban environments.

The report shows how density can be used as an urban planning and management tool that can foster urban productivity and efficiency in the utilization of land, infrastructure and resources. Case studies and density figures from different countries are presented. Guidelines, recommendations and a checklist are provided to help assess the best ways to deal with the density of urban settlements in a local context.



<http://www.hdm.lth.se/bi/report/frame.htm>