

Urban - architectural elements of interaction between the museum and the city

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1 INTRODUCTION

In the 1970s the museum became a key driver of urban transformation. The complex relationship between museums and the urban fabric has so far been primarily studied through economic, sociological and museological dimensions, while research on the urban-architectural impact of museums on urban transformation is lacking. The idea of the museum as a tool for urban regeneration was introduced in the mid-1970s with the completion of Centre Pompidou in Paris. This is one of the first examples of a museum as a metropolitan focal point, which was planned with the premise of urban renewal of the 4th district, the Beaubourg area. Soon enough it yielded a big success and became an example of a prosperous project for urban regeneration. This research aims to (i) identify museums that significantly influenced the transformation of the city, (ii) to identify and define urban-architectural elements for the analysis of the relationship between the museum and the city, (iii) to determine the criteria for the creation of urban-architectural models of the museum's influence on the transformation of the city and (iv) to test those models on the selected museums' sample.

At the moment the first two aims of the study were carried out.

The first part of the research is presented in the form of a catalogue overviewing examples of museums from antiquity to 2020, based on an extensive review of literature and other sources, which identified European museums from all historical periods. Seventy museums are selected for the catalogue based on defined criteria. The second step of the study defines 14 elements of interaction between the museum and the city that were selected from the literature review after consideration and conceptual alignment and classifies them into four comprehensive groups: urban policy, location, architectural form and social space. Subsequently, the connection between the defined interactions and the spatial scale (state/city – city district – building – interior) is formed, creating a tool that makes it possible to select different combinations of interaction elements and scale depending on the area of research interests. The identified tool will be further developed by adding new elements emerging from ongoing study that will continue testing the proposed models on the museums selected in the catalogue.

2 LITERATURE SEARCH FOR ELEMENTS OF INTERACTION

The references were collected by searching for a combination of keywords - city, museum, public space, urban identity and urban transformation – in the research databases. A total of 70 papers that analyse museums in European cities over time were selected. After reviewing, 31 publications published from 1993 to 2021 were selected that explore the relationship between the museum and the city using at least one of the four different approaches: urbanism and architecture (8 studies), economy (7 studies), sociology (8 studies) and museology (8 studies) (Fig. 1).

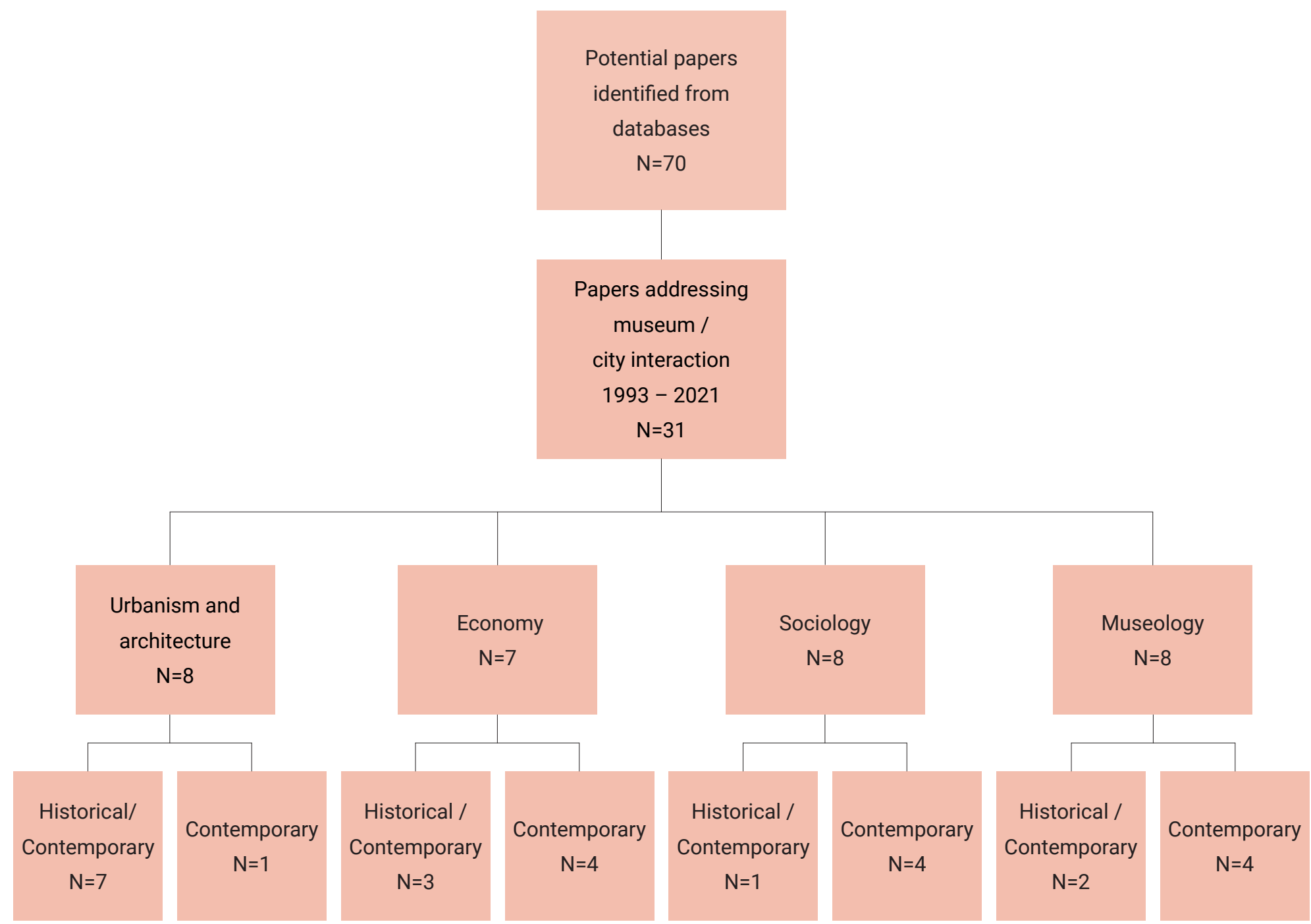


Fig. 1 Flowchart of selection and grouping of analysed studies. H – Historical museums, built until the middle of 20th century C – Contemporary museums, built from the middle of 20th century to the present

The selected research articles were systematized by the year of publication, the predominant field of interest (urbanism and architecture, economy, sociology and museology) and the period of interest. Museums which were built until the middle of 20th century were considered historical and those built from the middle of 20th century on were considered contemporary. The selected studies considered the museum-city relationship through one or a combination of areas. For example, some studies observed how the relationship between the museum and the city affected the financial aspect of the city/state and the museum itself, while other studies observed this relationship from a sociological viewpoint, studying how the museum affects the prosperity of citizens living in its surroundings. It can be seen that the studies that analysed both historical and contemporary museums were more concerned with urbanism and architecture, while the studies that analysed contemporary museums were more interested in topics from the fields of sociology and museology. The field of economy was of equal interest to both types of studies (Table I).



Fig. 2 Centre Pompidou, Paris, France

Literature unit	Field of interest	City / Museum	Historical / Contemporary Museum	Period of interest	Interaction
Urbanism and architecture					
Griffiths, 1993	Urbanism	Glasgow, London	H + C	1857 - 1992	Urban policy
Van Aalst and Boogaarts, 2002	Urbanism / Architecture	Amsterdam / Museumplein Berlin / Museuminsel	H + C	1970 - 2000	Urban policy / Location / Architectural form
De Frantz, 2005	Urbanism / Architecture	Vienna Museumsquartier	H + C	1970 - 2004	Urban policy / Location / Architectural form
Giebelhausen, 2006	Urbanism / Architecture	Berlin, Bilbao, Groninger, Hamburg, London, Luxembourg, Madrid, Munich, Paris, Rome, Vienna	H + C	Antiquity – 2004	Urban policy / Architectural form
Tali and Pierantoni, 2011	Urbanism / Architecture	Budapest / LUMU Tallinn / KUMU Zagreb / MSU	C	1930 - 2009	Urban policy / Location / Architectural form / Social space
Pauil Agustí, 2014	Urbanism / Architecture	Barcelona, Paris, Turin	H + C	2000 - 2013	Urban policy / Location / Architectural form
Ozorhon and Ozorhon, 2015	Urbanism / Architecture / Economy	Istanbul / Topkapi Palace Museum, Museum of Modern Art, Naval Museum	H + C	1478 - 2014	Urban policy / Location / Architectural form
Koçhergina, 2017	Urbanism / Architecture	Museum Quarters Vienna, Berlin, Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Budapest	H + C	1970 - 2017	Urban policy / Location / Architectural form
Economy					
Newman and Smith, 2000	Economy / Urbanism	London	H + C	1910 - 2000	Urban policy / Location
Swyngedouw, Moulaert and Rodriguez, 2002	Economy / Urbanism / Architecture	Athens, Berlin, Bilbao, Brussels, Copenhagen, Dublin, Naples, Vienna, Lisbon, London, Rotterdam	C	1979 - 2009	Urban policy / Location
Evans, 2003	Economy / Urbanism / Architecture	Barcelona / MACBA, Berlin / Imperial War Museum, Jewish Museum, Bilbao / Guggenheim, Paris / Louvre, Centre Pompidou	H + C	1851 - 2001	Urban policy / Architectural form
Plaza, 2006	Economy / Architecture	Bilbao / Guggenheim	C	1976 - 2004	Urban policy
Plaza and Haarič, 2009	Economy / Urbanism / Architecture	Bilbao / Guggenheim	C	1980 - 2008	Urban policy / Location / Architectural form
Brida, Meleddu and Pulina, 2012	Economy / Architecture	Bolzano / Archaeological Ötzi Museum	H + C	2007 - 2010	Urban policy / Architectural form Social space
Degen and Garcia, 2012	Economy / Urbanism / Architecture	Barcelona	C	1979 - 2008	Urban policy
Sociology					
Taborsky, 1982	Sociology / Museology	-	-	15th century - 1980	Social space
McTavish, 1998	Sociology / Architecture / Museology	Paris / The Louvre Museum	H + C	1895 - 1998	Social space
Gospodini, 2001	Sociology / Architecture	Bilbao / Guggenheim	C	1950 - 2000	Urban policy / Location / Architectural form / Social space
Gospodini, 2002	Sociology / Urbanism	European metropolitan/ larger/ smaller cities	-	1980 - 2021	Urban policy / Social space
Mitrache, 2012	Sociology / Architecture	Bilbao / Guggenheim	C	1980 - 2000	Location / Social space
Gibson, 2013	Sociology / Museology	-	-	1990 - 2011	Architectural form / Social space
Heidenreich, 2013	Sociology / Urbanism	Essen / Museum Folkwang	C	1875 - 2012	Urban policy / Social space
Ruggiero, Lombardi and Russo, 2021	Sociology / Museology	Paris / The Louvre Museum, Trento / The MUSE, Antwerp / Museum aan de Stroom	C	2019	Social space
Museology					
Harrison, 1993	Museology / Sociology	Great Britain	C	19th century - 1992	Urban policy / Social space
Abt, 2006	Museology / Architecture	From antiquity to the 20th century, European cities	-	Antiquity – 20th century	Urban policy / Architectural form
Hillier and Tzortzi, 2006	Museology / Architecture	London / Tate Museum Verona / Castelvecchio	H + C	1984 - 2006	Architectural form / Social space
Macdonald, 2007	Museology / Architecture	-	-	1960 - 2006	Architectural form / Social space
McCall and Gray, 2014	Museology	Great Britain	C	1971 - 2013	Urban policy / Social space
MacLeod, Dodd and Duncan, 2015	Museology / Architecture	Manchester / Imperial War Museum North	C	1965 - 2014	Architectural form
Tzortzi, 2016	Museology / Architecture	Antwerp / Museum aan de Stroom, Athens / Acropolis Museum, Berlin / Jewish Museum, Rome / Museum of Palazzo Valentini	H + C	1999-2014	Architectural form / Social space
Tzortzi, 2017	Museology / Architecture	Aarhus / Moesgaard Museum	C	1966 - 2017	Architectural form / Social space

3 DEFINITION AND SYSTEMATISATION OF ELEMENTS OF INTERACTION

The elements of interaction between the city and the museum were separately analysed in each paper and 14 elements of interaction were profiled, defined and systematized into four comprehensive groups denoting different types of interaction between the museum and the city: urban policy (1), location (2), architectural form (3) and social space (4) (Table II).

Table II Elements within each interaction between a museum and a city					
Urban policy					
Urban-economic development strategies	Size	Global / Local Impact	Return on investment		
Included/Not included	Size of the city	Global impact of the museum	Museum earnings per year		
Part of the culture-led policy	Size of the project	Local impact of the museum	Retail per m2		
Part of cultural investments	City population	Impact of the city on the museum	Employment		
Ownership		City branding	Part of cultural investments		
City branding	Number of visitors	Number of visitors	Ownership		
		Number of visitors	Number of visitors		
Location					
Location in the city	Spatial relation	Water / Greenery			
Historic centre	Surroundings similar/ different usage of space	(Non) Existing			
City centre	Impact of the city on the museum and vice versa	Size			
Urban peripheral area	Connected / Not connected with the surrounding city area	Usage			
		Public or private			
Architectural form					
Museum cluster	Freestanding building	Impact			
Position in the city	Position in the city				
Surroundings similar/different usage of space	'Iconic' architecture Landmark	Impact on the surroundings or if the surroundings had an impact on the building			
Connected / Not connected with the surrounding city area	Architectural layout				
Spatial and visual relations between buildings	Adjusted to the pre-existing urban fabric/or not				
Social space					
Placement	Form	Additional content	Impact		
Adjacent to the building	Square				
Inside the building	Linear / Path				
Non-existing social space	Part of the communication area	Museum shop, coffee shop, spaces for education, multipurpose hall, theatre, library etc.	Impact on the surroundings		
Connected with the surrounding city area / Not connected	Courtyard				
Accessibility	Dispersed over several areas				

4 INTERACTION AND SCALE

In further analysis, 14 defined elements, differentiated into 4 interactions, were associated with each analysed study (Table I, column Interaction). The majority of studies observe the museum and the city through more than one interaction, confirming the complexity of the museum-city interaction. The museum-city interaction that appears most often is urban policy (21), followed by architectural form (18), social space (16) and location (11).

Subsequently, the connection between the four groups of the museum/city interaction and scale (state/ city, city district, building, interior) was formed (Table III).

It is easily read from Table III which elements should be analysed depending on the scale and the area of research interests at a given time. The table can be read both horizontally and vertically.

Table III Interaction and scale					
Interaction	Scale				
	State/City	City district	Building	Interior	
Urban policy	Urban-economic development strategies	Urban-economic development strategies	Urban-economic development strategies	Global or local impact	
	Size	Size	Global or local impact		
	Global or local impact	Global or local impact	Return on investment	Return on investment	
	Return on investment	Return on investment	Return on investment	Return on investment	
Location	Location in the city	Location in the city	Location in the city	Spatial relations	
	Spatial relations	Spatial relations	Spatial relations	Water / Greenery	
	Water / Greenery	Water / Greenery	Water / Greenery	Water / Greenery	
Architectural form	Museum cluster	Museum cluster	Museum cluster	Museum cluster	
	Freestanding building	Freestanding building	Freestanding building	Freestanding building	
Social space	Impact	Impact	Impact	Impact	
	Placement	Placement	Placement	Placement	
	Impact	Additional content	Form	Form	Form
		Impact	Impact	Impact	Impact

5 CONCLUSION

The role of the museum goes far beyond its primary task of displaying selected exhibits in an appropriate manner. Through repositioning themselves as a new tool for urban development, museums are changing their architecture and function as well. Systematic studies on the potential regenerative impact of museum buildings on the city are scarce, especially concerning their role within urban development, apart from rare exceptions, such as the Guggenheim Bilbao. The field of interest of selected studies ranges from urbanism and architecture to economy, sociology and museology, reflecting the complexity and different layers of the museum-city relationship.

A special challenge in this study was the definition of individual elements, and the delineation of their conceptual contents, which enables the use of this classification in future studies on the topic.

In this context, the present state of the study serves as a starting point for further research that could implement the proposed methodology for putting forward the best practices for future urban cultural planning. The existing framework needs to be continuously upgraded in the future with the addition of new elements as new concepts are developed following the transformations of museums and cities based on political and cultural community needs.



Fig. 3 Centre Pompidou, Paris, France

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