

# **“Understanding the Influences of the Interior on an Urban Analysis: a study of the Nolli Map of Rome”**

## *Audience*

Many planners and urban designers recognize the importance of interior space on the urban environment, particularly on pedestrian activity and the viability of public transit. Arguably, this study illustrates the importance and perhaps necessity for considering comprehensive, congruent spatial relationships when designing successful cities, regardless of the professional discipline.

## *Theoretical Construct*

Politically, Arendt (1958) described the public realm as that which appears to all of us, is common to all of us, and yet is distinguished from the privately owned. Others suggest that the public realm is not only all that is politically defined as public, but all that effectively functions as public as well (Hajer and Reijndorp 2001; Kayden 2000). How does the inclusion of that which is perceived, or functions, as public affect the analysis of that which is politically defined as public?

## *Framework of Study*

Using a section of the 1748 Nolli map of Rome, two vector maps are constructed to explore the influence of that which is perceived as public, or the Interior, on that which is politically defined as public, or the Urban. An analysis, using Spatialist\_lines, is run on the two vector maps, and the measures of Metric Reach and Directional Reach are compared (Peponis, Bafna, and Zhang 2008). When the two measures are overlaid, the map of the perceived public realm demonstrates a greater intersection between areas of density and those of local and global intelligibility. Clearly, inclusion of interior space as part of an urban analysis affects the syntactic structure of the city, and importantly, it enhances the conceptual understanding of the city.

## *References*

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