

Urban Form and Environmental Performances via Integrated Modification Methodology (IMM) methodology.

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## TODAY'S GLOSSARY Terms you will encounter today

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## Holism:

the theory that parts of a whole are in intimate interconnection, such that they cannot exist independently of the whole, or cannot be understood without reference to the whole, which is thus regarded as greater than the sum of its parts.

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IMM®





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## **Complex systems:**

Consisting of many diverse and autonomous but interrelated components which they exhibit properties that emerge from their interaction and cannot be predicted from the properties of the parts.

IМЛ



HIERARCHICAL STRUCTURE A hierarchy (Greek: hierarchia ( $\epsilon \rho \alpha \rho \chi i \alpha$ ), is an arrangement of items in which the items are represented as being "above," "below," or "at the same level as" one another.



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## MULTI-SCALE APPROACH:

Multiscale decision theory can model hierarchical decisionmaking networks which exhibit multi-scale phenomena. The theory's results can be used by mechanism designers in complex systems to improve system performance and decision quality.



transplantation



Every single project, depends on the size, scale and level of complexity. In fact, multidisciplinary design is a symbiotic relation between the layers.

"The only problems that have simple solutions are simple problems. The world is a complex place, facing complex problems that have complex solutions, and we need to make complex decisions everyday". P. Ortiz.



According to the UN the planet coubles to its high estimate of 15 billion by the end of this century the number of occupants will *halve* from 4 people per household in 1990 to 1.97 by 2050. By 2050.... 75% of the world's population will live in cities 60% will live in urban slums 60% of the necessary urban infrastructure is still to be built

It is easy to picture the future global city...

#### Total CO2 Emissions, Excluding Land Use Change, 2000



Map Projection: Robinson

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< 60,000 No Data

**IMM**<sup>®</sup> is a method to improve the performance of a city as an existing system via modification of its costituents.

### What Is IMM?

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PHASING

1	1a	Horizontal Investigation	Dismantling the system to investigate The actual value of Key	Investigation/ Analysis	Observation &	
1	16	Vertical investigation Categories		,	Measurement	
	1c	Actual performance of the sy	stem based on 12 indicators	Data Collection		
2	2a	Detection of the transformation's Catalyst		Assumption and Interpretation/ Hypothesis	Formulation	
	2b	Assumption of the 12 IMM Ordering principles		Assumption		
3	За	Horizontal Modification	The catalyst drives the local transformation; changing the structure of the layers/Ligands	Madification	Intervention &	
	3b	Vertical Modification Vertical Modification Vertical Vertical Modification Vertical V		Moundation	Design	
	4a	Performance of the new CAS	Contextual Evaluation	Retrofitting		
4	4b	Local modification/optimization is a process involving again the first level of superimposition for improving locally their performance. Local optimization works using selected tools/features: - Volume/Voids = Solar Gain; Wind Tunnel; - Volume/Function = Level of mixed use - Function/Voids = Function distribution - Transports/Voids = Number of intersection - Transports/Function= Service area control. - Transports/Volume= Catchment area control		Local Design	Optimization	

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	Table (The suggeste	Porosity Volume and Void layer defines the Porosity of the city as a solid porous Volume, sponge			
	Volume	like, with various sizes of holes linked by linear Void layer			
Horizontal	Void	Open space area	$V_d = V_{open} / Area$	Proximity is the number of	
Investigation	Function	Job density, Number of legal entities in the intervention area	F <sub>n</sub> =J <sub>number</sub> / Area	different type of key functions in a predetermined area walk able.	
	Transportation	Number of carried out urban trips	Ntr	Diversity is the number of	
				interactions between nodes within a network; it's the number and the distribution of the different type of key functions in a predetermined distance.	
	Table (The suggeste	e 4: Procedure for the system's dismantli ed formulas are still under the evaluation by	ing; the authors)	Interface is about movability inside the urban voids and it defines how complex they are. it	
	Porosity	Factuality of urban voids []	$P_s = cat^{-1} \sum [1 - (n_i x_i A^{-1})]^2$	system, by increasing the	
	Proximity	Number of key functions within walking distance area from the dwellings	$P_x = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N} nf}{N}$ , S $P_x = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N} nf}{N}$ , S	number of possible Links to connect two nodes	
	Diversity	Diversity of subdivision use []	$D_i = \frac{c}{c-1} \left[ 1 - \sum_{i=0}^{C} \left( \frac{ni}{N} \right)^2 \right]$	Accessibility is a distance independent parameter that relies	
Vertical Investigation	Interface	Cyclomatic complexity of pedestrians [9] (L: number of Links, Number of Nodes)	$\mu = L - N + l$	on a time factor. it refers to the ease of reaching destinations.	
	Accessibility	Number of available jobs reachable in 20 min, Number of available public transportation mode in the area	N <sub>Acc</sub>	Efficiency is the ratio between the number of trips operated by public transport and the total	
	Efficiency	The number of public transportation trips and the total number of trips	$E_f = N_{ptr} N_{tr}^{-1}$	transportation demands of the study area.	

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## HORIZONTAL INVESTIGATION





## VERTICAL INVESTIGATION

The second step of the Investigation phase is an investigation of the comprehensive configuration of the CAS. For this reason it is requested a particular attention to describe the correlation between the different subsystems (Global configuration) in order to assign a proper role and specific characteristics to each one.

#### Key Categories, First Level of Integration

#### **Porosity:**

The city as a solid **porous volume**, sponge like, with various sizes of holes linked by linear Void layer.

### **Poroximity:**

the Proximity is the number of different type of key functions in a predetermined **walkable scale distance**;

stainaloility aergy) y	reity	oximity	essibility
tation Sur	Anstron	ation	a sea
Vertical Adap	Fonterior	and Layer	
*	Volum Aorizonta Medifico	Adaptati tion of a	ion layer

Layers' superimposition	First level (Key Catagories)	Second level	Determinants		
Volume / Function	Proximity	Commenterer	Mamhalaay		
Volume / Void	Porosity	Compaciness	Morphology	Energy efficient form	
Function / Void	Diversity	Complexity	Tumplamy		
Transport / Void	Interface	Complexity	1 yponey		
Transport / Function	Accessibility	Connectivity	Taskaslaan		
Transport / Volume	Efficiency Connectivity		recunology		



## 2

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### Key Categories, First Level of Integration

#### **Diversity:**

Direct relationship with the number of the nodes and Links. The diversity, the distribution of the different functions in urban spaces. Diversity is dependent on the number and type of the functions and independent from the distance.

#### Interface:

direct relationship to movability and **permeability** inside the urban morphological **cavities**.

Layers' superimposition	First level (Key Catagories)	Second level	Determinants		
Volume / Function	Proximity	Commentering	Mamhalam		
Volume / Void	Porosity	Compaciness	Morphology	Energy	
Function / Void	Diversity	Constanity	Translaura		
Transport / Void	Interface	Complexity	Typology	Iorm	
Transport / Function	Accessibility	Constitution	Technology		
Transport / Volume	Efficiency	Connectivity	Technology		





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### Key Categories, First Level of Integration

#### Accessibility:

refers to the ease of reaching destinations. Accessibility is a distance independent parameter that simply relies on a **time factor**.

### Efficiency:

the ratio between the number of trips operated by **public transport** and the total transportation demands of the study area.

Layers' superimposition	First level (Key Catagories)	Second level	Determinants		
Volume / Function	Proximity	Comparison	Mamhalami		
Volume / Void	Porosity	Compactness	Morphology	Energy efficient form	
Function / Void	Diversity	Constants	Translaura		
Transport / Void	Interface	Complexity	Typology		
Transport / Function	Accessibility	0	Tabalan		
Transport / Volume	Efficiency	Connectivity	rechnology		



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## **VERTICAL INVESTIGATION**

## **Comprehension of the CAS configuration**

Porosity	Factuality of urban voids [9]	$P_s = cat^{-1} \sum [1 - (\underline{n}_i x_i A^{-1})]_{-1}^2$
Proximity	Number of key functions within walking distance area from the dwellings	$\underline{\underline{P}}_{n} = \frac{\sum_{i=0}^{N} nf}{N}, S$ $\underline{\underline{P}}_{n} = \frac{\sum_{i=0}^{N} nf}{N}, S$





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## **VERTICAL INVESTIGATION**

## **Comprehension of the CAS configuration**

Diversity	Diversity of subdivision use [9]	$D_{1} = \frac{c}{c-1} \left[ 1 - \sum_{i=0}^{c} (\frac{ni}{N})^{2} \right]_{\dots \dots $
Interface	Mean Depth	$D = \frac{\sum d.n}{k-1}$



COMPLEXITY

$$D_{1} = \frac{c}{c-1} \left[ 1 - \sum_{i=0}^{c} \left( \frac{ni}{N} \right)^{2} \right]_{max}$$
$$D = \frac{\sum d.n}{k-1}$$



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## **VERTICAL INVESTIGATION**

## How does the actual CAS work?



Accessibility	Number of available jobs reachable in 20 min, Number of available public transportation mode in the area	$\underline{Acc}=\underline{N_{i}}\frac{A_{c}}{A_{c}}$
Efficiency	The number of public transportation trips and the total number of trips	$\underline{\mathbf{E}}_{\mathbf{f}} = \underline{\mathbf{N}}_{\text{par}}  \mathbf{N}_{\text{tr}}^{-1}$



#### Transportation/Volumes EFFICIENCY Transportation/Function = ACCESSIBILITY

CONNECTIVITY



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## IMM FRNATIONAL DESIGN LABORATORY FOR URB



**First CAS Measurement** 

## **Comprehension of the CAS** performance.

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a) Urban Built density*	BD=S Root of every story of Failing/Oceastized ast
b) Compactness factor*	C = Surface/ (Volume) ^ (2/3)
<ul> <li>c) Number of building per hectare.</li> </ul>	Nº/Ha
2. Population and energy:	
<ul> <li>a) Consumption per capita.</li> </ul>	KWh/year per capita
b) Rate of energy coming from renewable sources*	TENR = Tenswebb on prof / Tood on pool (%)
<ul> <li>c) Renewable energy percentage in transport</li> </ul>	I and a function of the state (76)
3. Walkability:	
a) Number of key function in a walking distance from	Living within 300 m from key services
residential buildings	(in-number of inhabitants or ha)
<li>b) Car free or minimal car traffic streets.</li>	Tent = Transact (Testares (%)
c) High quality Street paths	- refe - infomebars - mesamples ()
4. Uses of the space:	
a) Ratio between numbers of residents and activities*.	$C = \sum_{\text{Residual}} \sum_{A \in A} A_{A}$
b) Housing diversity*	$LBL = \sum_{i=1}^{n} w \text{ incon+hroning} (2, total housing} (76)$ $A \partial_{0} = \sum_{i=1}^{n} (95)$
c) Ratio of place dedicated to Innovation and Knowledge*	NUE- Z. Kunhe of IE servicer Z and services (19)
5. Open Spaces:	En la companya de la
a) Ratio of green/open spaces.	T = TEOnemutes are /Tited grand are. (%)
b) Extent and number of parks, Number of trees per ha.	N'/ha
c) Surface of and number of Public space, paved (sealed)	THE OC IN
surfaces	
6. Urban biodiversity:	
	1
7. Cycling:	War and see its
<ul> <li>a) Length of biking roads (km)</li> </ul>	Kini per capita
8. Transportation and Mobility:	KWh/year per capita
<ul> <li>a) Private passenger transport energy use per person.</li> </ul>	Number of travel per years (or each kind)
<li>b) Passenger number in public transport.</li>	Km per capita: T_=road surfitotal sur
c) Inhabitants leaving within 300m from public transport	Km per capita:
d) Length of roads per capita. Road Ratio*	KM
<ul> <li>e) Vehicles distance travelled (VDT)</li> </ul>	
9. Level of mobility interchange:	Number of vehicles for each category
a) Kinds of public transport available (boat, train, tram,	
metro, buses, microbuses,)	Numbers
b) Number of "Park-and-ride" parking places	Interchange performance evoluation
c) Interchange node/hub	inte change performance evaluation
10. Food:	Constraint and
<ul> <li>a) Food needed daily.</li> </ul>	Kg./capita
<li>b) Amount of urban farm production per person.</li>	Kg./capita
<li>c) Extent of municipally organised plots for cultivation.</li>	На
11. Waste management:	
<ul> <li>a) Amount of solid waste produced.</li> </ul>	Cubic meter per capita
<li>b) Rate of waste reused*</li>	$T = M_T \text{ datase of reased } / M_T \text{ or d} T \text{ draws of water}$ T = (0.5)
<ul> <li>c) Rate of materials coming from re-cycling</li> </ul>	1 - (74)
12. Water management :	Constant action in the set
<ul> <li>a) Water use per person.</li> </ul>	Cubic meter per capita
<li>b) Water productivity*</li>	T was post - (V was assed / V had was) %
c) Westewater murified in a westewater treatment ident <sup>®</sup>	1 waterder - (Vwatereder / Vwater traded) 70

c) Wastewater purified in a wastewater treatment plant\*

First measurement (Actual CAS Energy Performances)

1. Ground Use:



## **First CAS Measurement**

# Comprehension of the CAS performance.

MA ADDARDA SADARDA - ISDA SOLA	RECK104	¥75				
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IMM

	DOP Design Ordering Principles.	Key categories	Determinants
dorphology	<ol> <li>Balance the ground use.</li> <li>Fostering the local energy production; Building as components of Community Energy System.</li> <li>Promote Walkability</li> </ol>	Porosity Porosity Proximity	Compactness
Typology	<ul> <li>4. Fostering Mixed used spaces.</li> <li>5. Create connected open space System, activate urban metabolism</li> <li>6 Protect Urban Biodiversity.</li> </ul>	Diversity	Complexity
Technology	<ol> <li>Promote Cycling</li> <li>Reinforce the public transportation.</li> <li>Change from multimodality to inter-modality concept.</li> </ol>	Efficiency Accessibility	Connectivity
Management	<ol> <li>Convert the City in a food producer.</li> <li>Prevent the negative impact of waste.</li> <li>Implement water management.</li> </ol>	Gove	ernance



## HORIZONTAL MODIFICATION.

Modification occurs within or on members of a subsystem





## **VERTICAL MODIFICATION**

The Vertical modification is a chain reaction of the system propelled by the project. The aim of this step is to make possible the propagation of local changes towards the distant parts of the system as a consequence of connectivity, and making this propagation the cause a global change



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## PART III

Case study: Environmental and energy performances optimization
 of a neighbourhood in Tehran via IMM methodology

















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Layer	Description	Formula	Value
Volume	Built volume density, Dwelling density, Human density	V <sub>I</sub> = V <sub>bult</sub> / Area	3.60
Void	Open space/area	V <sub>d</sub> = V <sub>open</sub> / Area	1.86
Function	Job density, Number of legal entities in the intervention area	F <sub>n</sub> = J <sub>number</sub> / Area	2E-4
Transportation	Number of carried out urban trips (daily)	No	57,178

**Table 3-1 Horizontal investigation** 



кс	Indicator	Before	After	Improvement
Porosity	Built Density	12	1.44	20%
Browlenity	Mean Number	5.41	11.57	114%
Proximity	Standard Deviation	2.28	4.03	77%
Diversity	Simpson Index (Services)	0.78	0.84	8%
	Simpson Index (Quality)	0.59	0.62	5%
Interface	Mean Depth	0.973	0.992	2%
Accessibility	Number of jobs accessible in 20min	114	691.16	506%
Efficiency	Public transportation tips/Total Trips	0.03	0.08	167%

## After

F <sub>n</sub> mean	S <sup>2</sup>	s
5.41	5.20	2.28

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кс	Indicator	Before	After	Improvement
Porosity	Built Density	1.2	1.44	20%
Provinity	Mean Number	5.41	11.57	114%
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## After





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Job Producing Function 14 Level of Accessibility Ind Level of Rosseshilly

200 m

## Job Producing Function I d Level of Accessibility Designed of Researchilly 200 m 1000 tt

#### Before

### After

кс	Indicator	Before	After	Improvement
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## After

кс	Indicator	Before	After	Improvement
Porosity	Built Density	1.2	1.44	20%
December 1997	Mean Number	5.41	11.57	114%
Proximity	Standard Deviation	2.28	4.03	77%
Diversity	Simpson Index (Services)	0.78	0.84	8%
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Efficiency	Public transportation tips/Total Trips	0.03	0.08	167%

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			Before	After
	Urban Built Density	2Floor/Groun level Surface	1.2	1.44
Ground Use	Compactness Factor	C = Surface/ (Volume) ^ (2/3)	64	30.65
	Building/Hectare	N/Ha	Not Specified	Not Specified
Farmer,	Gas Consumption/Capita	m <sup>a</sup>	3,230	3,230
Energy	Electricity Consumption/Capita	KM/h/Year per Capita	655	655
March of Street	KF in walkable distance	Average Number	5.41	11.57
waikabiity	Car-free Streets	Km		17.70
Use of Space	Residents/Activities	C = residents/Activities	1,191.30	576.84
	Ratio of Green/Open Spaces	T = Tigreen)/T(total)	0.10	0.18
Open Spaces	Parks/Hectare	N/Ha	0.01	0.01
	Paved Public Spaces	N & Ha		Not Specified
	Private Tr. Energy use/Person	Petroi Consumption/Capita (Lit)	617	617
Transportation	Pub. Tr. Boarding	Number per Year/Person	0.03	0.08
	Length of Biking Roads	Km per Capita		27.62
ALC: NOTE:	Kinds of Public Tr.	Number of Systems	1	2.00
Interchange	Num of Parkings	N	-	-
	Num of Interchange Hubs	N	+	4
Found	Urban Farm Production	Kg/Capita	-	Not Specified
Food	Plots for Cultivation	Ha	-	Not Specified

		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
кс	Indicator	Before	After	Improvement
Porosity	Built Density	1.2	1.44	20%
Construction in a	Mean Number	5.41	11.57	114%
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	DOP Design Ordering Principles.	Key categories	Determinants
Morphology	<ol> <li>Balance the ground use.</li> <li>Fostering the local energy production; Building as components of Community Energy System.</li> <li>Promote Walkability.</li> </ol>	Porosity Porosity Proximity	Compactness
Typology	<ol> <li>Fostering Mixed used spaces.</li> <li>Create connected open space System, activate urban metabolism</li> <li>Protect Urban Biodiversity.</li> </ol>	Diversity	Complexity
Technology	<ol> <li>Promote Cycling</li> <li>Reinforce the public transportation.</li> <li>Change from multimodality to inter-modality concept.</li> </ol>	Efficiency Accessibility	Connectivity
Management	<ol> <li>Convert the City in a food producer.</li> <li>Prevent the negative impact of waste.</li> <li>Implement water management.</li> </ol>	Governance	

1111

4.1.1

LOB STRATEGO





Bike Sharing

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	DOP Design Ordering Principles.
Morphology	<ol> <li>Balance the ground use.</li> <li>Fostering the local energy production; Building as components of Community Energy System.</li> <li>Promote Walkability.</li> </ol>
Typology	<ol> <li>Fostering Mixed used spaces.</li> <li>Create connected open space System, activate urban metabolism</li> <li>Protect Urban Biodiversity.</li> </ol>
Technology	<ol> <li>Promote Cycling</li> <li>Reinforce the public transportation.</li> <li>Change from multimodality to inter-modality concert</li> </ol>
Management	<ol> <li>Convert the City in a food producer.</li> <li>Prevent the negative impact of waste.</li> <li>Implement water management.</li> </ol>

![](_page_45_Picture_4.jpeg)

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![](_page_46_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_46_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_46_Picture_4.jpeg)

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## **IMM**<sup>®</sup> AN INTERNATIONAL DESIGN LABORATORY FOR URBAN SUSTAINABILITY

#### 0 DOP Design Ordering Principles. 1. Balance the ground use. 2. Fostering the local energy production; Building as components of Community Energy System. 3. Promote Walkability. 4. Fostering Mixed used spaces. 5. Create connected open space System, activate urban metabolism 6 Protect Urban Biodiversity. 7. Promote Cycling 8. Reinforce the public transportation. 9. Change from multimodality to inter-modality concer Convert the City in a food producer. Prevent the negative impact of waste. Implement water management. e eart

![](_page_47_Picture_2.jpeg)

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![](_page_48_Figure_1.jpeg)

			Before	After
Ground Use	Urban Built Density	EFloor/Groun level Surface	1.2	1.44
	Compactness Factor	C = Surface/ (Volume) ^ (2/3)	64	30.65
	Building/Hectare	N/Ha	Not Specified	Not Specified
-	Gas Consumption/Capita	m <sup>a</sup>	3,230	3,230
Energy	Electricity Consumption/Capita	KWh/Year per Capita	655	655
101.01.01.01	KF in walkable distance	Average Number	5.41	11.57
Walkability	Car-free Streets	Km	+	17.70
Use of Space	Besidents/Activities	C = residents/Activities	1,191.30	576.84
	Ratio of Green/Open Spaces	T = Tigreen//T(total)	0.10	0.18
Open Spaces	Parks/Hectare	N/Ha	0.01	0.01
	Paved Public Spaces	N & Ha		Not Specified
	Private Tr. Energy use/Person	Petroi Consumption/Capita (LIL)	617	617
Transportation	Pub. Tr. Boarding	Number per Year/Person	0.03	0.08
	Length of Biking Roads	Km per Capita		27.62
Making.	Kinds of Public Tr.	Number of Systems	1	2.00
Mobility	Num of Parkings	N	-	-
merchange	Num of Interchange Hubs	N	+	4
Food	Urban Farm Production	Kg/Capita	-	Not Specified
Food	Plots for Cultivation	Ha	-	Not Specified

After
-------

кс	Indicator	Before	After	Improvement
Porosity	Built Density	1.2	1.44	20%
Brandeniter	Mean Number	5.41	11.57	114%
Proximity	Standard Deviation	2.28	4.03	77%
	Simpson Index (Services)	0.78	0.84	8%
Diversity	Simpson Index (Quality)	0.59	0.62	5%
Interface	Mean Depth	0.973	0.992	2%
Accessibility	Number of jobs accessible in 20min	114	691.16	506%
Efficiency	Public transportation tips/Total Trips	0.03	0.08	167%

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![](_page_49_Picture_3.jpeg)

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#### Integrated Modification Methodology

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Integrated Modification Methodology (IMM)<sup>[1]</sup> is a design methodology based on a specific process with the main goal of improving the urban energy performance, through the modification of its constituents and optimization of the architecture of their ligands. According to this view, the city, considered as a Complex Adaptive System (CAS).<sup>[2]</sup> is not solely a mere aggregation of disconnected energy consumers and the total energy consumption of the city is different from the sum of the all of the buildings consumption. This considerable gap between the total energy consumption of the city and the sum of all consumers is concealed from the urban morphology and urban form of the city. IMM is a multi-stage, iterative process, applied to urban components, for improving their environmental and energy performances is fundamentally Holistic, Multi-Layer, Multi-scale, it investigates the relationships between urban morphology [3] and energy consumption by focusing mostly on the 'Subsystems' characterized by physical characters and arrangement. In this methodology, city consists of the superimposition of an enormous number of interrelated components, categorized in different Layers or 'Subsystems', which through their inner arrangement and the architecture of their ligands provide a certain physical and provisional arrangement. The constituents of the CAS adapt themselves to react to the newly imposed constraints, in order to improve upon the entire system's performance. The complex adaptive system is composed of heterogeneous elements, linked together either directly or indirectly, and the final system performance emerges from all of the elements as a whole. This adaptation occurs within or on members of a single subsystem, known as Horizontal Adaptation, and between the different subsystems, termed Vertical Adaptation.<sup>[4]</sup> In other words, the adaptation of existing members in a subsystem, or horizontal adaptation, as a response to the newly imposed conditions and constraints, changes the subsystem's performance, which will be the cause of the entire system's transformation over time.

Contents [hide]

1 Background 2 Theory 3 A Phasing process 3.1 Phase 1. Investigation/Analysis. A. Internet Market and Reserve

Complex Adaptive System (CAS) is composed of four or more subsystems, it is considered to be a superposition of products of the subsystems' states. Superimposition is a process of integration of two or more Sub-systems. Once the subsystems interact, their states are no longer independent.

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![](_page_50_Picture_5.jpeg)

#### New!

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![](_page_50_Picture_26.jpeg)

CONTRACTOR NAME

![](_page_50_Picture_28.jpeg)

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## 2

![](_page_50_Picture_31.jpeg)

![](_page_50_Picture_33.jpeg)

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![](_page_51_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_52_Picture_0.jpeg)

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According to this theory, the city, is not solely a mere aggregation of disconnected energy consumers and the total energy

from the sum of the whole building's consumption. The whole is more than the sum

of its parts. Aristotle, Metaphysic

IMM<sup>®</sup> is International and multidisciplinary Design Laboratory for Urban Sustainability. Our work is driven by the principle that urban design can directly affect the guality of our environment, improve the energy performances as well as the quality of our lives making our future more sustainable and responsible. IMM" " the acronym of Integrated Modification Methodology, an innovative design methodology based on a specific process with the main goal of improving the CAS' (complex adaptive systems) energy performance, through the modification of its constituents and optimization the architecture of their ligands. Its approach is fundamentally Holistic, Multi-Layer, Multi-scale. In this methodology, the city is considered to be a dynamic Complex Adaptive System comprised of the superimposition of an enormous number of interrelated components, categorized in different Layers or 'Subsystems', (also complex adaptive systems) which through their inner arrangement and the architecture of their ligands provide a certain physical and provisional arrangement of the CAS. The