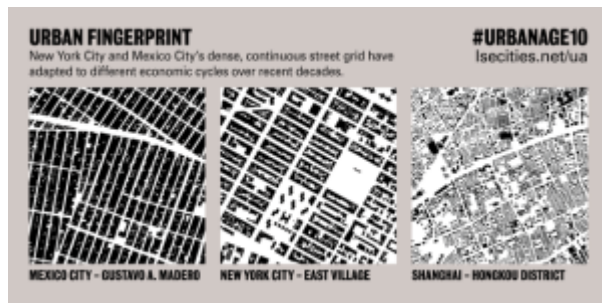


Linda Poon ~ Mapping The 'Urban Fingerprints' Of Cities



Like humans, cities and neighborhoods have their own unique fingerprints. While genes determine ours, a city's mark is characterized by the relationship between buildings and open spaces. Think of it as "spatial DNA," which is typically mapped out by urban designers and researchers in

black-and-white diagrams. Black shapes indicate buildings and white represent the open ground.

"These are useful tools to [visualize] the micro-scale of urban [neighborhoods] and understand how buildings and their surroundings succeed or fail in making a continuous and integrated urban whole," Peter Griffiths, editorial officer of the Cities Research Center at [London School of Economics and Political Science](http://www.london-school-of-economics.ac.uk/), says in an email. The maps were created by researchers at the center's [Urban Age program](http://www.urbanage.org/), who have been studying how the layout of rapidly urbanizing cities can affect their livability. Researchers used satellite photography and official city data to create the maps.

Read more: <http://www.citylab.com/housing/mapping-the-urban-fingerprints>