



Transformation of the Historic Centre and Urban Landscape of Valladolid (Spain) with the Internal Reform Plans in Twentieth Century

Alicia SAINZ ESTEBAN, PhD Student
University of Valladolid, Spain
saestal@gmail.com

The Cort Plan in 1939 of Valladolid, supposed an about-turn on the conception of the historical city and main lines of its future growth. It was a proactive plan, straddling the Haussman internal reform in the historical city and the new areas expansion plan of many Spanish cities of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. This plan was approved by the municipality, but was not implemented due to major shortcomings in the management mechanisms that were required. But its proposal for internal reform of alignments was collected by the municipal authorities and technicians, who a few years later adopted another plan based on Cort Plan, this time more feasible: Alignments Reform Plan 1950, and other plans that came later for the same purpose. With this alignments reform instrument began a complete transformation of the medieval landscape of the city, giving rise to an entirely new landscape, a mixture of medieval urban structure and a modern building. Today in this urban landscape, we can hardly guess the city that existed in the past. Despite changes in development plans which have since then occurred in the city and its different philosophy, it is certain that the municipal practice has confirmed the alignments reform strategy that began with the Cort Plan in 1939: even today the city is still being built based on its principles. Existing urban areas that were the result from such processing are characterized by wide streets (20 to 25 metres wide) with straight track, parallel alignment, with small twists to match the original medieval structure, buildings with great width (25 - 70 metres) and high (8 to 10 floors), overhang elements in facades (windowed balconies, terraces). These residential buildings relate very poorly with the existing monuments, which are often dwarfed by these big buildings. The process started in the mid-twentieth century to reform the alignments of the historic center has led to a pendulum municipal policy, most of the time in favor of reforming all the streets and finishing the started task, and in other moments in favor of stopping the destructive reform and recover what little remains of the medieval landscape. The end result is a point of no return, the almost completely disappearance of the medieval city is today a reality.

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