Three urban fabrics

In this book, the term "fabric" is used to describe individual systems found in towns and cities today: the walking city, the transit city and the car city.

These comprehensive systems cover all the crucial urban functions; they are interlinked, parallel and in many respects overlapping, and their influence therefore extends over the entire city. They are not special or component parts of a system, as there is no single overall system in present cities that would include urban fabrics as its component parts.

Special networks such as information and municipal engineering networks that physically cover the entire city do not constitute comprehensive overall urban systems. These networks serve all three urban fabrics and supplement them, but do not form a strong enough overall structure to connecting with other transit systems and networks.

Meanwhile the street and road network, which primarily serves the car city, is clearly different in different urban fabrics, particularly when connecting with other transit systems and networks.
This new approach, model and theory assign a new meaning to the term "Urban Fabrics", giving them special meanings that deviate from conventional use. The term refers to an entity comprising certain systems of the built environment, the living and working habits of citizens within these systems, and the interactive dynamics between the two (diagram).

Consequently, the term "fabric" is used in a much more extensive meaning here. In most contexts, the term is used to describe the city as a three-dimensional object and certain related characteristics, mainly having to do with urban spaces and their use. On the other hand, it should be pointed out that the term is already used in a fairly broad sense. In France, for instance, "Fabrique urbaine" (Noizet 2009) refers to the socio-spatial dialectics in cities. The meaning assigned to the term by the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI) is even broader.

In this context, the meaning of the term "fabric" approaches the meaning of the words "fabrik" or "fabric" - a factory. Besides the actual industrial building, these words also refer to all the functions linked to the building and its location.
The analytical framework

In addition to the urban fabrics themselves, it is essential to take into account the framework that influences the use and development of these fabrics.

I will examine town planning and the related models and theories as a separate subject. The goal of the present study is to elaborate on and extend those models and theories.

Another identifiable group includes all the other elements that set limitations and challenges on the use and development of urban fabrics. However, this area cannot be discussed at length within the scope of the present study. The most important elements are, nonetheless, identifiable in the connections in which they most clearly influence the urban fabrics and their development.
The scope of the UF analysis

Cities feature three comprehensive systems, which the new UF approach can identify. This is not only a way of thinking; it involves comprehensive models of cities which are being developed, and a comprehensive urban theory, based on new thinking and models, which identifies urban systems and, accordingly, addresses the city as an entity comprising three comprehensive urban fabrics.