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“Urban tissue and the character of towns”.

LINK: https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/Urban-tissue-and-the-character-of-towns-Kropf/e610c1291_908391c9b14f4be552c9f064ed99c26

CharacterTowns.org is always looking for definitive ways to describe and define community character and its inherent systems. “Urban Tissue” is an interesting approach that draws upon the connective features of the body as an analogy for the urban systems, the tissue, necessary for the city to function socially, economically and physically. Healthy Communities also drew on this comparison with actions needed to strengthen urban tissue.

Urban tissue and the character of towns.

DOI:[10.1057/UDI.1996.32](https://doi.org/10.1057/UDI.1996.32)

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- [Karl S. Kropf](#)
- Published 1996
- Engineering
- URBAN DESIGN International

This paper is concerned with the question of identifying and describing the general and historical character of human settlements. Beginning with a brief overview of the subject, the paper examines some basic issues concerning the perception of character and its historical dimension, highlighting a number of fundamental principles. The central argument of the paper is that the concept of urban tissue offers an effective framework for identifying and describing the physical characteristics that contribute to the general and historical character of towns.

Specific, detailed procedures for identifying tissues are outlined, and an example is given. Applications in planning and urban design are also discussed: in particular, application to character assessment and conservation area definition. Further, the necessity of seeing character as only the outward aspect of a process involving humans and their environment is noted. This underlines the need to put any account of physical characteristics within the context of other aspects such as activities and intentions in order to move towards a better account of character.

PS: The Semantic Scholar is an interesting source of ideas about cities.