

URBAN PLANNING versus REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT in Attica

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ABSTRACT

The city of Athens, economic, political and administrative capital of Greece since 1833, has been developed upon ancient settlements of 2000 years and more without regulating planning and principles. The distribution of economic activities in urban tissue has been determined by a “laiser faire”, under the influence of continuous political pressures. Market, with successive changes, has formed a functional “situation of balance”, in the thematic level as well as in their areal distribution.

This has led to an Urban Status where Land Uses configure Land Prices and vice versa. New areas with Functional Structures have been developed, that determine land prices forced by Market needs.

For this reason, Athens constitutes a suitable territory for research of urban activities distribution as it is shaped without regulation but it is formed by the free offer and demand of space for the installation of urban activities.

This allocation is fixed from

- a) their “functional requirements”
- b) their essential “environmental compatibilities” and mainly,
- c) their “land prices”.

Our research aims to show

- initially how Greek legislation has taken into consideration the city’s existing Functional structure and then
- how the “allocation freedom” that is provided, shapes the Urban web of Athens municipality and accordingly real estate development.

1 THE FUNCTIONAL STRUCTURE REVEAL

The Urban Activities are allocated in urban space in a way that would serve their co-function in the city. The functional picture of the city is determined by 38 economic activities. City’s Functional Structure will be revealed via the existing linear correlations of the medium annual employment in economic activities. The presence of economic activities is recorded in 6.024 Building Squares of the Athenians municipality. Functional Structure will be revealed by a Principal Components Analysis on the previous described matrix. The structure is concreted by 15 Components which consist thematic groups of Economic activities, shown in Table 1. It is obvious that the 15 components, revealed by the Principal Components Analysis are composed by activities that co-function in urban space.

2 THE ENACTMENT OF LAND USES ALLOCATION IN RELATION WITH THE EXISTING FUNCTIONAL STRUCTURE.

The planning legislation in Greece is determined by two basic tools.

A)The Presidential Decree of 1985 that determines 8 main categories of land uses that can co-exist in Urban areas, and

B)“Urban Plans” that are legislated for specific areas and determine the previous Decree’s categories of land uses, allocation in these areas.

The 3 main categories of land uses that are composed by economic activities are the following:

- a) Urban Centers - where residence, hotels, hostels and rest tourist settlements, commercial shops, offices, banks, insurances, public institutions, administration buildings (in the neighborhood centers only administration buildings of neighborhood level are allowed), restaurants, refreshment stands, amusement centers, assemblage public domains, cultural buildings, education buildings, religious domains, social

security buildings, low harmful effect professional laboratories, parking, petrol service stations, athletic and commercial reports domains and medium mass transports domains, are allowed.

b) No Environmentally harmful industry – manufacture - This category includes low and medium harmful effect industries - manufacture that can co-exist with residence.

c) Environmentally Harmful industry – manufacture - This category includes industries - manufacture that cannot co-exist with residence, because of the noise and the environmental pollution they cause.

The fact that until 1989 an “Urban Plan” for Athenians municipality has not been legislated has led to the free allocation of economic activities without broad Urban Planning criteria. This has led to the frequent readjustment of urban functions allocation in a continuously reshaped urban tissue.

In order to achieve the comparability between the enacted groups of economic activities from "Urban Plans" with the Functional Structure Components that resulted from P.C.A.¹⁵ that was mentioned before, we group the Components according to the content of Land Uses Presidential Decree. These groupings are shown in Table 2:

1988 Census
1988 FUNCTIONAL STRUCTURE

Functional Structure Components		Economic Activities	NSSG Codes	Loadings	Eigenvalues	%Variance
1	Personal Products distribution	Leather and fur Industries	229	0,802	3,63	9,32
		Clothing and footwear Industries	224	0,769		
		Rest Industries	239	0,618		
		Wholesale Trade	261	0,539		
2	Commercial Centers	Banks and rest Economic Institutions	281	0,670	2,04	5,24
		Brokers and representatives	263	0,588		
		Retail Trade	264	0,522		
		Retail Trade	265	0,468		
		Transactions of Affairs	283	0,460		
3	Oil Industries	Industries of Oil and Mine products	232	0,837	1,77	4,55
		Insurances	282	0,595		
4	Equipment Industries	Industries of products from tyre and plastic material	230	0,746	1,43	3,68
		Industries of Furniture and goods of furnishing	226	0,627		
		Industries of Timber and Cork	225	0,583		
5	Permanent Products Industries	Tobacco industries	222	0,824	1,33	3,42
		Printing, Publications and relevant activities	228	0,783		
6	Education and Recreation	Education	293	0,760	1,28	3,3
		Services of Recreation and Culture	297	0,618		
7	Chemical And Textile Industries	Chemical Industries	231	0,804	1,19	3,05
		Textile Industries	223	0,794		
8	Building Materials Production	Basic Metallurgic Industries	234	0,684	1,14	2,93
		Industries of not metal mining products	233	0,600		
		Manufacture of electric machines, appliances and remaining types	237	0,425		
9	City's Mechanic Department Services	Manufacture of metallic products	235	0,615	1,12	2,88
		Manufacture of machines and appliances	236	0,615		
10	Paper and Carrier Means Production	Paper Industries	227	0,762	1,08	2,78
		Manufacture of Carrier means	238	0,706		
11	Services and Transports	Restaurants and Hotels	266	0,595	1,06	2,73
		Transports	271	0,535		
		Personal Services	298	0,485		
12	Hygiene Services	Services of Hygiene and Cemeteries	292	0,871	1,04	2,69
13	Communication and Social Security	Communications	273	0,744	1,03	2,66
		Social Security	296	0,722		
14	Food Industries	Drinks Industries	221	0,769	1,02	2,63
		Industry of Food except drinks	220	0,530		
15	Rentings	Renting	285	0,726	1,00	2,57
		Mobile Renting	284	0,632		

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis. □ Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization.
a. Rotation converged in 11 iterations.

Table 1

These Components composition, based on the proposed groupings of Land Uses Decree is realized in order to investigate if causal relations exist between the city's existing shaped structure with the present Land Values.

We realize that the Greek legislation without taking into consideration the already formed Functional Structure maintains, in a vaguely way, the real Functional structure, as it has been revealed from P.C.A., the

¹⁵ P.C.A.-Principal Components Analysis.

conformation of which, ensures the best function of their synthetic activities, as well as city's total function.

1988 Census									
1988 FUNCTIONAL STRUCTURE									
Notions of Economic Activities based on the 88 decree		Functional Structure Components		Economic Activities		NSSG Codes	Loadings	Eigenvalues	% Variance
1	Functional Centers	2	Commercial Centers	Banks and real Economic Institutions	481	0,670	2,04	5,24	
				Brokers and representatives	463	0,588			
				Retail Trade	464	0,522			
				Retail Trade	465	0,468			
				Transactions of Affairs	483	0,460			
		16	Rentings	Renting	485	0,726	1,00	2,57	
				Mobile Renting	484	0,632			
12	Services and Transports	Restaurants and Hotels	466	0,595	1,06	2,73			
		Transport	471	0,535					
6	Education and Recreation	Personal Services	498	0,485	1,28	3,3			
		Education	493	0,760					
13	Hygiene Services	Services of Recreation and Culture	497	0,618	1,04	2,69			
		Services of Hygiene and Cosmetology	492	0,871					
14	Communication and Social Security	Communications	473	0,744	1,03	2,66			
		Social Security	496	0,722					
2	Not environmentally harmful industry	1	Personal Products distribution	Leather and fur Industries	429	0,802	3,63	9,32	
				Clothing and footwear Industries	424	0,769			
		5	Permanent Products Industries	Rent Industries	439	0,618	1,33	3,42	
				Wholesale Trade	461	0,539			
15	Food Industries	Tobacco Industries	422	0,824	1,02	2,63			
		Printing, Publications and relevant activities	428	0,783					
3	Environmentally harmful industry	3	Oil Industries	Industries of Oil and Mine products	432	0,837	1,77	4,55	
				Insurance	482	0,595			
		4	Equipment Industries	Industries of products from tyre and plastic material	430	0,746	1,43	3,68	
				Industries of Furniture and goods of furnishing	426	0,627			
				Industries of Timber and Cork	425	0,583			
		7	Chemical And Textile Industries	Chemical industries	431	0,894	1,19	3,05	
				Textile Industries	423	0,794			
		8	Building Materials Production	Basic Metallic Industries	434	0,684	1,14	2,93	
				Industries of non metal mining products	433	0,680			
				Manufacture of electric machines, appliances and remaining types	437	0,425			
		9	City's Mechanic Department Services	Manufacture of metallic products	435	0,615	1,12	2,98	
Manufacture of machines and appliances	436			0,615					
11	Paper and Carrier Means Production	Paper Industries	427	0,762	1,08	2,78			
		Manufacture of Carrier means	438	0,706					

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis. □ Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization.
a. Rotation converged in 11 iterations.

Table 2

The composition of Functional Structure components, grouped according the 1985 Land Uses decree¹⁶, are allocated in Athenians municipality body as shown below:

Urban Centers are allocated with

- zoning layout in the municipality's centre,
- axially in the beginning parts of central road axes, from municipality's centre, that lead to suburbs with intense to the corresponding activities employment, and
- oil drops form (showing the tendency of centres creation) in municipality's total area (map 1).

Not environmentally harmful industries, are allocated with

- zoning layout in the municipality's centre, and its Eastern department in the borders with municipalities, in which intense employment in manufacturing activities are recorded (map 2).

Environmentally harmful industries are allocated with

- zoning layout in the western department of municipality's central commercial triangle,
- axially in the beginning parts of central road axes, from municipality's centre, that lead to suburbs with intense to the corresponding activities employment, and
- zoning layout in the Eastern department in the borders with municipalities in which intense employment in the manufacturing activities is recorded (map 3).

3 THE RELATION OF ACTIVITIES AREAL POSTS WITH MUNICIPALITY'S LAND VALUES.

For the ascertainment of land values effect in city's Functional Structure, that is to say in the relative posts of economic activities groups allocation, the objective land values will be used as they were determined by the Ministry of Finance in 1985.

The land values¹⁷ mapping is based on the more characteristic prices, that are determined more analytically as follows:

1. From 60-90 Euro per square metre.
2. From 90-120 Euro per square metre.
3. From 120-180 Euro per square metre.
4. From 180-240 Euro per square metre.

The lower prices, have been recorded in the northerner, western and southern department of the municipality, while the higher prices have been recorded in its Eastern department and in city's centre.

From the study of land uses areal posts that were calculated in 1988, concerning the already determined land values, we realise that:

A) Urban Centres in which activities that require central position and accessibility for their better possible function, are included. They are allocated in the Athenians municipality with the criterion of "best possible place" and no concerning land values, such as condensations are recorded in regions with wide spectrum of prices differentiation (from 60- until 240 Euros per square metre).

B) Not environmentally harmful industries, are allocated for the most part in the regions with lower land values (60-90 Euro per square metre), but also with scattered form in the "more expensive regions" (180 until 240 Euros per square metre). This fact that proves that these activities are allocated in plots that are selected with other criteria beyond those of land values..

Relative research has ascertained that the choice of any economic activity allocation, is many times based on the existence of ground owner for his own use.

C) Environmentally harmful industries are allocated in the same way as Urban Centres, thus they present intense condensation in the "cheap" western municipality's department (from 60 until 90 Euros per square metre), but also in the central¹⁸ and western¹⁹ department where land values are high (120-240 Euro per square metre). The possibility of choosing such a wide scale of allocation on areas with so different land values, shows that even Environmentally harmful industries are allocated with beyond strict land values criteria, since as it is obvious, the Functional facility contributes in profits increase, despite the bigger initial settlement cost.

Regarding to restrictions lack in activities allocation, such as the first Urban Plan that determined their areal posts²⁰, the criterion that determined their allocation, was this of the best possible function in the frames of the wider rational city's operation²¹.

This is proved by the fact that there has not arised a "rule" that certain city's functions are allocated in regions with certain land values. Fault Regulating Plan the criteria of functions allocation and their areal changes are except land and floor values centricity, accessibility from central road axes, adjacency with additional and "compatible" functions, more costumers possible attendance e.t.c., are those that determine activities allocation and in general the forces relative with the shaped markets function.

We realise that an "internal functional rule" exists, which organises the city with the criterion of optimal function achievement and that finally land values do not dictate the municipality's Functional Structure, but up to a point result from the already shaped functional status. This "internal functional rule" is co-drugging land values, based on the possibility of surplus values achievement from each activity's function.

¹⁷ of 1988

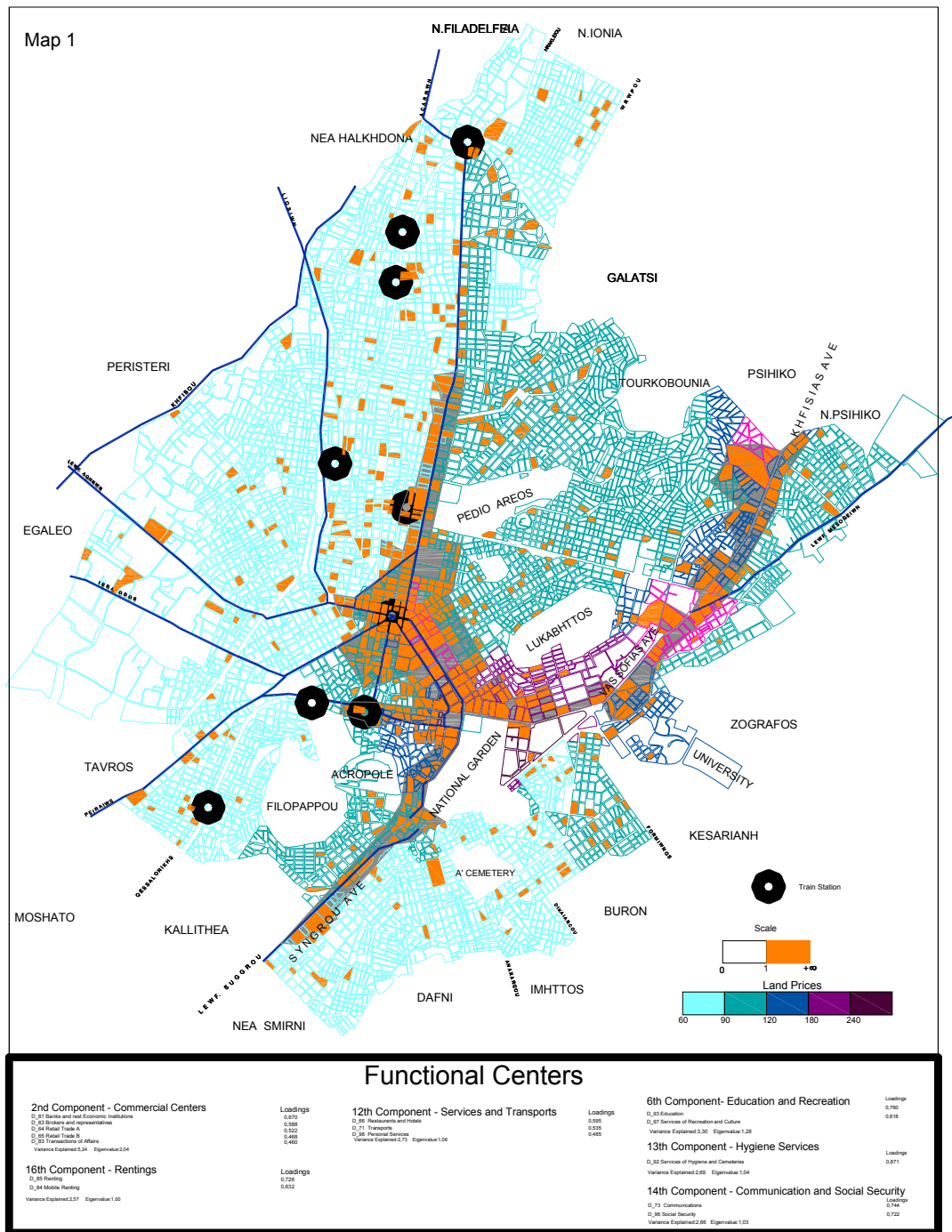
¹⁸With zoning layout.

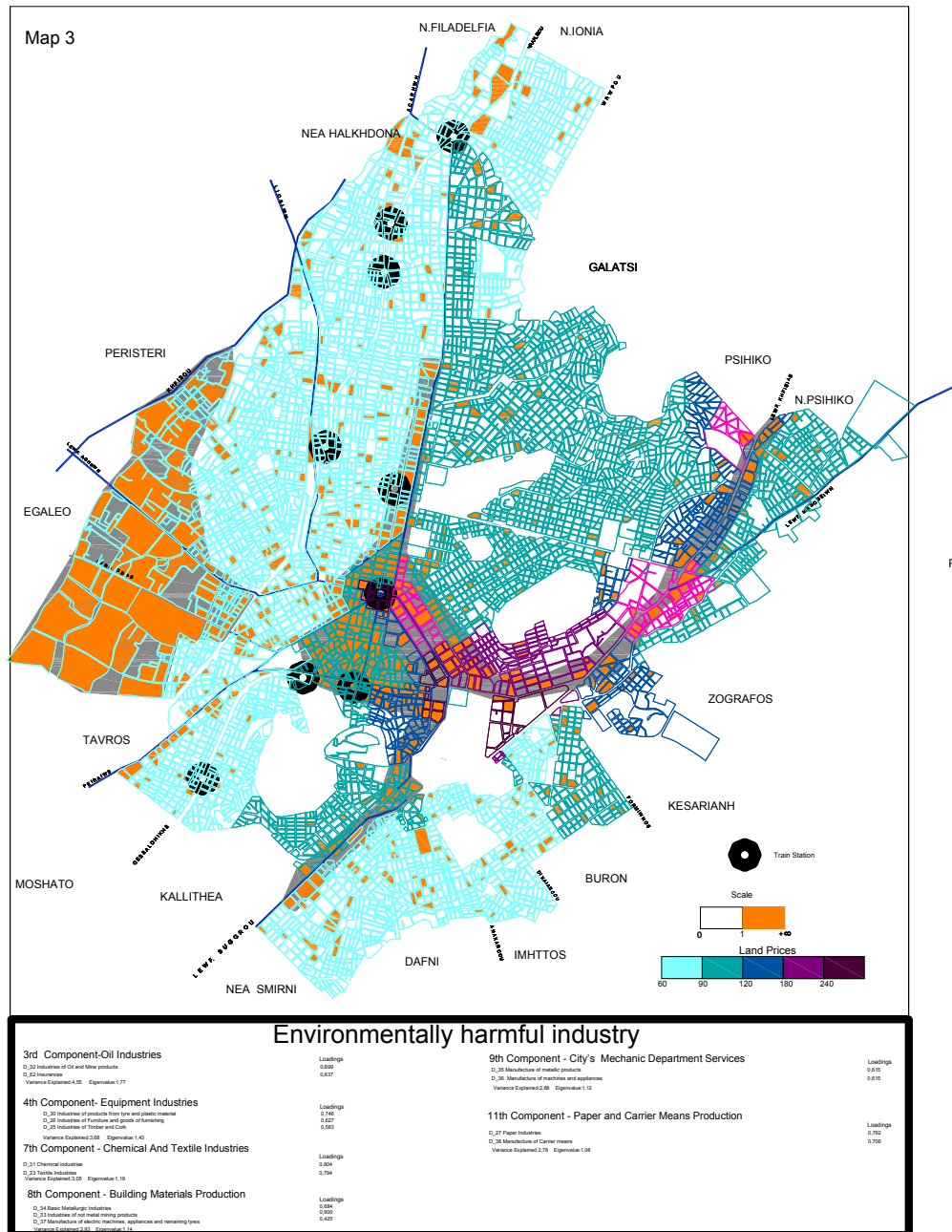
¹⁹At central axes roadside areas.

²⁰ It was enacted in 1989.

²¹Research has ascertained that 64% of employment in economic activities allocation is based on their linear relations.

Deductively city's function, the market forces and the best possible functions operation rules, that contribute in the functional specialisation and the economic activities segregation, are those that determine land values and no reverse.





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5 COMMENTS

Based on the 2 reviewers' feedback we have enhanced the relative parts of our paper. We add 2 additional responses to the 1st reviewer which we don't think it's necessary to add in the final paper, and these are the following:

- 1) Our aim is not to study the difference of land values between 1985 and today's actual prices, but the relation of land values with Urban land uses allocation.
- 2) We include the basic terms of Principal Components Analysis in order to make the paper easier to comprehend.

The Principal Components Analysis seeks a linear combination of variables such that the maximum variance is extracted from the variables.

- The Rotated Component Matrix determines what the components represent in relation with the variables.
- Loadings are the correlation coefficients between the variables and components.
- Varimax rotation is an orthogonal rotation of the factor axes to maximize the variance of the squared loadings of a component on all the variables in a component matrix, which has the effect of differentiating the original variables by extracted component. Each component will tend to have either large or small loadings of any particular variable.
- The % of Variance column gives the ratio, expressed as a percentage, of the variance accounted for by each component to the total variance in all of the variables.
- Each Eigenvalue for a given component measures the variance in all the variables which is accounted for by that component.