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The Space Syntax of Israeli cities

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This paper examines the spatial integration of twenty-four Israeli cities, representing city types distinguished by their street patterns and the spatial structure of the city's built-up area. A space syntax methodology was applied to measure and analyse the cities' spatial integration. The results indicated that cities belonging to the same city type tended to exhibit similar local levels of spatial integration, affected primarily by street patterns. In contrast, significant differences appeared on the global level, related to different levels of discontinuity in the street network and to the entire street network's form, the results of different topographical conditions and built-up area growth. A comparison of the spatial integration (syntactic) values in this research with those of cities in other parts of the world revealed that, in general, Israeli cities resembled European cities although characterized by relatively small gaps between Local and Global spatial integration values. We conclude that these small gaps result from Israeli cities' particular development history.

Keywords: space syntax, spatial integration, street network, accessibility, Israeli cities

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