

Variations on City Form

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Carlos Almeida is a Portuguese-American architect licensed and accredited in the European Union with more than 30 years of experience in four continents. FOCUS publishes a series of his line-drawings that represent his poetic explorations of urban forms. An accomplished graphic artist, Carlos collaborates constantly with the Urban Sketchers group (see his work at <http://carlos-almeida.com/en>).

"I also imagined a model of a city from which I extract all other possible cities... It is a city made up exclusively of exceptions, impediments, contradictions, incongruences, paradoxes. If a city like that is most improbable, by decreasing the number of abnormal elements we increase the probability that the city really exists."

(Marco Polo to Kublai Khan, from Italo Calvino's *Invisible Cities*)*

The drawings that follow are intended to generate emotions and the understanding place characterization through the simplest of tools: the line. This approach is to be an anti-literal message in which the overall composition is not specific to any one city or town, but of several urban morphologies that, in a symbolic way, represent their cultural identities.

The dwelling, the street, the plaza, the water bodies, and other elements forming cities and towns are represented with simple lines but they all are part of a cohesive message that simultaneously identifies the place(s).





