

# ICUC10

10th International Conference on Urban Climate  
14th Symposium on the Urban Environment



# Urban Morphology Parametrization for Climate Modelling in Urban Planning

A. Salvati<sup>\*(a)</sup> (a) Polytechnic University of Catalonia, Barcelona, Spain & Sapienza University of Rome, Rome, Italy  
M. Palme<sup>(b)</sup> (b) Catholic University of the North, Antofagasta, Chile  
F. de la Barrera<sup>(c)</sup> (c) University of Concepción, Concepción, Chile & CEDEUS, UC Santiago, Chile  
**\* Current address:** Brunel University London, UK | agnese.salvati@brunel.ac.uk

## Aim and key findings:

**AIM:** The Local Climate zone (LCZ) classification (Stewart & Oke 2012) has been introduced to integrate urban climate knowledge into urban planning. However, the LCZ method has significant limitations regarding the possibility to cover the many urban layouts that characterise real cities. The aim of this study is to show that a different set of morphology parameters would be more effective in capturing the summer and winter climate performance of real urban textures.

**METHOD:** A comparative analysis of UHI intensity was performed with the Urban Weather Generator model (Bueno et al. 2013) considering representative urban textures of Rome (Italy), Barcelona (Spain) and Santiago (Chile).

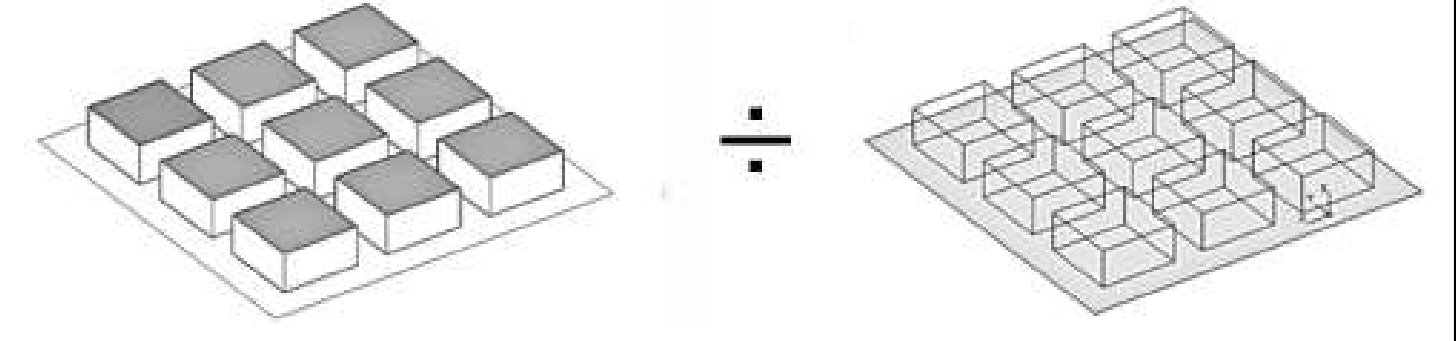
**RESULTS:** A significant variability of UHI intensity was found among urban textures classified as "compact mid-rise" ( $10 < h < 25$ ) and "compact high-rise" ( $h > 25$ ) in the LCZ. Regression analyses highlighted differentiated contributions of the three urban morphology parameters used by UWG on summer and winter UHI intensity and the importance of the density of facades during both seasons. Therefore, the results suggest that the three parameters used by UWG could be used in urban planning to compare and optimise the climate behaviour of urban structures.

## Urban morphology parameters in UWG:

### Site Coverage ratio ( $\rho$ )

$$\frac{\sum A_{bld}}{A_{site}}$$

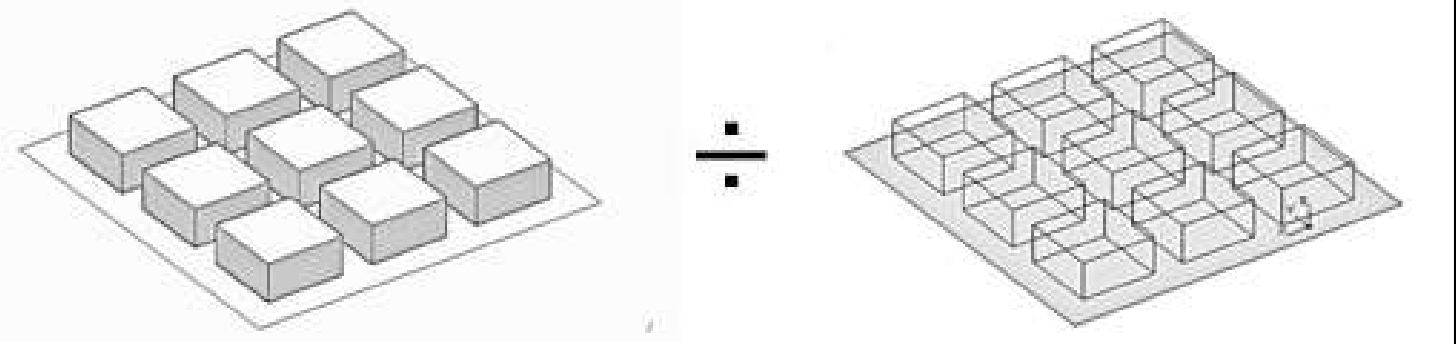
A<sub>bld</sub> = Building footprint  
A<sub>site</sub> = Total Site area



### Facade-to-site ratio ( $VH_{bld}$ )

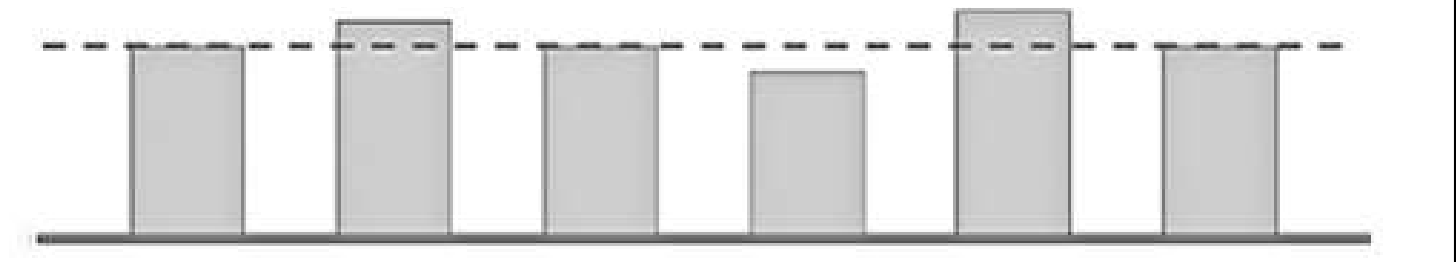
$$\frac{\sum PH_{bld}}{A_{site}}$$

P = Building perimeter  
H<sub>bld</sub> = Average building height, weighted by  
A<sub>site</sub> = Total site area

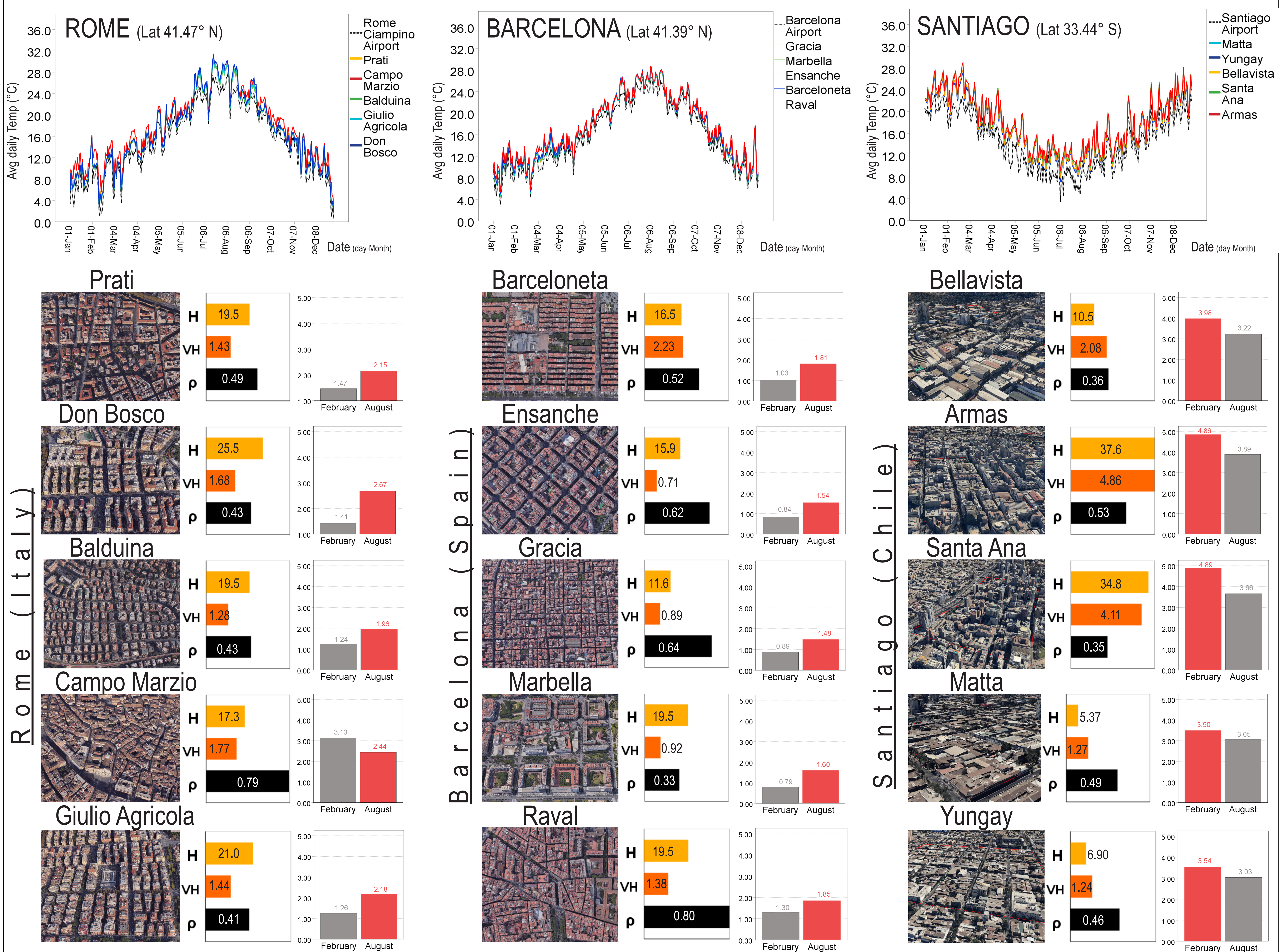


### Average Building Height ( $H_{bld}$ )

$$H_{bld} = \text{Average building height, weighted by footprint}$$



## UHI analysis with Urban Weather Generator (UWG)



## Regression equations:

**WINTER UHI** =  $0.5 Z_{\rho} + 0.57 Z_{VH_{urb}} + 0.15 Z_{H_{bld}}$  (adjusted  $R^2=0.7$ )  $\rightarrow$   $\rho$  and  $VH_{urb}$  are determinant in **WINTER**

**SUMMER UHI** =  $0.1 Z_{\rho} + 0.67 Z_{VH_{urb}} + 0.56 Z_{H_{bld}}$  (adjusted  $R^2=0.9$ )  $\rightarrow$   $VH_{urb}$  and  $H_{bld}$  are determinant in **SUMMER**

$Z_i$  = Normalized values of  $\rho, VH_{urb}$  and  $H_{bld}$