



Plan detail of the city of Rothenburg, courtesy of the University of Strathclyde, photo by Lorens Holm

## Continuity and Invention

Charles Rattray and Graeme Hutton

These panels summarise a three-year study of Dundee's Central Waterfront, an area that has undergone dramatic change: reclaimed dockland that had an infrastructure of carriageways, roundabouts and overhead walkways, has been re-ordered by the City on a grid of development blocks that frame Kengo Kuma Architects' new V&A Dundee. The project worked within the City Council's block plan while introducing new features including an additional street, within the blocks, which relates to the grain of the existing city. It examines how Dundee's existing urban fabric can be interpreted and extended to create places, streets and buildings which, while modern, show continuity with the past. The project develops a dynamic between important buildings and the ordinary matrix of the city which informs the proposed urban scale and hierarchy of streets.

This research produced a master plan for the Central Waterfront that maximises its continuity with the city centre. It reminds us that architecture and architectural judgment are capable of the sort of critical look at the texture and planning of a city that Geddes regarded as necessary for informed place-making. It confirms the importance that Geddes placed upon the Civic Survey in the planning process.

This research was conducted by the Architecture + The City Design Research Masters Unit at the University of Dundee led by Charles Rattray and Graeme Hutton. Rattray, FRSA, is an architect. He was in practice for twenty years, is a former Editor of Architectural Research Quarterly and teaches at Dundee. Hutton, RIBA FRIAS, is an architect and Professor of Architecture at Dundee who practices with LJR+H and has taught with Rattray for twenty years.