GLOBAL CITIES
IN HARMONIOUS DEVELOPMENT

according to GaWC

Global developments have had an increasing impact on contemporary cities, regions and territories from the societal, economical and geographical points of view. Since 1998 the impact of word cities into globalization has been extensively studied by the Globalization and World Cities (GaWC) Research Network.[1]

GaWC provides a geographic and economic-based overview of the world and its evolving configuration. Particularly relevant in this discourse is its categorization of world cities into α, β and γ tiers[2], based upon their international connectedness.[3]

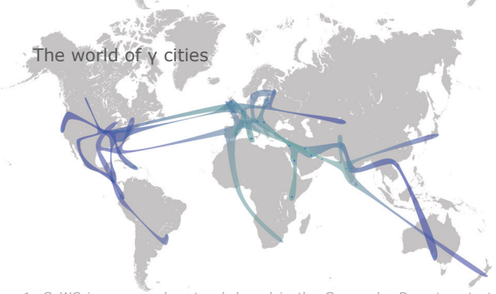
If the world is observed from the point of view of the connectivity of the world cities, a new image emerges, where each city is virtually oriented to other cities of the same level of inter-connectivity. National or continental maps give way to a new world configuration intended as an archipelago, where each city appears utterly separated from its geographical surrounding and closer to other cities of same level. The leading parameters for the new configuration are based on mutual connections, primarily in the global economic system.

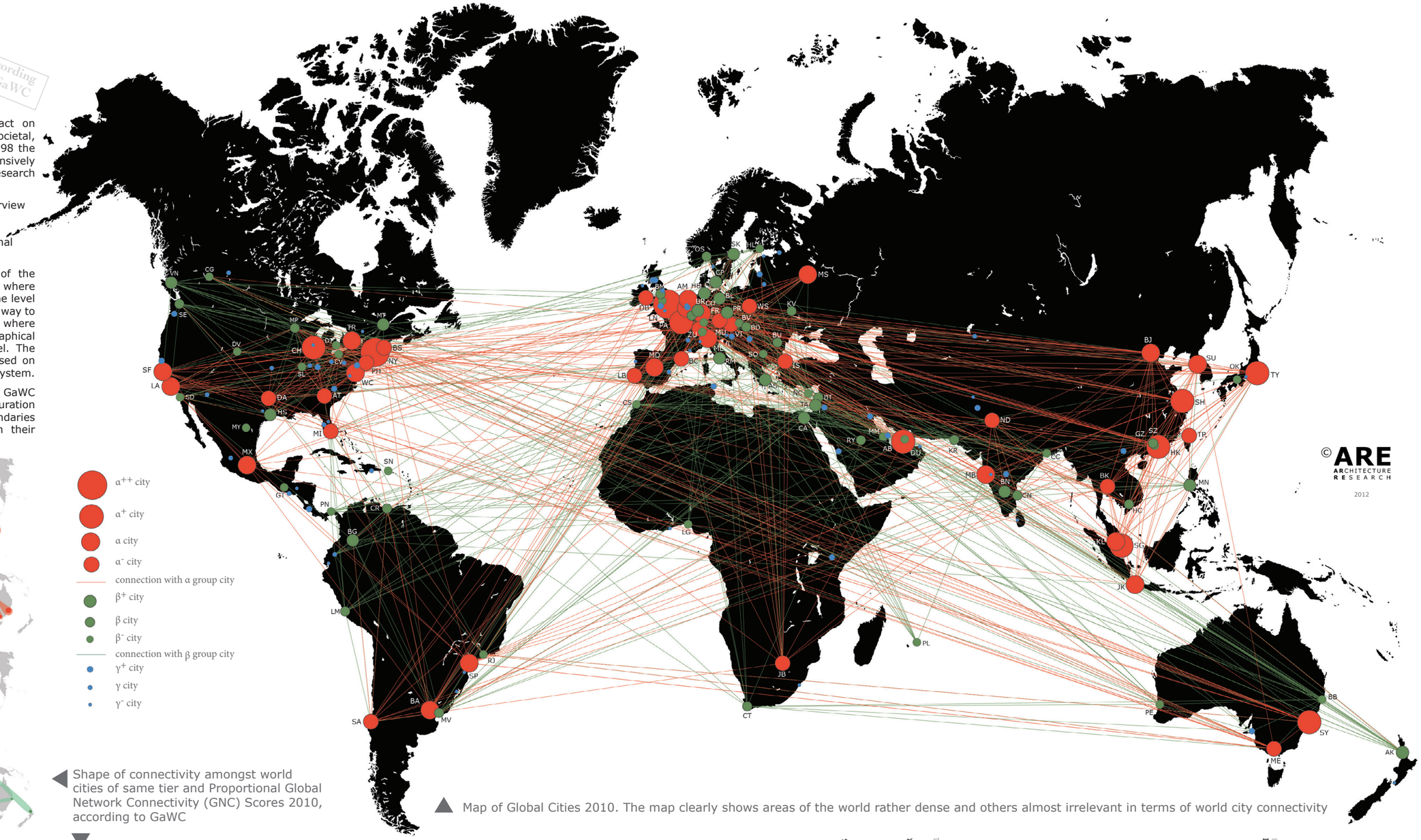
The atlas shows the world cities according to the GaWC categorization of 2010. From this, a new configuration emerges, where expected national and local boundaries are presented in their real disposition based upon their international connectedness.

The world of α cities

The world of β cities

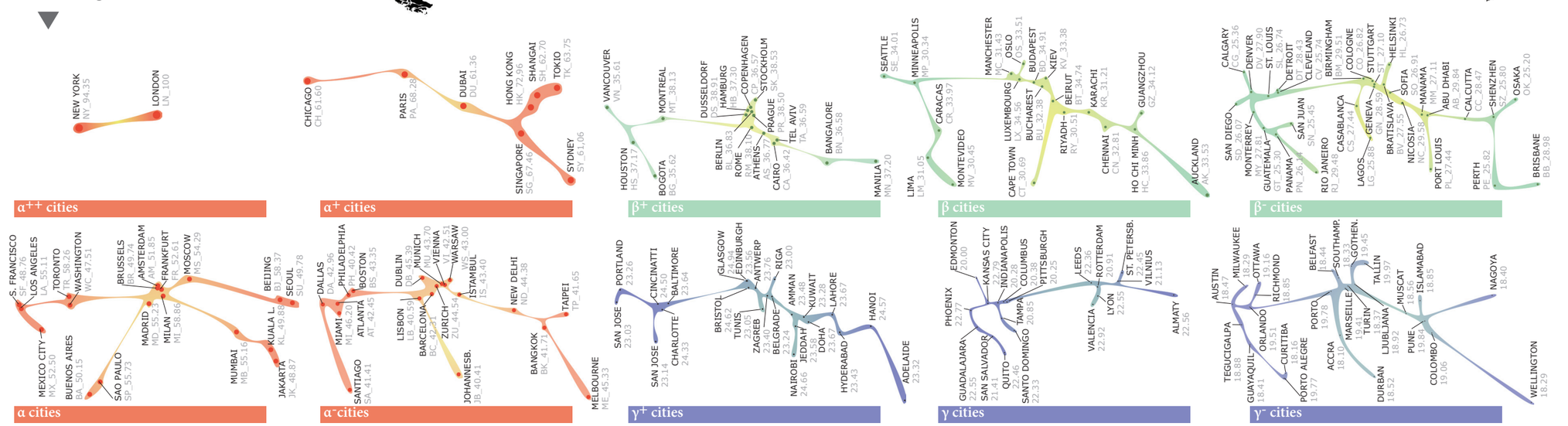
The world of γ cities





Shape of connectivity amongst world cities of same tier and Proportional Global Network Connectivity (GNC) Scores 2010, according to GaWC

Map of Global Cities 2010. The map clearly shows areas of the world rather dense and others almost irrelevant in terms of world city connectivity



1. GaWC is a research network based in the Geography Department at Loughborough University (UK), founded by Peter J. Taylor in 1998 . GaWC studies the relationships between world cities in the context of globalization. http://www.lboro.ac.uk.
2. The classification is based upon the office networks of 100 advanced producer service firms in 315 cities. Cf. GaWC Research Bulletin 43. http://www.lboro.ac.uk/gawc/world2000.html.
3. Definition is from: Taylor, Peter J. (2004). *World city network: a global urban analysis*. Routledge.

Sources:
- Clasification of cities: *Classification of GaWC 2010*. Geography Department, Loughborough University. http://www.lboro.ac.uk/gawc/world2010t.html
- Global network connectivity scores 2010: Geography Department, Loughborough University.
- City codes: GaWC Research Bulletin 355. http://www.lboro.ac.uk/gawc/rb/rb355.html