Grundtvig, III meeting

Rivers of Change - River/Cities
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Cities on Water and Waterfront Regeneration: the role of culture and events

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1. Urban Waterfront Regeneration
What do we consider as *waterfront*?
The word ‘waterfront’ identifies the urban area in direct contact with water. In cities on water, this area usually corresponds to the area occupied by port infrastructures and port activities.
• **the revitalisation of waterfront areas** is one of the most interesting phenomena of urban renewal since the 1980s, providing:
  physical re-composition, functional regeneration, re-use of derelict areas, and new attraction for private investments.
• marine cities and river cities can be considered laboratories for the process of urban renewal in view of both the broad range of cases and the quality of the results;
• even if different in terms of geography, dimensions, population and culture, these cases can be valuable sources of ideas for the future.
After more than 30 years of positive results all over the world in the field of urban waterfront regeneration, a comparison of cases can provide a list of key factors common to their success.
1.1. Key Factors in Urban Waterfront Regeneration
1. The ‘strategic’ value of waterfront areas for the development of the city as a whole

- they were the answer to the need for city expansion in central areas;
- they were convenient in terms of ‘quality’ and ‘quantity’.

2. The ‘location’ factor of the waterfront

- located very close to city centres;
- available spaces for new activities.
3. A rich heritage of infrastructures and historical buildings

- restoration of buildings of great historical-architectural value;
- preservation and maintenance of the site’s original identity.
4. Direct contact with water

- a sort of ‘water renaissance’ has taken place;
- water is once again seen as a resource;
- water has emerged as a positive and influential element for a new urban quality and with the capacity to attract a wide range of activities and people.
5. The evocative and symbolic value of waterfront areas
   • port areas, *vibrant* places, often *symbol of wealth* and *power* for many cities on water around the world.
1.2. **Dangers in Waterfront Redevelopment Projects**

1. ‘**Standardisation**’ of the **interventions**.
2. The achievement of high **profit levels rather than the quest for a high quality**.
3. An excessively **commercial-tourist atmosphere rather than a residential function**.
4. The **scarcity of productive activities**.
2. Different Typologies of Waterfront Regenerations
a. New Urban Expansion  

b. New Urban Waterfront Itineraries  

c. Reuse of Port Areas  

d. Flood Defences  

e. Urban Riverfront Regeneration  

f. Urban Beaches  

g. Waterfronts and Great Events
a. New Urban Expansion

- building *ex novo* in available areas;
- reclaiming former industrial or port areas

*Berlin, Spandauer See and Rummelsburg.*
*Hamburg, Hafen City.*
b. New Urban Waterfront itineraries

• public use along the waterfront implies innovative consequences along the banks and in the surrounding areas;

• pedestrian paths;

London,
River Banks along the Thames and the beach of Barceloneta in Barcelona
c. Reuse of Port Areas

Waterfront regeneration of former port areas is bringing the heart of cities back to the water.

Rotterdam
d. Flood Defences

The construction of infrastructures for river flood defences can become a new opportunity for city expansion and for the establishment of new urban uses.

*Vienna and the Donau Insel Festival*
e. Urban Riverfront Regeneration

As the intersection between different aspects of urban life, the river represents a community heritage and its riverfront demonstrates a great potential for becoming a central axis in a new and articulated public space.
Seoul, Corea
The case of the Cheong Gye Cheon canal
f. Urban Beaches

The function of urban beaches as a sort of ‘piazza’ for public use: *Paris Plage* in Paris (2002)

Copenhagen Brygge, 2003

Badeschiff Sprea, Berlino, 2004
g. Waterfronts and Great Events

• Development of new urban areas - for both, residential use and production - as a consequence of important temporary events such as the Expos: in Seville (1992), Barcelona (1992, 2004), Genoa (1992 and 2004), Lisbon (1998), London (2000), etc.
CENTRO COMERCIAL VASCO DA GAMA
As galerias estão concluídas, tendo sido cobertas a todo o comprimento por uma ensolarada clarabóia.

VASCO DA GAMA SHOPPING CENTRE
This will be one of the main entrances into EXPO’98. The galleries have already been finished and a large skylight installed.

ÁREA RESIDENCIAL SUL
A construção em toda a área sul encontra-se em fase de finalização.

SOUTHERN RESIDENTIAL AREA
Building work throughout the southern area is currently being concluded.
Zaragoza Expo 2008
Città d’Acqua

Zaragoza Expo 2008
Waterfronts, Reuses and Cultural Events

- Cultural Events as an occasion for the re-use of the industrial archeology heritage and for the revitalisation of derelict areas.

City-Ports

• 10th. International Architecture Exhibition of the Biennale di Venezia “Città. Architettura e società” and the Sensi Contemporanei project

• Palermo
  • 1. Maps for New Urban Routes
  • 2. Great South
  • 3. Palermo, Mediterranean City
  • 4. Portus Architecture Prize
Città–Porto
City–Port

Palermo

Mappe per nuove rotte urbane Maps for New Urban Routes
Grande Sud Great South
Palermo, Mediterraneo Palermo, Mediterranean Sea
Premio di Architettura Portus Portus Architecture Prize
10 Principles for a Sustainable Development of Urban Waterfront Areas
In the context of the initiatives for the Global Conference on the Urban Future (URBAN 21) held in Berlin in July 2000 and during the EXPO 2000 World Exhibition

10 Principles for a Sustainable Development of Urban Waterfront Areas

were approved.

These topics were previously developed in international seminars by Wasserstadt GmbH, Berlin in collaboration with the Centre Cities on Water, Venice.
1 - Secure the quality of water and the environment;
2 - Waterfronts are part of the existing urban fabric;
3 - The historic identity gives character;
4 - Mixed use is a priority;
5 - Public access is a prerequisite;
6 - Planning in public private partnerships speeds the process;
7 - Public participation is an element of sustainability;
8 - Waterfronts are long term projects;
9 - Re-vitalization is an ongoing process;
10 - Waterfronts profit from international networking.
Waterfront Expo 2008
Liverpool, November 2th/5th, 2008
Conference
Fixity and Flow of Urban Waterfronts
Hamburg, October 10th/11th, 2008

Urbanpromo 2008 V edition
Venice, November 12th/15th
RETE-Association for the collaboration between ports and cities

Over 40 ports and cities of Mediterranean Europe (Spain, Portugal and Italy)
4. Conclusions
Reconnect the waterfront to the territory

- Water represents an extraordinary opportunity for the cohesion of the territory, often fragmented;
- The regeneration of the waterfront produces favorable results along the banks and the immediately adjacent areas and fallout across a wider area in terms of available services and facilities;
• For the quality of the intervention it is important to ‘mix the old with the new, and to
• to plan perpendicular axes for access to the water; and to
• create squares on the water for intensive public use.
Rediscover the identity of places

Public heritage, water is a place that people wish to enjoy in many different ways…;

The protection of the natural environment and the valorisation of water as public space, close to the city centre, allow to create a new urban centrality for both, economy and tourism.
Local Government Actions and Strategies

• To communicate water as a resource for the enhancement of the territory;
• To promote the potential of the territory with quality initiatives based on the interaction between the cultural and the environmental heritage;
• To develop an articulated program according to integrated yet independent projects, completed in successive phases;
• To promote sustainable operation by means of public funding and private investments;
• To define projects and uses that can generate short-term economic resources.
5. Presentation

International Centre Cities on Water
Cities on Water is a not-for-profit association, established in Venice, Italy, in March 1989, with the aim of:

• developing research and promotes activities on the multiple aspects of the relationship between cities and water.
• acting as an interface with the cities on water all over the world involved in restoring a positive relationship between water and the city, so as to improve the quality of the urban environment.
To give significance to the water element in all its different forms within the urban context, the Centre focuses on the following areas of research:

a. Waterfront  
b. City-Port Relationship  
c. Historical-Industrial Heritage  
d. Urban Waterborne Transportation  
e. Aquapolises
Activities

*Cities on Water* promotes:
  a. international meetings and thematic seminars;
  b. partnership with other cities;
  c. co-operation with other organisations;
  d. European projects;
  e. Networking;
  f. organisation of thematic exhibitions;
  g. publications (books, magazines, newsletter, web sites).
Portus
dedicated to
the relationship
between port and city
and the reorganization
of urban port areas

2001 - …
Communication tools

1. **Città d’Acqua News**
   monthly news in Italian and English available on line, providing up-to-date information on its activities.

2. **Web Site**
   www.citiesonwater.com
   www.waterfront-net.org
   www.rete2001.org
Thank you for your attention!

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www.citiesonwater.com