



Urban Waterfront (Re) Development Strategies

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Waterfront (re)developments in nearly all larger seaport cities all around the world started some decades ago with local initiatives for conversion of (often listed) buildings and warehouse and small scale projects. As many of these projects often with a "festival market" approach became quite successful and as often empty subused spaces next to the city center were soon not available any more projects with larger dimensions were started. More complicated ownership, contamination, stakeholders and governance structures became involved and different more complex planning strategies became necessary. As in the beginning it was often only planning permission for one project, now master plans, urban development plans and even regional plans are used for a more comprehensive and sustainable approach. Former smaller project based developments are now integrated into an urban-regional planning strategy and the transformation process is moving from the city center to more peripheral sites. The background can be seen in processes of globalization, competition between cities and regions and perspectives to be a more "creative city" to attract "knowledge workers". This involves more general perspectives of the renaissance of the city and questions how to attract the "knowledge workers" and the "creative classes". Often this involves a city strategy to (re)make urban images, to avoid sameness and to develop uniqueness which is based in specific local urban/port culture.

As port and city will have more different development paradigms in the future, this paper will focus on changing urban waterfront (re)development strategies with regional perspectives in Europe in three cities: Rotterdam, London and Barcelona. Different approaches in these seaport cities will be discussed in the context of locations. Planning perspectives and more complex governance structures involved.

KEY WORDS: Waterfront, redevelopment, seaport cities, Rotterdam, London, Barcelona.