

7 Modern ports and historic cities

Genoa and Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

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Recent decades have witnessed substantial changes in the relationships between ports and cities and between cities, ports, and the regions in which they are located. With changes in the nature of port operations and infrastructure, there has been a wide trend of ports shifting to deepwater locations in order to maintain their competitive advantage. Such moves have caused major changes in the relationships between ports and urban areas and have impacted the environments of coastal zones as well. Once ports were looked at in isolation; now they are seen as one part of larger urban systems and larger transportation infrastructures. This is of critical importance for planners and architects in thinking of ways to develop spatial strategies that will advance a city's economic potential. Such considerations require a balance between the agenda of port operations and those of the urban situation, and these are often in conflict with each other.

7.1 View of containers, Genoa.

