

9 Waterfronts, development and World Heritage cities

Amsterdam and Havana

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The relationship between historic cities and new development is of critical interest for older cities contemplating development of their water's edge. The opening up of large tracts of land in these zones creates tremendous opportunities to re-engage historic city centers with their adjacent water areas. Waterfront redevelopment allows for new civic expressions that can reinforce the character and quality of the historic core. In doing so several considerations need to be addressed. What is the appropriate form of this development? How does one protect the historic city from the consumptive nature of newer development? How can meaningful relationships be established between the old and the new? How does new, often large, development situate itself amongst older, smaller fabric?

It is widely held that if a city does not grow and change it will stagnate. A city's health is equated to its growth. Just as strong is the belief that the preservation of our built historic fabric is important to the creation of identity and the preservation of character. These two positions are obviously at



9.1 Model of Havana.