

odds with each other. These competing agendas often focus on the same territory in a city. Amsterdam and Havana provide two cases where this balancing act between development and preservation occurs. Both deal with the pressure of real estate exploitation for capital gain over the desire to save the physical residue of history. These conflicting ideologies are at the heart of waterfront development in these cities.

The comparison of Amsterdam and Havana shows insights into these considerations. Havana already is, and Amsterdam is to be, a UNESCO World Heritage City. Amsterdam has been dealing with the redevelopment of its waterfront for some thirty years. The story of the Amsterdam waterfront is one of success and failure, it has both positive and negative lessons to share. Amsterdam is a city founded on water. The city sits on top of a marshy peat bog and much of the older fabric of the city responds to a series of dikes constructed as early as the fourteenth century – forming the Damrak (Meyer, 1999). Despite the importance of water to its foundation, however, it turned its back on its waterfront in the late nineteenth century. The construction of Amsterdam's Central Station broke the relationship between Amsterdam and the River IJ. For most of the last thirty years, the re-establishment of this connection has been of central concern in waterfront redevelopment efforts. The relationship between the older fabric of the city and new developments, and making connections between them, is central to any discussion on the Amsterdam waterfront.

Havana, in comparison, is just now beginning to deal with similar issues. The waterfront in Havana is now a critical part of that city's redevelopment initiatives. The victory of the Revolution on January 1, 1959 marked a shift in priorities in Cuba from urban to rural development. Very little development occurred in Havana between 1960 and the middle of the 1990s. Because of this, the rampant commercial development that occurred in the 1960s and 1970s, common in other Caribbean cities, did not occur in Havana. Unfortunately, the priorities of the government and the economic situation in Cuba also meant that much of the basic upkeep of the city did not occur. The result is that Havana is both a precious historic artifact and a city in desperate need of maintenance, repair and modernization.

Amsterdam

Amsterdam is located about fifteen miles from the coast of the North Sea. It is the central city in the north part of "Randstad Holland," where more than one-third of the Netherlands' population lives. The landscape of Amsterdam displays the impact of man over an extended period. Since the twelfth century lakes have been diked and marshes reclaimed. The swampy stratum of Amsterdam has always posed building problems. The topsoil consists of weak strata in the form of peat that is many feet thick, under which is a layer of clay and sand. Such conditions mean that structures were of light timber frames with wooden piles sunk into the ground to depths up to sixty feet.

Amsterdam's economy is multifaceted and includes trade, financial services, health care, education, industry, construction, and other businesses. Leading industries include, shipbuilding, sugar refining, publishing and the manufacture of heavy machinery, paper products and clothing. Amster-