



9.6 The new Metropolis Museum, Amsterdam.

One of the first redevelopment projects was in North Amsterdam, on the north bank of the IJ. Although the project has met with some criticism since it was completed it represents a bold approach to waterfront development. Of particular interest is the acceptance of contemporary modern architecture in this project. In the United States, contextualism has become a paralyzing aspect to large-scale urban development. Invented historicism and the simulation of an imagined vernacular are the only acceptable possibilities. Unfortunately, the results are often safe to the point of being banal. In Amsterdam, there is a complete denial of this position and instead an acceptance that each age produces its own architectural statements. The city of Amsterdam is a composition of various periods, each expressing themselves.

The Eastern Dockland was home for many harbor-related companies. In the 1960s and 1970s these companies either moved to the western harbor or closed down. This opened the area for residential development. To date more than 7,000 housing units have been built along with some commercial and retail facilities. This project has gained international recognition and been awarded numerous prizes. The Western Dockland area, an area of wood warehouses of the former "Houthaven," is also being redeveloped for residential use with some 900 residential units.