

despite the enormous intervention in the area. Community organizations, the business community, and planning professionals have generally been supportive of the approach and the plans. There are a few exceptions in places, one example being the squatters who have resisted leaving. The city, to its credit, works with these people, which includes artists, to keep rents relatively low in order to maintain the “start-up” nature of the area.

The water uses, described in the Public Space Plan, are extensive. In the former inner docks, the space is used for houseboats, barges, historic ships, tour boats and water transportation. On the Ij, the nautical demands for the long-haul trade influence the design of the quays to accommodate sea and river cruise ships. The canal shipping trade is getting its clearance places, passage harbors have to be able to accommodate sea-sailing ships and historic sailing ships that go to the Zuyder Zee, while salon boats must be able to tour. In a few years, the Central Station commuters will be able to transfer quickly from a train to an express boat, to go to a concert or a workshop located somewhere along the Ij.

New waterfront in La Habana Vieja

Havana is an anomaly in contemporary urban history. Its position in the 1950s, as an Antillean metropolis destined to become another nexus in the Las Vegas and Miami triangle of gambling and tourism, was frozen in time on January 1, 1959. Therefore, buildings and the urban fabric of Havana have withstood the encroachment of speculative urbanization. The overall plan of Havana comprises narrow, rectilinear streets organized according to an orthogonal grid. The development of the grid in the seventeenth century followed the Spanish urban guidelines set by the Law of the Indies. Before this, pragmatic concerns dictated development. The gridded plans of the New World represent a transition in European thinking from medieval to Renaissance planning. Typically, Hispano-American plans focus on a square with barracks, a *cabildo*, and a church. Havana, in contrast, made a square, Plaza Vieja, without the presence of church or



9.10 High-rise tower along the Malecón, Havana.