

Slightly further to the west is Playa de Mariano where, prior to the Revolution, most of the private clubs were located. Playa de Mariano is located on a short crescent-shaped artificial beach and now is mostly used by trade union workers as a recreation spot. The area has tremendous potential for redevelopment in the new Cuba. A nearby military airport, no longer in service, would provide the largest redevelopment area west of Havana. This would link Playa de Mariano, and the once fashionable subdivision, with the working-class neighborhoods to the south, and provide a more direct connection to the international airport. Such projects would relieve some of the development pressure from the historic center of old Havana.

Conclusion

The comparison between Amsterdam and Havana provides us with an opportunity to explore the nature of waterfront development in historic cities. Amsterdam is a city with a long history of waterfront redevelopment, while Havana is just beginning its venture. Amsterdam is a city that can provide important lessons for how to deal with the difficult coming together of development and preservation.

Of particular interest are the lessons learned through the experience of the Amsterdam Waterfront Finance Company (AWF). One lesson is not to rely on a single market sector. Diversification allows for flexibility in the planning and execution of large-scale projects. It also allows for strategic integration into historic fabric. The fact that Amsterdam executes its

9.16 Close-up of the new Metropolis Museum, Amsterdam.

