

the water as an urban amenity, Sydney faces such issues as the appropriateness of the waterside program and of connecting through, under or across large pieces of infrastructure.

In the 1980s, Vancouver developed the Central Area Plan to reinvent its inner city. Subsequently, the waterfront has changed from railway and industrial use to residential and recreational use. Today, stresses are emerging between integrated, mixed-use, fine-grained urban development and the needs of large-area programs. The need to accommodate large program uses, and to deal with the demands of the increased traffic and noise that they bring, is in conflict with the desire for human scaled waterfront precincts.

Vancouver and Sydney have strong relationships with their harbors. The balance of uses, in both of these contexts, acknowledges a strong desire for waterfront amenity. In comparison, these cities provide ways of thinking about appropriate use and access to urban waterfronts.

In his reflective essay, "Complexity on the Urban Waterfront," Rinio Bruttomesso explores the idea of complexity and program as a way to identify urban visions on the waterfront. Bruttomesso explores three operations of waterfront redevelopment – recomposition, regeneration, and recovery. At a time where present understandings of what makes a city are questionable, the waterfront offers remarkable opportunities to define and describe a contemporary view of life. Bruttomesso explores the application of program, and its ordering and articulation in light of this understanding of the contemporary condition. Bruttomesso argues that it is the co-presence of numerous activities on the waterfront that gives life to new pieces of city.

In the second theme, "Remaking the Image of the City," Richard Marshall deals with relationships between the renewal strategies in Bilbao and Shanghai and their river waterfronts. Marshall explores the relationship between the renewal in urban waterfronts and city-wide rethinking. Competitive advantage has become the catch-cry of the modern era. Competitive advantage is an essential aspect to many national, regional and local urban policy agendas. In a world of unprecedented technological change and the development of a truly integrated global economy, the competition to attract wealth, in physical and human terms, is even more crucial. A crucial aspect of these repositioning efforts is environmental, and urban regeneration and the most visible locations for this regeneration lie on the waterfront.

Cities will not succeed by ignoring the physical realm of the city. As cities shift from industrial to service economies, a major aspect of their success will be in the quality of their urban environments. It is here that the waterfront plays a critical role. Waterfronts are often the most degraded places in the city, being the sites of the former industries. Waterfronts are also highly visible locations in most cities. The image of the city can be remade here.

Bilbao and Shanghai are two examples of how the waterfront has become the stage for a new expression of city aspirations. These cities both have a long history of waterfront neglect. Bilbao represents a case study in how a waterfront can provide opportunities for the creation of a new identity, a new expression of what the city is and wants to be.