

Cities," Richard Marshall deals with waterfront development in Amsterdam and Havana. The relationship of historic cities to new developments along the waterfront is of critical interest for older cities contemplating development of their waterfronts. Preservation of our built historical fabric is important to the creation of identity and the preservation of our character.

Amsterdam and Havana provide two cases where this balancing act between development and preservation along the waterfront 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. These contexts pose several questions. What is the appropriate form of this development? How does one protect the historic city from the consumptive nature of new capital development? How does one make relationships between the old and the new? How does new, often large, development situate itself amongst older, smaller, fabric?

Havana already is, and Amsterdam is to be, listed as 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. Havana, in comparison, is just now beginning to deal with similar issues. One of the consequences of the victory of the Revolution on January 1, 1959 was the shift in priorities in Cuba from urban to rural development, sparing Havana the blight of commercial development common in other Caribbean cities. However, it has also meant that much of the basic upkeep of the city has not occurred. The result is that Havana is both a precious historic artifact and a city in desperate need of maintenance, repair and modernization.

The intricate inner city of Amsterdam, founded on the banks of the River IJ in the twelfth century, struggles to accommodate contemporary uses within its historic fabric. Because of this, Amsterdam is developing as a multi-polar city with different functions in different areas. The central aim for redevelopment of the River IJ was to strengthen the prominence of the inner city, and to re-establish a relationship between Amsterdam and the IJ.

Barry Shaw deals with the issue of balancing development with preservation interests in "History at the Water's Edge." Shaw describes the generational nature of waterfront development. He argues that the first generation of waterfront projects – the visionary projects such as in Boston and Baltimore – set the examples which others then followed. The second generation occurs when developers adopt and expand on these ideas. The third generation occurs when these redevelopment ideas become standard practice and a new generation of creative thinkers overhauls these standard models. Shaw then speculates on the nature of the fourth generation of waterfront development.

Alex Krieger, in "Reflections on the Boston Waterfront," explores how the image of what we know of the city today has been forged by extensive landfill operations occurring over three hundred years.

Krieger notes that "The impending reuse of an urban waterfront generally combines grand expectations with considerable self-reflection about the very nature of contemporary urbanism." And it is within this moment