

Urban regeneration is a success in Bilbao due to an internal awareness of the need for improvement and the generation of a new external image to attract development. The recovery of the estuary as an axis of the metropolis and its sanitation has already led to a decisive improvement in the quality of life and attractiveness of the city. It has become the supporting artery for the new central areas of the city. Given the central position of the Estuary within the design of new Metropolitan Bilbao, it was therefore essential to promote the regeneration of the Abandoibarra area, mentioned previously.

- Culture is fundamental to the revitalization of the city. The intention is to make Bilbao a “Center of Art and Congresses.” In this way, elements that contribute to the generation of this image are considered in the same way as urban infrastructure. The University, Guggenheim Museum of Bilbao, Euskalduna Concert and Conference Hall, and the Cultural Center are the infrastructural elements that define the cultural position of the city.

The Bilbao experience of urban regeneration is simply remarkable. A key element in Bilbao’s success is the understanding that the potential of the city can only be fully realized through a coordinated effort between the public administration and the private sector. This has led to the development of “territorial planning” for the metropolitan area and the reinforcement of municipal urban management practices. The aim of the Revitalization Plan was always the creation of “common wealth” for all the citizens of Metropolitan Bilbao. The idea of “social action” and of personal well-being is a fundamental priority of urban development in the city (Asociacion Para La Revitalizacion Del Bilbao Metropolitano, 1999). A new plan developed in 2000 emphasizes the “softer” aspects of the infrastructure more than the provision of physical infrastructure.

### **The redevelopment of the Shanghai waterfront**

Shanghai is similar to Bilbao in that it suffered an economic decline due to a downturn in its industrial production. As part of a city-wide redevelopment program its waterfronts are the focus for one of the most extensive public realm improvements in the world. Shanghai has an urban form, which is typical of cities in the south of the lower reaches of the Yangtze River. It might be described as a circular form with a chessboard road system. Its history as a Treaty Port has left a legacy of residual European urban patterns within the fabric of the city. Shanghai’s waterfronts are an important aspect of the city’s morphology. There are 697 square kilometers of water area and more than 3,000 rivers, creeks and streams in the metropolitan area of Shanghai. The city’s industrial activities have heavily polluted many of these waterways. However, as part of the general urban improvement of the city there has been a concerted effort to improve the quality of these water systems.

Since 1990, Shanghai has undergone unprecedented, rapid and large-scale development. The transition from planned economy to socialist market economy, from the free use of land to the paid use of land, has required an appropriate adjustment of the city’s layout and function. In