



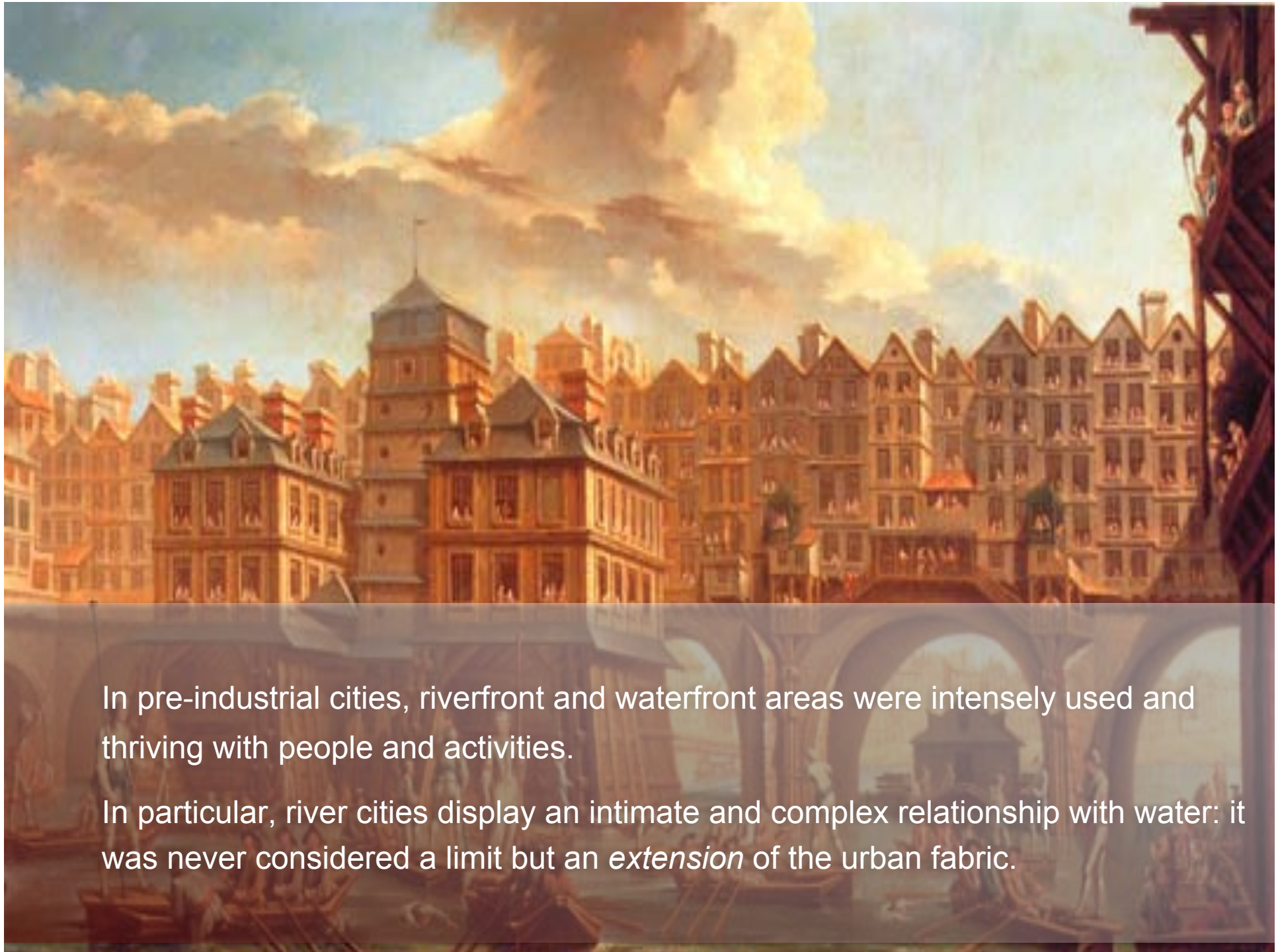
IV project meeting
WaRe – Waterfront Regeneration
Learning from European best practices for a sustainable urban life
Izola, Slovenia, September 24-28th
Manzioli Palace

**Valorisation of waterfronts
for sustainable development
in cities on water**

Marta Moretti - Deputy Director
International Centre Cities on Water, Venice (Italy)

Contents

- 1. Urban Waterfront Regeneration:
Strengths and Weaknesses**
- 2. 10 Principles for a Sustainable Development of Urban Waterfront
Areas**
- 3. Opportunities and Uses in Waterfront Regeneration**
- 4. Conclusions**
- 5. Presentation of the Centre Cities on Water**



In pre-industrial cities, riverfront and waterfront areas were intensely used and thriving with people and activities.

In particular, river cities display an intimate and complex relationship with water: it was never considered a limit but an *extension* of the urban fabric.

With the industrial era, this relationship was interrupted and cities begin to expand toward the mainland.

The inseparable partnership between port and city dramatically changes for both, spatial organisation and management of the activities.



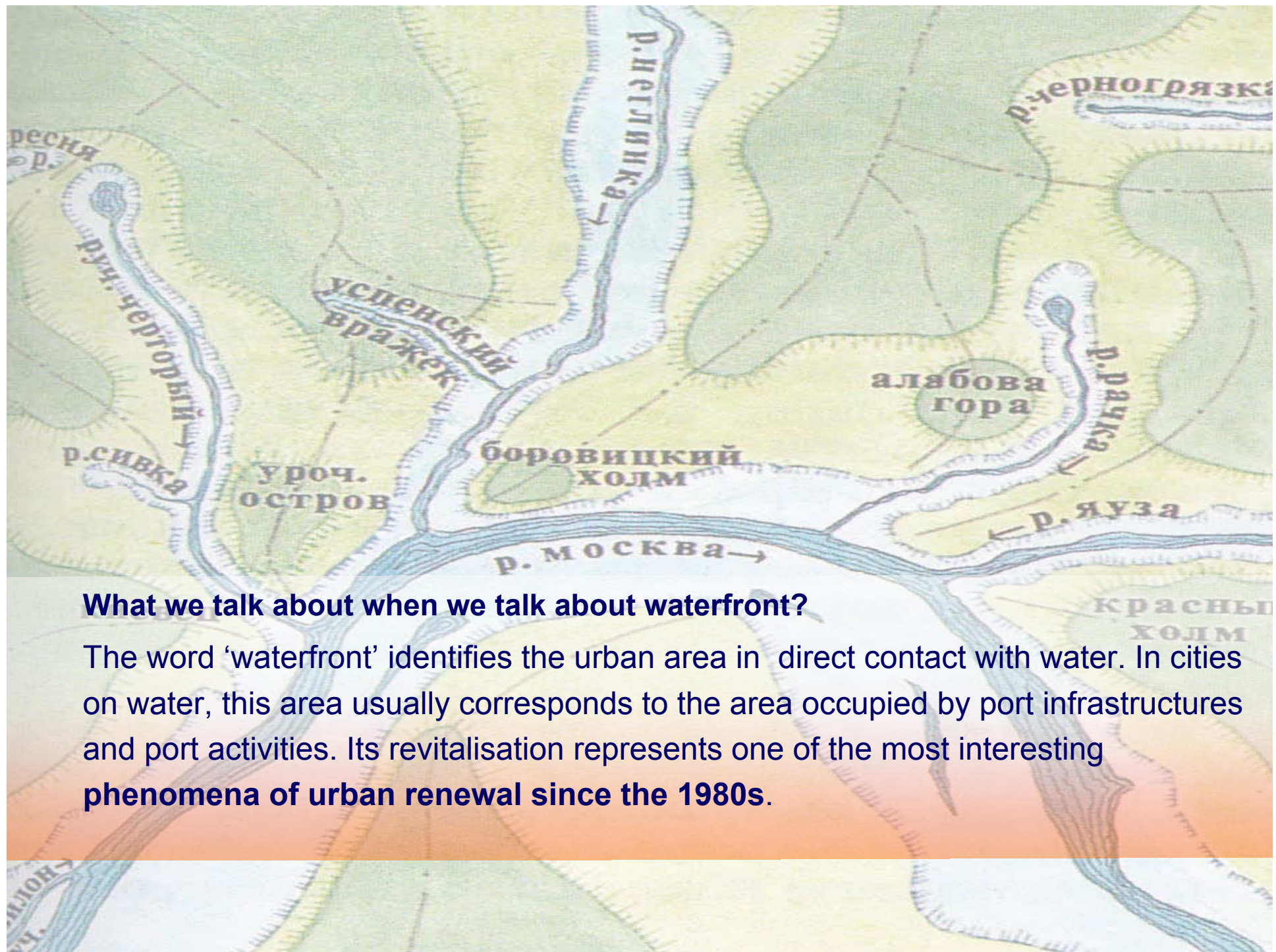
**Over the last decades,
technological
innovations
concerned to port
activities brought
substantial innovations
also in the heart of
urban settlements,
changing radically
their asset and the
relationship with the
physical and functional
texture of the territory.**





With the transfer of ports outside the cities, central urban areas along the water becomes available.

Therefore, port cities re-discovered their waterfront, thanks also to a new awareness for the environment and new lifestyles.



What we talk about when we talk about waterfront?

The word 'waterfront' identifies the urban area in direct contact with water. In cities on water, this area usually corresponds to the area occupied by port infrastructures and port activities. Its revitalisation represents one of the most interesting phenomena of urban renewal since the 1980s.



This process provides:

- **physical re-composition,**
- **functional regeneration,**
- **re-use of derelict areas, and**
- **new attraction for private investments.**

According to the successful results, marine cities and river cities can be considered **laboratories** for the process of urban renewal in view of both the broad range of cases and the quality of the results.

Even if different in terms of geography, dimensions, population and culture, these cases can be valuable sources of ideas for the future and can provide a list of **key factors** common to their success.





Waterfront Regeneration: Points of Strength

The 'strategic' value of waterfront areas for the development of the city as a whole

- they were the answer to the need for city expansion in central areas;
- they were convenient in terms of 'quality' and 'quantity'.





The 'location' factor of the waterfront

- located very close to city centres;
- available spaces for new activities.

A rich heritage of infrastructures and historical buildings

- restoration of buildings of great historical-architectural value;
- preservation and maintenance of the site's original identity.
- reconnection of the sites to the local community to transmit their signs to future generations.



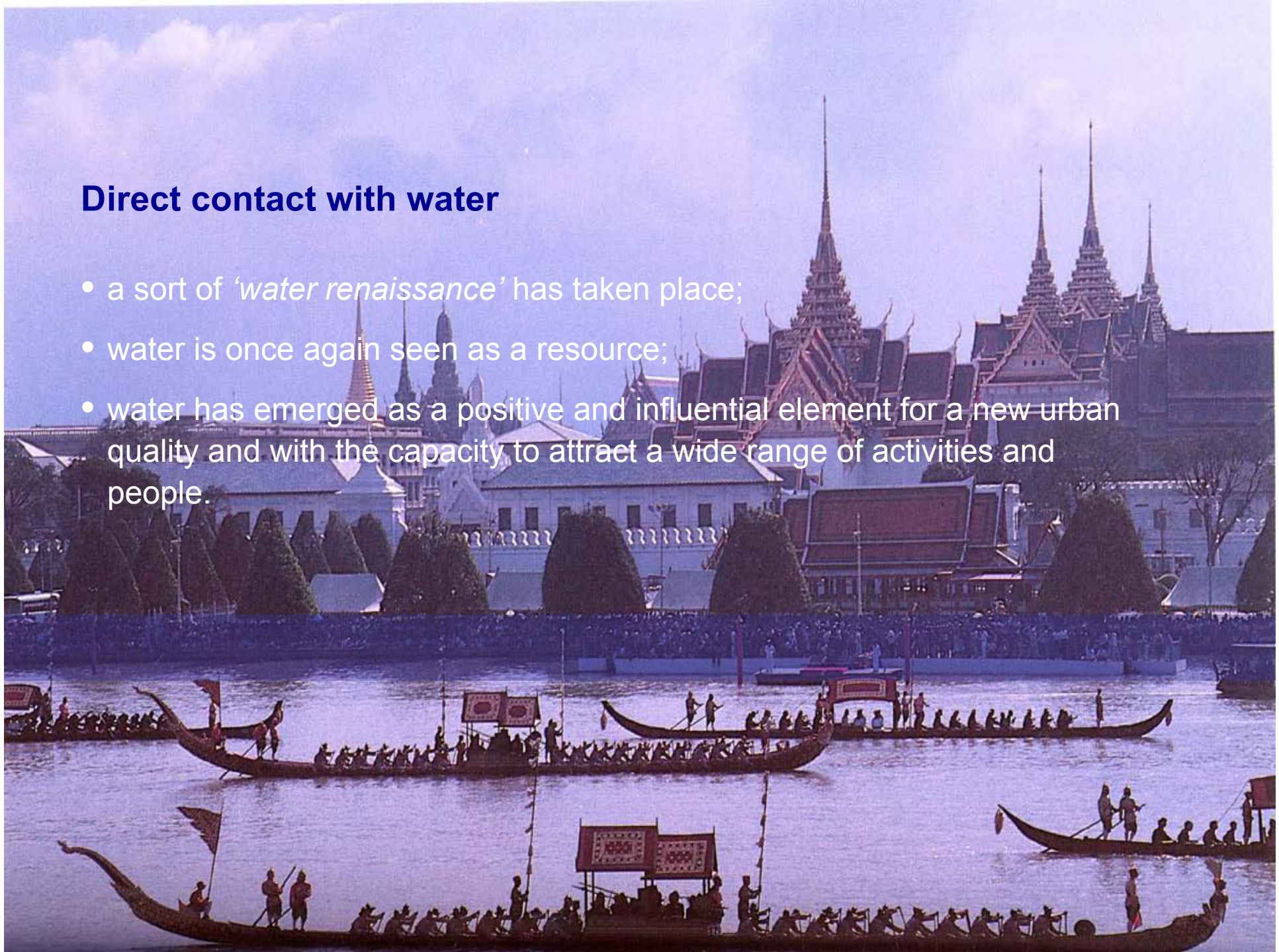
Hamburg



Venice

Direct contact with water

- a sort of '*water renaissance*' has taken place;
- water is once again seen as a resource;
- water has emerged as a positive and influential element for a new urban quality and with the capacity to attract a wide range of activities and people.





The evocative and symbolic value of waterfront areas

port areas, vibrant places, often symbol of wealth and power
for many cities on water around the world.

Waterfront regeneration provides:

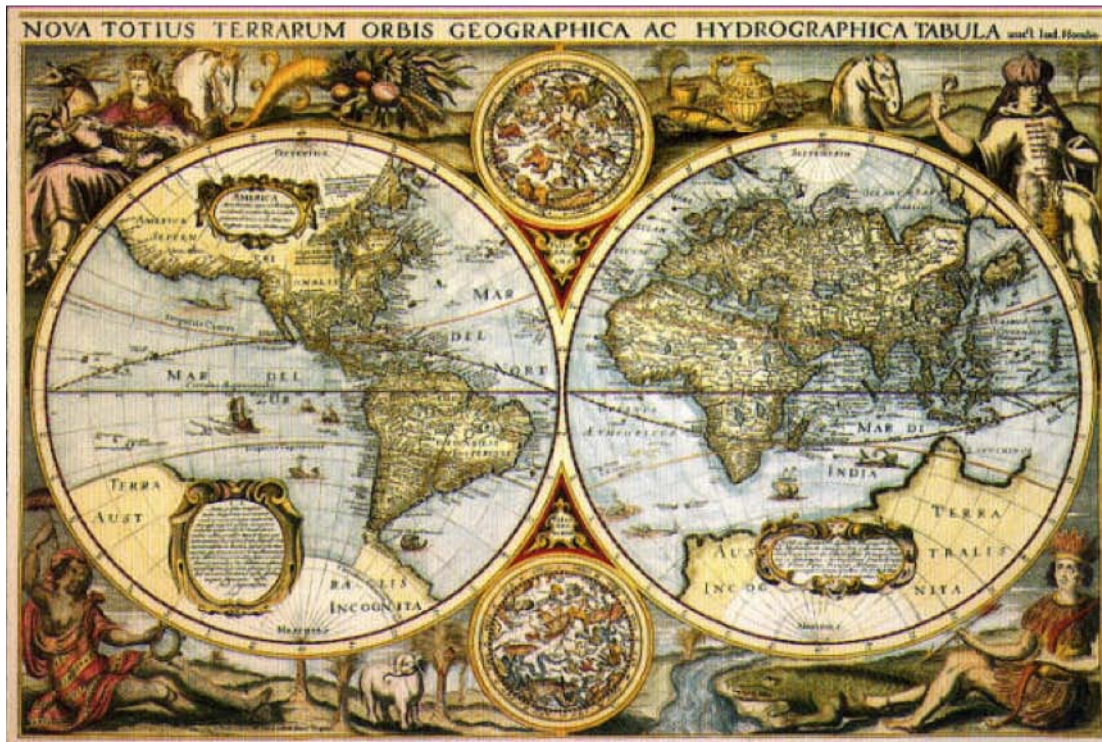
- identity and a new role to public space
- the pedestrian use of borders
- the rediscovery of waterborne transport



Private and public partnership:

- improve the management of the spaces;
- provides a wide mix of uses;
- gives more attraction to private investments.





Waterfront regeneration is today a **global** phenomena, common to any continent, geographical latitude, and territorial dimension.





Waterfront regeneration: Weakness points

1. 'Standardisation' of the interventions. Is not a cure-for-all solution. The appropriate scale of interventions has to be found.
2. The loss of local identity.
3. The achievement of high profit levels rather than the quest for a high quality.

- 4. An excessively commercial-tourist atmosphere rather than a residential function.
- 5. The scarcity of productive activities.
- 6. New access restrictions to the area.



In the context of the initiatives for the Global Conference
on the Urban Future (URBAN 21) held in Berlin in July 2000
and during the EXPO 2000 World Exhibition

**10 Principles for a Sustainable Development
of Urban Waterfront Areas**

were approved.

These principles, developed by Wasserstadt (Berlin) and Cities on
Water (Venice), have been adopted by several institutions,
internationally.

- 1 - Secure the quality of water and the environment;
- 2 - Waterfronts are part of the existing urban fabric;
- 3 - The historic identity gives character;
- 4 - Mixed use is a priority;
- 5 - Public access is a prerequisite;
- 6 - Planning in public private partnerships speeds the process;
- 7 - Public participation is an element of sustainability;
- 8 - Waterfronts are long term projects;
- 9 - Re-vitalization is an ongoing process;
- 10 - Waterfronts profit from international networking.



Opportunities and uses in Waterfront Regeneration

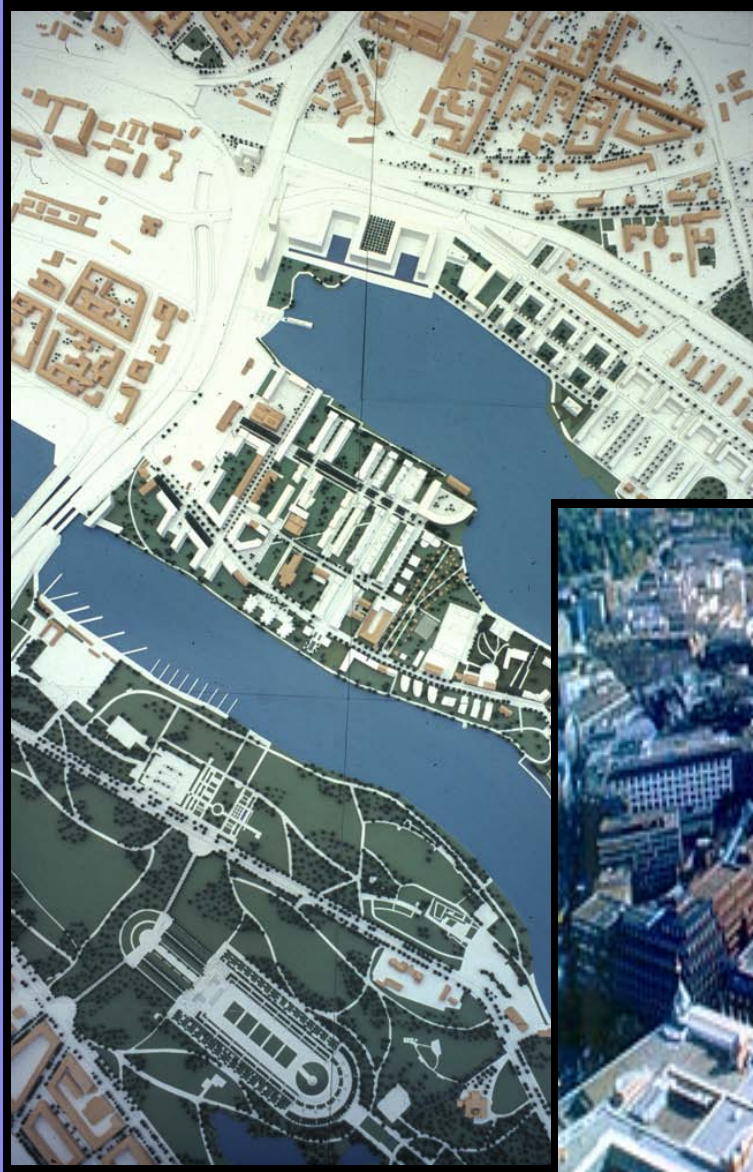


Bilbao

A crise as a starting point

Large, flat brownfield sites by the water and the need to reinvent of new identity





New Urban Expansions

- construction of news area
- recovery of existing structures
- new residential.



*Berlin, Spandauer See
and Rummelsburg
Hamburg, Hafen City*



Re-use of port areas

The process of revitalization of former port areas is bringing back the heart of the city towards the water.

Zaragoza, Expo 2008



Cultural temporary events

as an occasion for the re-use of the industrial archaeology heritage and for the revitalisation of derelict areas.

Sevilla, Expo 1992



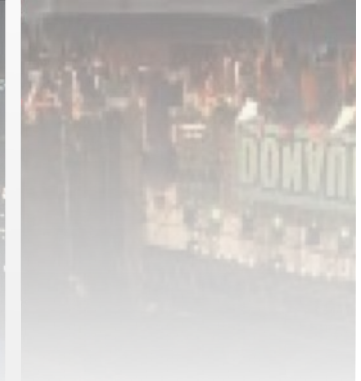
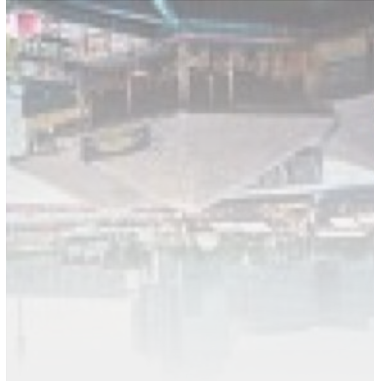
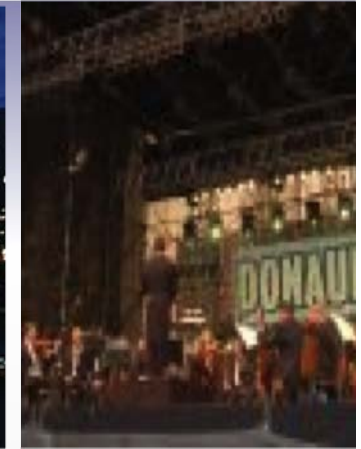
New York, High Line

Urban promenades along the water

- promote and improve access to water
- ensure public use and pedestrian routes inside

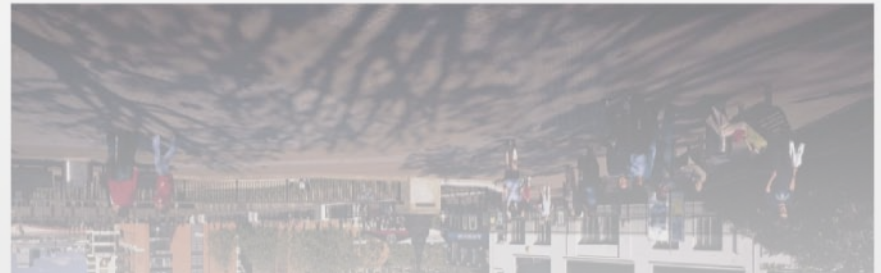
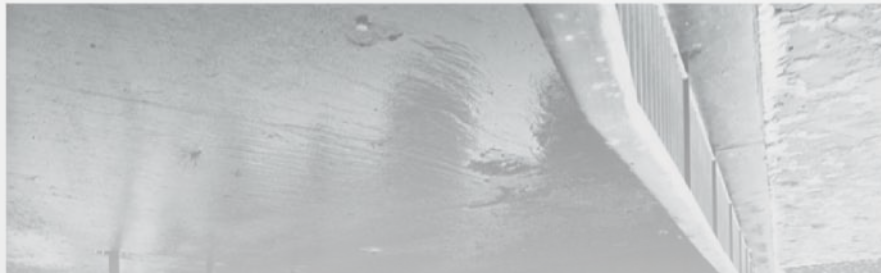
Barcelona, the Barceloneta Beach





Creation of news public spaces along the water

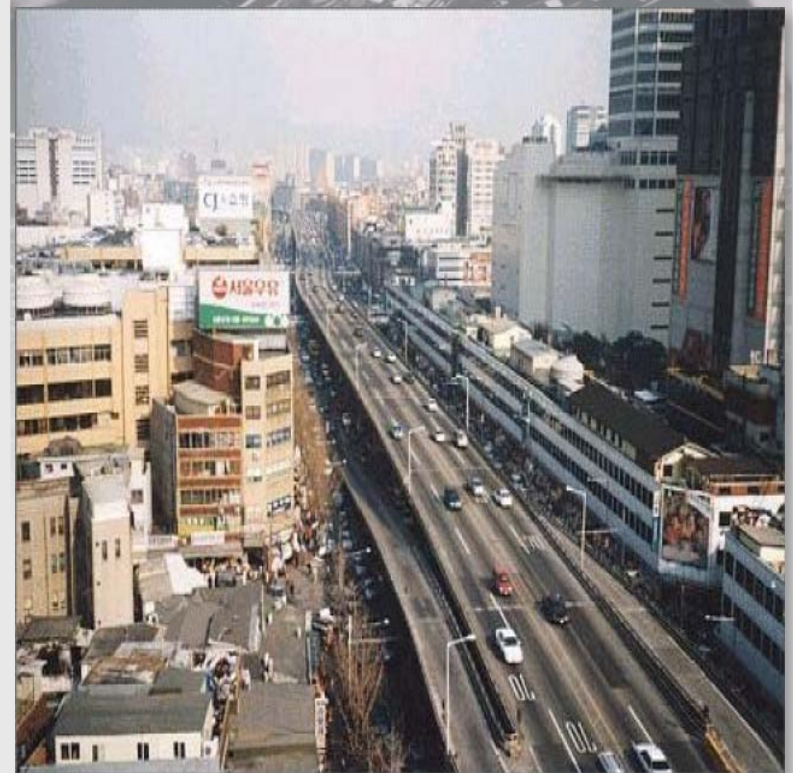
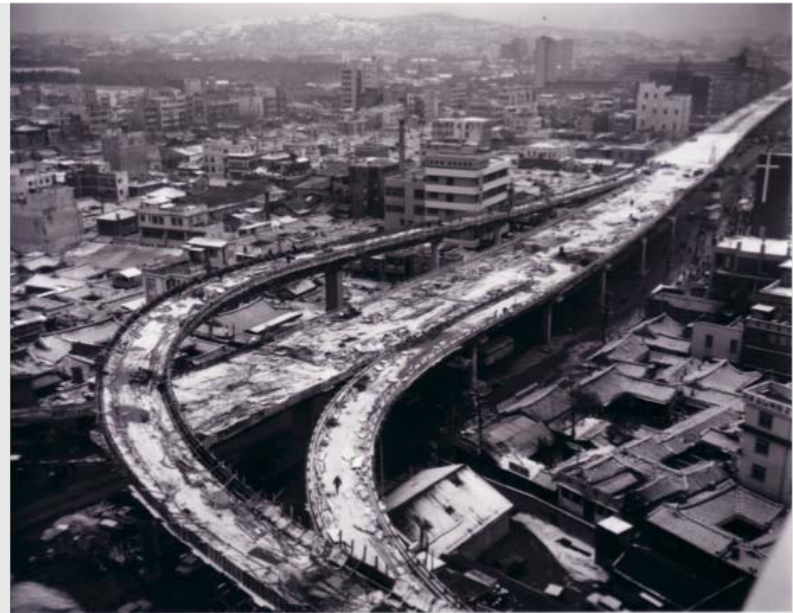
The construction of facilities for flood protection of the river can be an opportunity for expansion of the city and for the establishment of urban news uses.



New accessibility and use of waterfront and riverfronts

The case of the Cheong Gye Cheon canal, in Seoul

After a long debate, the Metropolitan Government of the city of **Seoul**, decided to re-open the **Cheong Gye Cheon canal**, crossing the city centre East-West, closed in the '60s and covered with a highway.





New central axis of articulated public spaces

Regenerated waterfronts and riverfronts become **places of intersection** of different aspects of the urban life bringing together **environment, planning, architecture, transport** but also **art, culture, education and tourism**.



Badeschiff Sprea, Berlin, 2004



Copenhagen Brygge, 2003



Paris Plage, Paris, 2001



The beach in the city

Sport, leisure and recreational activities



New sustainable economies



The Navigli in Milan



Space for art and culture



Warsaw



CHANCE ENCOUNTER ON THE TIBER

Appropriation of forgotten areas

Rome, www.tevereterno.it



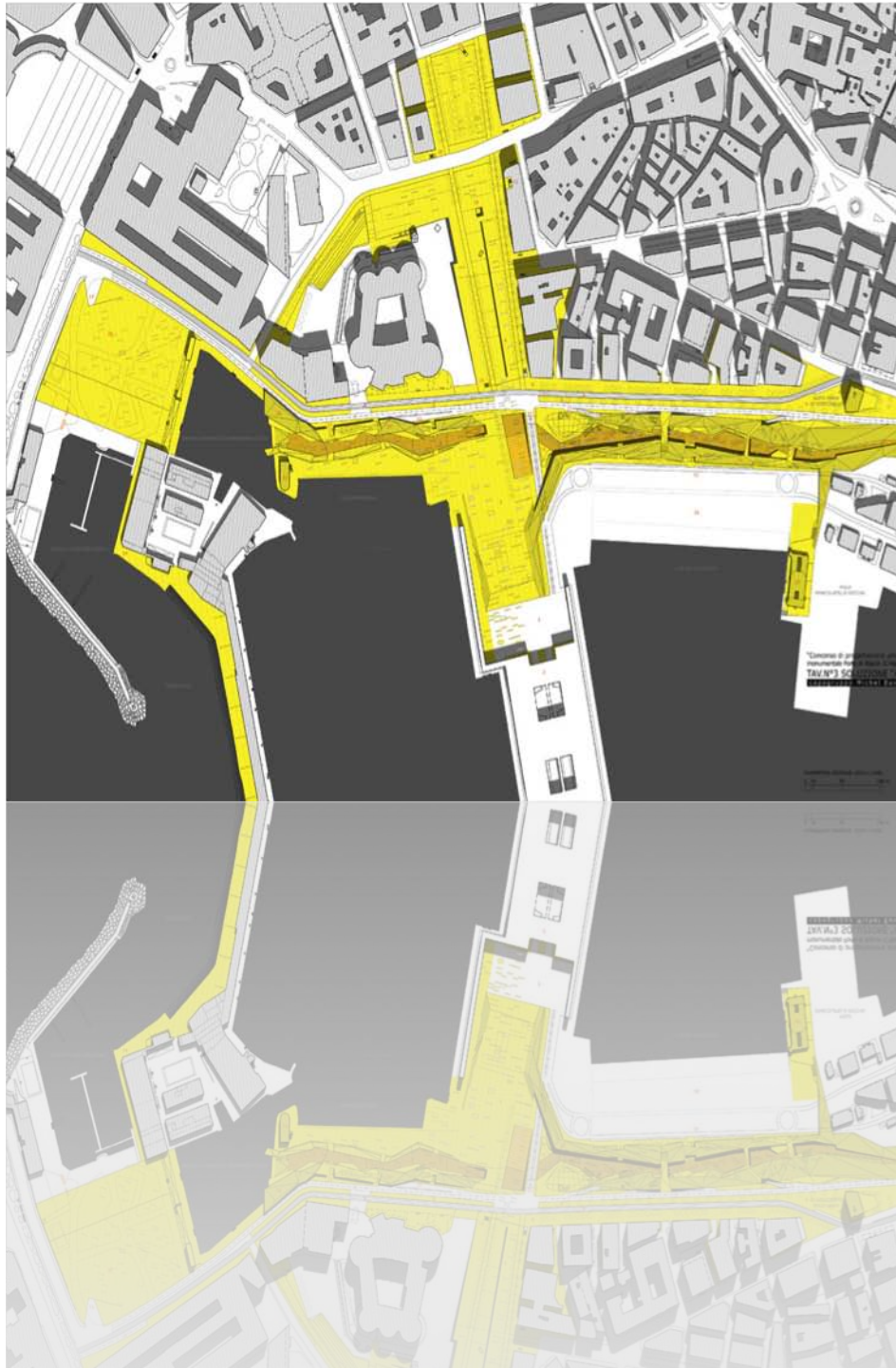
New networking initiatives



river//cities

The River//Cities Platform is a partnership between cultural, environmental and political initiatives which work in their cities to interact with and develop their rivers or waterfronts as cultural spaces. The River//Cities Platform is now become a Foundation since October 25th 2010.

www.river-cities.net



Conclusions



Reconnect the waterfront to the territory

Water represents an extraordinary opportunity of cohesion for the territory, often fragmented.

In planning, is important to create accesses to the water - squares - for intensive public use, and to mix 'old with new', to preserve the identity of the place.

Rediscover the identity of places

The protection of the natural environment and the valorisation of water as public space, close to the city centre, creates new urban centrality for both, economy and tourism.





Local Actions and Strategies

- **communicate** water as a **resource** for the enhancement of the territory;
- attention to **quality** in planning processes;
- **flexible** programs and **short and long** term projects;
- new **balance** in private and public partnerships;
- **consensus** and **participatory** processes.

An aerial photograph of a river delta, likely the Nile, showing a complex network of channels and islands. A semi-transparent green diamond is overlaid on the center of the image, containing the text. The text is white and centered within the diamond.

Presentation

*International Centre
Cities on Water*



Cities on Water is a not-for-profit association, established in Venice, Italy, in March 1989, with the aim of:

developing research and promotes activities
on the multiple aspects of the relationship
between cities and water.

acting as an interface with the cities on water all over
the world involved in restoring a *positive relationship between water and
the city*, so as to improve the
quality of the urban environment.

To give significance to the water element in all its different forms within the urban context, the Centre focuses on the following areas of research:

Waterfront



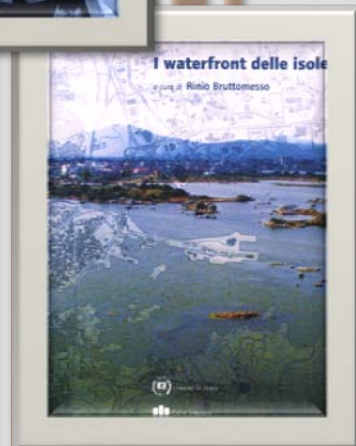
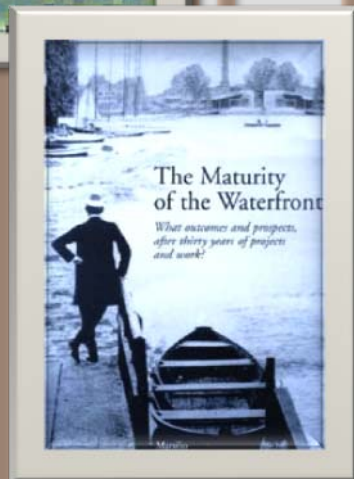
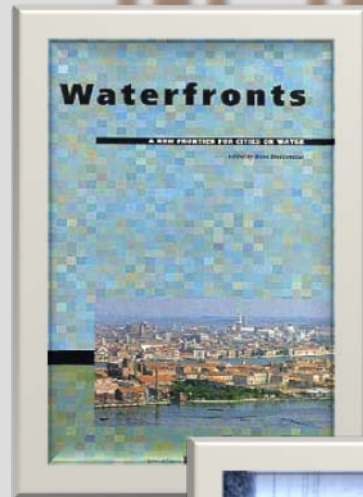
```
graph LR; A[Waterfront] --> B[Aquapolises]; B --> C[City-Port Relationship]; C --> D[Urban Waterborne Transportation]; D --> E[Historical-Industrial Heritage];
```

Aquapolises

City-Port Relationship

Urban Waterborne Transportation


Historical-Industrial Heritage



Activities

Cities on Water promotes:

- a. international meetings and thematic seminars;
- b. partnership with other cities;
- c. co-operation with other organisations;
- d. European projects;
- e. Networking;
- f. organisation of thematic exhibitions;
- g. Publications (books, magazines, newsletter, web sites).



Thank you for
your attention!

citiesonwater@iuav.it
www.citiesonwater.com

citiesonwater@iuav.it
www.citiesonwater.com