

***Waterfronts Revisited  
The Transformation of the Port Cities  
and the UNESCO Recommendation  
on the Historic Urban Landscape***

Water cities represented a predominant urban form. Since ancient times, the foundation of a city has been linked to the choice of a site close to the water, a river or a natural harbor. Rivers, channels and harbors have determined the birth and the growth of many cities in Mediterranean, European and American or Asian countries up to recent times.

Since 1970s, however, deindustrialization resulted in the abandonment of a large number of harbor sites. To face the urban and social decay a movement to revitalize and recover these areas, known as *waterfront development*, has appeared and gradually grown. Looking back to this experience, we can easily see that the waterfront has been mainly conceived as a separate part of the city, detached from the surrounding territory and its characteristics, introducing new functions (cultural, leisure, green areas and parks).

The time is ripe for an in-depth study of the effects of approximately forty years of developments along these lines, reconsidering the town as a whole system. The aim of the conference is to revisit the *waterfront development* looking at the urban territory and the historical city in their complexity and entirety, breaking the isolation of the harbor and reconnecting it to the urban structure, to its functions, its spaces and forms.

Our first aim is to re-integrate history, local traditions, architectural languages and experiences in the process of evaluation and development of waterfront areas in order to raise awareness and address future projects along these lines. We propose, in this way, a re-actualization of history through the identification of guiding values, urban patterns and local typologies, needs and experiences instead of the abstract utilization of entrepreneurial styles, uses and types.

Following the UNESCO Recommendation on the *Historic Urban Landscape*, we propose for all urban areas - and specifically for waterfronts - a methodological approach based on an overall connection with the surrounding territory and its historical evolution.

The conference, planned in concomitance with the General Assembly of the Italian Association of Urban History, is organized by the ICVBC - Institute for the Conservation and Enhancement of Cultural Heritage of the CNR - National Research Council of Italy.

**Scientific Committee:**

Heleni Porfyriou, CNR- Institute for Conservation and Enhancement of Cultural Heritage - Rome  
Marichela Sepe, CNR - Istituto di Ricerche sulle Attività Terziarie - Naples  
Antonello Alici, Università Politecnica delle Marche, Ancona  
Massimiliano Savorra, Università del Molise, AISU



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Organized by the CNR Institute for Conservation  
and Enhancement of Cultural Heritage in Rome

**November 9, 2012**  
CNR - National Research Council of Italy  
Piazzale Aldo Moro 7 - Rome  
Aula Marconi

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## Draft Program

**9:00 - 9:30**

### Registration

**9.30 - 10.30**

Welcome speech Luigi NICOLAIS (CNR President)  
Welcome speech Guido ZUCCONI (AISU President)  
Heleni PORFYRIOU (CNR - ICVBC – Roma), *Waterfronts in Historic Cities and the new UNESCO Recommendation of Historic Urban Landscape*

**10.30 - 11.30**

### Session 1. Port Cities in History

Chairman: Antonello ALICI (Università Politecnica delle Marche – Ancona)

Stefano DE CARO (Director ICCROM - Roma), *Port Cities in Antiquity*  
Donatella CALABI (Università IUAV di Venezia), *Port Cities in Early Modern Period: Docklands and Settlements*  
Johan MÅRTELIUS (Kungliga Tekniska högskolan – Stockholm), *Stockholm's harbor and the Baltic*

**11.30 - 11.45**

Coffee break

**11.45 - 13.30**

### Session 2. Waterfront Developments and new Perspectives

Chairman: Marichela SEPE (CNR - IRAT - Napoli)

Oriana GIOVINAZZI (RETE-Associazione per la collaborazione tra porti e città, Venezia), *Integration and Internationalization of the new Waterfront of Marseille*

John PENDLEBURY (Newcastle University-Newcastle), *Liverpool: the three Graces in a new Perspective*

Juhana LAHTI (Museum of Finnish Architecture-Helsinki), *Helsinki, on/off the Shoreline*

Pablo DE LA CAL NICOLÁS (Universidad de Zaragoza), *Zaragoza: Rivers as a new Urban Structure*

Stefano PANUNZI (Università degli studi del Molise), *MediterrAId 2011 and Mediterranean Waterfront - Eco Cluster Cooperation*

**13.30 – 14.30**

Lunch

### Round Table Discussion

Chairman: Massimiliano SAVORRA (Università degli studi del Molise)

With the participation of all speakers

Guest speaker: Marie-Noël TOURNOUX (World Heritage Center - UNESCO), *The UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape*

**15.30 – 17.30**

### General Assembly of AISU Members – Associazione Italiana di Storia Urbana

