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TRANSFIGURING URBAN EDGES: STRATEGIES FOR DEVELOPING TRANSFIGURING URBAN WATER EDGES

The inevitable relation between man and water's edge have always existed throughout history. Their functional and aesthetical relationships have caused settlements to develop along coastal edges. The development trends have followed in such a way that world's greatest cities emerged along these waterfront locations. Transfiguring urban edges deals with the change in function of a place with time. The water's edge was often used for industrial development. The edge was often left with warehouses and factories after the wharf era. Both harbours and riverfronts have often suffered from the same problem of neglect and lack of development. Cities need to reclaim their water's edge as a great asset. Waterfront development should address the question of people's access to the water. Well-developed open spaces should become places where people can experience the power of water. By re-establishing the connection to the water's edge from the centre, or reclaiming a lost asset, a city may gain back its lost identity. Even though water edge has transformed from a place of exchange to a place of public use, policies which encourage and regulate how public open space along the water's edge developed, have not been firmly established. A void of these kinds of policies exists. This paper tries to avoid these voids by formulating urban design strategies that help device a master plan for waterfront development. These urban design strategies must be strong in its development use, connectivity, morphological dimension and environmental concerns. Various aspects have been studied to encourage public access and pedestrian linkages to the waterfront. These policy statements treat the waterfront as a valuable public amenity to be shared by all. It is ironic that the design of such a valued amenity is largely ignored to be integrated with the development projects as a major concept. Any waterfront development master plan must be structured in three layers of social, economic and cultural aspects for an integrated and continuous development owned by the city.

Key words: *Transfiguring urban edges, City-water relationship, Water edges, Water front development*