

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



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

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

were approved.

These topics have been previously developed by **Wasserstadt GmbH, Berlin** in collaboration with the **Centre Cities on Water, Venice** in the course of international seminars attended by local administrators, public and private entrepreneurs, university professors and scholars of the processes to requalify urban waterfronts.

## **1 - Secure the quality of water and the environment**

The quality of water in the system of streams, rivers, canals, lakes, bays and the sea is a prerequisite for all waterfront developments. The municipalities are responsible for the sustainable recovery of derelict banks and contaminated water.



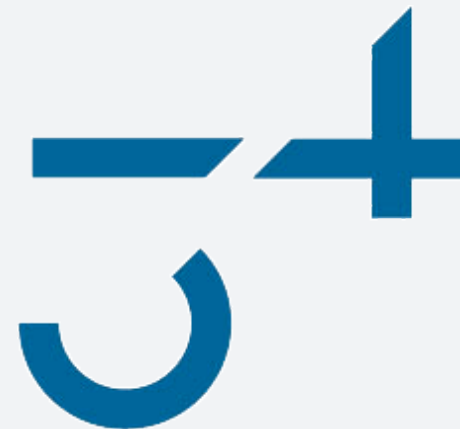
## **2 - Waterfronts are part of the existing urban fabric**

New waterfronts should be conceived as an integral part of the existing city and contribute to its vitality. Water is a part of the urban landscape and should be utilized for specific functions such as waterborne transport, entertainment and culture.



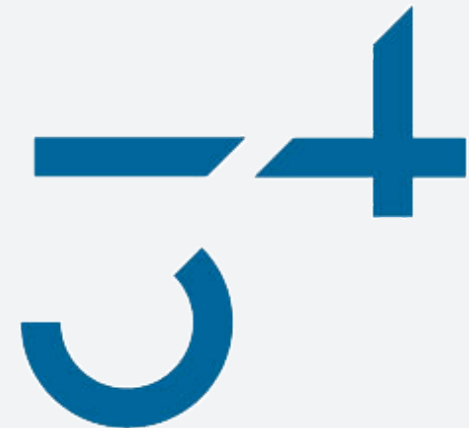
### **3 - The historic identity gives character**

Collective heritage of water and city, of events, landmarks and nature should be utilized to give the waterfront redevelopment character and meaning. The preservation of the industrial past is an integral element of sustainable redevelopment.



## **4 - Mixed use is a priority**

Waterfronts should celebrate water by offering a diversity of cultural, commercial and housing uses. Those that require access to water should have priority. Housing neighborhoods should be mixed both functionally and socially.



## **5 - Public access is a prerequisite**

Waterfronts should be both physically and visually accessible for locals and tourists of all ages and income. Public spaces should be constructed in high quality to allow intensive use.



## **6 - Planning in public private partnerships speeds the process**

New waterfront developments should be planned in public private partnerships. Public authorities must guarantee the quality of the design, supply infrastructure and generate social equilibrium.

Private developers should be involved from the start to insure knowledge of the markets and to speed the development.





## **7 - Public participation is an element of sustainability**

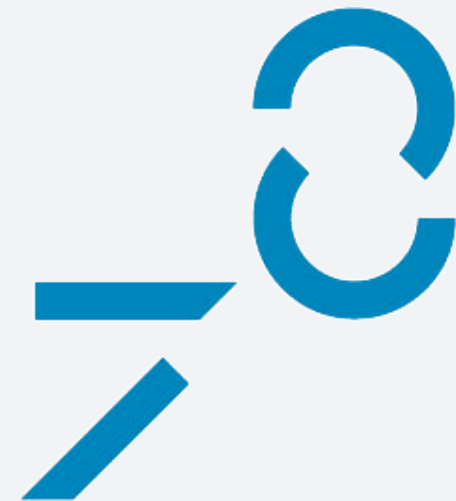
Cities should benefit from sustainable waterfront development not only in ecological and economical terms but also socially. The community should be informed and involved in discussions continuously from the start.



## **8 - Waterfronts are long term projects**

Waterfronts need to be redeveloped step by step so the entire city can benefit from their potentials.

They are a challenge for more than one generation and need a variety of characters both in architecture, public space and art. Public administration must give impulses on a political level to ensure that the objectives are realized independently of economic cycles or short-term interests.



## **9 - Re-vitalization is an ongoing process**

All master planning must be based on the detailed analysis of the principle functions and meanings the waterfront is concerned. Plans should be flexible, adapt to change and incorporate all relevant disciplines.

To encourage a system of sustainable growth, the management and operation of waterfronts during the day and at night must have equal priority to building them.



## **10 - Waterfronts profit from international networking**

The re-development of waterfronts is a highly complex task that involves professionals of many disciplines. The exchange of knowledge in an international network between contacts involved in waterfronts on different levels offers both individual support and information about the most important projects completed or underway.

