



## Port Cities and the Global Exchange of Planning Ideas

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The changes in the maritime shipping industry over the last half century have brought widespread redundancy of the older port infrastructures. The reuse of these large, highly specialised areas has been, and remains, a major planning and development challenge. Yet their relatively central locations have meant that the potential rewards of such development, financial and otherwise, have been huge. In many cities the development that has occurred there has, in various ways, been internationally oriented and made these regenerated dock areas into advertisements for their cities. In turn, this has often generated international interest from the leaders of other port cities, real estate developers and design professionals and encouraged new kinds of networks of knowledge being exchanged and traded between port cities. This chapter is specifically about this global exchange of planning knowledge concerning the afterlife of former port areas. Why have some ports cities become exemplars from other cities draw lessons? Is it that they are intrinsically 'the best', deserving the attention that they garner? Or is there something less tangible that they seem to provide that makes other cities look in their direction and, less rationally, believe that they provide answers to common problems of stagnating port cities? This chapter explores these questions referring especially to the exemplar roles of Baltimore, Capetown, Hamburg and London, along with the many other port cities that over recent decades have seen them, in varying ways, as places to be learned from.

**KEY WORDS:** Port cities, networking, waterfront development, urban transformation.