



## **A Study on the Transformations of Coastal City Waterfront Planning in China**

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China's coastal city waterfront planning has undergone great transformations in the last 3 decades since its reform and opening policy in 1978. Historically, China's coastal waterfront planning was mainly focused on the economic construction so that factories were built and harbors constructed for the promotion of the urban economic development. As a result, pollutions came into being, and what is more, urban habitants became inaccessible to the sea. In recent years, along with the rapid economic growth of the country and perceptible improvement of its people's living standard as well as influenced by the advanced planning cases from such countries as Japan and America, coastal cities' habitants are now getting more and more aware that the waterfront area in the city cannot be separated from their life. They began to appeal to the city government to attach importance to the construction of the urban waterfront landscape. Their requirements have got understood and valued, and city planners are making their efforts to create a better, much more livable space out of the coastal waterfront area by taking effective measures. In many coastal cities, waterfront parks have been built and roads for strollers constructed, thus facilitating urban habitants to be closer to the sea and more easily enjoy the beautiful view of the seaside.

However, new problems have arisen. Does the newly-built landscape really suit the waterfront? Is there a balance between the waterfront and the city proper? What is the practical function of the newly-fixed facilities in the waterfront area? In light of the above-mentioned problems, this paper aims not only to elaborate on the historical evolution of waterfront areas in China's coastal cities, but to discuss the existing problems and challenges it faces now as well. Comparisons are also to be made between the past and current situations in this paper on the basis of the field investigation and the questionnaires carried out in order to reflect city habitants' desires. This research adopts the way of both qualitative and quantitative analyses, advancing some practical suggestions for the planning of urban waterfront areas in China's coastal cities.

**KEY WORDS:** Historical transformations, planning history, coastal city, waterfront, China.