

Barcelona Ciutat Port

Dynamics of coastline transformation



Dynamics of transformation and heritage

The Barcelona coastline contains an important tangible and intangible heritage which is the result of the narrow relationship between the city and the port.

The construction of the historical Barcelona port reflects the history of the city. Where it is possible to find diverse stages of its evolution, changes in building styles, important public spaces, historic sites and monuments. This whole group is a master key in the Barcelona culture and the Mediterranean ports culture.

The current dynamic of the Barcelona port transformation applies a strong pressure in terms of urban development on adjacent districts.

The projects which are introduced here, propose the transformation of the coastline, especially around the historical port, with new uses and new building projects to meet the tourist demand.

The modification of the quarter's urban planning next to the port is one of the most notable consequences.

Until now the majority of the buildings of this area have been gradually bought by private investors. Many of those buildings are underused or derelict as a strategy to reconvert them.

At the same time, the increase of rental and selling price, the dwelling is nearly inaccessible for the citizens of Barcelona, like for example in the Barceloneta district, which is the second most expensive of the city.

The projects which affect the Barcelona port and his adjacent quarters endanger the cultural heritage because:

1. There is a many of public building underused or derelict.
2. Presence of deteriorated building.
3. Insufficient legal protection for public buildings which allow severs transformations.
4. The legal protection of heritage sites does not consider the protection of the environment, groups or landscape.
5. The legal protection of heritage sites is incomplete, ethnologic heritage; industrial heritage, scientific heritage, and immaterial heritage are not added to the protection.
6. Privatization of historical buildings.
7. Cultural heritage as speculative property. Use of local cultural heritage to do investments and private economic activities for real estate firms and hotel companies.
8. Loss of historical buildings which are rooted in the local culture.
9. Change in the uses which twisted public property's values and meanings.
10. Loss of the social fabric and neighborhood life by excessive of non-residential activities.