Urban waterfronts have been a matter of much debate over the past decades. Early schemes of conservation have focused on leisure and commercial exploitation; more recently urban waterfronts have change the pattern of regeneration paying more attention to the environmental issues and ecological conditions, to the preservation of historic character and reuse of old buildings, to the recreation and wellbeing.

How do we preserve culture heritage of urban waterfronts while developing the change? How can we manage historic environment to respond to an active urban change? How can we involve local people and actors to the process of managing urban waterfront's change? How do we balance the competing interests to ensure sustainable change, preserve identity and yet allow for new development?

"Urban Waterfront and Cultural Heritage. New perspectives and opportunities" tried to give some answers in these questions.

The book, part of a focused research undertaken at the University of Florence, is divided into three parts: a Part One "Historic Environment and Waterfront Challenges" provides an overview for regeneration of built and historic environment; a Part Two "Waterfronts and Industrial Heritage" argues on industrial waterfronts that in the past played an important role for the city and its people. Such places and their own distinctive character need to be preserved, re-used to achieve sustainable transformation; a Part Three "Waterfront Design Studio and Architectural Education" shows the importance of architectural education on designing historic waterfronts in terms of good planning and design that helps to support sustainable lifestyles and activities.

This book is aimed to go into a deeper understanding of the topic on urban waterfronts and have faith in the robust nature of cultural heritage and good design. An important issue is to identify special interest to recognise urban waterfronts as part of a sensitive urban environment. Preservation of cultural heritage including innovative regeneration and economic development initiatives is challenging for urban change. This integrated approach clearly involves diverse and complex skills across different disciplines.

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