Financing urban renewal, conservation of cultural heritage and tourism development

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Urban blight: Issues and challenges faced by cities in economic transition

- Factories relocating or closing down
- … leaving behind urban soil, water and air pollution
- lack of investment and investors
- urban under- or unemployment and poverty
- inadequate infrastructure or public services
- inadequate urban water supply and sanitation
- inadequate (public) transport systems
- … problems of blight in urban areas
SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

- Target 11.4:
  - ... strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage; ...
Important actors in urban renewal, rehabilitation and (re)development:

- Private investors and real estate (re)development companies
- Social entrepreneurs (neighborhood associations)
- Public-private partnerships
- Municipal / Public Corporations and Authorities
- National and International Financial Institutions
- … among others

… creating new opportunities for tourism, authentic experiences, commerce and employment
... some examples of urban rehabilitation, re-development and reuse, including for recreational and tourism commerce
Private Investment in urban brownfield redevelopment: Example: Conversion of Textile Factory to Hotel

Vienna, Austria

Textile factory first founded in 1908 by Otto Taussig & Co
Employed up to 300 factory staff,
But was closed in 1975
(lack of demand due to competition from Asian countries)

1990: initial renovation and conversion to office and art gallery space by private company
2009: further complete renovation and re-opening as hotel
Contribution of social enterprise to urban renewal: Example 2: Don Valley Brick Works, Toronto, Canada

1890: Don Valley brick Works is one of Canada’s pre-eminent brick factory (43 million brick annually)
1904: bricks used to re-build Toronto after large fire
1980s: quarry largely depleted, site transferred to new developer, but local opposition by “Friends of the Valley”
Expropriation by Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA)
Landfill & Weston Family Quarry Garden

2002: Social enterprise Evergreen began re-vitalization and redevelopment of site
Today Evergreen Brickworks is Canada’s first large-scale community environment center
http://ebw.evergreen.ca/about/social-enterprise_ http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NbQ5c_qSjyY
In 1989, the Government of Argentina passed a comprehensive reform laws. New legislation governing State property prepared the way for initiatives to upgrade and revitalize the city center. The Corporación Antiguo Puerto Madero S.A. was created on November 12, 1989. CAPMSA belongs jointly to the Federal Government and the City of Buenos Aires. Its principal objective was the urbanization of the area surrounding the old port. One hundred and seventy hectares of State-owned land were assigned to the Corporation. The city, in turn, committed itself to preparing an innovative project for urban rehabilitation.

http://www.corporacionpuertomadero.com/
Government institutions for urban renewal
Example: Old town renewal in United Kingdom

Several local governments in the United Kingdom have launched programmes aimed at
(i) encouraging people to move back to live in historic buildings,
(ii) a regeneration of the retail heartland of central business districts.
These programmes provide (in)direct support to home owners and investors through tax incentives for works performed to refurbish residential and retail buildings to bring them up to habitable standards.

• Blaenavon’s Industrial landscape became a World Heritage Site in 2000.
• It is a landscape shaped by human hand, dating from the early days of the Industrial Revolution - when the iron and coal industries of South Wales were of global importance.

http://www.visitblaenavon.co.uk/en/Homepage.aspx
Synergies of urban (re)development, improved local living conditions and enhanced attractiveness for domestic and foreign tourist visitors
Urban rehabilitation for commerce, leisure and tourism
Examples from New York, New York

High Line Park, New York, United States

see www.thehighline.org for more info

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuWMO3M1HVQ
Urban rehabilitation for commerce, leisure and tourism
Examples from Lijiang (China) and Seoul (Korea)
Government programmes for urban rehabilitation
Examples from Bogota (Colombia) and Singapore

La Candelaria, Old Town of Bogota, Colombia

Singapore, Urban Renewal Programmes  for info see also: www.chinatownhotel.com
Important role of technical competency and not for profit initiatives

The Indian National Trust For Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) is a non-profit organization set up in 1984 to involve its members in protecting and conserving India’s vast natural, built and cultural heritage.

http://www.intach.org
India – NGO - INTACH Urban renewal in Pondicherry: Adaptive re-use (including for tourism)

Hotel de L’Orient  
Le Café – before and after renovation 2007 - 2008  
The Promenade Hotel

Source: Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) - Pondicherry  
http://www.intachpondicherry.org/English/adaptative.aspx
India – NGO - INTACH Urban renewal in Pondicherry: Adaptive re-use (including for tourism)

Source: author’s photos
Important role of public policy making for urban (re)development and project/programme financing
Government funding support for urban renewal: Example: Urban Renewal Agencies (URAs) in the US

Source: Pueblo Urban Renewal Authority, Pueblo, United States
Public development financing organization of Colombia

FINDETER finances infrastructure projects channeling funds through financial intermediaries. The objective is to provide funds with terms, rates and conditions in order to meet the funding needs of the projects.

With rediscount credit Findeter fosters Colombia’s national and local development, including urban renewal programmes and tourism investments.

Photos: vokobremen.wordpress.com/2010/02/
Informative further readings:
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1. *The Economics of Uniqueness: Valuing Historic City Centres and Cultural Heritage Assets for Sustainable Development* by Guido Lionardi and Maria Amathou (Editors).
Thank you  Merci

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