

Interreg-JOHANN project & 2 UBC commissions Workshop Rostock



In the inner City only a few buildings are not in an excellent condition as of now, vacant plots are rare and high priced, the overall appearance is coherent and positive.

The historical harbor is perceived as underused and in bad repair, although this perception is dominated by the central part; it has not found a coherent appearance or even a dominant usage after it has lost its historical main function as an industrial harbor.

The historical harbor borders not only the historical City, but also the suburb “Kröpeliner Tor-Vorstadt” from the late 19th century, and the recently developed “Petriviertel”, and is itself not coherent in function or appearance.

The changes in function, the extraterritorial use in GDR times, the changed city structures, the “Lange Straße” and the main traffic axis have obstructed the historical integration of the harbor, when the street grid was made up by the medieval streets leading from the markets to the harbor. This also led to a negative development for commercial and touristic functions the “Lange Straße” and the northern part of the City.

The slow loss of the former functions and the so caused functional vacuum have partly been filled by informal uses, mainly quaternary uses, like offices, leisure activities like sports and gastronomy. Pressure of real estate industry is increasing to occupy last remaining plots for non-harbor business related purposes.

The harbor already is the “promenade” for a large part of Rostock’s people, although the 16 to 30 year old dominate. But it also is still a buffer area for functions of the City, offering cheap parking, space for part time usage by circus tents, carneys and their trucks, for the fairs etc.

Theses:

- The harbor should not become part of the City in a sense that it is used in the same, highly built up way
- The historical dimension must always be visible, but should not prevent the use of the harbor
- The harbor should be the “City balcony” opening up to the river and the views
- The informally grown functions should be accepted and strengthened – the demand cannot be denied
- The physical barriers should be bridged, but not those in appearance and function
- New functions should especially address those target groups, which are underrepresented today, children, families, elder folks

The harbor should also address the needs of the housing population of the inner city, from missing playgrounds to the need to sleep.