



**Politecnico
di Torino**

Honors Thesis

Master in Architecture Heritage Preservation and Enhancement

Abstract

A Fragile Relationship: Waterfront Revitalization Programs and Built Heritage by the comparative study of Galata (Istanbul) and Mersey Riverside (Liverpool)

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This thesis aims to examine the relationship between the waterfront revitalization processes and urban waterfront heritage comparatively focusing on historical developments in the context of *longue durée* spatial transformation by using digital humanities tools, and also considering the strategy, management, planning, legislation, and implementations of the change by analyzing two historical port areas.

These arguments are investigated over Galata Waterfront (Istanbul) and Mersey Riverside (Liverpool). The multi-layered historical waterfront of Galata has recently experienced a drastic change under the *Galataport Project*; simultaneously, Liverpool with an outstanding legacy of the maritime image has undergone a comprehensive change through the implementation of waterfront regeneration programs lately, especially with the *Liverpool Waters Project*.

The issue is taken from the epicenter of the settlement's history in connection with the water element and extends its scope toward the historical development of the port areas and proximity to be able to contextualize the phenomena of waterfront changes in Galata and Liverpool. Following the comparative historical analysis, the relation between the port and the city is conceptualized thanks to the existing knowledge in the literature. Then the narrative is created over the pedestals including the waterfront heritage of the areas while considering the heritage legislation, planning, and management; waterfront regeneration strategies realized in both contexts similarly comprising legislation, planning, and management issues; the implementation and phases of waterfront revitalization projects. This is followed by the synthesis of historical transformation starting from the mid-19th century with the latest regeneration processes experienced in the waterfront areas and the spatial change in the urban tissue is examined in various scales.

The development, transformation, and metamorphosis of these thresholds have been a critical phenomenon predominantly in recent history within the changing global and local dynamics. Rethinking these alterations over the two influential ports in history that reflect analogies and disparities in terms of their past, evolvement, context, and impact areas yet an akin controversiality of the actual regeneration scopes enables to focus on a broader perspective. Therefore, the clashes/overlaps or co-existence/asynchrony of the recent developments, their correlation with the existing waterfront urban structure, and principally with the architectural and urban heritage are the focal points of the study.

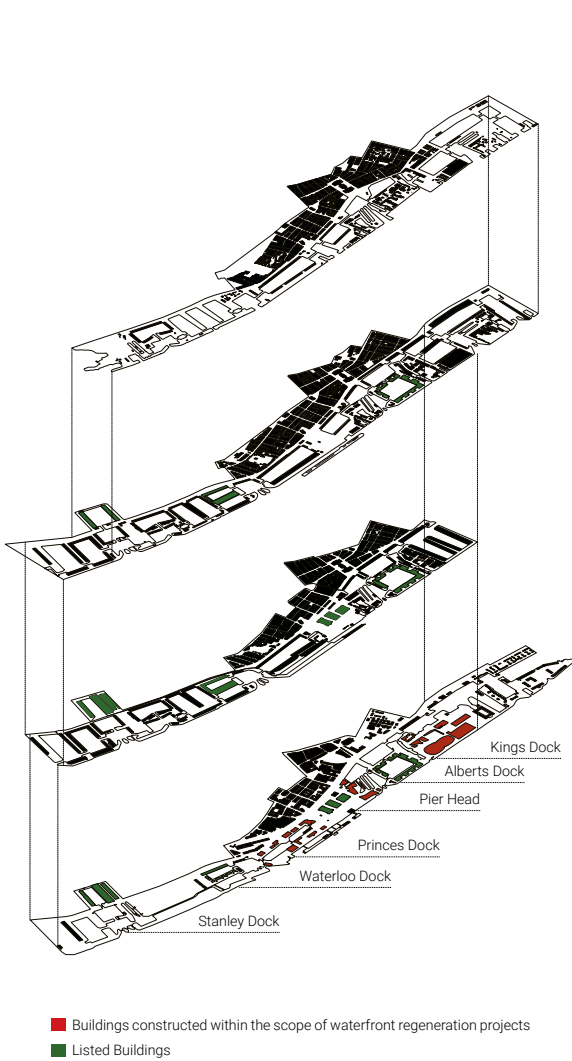


Figure: The Port of Liverpool Spatial Evolution

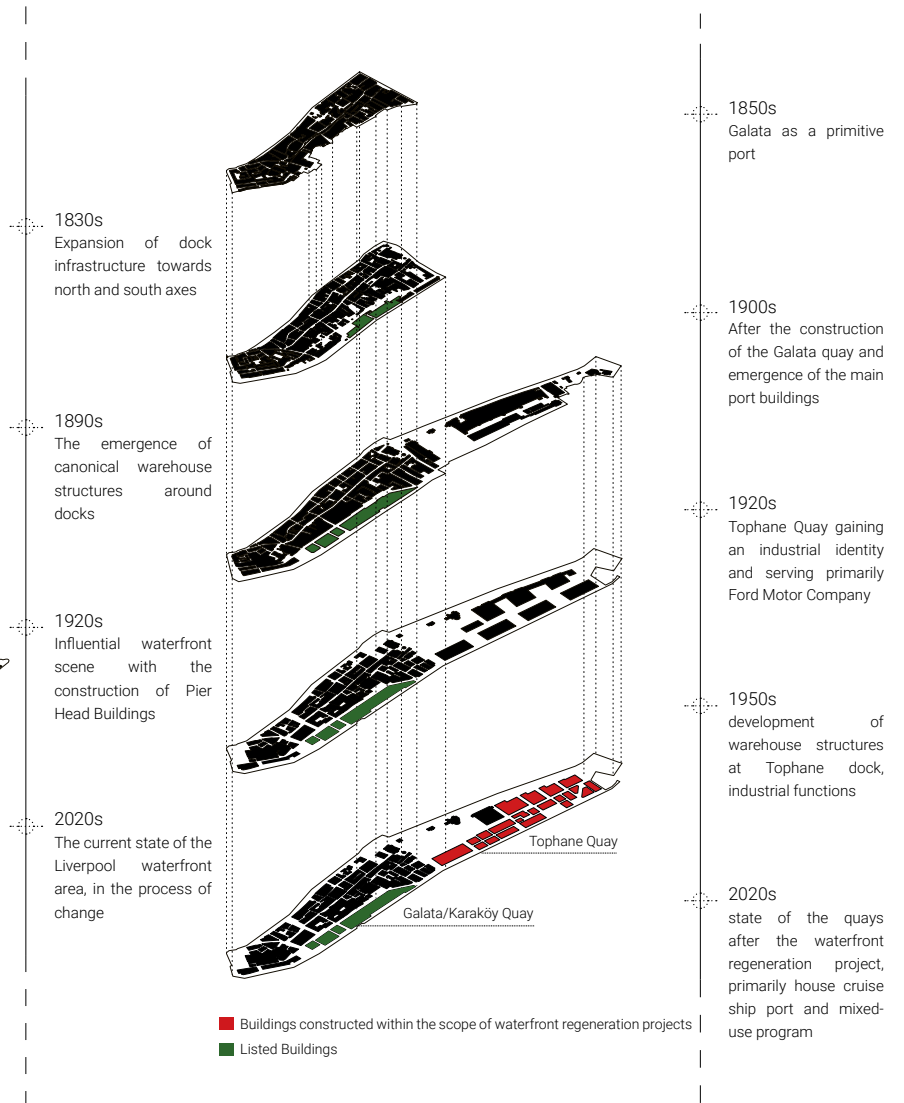


Figure: The Port of Galata Spatial Evolution