

## Make Creativity in Complex Urban Spaces:

### The transformation of the NDSM docklands area in Amsterdam North.

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Last July I had the opportunity to attend at the Second Comparative Summer School in "Comparative Urban Studies" organized by ISA - RC21 (Sociology of Urban and Regional Development) in Amsterdam. I could not stay still in one place, so I took one chance to visit the urban redevelopment of Westerpark, Westerdok and NDSM-area.

As we know, the built environment may be used as an empirical source. In this area my visual research it concerns the visibility and reflection of the social relations, ideas and developments of creativity in urban space. This visual report leads to three areas of interest where the new urban economy in Amsterdam is just evident.



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The Westerdok area is a newly-built residential development on the waterfront. This modern area close to the canals boasts one of the highest urban densities in the city.



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Across the IJ river there is the slightly anarchistic NDSM-area.

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This is one of the first industrial harbor areas where the creative frontiers settled down and started urban revitalization in a non-conformist way.



The area is a mix of alternative culture and it is involved in a series of interesting projects and initiatives, from the reuse of industrial heritage, architecture and new programs, to festivals and public spaces.

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*Amsterdam's largest cultural incubator is located in the hall of the former ship yard at the NDSM site.*

The Kraanspoor, the Over-the-IJ Festival, The Golden Pheasant Hotel Restaurant, the Eye Film Institute, the famous MTV studios, or the green shore are beautiful examples, among others.

By realizing creative ambitions in urban spaces we can get another, unexpected, Amsterdam.



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## References

References are available at: <http://www.dro.amsterdam.nl/>

## Acknowledgements

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More pictures can be seen in a slide show format on the author's youtube site:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jcgx5Wigt8Q>