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utzon / gehry / west 8 / mvrpv / herzog & de meuron / meganomo
 foster / ando / pei / hadid / behnisch / nouvel / boeri / big /
 wowhaus / snøhetta / kuzembaev / brodsky / plotkin / nielsen /
 von gerkan / holl / tchoban

speech: вода

water

Holland provides examples of the potential diversity of relations between a city and its water. While densely built-up Amsterdam is expanding by making use of neighbouring islands and old port areas, Rotterdam, which has the largest port in Europe, is carrying through a programme for transforming the city's shore area in order to refresh its image and make itself more attractive and competitive. The reconstruction of Kop van Zuid [‘the southern promontory’] – a peninsula

on the south bank of the River Maas which is situated opposite the city centre and occupies an area of around 250 hectares – is one of the most important parts of this programme. The need for reconstruction had been clear for a long time: after the port moved further to the west and nearer to the North Sea, the significance of the central part of the city diminished considerably. By the middle of the 1980s Kop van Zuid was a disused and neglected area with a powerful concentration of social problems. In 1987 Teun Koolhaas drew up a development plan for the area, but this plan was approved and its implementation began only in the middle of the 1990s. The plan was to build 755,000 m² of housing and 400,000 m² of office space by 2010 in order to provide homes for 15,000 new residents and workspaces for 18,000. In recent years the area's look and image have been dramatically transformed: powerful transformation. The 808-metre-long Erasmus Bridge (Ben van Berckel, 1996) and the extension of the city's southern metro line have provided quick and convenient links between Kop van Zuid and the centre of Rotterdam. A system of water taxis has been created to give access to sights situated by the water. The southern part of Kop van Zuid has become a kind of laboratory for experiments with the city's architecture, with buildings being designed by Renzo Piano, Erick van Egeraat, Norman Foster, Mecanoo, and Bolles & Wilson.

Various architects have also worked on creating the residential districts, and this has given the area a rich diversity of style. However, all buildings conform to the general design regulations that have been laid down for the district as a whole.

Relations between cities and water in Holland are not confined to the above strategies (development of old port and industrial areas; construction on existing and new, artificial islands; assimilation of shore areas; and the creation of polders). Another model which has become widely used in Holland and which is rooted in longstanding tradition is the construction of houses and entire street blocks directly on the water. For instance, Koen Olthuis, head of Waterstudio.NL, proposes not fighting the water, but living with it – and building houses not beside the water, but actually on it. At first sight, this might seem a utopian concept, and yet it is one that Olthuis is already successfully realizing: he has built the Citadel complex with 60 ‘luxury-class’ apartments, as well as numerous individual houses on the water, and has just commenced construction of a 1200-unit complex on a 70-hectare site in the south-west of Rotterdam. These super-modern buildings are based on the traditional principles of the houseboat and houses standing on piles. Olthuis' ‘floating’ houses give the Dutch the standards of comfort to which they have become accustomed, and are capable of rising or sinking together with the water to a distance of 4 metres. Houses on water give energy savings of 25% compared to ordinary land-based buildings, and are one possible type of ecological construction using water. The necessity of this kind of approach to architecture and to living arrangements in the modern city is self-evident. Ecological awareness, renewable energy, modernization and conversion of old buildings, and the erection of new buildings that may be recycled are all concerns that are of pressing relevance today as a result of the climate change that is already making itself felt on our planet. And a sensible attitude to existing water sources, the incorporation of water in the life of the city, revitalization of shore areas, and development of architectural models and urban-development plans that take into account the proximity of water have an important part to play in sustainable and recyclable architecture.



51 Цитадель: плавучий жилой комплекс. Нидерланды. Арх. Waterstudio.NL. Строительство: 2012. The Citadel. A floating apartment complex. The Netherlands. By Waterstudio.NL. Realization 2012.

52 Вилла на воде «Айбуур», Амстердам, Нидерланды. Арх. Waterstudio.NL, 2008. Watervilla Uburg, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. By Waterstudio.NL, 2008.