



Urban Walk Report
“The New Urban Agenda of Waterfront”¹

Learning on redevelopment of an industrial area into cultural hub during the Urban Walk in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation

The Urban Walk in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, on 31 May 2017, was coordinated by the Habitat III Secretariat, UN-Habitat, and the Institute for Street Art Explorations and Development. The walk highlighted the participatory planning activities in the industrial areas of Saint Petersburg, focusing on waterfront transformation and urban regeneration.

It was led by Dmitry Piliin, Deputy Director of the Contemporary Art Museum of Saint-Petersburg University, curator, and contemporary art specialist.

The walk started at the “Sevcable” factory, which was founded in 1879 by German industrialist Carl Heinrich von Siemens, a German businessman and entrepreneur. Simens was also the younger brother of pioneering electrical engineer and inventor Werner von Siemens, whose advances in telegraph technology led him to found the company Siemens & Halske in 1847. Carl Heinrich von Siemens set up the company's Russian operations in Vasilevsky Island, in the same vicinity as the German immigrant community. Siemens & Halske gradually established itself as the leading electrical company in Russia, with workshops to build and repair telegraph equipment, and a factory producing rubber-insulated cable able and arc lamps. During the Soviet era, the factory was named “Sevcable” and has since been producing electrical cables.

The factory, located at the waterfront, is undergoing redevelopment and being transformed from an industrial zone to a recreational area and cultural hub.

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Industrial heritage seen is just next to the water, but yet, it was hardly noticeable from the industrial site. A good example from Saint Petersburg of how industrial companies are changing their relationship with the public is the plan of "Sevkabel" factory to pull out its production partly from the waterfront and to provide open access to the waterfront. The newly planned site will host exhibitions, festivals, designer shops, bars with craft beer, and other establishments designed to increase pedestrian traffic by making this part of the industrial area vibrant and a part of people's everyday lives.



Participants of the the area a vibrant walk inside, and at the area of existing factory workshops.

From the area of "Sevkabel", participants of the Urban Walk visited a metal works factory that was founded in 1857 by French entrepreneur F.A. Shopaine. Within its premises stand the water tower well-known architect Yakov Chernikhov built in 1930, which has become a classic example of constructivism architecture. The tower of "Krasniy Gvozdilshik" factory is no longer used. There are plans to transform factory into a contemporary art exhibition.



Participants of the walk, in front of the «Krasniy Gvozdilshik» factory.

The walk ended at the bay and the sea terminal.

The Urban Walk provided the participants with and insight into Vasilievsky Island's history and architecture, as well as a glimpse into possibilities in transforming old factory buildings into vibrant public space.



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