

Economic development has increased the population density and industrial clusters in urban areas, so old neighborhoods are facing more and more new planning and renovations. In the process of reconstructions of old neighborhoods, original buildings are embraced, ignored or replaced to varying degrees. As low and old houses are removed and new edifices gather and tower, people start to pay more attention to the preservation of the historical identity of their own neighborhoods: how history is treated in the process of urban regeneration and revitalization, and how the original history affects the present-day identity of a neighborhood.

Some urban planners have chosen to sink their teeth into embracing local cultural identity and encapsulating history into the new urban landscape. If proper measures are taken, the original identity of the neighborhood can not only be well preserved, but even shine brighter after the urban regeneration. Take Glasgow as an example. It adopted a strategy of culture-led regeneration and cultural spectacles (Inroy, 2000). Glasgow has always been portrayed in the local media with a negative image of slum ridden poverty-stricken and gang-infested area. This general image has been further constructed by the City Council to reflect Glasgow as a 'socially heterogeneous and socially complex place' (Inroy, 2000). Further, the government developed a park site based on a derelict park in the city center to highlight the citizen's mental value. This movement resulted an unprecedented level of funding from local authorities and private sponsors, and further carried forward various aspects of local identity such as art, design, engineering and so on. It is obvious that the regeneration inspired the development of economic - new construction of sport centers and shipbuilding industry expanded local employment. What's more, it also promoted cultural development which reflect by the support of local artists and permanent cultural infrastructure. While the construction of new buildings as well as infrastructure was renovating the original landscape, the citizen's mental value was carefully preserved and subsequently flourished (Garcia, 2004). It can be referred from the success of Glasgow's case that culture-led regeneration not only enhance the economic development but also city's competitive culture identity, further celebrate the urban renaissance (Evans, 2003).

However, some subversive urban planning can completely erase the original identity of a neighborhood, forcing it to become an entirely new environment in which history is ignored and discarded. Take Fener and Balat district in Istanbul as an example. Fener and Balet run parallel to the old sea wall of Istanbul and consist of built-up areas along the Golden Horn and open green spaces along the shore (Erbey & Erbas, 2017). Fener was the center of the Orthodox Church along with other churches in the area and had a large number of

religious facilities. Balet was used for shipping in the 17th century and a large amount of commercial activity existed. Since most of the buildings in both areas are made of stone and wood, frequent fires have led the government to initiate restoration projects in the area. However, government put economic development to the first place. Due to its long history, there are still many unregistered and unknown cultural sites in the area, which were removed together with the project process (Erbey & Erbas, 2017). Religious buildings that were originally built on a city scale are now scattered in the corners of the city. In its place, more office buildings stand tall. When government put economic development to the first place, it is difficult for them to take good care of local people's history or do any protective motions. The current state of the city could be modernized, with high quality of infrastructure and services, but this regeneration pattern is devastating to original neighborhood identity.

In conclusion, there is a close link between the patterns of urban regeneration and revitalization, and the change or preserve of a neighborhood's identity. It is mainly relying on the policy of government, whether the government redevelops the city while respecting the original urban identity. A friendly regeneration could solid neighborhood identity while a redevelopment regardless the identity, could change the current identity significantly.

## References

- Inroy, N. (2000). Urban regeneration and public space: the story of an urban park. *Space and Polity*, 4(1), 23–40.
- García, B. (2004). Cultural policy and urban regeneration in Western European cities: lessons from experience, prospects for the future. *Local Economy*, 19(4), 312–326.
- Evans, G. (2003) Hard-branding the Cultural City. From Prado to Prada, *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 27(2), pp. 417–440.
- Brebbia, C. A., Galiano-Garrigos, A., Erbey, D., & Erbas, A. E. (2017). The challenges on spatial continuity of urban regeneration projects: the case of fener balat historical district in istanbul. *International Journal of Sustainable Development and Planning*, 12(03), 498–507. <https://doi.org/10.2495/SDP-V12-N3-498-507>