WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT
VALLETTA, MALTA
Presented By: Paul D. Kissinger, FASLA, PLA
valletta waterfront
geographic context
downtown urban core
The waterfront has had strategic importance dated back to the Romans.

It was not until the mid 1500’s, that the Knights of St. John decided to stay on Malta. During this period, the fortifications (bastion walls) were built, and the waterfront fortified.

The working waterfront and warehouse stores in the foreground, which were built in the 1700’s.

Life on the waterfront, a place of commerce, activity and hard work.
During WW II, the Italians and Germans bombed unmercifully, the waterfront in Valletta, as it was considered a potential strategic port in their pursuit of Northern Africa. They were never successful in conquering Malta, and it port, however, the waterfront was severely damaged. Operation Pedestal Convey arrived in 1942 to help save Malta from starvation and surrender.
• The warehouses were left vacant, had roofs that leaked and were in disrepair.

• Building facades in disrepair, utilities strung along the buildings and native limestone not maintained.

derelict waterfront
derelict waterfront
design

1 | ANIMATE THE ATMOSPHERE
2 | ARRIVAL SEQUENCE
3 | FLEXIBILITY OF SPACES
4 | SECURE WATERFRONT EDGE
transformation!

- Before and after pictures of the waterfront. The roadway is removed and configured into a waterfront promenade.
- Buildings are restored.
- Historic waterfront stairs are uncovered.
transformation!

- Before and after pictures of the waterfront. The roadway is removed and configured into a waterfront promenade.
- Buildings are restored
transformation!

- Before and after pictures of the waterfront.
- The historic edge of the waterfront is uncovered and creates an edge for a vibrant mixed use, retail, entertainment venue.
- The internal lagoon is used as a separation from the cruise ship operations and security, while creating a waterfront promenade. Reconnecting the 250 year old warehouse stores to the waterfront.
before & after
restoration

1 | ADAPTIVE REUSE
2 | BASTION WALLS
3 | PINTO/FORNI STORES
Waterfront privatization

Historic regeneration

Increase tourism revenues

Economic stimulus

Strategic real estate asset

Regional and international recognition
programming

1 | CRUISE SHIP TERMINAL
2 | EVENTS VENUE
3 | COMMERCIAL/RETAIL
4 | BOARDWALK PROMENADE
5 | PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE
6 | ENTERTAINMENT DESTINATION
accessibility

1 | SOCIAL INTERACTION / LOCALS
2 | PEDESTRIAN ACTIVITY
3 | EVENT PROGRAMMING
conclusions

1 | BEST MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE PORT, FROMMERS
2 | MOST RESPONSIVE PORT & BEST TURNAROUND PORT, CRUISE INSIGHT AWARDS
3 | MULTIPLE DESIGN AWARDS / ULI AWARD OF EXCELLENCE FINALIST