urban historic places & the creative industries

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modern urban economies

- From local markets of agricultural products
- To the traditional industrial model of economic growth (land, labor, capital)
- To the post industrial human capital model (knowledge economy)
- To the urban amenities model
modern urban economies

Classic factors of production: Land, Labor, Capital

Economic Growth

Population pressure leads demand

Increase of land and properties value

Thriving Places

Human Capital, Knowledge

Urban Amenities
the knowledge economy

strengths

✓ knowledge based (inventions, innovations, transformations)
✓ important multiplier effect & spin-offs
✓ high capital returns
✓ non polluting
✓ size variable
✓ easy to adapt
the knowledge economy

threats

✓ fragile (lack of copyrights & information, staff rotation)
✓ interactions are fundamental (needs clusters)
✓ location related (special places, services, mixity)
✓ democratic and tolerant environment
networking is the key

- baxandall and semir zeki: the brain
- the kunsthalle and incubators
- neighborhoods and old industrial places
- the wired city
certain cities attract more

• New York and Chicago, report that their first or second largest industrial sector is entertainment and culture.

• London, Berlin, Barcelona, Milano, and others are relying on cultural amenities and on creativity for regeneration.
urban heritage and creativity

- creative industries and knowledge economies are non-destructive and non-polluting
- heritage urban settings offer special sense of place and human size
- the sense of place, mixity and the human size of the environment are the basic binding
the role of urban amenities

• site specific goods and services that make locations particularly attractive for living and working

• contrary to tourism that is seasonal and short-lived, they bring in long-term demand, production and consumption
An example of urban regeneration through creativity

• Mar Mikhayel in Beirut
Mar Mikhayel

• A mixed place
Mar Mikhayel

• an unplanned process
the change

Creativity related trades that have settled in Mar Mikhayel by year of opening
The first - LIWAN
an art ngo: 98 Weeks

an architect studio and 1950s furniture showroom
The latest:
an American artist
and
an art gallery
Support to art & creativity: lighting, bookshop, printing and framing opened in the 2000
New restaurants that fit in the place: traditional armenian
souk el tayeb: a different restaurant with bio products
Reuse of old industrial buildings: virtually by an exhibition (98 weeks) and by lobbying to give it life again.
the dangers ahead:

 Developers: change urban pattern and typology

 Excessive leisure: creates different life

 Quick returns: increase rents and prices

 Over gentrification: reduces mixity
what is needed?

• like heritage, creative activities need nurturing (support) and protection (copyrights)

• commercial investments to be controlled

• functions and uses to be guided to keep mixity

• wired place and amenities to attract and support
in conclusion

Figure 1 - The Five Dimensions of Sustainability