urban historic places & the creative industries

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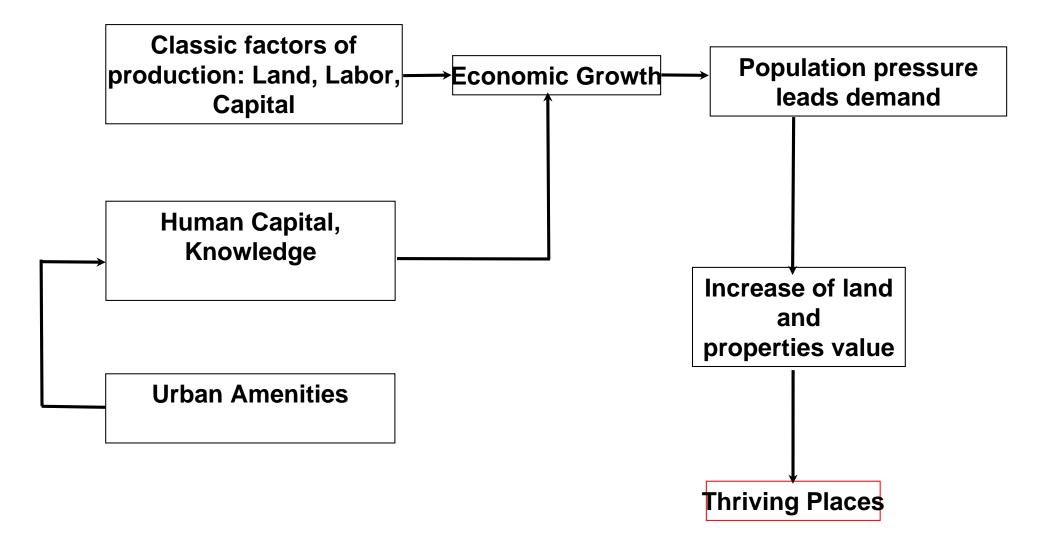
Nicosia - November 2010

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



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 entertainement and culture
- London, Berlin, Barcelona, Milano, and others are relying on cultural amenities and on creativity for regeneration

urban heritage and creativity

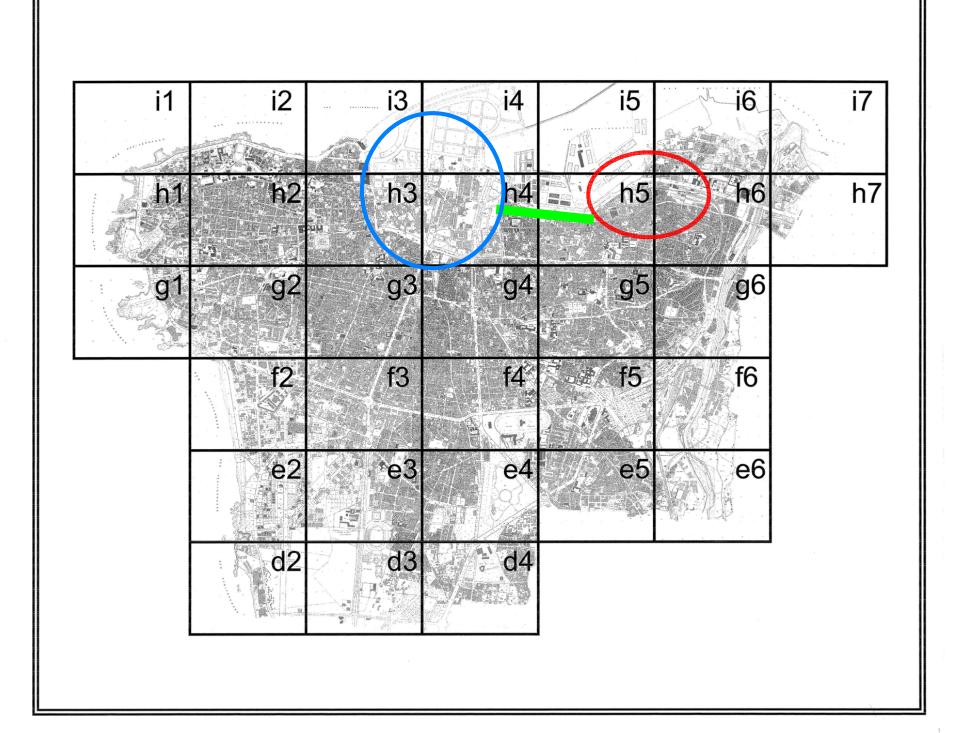
- creative industries and knowledge economies are non destructive and non polluting
- heritage urban settings offer special sense of place and human size
- the sense of place, mixity and the human size of the environment are the basic binding

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 longterm demand, production and consumption

An example of urban regeneration through creativity





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• A mixed place

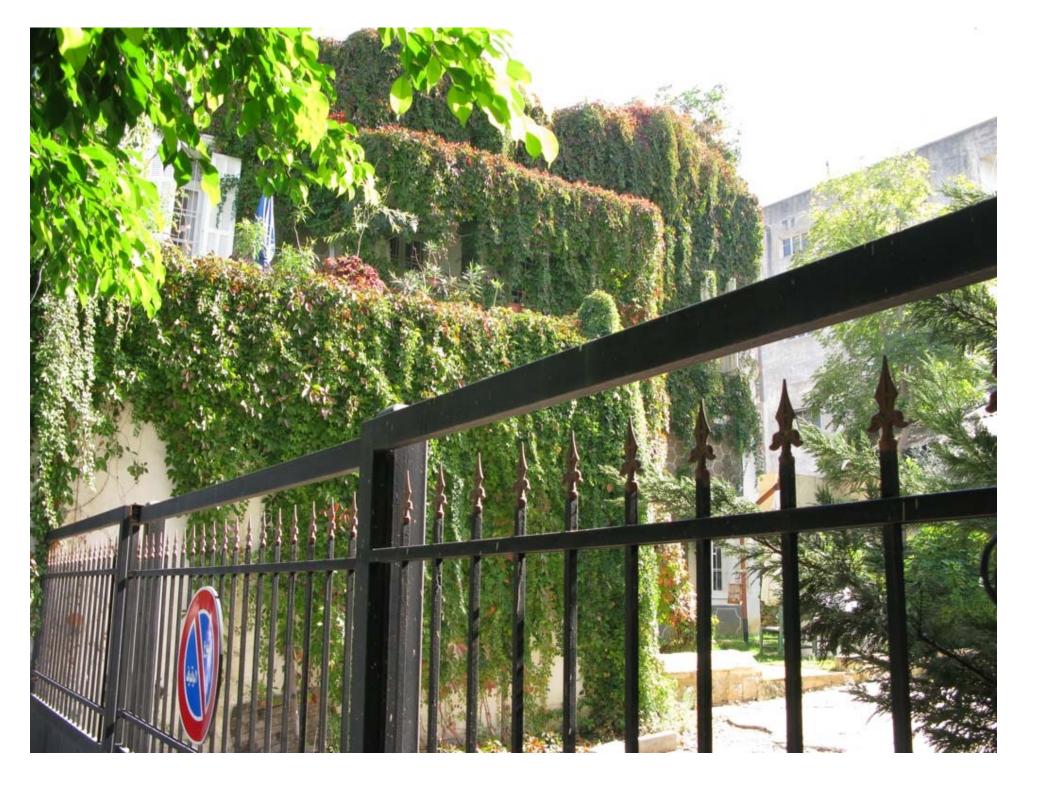












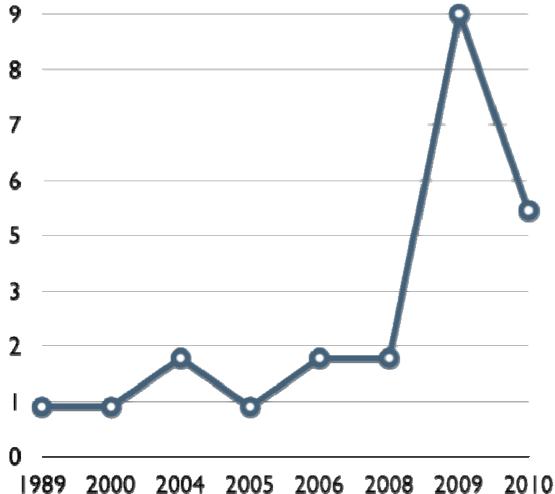


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•an unplanned process

the change

Creativity related trades ⁷ that have settled in Mar ⁶ Mikhayel by year of ⁵ opening





The first - LIWAN





an art ngo: 98 Weeks

an architect studio and 1950s furniture showroom













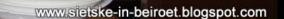
Support to art & creativity: lighting, bookshop, printing and framing opened in the 2000



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



Mar Mikhayel

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

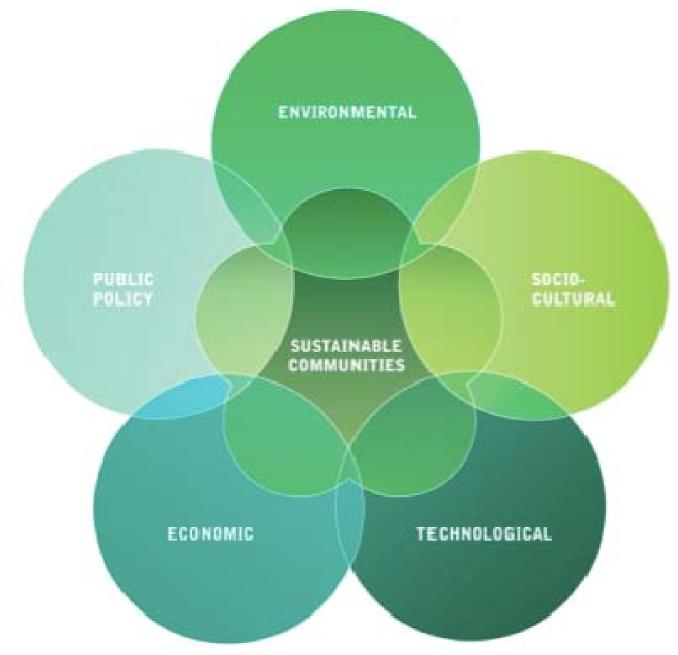


Figure 1 -- The Frae Douncins of Socialinabelity