

# Tale of cities

## A practitioner's guide to city recovery

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This documentary booklet based on authors' photographs and local eye-witness comments traces radical social and economic change in seven European post-industrial cities. Their cataclysmic decline and rebuilding has put them at the heart of national and international political ferment, spurring them on to uncover new ways of doing things. They showcase how former industrial heartlands across Europe can recover.

Global population pressures and continuing migration, loss of investment and global financial upheaval, climate change and resource limits, pose unknown threats to the future of cities, but these cities are at the cutting edge of new solutions. Existing infrastructure, transport connections and dense services, a tradition of invention and innovation, are leading them to pioneer exciting new ideas. Big resources are tied into these places.

In our crowded continent, existing assets are constantly re-deployed to cope with new shortages. Space, energy and the natural environment are three resources that drove growth in these cities. Innovative reuse of these finite resources propels 'clapped out' cities back to life, while the infectious spread of new ideas drives successful experiments in urban recovery.

The seven cities share an uncertain future with the rest of the globe but *Tale of 7 cities* illustrates building blocks of recovering places that may survive and indeed flourish in a more sustainable world.

**Available from: Laura Lane [l.lane@lse.ac.uk](mailto:l.lane@lse.ac.uk) at £15 (incl. post). Discounts on orders of five or more copies.**

# The 7 Cities

## 1. Hi-tech innovation: Bremen

Bremen moved ahead of other cities in emphasising technology and new sciences, creating an advanced Technology Park linked to the University.



## 2. Land reclamation and riverfront regeneration: Bilbao

Bilbao Ria 2000, publicly funded and owned urban regeneration company, invested not only in land reclamation, but also the restoration of the historic centre and inner neighbourhoods as well as the riverfront.



## 3. New public transport links: Saint-Étienne

Saint-Étienne invested heavily in improving local transport and infrastructure as part of its residential appeal strategy. A new tram line links the central station to the city centre.



## 4. Community enterprise: Torino

This dilapidated municipal bathhouse will now be transformed by the San Salvario Local Development Agency into a community centre, a base for local community groups and a social enterprise generating income through a café and roof garden to support residents. It will offer training, sports facilities and social spaces as well as venue space.



## 5. Urban density and streetscape: Leipzig

Leipzig, devastated by dramatic job and population losses following reunification, decided to reinvest in historic buildings within the city rather than unravel traditional density through further sprawl.



## 6. Renewable energy – using obsolete infrastructure: Belfast

The near derelict Harland and Wolff site in 2007 attracted the world's first commercial sea turbine, built in the dock under the giant crane. The sea turbine headed to Strangford Lough in 2008 where it was implanted in the sea bed.



## 7. Environmental innovation in cities: Sheffield

Veolia Environmental Services District Energy Network: state of the art combined heat and power plant, providing electricity and heating for over 140 buildings across Sheffield.

