

From the industrial city to the city of design

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London docks were open and started its operation in the 20-ties of 19th century. The top period became in the 60-ties, when 60 millions tons of goods was transported through them. Problems began in the 70-ties. Out-of -date techniques did not keep steps with modern centres, what resulted to closing the docks ultimately. Fortunately, the London Dockland Development Corporation decided to save this part of the city, worked out the plan for its revitalization, offered various alleviations for investors and started big merry-go-round, the result of which is a luxury business district.

Canary Wharf, one of the Great Britain capital parts, is currently recognized to be designer jewel. It offers pleasant working space with outlook to river and relaxes after work, too, which is created by wide offer of luxury restaurants, coffee shops, sports facilities, galleries or parks. Also surrounding parts of London profit from its development, the area of which became more lucrative for employed in former docks. Population growth, well-known companies rent the office spaces.

Most of operational units are not so lucky like London docks in Slovakia. From derelict factories, which did not keep steps with times, became empty spaces known also like brown fields. Last year 400 brown fields were registered in Slovakia. Not only stagnant operational units are concerned, but also empty army objects, old storages or thousand square meters of left lands, used by industry before. Because most of developers consider easier to build on a green field, the brown fields still remain not used. Besides disadvantages, from contamination of land to property-legal causes, they also offer advantages like for example infrastructure, but mainly locality, etc.

On February 11, 2009 the Construction Summit is going to hold in Bratislava focused on brown fields topic. Experts in the area of brown fields revitalization as well as for gaining financial backing, ecology, financial crisis and recoverable resources will express themselves at the conference. The former major of St. Etienne from France, the current senator, will come to submit the plan to participants, how the city of design became from the industrial city.

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