Urban Europe
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Part 3
Creative cities
The third topic, creative cities, focuses on the innovative nature of cities – and not just in the economic sense. Joost Jonker provides a historical account of the creative destruction and economic recovery of cities. Claartje Rasterhoff explores the way that technological development can be seen as the symbol of the creative city, while Frank Kresin argues that citizens should become involved in developing and using technological innovations: smart cities need to cherish their smart residents.

The other contributions focus more on political and cultural innovation. Robert Kloosterman warns of the dangers of overly sanitised urban spaces: a tamed city is not a creative one. Moritz Föllmer also makes a case for the importance of unpredictability. In cities, this can also take the form of collective action and urban social movements, such as neighbourhood action groups and squatters. The Amsterdam squatting movement once had a lot of influence, but the large squats were cleared or legalised, vacancy rates are lower and squatting has been made illegal. Jaap Draaisma explains how the City of Amsterdam has attempted to preserve and harness the creativity of the squatting movement through the so-called ‘creative-incubator policy’ (broedplaatsenbeleid), an initiative to provide affordable studio spaces. Finally, Arnold Reijndorp discusses the opportunities inherent in new cities.