Setting and brief

The town of Hasle, on the island of Bornholm, holds historical importance as a local port for industry, fishing, and ferry service. However, changing transport routes and a declining fishing industry left Hasle Habour deserted and unwelcoming. The construction of Hasle Harbour Bath acts as a catalyst to revitalize the harbour as a place for living and recreation in order to attract new users.

Innovative concept: Form follows place

Hasle Harbour is defined by its numerous breakwaters, which protect the harbour from the surge of the Baltic Sea, but also obstruct the view to the horizon and restrict access to the sea. These place-specific obstacles have driven the design of the new bath and inspired its unique shape.

From the horizontal plane of the platform, two stair formations project from that base, one reaching six meters into the air. From the elevated level, the beautiful sea view as well as the legendary Hasle sunset can be enjoyed, without obstruction. Bathing can take place in the shallow, enclosed basins of the platform, but it is also possible to dive into the deep waters surrounding the floating bath.

Public water access = a good deal

All of the recreational facilities are available to public and express an openness that encourages a wide variety of social uses, for local residents and tourists alike. The bath is made for swimmers during summer as well as for winter swimming. This way it sustains a vibrant community all year round.
ADDRESSING KEY CHALLENGES

One of the key challenges in swimming facilities is safety and visibility. The Harbour Bath was designed to create maximum visibility from land to the water surfaces, where swimming is allowed.

ADVANCING THE WATERFRONT TYPOLOGY

Denmark has a proud 15 year old tradition of building harbour baths. However Hasle Harbour Bath is innovative even in the Danish context.

In a traditional harbour bath, swimming is restricted to basins within a fence of floating pontoons - for safety reasons. This means either very little room for swimming and restricted view over the water or higher construction costs. It also means the harbour bath physically turns towards its own center rather than merging with the natural conditions.

At Hasle Harbour, however, there is very limited traffic. The architect, therefore, glimpsed the opportunity of breaking with traditions and create an extrovert bath where swimming is also possible around the bath. This kept costs low without compromising room for swimming, and simultaneously it introduced a unique, natural swimming experience.
Another unique feature is the building technique. The large pontoon is a bespoke element, which was cast in situ on a nearby beach, and was towed to the site in one piece.
CREATING WIDER ACCESS TO THE WATERSIDE

All of the recreational facilities are available to public and express an openness that encourage a wide variety of social uses, for local residents and tourists alike. The bath is used all year round. The newly formed winter bathing club holds 80 member, crowding the sauna in the previously abandoned wintertime harbor. From the elevated level, the beautiful sea view as well as the legendary Hasle Sunset, can be enjoyed, without obstruction. The Scandinavian bathing season is short. Therefore creating a landmark and a viewing platform as a destination all year round has contributed to its success.

“We have guestboats which have turned around and come back to Hasle, because it is much more fun to be here than in the next harbour.”
“Now Bornholm’s young people gladly ride their bikes half way around the island just to come swimming here in Hasle. It is a great success – also for the businesses in the area”