

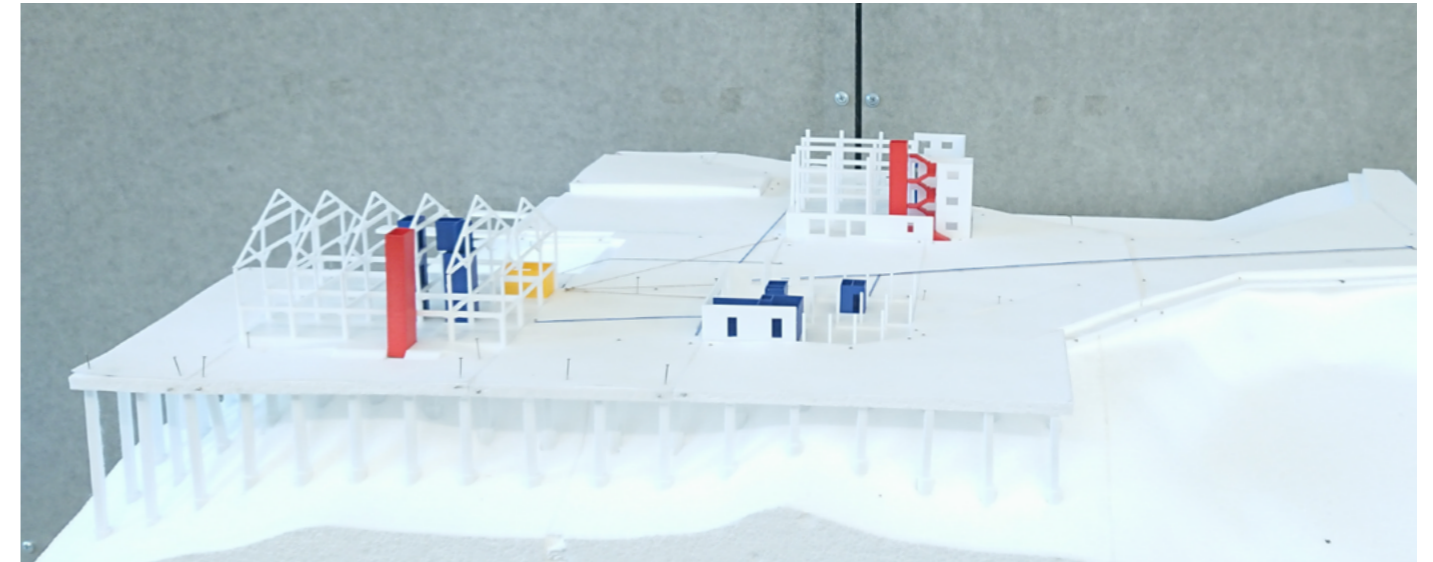


Torskeholmen Public Bath is a project defined by the value of an attraction. It explores the potential of existing structures and uses to become a destination for both locals and tourists through the spectacle of the bathhouse specifically and the resort in general. The project consists of three buildings with surrounding waterfront that has been transformed, refurbished or extended in order to facilitate existing and added uses. Historical research and the survey have been important tools in order to create project where historical traces and current use has heavily informed the proposal for a guest house, a workshop and a bathhouse extension to the current fish depot.

The touristification of the seaside was championed by modern medicine and the belief of the healing effects of fresh air and saltwater. The coastal bathhouse became the architectural response and programmatic excuse, building on the introduction of leisure and tourism as well as an

increasing awareness of hygiene and health in the conditioned sections of the populace. These cultural introductions were accompanied by the surge in appreciation of rural and wild landscapes, turning the countryside into an attraction. Based on the idea of health in nature, entire leisure complexes developed along the coastline during the 19th century. The initial research looked into six cases along the Norwegian south-east coast analyzing style, organisation as well as both social and physical impact in a place. As tourism arrived before the industrialization in most rural areas, the bathhouse would often preserve public access to the water in increasingly industrialised harbour towns as locals would hold the bathing institution in high regard both as a status symbol and recognising its importance to local economy and social life.

Torskeholmen was acquired for harbour development by the municipality of Grimstad at the turn of the century.



*Structural analysis in site model - 1:200*

Before infrastructural investments could be made, however, the island became the home of the town's bathhouse bringing the local high street to a close by the door of its bathhouse. Although imagined a temporary solution the building would remain solitary for almost a decade and continue its activities alongside the railroad, harbour storage units and maritime industries until 1968.

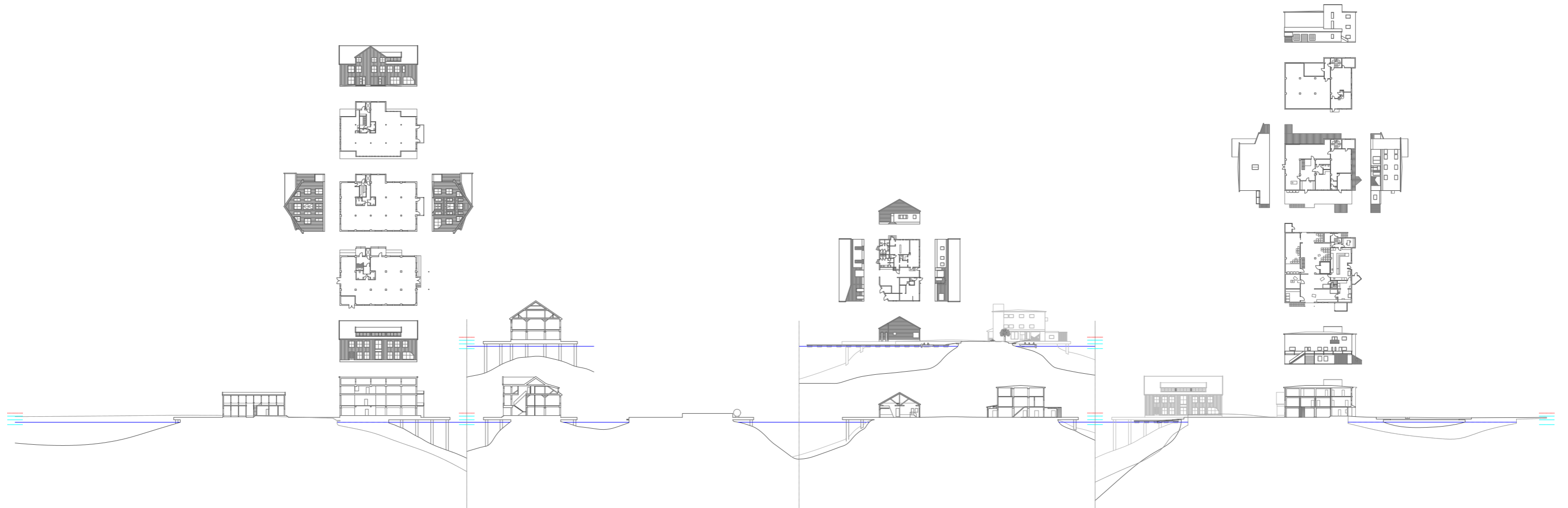
Cultivating the island's transitional nature created a landlocked peninsula acting as gateway and terminus, oddly maintaining it as a place both physically and culturally on the margin of the town proper; a place where the infrastructures of light industries and harbour exports provided a public space for large public events and functions shared by townspeople, such as bathing facilities and rentable freezing units.

Thus, the site indicated the potential of intertwining local

and tourist related events, where a continuation of Torskeholmen's history is a recognition of the waterfront as a multipurpose area where public space and industrial activity merge. Rather than suggesting a new development project, the complex explores transformation as preservation, and a consideration of Torskeholmens future use in a relation to contemporary events.

In 2018 four offices were invited to create proposals that will form the base of a new regulation plan. An intense public debate has followed, as most locals have close ties to its current and past uses as well as a general worry regarding architectural style, densification and the privatization of public land.

The former island is currently comprised of solid rock and a landfill fringed by quays on concrete pillars. Three buildings from between 1920 and 1948 stand atop this platform, occupying the western, northern and eastern quar-



ters. The former harbour storage facility in the eastern quarter is currently used as office space, but is converted into a guest house with a public ground floor. In the north a smaller wood and brick building contains office space, a small workshop and storage facilitating for small repairs of traditional wooden ships, as well as a hairdresser and unused sanitary facilities. The third building contains the local fish depot and fish store where a bathhouse extension is added to the south.

True to the structural system of the quay, the existing buildings adhere to the rigour of a columned grid. The architectural response has been centred around the column and the open plan with historical photos and drawings as well as the placement of existing infrastructures informing the design. The bathhouse extension is a continuation of

the columned grid structure, stretching towards a re-landscaped waterfront area in the southwestern quarter.

I am considering the coastal facility not only as a tourist attraction, but as an appreciated part of the daily lives of locals. The project aims to generate an interaction between tourists and locals through the use of the resort as an umbrella for a range of activities in the crossing of leisure and local industry. Existing uses and structures considered integrated elements in an overall design for Torskeholmen Public Bath, highlighting the potential for historical continuity in a development scheme. and the concept of the resort and the island condition facilitates a different social setting where the separation of programs, the worker and the visitor blur.