MAJBADET

SAFOAT NAWLO

CHALMERS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE AND CIVIL ENGINEERING MASTER'S PROGRAMME OF ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN DESIGN (MPARC) SUPERVISOR: BJÖRN GROSS EXAMINER: MIKAEL EKEGREN

ABSTRACT

Water has undeniably beneficial effects on our bodies and minds. It reduces anxiety, stimulates creativity, and enhances our physical and mental well-being.

Being such a major source for wellbeing it is problematic that the city of Gothenburg, despite being a coastal city, lacks bath facilities and connections to water.

This thesis examine how the design of a building in an urban environment can provide a peaceful and calming space for rehabilitation for the modern and stressed person by focusing on detail, light, and materiality. The project aims to promote and increase through its design and placement the engagement of the site's social life.

The proposal is a health temple in form of a new bath facility providing the inhabitants of Majorna new encounters & relaxing spaces.

Keywords: Bath, public space, water, relaxation, recreation.



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SAFOAT NAWLO

My name is Safoat Nawlo, a 26-year-old becoming architect. My journey started from my home country, Syria. I lived in Aleppo until I was 17 when due to unfortunate circumstances my family and I decided to move. My journey in Sweden started by learning Swedish for half a year and then moved on to a year of preparatory studies for Chalmers Architecture and was enrolled in the program upon my application the subsequent year. After I have finished my bachelor studies I went through Erasmus exchange program to Munich, where I have learned more about the different design approaches practiced in Germany.

ARCHITECTURAL BACKGROUND

CHALMERS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE
ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN SPACE DESIGN STUDIO
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE DESIGN PROFES
TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF MUNICH
ERASMUS STUDIES
SPECIAL TOPICS IN ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN STUDIO
urban design and housing studio
ADAPTIVE BUILDING CONCEPTS
AIRPORT REGION OF MUNICH
ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN THINKING
PUBLIC SPACE IN THEORY AND PRACTICE
SUSTAINABLE BUILDING AND TECHNOLOGIES
URBAN AND LANDSCAPE TRANSFORMATION

BACHELOR OF ARCHITECTURE



2020 - 2021

SSIONS

2019 - 2020

2016 - 2019

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AIM & PURPOSE

This thesis aims to present a public bath located in Majvallen in the southern part of Majorna. The project investigates how the placement of the bathhouse promotes and increases engagement with the site's social life.

The project also aims at investigating the quality of the rooms that are created in the facility by understanding each section and the way they work, focusing on detail, light, and materiality as a means of creating spaces of high quality.

The ambition is that the public bath will provide the inhabitants of Majorna with new social and relaxing spaces that fit with its surroundings and promotes a healthy lifestyle.

INTRODUCTION

THESIS QUESTION

How can the design and placement of a public bath promote and increase engagement and a site's social life?

METHODS

The method used in this thesis is mainly research by design.

In an initial phase published material on swimming facilities has been studied. A few cases have been chosen in order to find a suitable size and understanding of the program. The case studies are also chosen due to material, spatial and sequential qualities that are of value in supporting the research question.

In the executive practice of designing the bathhouse, a combination of digital and analog tools have been used. With an iterative process qualities in the suggested designs have further been evaluated leading to a final proposal.

GBG TODAY



(O) Existing bath facilities in the city of Gothenburg in relation to (X) suggested site for additional public bath.

The city of Gothenburg contains three different types of swimming facilities:

- A larger swimming pool, called a central bath, in the center of the city.
- A swimming pool, called an area pool, in each region (Hisingen, Northeast, and West)
- Local baths that will be one or smaller swimming pools in some areas.

Many of the swimming facilities that exist today in Gothenburg are from the 1970s. They have been criticized a lot because they are worn, break down a lot, and have high operating costs.

At the same time, the city is growing and more swimming pools are needed. It is crowded in the swimming pools and difficult for associations and swimming schools to get pool times and even hard to access in some parts of the city.

The Gothenburg municipality has taken new decisions intending to create a reasonable distance to a swimming pool for as many citizens as possible, adding activities and recreational environments, and as well to get closer to the water which is a desire by the citizens and a plan of making Gothenburg closer to the water.

They decided to do that by renovating, replacing, and building new swimming facilities.

According to their plan, Vallhallabadet will be replaced with a new central facility and Askimbadet will be replaced with a new one in the same place.

Kärra simhall, Hammarbadet, and Angered Arena will be refurbished for continual use.

A decision has been made by the municipality to build four new swimming facilities in the neighborhoods of Kortedala/Bergsjön, Torslanda/Björlanda, Majorna/Linné, and one more which is not yet placed.

SITE



The chosen site is at Majvallen idrottsplats in Majorna, which is located on the northwestern part of Slottsskogen. The 137-hectare park was founded in 1874 and was strongly inspired by the English park.

Johan Nikolaus Söderling who was the first man to suggest that Slottsskogen should be an open public park bought the property of Hålekärr which got reserved for sports purposes and become what we know today for Majvallen in 1949. The site is perceived as an opening in the urban space where simplicity, airiness, and function characterize the facility.

At the beginning of the 20th century, the neighborhoods Majorna and Kungsladugård started to get built along with Albert Lilienbergs city plan. The northern side of the site which was owned by Johan Nikolaus Söderling become residential units in the 1930s.

The architect Gunnar Sundbärg who worked with city planner Uno Åhrens designed the plan of that district with rows of landshövdingehus with a centrally located park. with an aim of an ideal city plan where light, air, and greenery break through the city, buildings that respect the topography of the site, and better traffic situation.

Ekedalsgatan is the main street there and it contains the nearest tram and bus station "Majvallen hållplats". From the bus and tram station Fjällgatan it's possible to reach the site as well via Bangatan where it's mainly used by pedestrians and bicycles.

Since 1946 the site hasn't changed that much but in 2017 the football clubs Azalea Bk and Göteborgs FF start a debate about their vision to convert the site from a sports venue to a more public meeting place that benefits all the inhabitants of that local area.

The site contains two football fields, a large plan with the size of 60*100 meters and a smaller one which is 26*43 meters, tennis court, running tracks, boule club, cafe, changing rooms, an under-roof stand, and a dog park.

In 2010 the new "boulehall" was built and the year before it the smaller football plan has been added. The grandstand with the concrete elements have been added in the early 70s and its roof was built in 1982.

Majvallen as a whole is an opening in the urban space where simplicity, airiness, and function characterizes the facility.

Location in Gothenburg 1:40 000 (A4)







The site plan during the construction showing the running tracks.

A city plan signed by Uno Åhrén from the 1933 shows the intention of building Majvallen.

Picture over Majvallen from 1960s







Aerial view from 1975, 1:5 000 (A4)

A picture showing the residential building just after they were built

Aerial view from 1955 showing the six year old Majvallen.



MOT NORE



NOT SODER







Drawings of the chaningroom from 1946





Illustration showing communication flows and nearby hubs

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The existing buildings at Majvallen

Site photos













Estimated color palette of existing buildings





Plaster

Wood

Character of surrounded buildings

Main materials of the surrounded buildings





Sheet metal

CASE STUDY



Linköpings bathhouse competetition proposal by Erseus arkitekter, 2017



In this phase published material on swimming facilities has been studied. A few cases have been chosen to find a suitable size and understanding of the program. The case studies are also chosen due to material, spatial and sequential qualities.

What I like about this project is that they have selected wood as material despite that Linköping is quite well known for its stone and concrete buildings, which even make it easier to experience as a part of the park. I appreciate the visual connection that is created between the different pools and the visible structure that adds so much to the visitor's experience of the different spaces.

From my analysis of different facilities, I found that the changing rooms are placed centrally in the plans which makes them quite dark and usually it takes quite a lot of time and movement between the different parts of the bath before reaching the swimming pool area.

PROGRAM



HWC+WC

Offices

Entrance

Entrehall

Reception

Lounge

Cafe

HWC+WC

Staff rooms

Changing room for the staff

Showers

Relax room

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Foyer Shoe boundary Relax

Sauna

Cold bath

VOLYM STUDIES

1-2: packaged building
3-4: interrupted sequences
5: replacing tennis with entrance
6: creating a courtyard
7: building above the small footboll field



8: axial flow through the bathhouse 9-10: packaged building 11-12: Keeping the tennis and creating outdoor space 13-14: public roof, private courtyard and packaged building



























REFERENCES



The expressive structure of this 25-meter pool consists of a timber glulam portal frame, braced with cross-laminated timber (CLT) panels. The construction adds additional qualities to the spatial room through its details and its elegant expression, which provide its visitors with a warm experience of the space.

The 2017 built project is reached through its entrance on the upper floor and offers direct views towards the woodland outside and gives the sense of swimming amongst the trees. (Hawkins\Brown, n.d.)





Freeman's school, Surrey, United Kingdom. By Hawkins\Brown



Roccolo's swimming pool, by office Romegialli





This project from 2015 was about connecting the early 1900 building to a pavilion with an indoor pool and space for fitness and leisure. The pavilion is placed underground to create minimal visual impact, to keep the park area open for use, to emphasizes the sense of privacy, and to create a dynamic relationship between the park and the pavilion.

The pavilion uses different ground levels to capture light inside and to make the movement flow more exciting.

It opens up towards the lakeside to offer the users a nice view and it uses a combination of wood, concrete, and glass to offer a warm feeling it.



This project "Öskg konsthall" by Petra Gipp is from 2009 and is situated in the eastern part of Skåne, Sweden. The project involves building an art gallery with numerous sequences situated on and underneath the ground in order to lift the art and its expressions.

Some sections of the building are integrated into the landscape to provide tourists with an open view of the sea and to lift the art that will be shown under the skylight windows. The rooms are built-in robust materials, concrete, wood, and glass.







Chipperfield's 2017 cemetery in Japan is about establishing a specified boundary between the outside world and a quieter space inside for contemplation. (David Chipperfield)

The program is arranged under a sloping roof plane, that follows the view line from the entrance up to the shrine.

The monolithic appearance of the overall structure is due to the pure building elements and the indirect sunlight from the gardens.















Section E-E 1/400



Section C-C 1/400



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Model study bench between loadbearing stucture



Model study in materiality Facade construction

Model study in materiality Main bath hall











Horisontal section A, 1/5

Vertical section A, 1/5



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