That main problem was that the town had lost the connection to the surrounding landscape. It had no urban centre, no place to gather, no visual focal point and no urban life. The cars were taking up too much space and the broad road put cars above pedestrians.

The strategy was to densify the central town and thereby set the stage for urban life. The reminiscence of an old brick pavement was the inspiration for the new ‘town floor’. The new pavement ties the town together, it defines the town centre and creates visual coherence. Broad pavements and speed-bombs in brick pavement slows down traffic and establishes a new hierarchy with pedestrians on top. The new central square builds a venue for urban life. It provides shelter for the fierce wind, and establish a more intimate scale that Fanø cityscape was lacking before.

THE PROJECT IS A NEW TOWN ‘FLOOR’

Sustainable materials together with a flexible design set the stage for urban life. Brick pavement, oak furniture and ceramic lighting are long-lasting materials that reflect the nature of Fanø. These materials were chosen because they will age beautifully and can withstand the sand and the rough wind at the island. High quality materials sets a new standard for the town centre and brings a whole new atmosphere in the town. Already today can be seen how the locals have improved facades and so on.

THE EFFECT IS LOCAL ENGAGEMENT AND INITIATIVE

Today the locals have taken ownership of the square. The surrounding business premises have opened their facades towards the square, and the change have brought hope, energy and inspiration to the community. Local initiatives are flourishing everywhere in the small town of Fanø.