



DANISH MARITIME MUSEUM

Program Museum & Public Performance Space
Client Danish Maritime Museum
Size 5,000m²
Location Helsingør, DK
Status Completed Oct 2013

HOW DOES ONE BREATHE NEW LIFE INTO AN ABANDONED DRY DOCK?

The Danish Maritime Museum has to find its place in a unique historic and spatial context. Due to Kronborg Castle's UNESCO World Heritage status, the Danish Maritime Museum, formerly housed within the castle's walls, was evicted in order to restore the castle's original interiors. It was decided that the museum would be relocated in an adjacent dry dock next to the castle. BIG proposed to place the museum wrapped around the existing dry dock like a doughnut, where the hole was the dry dock itself and the centerpiece of the museum's collection. A series of three two-level bridges span the dry dock, serving as short-cuts to different sections of the museum. A sloping zigzag bridge spanning the entire dry dock navigates visitors to the main entrance. This bridge creates a dynamic tension between old and new as visitors descend into the museum space overlooking the majestic surroundings above and below ground, while Denmark's maritime history unfolds in a continuous motion. All floors – connecting exhibition spaces with the auditorium, classroom, offices, café and the dock floor within the museum – slope gently, so that a visitor continually descends further below the water's edge to immerse themselves in Danish maritime lore. The museum is open to the public for outdoor activities, exhibitions and events, making it a cultural hub in the region throughout the year.



The museum is placed in the old dry dock to preserve views to Kronborg castle.