HELSINGØR HARBOUR - FROM INDUSTRIAL SHIPYARD TO CULTURE YARD

For a century Helsingør Harbour was a shipyard bustling with vessels and machinery, and the dry dock that now forms the centrepiece of the new Danish Maritime Museum’s underground building is a legacy of this yard. Yet until recently, the dock lay in a state of neglect in a decayed post-industrial landscape, as did many other buildings in this area. In 2010 the city of Helsingør created Kulturværftet, a cultural centre established in the former shipyard buildings. The 13,000 sqm Kulturværftet consists of Helsingør’s main library full of modern facilities, a large and a small stage, the Yard Museum, exhibition hall, eatery, arcade, meeting facilities and workshops. Here, under one roof, one can find music performances, plays, lectures, exhibitions, good food and social activities. The opening of Kulturværftet was only the first step in a large-scale revitalisation of Helsingør’s old wharfs, followed by the landscape project Culture Harbour Kronborg, which emphasises the unique position of Kronborg Castle and modernises Helsingør Harbour’s old shipyard basin and its surrounding quaysides. At the same time, a unique maritime museum designed by the architects BIG, is conceived in a former dry dock. The revitalised Helsingør Shipyards demonstrates that by proactively cross-breeding public infrastructure with social programs, we can inject new urban life forms into the heart of our cities... any city that has lost its former industries and is looking for ways to look forward without forgetting its past.