Linking city and sea
With the new harbor bath in Faaborg, the inner-city waterfront of the town has finally opened for bathing, recreation and public activity. This new public space on the water adds a new dimension of re-creational activity to the beautiful South Funen Archipelago.

The harbor bath is designed to tie a closer link between the city and the sea. Placed at the junction of the promenade along the harbour canal and the promenade along the waterfront, it is marking the new climax of this course.

Inverting the brief
The competition brief proposed to create a new harbour bath with club facilities after the example of the harbour bath in Copenhagen. The Copenhagen Harbour Bath is an introverted typology that creates a boardwalk edge that protects the internal basins from the actual harbour activity.

In our competition proposal, we identified one crucial difference: The harbour bath in Faaborg is actually not a HARBOUR bath, as it is located in its own little bay just beside the harbour. Emphasizing this observation, changed the whole perception of the project: Rather then creating an introverted bathing facility, the project was turned into a re-interpretation of a classic open bathing jetty.

Re-inventing the jetty typology
The project developed with the intention to create multiple possibilities to approach and experience the water from different levels in order to allow all kind of activities to co-exist.

The three thematic piers give room for everyone: toddlers, children and young people can go wild, while others relax and enjoy the view of Faaborg Fjord.

The "finger plan" with open basins between the three piers, offers multiple ways to approach the water. The wooden piers form ramps, stairs, sitting opportunities and small pools for children.

The new development invites to take a bath, go on a kayak-tour, go for a walk or just sit in the sun or simply enjoy this exciting and active public space. The project invites for swimming and on-water activity. It offers changing rooms and facilities for rowers, a diving platform, a water-playground and a sauna for the winter-bathers.

Allowing the unexpected
It has been our intention not to over-program the project in advance, but to create a frame for an unknown content, a place for public life to unfold and the unexpected to happen. In other words a place that people can approach, adapt and inhabit in their own ways.