

BALNEUM THERMALE

a Thermal bath in an urban setting
Västra Hamnen, Malmö



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Introduction

västra hamnen

The West Harbour has been one of Malmö's main development areas for the past century where industrial sites have transformed into new neighbourhoods with housing and businesses combined. Large areas have already been developed and are today in use but there are still some parts of the West Harbour that are still waiting to be transformed, one of them is situated at the very end on the east coast of the city, "*Galeonen*".

The location itself is one of the last plots which have not yet been transformed in the West Harbour. Recently "*vague*" plans for this area have been released and reveals plans for residential neighbourhoods with ocean views, along with two new preschools. The focus in the whole area is sustainability, ecological footprint and climate change. Within sustainability, the focus lies on social, economy and environment, where the three are dependent on each other (Stadsbyggnadskontoret, 2013, Malmö stad). Prioritising bike lanes instead of only cars makes this area family and dog friendly. By this focus, the public transportations take a greater role in the daily commute (Stadsbyggnadskontoret, 2019, Malmö stad). No specific plans of the buildings have yet been released.

All of the buildings in the area of The West Harbour are a tribute to the ocean and the coastal life. One of the main goals for this is was to incorporate the human scale through the variety of architecture. This is one of many reasons the newly developed area is significant in its appearance, except for the fact that this area used to be under water (Stadsbyggnadskontoret, 2016, Malmö stad). Almost the whole site is a man-made island, previously it used to be a passage to the great docklands Kockums that later closed in 1980 (Stadsbyggnadskontoret, 2014, Malmö stad). Due to its closeness to Kockums and the area Varvsstaden, we can still see traces from the industrial time, based on the large industrial halls. The buildings are made from red brick, some have been re-purposed to functions such as a dance academy (see photos on the next spread). New buildings are made from a variety of materials from pure metal facades, somewhat traditional wooden houses, to a lot of coloured concrete.



galeonen | planned construction

Balneum Thermale



typography | residential opposite of the site - Flagghusen and Fullriggaren

Balneum Thermale



typography | brick and textures in Västra Dockan and Fullriggaren



the west harbour | sub- areas

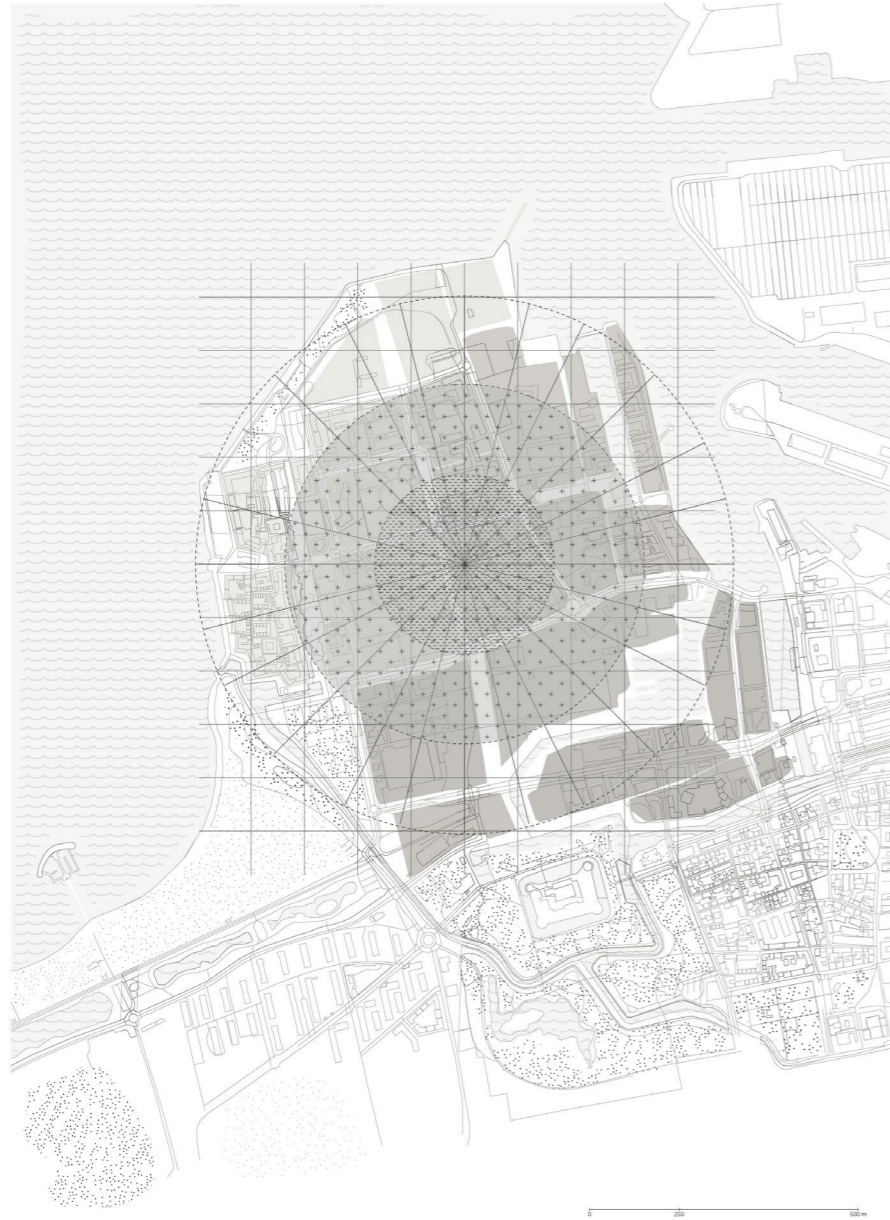
Introduction

focus area

Throughout the process, I will first register the different areas in the West Harbour to map out the different typology. The typology itself can become a source of inspiration to the design proposal to the urban thermal bath. It is of great interest to the project as a whole to be inspired by what already exists in the area, and what kind of things work and does not work. This will be determined by research and mapping in the following weeks.

Besides the above mentioned, the infrastructure and the urbanisation of Malmö are of big interest and inspiration for this project. I have noted the old industrial buildings nodding to the time of the shipyard, but this will not be anything that I will continue with during this project.

Instead, the understanding of the area as a whole will be important, registering the details and finding new interpretations of compositions inspired by what already is build and also from the site itself. The design process will be inspired by the goals set up by the city: The focus on the human scale and the variation of architecture.



the west harbour | proximity to the ocean

Introduction

urban renewal

What is significant with this area is the closeness to the water, all around, at some points a minimum of 200-300 m, is the ocean. The area as a whole can guarantee a total of 500- 750 m to the ocean (see the diagram on the left page). There are plenty of designated spots for summer and winter bathers in the area, all outdoor. Over the seasons this place changes dramatically, from the summer haven when all of Malmö occupies the coastal part of the city to the winter stillness that transforms this area into a suburb. Even though the central train station is no less than one kilometer away, including the city center. The area is connected to the rest of the city with the help of three entryways, where one of them is a bridge.

The area is now in its final construction phase with a plan of being completed by 2031. Additional residential housing is supposedly planned alongside the idea with plenty of greenery and parks (this is all yet to be decided), which was the goal when developing this site back in 2001, as previously mentioned. The rapid and modern development has focused on inhabitants but less on the public attractions such as restaurants, shops, and indoor *bathing facilities*, even though the plans and aims for the area were different.

Malmö city is not the only city undergoing a big transformation, so is Copenhagen. Both Ørestad, Sydhavn and Nordhavn are newly built areas, all constructed in a short period of time. Ørestad was built after a competition was arranged and the mix created a post-modern atmosphere. Nordhavn has kept some of the original landmarks and in that way create a more diverse architecture. Although all of the areas has similarities to the same problem as the West harbour in Malmö, Sydhavn seem to be the closest. The area was built in a rapid pace, which doesn't leave time to reflect upon decisions or design. Therefore residential buildings become the primary focus and other facilities are "supposed" to appear organically with time (Axmith, 2020, The Murrmur).

The same facts can be found in the brochure of Bo 01 where it states: "*In this new part of the city there was everything from student apartments to senior housing. On the other hand, much of the infrastructure - for example shops and schools - was intended to come as the need arose*" (Stadsbyggnadskontoret, 2021, Malmö stad).

(Malmö stad)

Share of urban and rural populations, 1950 - 2050
(% of total population)

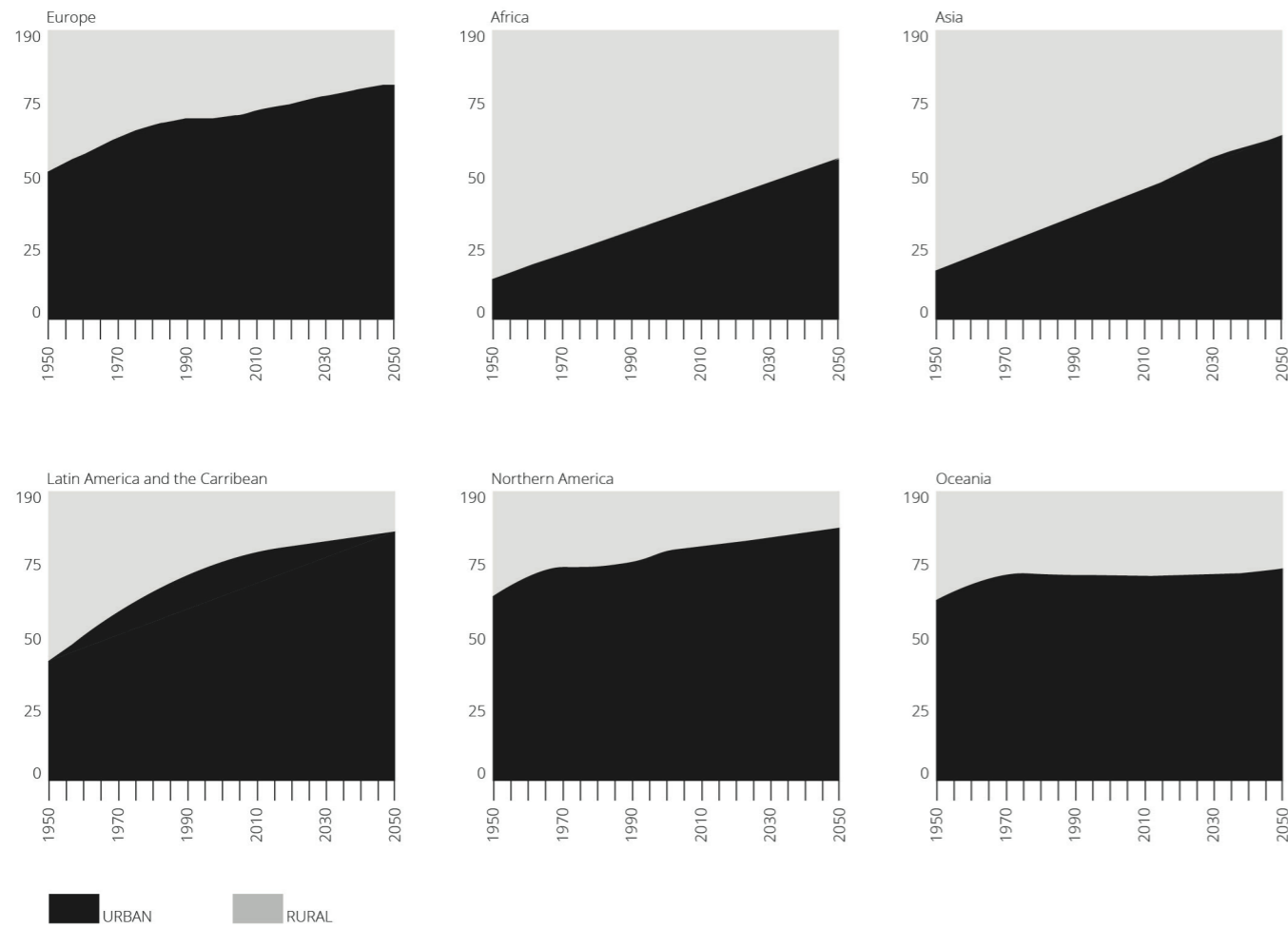


diagram | distribution of population

Motivation
external drivers

Since the industrial revolution, there have been major changes in the geographical distribution of populations in Europe. In 2008, the global urban population outnumbered the rural population for the first time in history and according to the United Nations *“World Urbanisation Prospects”* (2014), more than 80% of the European population will be living in urban areas by 2050 (Brandmülle, 2016, Europa p. 9). Another estimation shows that whole 70 per cent of the world’s gross domestic product is accounted from urban areas. And has therefore generated economic growth and prosperity for many.

Such development affects our urban landscape. Our cities are constantly growing and changing, which indicates that the urban environment will grow, and adapt to current needs. The urban environment is where most of us will spend the majority of our lives, and as architects, we have a responsibility to contribute to the sustainable development of such an environment. A region where the developed urban landscape has been successful in the Netherlands is Amsterdam. The focus has been on building *“an economically strong and sustainable metropolis with an outstanding (regional) public transport network and attractive, high-quality public areas”* (City of Amsterdam, 2020, iamsterdam). Instead of only focusing on expanding in areal aspects, the success has been to transform existing areas as well as increasing density. This is also an aspect which has been attempted when building Sydhavn in Copenhagen. The District Borneo in Amsterdam was planned in 1986 and was controversial with the high-density proposal. Besides that, the buildings themselves were planned as low rise houses and the target was the middle class (Farooq, 2012, p.5).

With the transformation of a previously industrial area into an urban area we need to be aware that although the area is developed for new needs, we need to be careful of designing synthetical neighbourhoods without the diversity of activities. Often in newly built areas, the focus lies on the residences and the rest of the activities that fill the city with life is expected to appear organically. Borneo is predominantly residential, but the contrast in density and by targetting the middle class has made the area a success story.



jetty | daniaparken, West Harbour

Topic

bathing

Malmö is as very much as the rest of Sweden into open-air bathing, the generic bathes most often in the summer during the heat that reminds of southern countries. The same people and the rest of the population have some kind of relationship to cold bathing. Inspired by the Finns, the Swedes also usually sits in the sauna for a bit before jumping into the cold water. This has become somewhat of a sport and is an event that is popular to conduct in as well as talk about. This type of bathing is said to be very good for your health, and many do it for that reason.

Besides cold bathing, spa:s and public swimming pools are different types of bathing facilities available both in Malmö, but also in other urban cities. The first two mentioned are both connected to bathing as a ritual while the latter is connected to sports and activity.

In between the ritual and the activity (as a sport), lies a need for a new type of bath in an urban setting. The inspiration for the new sort can be inspired by investigations and understanding of rituals in bathing throughout history, as well as researching the phenomenological aspect of bathing.



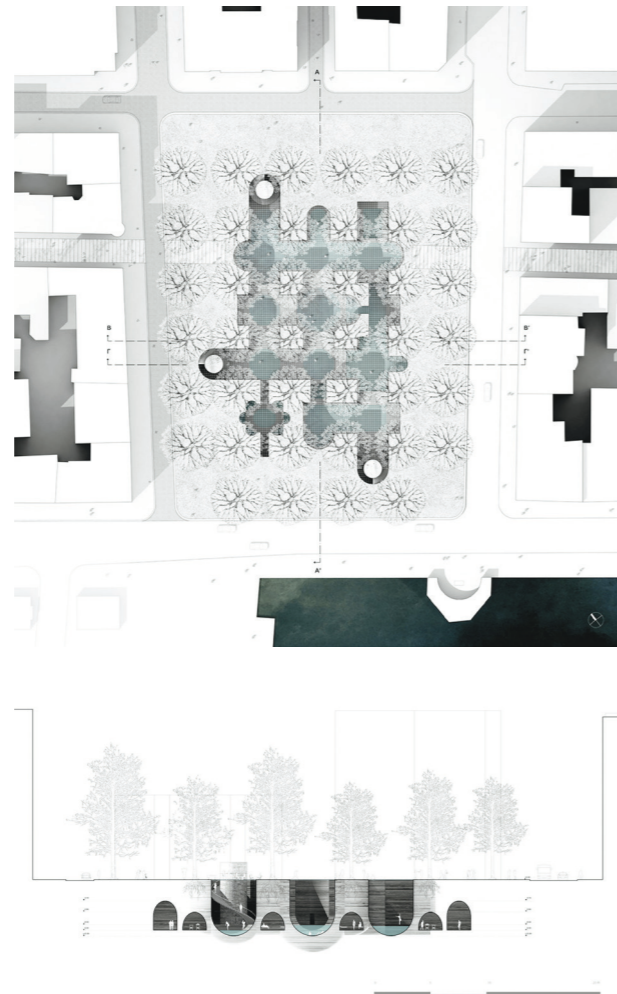
bathing | facilities in Malmö



project statement | mirroring the urban landscape

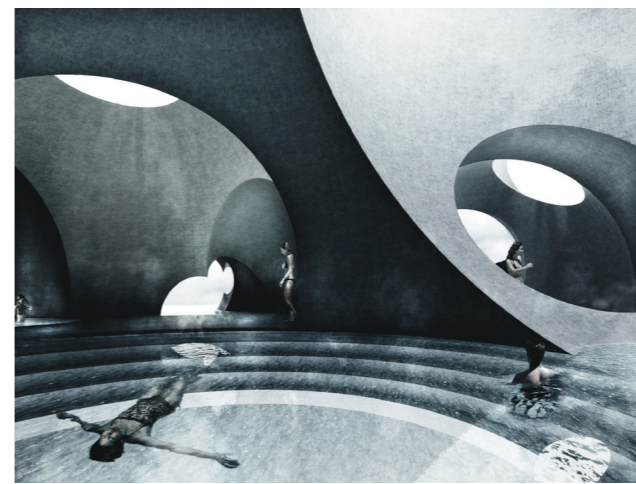
**Question
adaptation**

“How can an urban bathing facility be created, to blend well with the area setting and urban cityscape?”



'wet dream' | thermal bath complex
 architects: Not a Number Architects
 project year: 2013
 Location: Thessaloniki, Greece

figure 1 | Not a Number Architects



'liepāja' | thermal bath and hotel
 architects: Steven Christensen Architecture
 project year: 2016
 Location: Liepāja, Latvia

figure 2 | Steven Christensen Architecture



project statement | mirroring the urban landscape

figure 3 | Guðlaug Baths / BASALT Architects

Vision

mirroring the landscape

- Inspiration by the urban environment and infrastructure
- Mimicing the landscape into shapes for bath
- Investigating concrete as the main material
- Zones in the bath for different bathings
- Zones for different culture bathing
- Inspiration by atmospheric paintings capturing the bathing
- Wind shelter incorporated



We need to be knowledgeable about the historical and cultural contexts of the spaces we work with so we can improve the built environment that diversely frames our everyday life, that takes advantage of what already exists in different areas but improve it with new functions that cater to a greater contemporary society.

Location

The West Harbour

The West Harbour's first area stood ready 2001, based on the vision to create a new kind of "feature of the city". The area was to be created upon inspiration from art, design and landscape architecture. A lot of well-known architects got the opportunity to create something historical and leave a trace in something new, that was to aspire. Plans for residential, senior dwellings such as student housing was on the horizon.

The man in charge for the exhibition of the area was Klas Tham, and the vision was to recreate medieval architecture based on the Swedish- British architect Ralph Erskine with a mix of a variety of architectural templates. Buildings vary in height to be able to protect from the weather. Higher buildings are located on the rare end, closes to the ocean and lower dwellings an buildings are places behind those- further into the neighbourhood

(Stadsbyggnadskontoret, 2021, Malmö stad)



historical context | atmospheric photo of site

Historical Context

Bathing

Bathing is something that we naturally conduct if not every day, then every other or third - depending on the relation to bathing. For many bathing is something that is purely necessary, to get clean, either from a sweaty sports match of some sort or from just nervously sweating in an interview or meeting. Then are those who look at bathing as something more, as a ritual. The whole procedure can be conducted in a sort of way that can be related to well being. Either taking a hot bath at home, with a glass of wine or other beverage or bathing in the cold water after a steaming hot sauna session in the winter days.

Living in Sweden bathing is connected to some emotion, either longing for the hot Mediterranean ocean due to not having that here, or purely accepting the cold temperature this country has to offer. Taking cold baths after sauna, we know comes from Finnish culture, and is something many like to participate in.

Other places, with a warmer climate, have different assets to use, such as heat. Thermal bathing sources probably originates from the Roman era (something I will research further in my project report) and is broadly known in Mediterranean countries of today. Places such as Croatia use the thermal baths to heal rheumatism and other pain, usually used as a type of therapy for the elderly. Thermal baths are a great ritual in Hungary, and is even more of a place to meet friends or just be around other people, it's a cultural thing.

This is highly interesting and is something I will conduct further investigations in when proceeding with this project along with writing the coming project report. Along with researching the bathing culture, the atmospheric experience of bathing (through art) will be investigated.



context | details

New Approach

Galeonen as a site

All through the changes of the area, the end of the West Harbour has remained untouched. Mainly due to the closeness to the ocean, which has been somewhat problematic in relation to building new architecture. The talk around town has been to leave it as it is or to somehow create more greenery. Now the construction plans are under development and the site will be constructed upon. Though the wave breaker - groyne is a spot that most likely will remain as it is.

The shape the groyne creates makes the site a potential place for the thermal bath. As of now the exact location of the thermal bath is not exact. The options are either the left or the right side of the groyne. This will need to be further investigated and mapped out, how the wind is moving and the rate of weather tear and extreme weather environments. Wind and ocean is a factor that is to be considered when conducting this project. Along with investigations about the groyne, whether there will be a need for an additional groyne or not. The depth of the water on each side of the groyne is of high relevance regarding the construction of the Urban Thermal Bath.

Items found on the location such as concrete casts and wooden construction is also to be investigated to fully get the picture of the area of use at the moment. On the rare end of the groyne seems to be a small pier of some sort, it's all the way over the cobbly stones and is a place that is going to be visited when possible.





context | details

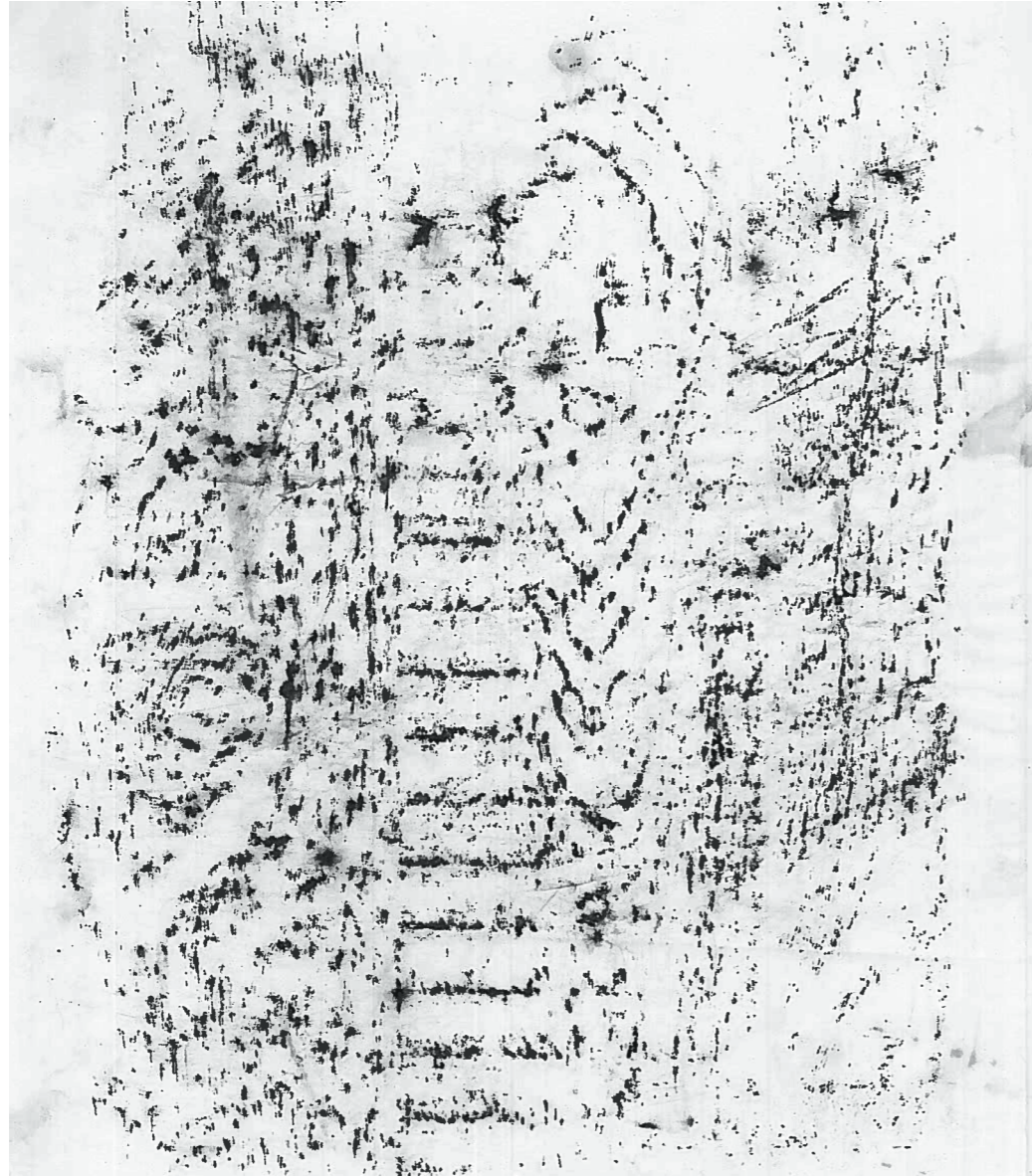
Project Framing

The Urban Thermal Bath

The aim of this project is to create a thermal bath situated in an urban context with a connection to both the city and has the connectivity to nature. The design development will be influenced by the urban development that is taking place in Malmö. The areas of both the North harbour as well as Varvsstaden are important links in the development of the urban thermal bath. The material that will be used in the design investigation is to be inspired both by the state of the site of today and the area around it. The other new developed areas play big roles in this process as well.

Public transportation and infrastructure will be looked at as the way of getting to the site are of great importance. Shield from weather and wind will naturally be equally as important throughout the project. Forecasts will be analysed and new ways of designing a bath will be of interest. Rituals of bathing through art and history will be a secondary focal point in this project, as a way of creating tactility and atmosphere in the Urban Thermal Bath.





methods | stencilling

Methods

Project strategy

Starting the project by registration of the site by both photographs and stencilling the materials on site. The process of photographing the site will be conducted throughout the project to capture the transformation of the site and the area over seasons. Once weekly the site will be photographed.

Followed by mapping the sites in diagrams, the weather, how the wind is around the site and the sea levels. Creating sections to understand the meeting and connection between land and ocean - ground folds.

Writing the report will help the design process with the theoretical information about bathing and its history. Alongside with the report, a sketchbook will be created to map all the decisions and the design process.

The main method of working with this project will be by the help of creating process models, this will be used as a way of sketching throughout.

Conducting phenomenological studies and allowing some parts of the project to be "art" inspired can create an interesting mix in the design aesthetic.



5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere

5.B Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women



11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage

11.A Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning



15.A Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems

UN 2030 Goals
Development planning

Malmö is a highly versatile city, mixed with cultures from all over the world, this is what makes this city so interesting and varied. With this being said, the mix of culture also often causes problems across genders. This bath mustn't become a project of segregation but of gender equality and empowerment.

The site has a rich cultural history both in the evolution it has undergone, from being purely nature to a docking place then undergoing an urban transformation and becoming one of Malmö's most prominent areas as the area transforms, it is important both historically but also to the local communities that the site is protected while at the same time being adapted to new use. The public function of the Thermal bath serves a good cause for creating public facilities in the local neighbourhood.

Where the new sub-area "Galeonen" is to be built, used to be protected but has somehow changed and is to be built on. The decision is great for the local community but this means that nature is limited to smaller areas and grows closer to the architecture. Around the groyne are some greenery but not at all a lot, but what is there should be protected and added greenery is to be investigated as an option. The material around the site can be inspiring to the design aesthetic to make a small impact on the site.



Deliverables
The West Harbour



deliverables | model casting

CONTEXT

- Title ; introduction
- Site images
- Diagrams

RESEARCH

- Mapping of site
- Historical & normal situation plan
- 1:100 model of break water (groyne)
- Site model 1:500?
- Illustrative diagrams and drawing of anthropological.. (soft bits)

DESIGN PROCESS

- Sketches design development
- Process casting models 1:100

PROPOSAL

- Detail model 1:5
- Detail drawings 1:5/1:20
- Sections
- Axonometry
- Visualisations
- Plan



PÅS 2020

PÅS 2020

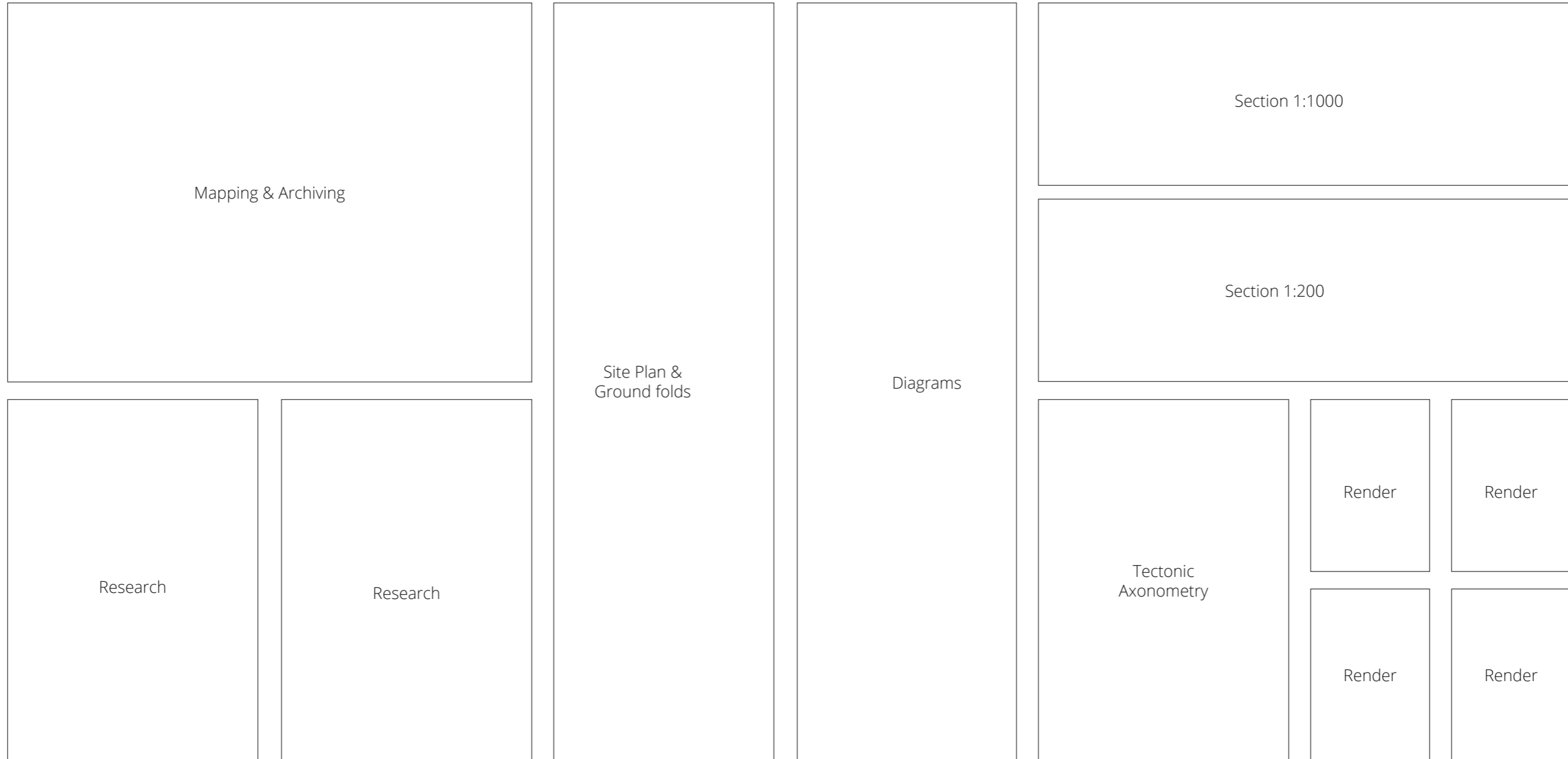
MACHIM

Stammen! 2020.

Presentation Plan
Balneum Thermale

Balneum Thermale

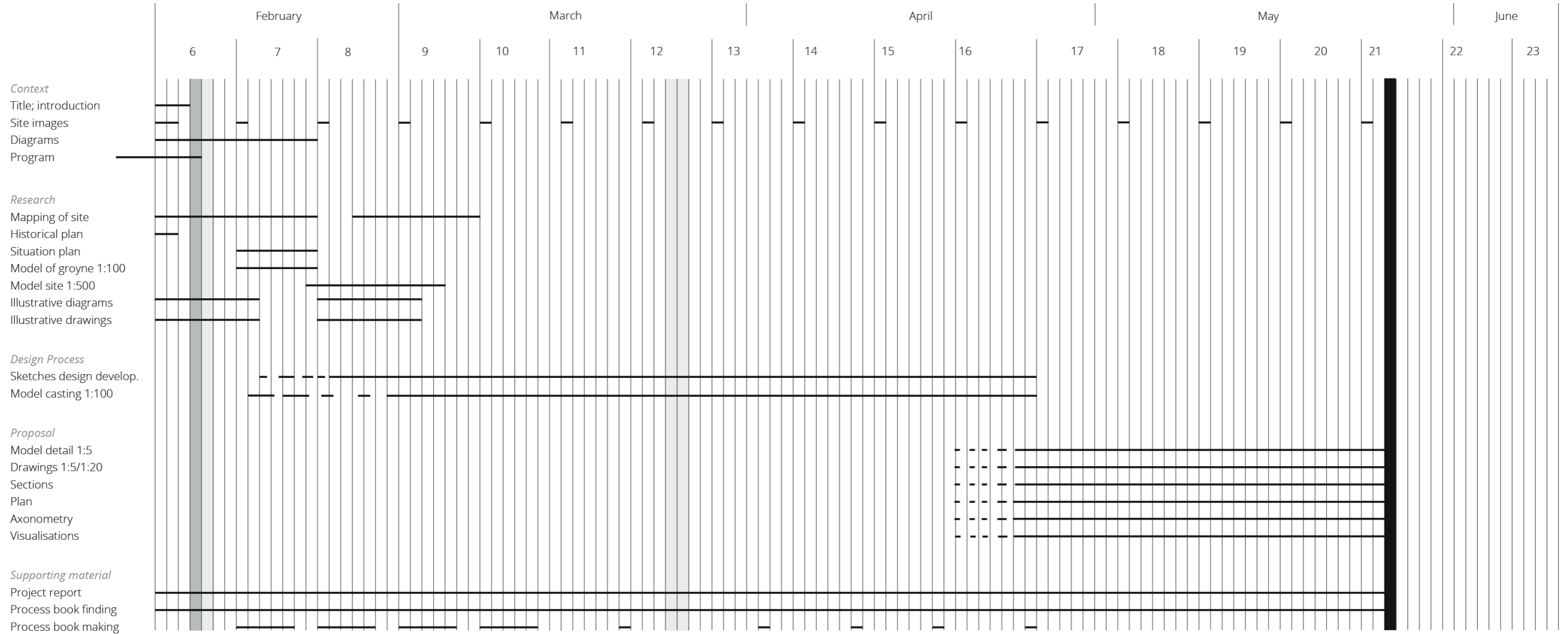
Balneum Thermale





Balneum Thermale

Balneum Thermale



- Programme submission
- Group crits
- Project report submission



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Images

Figure 1: Furuto, Alison. 2013. [Photos] *'Thessaloniki's Wet Dream' Thermal Bath Complex Proposal / Not a Number Architects*. [Online].

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Figure 2: Santos, Sabrina. 2017. [Photos] *Steven Christensen Architecture Wins AAP Award with Liepāja Thermal Bath and Hotel*. [Online].

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Figure 3: Pintos, Paula. 2021. [Photos] *Guðlaug Baths / BASALT Architects*. [Online].

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