Just keep swimming!

a renovation proposal for Valhallabadet

Frida Bladin

Master's Thesis at Chalmers School of Architecture | Architecture and Planning Beyond Sustainability
Studio: *Transformation and Conservation* | Examiner: Kia Bengtsson Ekström | Tutor: Oscar Carlsson

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CHALMERS

Frida Bladin | 076-0326248 | frida.bladin@gmail.com

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THANKS TO:

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ABSTRACT

Gothenburg has got expansion and upgrading plans for the "Event Area" around Valhallagatan and Korsvägen. These plans suggest that a historic public bath with "particularly high cultural value" will be demolished and replaced by an 80 000m^2 shopping centre.

Gothenburg has also stated a new plan for all swimming halls in the city. In this report there are criteria for what a central bath should be, and these criteria are not fulfilled by Valhallabadet.

The purpose of this thesis is to oppose this demolition threat. The purpose is also to explore the facilities of Valhallabadet, in order to understand them. The aim with the thesis is to present an inventory of the building and a following renovation proposal.

By using the methods of site observation and inventory, literature reading, reference studies and interviews the thesis investigates what kind of changes that needs to be done, for making the facilities of Valhallabadet up to date.

The result of the thesis is a pre-study for a renovation that aims for not jeopardizing the building's historical layers nor the cultural value. The proposal is a rearrangement of functions for improving the flows and the utilization of the building. It is also an initial design proposal of an extension containing new and modern changing rooms.

The proposal claims that there can be another future for Valhallabadet and that there are a lot of possibilities for upgrading the facilities to higher standards. It also claims that the historical layers can be integrated in a new arrangement of the bath. This by not saving everything about Valhallabadet, but the most valuable features, and by combining them with new bath related activities.

Keywords: Renovation, Inventory, Preservation, Swimming hall, Valhallabadet.

2012 - 2015 Chalmers University of Technology
- Architecture Bachelor 180 ECTS

2016 - 2017 Chalmers University of Technology
- Sustainability and the Design Professions 7,5 ECTS
- Design and Planning for Social Inclusion 22,5 ECTS
- Design Systems 7,5 ECTS
- Sustainable Architectural Design 22,5 ECTS

2017 - 2018 Internship
- Semrén & Månsson, Healthcare Studio, Gothenburg

2018 - 2019 Chalmers University of Technology
- Master's Thesis Prep. Course 1 4,5 ECTS
- Future Visions for Healthcare, Housing & Work: Healthcare Architecture 22,5 ECTS
- Master's Thesis Prep. Course 2 3,0 ECTS

STUDENT BACKGROUND

I was seven years old when I started to train swimming and ever since then I have spent a lot of time in various swimming halls in Sweden. Especially the swimming hall of Härnösand, designed by the functionalistic and traditionalistic architect Nils Tesch. A swimming hall, built in the 1970's, with a lot of charm, nice simplistic design solutions placed on a beautiful site close to the sea. I believe this building unconscious made me consider the pathway towards studying architecture.

Today I am still swimming and competing, but as a veteran/masters swimmer. I frequently visit Gothenburg's central bath, Valhallabadet, at least once a week. For me, that swimming hall is one of a kind in terms of its atmosphere, volume and materiality, all combined with its functionality. Despite all its qualities, I believe that Valhallabadet is in need for change and renovation. The swim sport in this region wants to have a swimming hall that can hold larger championships, e.g. Swedish Nationals. Valhallabadet cannot do that today because of several standards that are not fulfilled.

I want Valhallabadet to have its reputation back, as one of the leading swimming arenas on the West coast of Sweden!

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BACKGROUND

There is kind of an "elephant" in the city centre of Gothenburg. This elephant is called Valhallabadet, a well-used public bath which has been standing strong since the late 1950's. It was a new kind of bath-facility when it was established 1956 and the largest swimming hall in Sweden in that time. The building has recently been valuated to have a lot of historical and cultural value, especially for showing the qualities and forms of the 1950's architecture and art in Sweden (Lindgren & Peter, 2013). Valhallabadet has also been listed in the building register (BeBR) at the Swedish National Heritage Board as a building with "particularly high cultural value" (a blue mark), which is the highest level of rating a building can get (Riksantikvarieämbetet, 2013).

Despite the cultural and historical valuation of the building, the facilities are not very well maintained and are standing under a demolition threat. Valhallabadet will probably be replaced by a new central bath somewhere in the city centre of Gothenburg.

This threat comes from the new plans for the area surrounding Valhallabadet, that is known as the "Event area" of Gothenburg. On the plot, where Valhallabadet is standing today, there is a suggested plan containing an 80.000m^2 shopping-and "event"-mall and on top of that housing (Göteborg Stad, 2018).

These future plans combined with a possible restoration/renovation of Valhallabadet has been stated as a difficult and not wanted option for the city of Gothenburg (Sigfusson & von Corswant, 2017).

The location of a new central bath is also an ongoing investigation. With this investigation comes the criteria for what a new central bath needs to be like. Criteria come from Gothenburg City's strategies for the future development of the city's all swimming halls. These criteria and the regulations from FINA (International Swimming Federation) and SSF (Swedish Swimming Federation) are not fully fulfilled by the facilities of Valhallabadet as it is today. This makes the facilities not suitable for larger competitions, such as Swedish Nationals. This is a problem for the swim sport's reputation and development in the West Coast region. This fact makes the need of a new central bath stronger and it makes the threat of demolishing Valhallabadet stronger as well.

This thesis took departure from this two sides: the history of the building and the future demands for a central bath. By trying to combine the two sides and see how a grey-zone, in-between complete restoration and complete demolition, for Valhallabadet can be like. The thesis is about a building with historical values, which is under a demolition threat. The thesis is also about a swimming hall that has lost its glory days as one of Sweden's best arenas for swimming.

By searching for this grey-zone, this thesis could be another future scenario for a loved public bath and an attempt to revive some of its status.

SITE

Valhallabadet, situated in Gothenburg city centre.

PURPOSE & AIM

The purpose of this thesis is to oppose the demolition threat of Valhallabadet. The purpose is also to explore the facilities of Valhallabadet. To understand the building and its functions, structure, qualities and problems. The purpose of the exploration is to find out how the functions, flows and activities, of the building, could be improved without destroying the building's important cultural values.

The aim is to present an inventory of the building and a following renovation proposal where the historical layers of the building are retained. The aim is also to try to make the bath fulfil Gothenburg's central bath criteria and competition standards for swimming.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- How can Valhallabadet be transformed, in order to meet today's & the future's needs, but keep its historical layers and value?

- What things are in need for change & what needs to be preserved?

METHOD

The methods used, for being able to move forward with this investigation and thesis are:

Inventory. I have used the facilities of Valhallabadet, taken photos, measured and looked at old drawings. This for trying to understand the building

Interviews. I have spontaneously asked questions about Valhallabadet when training with other people, or just asked anyone I know that can have an opinion. This for having more people's views on the problem statements and for finding points for interventions.

Reference projects. I have used various reference projects for getting inspiration for design solutions. The reference projects have mainly been Swedish swimming halls from different eras. Most of the projects are about renovation or adding to existing structures.

Literature reading. I have read literature and debate articles that connects to both the future plans of Gothenburg City and transformation, renovation and conservation. I have also read about how a swimming hall need to perform today and related that to the history of the typology.

FOCUS & DELIMITATIONS

Since the building is large and complex, the thesis' focus has mainly been on trying to find out an overall renovation strategy for the whole building. Therefore, I have not been able to go into all details in the proposal. However, I have zoomed in on a few important transformation points. These points have been chosen throughout the process and are where the building will be changed the most. The proposal will be presented mainly by drawings and diagrams.

Spatial boundaries are bound to the facilities that Valhallabadet has got today and the northern courtyard between the bath and Valhalla Sporthallar. Therefore, the design proposal does not cover any solutions for the other sports-facilities, connected to the swimming hall. However, consideration has been given to them and they have been investigated to some extent in the inventory phase.

The proposal does not cover any new suggestions for where to put the proposed new plan, for the plot, somewhere else instead. Placement of 80.000m^2 commercial shopping in the city centre can be questioned.

Site analysis is left out due to focus on characterization and inventory of the building instead of the surroundings.

The standards for swim sports, that the proposal will try to fulfil, mainly focuses on swimming since it is the biggest sport and because I have most experience of that discipline.

READING INSTRUCTIONS

The thesis will take departure in chosen theory about renovation and conservation, but also a brief history of swimming halls and their users, in Sweden. Following these parts, some reference projects will be showcased.

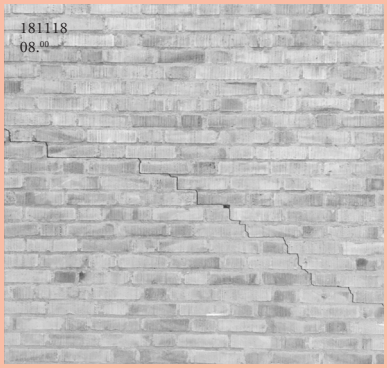
After the theory parts there will be a chapter dedicated to Valhallabadet. Here the history and the future of the bath and the existing conditions are described. A compilation of my inventory and research about the building.

After the chapter about Valhallabadet, conclusions of the inventory will be presented in its own chapter.

The design proposal will be introduced after the inventory conclusions.

In the end there will be a discussion, a conclusion and proposed further research.

Images with no source are my own photos and diagrams. Some of the photos that are on each chapter page are from one of my social media accounts under the hash-tag *#veckansvalhalla* and are sorted in a chronological order according to the date when the photos were taken.



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CULTURAL VALUES & TRANSFORMATION

Cultural heritage

Cultural heritage can be both material and immaterial. It can be a building, ancient monuments or traditions and tales. But generally cultural heritage is about what the past generations have left behind to the present population (Riksantikvarieämbetet, 2018).

Cultural value

Cultural value is a collective name for what is considered valuable in the physical environment from a cultural-historical, aesthetic and social perspective (Boverket, 2017). Cultural values can vary in degree and are divided into different categories.

Why should one care about cultural values?

It is important to have knowledge about the already built for being able to work with the existing environment in a respectful way. Most important is to have this knowledge before transformations or renovations are being planned. This is essential for being able to decide which interventions that are appropriate, or not (Robertsson, 2013). A building with particularly high values should not be distorted according to Swedish building law (Stockholm Stad, n.d.).

How do you find out what the values are?

There is no specific method. However, identification, processing and weigh together is the guiding words for valuation of buildings (Unnerbäck, 2003). It is all about trying to identify and describe the different basic motifs for preservation. This can be done by making a "preliminary investigation", of the building. This investigation's purpose is to gain knowledge about the building's history and its existing conditions. There are usual several stages. Partly the investigation is to make a description of the building's history. This stage deals with both archive and literature research as well as a thoroughly inventory of the building. This inventory deals with making measurements, characterising of the different interiors, finding out how the construction is made up and examine the building's possible damages and condition (Robertsson, 2013).

In this thesis the attempt is to try out this part of the preliminary investigation on Valhallabadet, even though there is already a known valuation made of the building, which shows that Valhallabadet has a particularly high cultural value (Riksantikvarieämbetet, 2013). But the investigation of this thesis will cover even the younger parts of the building and therefore be an additional investigation to the one that is already made.

Working with the existing

What could you do with a building with high cultural values?

It depends on to what degree the building is valuated and what ambition level for preservation that is decided for the specific case. The ambition level

is guiding when it comes to what protection the building should have, how it should be documented and how it should be taken care of (Unnerbäck, 2003). Valhallabadet's facilities are not covered by any protection law (Riksantikvarieämbetet, 2013). Anyhow there will a careful approach to the valuable environments.

Usual concepts for making an intervention in the already existing:

- **Renovation**: Renewal of surfaces for maintaining a good condition.
- **Conservation**: Actions to stop decay with a minimum intervention. Must be done by the same methods, materials and tools as the original.
- **Restoration**: To put back in shape to a former status which should be very true to the original. Nothing is added to the existing structure that hasn't been there before.
- **Transformation**: a change of the building's appearance, purpose or character.

(Ahlberg, S. O., Lecture notes from 190219)

How can one add to the already existing?

Usually there are different ways to go when adding something to the already built. Often three possible ways are discussed. Seamless additions, contrasting additions or manipulating additions (Johansson, 2017). How one does is up to the specific case though. What is best for one building can be the worst for another. However, it is always a game between standing out or blending in, in relation to the existing structure. For Valhallabadet there will be one proposed approach by the author after the investigation of the building.

Why should one work with old buildings when one can build a new one?

Firstly, it is about saving the built heritage for coming generations and for creating a variation of expressions in the built environment. But it also all about sustainability. Mainly because of the energy saving aspects. Already built structures have a stored energy and when demolishing and recycling this energy goes to waste and new energy must be put in for building a new building. If the existing structure or building is saved instead, a lot of energy is already saved. This is desirable since one of the goals of sustainable building design is to use as little energy as possible (Johansson, 2017).

SWIMMING HALLS

What is a swimming hall?

Swimming hall = An indoor facility containing a swimming pool. (Ne.se)

The Modern Swimming Hall

Swimming halls and bathhouses, as we know them today, started to be built in the mid-1950's. But absolutely most swimming halls were built in the 1960's and 70's (BeFair, 2019). These swimming halls were mostly focused on being a mixture of "cleanliness facility" and a place for exercise swimming. During the 80's the focus started to shift towards being more focused on the recreation and families' amusement during the visit to the baths (Ingvason & Sahlin, 1984). This focus is somewhat still here, to make the visit to the swimming hall as varied possible.

But going back to the 50's until 70's, many of the facilities that were built during this era are still running and need renovation or have been renovated in the last years. In 2016 a majority of Sweden's 450 swimming halls needed a renovation. This renovation need is often due to the technical life span of a swimming hall, that is usually 30-50 years if no renovation is made. It can also be about new needs, poor maintenance or inadequate construction and damage to the building (Engström, 2016).

When mentioning new needs, there is for sure another pressure put on the swimming halls today than in earlier decades. There is higher demand from the users nowadays, beyond the play and recreation demands that started to rise in the 80's. Today there is a high demand on up-to-date swimming and bath facilities, for both young, old, women and men (Svenska Simförbundet 2018a).

What can a bathhouse contain?

Usual pools:

- **Swimming pool**(s): often a 25m pool, but it could be a 50m pool as well. This pool is used for regular exercising, swim training and competitions. Temperature of 25-28°C. (Further standards are presented under "Standards – FINA & SSF")

- **Teaching pool**(s): often has a size of 6.0x12.0m and is shallower (0.6-0.9m) and warmer than a swimming pool. This pool is mostly used for swimming lessons or technique training for kids.

- **Paddling pool**: a very shallow pool (0.15-0.2m) and is used by the youngest kids (<5 years old).

- **Play pool**: shallow pool (0.3-0.6m). Playful approach with bright colours, sculptures and usually designed by a theme.

Additional features:

- **Relax features**: with focus on relaxation and experiences. Usually consists of warm and cold pools, saunas and "experience showers" and possibilities for treatments (massage etc.).

- **Adventure features**: trampolines, water slides, wave pools, climbing walls etc.

- **Gym**: Usually good for complementing the swimming halls other activities.

- **Rehabilitation pool**: used for rehabilitation training in water. Usually with adjustable bottom for various depths of the pool.

Usual support functions:

- **Changing rooms**
- **Shower rooms**
- **Saunas**
- **Café or a kiosk**
- **Staff facilities and administrative spaces for clubs**
- **Storage and other support functions**
- **Technical spaces underneath the pools**

(Wikenstål, 2012)

Who are the users?

Bathhouses are one of the most popular facilities for people in Sweden's everyday work out (BeFair, 2019). That is mostly because of the mixture of activities that can be found in these facilities. But these places are not only for the daily exerciser's good. The most important role of the bathhouse is to provide space for people to be able to learn how to swim and to be safe in water in their everyday life and in case of emergency. The bathhouse is also a place for various swim sports' activity.

Therefore, there is a great mix of people that uses bathhouses today; exercisers, professional athletes, schools, families, rehab-trainers, people that wants to relax, people that is learning how to swim and people who wants to play or just take a bath.

In general, a bathhouse or a swimming hall is a place for many different groups and people with different wants and needs. The facilities then need to support these various demands in the best way possible for remain a popular place for all kinds of people and activities.

Standards - Swimming Pools

FINA, *Fédération Internationale de Natation*, is an international federation that was founded 1908 during the Olympic Games in London. It was created to make common rules and standards for the swim sports, but also to verify world records and managing the swimming competitions at the Olympic Games. Today FINA has more responsibilities and works a lot with promoting the aquatic sports and for keeping it fair and drug free (FINA, 2018a).

But the most important fact for this report is that FINA have specific rules for the facilities, were the swim sports are happening. These rules are, as FINA (2018b) states: "intended to provide the best possible environment for competitive use and training" (p. 2).

In this facilities rules there are standards for how the competitive and training environments should perform and look like. The documents include rules for: swimming, diving, high diving, water polo, synchronized swimming and open water swimming.

In general, the measurements of the pools and its surrounding is quite crucial, but it is also about the colour of swimming lanes, technical equipment, lighting, temperature, materials used in the pool and other markers. The rules are different for world championship and Olympic games.

SSF, the *Swedish Swimming Federation*, have quite the same intentions as its international "big sister" but have its focus on a national level.

The facility rules from SSF are somehow additional to the FINA rules. All pool facilities in Sweden that have intentions to hold any swim sport competition must have the right measurements, and equipment that compiles with SSF's rules and FINA's rules (Svenska Simförbundet, 2018b). All competition pools need to be certificated, by a documented and approved measuring of the pool length. Otherwise no new records can be approved from that pool (Svenska Simförbundet, 2018c).

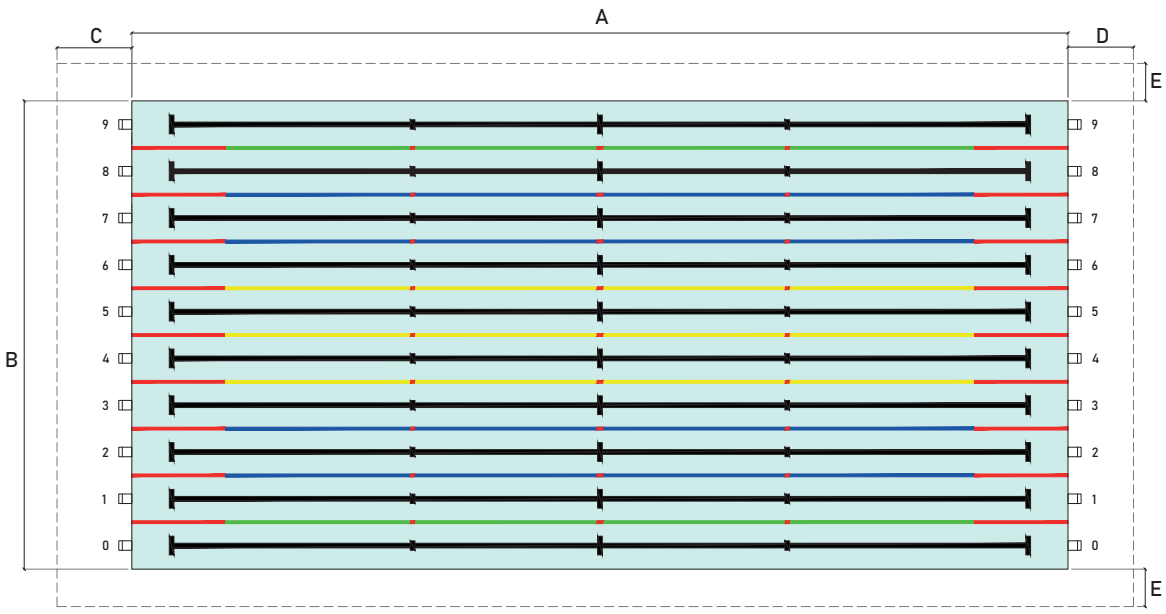
All pools that shall be used only for training do not need to fulfil competition standards, though there are recommendations for how it should look like. There are in general many recommendations from SSF that also includes the support functions, technique standards and safety in a swimming hall. These recommendations are for example about the changing rooms, storage possibilities, room division and promoting support functions.

A compilation of some of the pool rules, from both FINA and SSF, are presented on the next page.

	Level of competition	Pool length	Depth	Measurements around pool	Seating
Swimming	Swedish Nationals (25m)	25.02-25.03m x 20.40m (8 lanes)	1.8m close to start. 1.1m other.	6.0m behind start, min. 3.0m opposite side. Long sides min. 2.0m	1300 seats
	Swedish Nationals (50m)	50.02-50.03m x 25.00m (10 lanes)	Minimum 2.0m (1.8 can be OK)	4.0m behind start, min. 3.5m opposite side. Long sides min. 2.0m	2000 seats
	World Championship (25m)	25.02-25.03m x 21.00m	Minimum 2.0m 3.0m recommended	10.0m distance to another pool	--------
	Olympic Games	50.02-50.03m x 25.00m (8 lanes, 2 lanes empty)	Minimum 2.0m 3.0m recommended	10.0m distance to another pool	--------
High Diving	Junior Swedish Nationals	20.00m x 25.00m (1, 3 & 5m platforms)	--------	5.0m behind platforms, 3.0m on the other sides	--------
	Higher competitions	20.00m x 25.00m (1, 3, 5, 7.5 & 10m platforms)	Not less than 1.8m at any point. 3.3-8.0m underneath platforms	10.0m distance to another pool	--------
Synchro.	General standards	12.00m x 20.00m	3.0m on a square of 12m x 12m Min. 1.7m on a area of 12m x 8m	5.0m on one side, 3.0m on the other three sides	--------
Water Polo	General standards (men)	30.00m x 20.00m	1.8-2.0m	--------	--------
	General standards (women)	25.00m x 20.00m	1.8-2.0m	--------	--------

Summary of (some of the) facility standards from both FINA and SSF.

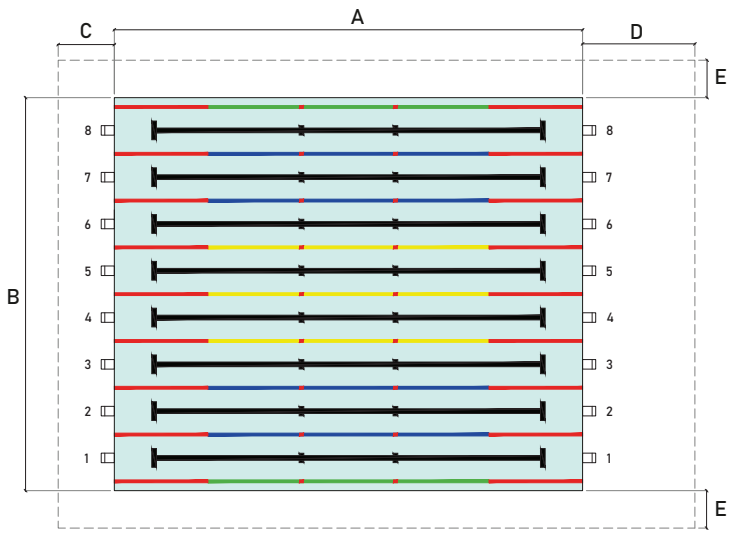
Optimal 50m pool



A = 50.02 - 50.03 m
B = 25.02 - 25.03 m
C = 4.00 m
D = 3.50 m
E = 2.00 m

Diagram of an optimal 50m pool.

Optimal 25m pool



A = 25.02 - 25.03 m
B = 20.40 - 21.00 m
C = 6.00 m
D = 3.00 m
E = 2.00 m

Diagram of an optimal 25m pool.

REFERENCE PROJECTS

Eriksdalsbadet

Location: Stockholm, Sweden.
Completion year: 1999
Architects: Erséus, Frenning & Sjögren Arkitekter

Eriksdalsbadet is Sweden's national arena for swim sport. It has many different pools both for swimming, diving, relax and play. It has a large capacity for spectators at competitions, but also a lot to offer for the general public (Stockholm Stad, 2019). All pools used by swim sports have competition standards.

A reflection:
This bath is not a renovation project, but it is the largest swimming arena in Sweden. Therefore, it has not been the same type of reference as the others in this thesis. However, the bath's floor plans have been used frequently as a reference for the rearrangement of Valhallabadet's changing rooms. This for comparing numbers such as square meters for different functions and number of lockers in the changing rooms.

This bath is used as a reference since it is overall working well during larger swimming competitions.

Main changing rooms:
Number of lockers: 160/changing room
Number of showers: 11/changing room
Square meters: ca. 250m²/changing room

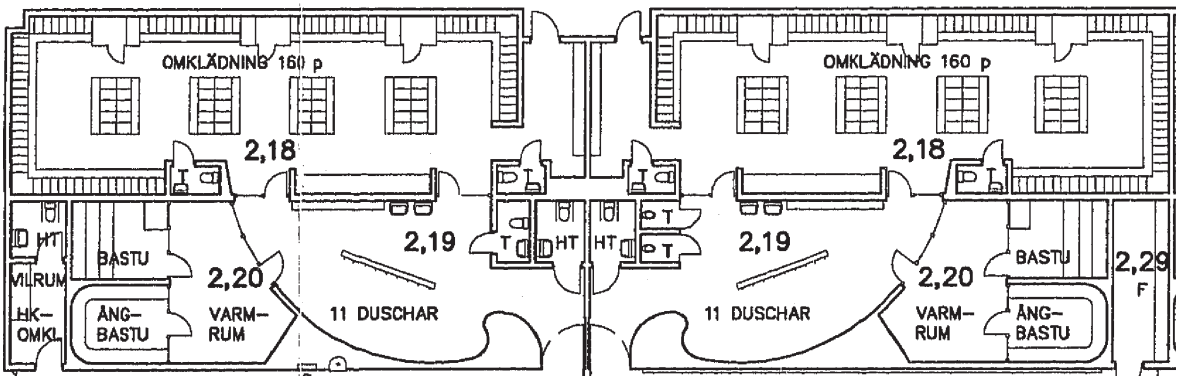


Figure 2. Lay-out of changing rooms, Eriksdalsbadet (Stockkholm Stad, 1997) Reprinted with permission.

Åkeshovs Sim- & Idrottshall

Location: Bromma, Stockholm, Sweden.
Original completion year: 1959
Original architect: Åke E. Lindqvist
Renovation & extension completion year: 2018
Architects: Liljewall Arkitekter

In 2010 Åkeshovs Simhall was outdated and worn out. It was forced to shut down its activity due to construction failure for the pools and damaged surface materials on the inside. Despite this it was decided to make a renovation and an addition to the facility, even though a complete demolition and building a new one would have been less expensive. An explanation for making that decision was the fact that the bath had been classified with a "green rate" from The Swedish National Heritage Board, which means that the building "is especially valuable from a historical, cultural-historical, environmental or artistic point of view". The motivation for that rate was firstly that it makes a good example for the late 1950's and early 1960's sport hall buildings and that the architectural values are high. Secondly it also has a great social value because of its function (Riksantikvarieämbetet, 2008).

Architects from the firm Liljewall in Gothenburg were hired to make an overall proposal for the renovation and extension in 2015. The proposal for the bath was a renovation, restoration and an addition all combined. One of the main things that was needed to be adjusted was the accessibility of the bath. Other things that were in real need for being fixed was the construction of the pools, the technique equipment and most of the surface materials in the interior.

The thing that was most valuable to save was a wall painting in the original 25m-pool hall, made by Lasse Andréasson. The painting was completely restored during the renovation.

The new additions to the bath facilities is a new 25m-pool, two new teaching pools, a gym and a small playful pool to dedicated to kids (Liljewall, 2018).

A reflection:
All new additions are clear that they are new, but at the same time they blend in with the old parts in a natural way by using alternations of the functionalistic design language. The materials and colours are pleasant but yet colourful in the interiors. They complement the 50's art wall in a good manner. On the exterior the extension is blending in, but yet stand out. The new building's façades are of the same base material as the old one but have another language when it comes to window placement and geometry.

The flows of the swimming hall are clear, and it is easy to understand where you come from and where you should go next. There is a transparency and overview over the different pools wherever you are, once you are inside of the swimming hall. The distances to walk is not far and it is easy to access toilets from the different pools.

The original 25m pool with its restored wall painting & large windows.

Entrance situation, Åkeshovs Simhall.

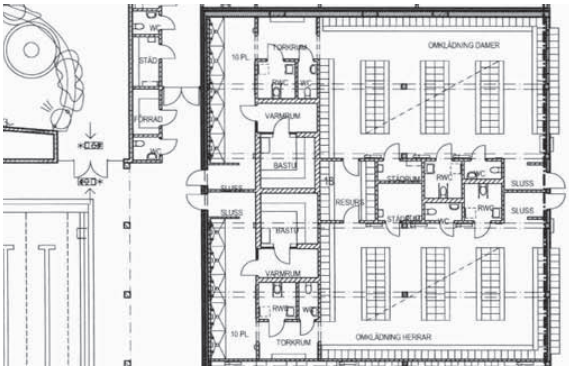


Figure 2. Lay-out of changing rooms, Åkeshovs Simhall (Stockkholm Stad, 2015) Reprinted with permission.

Figure 3. The new forest themed pool for kids (Forsell, 2018a). Reprinted with permission.

Figure 4. The new 25m pool (Forsell, 2018b). Reprinted with permission.

Sundbybergs Simhall

Location: Sundbyberg, Sweden.
Original completion year: 1978
Original architect: Åke Östin
Renovation & extension completion year: 2015
Architects: Urban Design

Sundbybergs Simhall needed an expansion, due to a growing population in the municipality. A new building volume was added containing an additional 25m pool, as the main attraction. The extension is also containing a new playful pool area for kids, a new entrance for the swim sport, changing rooms, conference rooms and a large sun deck (Urban Design, 2016). During the extension, some of the old parts were also renovated.

A reflection:

A clear 70's character is retained in the old parts of the bath. Feels like the intentions with the extension and renovation was to put the most effort in the new parts. Because the new parts are really "selling it", especially on pictures. Once you are there though, the new parts feel a bit alien. They have a very different design manner than the old parts and also another transformation approach than Åkeshov for example. Entering the new feels like another world. However, I don't think this is a particular bad thing. The new atmosphere of the swimming hall is playful and colourful.

The old 25m pool hall is updated with new surface materials and this room is also a beautiful space. A lot of light is let in through the repetitive windows. Changing rooms are updated with modern lockers and new tiles in the shower rooms. Despite this upgrade, in the changing rooms, there is a lot of unused space and a bit hard to find your way through.

The entrance hall and its café feel narrow and messy. However, it is nice that you can see directly into the 25m pool from the reception. Then you know directly when you enter, that you have come to a swimming hall.

The extension pointing out towards a nearby sport field.

Entrance situation to the bath.

Figure 5. The original 25m pool (@bownsu, 2018). Reprinted with permission.

Figure 6. The new weather themed pool for kids. Art & concept by Backa-Karin Ivarsdotter. (Kristiansen & Urban Design, 2015a). Reprinted with permission.

Figure 7. The new 25m pool. (Kristiansen & Urban Design, 2015b). Reprinted with permission.

Härnösands Simhall

Location: Härnösand, Sweden.
Original completion year: 1975
Original architects: Nils Tesch & Rolf Leander
Renovation completion year: 2011
Architects: Arconi

After 35 years the swimming hall in Härnösand was worn out. Installations, surface materials and technical equipment were outdated. The Härnösand based architecture firm Arconi got the mission to come up with a proposal. The proposal contained updated standards for accessibility, energy saving and safety. The proposal was a total renovation of existing functions, but also a transformation. New activities such as a relax department and new pools for kids were added inside of the existing structure (Arconi, n.d.).

A reflection:
Since this is my former "home arena" for swimming there could be a lot of experiences to take up, but I will try to focus on how I assessed it the last time I was there.

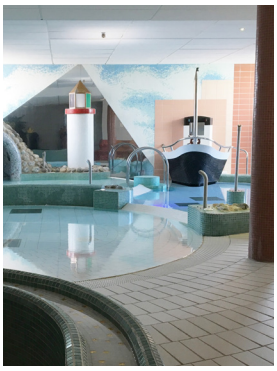
The swimming hall of Härnösand's renovation, feels like a big face lift. The interior of the building feels both lighter and more elegant from a distance. But if you look closer at the material choices, they do not feel very genuine nor talking the same language as the original design of the building. This is a feeling that I base upon experiences from other swimming pools built in the 1970s and of course I do also relate to how the building looked like before the renovation.

The addition of the relax area, which are situated where a gym previously was located, feels like an intervention that has been done elegantly to some extent, but hasty to some extent. The elegant is that they only glazed the old gym facilities, which had a balcony out to the swimming pool. This means that this part does not stand out so much from the other attributes in the hall. On the inside of the relax area there are several different baths, "experience showers", various saunas and a bar. The lay out is logical, it has great views out and the material choice has probably been looking luxurious from the beginning. However, much has already been worn and where round edges have been used in combination with mosaic, many tiles have fallen off.

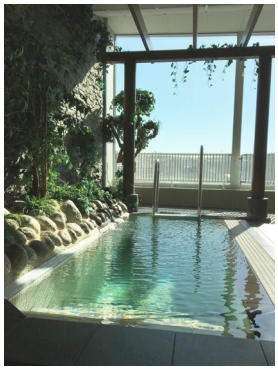
To sum up, the renovation of Härnösand's swimming hall is sort of a refreshment but made at some expense of the original design of the interior. Despite this I think it is an incredible building with so much qualities.

The 25m pool in the morning sunlight.

Winter view of the eastern facade and southern facade.



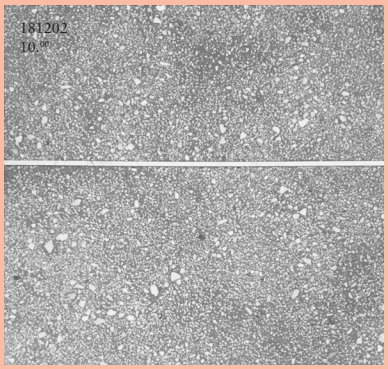
Naval themed pool area for the kids.



Roman Bath in the added relax area.

The teaching pool with a view towards a marina.

The 25m pool with its generous room volume and light feeling.



#veckansvalhalla

HISTORY

In the 1930's the baths in Gothenburg were outdated. The ones that were existing were not hygienic and worked only as institutions. In 1939 a proposal, for a new bath, was made by the architects Erik Friberger and Gunnar Hoving. Though this bath did not come longer than just a proposal due to the World War Two (Nilsson, 2001).

After the war an architectural competition, for a new public bath in Gothenburg, was announced. The winner of this competition was the architect SAR Nils Olsson (Peter & Lindgren, 2013). Nils Olsson was a well-known architect in Gothenburg. His drawings for the bath won an Olympic bronze medal, in the games 1948, competing in art (Caldenby, Bjur & Ohlsson, 2006).

Nils Olsson himself could not finish the drawings before he passed away in 1951. Gustaf Samuelsson took over the work and the bath was finally built in 1956. That bath is Valhallabadet and it was built according to the, then current, standards of the swim sports and was the largest public bath in Sweden during that time (Nilsson, 2001).

Valhallabadet replaced old baths in Gothenburg, such as Renströmska badet and Lisebergsbadet. The day after the opening ceremony there was a queue for getting into the bath and it became an instant popular place for the citizens of Gothenburg (Peter & Lindgren, 2013). It was something new, since it was not only a bath institution for getting clean, it was also a space for sports and recreation.

Valhallabadet was in the beginning consisting of places for bathing, saunas and changing rooms, a swimming hall with a 33 1/3m pool and seating for spectators in a stepped formation. It also had a foyer, offices, a laundry hall, workshops, hair salons, a café, housing for the janitors and departments for washing and cleaning yourself, divided by gender (Nilsson, 2001).

Additions and changes:

In 1959 the men's department for washing yourself, were rearranged into a Roman Bath.

In 1967 an outdoor 50-meters pool were added to the facility. The pool had measurements of competition standards, but it was also a popular place in the summer sun for all citizens (Peter & Lindgren, 2013). The outdoor pool was two years later covered with a barracuda hall, a large tent, so it could be used all year around. Though the tent was not a very sustainable way of solving the issue. According to swimmers that was active during the 70's, the tent had bad air conditions and it was an unpleasant, cold walk from indoors towards the tent.

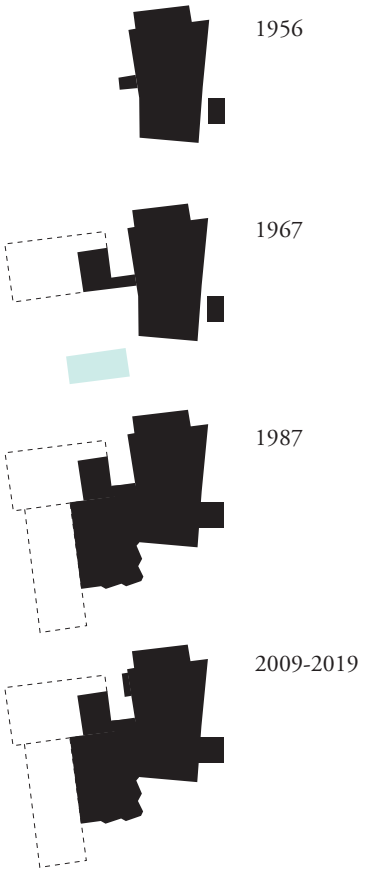
During the same year as the outdoor pool was constructed, Valhalla Sporthallar was also built (Building permit archive, Göteborg). In those facilities, a warm bath for rehab and swimming lessons were placed. These facilities were connected to Valhallabadet through the western building part where the janitors' apartments were placed. The warm bath is still in use today, and the pool has

recently been renovated.

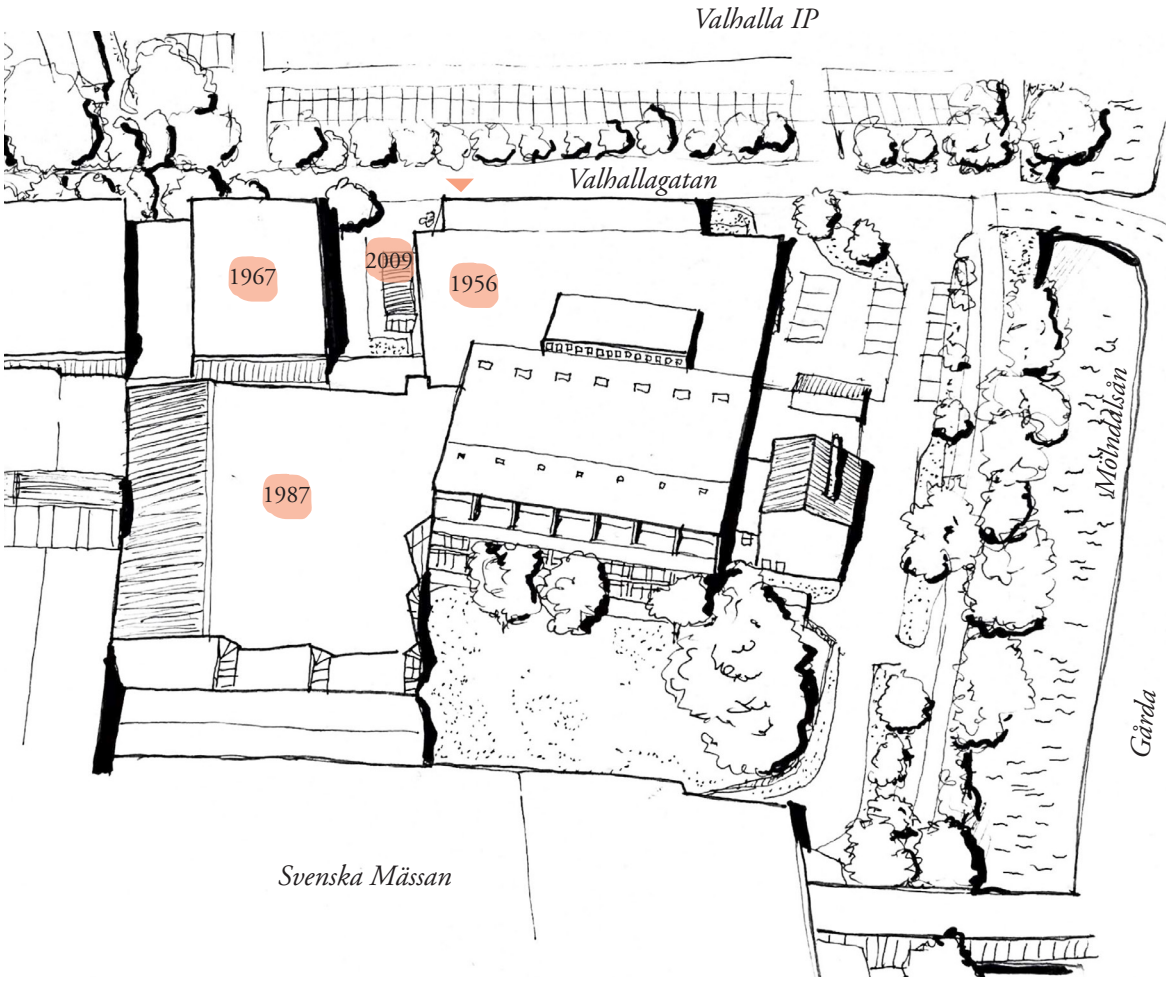
In the late 80's the largest change for Valhallabadet occurred. The outdoor pool was replaced with an indoor 50m pool. A large extension was built, attaching the south western parts of the original building (Peter & Lindgren, 2013). This extension was also connecting to Valhalla Sporthallar. This new addition was designed by White Architects in Gothenburg and in the original plans for the 50m pool, it was ready for bigger swimming competitions. According to the building permit drawings from 1985, the pool had spectator seating in two levels with many seats. Today there is only seating on one level and on the other level a gym is located. This makes the 50m pool not suitable for larger competitions due to lack of place for spectators according to Swedish Swimming Federation's national standards.

In the 1990's the changing rooms were rearranged in a modern way and could be used by more people at the same time. The lying cabins, in the main changing rooms, were totally removed and replaced by lockers. The shower rooms were also updated to a more modern form, more showers and less washing benches (Nilsson, 2001). It was in the middle of the 90's that the gym, earlier mentioned, took over the balcony level above the 50m pool.

In the 2000's some renovations and updates have been made, but not any larger ones. There have been updates in the changing rooms and repainting, but the intention has always been to keep Valhallabadet's 50's character and unique atmosphere (Peter & Lindgren, 2013). Though in 2009 there was an addition attached to the west side of the entrance façade. A sport shop's entrance was added, and it connected to Valhallabadet's basement level. The shop took over the old laundry hall located underneath the entrance hall of the bath (Building permit archive, Göteborg).



The Evolution of the footprint of Valhallabadet.



The volume of Valhallabadet from birds eye view (south).

FUTURE & DEBATE

"The Event Area"

In the south-central parts of Gothenburg there is an area called the "Event Area". It covers the roads of Skånegatan, Korsvägen, and a part of Södra Vägen. It is a 1.5km long path with several arenas, hotels and amusement facilities. Some of the known sport arenas and event centres are: Ullevi, Scandinavium, Lisebergshallen, Svenska Mässan, Universeum, Valhalla Sporthallar and the main character of this report: Valhallabadet.

The goal from the city of Gothenburg has been, and is, to gather sports, events and culture in this area together with hotels, good traffic communication, restaurants and other attractions. The goal is also to further develop and expand this area in the future. The main reason for that is because of the main arena, Scandinavium, is not living up to today's demands when it comes to holding larger events and sport games. There is also one sport hall, Lisebergshallen, that will be demolished due to new traffic solutions in the area. Valhalla Sporthallar will also be replaced with new updated arenas that will suit the practicing sports and school sport better (Sigfusson & von Corswant, 2017)

Except from building two new arenas in the event area, there is also plans for making the area, and Gothenburg as a whole, more attractive and living. There is a desire to create new meeting places. Therefore, there are plans for a new "centre for experiences" connected to Svenska Mässan, south of Valhallagatan. This new centre should contain commercial shopping and restaurants, but also partly hotels, offices and housing.

All these plans for the area will have the impact of moving or removing some of the already existing activities and facilities placed here. One of the locations for placing a new central bath is north of Valhallagatan, on Valhalla IP. Valhalla IP will then in turn move to another place in Gothenburg, called Heden (Göteborg Stad, 2017). Valhallabadet will be demolished due to the "centre for experiences"/ shopping mall, that will take up the baths land and extend the facilities of Svenska Mässan.

In conclusion there are many things that can be happening in this area of Gothenburg City centre. Though these new arena plans are on hold right now and the future is not set in stone yet (Rylander, Tornvik & Trollér, 2019). The demolition of Valhallabadet is not fully decided either, but most likely according to the strategies for Swimming Halls in Gothenburg (Sigfusson & von Corswant, 2017).

"Evenemangsstråket" Suggested expansion & transformation area

The "Event Area" & future plans' area.

Swimming Halls of Gothenburg

Gothenburg City has done an overall strategy for the swimming halls and public baths in Gothenburg. In this strategy it is stated that there is a need for a duplication of the pool capacity over the next 20 years. That is, according to Gothenburg City, an investment of 2.5 billion kronor. Their position when it comes to renovation is that they rather see newly built facilities than "patch and fix" old, unmodern facilities. Anyhow, the strategy both contains renovations of existing baths and building new ones.

In the strategy there are three kinds of baths:

- *Local Bath*, which should be used for swimming lessons, swim sports for youth and regular exercisers. *Criteria:* One 25m pool and one teaching pool with adjustable bottom.

- *Area Bath,* that should be able to offer the same things as a Local Bath, but it also needs to have more and better functions for families and the public. *Criteria:* One 25m pool, two teaching pools with adjustable bottom and a family department.

- ***Central Bath,*** which has an increased capacity for swimming lessons and regular exercise activities. It should be adapted to the swim sports' needs. ***Criteria:*** at least two 50m pools (one with adjustable bottom), two teaching/ warm pools and at least 2000 spectator seats. ***Additional criteria:*** No relax or family department, not bigger than 14-15.000m^2 and one of the 50m pools could be replaced by a 25m pool (Pheiffer & Sigfusson, 2018).

Further on when it comes to the definition of a Central Bath, Valhallabadet do not fulfil these criteria. There is also an impression that Valhallabadet is too worn out and cannot fulfil its function, so no bigger renovation plans exist today. The proposed solution is that the bath should be replaced by a newly built one, somewhere in the city centre of Gothenburg. The study about the location is an ongoing research. The main criterium for the new site is that it should be new. No new Central Bath will be placed on the same plot of Valhallabadet because of the inconvenience to stand without a larger swimming hall in approx. two years (Malmryd & Ramsby, 2016).

Four sites have been announced and researched in a location study for a new Central Bath, Heden, Gulbergsvass, Ringön and the "Event Area". The most wanted site is though in the "Event Area", because of a possible shorter building time and coordination with other new arenas that will be built in the area.

The plans for the other baths in Gothenburg are:

- Baths that will be kept and/or renovated are Lunbybadet, as a Hisingen *Area Bath* and Angered Arena, as a North East Gothenburg *Area Bath*. Frölundabadet will be renovated and extended and will act as a *Local Bath*. Hammarbadet and Kärra Simhall are going to remain as *Local Baths* until at least 2035.

- New baths that will be added are a new *Area Bath* to the Western parts of Gothenburg. It could be placed somewhere in Majorna-Linne. New *Local Baths* will be added in Kortedala/Bergsjön, Torslanda/Björlanda and one more not yet located.

- Baths that will be replaced are Askims Simhall and ***Valhallabadet*** (Malmryd & Ramsby 2016).

Map over Gothenburg & its public baths.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Technical conditions

According to Higab, which is a municipal owned company that holds the maintenance of Valhallabadet, the facilities' technical rooms are in worse condition than the public ones. The building therefore has a great need of renovation and there is a set budget for this, 150 million kronor, until 2035 (Larsson, 2016). The oldest part of the building has the most damage. There are partially problems due to subsidence and moisture. These damages are for example cracks in the façades and interior walls. The newer parts of Valhallabadet are in better condition.

The technical systems are in various conditions according to further information from Higab. Ventilation systems are using old technique and need to be renovated. The heat central was updated 2010. Tap and wastewater pipes are in general from the years when the different parts of the building were built (Larsson, 2016). Water treatment systems are from different eras but are working as they should. According information from a study visit, to the bath 2019-02-08, the circulation and purification of the pool water are working better than expected. Electricity installations are mostly old and out-dated and need to be changed (Larsson, 2016).

Structural conditions

Valhallabadet's older parts are founded on 35m long friction poles in wood. The overall building structure is made in concrete. The large hall containing the 25m pool is having both roof and ceiling in concrete which is held up by welded steel beams.

The façades are in half-stone, yellow, fluted bricks in a pattern of a "Monk bond". At some parts of the entrance façade, the bricks form infill walls between concrete frames painted in white. The bricks are not load bearing and are separated from the rest of the wall with an air gap (Nilsson, 2001).

In the 80's building, the structure that holds up the hall, over the 50m pool, consists out of large concrete pillars and glulam beams in two directions. I presume that the overall structure everywhere else consist out of concrete pillars and slabs.

A crack in the entrance façade.

Worn out staff entrance.

Unkempt & messy façades towards the northern yard.

Functional conditions

According to my experience and my survey about Valhallabadet, the bath is fulfilling the users demands of what to expect of a swimming hall but is lacking some standards for competition and general maintenance.

The airy entrance hall

The entrance hall is spacious and can be filled with a lot of people. This is good when it comes to having larger crowds gathered here, e.g. when there is an ongoing competition. But on ordinary days it feels a bit empty and have a lack of places to sit and wait while your child or friend is getting ready in the changing rooms. The reception is working quite well since it is visible when you enter the entrance hall and it is easy to see where you should go for buying your entrance fee.

Non efficient changing rooms

The main changing rooms take up a lot of space and are not very efficient. In one way it is a nice feature, since it rarely gets overcrowded. In another way there are a lot of corridors that you need to pass through, and it is easy to get lost. Another problem is that many showers and lockers are often broken.

The changing rooms that are connected to the newer parts of the building and the 50m pool is working very poorly. These rooms are mostly used by swimming clubs. Here there is lack of space, lockers and showers. There are no toilets and saunas accessible to the users, due to a division of the original lay out of the changing rooms. The other parts of these changing rooms are used by members of the gym SATS, which have got all the toilets and the entrances to the saunas.

The popular pools

The pools are working well and has a good environment for regular exercise and professional training. The 50m pool is popular since it is the only indoor, long course pool in Gothenburg. This pool often becomes overcrowded because of its popularity. The 50m pool has swimming competition measurements but has a lack of seating. Therefore, it cannot be used for bigger national or international competitions.

The 25m pool is not as popular, when it comes to regular exercisers. This pool is mostly used by different sport clubs or associations that book lanes or the whole pool. But the function of the pool is good, and people think it is a beautiful space to be in because of the mosaic art on the walls and the generous ceiling height. Though the measurements of the pool do not fulfil competition standards, on a higher level, for any of the swim sports. The lanes are to narrow, and therefore the width is too short. The seating is tough enough for holding nationals and youth nationals in swimming, so it has been granted exemptions to hold these competitions a few times.

Incoherent relax areas

The relax areas that are most used at the bath are located inside of the main changing rooms. This is an odd feature, but the spaces are quite popular and there are many people that come to the bath just for these activities.

Except from the internal relax areas there is a Roman Bath in the basement of the building. This place is hidden and not very popular. Many haven't even heard of it. This is a pity because the environment down there is beautiful and mostly original.

Lack of support functions

There is a general lack of toilets in the swimming halls. There is only one that is close by the 50m pool, since the changing rooms here doesn't have any. Other toilets are placed far away inside of the main changing rooms or behind the trampolines in the 25m pool hall. There is also an impression that there is lack of storage because of the many things that are just "laying around" in the halls.

The unpleasant Café

The café is dark and quite unpleasant. It is placed in-between the two swimming halls and is blocking the flow between them. There is a feeling that anyone can sit in the café, fully dressed, and look at people wearing swimsuits inside of the halls.

PROGRAM & FLOWS

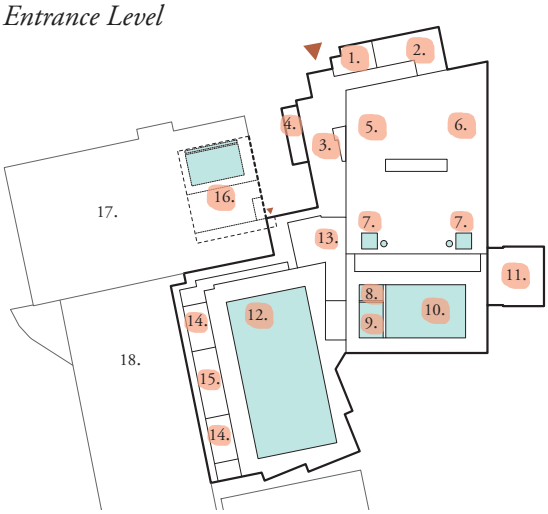
Program

Following square meters do not cover up the whole building and no numbers are exact. The chart consists of important numbers that I have looked at when making the inventory.

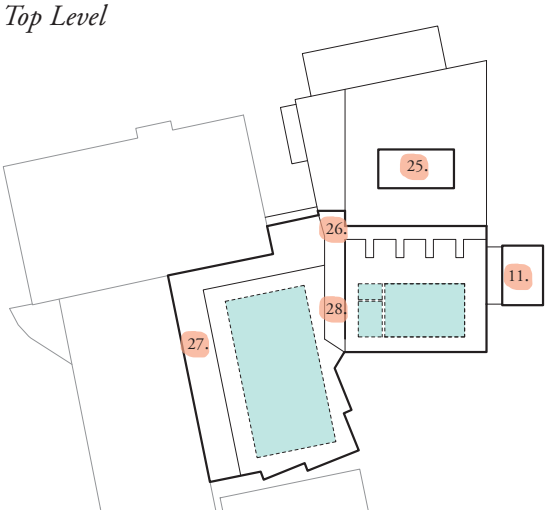
Communication space	1185m^2
Entrance hall	410m^2
Corridors (entrance level)	775m^2
Changing rooms	1470m^2
Main	1100m^2
Sport	100m^2
Rehab	170m^2
Roman Bath	100m^2
Relax area	725m^2
Internal	415m^2
Roman Bath	310m^2
Swimming halls	3230m^2
25m pool hall	1000m^2
50m pool hall	2230m^2
Café	315m^2
Hired out spaces	3090m^2
SATS (gym)	1250m^2
Shop	790m^2
Other	1050m^2

Program

Entrance Level



Top Level



Basement Level

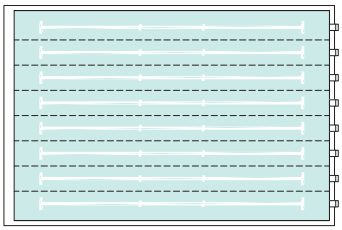
Functions:

1. Massage & treatments
2. Admin offices, bath staff
3. Entrance hall with reception
4. "Klubbhuset", sport shop
5. Women's changing rooms
6. Men's changing rooms
7. Internal relax departments
8. Paddling pool
9. Teaching pool
10. 25m pool
11. Heating Central
12. 50m pool
13. Café & kitchen
14. Changing rooms for SATS (gym)
15. Changing rooms for clubs
16. Warm/rehab bath
17. Valhalla Sporthallar (sport halls)
18. Wallenstamhallen (ice rink)
19. Office S02 (swimming club)
20. Dugout (shelter room)
21. Friskis & Svettis (gym)
22. Staff changing rooms
23. Roman Bath
24. Machine hall & technical space
25. Old gymnastic hall
26. Upper Foyer
27. SATS (gym)
28. Dry land training/press stands

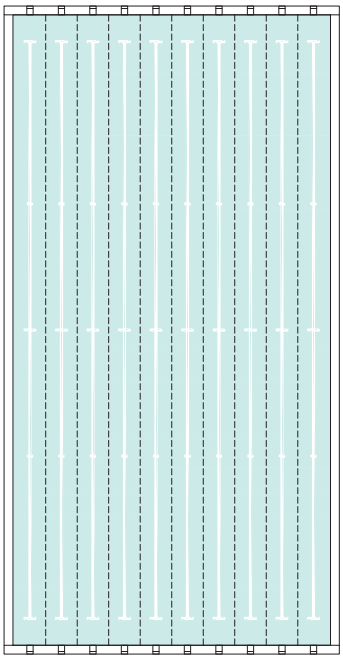
Pools

Central bath criteria that are not fulfilled:
- Width of the 25m pool is 4 and 2/3m to narrow.
- Teaching pools do not have adjustable bottoms
- The number of seats is too few for the 50m pool

Swimming Pools

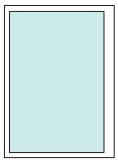


25m Pool
Width: 16 2/3m
Length: 25m
Depth: 2.1, 4.5, 4.85m
Temperature: 27 °C
Spectator seats: ca. 1600



50m Pool
Width: 25m
Length: 50m
Depth: 1.8m
Temperature: 26°C
Spectator seats: ca. 230

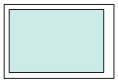
Training Pools



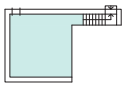
Teaching Pool
Width: 7.5m
Length: 11m
Depth: 0.9-1.2m
Temperature: no info

Rehab bath
Width: 10m
Length: 16m
Depth: 0.9-1.2m
Temperature: no info

Other Pools



Paddling pool
Width: 5m
Length: 7m
Depth: 0.3m
Temperature: no info



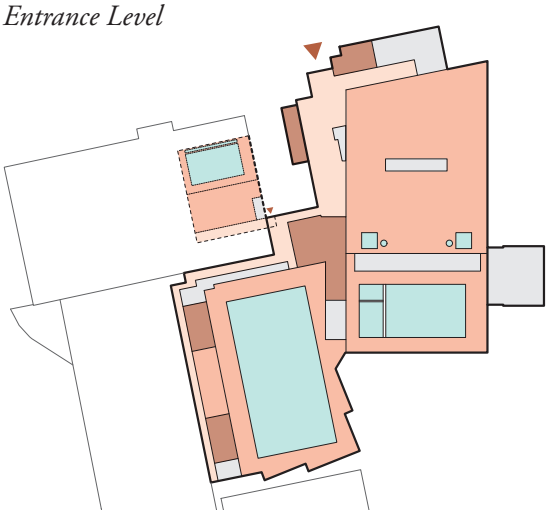
Cold pools (x2)
Temperature: ca. 16°C

Bubble pools (x2)
Temperature: ca. 34°C

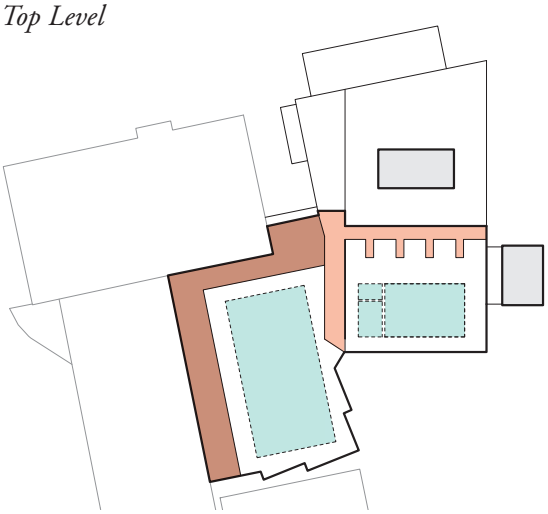
Roman bath
Temperature: 9°C

Zones

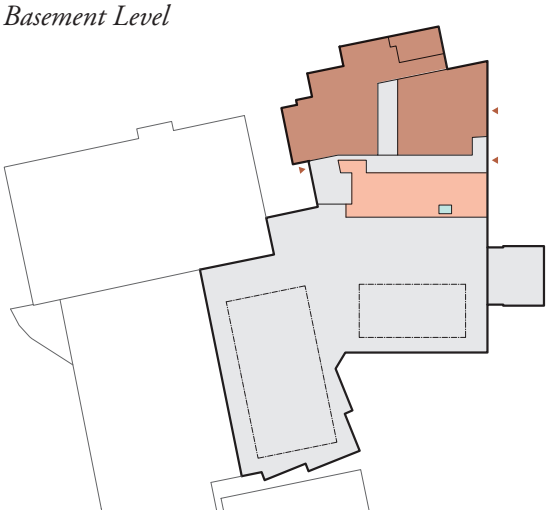
Entrance Level



Top Level



Basement Level

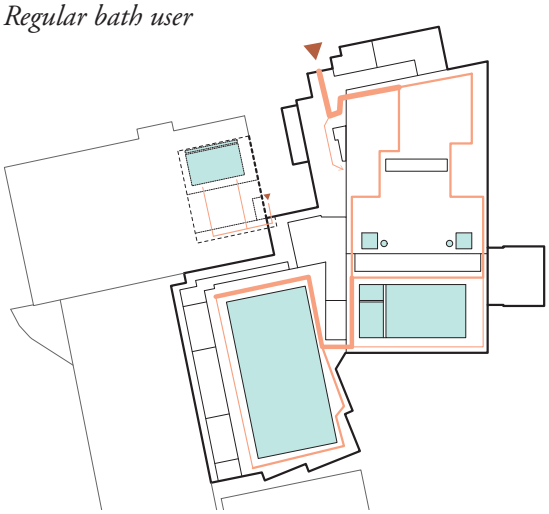


Zones:

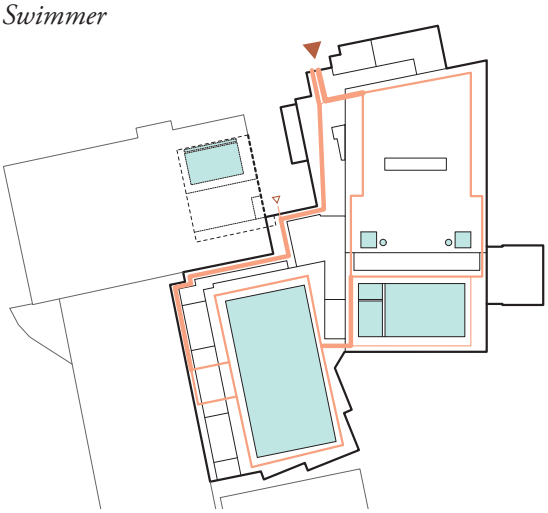
- Public, no entrance fee
- Public, entrance fee
- Hired out spaces
- Pools
- Non public (staff, technical space, unused space & support functions)

Flows

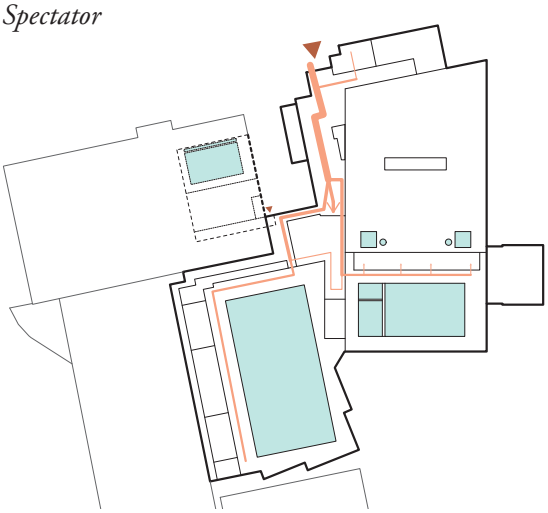
Regular bath user



Swimmer



Spectator



Flows at the entrance level:

There are different flows for different user groups. The regular bath users are the ones that come to Valhalla with various intentions. They are swimming and taking relax moments. These people can go back and forth from the sauna out to the swimming hall again. The have the most unpredictable flow.

The swimmers have a stricter schedule and time slot. Mainly going in for the exercise, then hurrying to the changing rooms and going out again after the training. But they can of course stay in the sauna after the work out (or before) as well.

The spectators can be both parents, who come and look or wait while their children have swimming lessons or training. But it could also be spectators for a competition. These group mainly spend time in the café or on the spectator seating.

CHARACTERIZATION

Exterior

Entrance/North Façade

Façades are mainly in yellow, fluted half stone bricks. Sometimes framed within the concrete construction and exposing the structure of the building. At some places, the entrance façade is covered in plaster painted in a colour that matches the bricks yellow tone. Window frames are in white wood and some parts in light green. The green colour corresponds back to roof colour over the entrance, which is made by folded metal sheets in a copper like material.

On the Northern façade of the building, that connects Valhallabadet to Valhalla Sporthallar, there are a lot of things happening. Horizontal wooden panels painted grey-blue (and repainted in the "wrong colour"), Danish sea stone, yellow bricks from two different time eras with a visible seam and a plinth in concrete, are making the facade somewhat a patchwork.



East Façade

The roof scape looks a bit like waves when looking at the building from the east side. This is because of the several different roof angles and the various volumes of the building. This façade is somewhat a closed one and there are fences to lock out people from goods entrances and chemical storage. The building volume with a chimney is the old heat central.


Façades towards the yard/South

On the southern façades, which are facing the yard, there are larger windows. Especially the 1950's part is opening up towards this side. This for making a lot of sunlight come into the swimming halls, which are located inside of these façades. On the 1950's part there is a large balcony coming out of the façade, which initially were used as a place for sunbathing by the users of the indoor bath.

The 1980's part is exposing less. This façade is formed in a zig-zag shape, where the windows are full height and placed in the corners of the pattern. These windows end with sloping roofs and make them have a strong shape in the design.

Materials are yellow bricks and white metal frames around the windows on the newer parts. On the older parts, the cream yellow metal sheets are dominating, and the windows do also have the same colour and material on their frames.

West Façade

On the West side, Valhallabadet has got an added shop building, which is mainly looking like store front in its all glazed walls. The original façade that lies behind this shop is a quite strict brick façade with highly placed windows, in a regular order, and a concrete plinth painted in white.

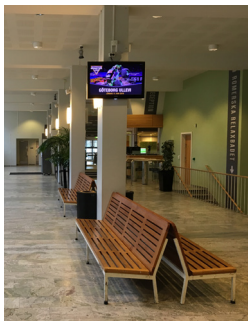
Interior

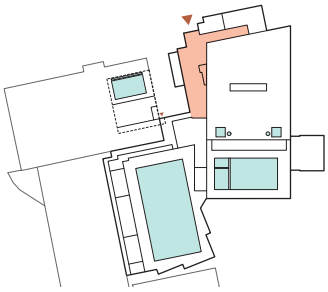
Entrance Hall

Straight ahead, when you enter the building, there is an elongated entrance hall with a reception, seating and a stair up to the spectator seating. There is also a connection to a café and a corridor that leads to 50m pool's changing rooms and the sport halls facilities.

To the left side there is a large corridor which leads to the administration part of the bath, offices for the staff and two conference rooms.

There are wooden accents in form of door frames and railings. There is also walls painted in a light green colour in the entrance hall. The floor is original marble from 1950's.



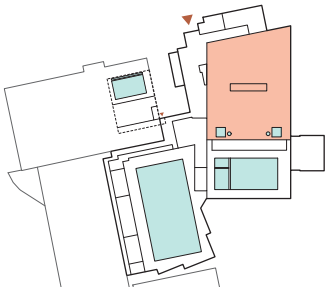


Entrance Level

Main changing rooms & internal relax

The main changing rooms are dominated by chequered patterns in different formations, colours and from different eras. The main colours are grey, bright red, rusty red, dirty green (grey green) and white, with wooden accents.

There are also parts that are beige and even other parts that have the original flooring, which has smaller tiles and another colour spectrum, yet chequered. Those parts are mainly in the corridors in-between the different rooms in the changing rooms, but also in the internal relax areas that are located in the end of the changing rooms. However, most of the materials in the changing rooms are not original and have been changed during time.

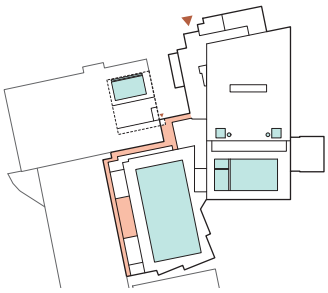


Entrance Level

Sport changing rooms & corridors

The corridors that leads to the support functions and additional changing rooms close to the 50m pool consist of different parts. The first, most close to the entrance hall, are light and has a grey and white terrazzo flooring and white walls. Next part has a beige linoleum carpet, a quite low ceiling and yellow bricks as wall material. In the last parts of it, the flooring is in rough beige tiles. The walls are still in yellow bricks, but here the ceiling height is a bit higher. There are visible construction parts, painted in bright primary colours.

Inside of the changing rooms there is the same flooring material as in the last part of the corridor. Lockers are in light blue, walls in yellow bricks and green doors. The rooms are narrow, and the ceiling is partly low due to load bearing beams.



Entrance Level

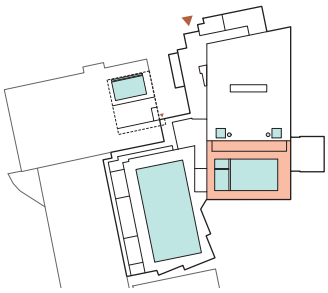
Swimming Hall (25m pool)

Here there are a lot of original materials or materials that have been changed to new ones, with a similar appearance. The most outstanding features are the colourful original mosaic walls, which are art pieces made by Nils Wedel, and the generous ceiling height, which allows both a lot of light to come in through the almost full height windows and enables fixed seating in a stair formation on the opposite side.

The large windows towards the yard are asymmetrically framed in teak and are placed between the load bearing pillars. The pillars are in concrete covered with glass mosaic and have a tapered shape. The indoor glass panels, towards the café, have been changed from teak to steel frames during the 2000's.

The new flooring is based on the original tile's colours, which are warm beige, white, grey, light green, grey purple, grey blue and pink. On the seating there is another similar tile pattern, but lighter using mostly white tiles but with some tiles in grey, salmon pink and grey purple.

There are slim and sculptural white painted concrete trampolines in different heights and staircases that leads up to a balcony originally used for sunbathing. The 25m pool is equipped with modern starting blocks and framed with a border of granite.



Entrance Level

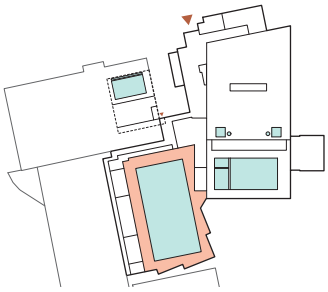
Swimming Hall (50m)

In the hall, which is containing the 50m pool, the most characteristic element is the visible glulam beams resting on rounded white painted concrete pillars, which are the construction that holds up the roof over the pool.

The flooring looks like an 80's interpretation of the original flooring in the 25m pool hall. An irregular chequered tile pattern with beige, grey blue and rust red floor tiles.

The walls are mainly in yellow brick, but there are also wooden panels and parts with sheet materials in various green-blue shades framed in darker green-blue metal frames.

The room is not as generous in ceiling height as the older hall and do not have as much windows either. Though the windows are letting in morning light that becomes reflected in the pool water, which is beautiful even though there is no special view to look out on when swimming.



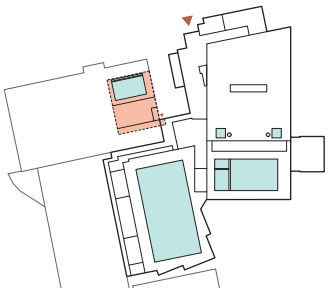
Entrance Level

Rehab/Warm Bath

The warm bath, that is mainly used for swimming lessons and rehab, is located a bit off from the other facilities and pools of Valhallabadet. It exists a half level down, in the connected building were the sport halls are. Here there is mainly white tiles and blue accents as materials. In the changing rooms there are orange lockers in a typical 70's style. The overall look is like an average bath facility from the 70's.

The room where the two pools are, is newly renovated with all new surface materials on the floor, in the pool and on the walls.

The atmosphere of this department is quite institutional and do not have "anything extra" to give, but it shows another layer of the building.



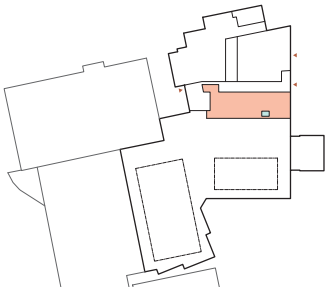
Half level down from Entrance Level

The Roman Bath

One level down, from the entrance level, there is a Roman bath open for the public to book visits and treatments in. This department contains a lot of original materials from 1959.The flooring, in grey and alternated block colours in yet another chequered pattern, is original. The "lying cabins", intentionally made for relax are also in their original shape. They are made from beechwood and has lighting for reading and a day bed for resting.

The pool is looking almost the same as the cold pools in the changing rooms upstairs. It has got marble edges, turquoise tiles inside of it and the same tiles as the seating in the 25m pool hall on its outer sides. On the wall behind the pool, there is art from Taisto Kaasinen, which was an artist employed at the famous, Swedish ceramic company Upsala-Ekeby. The motive is inspired by the sea, with its fishes and seaweed.

Additional to the cold Roman bath there is also room for dry brushing and cleaning yourself on marble benches. There are also changing rooms and saunas connected to the cleaning and bathing.



Basement Level

Summary

Even though there is a mishmash of different materials, eras and colours in this building there are some elements that can summarize the building's main characteristics when it comes to material choices and design language:

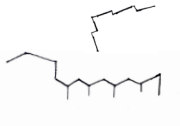
Chequered patterns in various forms.

Yellow bricks from different time eras.

Visible concrete construction, in many façades and partly in the interior.

Wooden details in noble woods. Teak door frames and railings for example.

Glass details in geometrical forms that stands out from the rest.



Angular wave shapes in roof scape and facade.

Marble details.

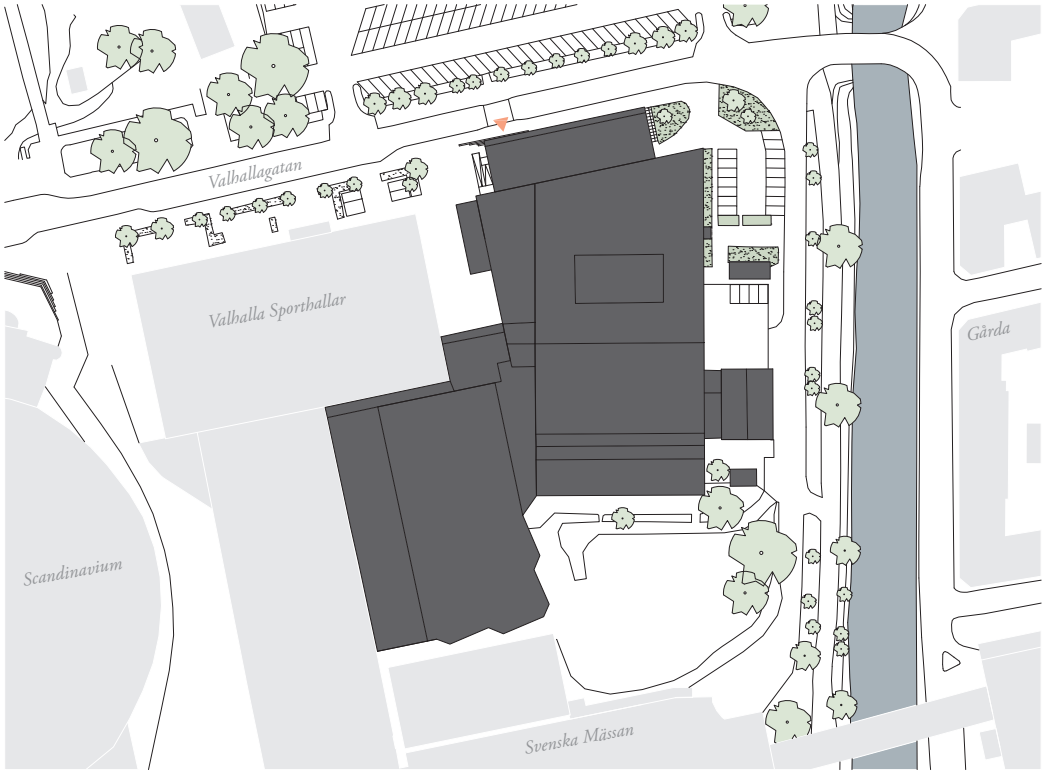
The accent colours are divided in two different blocks:

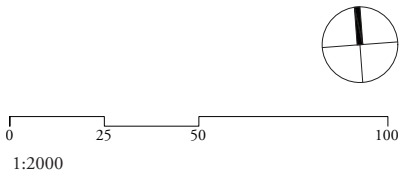
1. Pastel colours with a little shade of grey. Salmon Pink, dirty green, grey purple, vanilla beige, light grey and grey blue.

2. Primary colours. Red, green, blue and yellow, but also bright orange.

EXISTING DRAWINGS

Site Plan





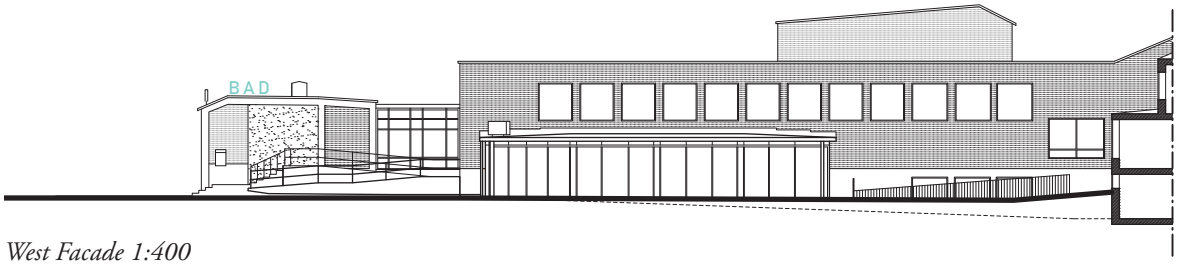
Façades

Entrance Facade 1:800

0 5 10 20 30 40

1:800

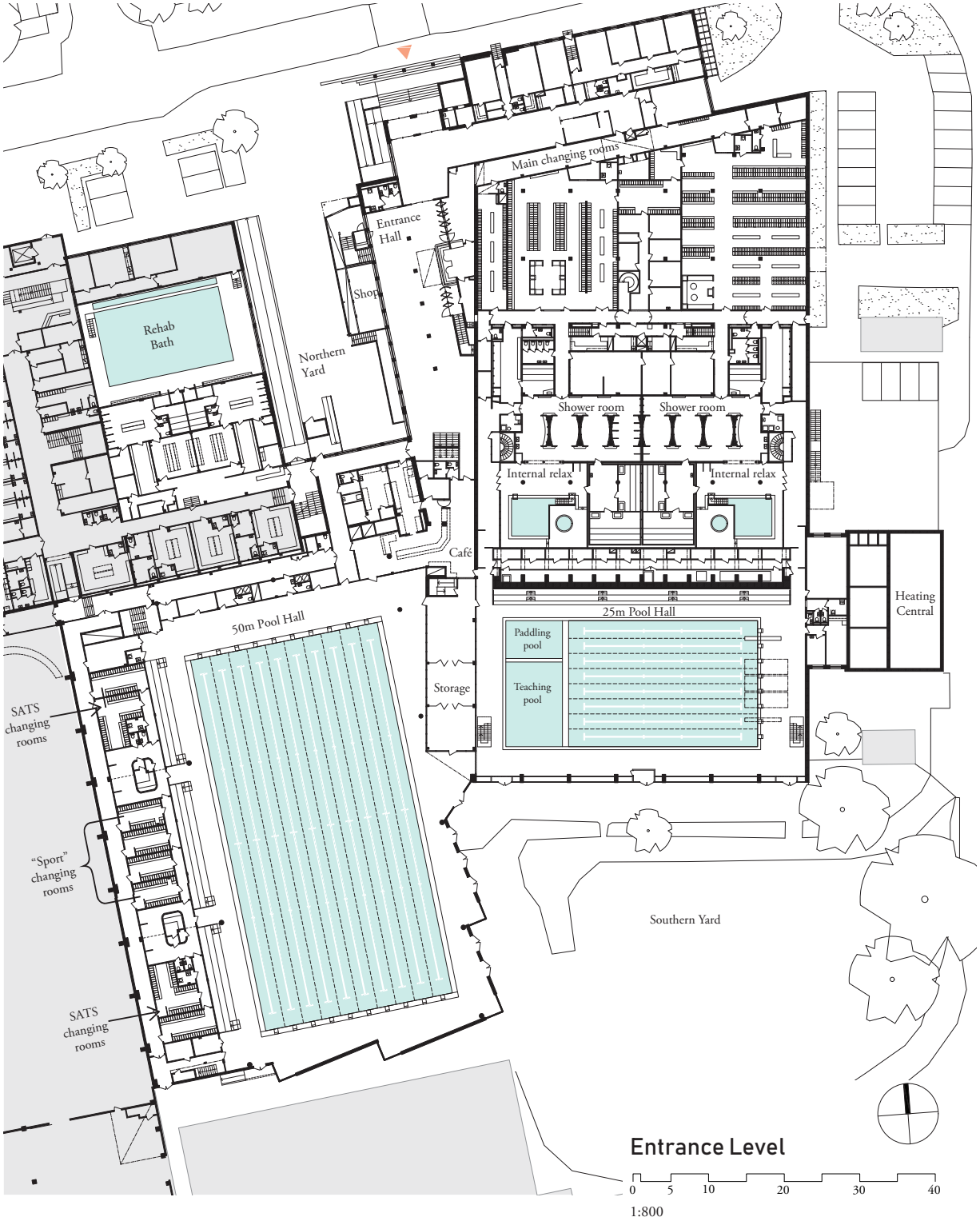
Entrance Facade 1:400

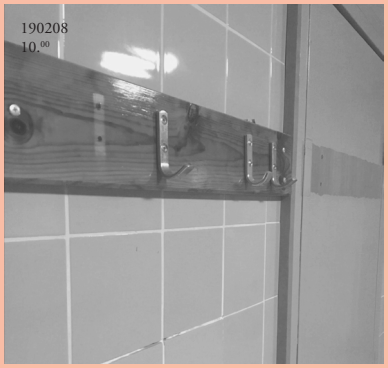


West Facade 1:400

0 1 5 10 15 20

1:400


Main changing rooms
Entrance Hall
Shop
Rehab Bath
Northern Yard
Shower room
Shower room
Internal relax
Internal relax
Café
Heating Central
25m Pool Hall
Paddling pool
Teaching pool
Storage
50m Pool Hall
SATS changing rooms
"Sport" changing rooms
SATS changing rooms
Southern Yard
Entrance Level
0 5 10 20 30 40
1:800



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SWOT ANALYSIS

Strengths

- Central placement in Gothenburg
- Clear identity for citizens of Gothenburg
- Attracts various users
- Combines sports and recreation
- Cultural environment
- Original materials, of high value, are preserved
- Historical layers are kept and clearly showed
- Spaciousness
- Has got many different pools
- Gothenburg's only indoor 50m-pool
- Popular swimming hall
- Beautiful interiors

Weaknesses

- Lack of maintenance
- Lack of order
- Incoherent relationships between different activities
- Unclear flows and long distances to walk
- Unclear brand with inadequate signage and logos
- Lack of competition standards for swim sports
- Skew distributed utilization of the various pools
- Lack of some accessibility standards
- Incoherent colour scheme and material choices in the newer parts of the building
- Unused and misused spaces

Opportunities

- Growing interest for swim sports
- Growing interest for cultural environments
- Social engagement in preservation
- New plans for the surrounding sites
- Changed plans for the site of Valhallabadet
- A renovation decision
- Political environment
- Continuation of popularity

Threats

- Continuation of the "mania" for demolition and building new in Gothenburg
- A demolition decision
- Ignorance and carelessness about cultural environments and preservation
- Consideration of maximizing economic profits
- Continued lack of maintenance of the building > decay
- Growing interest for swim sports > lack of space
- Political environment
- A renovation decision can threaten the activities > financial loss and loss of practitioners in clubs

PROBLEMS & PRESERVATION

Problem Formulation

From the inventory and the analysis of the building, a set of problems and challenges with Valhallabadet was derived.

Logistic problems:

The flows of the building are complicated and hard to follow. Many twists and turns in the corridors. There are also long distances to walk for the users.

Wayfinding problems:

Mainly due to the complicated flows the building is hard to orientate in. This is also due to lack of sight lines and incoherent sign program.

Coherence problems:

There is lack of coherence between similar functions in the building. It is sometimes hard to move from one function to another in an easy way. Especially the Roman Bath has a lack of connection with other functions, which it could benefit from having interaction with.

Utilization problems:

There are functions that take up more space than they need. Also, there are functions that could benefit from switching position in the building. There are unused spaces as well. Fixing these problems could both make the economy and the logistics better.

User demand problems:

The bath does not fulfil important user groups' demands. It is partly about the lack of competition standards and partly about the relax standards and general maintenance. Upgrading these parts would make the bath more attractive to different user groups.

Preservation Motifs

The inventory and the analysis did not only bring a set of challenges and problems, it did also give a picture of what parts of the building that is in need to be preserved. Also, motifs for why the building should be saved and not demolished.

Why should Valhallabadet be saved?

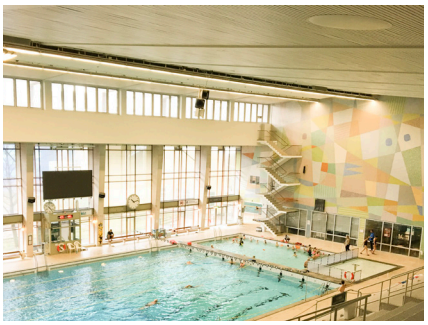
- The citizens of Gothenburg have a strong relationship to the bath.
- The building has a clear identity in the city of Gothenburg.
- The building does have a lot of well-preserved details and interiors.
- A well-preserved whole.
- Interiors and materials are beautiful and reflects upon the spirit of the different construction years of the building.
- The building can be a pedagogic resource.
- There are transformation possibilities that can be an economic win for the operation of the bath.
- According to similar reference projects a renovation, of a bath from the 50's, is not an impossible solution.

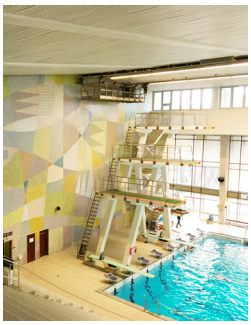
Preservation: what, why & how?

This is what I have decided to preserve in my design proposal. It is also written shortly why and how I preseve it.

The 25m pool hall.

The original 50's swimming hall will be preserved and completely restored because of its high values both artistically and architectural, but also for its characteristic identity. This room is the one that is most associated with Valhallabadet's atmosphere and it leaves the most impression on the visitor. Therefore no widening of the pool will be made.





The Entrance Hall.

The entrance hall's design and volume will be preserved and further developed. The room has a high-quality marble floor with a patina that shows the passing of time without being worn out. Some things will be replaced in the entrance hall and the location of entrances into the various functions will be moved.

The Roman bath.

The Roman bath, and its related functions, will be preserved primarily for its original materials (tile art, marble benches and floors) and condition. The weakness that exists today, that the bath is "a hidden gem", can be solved by connecting these areas to other relax areas on the same level, and on the level above. In that way the bath's mysterious character will be revealed and can hopefully be used more often.

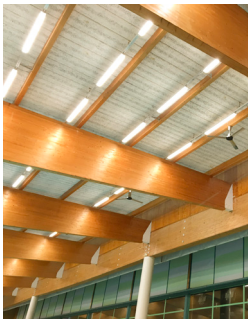
Internal relax areas.

Preserved partly because of functional qualities and partly because of its materials and atmospheric qualities. The cold pools are in original design and do work well. Connected sauna areas are particularly spacious, in a good way. They have a soothing atmosphere due to lighting, material selection and ceiling height.

The saunas and the pools are also popular for some visitors who only visit the bath because of the relaxing qualities. In a renovation, these parts can be opened up for everyone, regardless of gender, and can be connected to additional relaxation functions. In this way, additional areas and qualities are created for the visitors who are looking for a relaxing experience.

The 50m pool hall.

This hall is mainly preserved due to its functionality, but also because of the beautiful visible construction.
In a renovation, surface materials, such as tiles, will be changed or renovated. Surrounding brick walls will partly be saved and partly modified, at the entrance level. On the level above, surrounding walls will be removed in order to make place for spectator seating.



Façades

The façades towards the entrance, with its welcoming and characteristic neon signs, will be preserved. Most of the other facades are also important for preserving the building as a whole. Though the lower building's, connecting to Valhalla Sporthallar, facade is in a less good shape and can be partly changed.

Concept

From the problems and preservation motifs a concept for the renovation proposal has been formulated.

Change the logistics:

Create a more logic flow. Above all, a better flow from entrance to changing rooms and out to the swimming halls. The main flow should also be shorter

Clarify & improve wayfinding:

By simplifying the logistics, the orientation possibilities also increase. However, a change in the signage program should also take place.

Make coherence:

Connect pools with similar function, especially relax pools. Still there should be a kept possibility of shielding some pools of from the remaining activities at e.g. a swimming competition.

Take advantage of unused spaces and relocate functions:

In a redistribution of functions, the positions should be more logic and unused spaces can get new functions or be hired out to external activities.

Involve and invite more user types:

This is partly about enabling swimming competitions at a higher level in the 50m pool by adding more spectator opportunities. Partly it is about making new departments for the public, such as a coherent department for relax and recreation. This means that more various groups can visit the bath.

Keep valuable environments:

Restore environments of high cultural value. Take advantage of these environments and integrate them in the renovation plan.

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DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL

The design proposal can be said to be like a first investigation of a renovation. Focus has been on relocating functions and zones for improving the problems and challenges that have been identified.

Renovation actions

The renovation proposal is based upon the concept that I presented in the previous chapter.

Change the logistics & improve wayfinding:
For making the flows more logic the entrances to the different functions are more visible in the entrance hall. Changing rooms are relocated to a central spot and corridor have less twist and turns.

Take advantage of unused spaces and relocate functions:
In the proposal the changing rooms are moved and therefore releases free space close to the entrance. This space can be rented out to a e.g. a gym. The changing rooms themselves also uses previously unused space; the northern yard.

Make coherence & keep valuable environments:
In the proposal all relax pools are gathered in a coherent space as its own department. The new relax area involves the existing cold baths and saunas, on the entrance level, and combines it with new functions and the Roman bath on the level beneath.

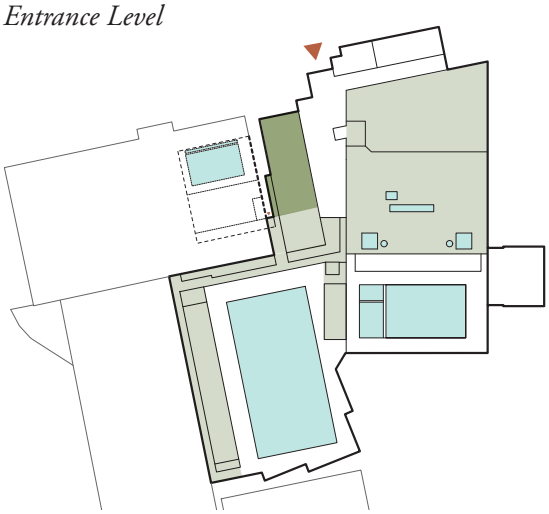
The swimming pools do also have better connections between each other, but there is still a possibility to close them off from each other.

Involve and invite more user types:
Spectator seats are added to the 50m pool and bigger swimming competitions can be held. The sport practitioners do also have their own well functioning changing rooms in this proposal, which is a upgrade from today's situation.

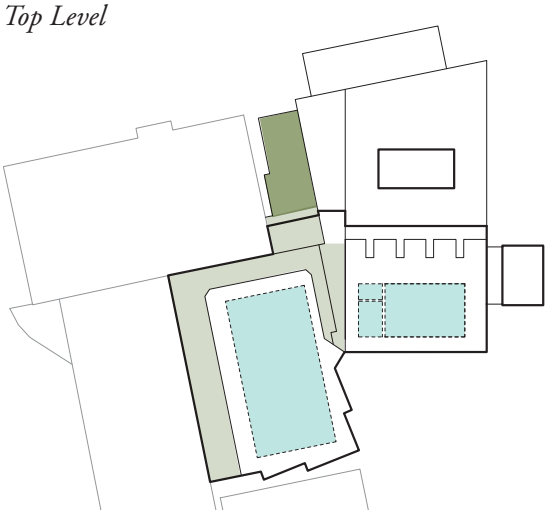
The added relax department do also attract new user groups and opens up for new types of "membership" and fees for the bath.

Renovation Strategy

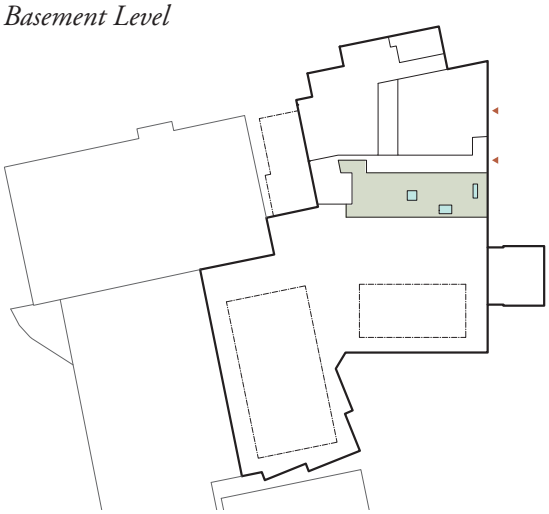
Entrance Level



Top Level



Basement Level



Strategy:

Addition

Transformation

PROGRAM & FLOWS

Public corridors' amount of space has been reduced by 285m^2.

The entrance hall has approximately the same number of square meters but are programmed in another way, which takes more advantage of the room's direction and space.

The number of places to change has been distributed over different changing rooms, connected to different users. The main changing rooms' area has shrunk, but the other changing rooms' area has increased in order to be able to work properly. This makes it possible to use different places to change according to what type of activity.

Relax areas has increased with 445m^2 and are now a coherent space inside of the building.

The swimming hall's area has not been changed in the proposal.

The café has the same amount of space but are moved up one level in the building, both in order to make the movement at the entrance level more efficient but also for make use of the top level of the building, also when no competition is ongoing.

Hired out spaces for one of the gym's has been moved to a more visible location, close to the entrance. This gym is also now located just above the other existing gym and can have a possible interaction with each other.

Proposed Numbers

Following square meters do not cover up the whole building and no numbers are exact. The chart consists of important numbers that I have looked at when making the inventory.

Communication space	890m^2
Entrance hall	400m^2
Corridors (entrance level)	490m^2
Changing rooms	1270m^2
Main	510m^2
Sport	330m^2
Rehab	170m^2
Relax	260m^2
Relax area	1170m^2
Swimming halls	3230m^2
25m pool hall	1000m^2
50m pool hall	2230m^2
Café	300m^2
Hired out spaces	2740m^2
SATS (gym)	960m^2
Shop	840m^2
Other	940m^2

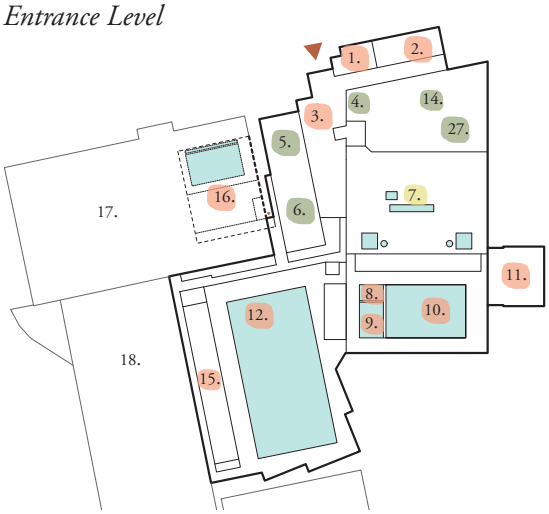
Saved activity

Moved activity

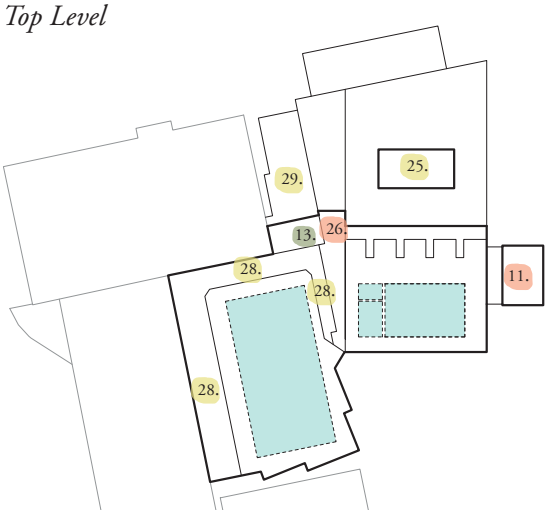
New activity

Proposed Program

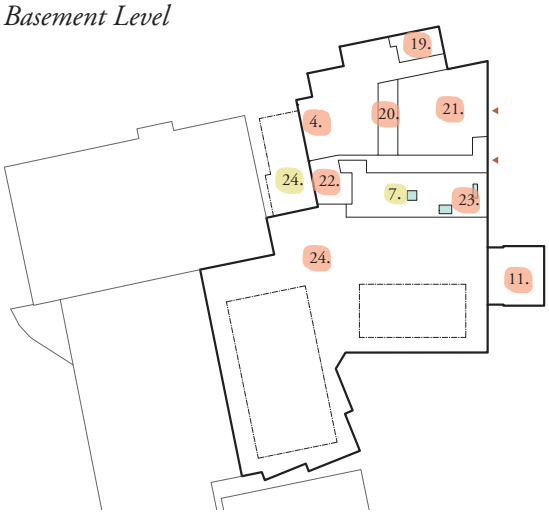
Entrance Level



Top Level



Basement Level



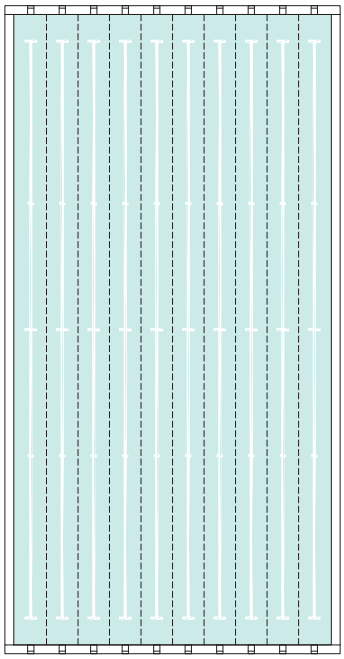
Functions:

1. Massage & treatments
2. Admin offices, bath staff
3. Entrance hall with reception
4. "Klubbhuset", sport shop
5. Women's changing rooms
6. Men's changing rooms
7. New Relax department
8. Paddling pool
9. Teaching pool
10. 25m pool
11. Heating Central
12. 50m pool
13. Café & kitchen
14. Changing rooms for SATS (gym)
15. Changing rooms for clubs
16. Warm/rehab bath
17. Valhalla Sporthallar (sport halls)
18. Wallenstamhallen (ice rink)
19. Office S02 (swimming club)
20. Dugout (shelter room)
21. Friskis & Svettis (gym)
22. Staff changing rooms
23. Roman Bath
24. Machine hall & technical space
25. Yoga Hall
26. Upper Foyer
27. SATS (gym)
28. Spectator seats
29. Roof garden

Added Pools & Changes

All existing pools are retained in the proposal. However, the 50m pool will be upgraded to have more spectator seats. The new pools, in this proposal, are only different relax baths for the new relax department of Valhallabadet.

Swimming Pools



50m Pool
Width: 25m
Length: 50m
Depth: 1.8m
Temperature: 26°C
Spectator seats: 1460

Relax Pools

Hot Pool
Temperature: 38°C

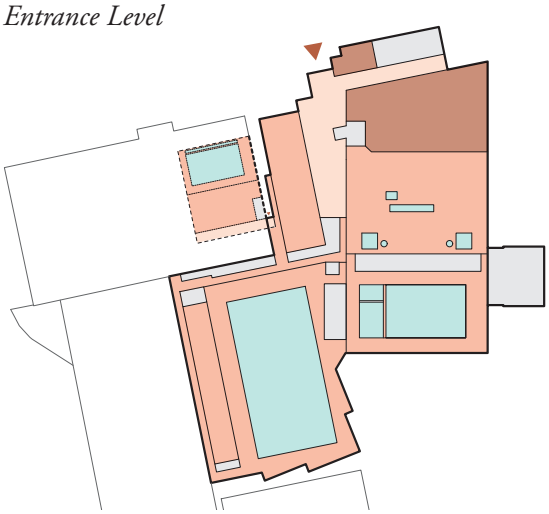
Infinity Pool
Temperature: 28°C

Semi Cold Pool
Temperature: 20°C

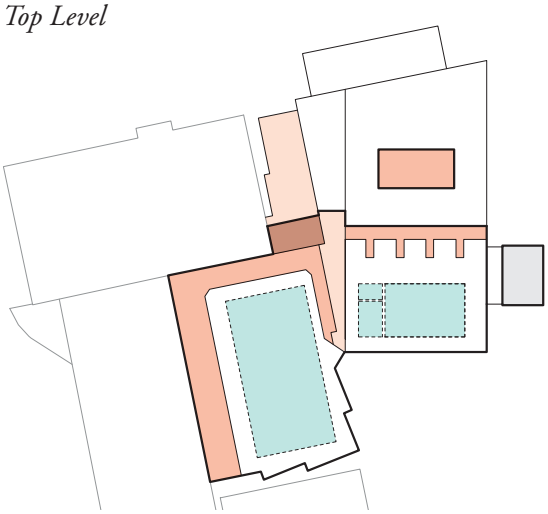
WarmPool
Temperature: 34°C

Proposed Zones

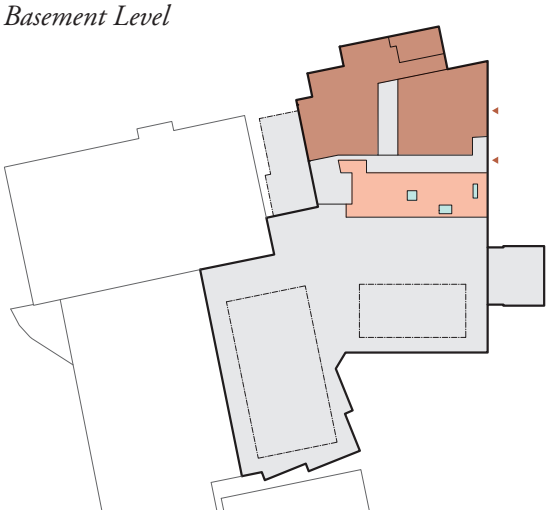
Entrance Level



Top Level



Basement Level

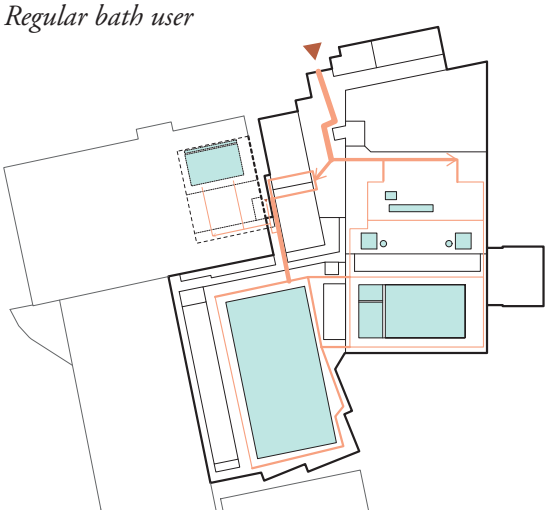


Zones:

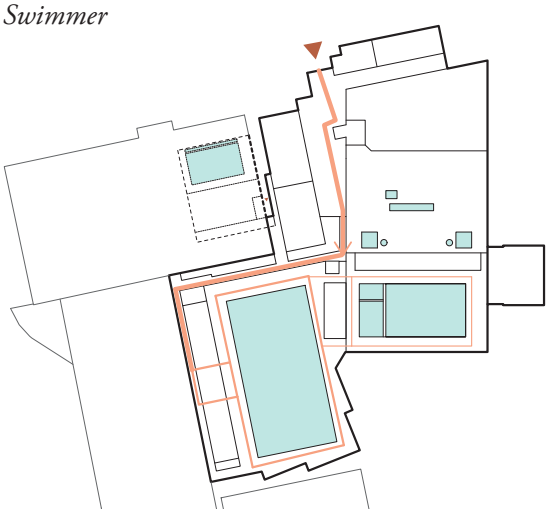
- Public, no entrance fee
- Public, entrance fee
- Hired out spaces
- Pools
- Non public (staff, technical space, unused space & support functions)

Proposed Flows

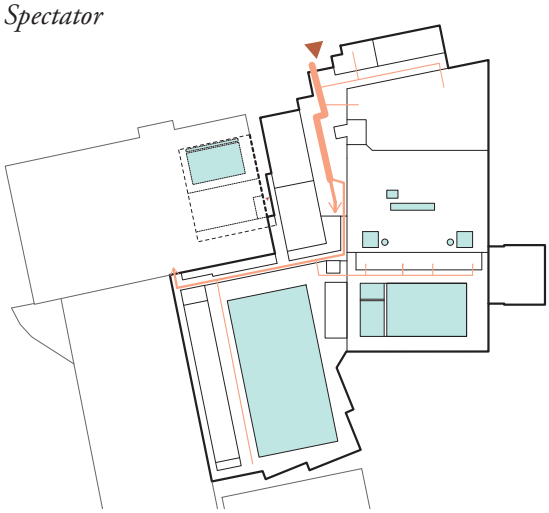
Regular bath user



Swimmer



Spectator



Flows at the entrance level:

The bathers can choose if they will use only the swimming pools, only the relax or both. By different fees for different options and a programmed band/chips that allows only the pre-paid option chosen by the user. Regardless of the chosen option, the flow from the changing rooms, out to its connected activity/pools, will be shorter and easier.

The swimmers will have their own changing rooms. This will make the swimmer's experience more efficient and less time consuming.

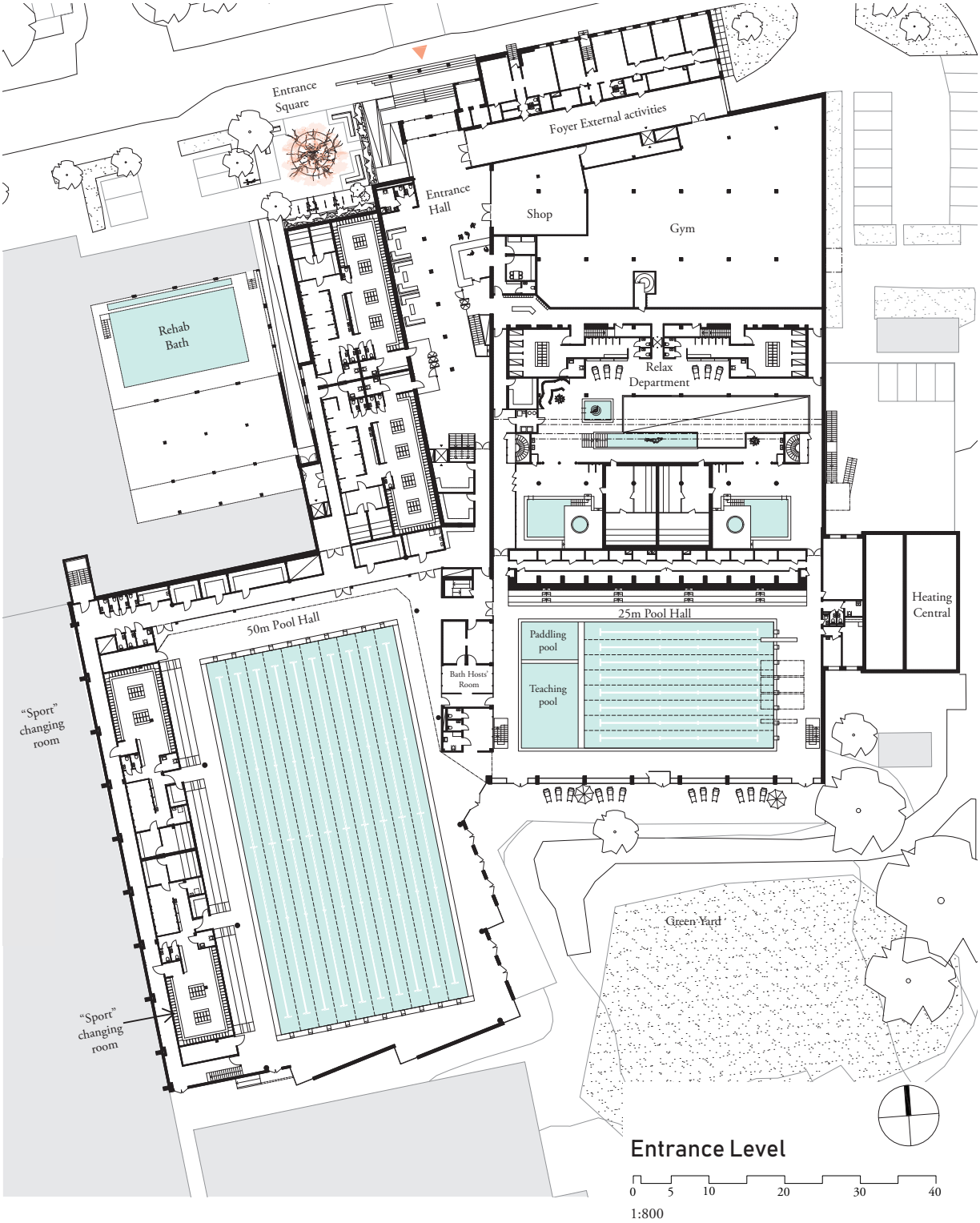
The spectators and visitors have somewhat the same flow, but even more focused on going up one level. This because the café is moved up one level and also the entry to the 50m pool's spectator area and seats.

DRAWINGS

Site plan

0 25 50 100

1:2000


Entrance Square
Foyer External activities
Entrance Hall
Shop
Gym
Rehab Bath
Relax Department
50m Pool Hall
25m Pool Hall
Paddling pool
Teaching pool
Bath Hosts' Room
Heating Central
"Sport" changing room
"Sport" changing room
Green Yard
Entrance Level
0 5 10 20 30 40
1:800

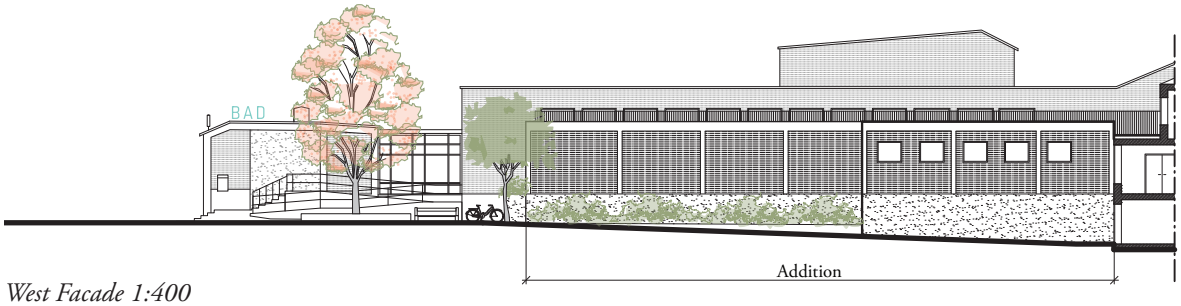
Façades

Entrance Facade 1:800

0 5 10 20 30 40

1:800

Entrance Facade 1:400



West Facade 1:400

0 1 5 10 15 20

1:400

Adding to the existing

The extension

The extension is quite a solid volume, since it only contains changing rooms where you, as the user, should not be exposed. Therefore, it is not important for this additional volume to be in a spectacular shape or be glazed.

The extension is, in this proposal, more of a volume study than an exact design. However, there are some initial ideas of how it could look like and how it will relate to the already existing buildings.

One idea is that the new volume has a resemblance with the existing entrance façade and work as a rather seamless addition to the old. This by taking in existing design elements such as having a visible construction in the facade, highly placed windows, copper details and yellow bricks. There is also a similarity between the addition's roof lanterns and the already existing lanterns in the 80's part of Valhallabadet.

The additional volume will of course look contemporary, because of differences in building technique, material qualities and lack of patina. But the idea is that the extension should blend in and not take up too much attention from the already existing. This for not "over shining" the greatness of the 50's entrance façade, which is one of the most characteristic features with Valhallabadet.

Anyhow, the new volume will bring in greenery and a new square formation to the entrance. This by planting a cherry tree, that will blossom in the spring and placing seating around it. The greenery continues up to the roof of the extension. Both for taking care of rainwater, with its partly sedum covered surfaces, and for enabling café visitors to go out on the roof and having a green environment to sit in.

Extension

New Square

A new entrance square with space for parking bikes and waiting for a friend. All in a green and blossoming environment.

Entrance Hall

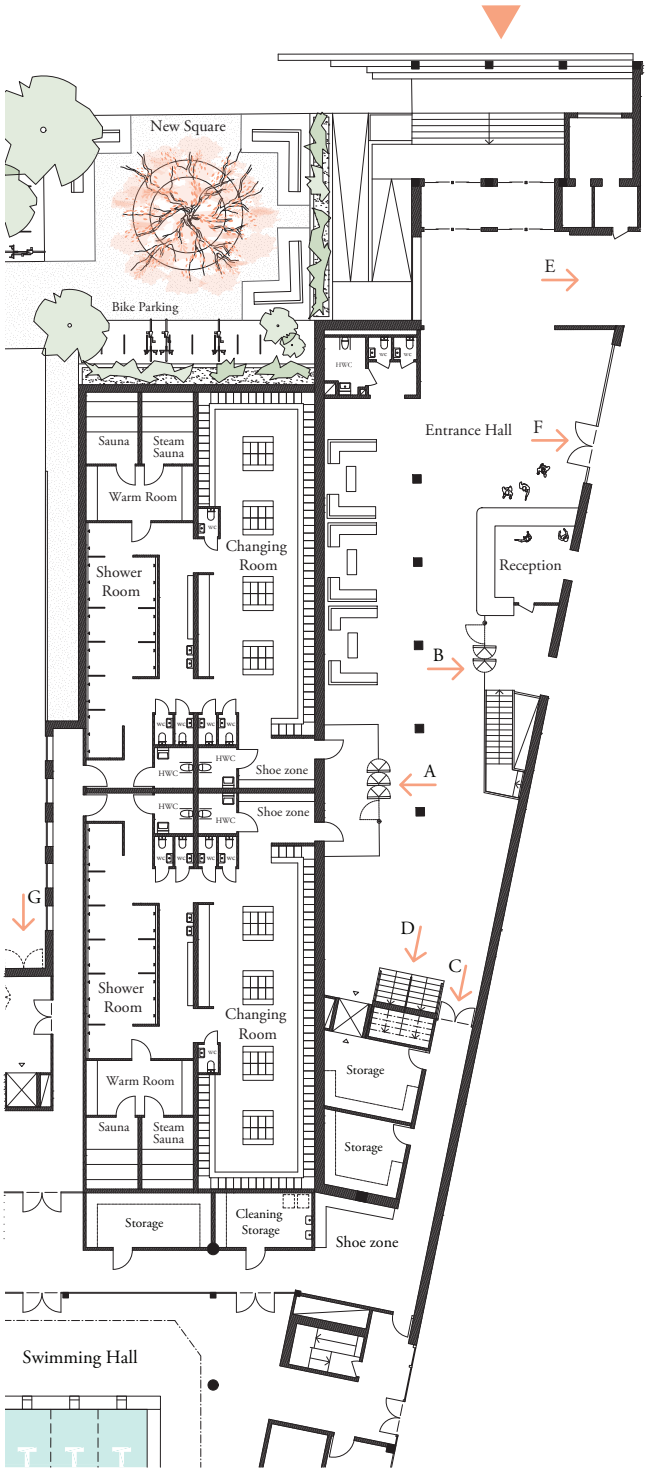
The entrance hall of today is kept, but with added places to sit and a new reception desk. The entrances to the main changing rooms are moved and there are new separated entrances for swimmers etc. and the relax users.

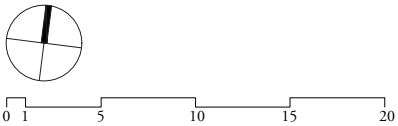
> A: Regular Bath users
> B: Relax users
> C: Swim-sport club members
> D: Spectators & Café visitors
> E: Gym users
> F: Sport shop customers
> G: Rehab bath users

New Changing Rooms

New main changing rooms are placed in a central position in relation to the swimming halls. The lay out is more condensed but yet spacious. Formation is inspired by Eriksdalsbadet, Sweden's biggest swimming arena, in Stockholm. There is still a generous number of showers and toilets.

Number of lockers: 208/changing room
Number of showers: 21/changing room





1:400

Upgraded Changing Rooms

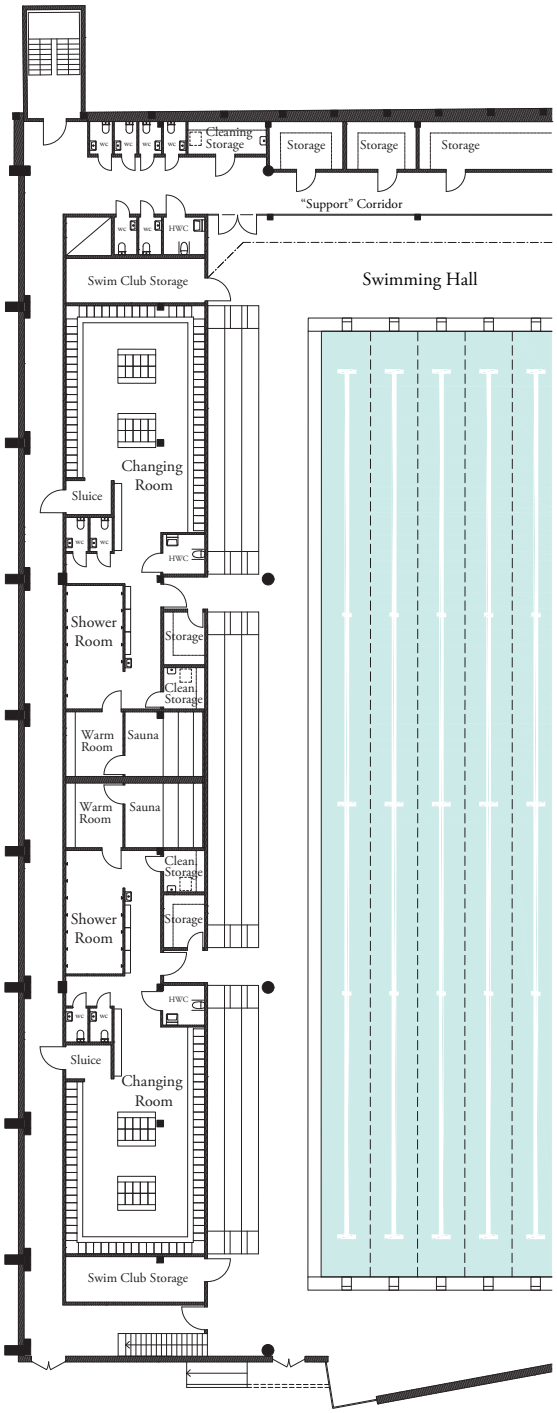
"Sport" Changing Rooms

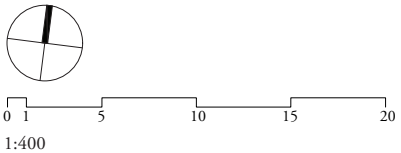
The changing rooms for the active swim sport members are getting upgraded changing rooms with a higher standard. There are eight more showers, more space around the lockers, a sauna and three toilets, in each changing room. The changing rooms still have easy access to the 50m pool, where most trainings are held.

Number of lockers: 164/changing room
Number of showers: 12/changing room

"Support" Corridor

In the corridor behind the short edge of the 50m pool there a lot of new possibilities for storing different equipment. There are also toilets for the spectators at competitions. The corridor is glazed into the swimming hall and can therefore be used for wayfinding, but also for swimming competitors to warm up before their race and still be able to see what heat that is running in the pool.





Relax, Entrance Level

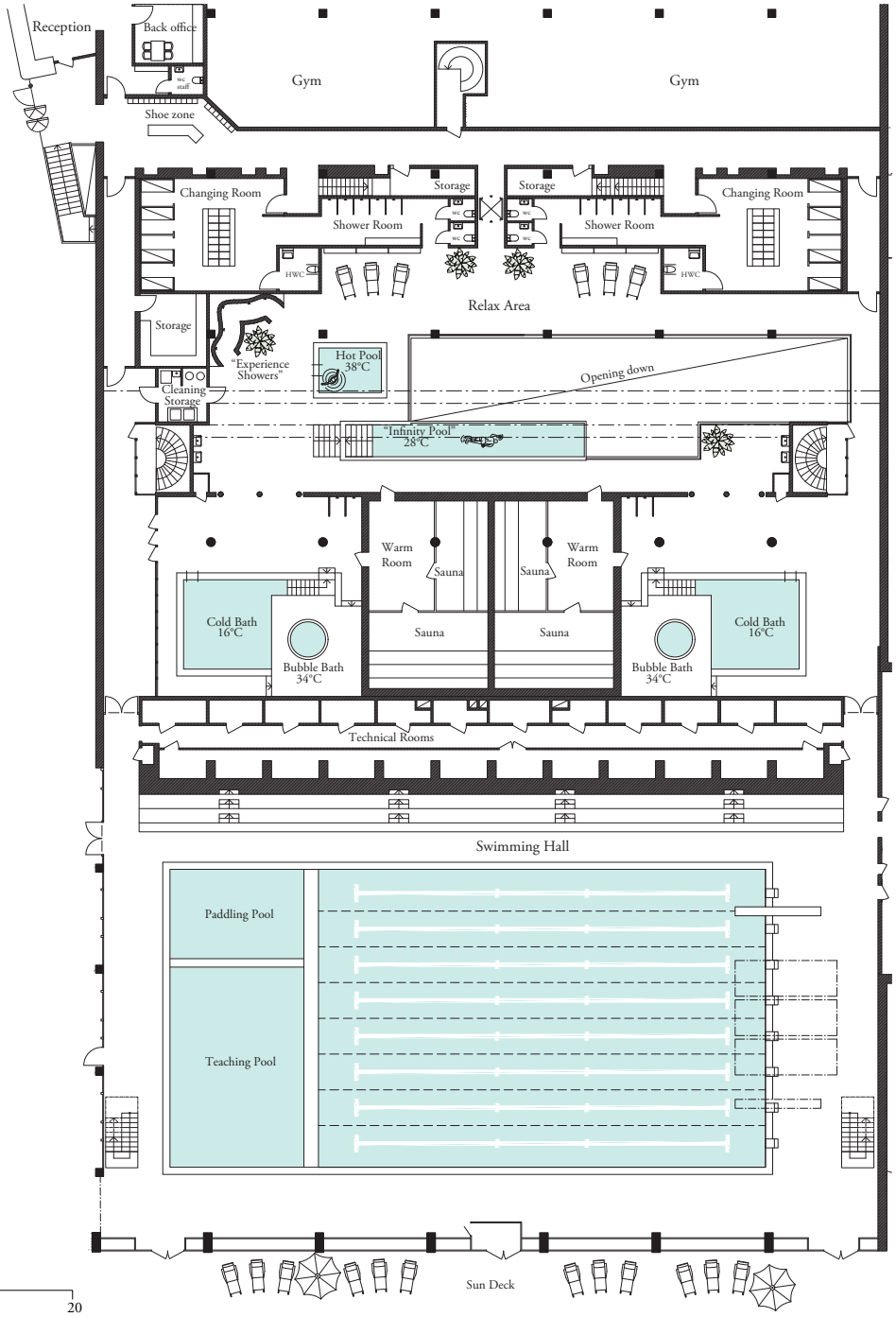
New Relax

The new Relax department has place for various types of pools, saunas and showers. The department covers three levels, connected with old beautiful stairs and a small elevator. The whole area is an integration of old environments, and functions, with new ones.

New relax functions:
- Warm pools (28, 34 & 38 °C)
- "Experience showers"
- Scented steam bath
- Steam bath
- Resting areas
- Yoga hall

Swimming Hall

The 25m pool hall is restored and the original design is retained. No widening of the pool is made, partly due to construction difficulties but mainly for not jeopardizing the room's character.

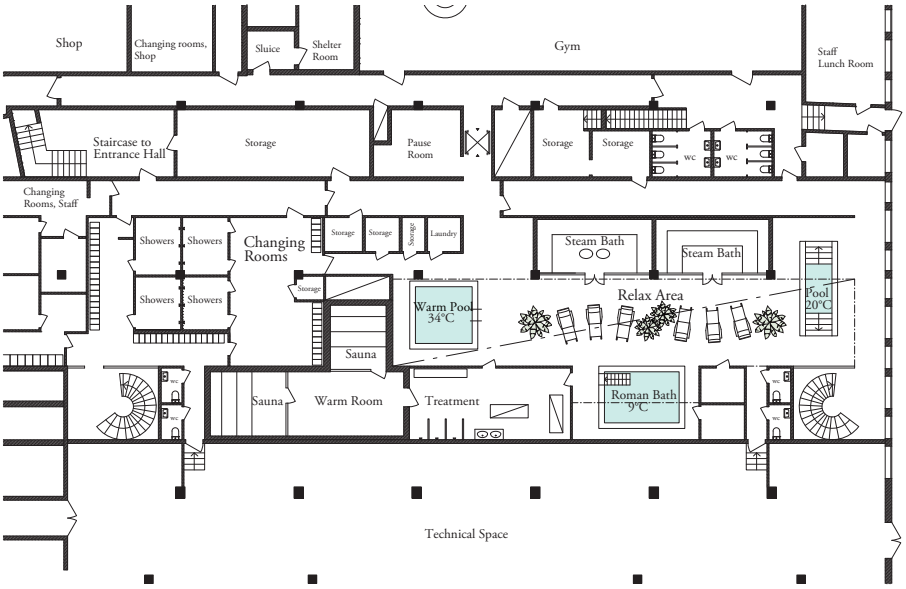


0 1 5 10 15 20
1:400

Relax, Basement Level

Roman Bath

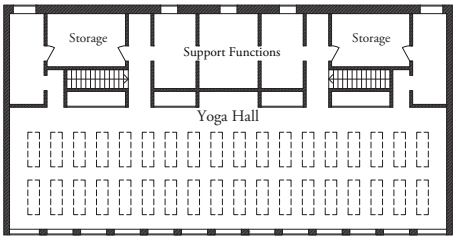
The Roman bath is preserved and supported with more relax functions. Old lying cabins are moved out from this level, but some of them will take place in the new relax changing rooms one level above.

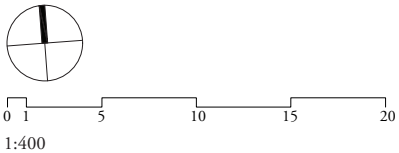


Relax, Top Level

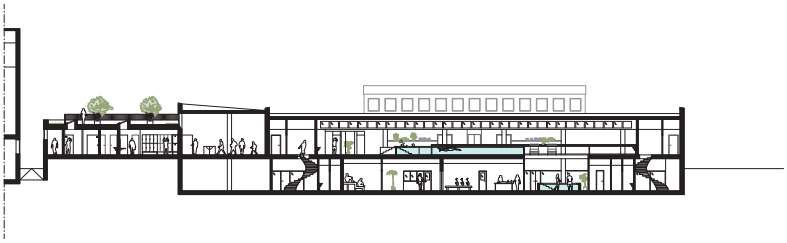
Yoga Hall

The old gymnastic hall, placed on the third level, can be used by the Relax department or the gyms for Yoga or meditation.

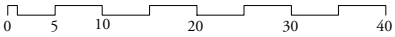




Section A-A



Section 1:800



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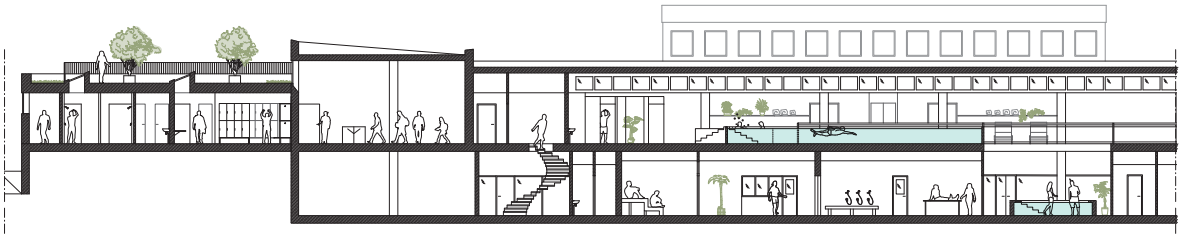
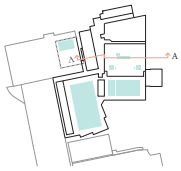
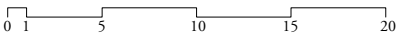


Section 1:400





1:400

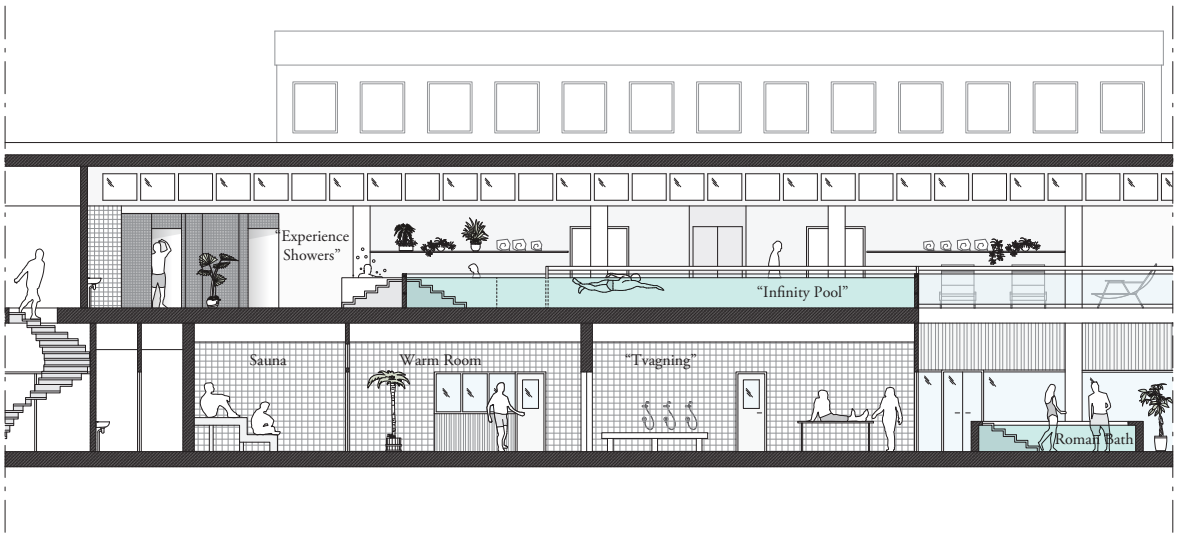
Relax Section

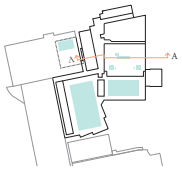
Vertical opening & skylights

Old sky lights are opened up again, for making the relax environment have more daylight without having any windows in the facade.

There is an opening in the floor, on the entrance level, down to the old Roman bath. This for revealing the hidden gem, but also for making the daylight come down to the basement.

The atmosphere of the relax department is light & open. The original materials' bright beige & grey shades support the light feeling. The feeling of the place will be more fresh than dark & mystic, since it is how it feels today in these spaces. The saunas & the experience shower will however have darker atmospheres with different scents and lightning.





0 1 5 10

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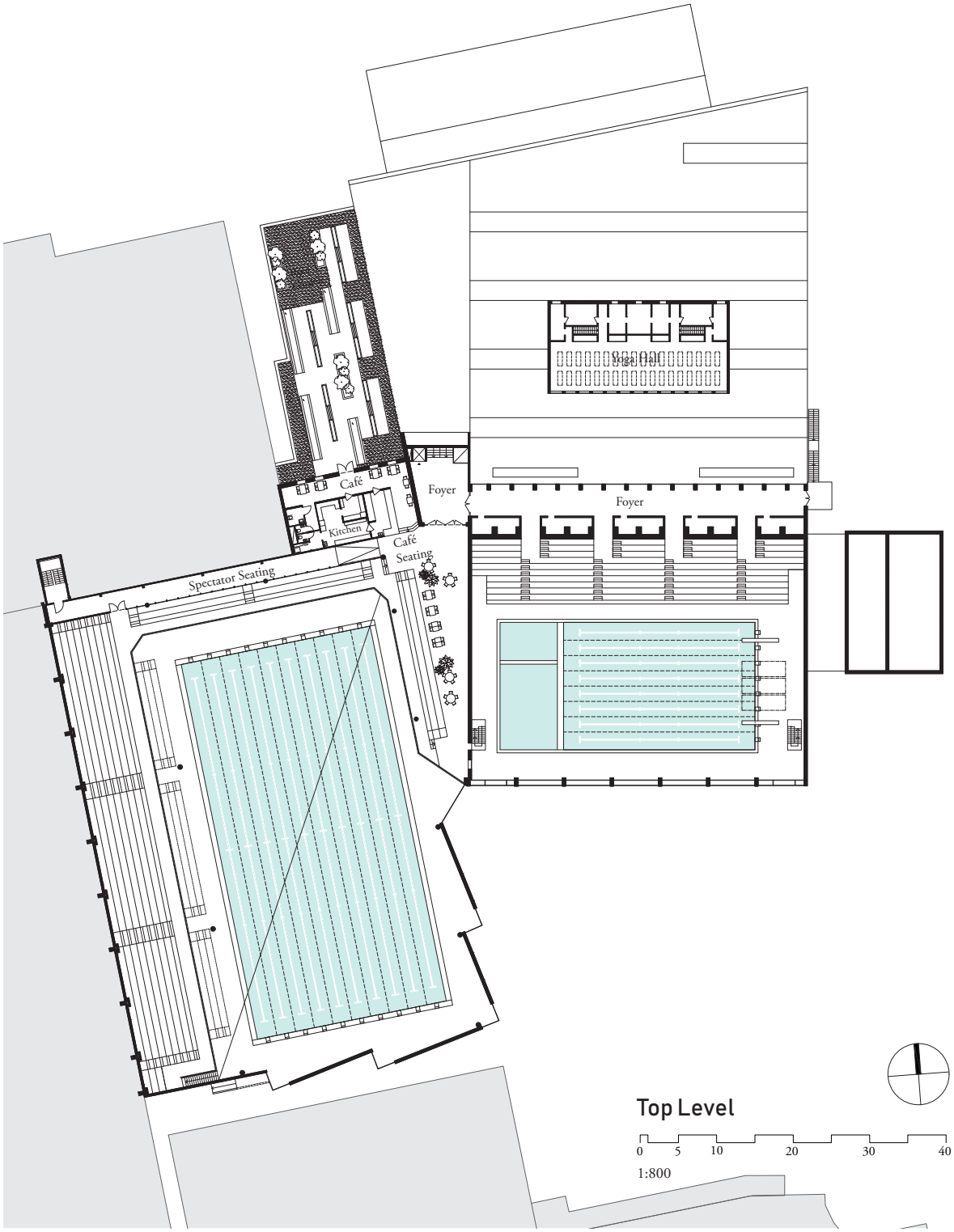

Yoga Hall
Foyer
Foyer
Café
Kitchen
Café
Seating
Spectator Seating
Top Level
0
5
10
20
30
40
1:800

Roof garden & Café

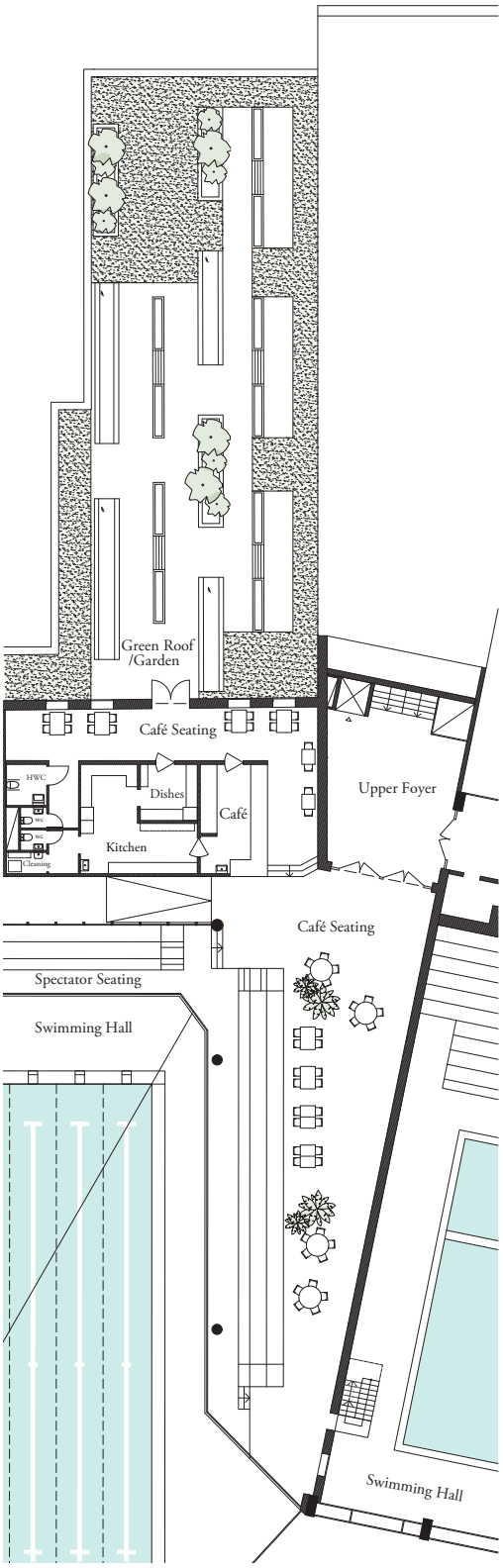
Roof Garden

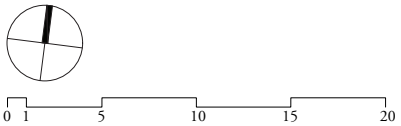
On top of the changing room extension there is a roof garden. This can be used by café visitors or just be a new green feature.

Light shafts are frosted so no changing room users will be exposed.

Café

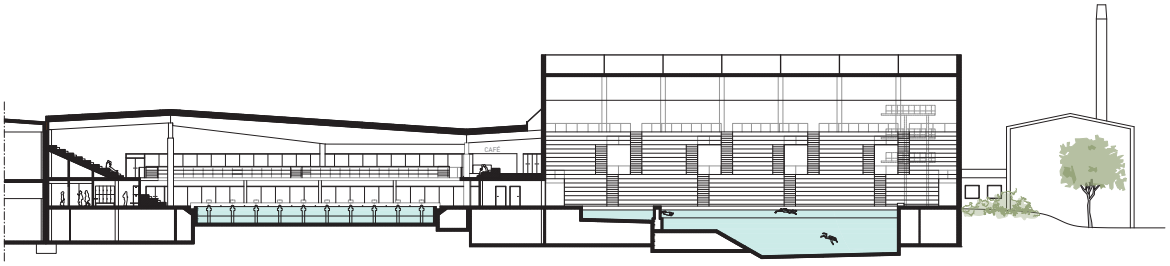
The Café has seating both indoors and outdoors. A small restaurant kitchen is connected to it.





1:400

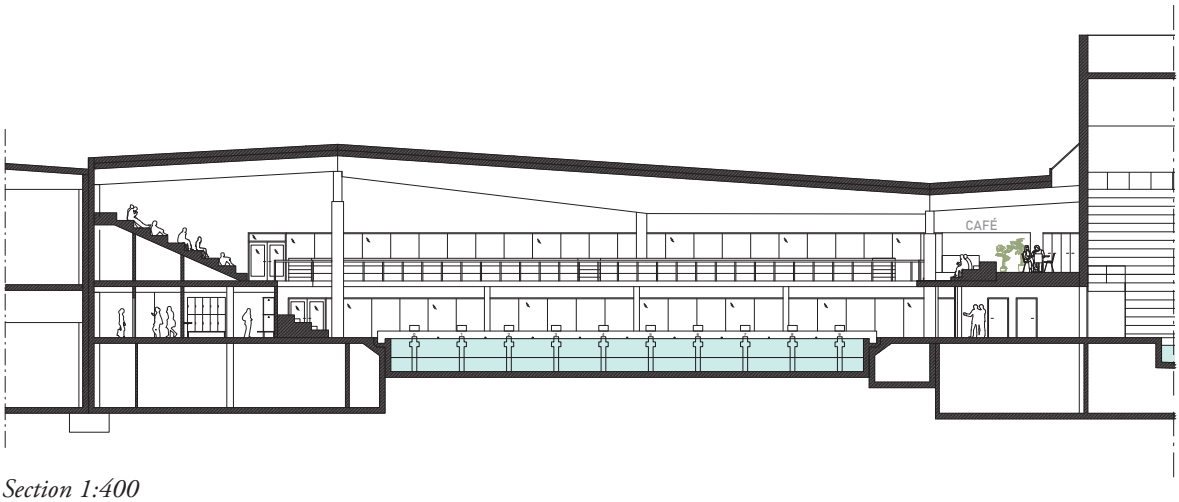
Section B-B



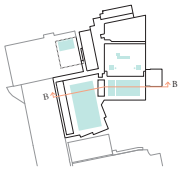
Section 1:800

0 5 10 20 30 40

1:800



Section 1:400



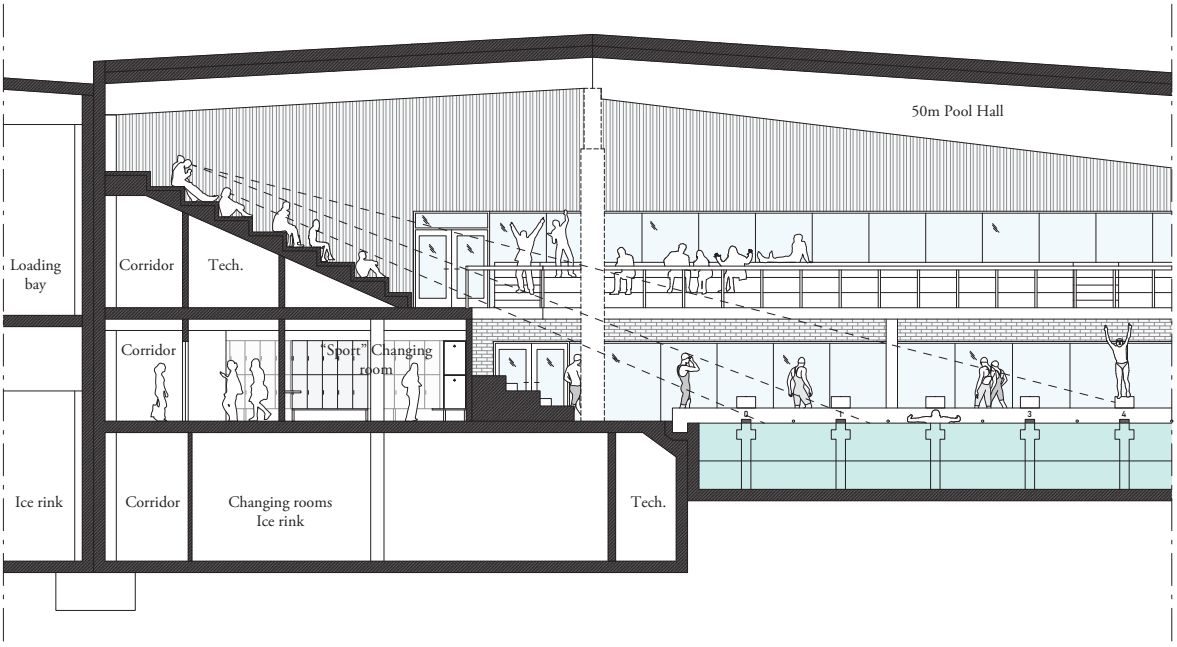
0 1 5 10 15 20

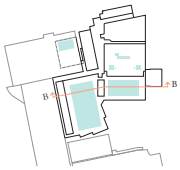
1:400

Spectator Seating Section

Spectator Seating

The 50m pool has new spectator seating possibilities on 2,5 sides of the pool, with approximately 1460 seats on fixed stands. The 50m pool is now better suited for swimming competitions.





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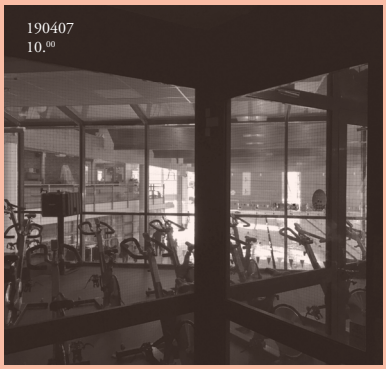

#veckansvalhalla

DISCUSSION

Method & Implementation

Inventory

The inventory has been time-consuming and sometimes difficult due to various factors.

- *Drawings:* In the beginning I only had a drawing base that was incredibly messy. No dimensions or scales were set out on these, which made it difficult for me to assess if the I drew up correctly once I made them digital. Later in the process I got hold of a much larger archive from Stadsbyggnadskontoret in Gothenburg. These took a long time to go through and there can certainly be things that I have missed out which can be important. The problem with these drawings was that they never covered the whole building on one sheet but spread out in many parts. This is understandable since the large size of the building, but it made it hard for me to understand how some of the parts related to the whole building. Lastly it has been particularly difficult to find the basis for the entire top level of the building. Mostly, I then have estimated today's lay out of this floor plan with the help of site observations and older drawings.

This messy and large drawing archive is a result of the building being changed many times. This can in turn be the reason for why the areas and flows in the building are so complicated as they are today. It can also be why Valhallabadet does not follow guidelines for the general swimming hall building, which I found in Wikenstål's Bygga Bad (2012) and in descriptions of newer facilities, where flows and wayfinding have been important factors for the project.

- *Access:* To investigate the building in more places than the public areas on the entrance floor, I contacted the bathhouse management and got a guided tour. I got to see many places, but I never really had the time to understand the basement's structure. The tour went fast, and it was also difficult to orientate myself down there. Another pity is that the tour never went up to the top level of the building. However, I have been there when I was an active youth swimmer so I could still assume how it looked up there today. This and the fact that I have been to Valhallabadet so many times before, I believe gave me a head start in the understanding of the building.

- *Photography:* This has worked as a great tool to remember the various interiors of the building. However, I would have liked to be able to take photos in the changing rooms before opening or after closing hours to bring pictures of sauna spaces that I want to save in my proposal. The photography has also worked well as marketing my project through social media. This has led many people in my vicinity to become interested in my project, but I have also been contacted by an association that wants to preserve Valhallabadet. So, my initial goal with publishing images online has worked well.

If I had been able to redo the whole inventory of the building, it would have been optimal to have

free access to all the parts of the bath. Then I would have been able to get to know the building even more and I would also halve been able to control measure more things. I would also have liked to know more about the staff spaces and the hired-out ones. In this ideal inventory scenario, I would have liked to have more "partners" with me, from other disciplines. That could make the understanding of the technical spaces' condition and the construction deeper. Though this inventory method would be much more detailed and time consuming. However, I claim that this is not necessary for a school project.

Interviews

- *Web survey:* In my web survey I received many opinions about Valhallabadet from people who have used the bath almost since "the birth of it". This was fun and interesting input for me, but my arrangement of the survey could be improved. Many times, I received more or other answers than I expected. Multiple choice questions at more places can maybe facilitate, but also to turn off open answers on Yes and No questions. The questionnaire could also be directed to a broader target group for trying to know the "common man's" views.

- *Other interviews:* It would have been great if I had interviewed the staff at Valhallabadet more. Then I could have learnt about how they think the bath works, on a deeper level, and also maybe learnt how the staff flow is.

Reference projects

Many of the reference projects I have looked at have been of a different size than Valhallabadet. The only bath that has been nearby the size of it has been Eriksdalsbadet in Stockholm. But according to the service statement, "Sammantagen Strategi för Badhus" (Malmyd & Ramsby, 2016), where they present criteria for a central bath, Eriksdalsbadet has additional functions such as a family department and a relax, which the criteria states to not find desirable in Gothenburg.

Despite this, it has been difficult to decide which reference projects that should be of best use in this work. This because I, as a swimmer, have seen so many good and bad examples of swimming hall solutions in Sweden. What had been further interesting to explore is how people have solved renovation situations of swimming halls abroad. But since I decided early on to only use references that I have visited and used myself, there were no foreign examples available from my experience bank.

Final Discussion

In the beginning of this thesis, I thought that the proposal I would most likely to end up with was something that would not be feasible or particularly realistic. My vision was merely to show that you do not have to demolish or preserve everything of Valhallabadet. My vision was also to show a solution that no one else had shown or thought of before.

I wanted to do a grand project with great transformations and additions, widening of pools and adding a new 50m pool etc. This in order to meet all the requirements of a central bath in Gothenburg. I really wanted to show a selling and modern proposal.

Along the way, the project started to more and more be just about trying to move things inside of the existing walls of the bath. In order to try to achieve the best improvement with the least possible intervention. I tried out many different options. All of these were mostly about which typology, the changing rooms could have, where they could fit and how they related to the pools. It has been tricky to try to fit in the changing rooms between the various load bearing walls, pillars and valuable environments. I found out that, although the bath has large areas to offer, there were no good places where changing rooms felt logical and would fit. Therefore, I decided to make an extension that could accommodate the main changing rooms for the general user.

Overall, the result of the puzzling became a renovation and a transformation project with many things preserved, punctually larger interventions and a minor extension. Although it did not become as I had imagined in the beginning, I think the project feels reasonable and feasible from my point of view. When I now visit Valhallabadet, after making this proposal, I can see how well the bath would work if you applied my ideas to it. I can also imagine that more people would visit the bath with my proposed new activities in mind.

What I think is the greatest benefit of my proposal is the new changing room situation, which is both more efficient, but also more central in the building. Which is of great luck since, throughout the process, I have been so much focused on solving the changing room situation. I also like the idea of creating a small leafy and blossoming place at the entrance where you can sit and wait or park your bike. This is something I believe is missing in the area today.

However, a doubt in my proposal is the flow of the swimmers, from the entrance hall to their changing rooms. The flow of the swimmers, on their way to their changing rooms, crosses at one place the bathers' way out to the pools. It is not particularly fun to solve this with an earlier "shoe-border" where you then must step, with socks, on ground where wet bathers have passed earlier. However, it would not feel so much fun either for the bathers to walk with bare feet on gravel, on their way out to the pools, if there wasn't an early "shoe-border" for the swimmers. This problem is something I would like to investigate further if I had more time and the opportunity. Maybe the swimmers could have their own entrance from within Valhalla Sporthallar, where they could have direct access to their own changing rooms? Or could the problem be solved with a specific design solution for the flooring material on this crossing point? Or with a

specific cleaning routine?

Another weakness with my proposal is that I did not look at the technical or the staff spaces. The proposal could be even more convincing if I had looked at the staff's flow and how their premises look like in detail, and if I could assess how well the technical parts work.

Something that could sell my proposal further would be if I had made some perspectives or renderings on how it would look, purely spatial and atmosphere wise, with the proposed changes.

Overall, I am still happy with what I have accomplished in the short time that I have worked with this. In the end I think that the proposal that I have made is both realistic and feasible, in contrary to what I expected. I have never done such a large project alone before, nor have I ever worked with the typology of a swimming hall earlier. But I have really enjoyed it even though it has been hard and stressful to work with an environment that you are so familiar with even from the beginning, but yet don't know everything about.

I hope my work can contribute, if only a little, to the demolition debate and that people can try to see that there is not just a yes or no in the answer to whether to demolish Valhallabadet or not. I think you should not demolish, but I also do not think that you should preserve everything exactly as it is. Let Valhallabadet remain and be developed further!

CONCLUSION

Valhallabadet can meet today's and future's needs through a renovation. Not necessary with a total transformation, but rather with a renovation that retains much of the existing structure, and with larger transformations concentrated to a few important places. By only redistributing areas and adding new functions, the bath can be used for more purposes than today. Valhallabadet can then hold bigger national swimming competitions in one part, invite to relax in another part and still attract with beautiful interiors all over. However, there is too much intervention needed in cultural valuable environments for Valhallabadet to be able to fulfil all of Gothenburg City's criteria for a future Central Bath. What is most difficult to fulfil is the need of two pools of competition standard. A widening of the Valhallabadet's original 25m pool can jeopardize the bath's construction, but also the hall's time typical character and atmosphere. This criterion can only be fulfilled with a larger extension to the building. This extension can, for me, only be done with a demolition of a part of Valhalla Sporthallar or Wallenstamhallen.

What needs to be changed with Valhallabadet, in particular, is the degree of utilization of the bath's large areas. Also positions of functions, walking distances and flow's logic. This applies to both interior environments from the 50's and the 80's. Changing rooms are in special need of change, as they take up an inefficiently large area of the building. This because the area has never been reduced despite changes to less bulky changing solutions. The changing rooms are therefore far

from swimming pools and contains many tricky corridors where you can get lost.

The 50m pool hall and its support functions are able to be equipped to hold a competition standard. This can be done relatively easily by moving functions in order to return to the spectator seating solution, that existed during the planning of this pool hall.

What should be preserved are the bath's whole and its functions. This in order to "stay in character". When it comes to valuable interiors, it is also about both environments from the 50's and the 80's. First and foremost, the 25m pool hall must be preserved intact and restored to its original appearance. But also, the Roman bath's environments and other relax parts should be preserved. These interiors are especially valuable because of the big amount of original materials that exist here.

However, there are general problems with renovations regarding the bath's income and swimming sports activity, that should be kept alive. This makes it important to investigate in which stages the bath should be renovated and to do so in time (as soon as possible!). This in order to avoid a panic shutdown. Something that could facilitate a renovation is if there would already be a greater pool capacity in Gothenburg. This could be solved by building a temporary pool, building in Lunbybadet's outdoor pool or if one (or more) of the planned new swimming halls where already built before starting a renovation of Valhallabadet's training pools.

Personally, I do not mind if a new (additional) larger swimming arena was built in Gothenburg. This arena could be for only the swim sports, but with some access to swimming lessons and public use. This arena could be placed centrally, but not necessarily in the "Event area". Personally, I believe that such an arena can be placed near Marklandsgatan or Frihamnen. Marklandsgatan due to its public transport-node function and proximity to the motorway, and closeness to other sports facilities. Frihamnen would suit due to its easy access to the central station and the connection to Göta Älv. The new arena could here maybe be connected to pools in the river, which could be temporary in the summers, that could hold outdoor long course Nationals or even bigger competitions?

A new swimming arena in Gothenburg is somewhat necessary in order to be able to hold international competitions but also for redundancy. This, in case something needs to be fixed at one bath or if the interest in swim sport continues to increase at the rate it does today. Such an arena is also something that can raise the status of Gothenburg's swimming sports activities. Although I personally think that Valhallabadet is also something to be proud of. Everything doesn't have to be new and modern in order to be of top class. From my own experience, new swimming facilities are often soulless and stiff environments. Often, important details have been missed during construction or designs. But above all, they do not feel so materially robust. I have encountered great wear in new swimming pools

which have only existed a few years when I visited them. So, keeping old swimming hall buildings for having a variety of swimming environments is, for me, a great possibility and asset for both the swimmer and the city.

FURTHER RESEARCH

I have tried to write down additional things that I had wanted to do if I had more time, or a larger working group. These are some of the things that have appeared in my mind:

- Explore and sketch further a specific design of my extension proposal. Material selection, material meetings, volume, roof and loadbearing system/material. But also, to investigate the areas and flows further.
- Work more in 3D with the building and the extension.
- Look over the entrance to the rehab bath and integrate it into the extension proposal.
- Find a solution to the "shoe-border" problem and the crossing of user's flows in my proposal.
- Explore an exact design of the spectator seating and if there could be even more seats.
- Explore an exact design of the relax department. What features are missing? Material selections, construction and technology. But also, how the old contributes to the new and vice versa. To make interior views and elevations.
- Investigate Valhalla Sporthallar's condition to try to evaluate the building and if it can be demolished (which it is planned be). In this way one would be able to investigate the expansion opportunities west of Valhallabadet. What conditions would that give? Would you be able to place an additional 50m pool and, possibly, a children's pool and a new teaching pool in a new building volume here (or in an existing structure)?
- Explore the basement floor at Valhallabadet further.
- Investigate staff flows and staff spaces.
- Investigate goods and chemical flows.
- Investigate technical spaces and shafts.
- Examine how the stages would look like during a renovation and make a plan for that.

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Basis for drawings

1. Drawings of Valhallabadet:
- Building permit archive, Stadsbyggnadskontoret, Göteborg Stad.
- Higab, Property owner of Valhallabadet.

2. Reference drawings, Åkeshovs Simhall & Eriksdalsbadet:
- Building permit archive, Stadsbyggnadskontoret, Stockholm Stad.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX

WEB SURVEY ANSWERS

Author's translation to English.
Sent out to Göteborg Sim Masters (swimming group with veterans) Facebook-group 190130.

47 answers

Age range: born 1954-1993
(Most between 1973-1985)

1. How often do you visit the bath?
- 1-3 times a week 60.9%
- 4-6 times a week 21.7%
- Once every year 6.5%
- Seldom or not at all 4.4%
- Once every month 4.3%
- Every day 2.2%

2. What parts of the bath do you visit?
- 34.8% 25m pool
- 100% 50m pool
- 10.9% SATS Valhalla (gym)
- 4.3% Zeco Café
- 4.3% Relax-department
- 0.0% Roman Bath
- 2.2% bubble pool and sauna

3. Which changing room do you usually use?
- 56.4% Ordinary changing room
- 28.3% Changing rooms close to 50m pool
- 10.9% SATS changing rooms (gym)
- 2.2% Friskis & Svettis changing rooms (gym)
- 2.2% don't know

4. What works well today?
- The most: 4
- Everything: 2
- Not so much: 1
- The pools: 9
- Trampolines: 1
- Large hall, accommodates diverse visitors: 1
- A hall with not only swimming is rewarded: 8
- Cleanliness, air & water temp: 3
- Changing rooms: 12
- Good opening hours: 6
- The sauna is beautiful: 1
- Entrance System / locking system: 4
- Closeness to city centre: 1
- Entrance: 2
- Nice attitude and experience of staff: 5
- Lots of lifeguards: 1

5. What works less well?
- The showers are too few in the 50m pool: 2
- Dirt in the pool: 3
- The changing rooms: 3
- Opening hours (especially weekends): 7
- Long repair projects during the summers: 1
- Crowded in the pools: 21
- Expensive: 1
- The staff's attitude: 4
- The staff's duties: 4
- Cold 50m pool: 4
- Bad air conditions on competitions: 1
- Broken/cold showers: 6
- Smells bad in the showers: 2
- Booking system: 2
- No fresh toilets: 3
- The café: 1
- Out passage: 1
- Behaviour/space in the sauna: 1
- Behaviour in showers: 1
- Worn out in general: 1

6. What is missing today?
- Need more showers: 2
- A sauna in the sport changing rooms: 1
- Soap in the showers: 2
- Needs more pools (1 more 50m): 9
- Synchronized opening hours with the gyms: 2
- System for booking the lanes/pools: 2
- More "fast lanes": 9
- Steam bath: 2
- Technique pool for filming: 3
- Personality: 1
- Better attitudes from staff: 3
- More toilets: 2

- Outdoor pool: 3
- Spectator seating to the 50m pool: 1
- Water toys: 1
- Unisex relax pools: 1
- Better showers: 2
- Better Café: 1
- Hair dryers: 1
- Competition standards: 1

7. What needs improvement? How?

- The changing rooms overall: 6
- More fast lanes in the pools: 9
- Outdoor pool all year around: 2
- Renovation for a fresher feeling: 3
- "Large retakes": 2
- Better cleaning: 5
- Lockers which you can rent: 1
- Prerequisite for filming/photography: 1
- Ventilation: 2
- Drain & circulation pumps: 1
- Straight edges on the pool (so things don't slip): 1
- Good Café (nutritional diet): 2
- Competitive pools: 1

8. Does Valhallabadet meet your demands?

- 61.7% YES
- 29.8% NO
- 2.1% Yes, as a swimming facility
- 2.1% Feels old but OK
- 2.1% Yes, except the 25m pool
- 2.1% Hard to get to there (poor communication)

9. What worked better in the past?

- Unchanged: 5
- Fresher in the past: 1
- Missing the outdoor pool: 3
- Don't know: 4
- Payment: 2
- Warmer water in the past: 1
- More space / lower demands/ fewer swimmers: 2
- Training hours: 1
- Valhalla's reputation: 1

10. The biggest difference between then and now?

- Fresher in the past: 2
- No outdoor pool today: 2
- The indoor 50m pool: 3
- The cash register system is worse today: 1
- The showers are worse today: 1
- Fresher changing rooms & showers today: 2
- Looks exactly like then and now: 1
- 50m pool works really well, always lanes out: 1
- Much more people today: 2
- Users' attitude: 1
- Standard has not kept pace with development: 1
- There were spectator seating for the 50m pool: 1

11. How important is the interior design of a swimming hall? (scale 0-5)

- 0, not at all: 6.4%
- 1: 6.4%
- 2: 10.6%
- 3: 27.7%
- 4: 31.9%
- 5, very important: 17%

12. How important is it to the exterior design of a swimming hall? (scale 0-5)

- 0, not important: 23.4%
- 1: 21.3%
- 2: 23.4%
- 3: 14.9%
- 4: 12.8%
- 5, very important: 4.3%

13. Do you think Valhallabadet is a beatuiful building?

- No: 38.3 %
- Yes, interiors: 46.8%
- Yes, exteriors: 0.0%
- Yes, the whole: 6.4%
- No opinion: 4.3%
- Both Yes and No: 2.1%
- Mosaic wall is nice: 2.1%

14. Do you think that Valhallabadet gives an experience beyond its function?

- No: 63.8%
- Yes: 19.1%
- Maybe: 17%

15. If yes: how?

- Atmosphere
- Meeting point & a social function
- Mosaic art that should be "K-märkt"
- Nice garden in the summers
- The section with the 25-meter pool is one of the most beautiful rooms I know. Both with the mosaic walls and the windows.
- Nostalgia. 50's architecture. Breathes history.
- History
- An architectural era.
- The art behind the trampolines is fine. Glad that the bath got to be in "Vår Tid är Nu".
- A little sentimental. I started swimming here in the 60's.
- The 25m pool is classic.
- Nostalgia & culture.

16. Is this experience something that is lacking in newer facilities?

- Yes: 21.4%
- No: 54.8%
- Maybe: 23.8%

17. What is the biggest difference between Valhallabadet & newer facilities?

- Mosaic walls in the 25m hall: 3
- The Roman bath: 1
- Tradition & atmosphere, the soul, cultural history: 8
- Sterile atmosphere at new baths: 1
- The room volume, interior & age: 2
- Newer & fresher at other baths: 6
- Valhallabadet is central: 1
- Valhalla is more spacious in both swimming halls and changing rooms: 1
- Valhalla is worn & outdated: 5
- Valhalla has real swimming pools and trampolines (too much adventure baths now): 2
- Newer facilities have flexible pools: 1
- Good spectator seating at Valhalla (often lacking in newer baths): 2
- Fresher at Valhalla: 1
- Hard to get to by public transport (Valhalla): 2
- Better bathing for non-swimmers elsewhere: 1
- Better / finer cafe in other places: 1

18. Do you think that Valhalla should be preserved or demolished?

- Demolish: 34.8%
- Preserve: 34.8%
- Other: 30.4%

19. If demolish: why?

- The risk that the renovation will not be financially sustainable, less cost to start over: 5
- Gothenburg can be without a large facility when renovating: 1
- Create conditions for new swimming pool: 5
- Age: 3
- Do like Borås: 1
- Don't want it to be like Åby, panic shutdown: 1
- The building is worn out in the construction: 2
- Do not think that you should preserve only for cultural values: 1
- Build new and bigger: 3
- It will soon fall apart: 1

20. If demolish: Where would you like a new central bath to be placed?

- Central: 5
- Same place or nearby: 12
- Close to Ullevi: 2
- Doesn't matter: 1
- Domkyrkan: 1
- Kopparmärra: 1
- Nordstan: 1
- Valhalla IP: 4
- Heden: 1
- Not on Hisingen: 1
- Liseberg: 1

21. If preservation: Why?
"Preserve the 25-meter swimming pool as a cultural monument and build a new simarena with international competition standard"

- Good placement: 2
- Because of the interior: 1
- Should be renovated; higher the standards, modernize and preserve: 3
- Nice building ("Love the aesthetics"): 4
- Fills its function ("beautiful, harmonious & functional"): 4
- Cultural heritage & nostalgia: 4
- Unique building: 1
- Investing in swim practice notr playing: 1
- There is a lack of swimming facilities: 1
- Preserve the 25m hall & build a new bath close by: 2
- Add an outdoor 50m pool: 1
- Nice pools to swim in: 1
- Classic old bath that can be improved: 1

21. What do you think is most important to preserve?
"The room volume and having at least the 50m pool left with its 10 lanes and expanding the 25m pool so that it can withstand the international competition measurements and preferably expand the facilities with another training pool (50m) and / or a separate diving pool."

- 25m pool: 4
- Mosaic art: 1
- Placement: 1
- The number of pools: 3
- The room volume: 1
- 50m pool: 3
- Everything: 3
- The whole & tradition: 2
- The ceiling: 1

22. If preservation: What part of the bath is the most urgent to renovate? Or what part would you like to start with?

- 50m pool: 2
- Showers: 6
- The Roman bath: 1
- Saunas: 1
- Pools: 2
- Everything: 1
- Nothing: 1
- 25:m pool (renovate and adapt to standards): 4
- Changing rooms: 5
- Toilets: 1
- Heating system: 1
- The café: 1
- Purification of the 50m pool: 1
- Areas around the 50m pool: 1
- Outdoor pool: 1

CHALMERS

Just Keep Swimming - a renovation proposal for Valhallabadet

A Master's Thesis at Chalmers School of Architecture made by *Frida Bladin* | Gothenburg, Sweden 2019