

## Waterfront Culture Centre, Paper Island Copenhagen

*“Kengo Kuma & Associates, in collaboration with Cornelius Vöge, Søren Jensen engineers and Niels Sigsgaard, won the competition with a project that combines a waterfront culture centre, facilities for leisure and sports associations and harbour baths in a new and original way. At the same time, the project creates a unique connection between land and sea and genuinely fulfils the city of Copenhagen’s vision of bringing something completely new and unique to Copenhagen and Paper Island.”- quote from press release by Copenhagen city*

Waterfront Culture Centre

Kengo Kuma and Associates

Project Description and Concept by Yuki Ikeguchi, Partner in charge

The new Waterfront Cultural Center with Harbor baths at Paper Island is to highlight the significance of water in the history, culture and vibrant urban life in Copenhagen. The harbor is the gate contributed greatly to the city’s development. Waterfront has become the foreground and the background for major cultural facilities and the quality open public area that defines the urban life in the city. Our focus in design is to create an experience, and not just a standalone object, in the form of the landscape, art and architecture that are unified and defined by the water. Our design proposal strives to offer the diverse experiences of water in various states and conditions such as reflection of light and shadow, steam and flow that appeal to human senses.

Urban approach – between Cityscape and Waterscape

The project takes place in the larger development plan of the island. Its architectural form in a series of pyramid shape is in response to the masterplan guideline to work with roof profile of Christiansholm but at the same time it expresses its unique identity. What is distinctive from the rest of the masterplan building is that the architecture does not have a single front, but it is multi directional to be easily recognized and accessible from various directions. It is to offer spontaneous, open and tangible place that carries the memory of vibrant and dynamic nature of the present Paper Island. Taking advantage of the prominent corner site of the project defined in the masterplan, the ground floor plane of the indoor to outdoor and to the sea is designed in a single gesture. Landscaping the ground plane in terracing and cascading manner creates expansive, continuous perception of water surface from indoor all the way to the harbor. Our design attempts to soften and dissolve the edge and blur the sense of boundary of the land.

Architectural form - Positive/ Negative

Our strategy of generating the architectural space structure and the form is to manipulate the composition of positive and negative volumes. A series of cone shape volumes in various proportion are generated by being pushed and pulled vertically and horizontally to create particular experiences for each program. The cone shape roofs extruded above correspond to the division of pools at the ground floor. Each pool has distinctive space in the almost exaggerated scale with concentrated light and shadow through large skylights above. The level above the ground floor is defined as the “negatives” of these extruded roof volumes. It is an open air pool and hot bath that one would experience swimming and dipped in the “valley” among the architectural hills. The inverted cone in the central position works as structural core. It is the deepest void, “valley” among these roofs where outdoor stairwell is placed.

## Brick Façade - New expression with traditional material

Brick is chosen to relate to the context of the area and to highlight the quality and aesthetic of the traditional Danish craft. Its haptic texture and warm natural earthy color tones of masonry would achieve the tangible skin defining interior and exterior. In our proposal we are exploring the potential of brick in its small scale texture being expressed in the large scale of the architecture. Its small units allows us to play with various openings and tectonics, screening natural lights and shadow that reflects on the water surface.

The brick façade in various level opacity and transparency is to glow with warm light at night and in cold season when dark hours last long. The perforated and screened brick skin would let soft light out in distinct manner. The dust of lights and their reflection on the water would glow at night and signals the presence of the new masterplan development and expresses itself as new unique icon.

### Credit and data;

Site:	Paperisland Copenhagen, Denmark
Principle use:	indoor/ outdoor pool, harbor baths, wellness, facilities for sports associations
Floor area:	approx. 5,000 square meters
Lead Architect:	Kengo Kuma & Associates, Yuki Ikeguchi Partner in charge Marc Moukarzel, Project architect Aigerim Syzdykova, Hannah Appelgren,
Associate Architect:	Cornelius Vöge
Engineering Design:	Søren Jensen engineers
Consulting architect:	Niels Sigsgaard

### FINALISTS

First prize; Kengo Kuma and Associates (Japan) with subcontractors Cornelius Vöge architectural company (Denmark), Søren Jensen consulting engineers (Denmark) and consulting architect Niels Sigsgaard (Denmark).

- Bjarke Ingels Group with sub-consultants COBE, an architectural company, SLA landscape architects, Hundsbæk & Henriksen landscape architects, Danish Energy Management & Esbensen, a consultancy company in energy and sustainability, the Danish Technological Institute, acoustic consultants Gade & Mortensen and the artistic collective A KASSEN.

### OTHER PREQUALIFYING ENTRANTS

- AART with subcontractors CUBO architects, GBH Landscape Architects, EKJ Consulting Engineers, the artistic collective AVPD and Mikkel Knowles Gjelstrup, advisor.
- ALA (Finland) with subcontractors Masu Planning, Petteri Nisunen Architects, Studio Octopi architects, Bluet Oy Ltd., architectural and engineering consulting.
- 3xN with subcontractors Tredje Natur, architect company, Rambøll consulting engineers, artistic advisor Wallner Weiss and advisor Casper Peter Risby Mortensen.