

Peter M. Clausens speech

Dear Mayor, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen ó and last, but not least: Dear Frank Gehry!

As chairman of the Harbour Project in Sønderborg, I am especially pleased to welcome you to this very special Day, where we will present a unique master plan for the Harbour in Sønderborg. A master plan that has been developed and outlined by one of the World's most respected and celebrated architects ó Frank Gehry. Please allow me at this point to direct a few words of thanks directly to Frank Gehry who is with us today.

Mr. Gehry ó we are still thrilled and honoured by the fact that you have chosen to let your creativity flow here in the most southern part of Denmark. Thank you so much!

I think it is important to mention that the master plan for the Harbour area is the most extensive which Gehry has ever produced for any place in Europe and it makes us proud that Sønderborg will be one of the very few areas where a whole town area will have the possibility to develop under the insignia of Frank Gehry.

The master plan, which we will examine in detail today, outlines the frames for the area that can give us very special opportunities for not only the harbour area, but for all of Sønderborg. We are sure that we have a range of possibilities at our disposal that will make it more than interesting for investors and developers to come to Sønderborg and make our attractive setting even more so and be part of realising our visions of a sustainable town.

It started with the idea to build a new hotel at the waterfront ó but, thanks to the help and inspiration of Frank Gehry, it has transformed into a more comprehensive plan for the entire harbour area. I think that all of the parties involved find this to have so much more perspective as it opens up for creativity and diversification.

I would like to thank all of the people who have spent time on and offered their skills in this process ó and this also goes to all of the citizens of Sønderborg who have submitted proposals, ideas and reflections. I am sure that they will recognize some of their own ways of thinking in Frank Gehry's work!

We are also thankful that Frank Gehry and Partners have given us assurance that any given investor who wants to make the ideas in the master plan come to life can count on Frank Gehry and Partners in the process, if needed.

We hope that many investors and with them architects and constructors from Denmark and abroad will get inspiration from the master plan and be part of the realisation of the visions. It is worth a mention that the plan fully lives up to our ambition to create a sustainable city with a CO2-neutral impact.

I think that we should congratulate each other today. We have fulfilled most of our ambition to create a place where it will be worthwhile to live, work and enjoy!