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Opus 61

**Sonwik, Flensburg**

With an introduction by Manfred Sack and photographs by Rolf Reiner Maria Borchard. 60 pp. with ca. 70 ill., 50 of which in colour, 280 x 300 mm, hard-cover, German/English  
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Shortly after the navy had given up its Flensburg Fjord base, which had been in existence since the Kaiser's time, at the turn of the millennium, a group of developers acquired the promising site. It consists of 7 ha of land and 5.5 ha of water. The group developed a little urban quarter here, about 3 km north of Flensburg old town, and called it »Sonwik«, from the north Frisian words »Son« (sun) and »Wik« (bay). Its principal attraction is a housing estate, unique in Germany, consisting of 20 water-houses, picked out in colour. They are placed in loose series on a right angle by a jetty, at the same time forming the outer framework for a large marina for 400 sailing boats and yachts.

Most of the former navy buildings on the wide green promenade have now been converted for civilian use – under the eyes of the monument-protection authorities and with great skill and sensitivity. The red brick buildings date from the first third of the 20th century, and now accommodate apartments, offices, shops, cafés and businesses related to water-sports. The row of buildings is about 500 m long, and is complemented at an impactful point in urban-development terms by two taller buildings that at the same time mark the unmistakable entrance to this attractive site. They were designed by the Hamburg architects APB, who won the competition for them.

Admittedly the special feature are the 20 houses standing in the water, designed by the Flensburg practice of Asmussen & Partner. Each of them was built on a reinforced concrete platform placed about 2 m above water level, using a two-storey timber-post structure. The owners were able to structure their own floor plans and equally – following a canon established as a matter of principle – the size and position of some windows. The striking characteristic of this building ensemble, alongside the roof terrace and the private mooring in the »cellar«, is the four colours red, blue, orange and yellow, applied to large façade panels and visible over a great distance.

Manfred Sack, who has a doctorate in music, was for almost four decades the architecture critic for the Hamburg weekly newspaper *Die Zeit*. Rolf Reiner Maria Borchard operated in other artistic media after studying architecture. He was professor in charge of the art-foundation course at the Muthesius-Kunstochschule in Kiel until he retired.

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Sonwik, Flensburg



## Sonwik, Flensburg

Kurz nachdem die Marine zur Jahrtausendwende ihren seit kaiserlichen Zeiten betriebenen Stützpunkt an der Flensburger Förde aufgegeben hatte, erwarb eine Investorengruppe das verheißungsvolle Terrain. Es besteht aus 7 ha Land und 5,5 ha Wasserfläche. Unter dem bald gefundenen, aus dem nordfriesischen Wörtern »Son« (Sonne) und »Wik« (Bucht) abgeleiteten Namen »Sonwik« entwickelte sie hier, etwa 3 km nördlich der Altstadt von Flensburg, ein kleines Stadtquartier, dessen Reiz vor allem eine in Deutschland einzigartige Siedlung von zwanzig farbig pointierten Wasserhäusern ist. Locker im rechten Winkel an zwei Seebrücken aufgereiht, bilden sie zugleich den äußeren Rahmen eines großen Jachthafens für 400 Segelboote und Jachten.

An der breiten begrünten Uferpromenade sind die meisten der ehemaligen Marinegebäude inzwischen für den zivilen Gebrauch umgebaut worden – unter den Augen des Denkmalschutzes und mit großem Fingerspitzengefühl. Die aus dem ersten Drittel des 20. Jahrhunderts stammenden, aus rotem Backstein errichteten Gebäude beherbergen nun Wohnungen, Büros, Ladengeschäfte, Cafés sowie Gewerbebetriebe, deren Angebot sich dem Wassersport empfiehlt. Die etwa 500 m lange Häuserreihe wird an einer städtebaulich prägnanten Stelle von zwei höher aufragenden Gebäuden ergänzt, die zugleich das unübersehbare Entree zu diesem reizvollen Areal kennzeichnen. Sie sind in einem Wettbewerb ermittelt worden, den die Hamburger Architekten APB gewonnen haben.

Das Besondere freilich sind unübersehbar die 20 im Wasser stehenden Häuser, entworfen im Flensburger Planungsbüro Asmussen & Partner. Sie wurden jeweils auf einer etwa 2 m über dem Wasser-spiegel platzierten Stahlbeton-Plattform in einer zwei-stöckigen Holzständer-Konstruktion errichtet. Die Grundrisse konnten sich die Eigentümer individuell gliedern lassen, ebenso – einem prinzipiellen Kanon gehorchend – Größe und Platzierung einiger Fensterpartien. Auffallendes Charakteristikum dieser Häuser-versammlung sind neben der Dachterrasse und dem hauseigenen Bootsliegeplatz »im Keller« die vier von Haus zu Haus unregelmäßig wechselnden Farben Rot, Blau, Orange und Gelb, weithin sichtbar angebracht auf großen Fassadentafeln.

Manfred Sack, ein promovierter Musikwissenschaftler, war fast vier Jahrzehnte lang der Architekturkritiker der Wochenzeitung *Die Zeit* in Hamburg. Rolf Reiner Maria Borchard hat sich bald nach seinem Architekturstudium in anderen künstlerischen Medien umgetan. An der Muthesius-Kunsthochschule in Kiel war er bis zu seiner Emeritierung Professor für künstlerische Grundlehre.

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Menges

20. Blick entlang der Wasserhäuser am Westrand des Hafens auf die Wasserhäuser an dessen Nordrand.  
21. Blick entlang der Wasserhäuser am Westrand des Hafens in Richtung Süden.

20. View along the water houses at the west edge of the yacht harbour toward the water houses at the harbour's north edge.  
21. View along the water houses at the west edge of the yacht harbour toward the south.





22. Wasserhaus 9 von Westen.  
23. Blick entlang der am Nordrand des Jachthafens  
gelegenen Wasserhäuser auf das Haus 2 der ehe-  
maligen Marinegebäude.

22. Water house 9 from the west.  
23. View along the water houses at the north edge  
of the yacht harbour toward house 2 of the former  
navy buildings.





24. Detailansicht der Wasserhäuser 7 bis 9.  
25. Blick von der Dachterrasse des Hauses 9 auf die Wasserhäuser am Weststrand des Jachthafens.

24. Detailed view of the water houses 7 to 9.  
25. View of the water houses at the west edge of the yacht harbour from water house 9.





26. Blick über die Dachterrassen der Wasserhäuser am Westrand des Jachthafens in Richtung Norden.  
27. Blick von der Dachterrasse des Wasserhauses 9 auf die Marineschule Mürwik.  
28. Blick von der Dachterrasse des Hauses 15 auf den Jachthafen.

26. View across the roof terraces of the water houses at the west edge of the yacht harbour toward the north.  
27. View of the Naval Academy Mürwik from the roof terrace of water house 9.  
28. View of the yacht harbour from the roof terrace of water house 15.

