

# REVIVING THE BELLMAN HANGAR IN MARSAXLOKK

## A TRAINING CENTRE FOR WATERSPORTS

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### Description

From a conservation point of view, the intention of this project is to address and restore the original connection that the locals have with the sea and the coast of Marsaxlokk. The aim is to look beyond the nostalgia of Marsaxlokk and look for new traits which could be injected in the community so that they could feel a sense of belonging and association to the sea.

By promoting water-sports, the idea is to work towards a collaborative facility, which allows within it different streams with one common element – the love towards the sport of water. In this facility people are allowed to train and share their knowledge to develop and better their individual and team skills. Thereby, the project aims to attract more people by consolidating and strengthening existing water-sports (Water-polo) while bringing back and developing new streams (Rowing, Sailing).

This created an opportunity to revive I-Ponta tal-Qrejten, together with an industrial Bellman Hangar and give them back to the general public. Since the area is currently underutilised, these activities will help to encourage people to further explore the coast of Marsaxlokk, which goes through this area and beyond.

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### Image 2

Legibility and Visibility towards the site and the Bellman Hangar was of utmost importance. This was achieved by removing recent additions that were imposing on the site.

### Image 3

Using the alignment of the portal frames as guides, the internal intervention consists of a ground level pool on the east side of the hangar and a gym area on the west side. Considering that the volume of the hangar is one of the character defining elements of the hangar, most of the supporting spaces were located below ground level.