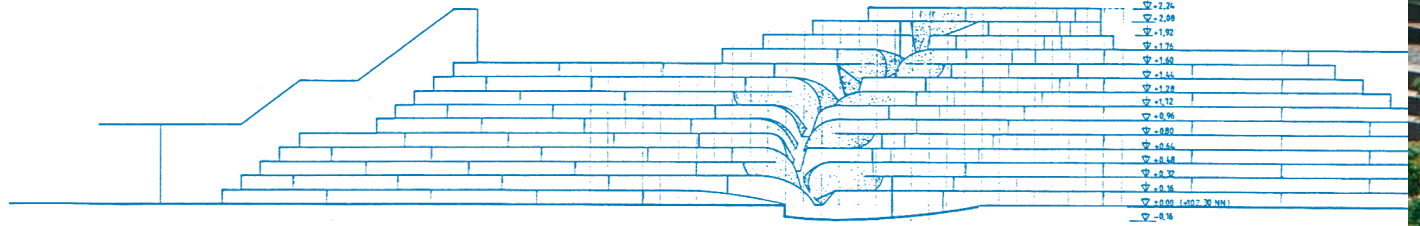


Town hall square, Hattersheim

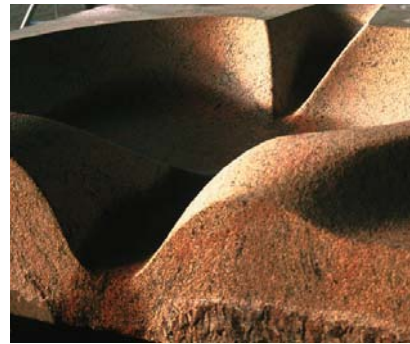


The water pulsates its way gradually from step to step, falling into a specially cast outlet.

On the route from A to B our attention is usually caught by the destination. The space in between becomes a side issue. In town planning the familiar phrase 'the route is the destination' became a platitude amidst all the enthusiasm for building and refurbishment. It was only in the mid-eighties that towns started to try to atone for their sins committed in the post-war period by transforming open space from being an area that had to be bridged into a space offering a whole range of different potential experiences.

This has been brought off successfully in Hattersheim. This little town has excellent transport links with various autobahns and local railways, and is close to the airport, and so has become a desirable and highly prosperous industrial location within the belt south of Frankfurt. But developments of this kind rarely turn out positively for the town's appearance – even though communities are increasingly aware that they compete with each other and have to offer their residents attractive urban spaces. Hattersheim found itself facing this challenge in the late eighties. The community focused its attention on the town centre and announced a competition for developing the area between the town hall and the municipal park. This was a marketplace, and they wanted it to develop a life of its own, forming a link between urban and rural elements: the town hall was intended to draw people, restaurants would be able to use attractive spaces in the open air, the route to the adjacent park would make people want to linger there, and also provide a new way of getting into the park itself. Water became the linking element in the Hattersheim marketplace. The steps leading to the town hall are the heart of the ensemble and the source of the water. An inviting or at least alluring gesture was successfully provided by a water cascade made up of flowform

Elevation of the steps and the projected water cascade



The flowing water intertwines with the marketplace. Cafés and shops use the area as a foyer.

The individual elements are placed and assembled to the precise millimetre. Each stone is hand-crafted and produced individually.

