



URBAN PLUNGE
SYDNEY

Urban Swimming

International and National Case Studies

Sydney
WATER





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1 Introduction

Urban Plunge™ will accelerate the delivery of more swimming and aquatic recreation opportunities across the city. There is a growing global movement to reconnect swimmers with our urban waterways, and Urban Plunge will encourage and broaden Sydney's cultural identity as a global lifestyle city.

Sydney's waterways have played a pivotal role in our shared history. First Nations peoples have consistently maintained a close connection with the rivers, as they provide rich sources of food, trade and recreation, continuing to embody many significant cultural and social practices. Our waterways used to be swimmable, but by the 1950s most of the swimming sites along the rivers were closed due to increased pollution and stormwater runoff. Thankfully, over the past 40 years, advancements in regulation and technology have led to improvements in water quality and the rejuvenation of our waterways.

At Sydney Water, clean waterways are fundamental to our vision of creating a better life with world-class water services. We know that people who swim in waterways are more likely to champion waterway health and protection.

This case studies report is designed to document some of the leading examples of urban swimming activations around the globe and here in Greater Sydney, inspiring others to take up the challenge in activating urban swimming to make everyone a champion of water.

Every case study is unique, with its own opportunities and challenges, but provides an insight on what is possible with limited resources, sustainable materials, and innovative design.

All financial figures have been converted to Australian dollars. The capital cost encompasses the pricing of construction and design costs, with the value being at the time of construction. Several case studies contain more information than others, due to being established for longer, with availability and accessibility of information being less restrictive.

2 Badeschiff Pool, Berlin, Germany



Image: Badeschiff Pool Getty Images

Type of swimming area:	Permanent: Pop-up pool open during summer.
Designer/Architect	<p>Architect: AMP Arquitectos (Tenerife) + Gil Wilk</p> <p>Artist: Susanne Lorenz</p> <p>Designed as part of a competition for city arts projects in Berlin and inaugurated in May 2004.</p>
Timeframe	Opened in summer 2004.
Area	<p>Total area: 400 square meters</p> <p>Depth: 2.05 meters</p>
Capital cost	AUD \$631,000
Entry price	Adults \$10.25, children \$5
Safety / risk mitigation	<p>Lifeguards on-site.</p> <p>Opening times: 8am–12am, 7 days a week.</p>

Facilities/amenities	<p>Pool features: Contains 400,000 litres of lightly chlorinated water kept at 24 °C.</p> <p>At night, blue and green electric lights illuminate the surface of the water.</p> <p>Onsite amenities: Bathrooms, beach sand, hammocks, folding beach chairs and a long bar, and a covered pavilion where DJs spin their records on the many event nights.</p> <p>After the summer season, a cocoon-like temporary roof is built over the pool and the surrounding area, which holds 2 saunas and a lounge bar.</p>
Links	<p>Culture and the arts DLGSC</p> <p>Badeschiff. Swimming Pool, Berlin – Fernando Menis</p> <p>Upcoming Public Events – Arena Berlin</p>

3 Serpentine Lido, London, UK



Image: Serpentine Lido, Getty Images

Type of swimming area:	Permanent: Swimming activated on the river.
Designer/Architect	Designer/architect information unavailable. The Royal Park restored the lake in 2011 to make it suitable for swimming.
Timeframe	Opened in 1930 for swimming. Built 1995 under commercial management and refurbished in 2005.
Area	Total area: 3,000 square meters Depth: 3 meters
Capital cost	No further information
Entry price	Adults \$10.40, children \$5.20, concession \$5.55, family (2 adults + 4 children) \$22.30, children under 3 free
Safety / risk mitigation	Lifeguards on-site.



	Opening times: For public, 45-minute time slots 10am–6pm during the week between June and September and open on weekends from mid-May. Members of Serpentine Swimming Club may swim all the year round 5am–9:30am.
Facilities/amenities	Bathrooms, toilets, change rooms, lockers, sunbed.
Links	<u>Serpentine Lido – Hyde Park – The Royal Parks</u> <u>Serpentine Lido – London (getthedata.com)</u>

4 Copenhagen Harbour Baths, Copenhagen, Denmark



Image: Copenhagen Baths, Getty Images

Type of swimming area:	Permanent: Filtrated water from the Harbour.
Designer/Architect	<p>Architect: JDS Architects – Bjarke Ingels, Christian FINDERUP, Finn Nørkjær, Henning Stuben, Ingrid Serritslev, Marc Jay</p> <p>Construction manager: Bjarke Ingels</p>
Timeframe	Open from 2001 to 2003 and remodelled in 2012.
Area	<p>Total area: 1,600 square meters</p> <p>Depth: 7 meters</p>
Capital cost	AUD \$770,692
Entry price	Free

Safety / risk mitigation	<p>Lifeguards, risk hazard signs, quality of the water checked daily and must be approved by the authorities before swimmers are let in.</p> <p>Opening times: 11am–6pm, 7 days a week, during June to August</p>
Facilities/amenities	<p>Dry-docks, piers, boat ramps, cliffs, playgrounds, pontoons, local sport associations, sauna, small café, changing rooms.</p> <p>Pool features: 5 pools and capacity for 600 people; open-air swimming area with sand and springboard diving.</p>
Links	<p>Copenhagen Harbour Bath / BIG + JDS ArchDaily</p> <p>Copenhagen Harbour Baths – Wikiwand</p>

5 Street Beach Brisbane



Image: Getty Images

Type of swimming area:	Permanent: Swimming activated in an artificial beach.
Designer/Architect	<p>Designer: Desmond Brookes International</p> <p>Construction: Fletcher Jennings Construction and Water Industrial Engineering</p>
Timeframe	Construction commenced in 1991 and finished in June 1992.
Area	<p>Total area: 17,0000 square meters</p> <p>Depth: 1.1-1.8 meters</p>
Capital cost	No information currently
Entry price	Free
Safety / risk mitigation	<p>Staff on-site, lifeguards.</p> <p>Opening times: 7 days a week over the summer period, 5am–12am</p>

	<p>Water quality and temperature:</p> <p>All reporting regarding water quality and safety is published on the Beach safe website: Streets Beach Lagoon SLSA Beachsafe</p>
<p>Facilities/amenities</p>	<p>Car park, picnic area, toilets, disabled access and free wi-fi.</p> <p>Pool features: Artificial beach with white sand, situated next to 2 other aquatic spaces, Boat Pool and interactive water-play for children.</p>
<p>Links</p>	<p>Streets Beach, South Bank – Brisbane (weekendnotes.com)</p> <p>Streets Beach Lagoon SLSA Beachsafe</p> <p>Streets Beach – Visit Brisbane</p>

6 Lake Parramatta



Image: Courtesy of Parramatta River Catchment Group

Type of swimming area:	Permanent: Swimming activated in a natural lake.
Designer/Architect	Canary Wharf Group and Love Open Water
Timeframe	The lake was reopened for public swimming and water recreation in 2015.
Area	<p>Total area: 10.5000 square meters</p> <p>Depth: 50 centimeters to 1.8 meters within enclosed swimming area. 8 meters outside swimming area.</p>
Capital cost	No information currently
Entry price	Free
Safety / risk mitigation	<p>Signage with hazards about marine life, depth, suitable swimming times, buoys surrounding the swimming area.</p> <p>Lifeguards on duty from 9am to 6pm every weekend from late October until April, and every day during the summer school holiday period.</p>

	<p>Accessibility: Sandstone steps and concrete landings all the way to the swimming area, pebbles installed within the swimming area, public viewing platform accessible for prams and wheelchairs.</p> <p>Opening times: Boom gate into Parramatta Lake open 6:30am–5:30pm outside of daylight saving. Open till 7:30pm during daylight saving.</p> <p>Water quality and temperature: Regularly monitored by RiverWatch water quality program conducting microbiological and water temperature testing.</p>
<p>Facilities/amenities</p>	<p>Boat hire, non-motorised boating facilities, children’s playground, off-street car park, walking trails, public toilets, BBQs, picnic facilities, café.</p>
<p>Links</p>	<p><u>Swimming at Lake Parramatta City of Parramatta (nsw.gov.au)</u></p> <p><u>Lake Parramatta Reserve – Bushwalks, Playground, Cafe, Swimming North Parramatta ParraParents</u></p> <p><u>Water quality at Lake Parramatta City of Parramatta (nsw.gov.au)</u></p>



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