# Breathtaking Pla(y)ces

Projects in Collaboration with Landscape Architects



Berliner
Play equipment for life

# Berliner Seilfabrik Play equipment for life

This slogan means a lot to us! It defines how we work and construct playgrounds. In the almost 50 years in which we have been dealing with playground equipment, we have built up an extensive product range with creative ideas and industry expertise. We offer unforgettable, fascinating designs for all types of play, whether indoors or outdoors.





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# Design is about Playing!

### Preface by Gregory H. Graves, PLA, ASLA

Playgrounds have special meaning because they are the workplace for children. As Mr. Rogers said, "Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood." This is a place where children develop physically, socially, and learn how to use their imagination. Sports fields are for playing specific games with pre-determined rules and spatial requirements. Playgrounds are for exploration and unregulated games, that can only be limited by one's imagination. Playgrounds are for all ages, abilities, and stages of development. Also, vital life-coping skills may be acquired and practiced on a playground. Having these thoughts in mind and knowing the direct impact the end product will have on people, I feel a greater sense of responsibility about what I am doing. The playground is more than amusement for kids; it's got to be a safe place for learning with lots of options and endless possibilities. That makes the planning and design of playgrounds special. It has much more meaning than just "fun."

The challenges in playground design are about as numerous as the opportunities. One has to accommodate not only the physical and social needs of all the playground users, but also their safety as they participate. There are spectators to consider, play value and durability of equipment, maintenance limitations, and budget constraints. How do you provide the best combination of amenities with the most play value at the most reasonable cost? It becomes a true balancing act that must be skillfully executed. Some of the biggest unintended consequences of a poor design are mediocrity and lost chances for something great. The kids see it first, and those focused only on budgets wonder why no one comes, or why kids are so quickly bored.

Berliner seems to understand the importance of child development, and tries to provide a range of physical challenges that help children test their skills and build their confidence. They offer equipment that has lots of uses and encourages imagination and interaction. The limitations of use are left to the individual and not determined by a prescribed "you can only use this one way" approach. The designers and representatives are eager to help make my designing experience as easy yet informed as possible. They are always willing to look "outside the box" with me for something that will provide the "wow" factor I look for in each design, regardless of the size of the playground. They get it!

I love the way Berliner's equipment is designed to give kids the choice of playing together or alone. The climbing structures are fantastic at this. The shapes and configurations are inspiring and let a child's imagination run wild without heavy themes that sometimes limit and over-direct their creativity. Being able to combine pieces together with slides and bridges and connections really adds to the versatility of the equipment. And the nodes and nooks for children to pause and watch without leaving the action are great. There seems to be less abuse of how things are used because there are so many different options to consider first. Boredom is rarely seen. And the ability to customise a piece of equipment is priceless. Now as a designer I can dream and imagine before the kids do!

Gregory H. Graves, PLA, ASLA Corporate Landscape Architect Group Lead, J-U-B ENGINEERS, Inc.

Mr. Graves has over 33 years of experience as a landscape architect and been involved in the design of over 60 individual park and recreation projects, including playgrounds, sports fields, and associated amenities.

### Thank you!

Every project, every playground – every "learning room" is something special for us! We try to create places where children enjoy moving, discovering things, taking "calculable risks" made solutions is fully exploited. - and thus learning. Playgrounds should provide the possibility to develop on a physical and social level. The cooperation with architects and landscape architects is of great importance for us as a manufacturer.

We benefit from creative exchange – something unique arises. At the same time, our potential to find and implement custom-

We thank our customers for every project we have been involved in. We appreciate the work with you! Special thanks go out to the architects and landscape architects for their commentaries on their projects in this brochure!

Berliner Seilfabrik, November 2020

**Berliner** Play equipment for life













"The surrounding in itself, in which the playground got implemented, is exquisite, with a well-developed mature population of trees. The main design aim was to let the surrounding nature predominate and choose play equipment that have a light see through character, without having focus on them. The playground also carries a theme with a content of historical and natural elements, that were once part of Városliget.

The playground has a main element which was inspired by Pál Szinyei Merse's painting: The Balloon. Adopting the famous Hungarian artwork with its playful theme brings children closer to appreciating artwork, and the aspects of nature through art in a playful way. The equipment also resembles a connection to the Museum of Fine Arts, found in the area of the park, that is current home of the painting."

(Gartenstudio Landscape Architects)



**Tags** Movement, Climbing, Nature



# **Architect's Favourite**

"Our favourite play area is the complex climbing equipment and it's surroundings, with the balloon play, as it has a specific feeling."

# **About**

"As landscape architects our goal is to find the potentials of a site. We have to explore and understand the spatial complexity, to find the right answers. Our approach is to achieve the unity of the built and the natural environment with respect for the heritage, propagating innovation and insistence on quality. Behind our work, there is always our intent, to make improvements for the community, as well as, the desire to express ourselves and to create value.

If our extracting process is successful, the result will be quality public spaces, which become important scene of social life."

# Contact

www.gartenstudio.hu













# Break Time in Motion!

# **Freiham Educational Campus, Munich (GER)**

The Freiham educational campus, situated in the west of Munich, which was completed in September 2019 is one of the largest school sites ever built in the Bavarian capital. To provide physical activity during school breaks the architects decided to install a Shout structure (Twist & Shout), which is directly connected to the rock-climbing wall on the school playground of the primary school. On the schoolyard of the special school a low rope course consisting of eight different climbing elements (Terranos & Terranova) was installed.



Bodenseestraße 400, 81249 Munich, Germany



# Overall Playground Size in m<sup>2</sup>

**Berliner Product Line** 



# Client

Landeshauptstadt München, Baureferat und Landeshauptstadt München, Referat für Sport und Bildung



# Agency / Architect

Keller Damm Kollegen GmbH Landschaftsarchitekten Stadtplaner Prof. Regine Keller, Franz Damm Lothstraße 19, 80797 Munich



# **Planning Phase**

05/2015 - 09/2018



Construction Phase 09/2018 - 09/2019

Photos (p. 16-19): © Franz Damm, Keller Damm Kollegen









"The aim was to connect and interweave the outside facilities of the schools and the central public park so that they can be used by everyone. They are only separated where absolutely necessary. For example, the outdoor facilities of the elementary and special school, are separated from the park by a shrub plantation and the integrated fence. In the playground of the elementary school we used a necessary noise barrier to set up a climbing wall and linked it to an organically shaped pipe and climbing net structure which is based on it. This created a flowing transition between the two elements. With net swings, net funnels, climbing ropes, climbing plates and rubber membranes, primary school children can try out new elements again and again, depending on their (adventure) desire. For the area of the special school, we have designed a low-rope course in a similar design language. Eight different climbing elements enable many students with special needs, who are at different developmental stages, to do climbing exercises of varying difficulty at the same time. With their imagination, they determine how challenging they use the rope course and can always choose new entrances and routes."

(Franz Damm, Keller Damm Kollegen GmbH)



Tags
Diverse, Aestethically, Challenging



# **Architect's Favourite**

"The climbing structure in combination with the directly connected noise protection and climbing wall. It is very versatile and can be used without any preconditions and transforms a necessary dominant element into a multi-useful object."

# **About**

"Our planning approach is determined by contextual design. This means that when planning, we respond very specifically to the particular conditions of the site as well as existing and future uses. Whether it is a master plan on an urban scale, the design of a public park or a narrowly defined individual plot of land. The demands of the future users and the consideration of ecological interrelationships are very important in order to create open spaces that can be used in a diverse and lasting manner."

### Contact

www.keller-damm-kollegen.com

















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# Architect's Commentary

"Konditaget Lüders aka. "PARK'N'PLAY" is a hybrid structure between parking house and playground. It rethinks the monofunctional parking house and transforms what is often an infrastructural necessity into a public amenity 24m above ground." (Kathrin Susanna Gimmel, JaJa Architects ApS)



Tags
Play, Hang-out, Exercise



# **Architect's Favourite**

The Trampoline Ring. Jumping from one trampoline to another with a view over the city is great fun and excercise.

# **About**

"Working across scale and traditional boundaries, JAJA strives to create architecture, landscape, and urban planning from a holistic perspective. We aim to make each intervention a distinct, yet natural part of its environment, to create a dialogue between the project and the inherent qualities of the location. We believe that projects with strong roots in their physical environment create greater experiences and added value, not only to the project but also to the surrounding community."

# Contact

www.ja-ja.dk













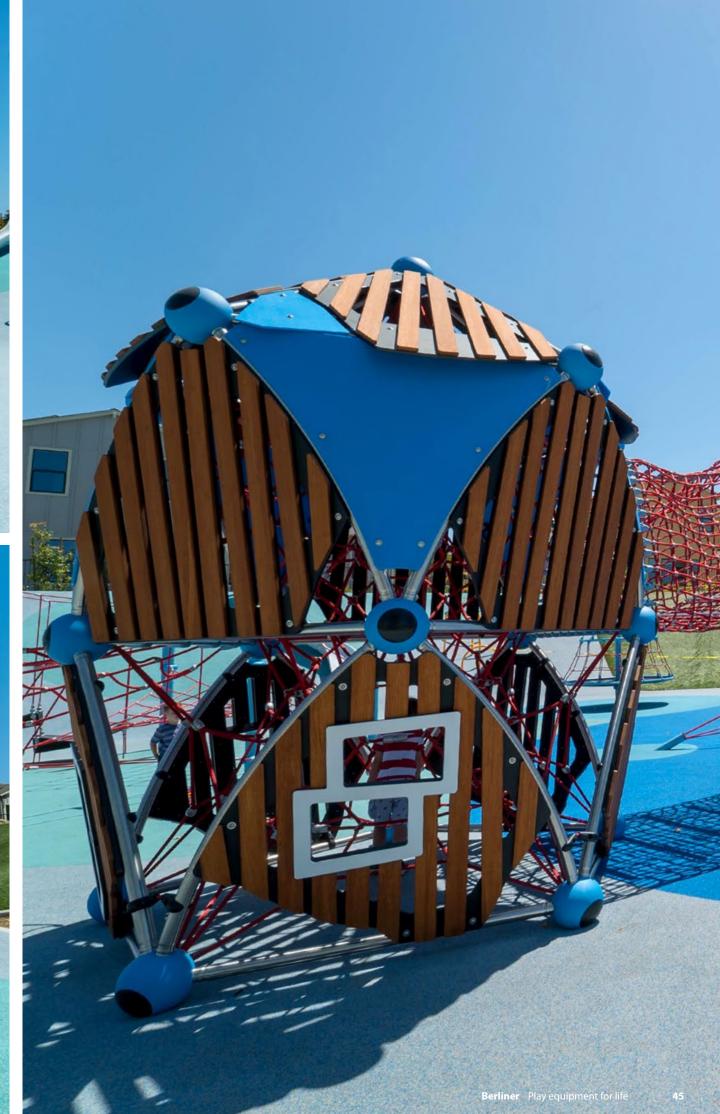












# Playing in the Heart of urban Mexico City!

# Parque La Mexicana, **Mexico City (MEX)**

With its breathtaking surroundings of state-of-the-art skyscrapers and rocky escarpments, park and residential estate covers an area of 280.000 m<sup>2</sup>. The newly created park has two play areas in which children and young people can find a variety of play equipment. Besides several swings and a turning play point made of rope (both HodgePodge), children can climb up to heights of over seven metres in the spatial net of the middle mast structure Pentagode (Polygodes). In close proximity a low rope course (Terranos & Terranova) made from different bridge elements passes over a modelled hilly landscape and a Speedway (HodgePodge) offers plenty of fun. In the second area a rope play house Bam (Greenville) invites users to climb and play hide-and-seek and the play sculpture Twist (Twist & Shout) wiggles across the grass sinuous as a snake. This area is rounded off by the double nest swing Double Cloud 9 (HodgePodge).



Lomas de Santa Fe, Contadero, Cuajimalpa de Morelos, 01219 Álvaro Obregón, Mexico City, Mexico



# Overall Playground Size in m<sup>2</sup> Zone 1: 8.967 | Zone 2: 9.204



# **Berliner Product Line**

Greenville, HodgePodge, Twist & Shout, Polygodes, Terranos & Terranova



Grupo Danhos



# Agency / Architect

Grupo de Diseño Urbano Fernando Montes de Oca 4 Condesa, Mexico City C.P.



# **Planning Phase**

01/2016 - 06/2017



# **Construction Phase** 01/2017 - 11/2017

Photo credits: p. 46/47/48: © Fernando Barragán, Francisco Gómez Sosa, Jaime Navarro, GDU, p. 49-51: © Leonardo Huesca / EVISA Portrait photo: © Alum Gálvez

All Berliner Play equipment supplied and installed by EVISA.













"Located in an old quarry of sand, gravel and stone in the western hills and the outskirts of the metropolitan area of Mexico City. In La Mexicana Park the soil is remedied, rainwater is stored and the topography is sculpted to create a new forest, aquatic and green, cheerful and community park in a dense urban context that lacks green areas and public spaces.

The park has two children's play areas where special games were designed that integrate with nature, between walkways, slides, zip lines, and rope games, families spend hours of fun.

The park presents new ways of developing open spaces and community maintenance, and attracts a diverse population through a high quality design." (Mario Schjetnan, GDU)



# **Tags** Creativity, Identity, Fun



# **Architect's Favourite**

"The Speedway because it is innovative in this spaces and attracts users of all ages."

# **About**

"GDU specializes in integrated concepts of environmental design, connecting architecture, landscape architecture, and urban design. Mr. Schjetnan's work features promi-



rliner Play equipment for life



















Innovative, Versatile, All ages



**Architect's Favourite**The area of the DNA Tower-Combination

# **About**

Among other things, the Parks Department of the City of Wiesbaden stands for a family-friendly community. In efforts to make children feel safe and comfortable in the city, the department is upgrading, renovating, or even completely redesigning the approximately 155 children's playgrounds continuously with considerable financial resources. The children's needs and wishes are incorporated in the planning phase, therefore transforming the neighbourhood playground into their own space.





# Playing on the Roof!

# Bryga, Helsinki (FIN)

Bryga is a public rooftop park located on the roof of the shopping centre Redi in Kalasatama, Helsinki. The Highlight is a playground consisting of a varied low rope course (Terranos & Terranova). Climbing nets in different shapes and angles as well as several bridge elements made of rope and rubber membranes are combined in such a way that the climbing landscape can be climbed through in one piece and is attractive for different age groups.



Location
Englantilaisaukio 4, 00540 Helsinki, Finland



# Overall Playground Size in m<sup>2</sup>



# Berliner Product Line Terranos & Terranova



SRV Construction Ltd



# Agency / Architect Krista Muurinen

Maisema-arkkitehtitoimisto Maanlumo Oy / Landscape architecture office Maanlumo Ltd.



# **Planning Phase**

01/2014 - 09/2018



**Construction Phase** 01/2018 - 09/2018

Photos: p. 62, top left, p. 63, right: © Maanlumo

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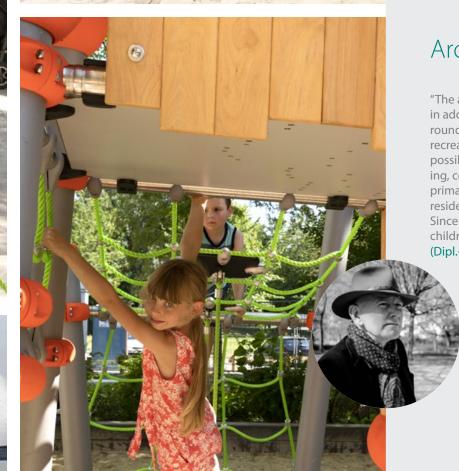












"The aim was to give an aging housing estate – in addition to the colourful redesign of the surrounding buildings – a diverse range of play and rounding buildings – a diverse range of play and recreational activities for as many age groups as possible. The main focus was to design an interesting, colour-accentuated play area, in order to appeal primarily to children, but also to give the entire residential complex a modern, colourful character. Since the courtyard is open to the public, groups of children come to visit and try out the facilities."

(Dipl.-Ing. Oliver Pohlann)



# Architect's Favourite

"It does not have to please me, but instead the children! And I think they especially like the playhouse combination and the cool seesaw."

# **About**

"I am an employed landscape architect of the HOWOGE housing association. Our credo is: "More than usual". And I always try to realise this with my work."

# Contact

www.howoge.de

















- 2. High play value
- 3. Berliner Seilfabrik (which realises exactly this combination of the above mentioned points, which is definitely necessary for play equipment in public or semipublic areas)

# **Architect's Favourite**

The section WA6 with the Twist and the Arch Swing

# **About**

"For Greenbox, creating atmospheric and high-quality open spaces means both challenge and responsibility. We plan strong and sustainable concepts, which are adapted to the respective needs of the people and the environment.
We attach great importance to a
holistic view of architecture and landscape."

# Contact

www.greenbox.la

Portrait photos (p.78): © Bettina Malik











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