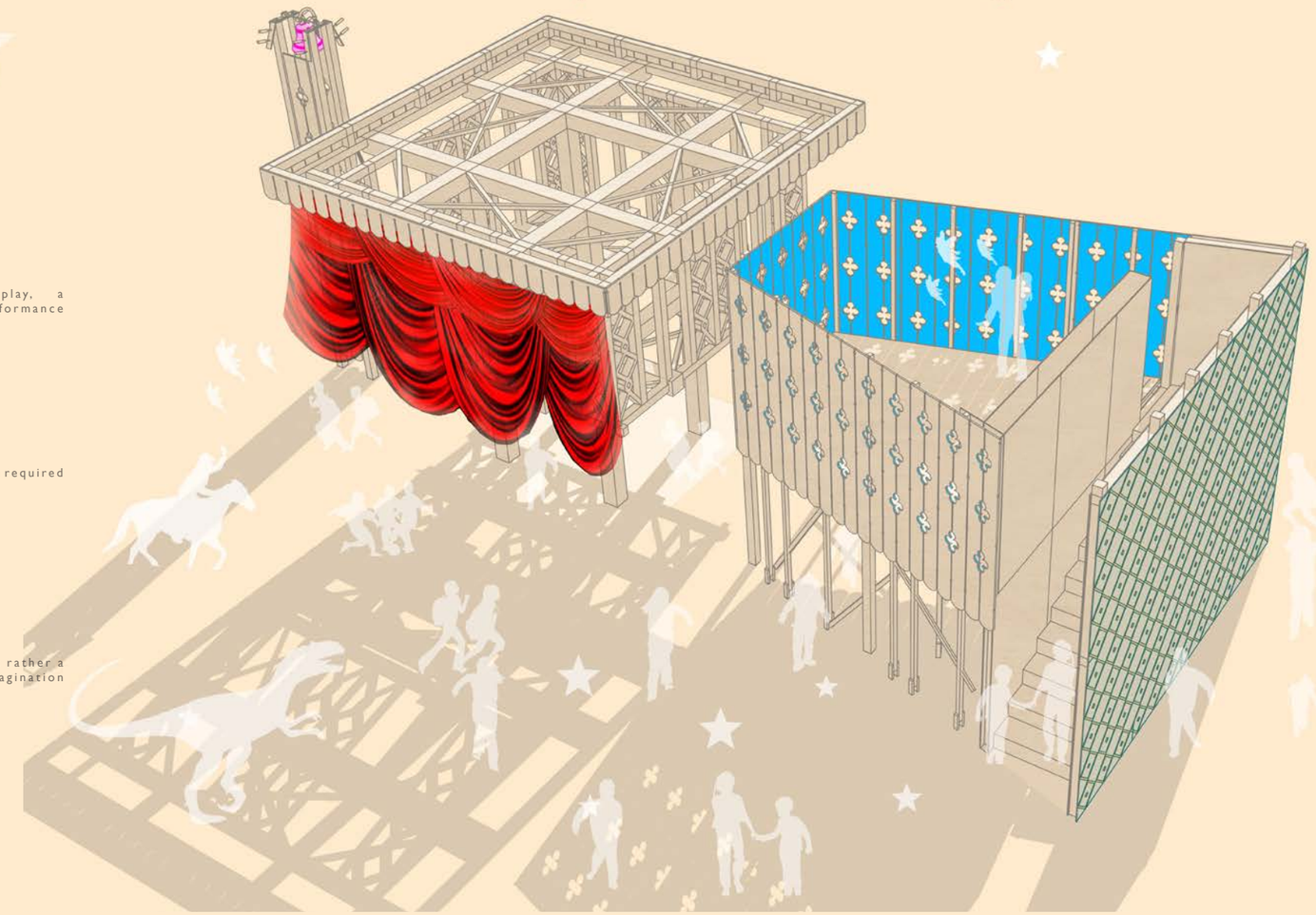
THE EVERYDAY THEATRE

THE MORLEY PLAYSPACE 2014 _PROJECT OFFICE

Ashley Ball

A FANTASTICAL ALLEGORY OF THE EVERYDAY STAGE

The greatest gift children have is their imagination



The Bell Tower signals the start of play, a tradition which forms the start of the performance

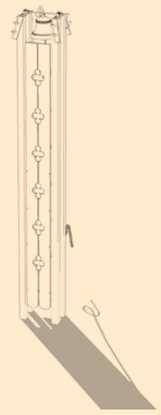
An external grade curtain can be opened and closed when required

The scheme does not provide a playspace per say, but rather a series of platforms which await the habitation of imagination

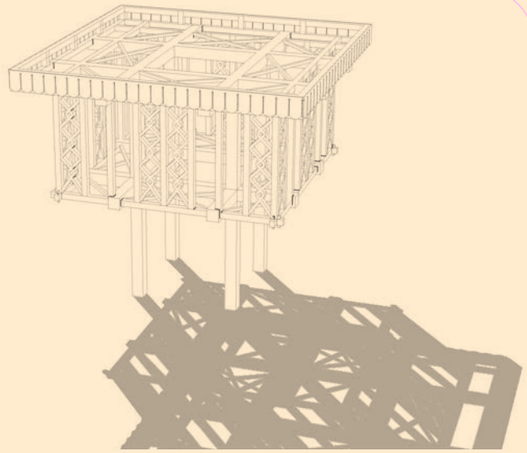
The playground becomes the stage, and the child the actor, director, imaginator

Each platform also allows for multi functional uses, ie: outdoor classes, open cinema projections, theatre productions, etc

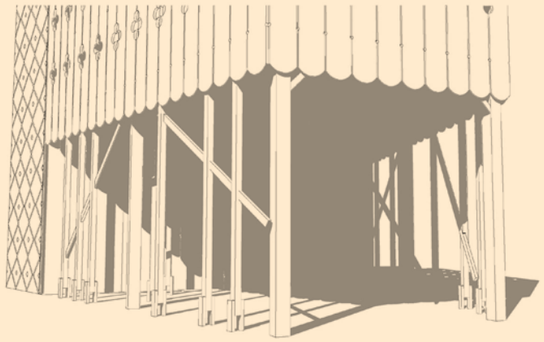
It is suggested that an initial workshop with the children would be implemented to incorporate some of their own patterns into the design



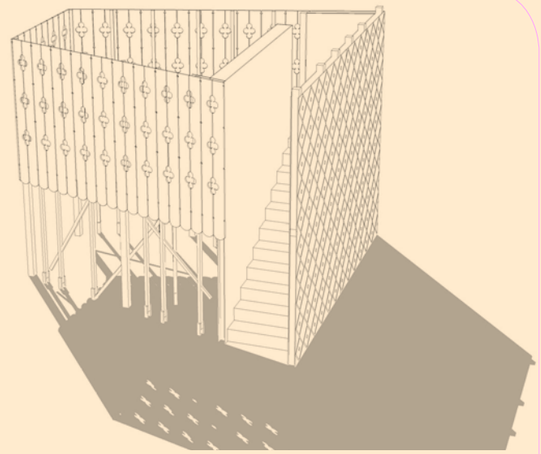
THE BELL TOWER



THE PATTERNED PAVILION



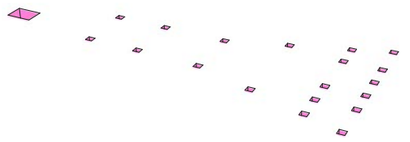
THE UNDERCROFT



THE PLATFORM

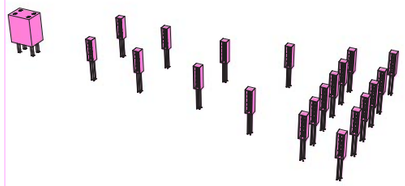
THE EVERYDAY THEATRE

CONSTRUCTION SEQUENCE



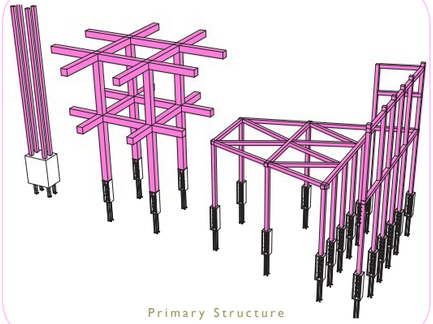
Ground Prepared

Ground prepared for foundations, late June.



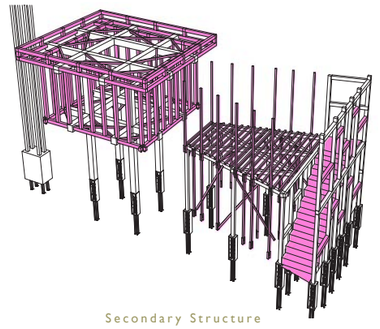
Foundations Laid

Foundations in place by the end of June 2014, specialist crafted reinforced concrete foundation solution connected to primary timber structure



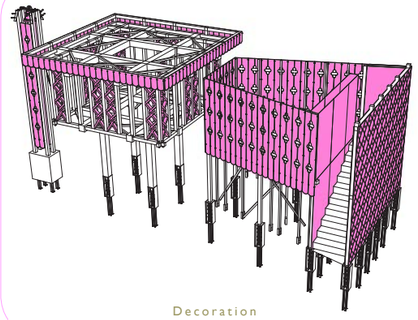
Primary Structure

Primary timber structure prepared at the same time as the foundations. Carpenter to advise on detailing of timber junctions.
Local volunteers to gain building craft experience by helping with preparation of timber elements.
Late June to early July



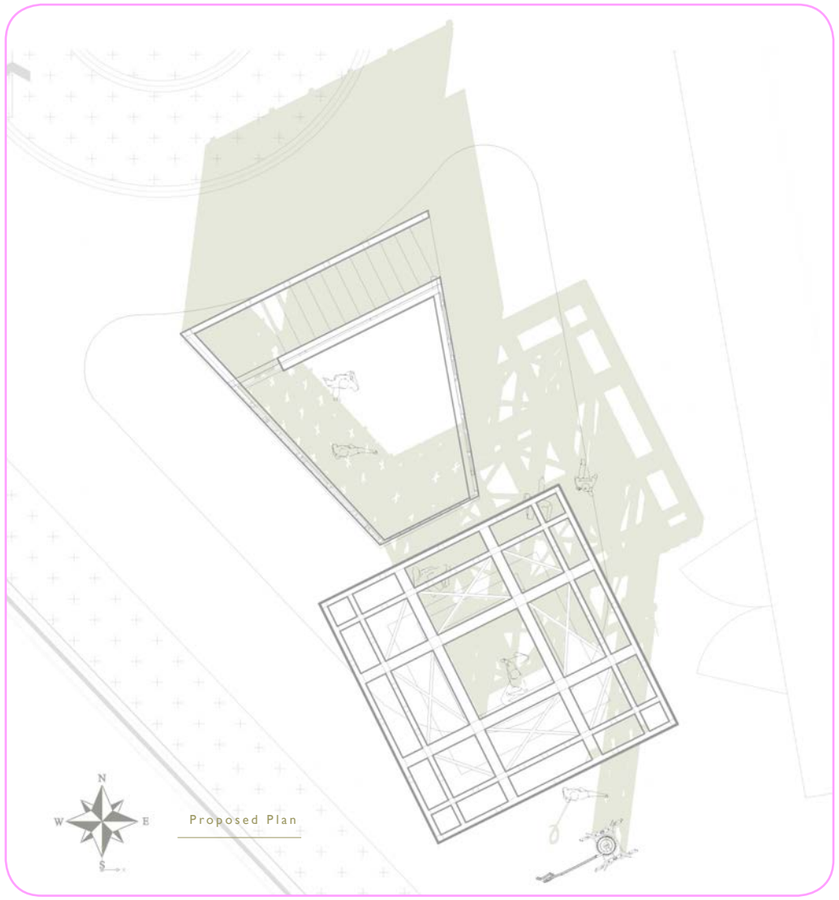
Secondary Structure

Secondary structure in place early- mid July.
Continued support by volunteer programme



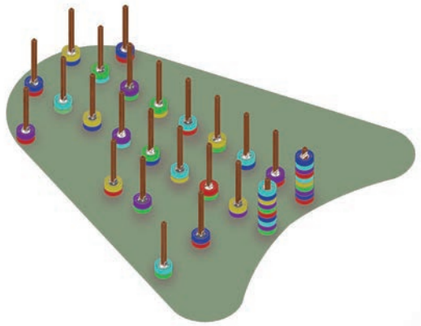
Decoration

Final stages crafted and installed late July to early August ready for safety inspection by Rospa.
Decorated elements hand crafted during volunteer workshops.
Finishes and ground surface prepared.
Stage set...showtime!

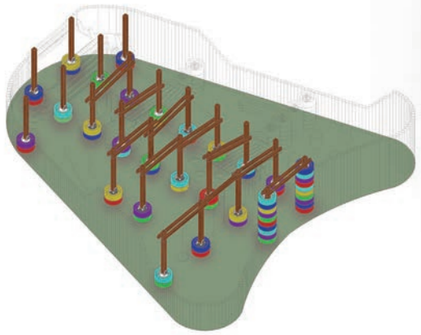


Proposed Plan

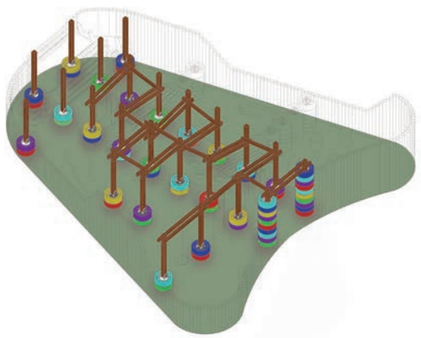
Proposed Scheme



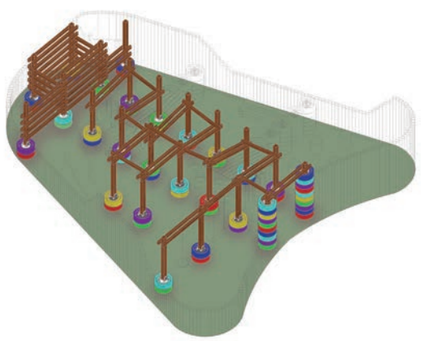
Timber Columns set to 1500 x 1000mm grid on pad foundations



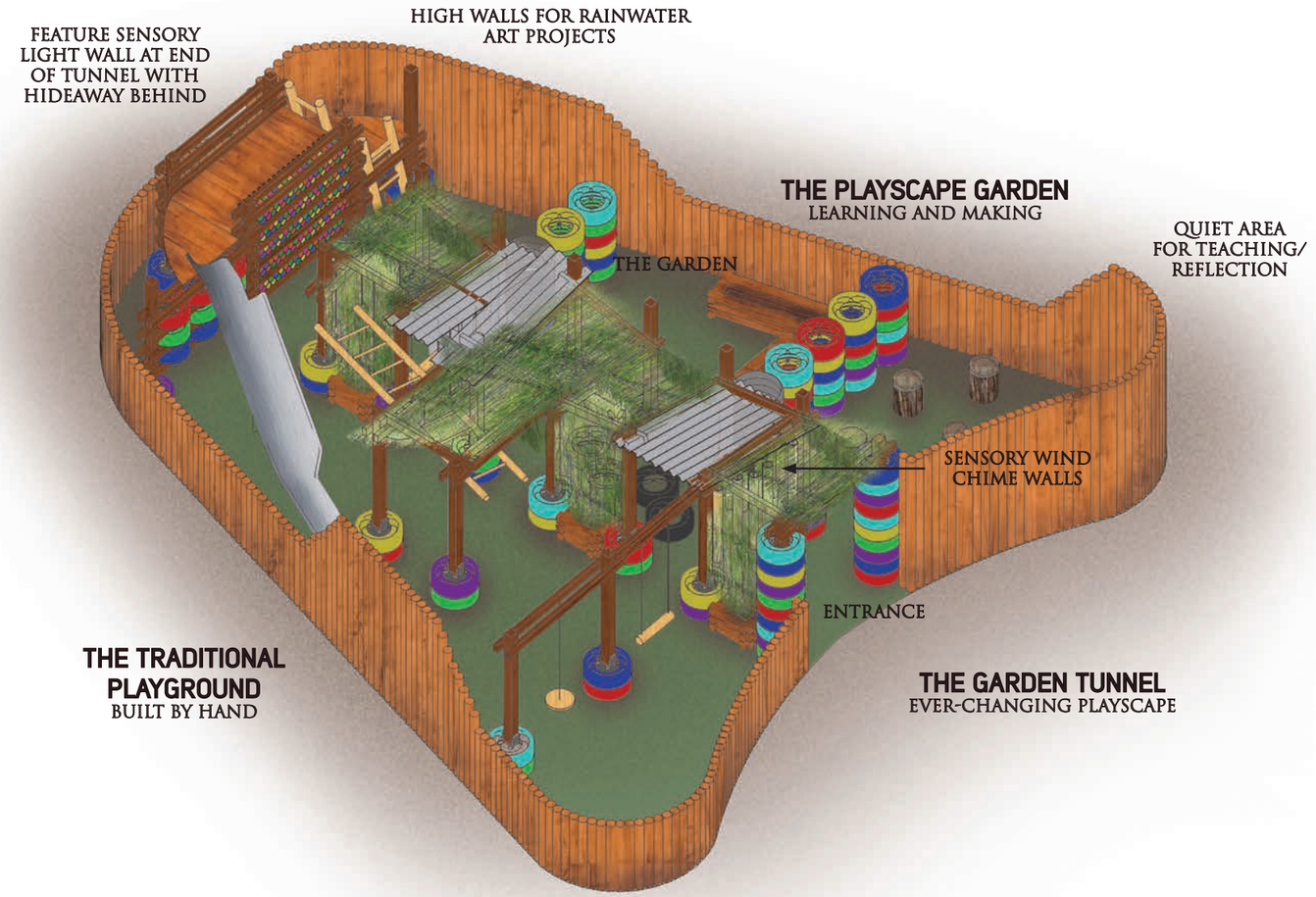
The Tunnel - Angled beams



The Tunnel - Bracing: Angled beams along tunnel length



The Hideaway - timber frame for structural support of upper storey



Willow Tunnels

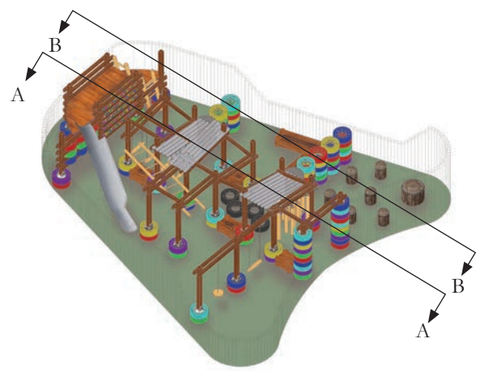
THE SECRET GARDEN
THE MORLEY NEWLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL PLAYSCAPE

The Secret Garden splits the Morley Newlands Playscape into three distinct areas: The Traditional Playground, the Garden Tunnel & the Playscape Garden. In dividing these areas the Playscape offers children both traditional play and the opportunity for a new type of educational play through growing and making. Children can become actively involved in the growing of the garden tunnel through making art projects that collect water, gardening and designing the next layout of the vegetation. The main structure is devised simply with moveable tyre wall partitions in order to allow for changes in form with particular relation to routes through the tunnel. This allows children year after year to make the Secret Garden their own. Focusing on reclaimed materials the Playscape offers additional educational value through teaching the importance of waste cycles as well as natural water cycles. By combining play with learning and creative design the Secret Garden becomes a strong link between bright young minds in the classroom and active children in the playground.

Partitions - Reclaimed materials - timber boarding & tyres

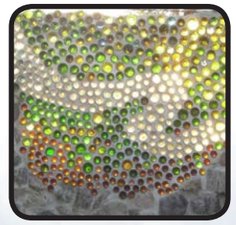
Rainwater Harvesting - Reclaimed sheet panelling, timber logs & twin wall pipe

Play equipment - Reclaimed bamboo and steel slide



Feature wall - glass (or other) coloured bottles inset into hideaway wall

Bamboo wind chimes and other sensory items line the inside of the tunnel and can be made changed and swapped by the children.



High sections of perimeter fencing allow space for art projects themed around water collection for the garden. A south facing feature bottle wall creates a sensory experience of light and colour in the shaded tunnel.

Section A-A
Scale Approx 1:20

THE GARDEN TUNNEL
EXPRESSING THE SENSES & ENHANCING THE SEASONS

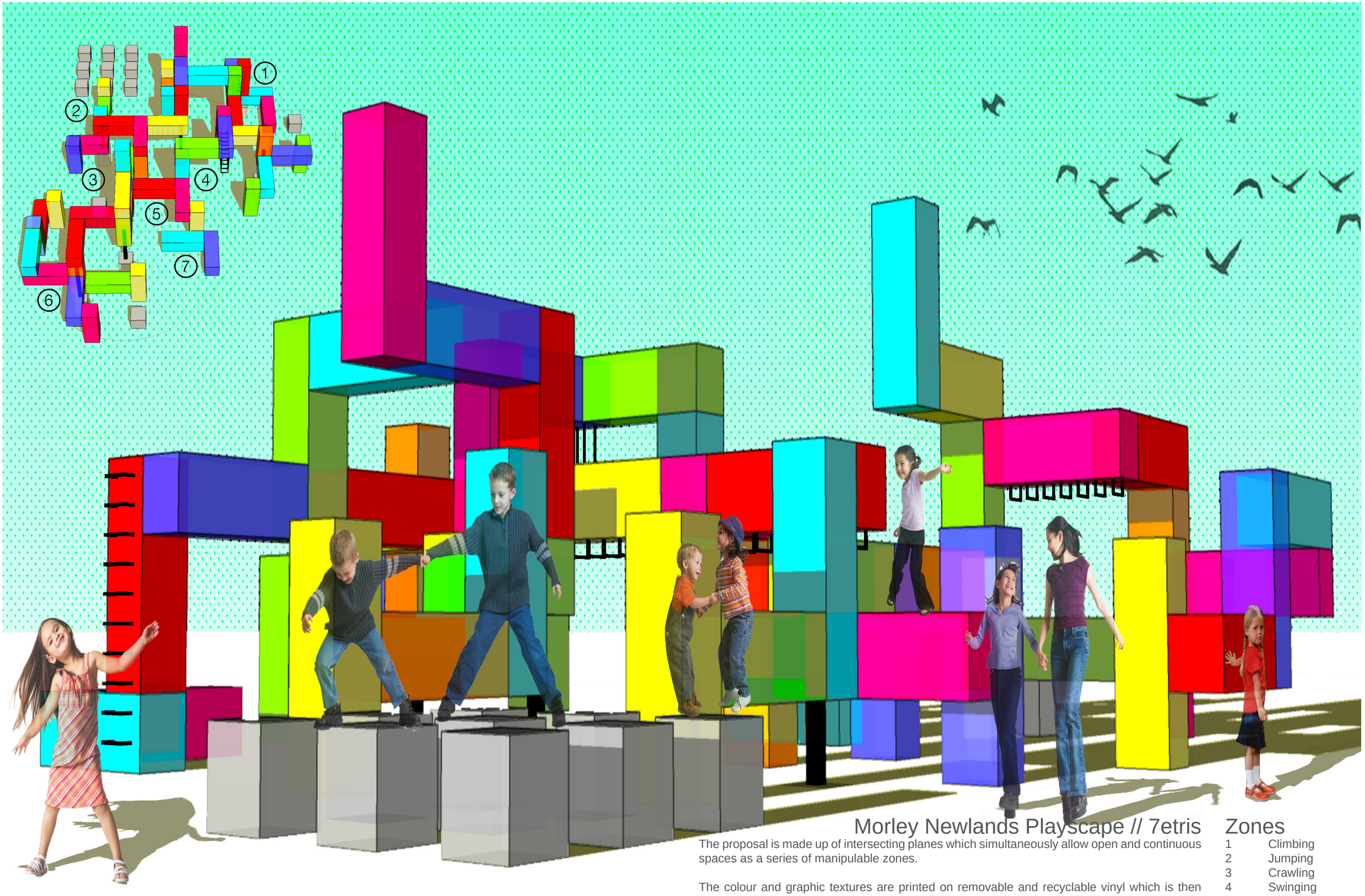
A space for teaching, and gathering provides a focal point for outside classes as well as a place for children to relax when they have had enough of running around

The Playscape Garden allows children to interact with the changing Yorkshire climate. It makes rainy days part of the childrens' fun by helping them grow their own hidey-holes and shaded area for the warm summer sun. Different planting schedules create an ever changing playscape which can be planned by the children themselves. The Playscape becomes their own big art project where the classroom merges with play. By using a simple permanent structure moveable divisions of salvaged tyre walls, planting and vegetation, the Playscape can be changed and altered every year giving an ever new feel to the children who explore it.

A garden complete with rainwater harvesting allows children to directly interact with their Playscape. They get to play in, make & create their own environment.

Section B-B
Scale Approx 1:20

THE PLAYSCAPE GARDEN
LEARNING ABOUT NATURE AND HOW YORKSHIRE'S SEASONS CAN CHANGE THEIR PLAYSCAPE



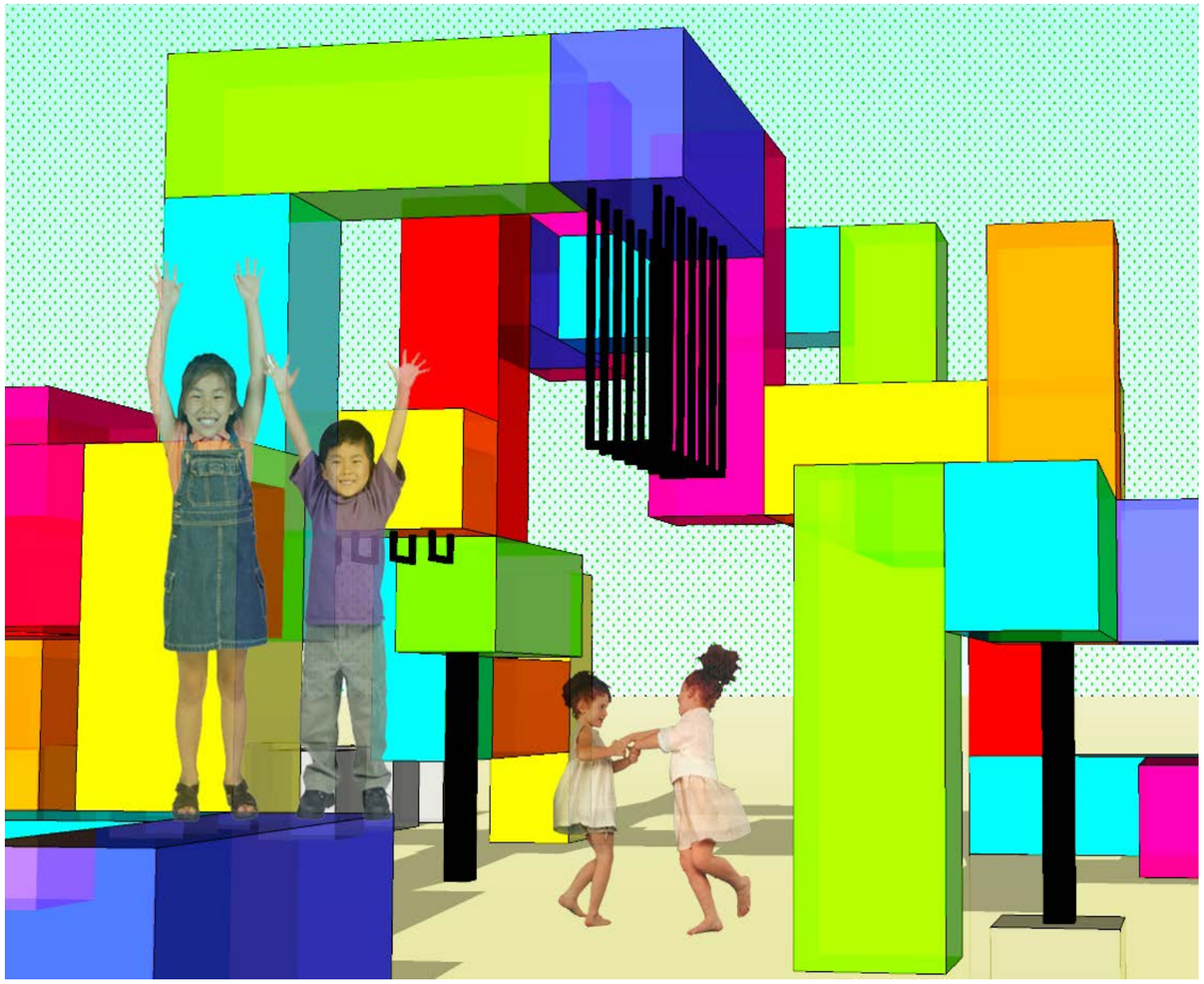
Morley Newlands Playscape // 7etris

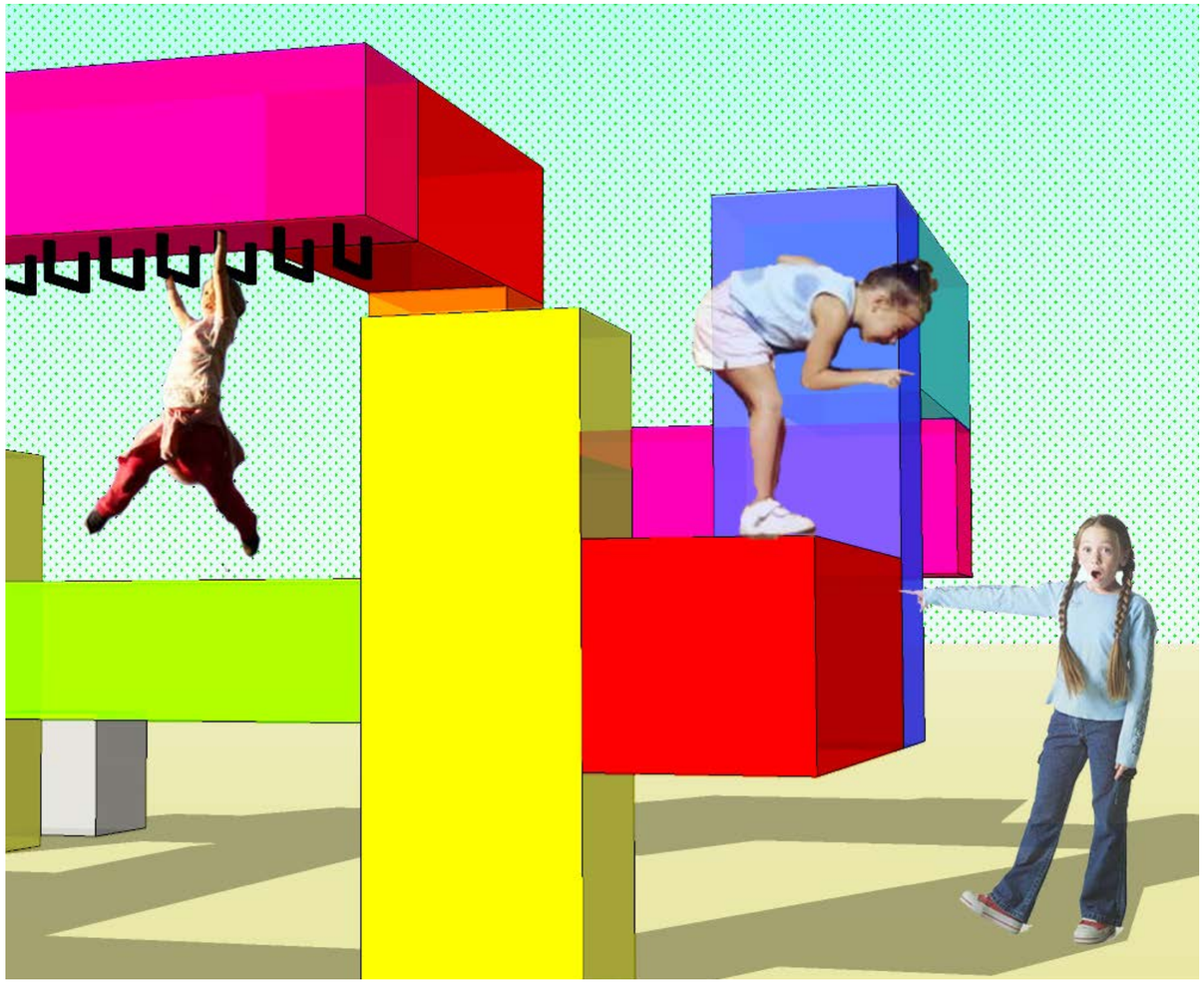
The proposal is made up of intersecting planes which simultaneously allow open and continuous spaces as a series of manipulable zones.

The colour and graphic textures are printed on removable and recyclable vinyl which is then applied onto honeycomb post tensioned layered panels which are re-used from industries such as door manufacturers and furniture fabricators. Steel framing is embedded within the panels and posts support the frame at key intersecting to provide rigidity.

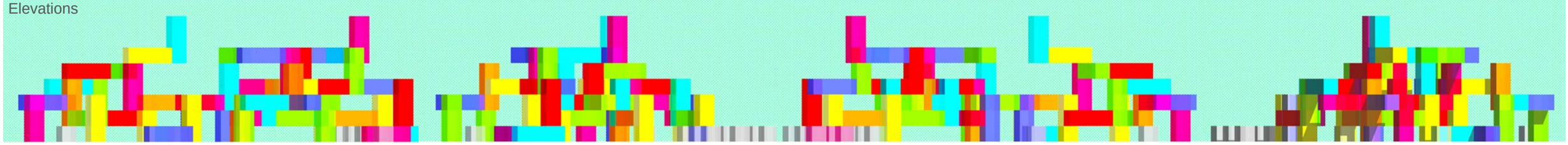
Zones

1	Climbing
2	Jumping
3	Crawling
4	Swinging
5	Hiding
6	Performing
7	Sitting

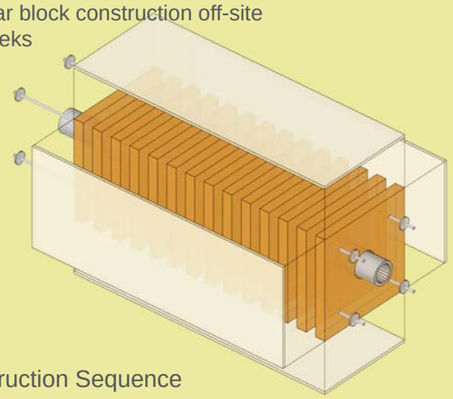




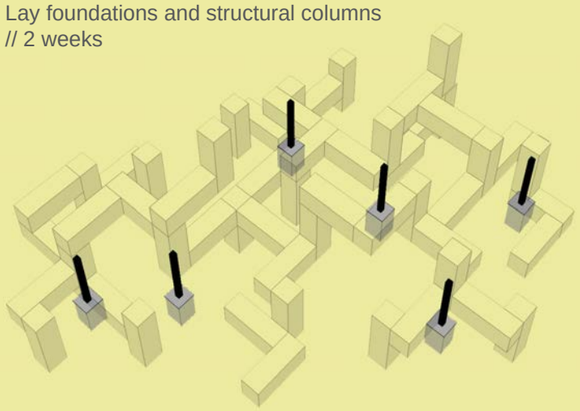
Elevations



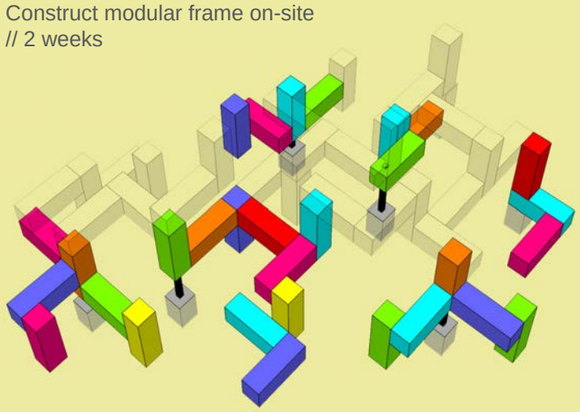
Modular block construction off-site
// 6 weeks



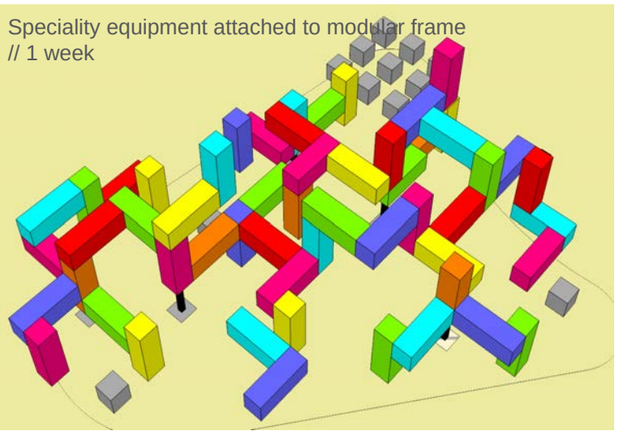
Lay foundations and structural columns
// 2 weeks



Construct modular frame on-site
// 2 weeks



Speciality equipment attached to modular frame
// 1 week



Construction Sequence

AndrewWilliamThompson

Morley Newlands PlayScape

design for a changing world

Life has its complexities; it has it parameters and problems. Barriers and portals. It is as rigid as it is flexible and customisable. So shouldn't the way we play bte the same? After all if we learn how to play as we live wouldn't the boundaries between the two become blurred? Wouldn't it be amazing to come up against a problem and be able to see it as an opportunity to be playful? In life we find ourselves moving forwards, upwards sideways and sometimes falling. Shouldn't a playscape be the same? Life at its lowest is monotonous, regimented and samey. Shouldn't the way we play be the opposite?

Imagine if growing up meant only that our play became different, if it didn't have a terminus.

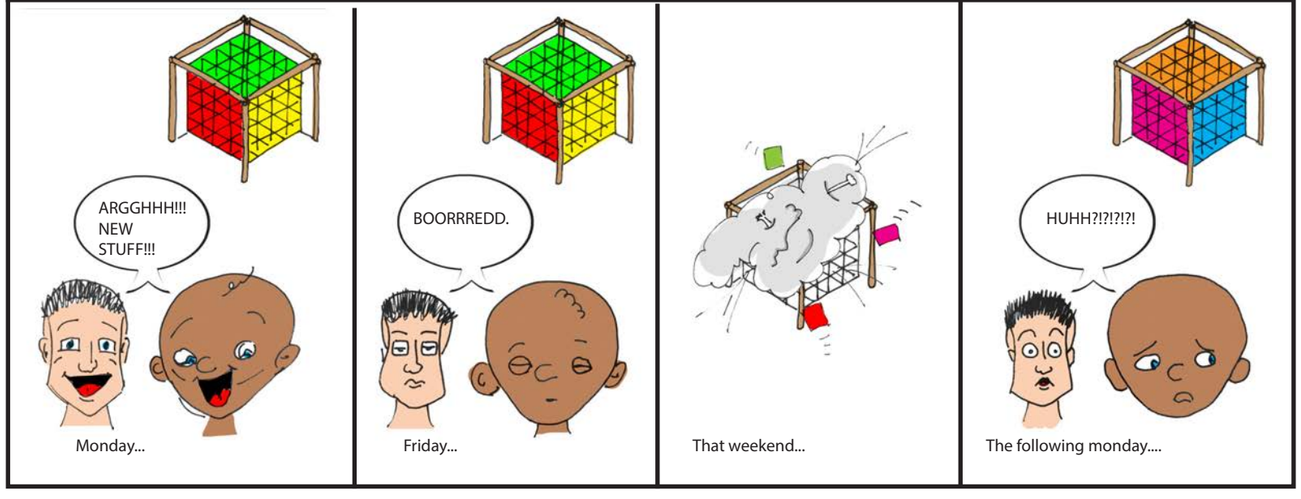
Imagine if we could create something that was never the same, constantly changing. If every child could contribute to its existence and enable it to grow and adapt as they did.

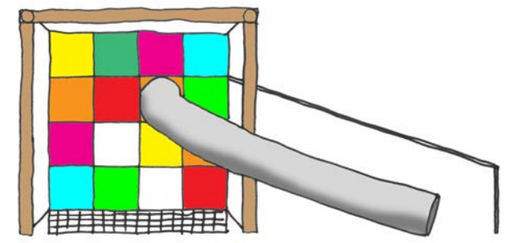
My proposal is to create a piece of equipment which is so adaptable that its permutations will far outstay the youth of anyone who uses it. A 'living' play space. One which can be manufactured easily and have components which are interchangeable, because play, just like life, can be destructive. It is to reflect everything that makes life brilliant; beauty, opportunity, diversity and complexity.
In short:

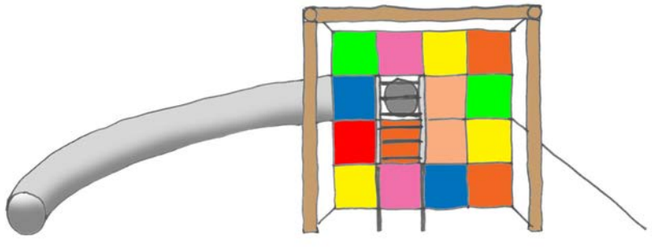
"Men do not quit playing because they grow old; they grow old because they quit playing."

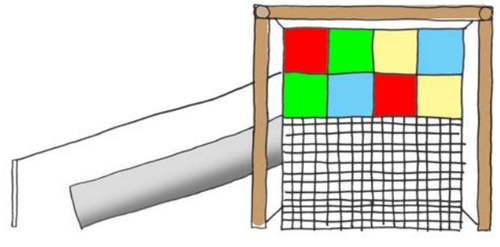
- Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr.

The Boredom Kids and the Cube









Design Guidelines

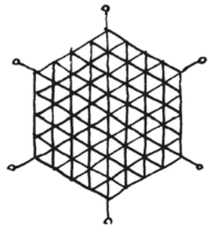
1 - **Children** - The children are the design, it is intended that they make the decisions as to how the PlayScape is configured.
2 - **Safety** - The design is configured in 1m cubes, so the users will never fall more than 1m, which is no further than falling to the floor.
3 - **Environmental sustainability** - The materials can be locally sourced as they are all widely available. There is opportunity for the use of recycled/found materials within the project.
4 - **Senses** - The design is tactile. There is opportunity to introduce a number of sensory components within the framework.
5 - **Weather** - The design is rugged in its material choices, it is not designed to shelter its users from weather, schools tend to not let children play outdoors in adverse conditions.
6 - **Materials** - Use of timber and rope gives a rugged and low maintenance solution, in keeping with the traditional playground aesthetic.
7 - **Inclusively** - The design is anthropometrically suited to children and children only. Because children are always told they can't do adult things, when was the last time you were told you couldn't do something because you are an adult?
8 - **Design theory** - The theory is all based around the exclusion of tedium. The interchangeable components enable the constant development of the design both within its own parameters and beyond them.
9 - **Construction** - The scale of the project is suitable to workshop construction, such as the one found within Leeds Metropolitan University. It is also simple enough that most workshop capable people could construct it with relative ease.
10 - **Participation** - The development can be taken in any given direction by anyone, pupils of the school very much included.
11 - **What if???** - The opportunity to introduce learning components within the framework is completely feasible and strongly encouraged.
12 - **Focal point** - Aesthetically detailed it could become a centre point for the playground.
13 - **Being different** - The design is a constantly changing 'living' thing. Its permutations will far outlast the materials it is made from.
14 - **Beauty** - The structure of the PlayScape is inherently beautiful. It is suspended, hung in equilibrium.
15 - **Meaning** - As detailed in the original design statement, the concept is driven around structure, changing problems and solutions. It is a metaphorical manifestation of life on a lose level.
16 - **Research** - Anthropometric research and market research have lead to a realistic and new approach to PlayScapes.
17 - **Affordability** - The design has over 1 million permutations. What's better value than 1 million pieces of playground equipment for the price of one. Materials are affordable and easily sourced reinforcing a strong feasibility within the project.

AndrewWilliamThompson

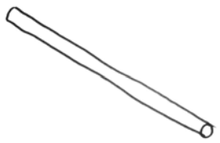
Morley Newlands PlayScape

design for a changing world

Components:

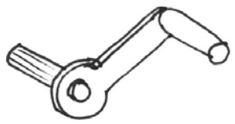


x 1



x 8

x 240



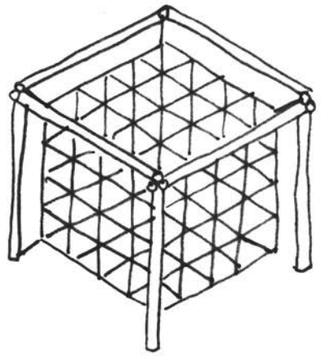
x 1

Optional Extras:

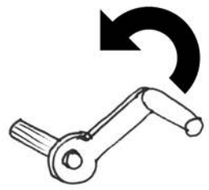
x 1

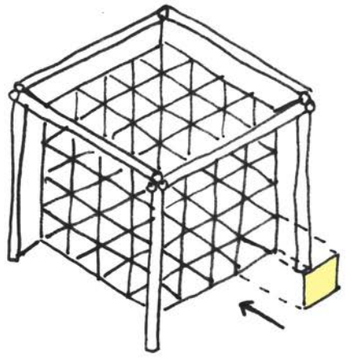
x 1

x 1

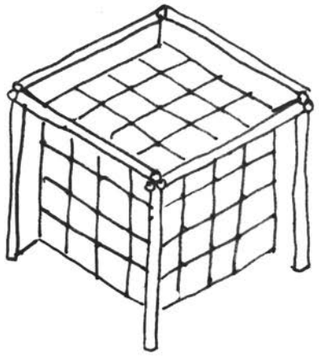


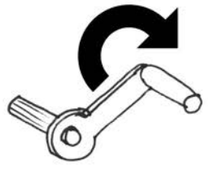
Step 1: Losen net frame



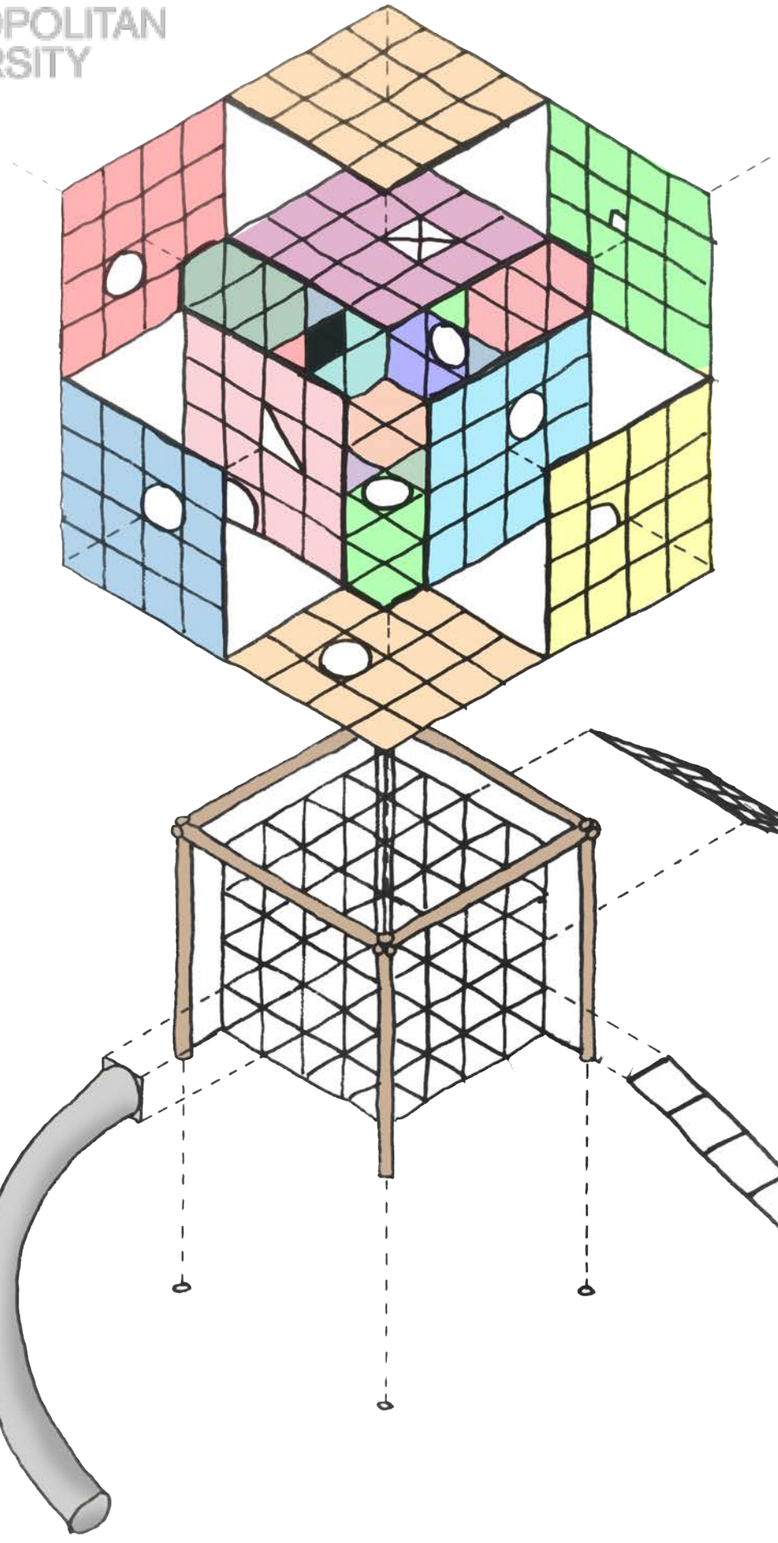


Step 2 : Fit panels to net frame as desired





Step 3 : Tighten net to pull the cube taught



WILLOWORLD

We should provide for children a unique world of exploration and innovation in recreation. A well designed play space should inspire the imagination by providing an array of sensory experiences to foster creativity and develop the sense of wonder in young children.

In August 2011 I created a willow structure for a family-friendly festival in Ripon. Children were pervasively attracted to the domed shelter and played together in their own fantasy worlds, creating a retreat and a place to lose themselves in their imaginations.

Botanic architecture inspires intrigue and wonder in children and creates a natural setting for safe play. Living willow structures grow and change over the course of time, creating a perpetually evolving sensory experience throughout the seasons.

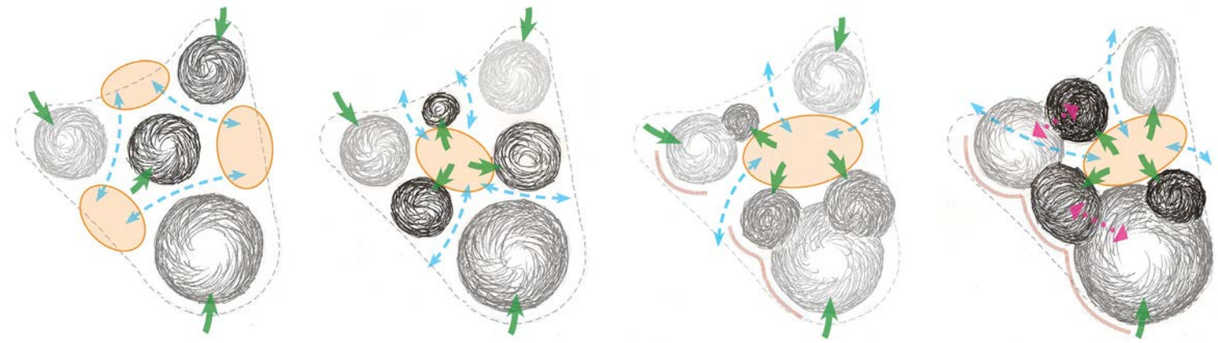
Density variation

Willow can be planted in thick clusters to create dark internal spaces.

Sparse planting will result in lighter, more open enclosures.

Varying the density of willow structures across the site creates greater diversity in the internal light qualities. Varying the heights provides greater spatial diversity.

Spatial evolution



1. Willow structures are placed at focal points of the play space site. Three indistinct play zones are created in between the structures. There is no defined play space and little variation between the willow structures.

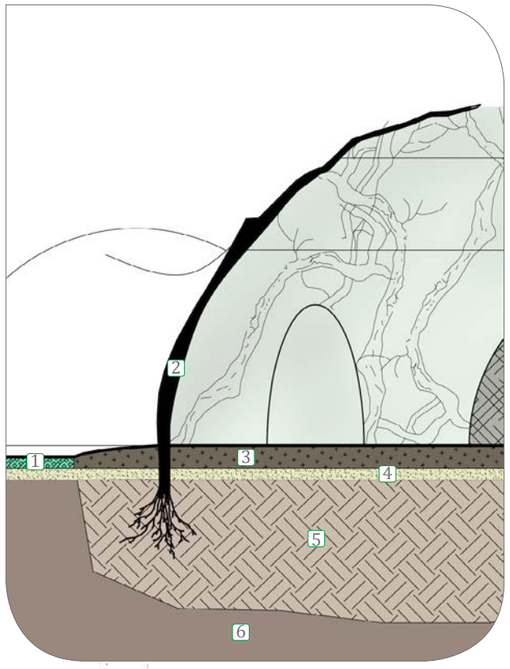
2. The central willow dome is divided and placed around the perimeter of the play space site, creating a central 'courtyard' play zone, accessing onto small enclosed willow structures nestled between the larger, more open willow domes.

3. The smaller, denser domes begin to interact with the larger open domes, creating more interesting relationships between forms and maximising the area of the focal 'courtyard' play space.

4. Inter-connecting routes between spaces allow greater flow through the site and create more interesting experiences within. Living willow 'wall' creates a more enclosed and defined climbing area around the rock wall.

Willow is a fantastically easy material to use in creating an entertaining play space. The forms are simple to plan and set-out on site, the living material is obviously weather-proof, and pupils may even participate in its construction. In fact, it should be encouraged that children occassionally participate in group 'thatching'; weaving the stray willow shoots back into the dome.

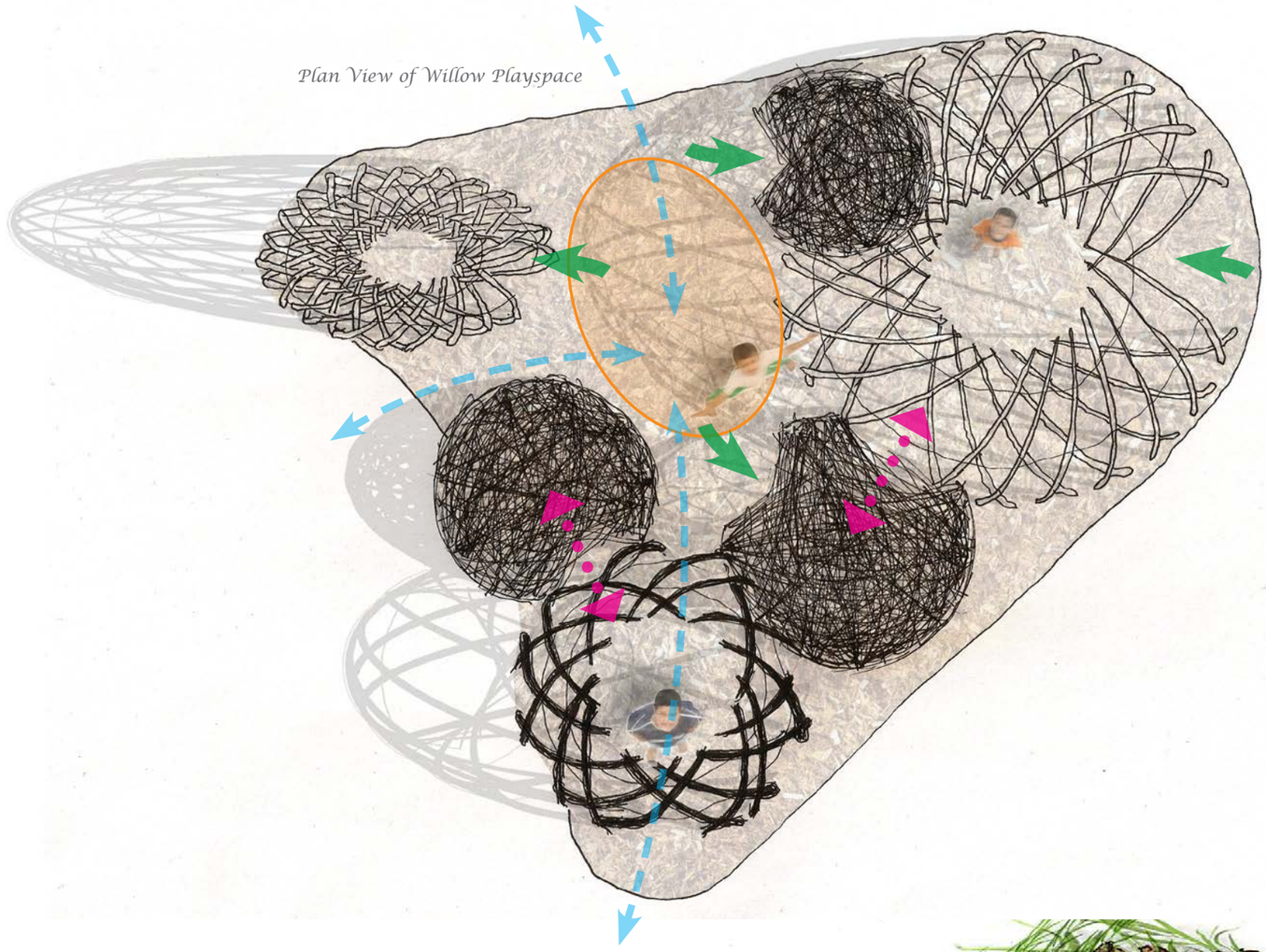
There arises a connection - a symbiotic relationship - between the children and play space, as they are encouraged to continually evolve the structure. This novel approach minimises maintenance, as the children are ultimately responsible for the upkeep of their play space, and also instils in them a sense of responsibility and care for what provides them joy and happiness at play.



Section through willow structure

1. *25mm depth wet pour in-siu laid polyurethane bound virgin EPDM rubber crumb safer surface.*
2. *Living willow shoot*
3. *Safe surface finish - bark chippings / rubber crumb safer surface*
4. *50mm sand blinding*
5. *Soil ~800mm depth*
6. *Made ground*

Plan View of Willow Playspace



'Willoworld' is composed of six geometric willow enclosures of varying densities and scales. These structures interconnect and relate with one another, creating an inspiring, natural and safe play setting for children.

The varying geometric forms of the structures cause intrigue and naturally lead the eye upwards to the sky, evoking wonder and stirring the imagination.

Various passageways connect the structures, leading to a central focal play zone defined by the willow domes. This dynamic focus point serves as an intermediete space between internal and external, between entrance and exit. The structures also serve to form a living willow wall, which aids in defining and enclosing the adjacent climbing zone.

'Willoworld is a natural sensory wonderland full of stimuli to enflame the imagination and inspire young minds.

Perspective View of Willow Playspace