Cranachplatz HAMBURG ALTONA

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The park looked like a mangy cat, my neighbour said, and I didn't know what he was talking about. Oh, that old historical square. Indeed, it was quite overgrown. But now there are endless benches where you can sit, behold the park, and dream.

The streets are named after artists. I wonder if the children who will play on that magnificently colourful structure will one day become artists themselves? But who can tell? Hamburg-Harburg's Cranachplatz, a protected monument, was designed in 1913 by the famous landscape architect Ferdinand Tutenberg. After a century of heavy use, this neighborhood square doubling as a park had become a bit battered, necessitating a renovation. The challenge was to revive the area in the spirit of the art of garden design while at the same time integrating modern elements for contemporary use, such as a play structure for children.

Inspired by the names of the adjacent streets, which are dedicated to great artists such as Albrecht Dürer, Lucas Cranach and Arnold Böcklin, the playground was conceived to resemble the shapes known from the Italian art group Memphis Design: the multifunctional POLAPLAY structure was playfully modelled on the post-modern shapes and colours used by these designers. This structure showcases today's zeitgeist in the midst of a protected park and garden in classic modernist style.

Other contemporary forms of amusement take place as well, for example when the Cranachplatz is turned into an open-air cinema during the summertime.

Monument preservation meets joy of living.





















Project data

Project Cranachplatz
Location Hamburg-Altona, GER
Client Public Space Management, Department of Urban Green Space Hamburg-Altona District Office
Planning period 2015
Construction period 2016-2017
Completion 2017
Services Planning and construction management (Phase 1–8)

Size 6.500 m²Costs 330.000 € net

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