

Play pergola

OSNABRÜCK

POBA

“Look, look,” my little girl exclaimed, demonstrating her climbing skills. Up the golden cage made for playing. The young ones and the old ones were climbing and playing and really having fun. So much laughter, so much action in the midst of the castle garden. We grown-ups are standing by the fountains. These jeux d’eau in the middle of the square are beautiful, I could look at them forever.

Of course I can’t, because my little girl isn’t willing to share my attention. She says when she’s big, she wants to go to university in the castle. She will be able to attend courses there and climb in the afternoons, she says.

In the course of the redesign of Osnabrück’s castle garden, the playground in the Eastern campus area had to make room for a student centre. A new space for playing was created adjacent to the principal axis of the park: the “play pergola”, an open-air playroom delimited by a climbing frame, similar to the so-called bosquets of the Baroque, small garden rooms surrounded by tall hedges and used for playing games or staging plays.

The play pergola is a new interpretation of this special form of historic garden art, as Jörg Michel, owner of POLA Landschaftsarchitekten, explains: “As hinted by the term ‘play bosquet,’ the design borrows from the archetype of the Baroque castle garden where these green ‘rooms’ in strict geometric layout were immediately adjacent to the castle. At the time the green bosquets were used just like interior rooms where their visitors could go to retreat or for enjoying games.”

The open-air playroom in the castle garden with its intimate feel has a lot to offer to young as well as older children: a sand play area, several trampolines on top of colourful play mounds, and opportunities for climbing, sliding, swinging and running. Including the adjacent lawn facing the Stadthalle, the children can use an area of about 1,400 square metres.















Project data

Project Play pergola Palace Garden Osnabrück

Location Osnabrück, Lower Saxony, GER

Client City of Osnabrück

Planning period 2017–2020

Construction period 2021

Completion 10.2021

Services Planning and construction management (phases 1-3, 5-9)

Size 650 m²

Costs 225.000 € net

Competition 1st prize, 2017

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