



Folded Playscape

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UIUC High School Competition



Requirements

- Must have green space appropriate for its location.
- Must have a water feature (can be seasonal).
- Should encourage play by a variety of age groups.

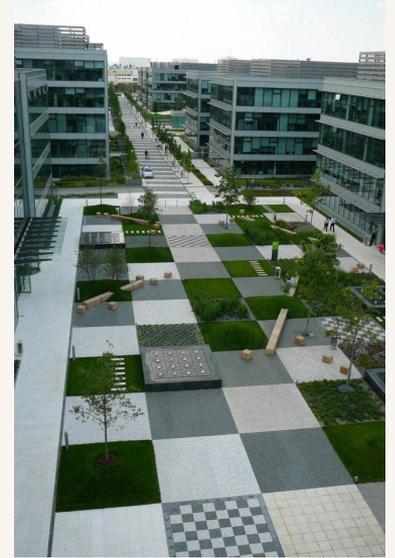
Concept

This playscape is conceived as a sculpted landscape where play emerges naturally through movement, exploration, and rest. Rather than placing isolated play equipment, the design draws from contemporary landscape playgrounds by folding, carving, and tilting the ground itself.

Spatial zoning is defined through form instead of color or fencing, using triangular planes, diagonal slopes, terraces, and carved voids to distinguish play areas. Changes in height, slope, and surface create opportunities for play that can be interpreted differently depending on age and physical ability.

Water is carefully integrated into the playscape. A calm pond offers a place for slow, sensory interaction, while a water slide introduces more dynamic movement and excitement.

Design References



Design Components

Water Pocket This shallow water pocket is embedded into the folded terrain, allowing users to visually observe and lightly interact with water. Its recessed form encourages calm engagement rather than active play.

Net Opening Integrated into a cut-out surface, this net opening invites both children and adults to climb up the structure. The flexible net introduces physical challenge while maintaining visual transparency.

Curved Slide This gently curved slide connects different levels of the terrain and leads users directly into a shallow water area. Its short length and open form support smooth, safe movement, emphasizing sensory transition rather than speed-focused play.

Climbing Chamber This enclosed space allows users to enjoy indoor rock climbing within the structure. Integrated handholds and angled surfaces encourage physical challenge, coordination, and exploratory movement.

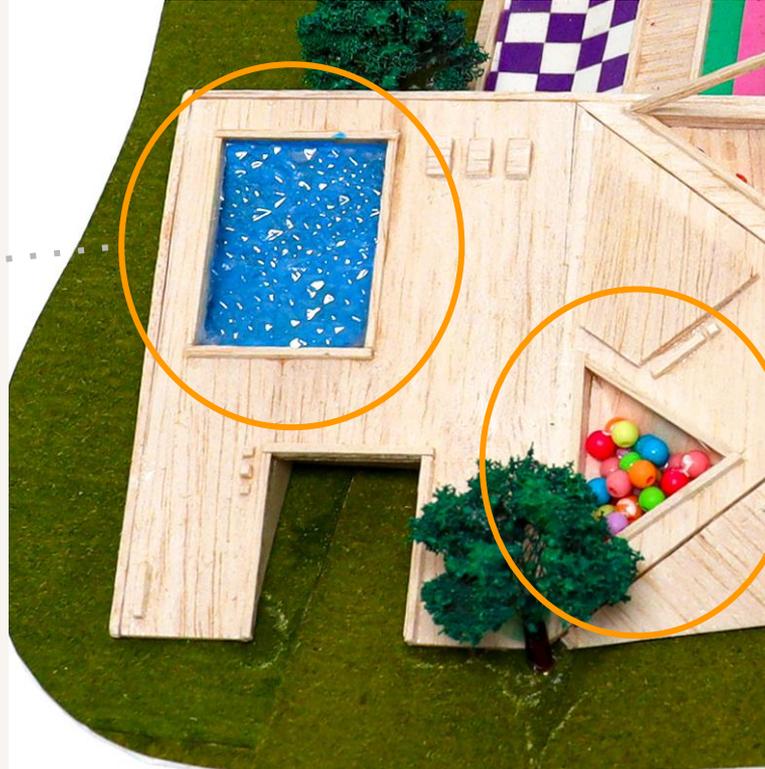
Climbing Frame This multi-level overhead bar structure functions as a three-dimensional monkey bar. It strengthens upper-body muscles and grip strength while encouraging children to navigate space through hanging and reaching.

Ball Pit Pocket This recessed ball pit provides a soft and playful space for tactile exploration. The loose, colorful balls encourage sensory play, body movement, and relaxation, offering a low-impact activity suitable for younger users.

Model details

This shallow water pocket is embedded into the folded terrain, allowing users to visually observe and lightly interact with water.

For all ages



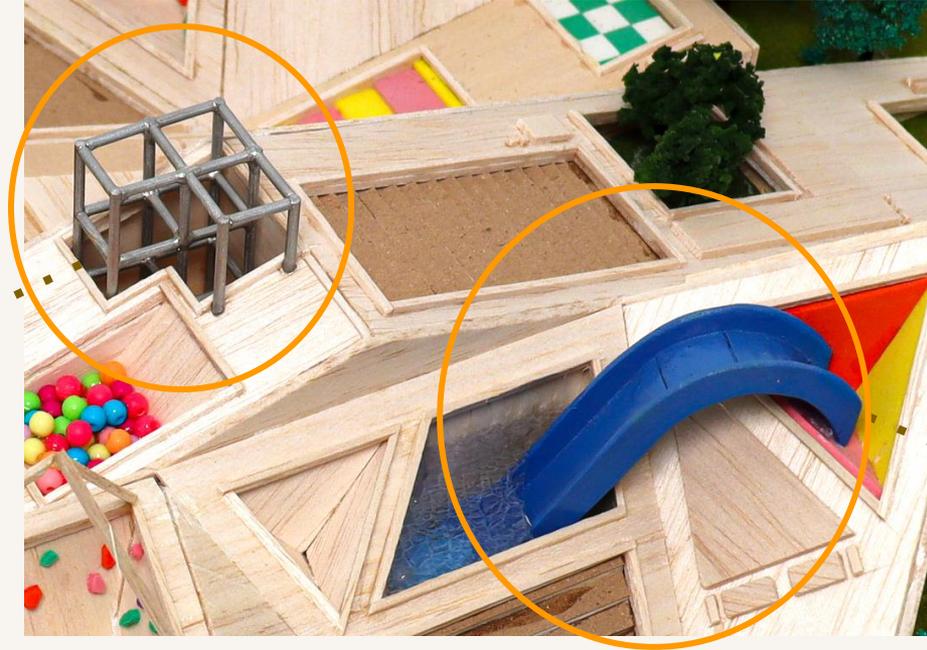
This recessed ball pit provides a soft and playful space for tactile exploration.

For children

Model details

This multi-level overhead bar structure functions as a three-dimensional monkey bar. It strengthens upper-body muscles and grip strength.

For Children



This gently curved slide connects different levels of the terrain and leads users directly into a shallow water area. Its short length and open form support smooth, safe movement.

For all ages

Model details

This net opening invites both children and adults to climb up the structure. The flexible net introduces physical challenge while maintaining visual transparency.

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