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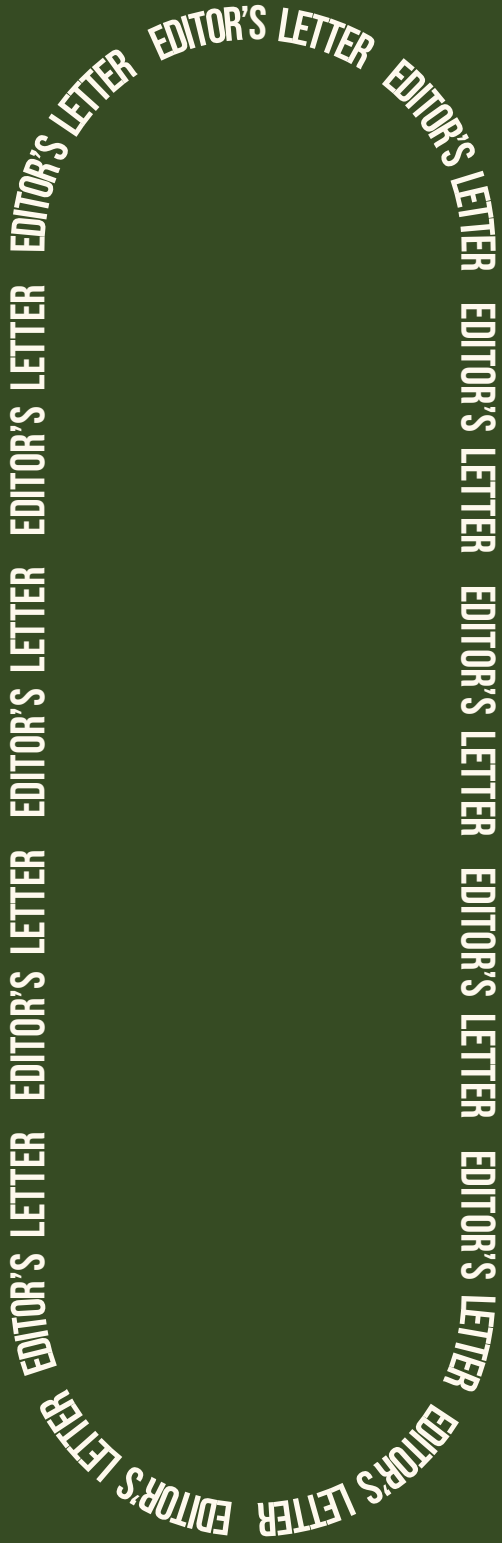
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BY IZUM JELMASSI

I have noticed that two things happen when you outgrow your youth through a socially isolated era, as we are now. Firstly, there is a stark loss of interaction with one another, and second, there are very limited opportunities to interact with new playing spaces. Playgrounds have become ghastly deserted scenes that are sometimes dressed up for what seems to be a police investigation. Nonetheless, I am delighted to present the spring issue of *Guiño* which is dedicated to those who are excited to explore a pandemic ridden world and have an exclusive look at how the idea of *playing* changes from one country to another.

It's been an inspiring journey as I reimagined the joyful nature of reading and interacting with a static medium that explores different cultures. This issue packs a surprise for everyone to discover throughout each article, featuring outdoor playground installments that will motivate the liveliness within you as we approach warm weathers.

So now it's over to you. What do you think of the new signature die-cut that serves different purposes? What do you like and what can be made more fun? Let me know on the *Guiño* feedback section of our newly launched website at guino.com, and I'll see what I can do to inspire more fun in the upcoming issues.

PLAYGROUND LOVE: EXPLORING THE GREEN AMONG THE GRAY

BY PETER BACKHAUS

A city is only as good as its greenery. Japanese city planners must have taken this idea very seriously, as witnessed by the abundance of green spots that cheer up any ever so urban environment. These little breathing spaces are called 公園 (kōen), which literally translates as “public garden,” and their existence contributes a great deal to the quality of city life.

More down-to-earth but no less fascinating are the playgrounds. Some may be more inviting than others, bigger, cleaner, greener, or with more exciting equipment, but they all have a few things in common.

Let's start with the basics, the 遊具 (yūgu, playground equipment). Even the smallest playground is likely to have some sort of 滑り台 (suberidai, slide). Another very common item is a pair of ブランコ (buranko, swings), a would-be loan word of unclear origins.

Other elements to look out for at your local playground are a ジャングルジム (jangu ru jimu, jungle gym) — yes, this word's a loaner! — and various sorts of スプリング遊具 (supuringu yūgu, spring rockers), from the classic horse to more extravagant creatures. A cognate of the spring family is the シーズー (shīsō), a somewhat dire katakana rendition of the English “seesaw.” The coexisting Japanese name, ぎったんばっこん (gittan bakkon), does much better justice to the constant up-down movement the contraption

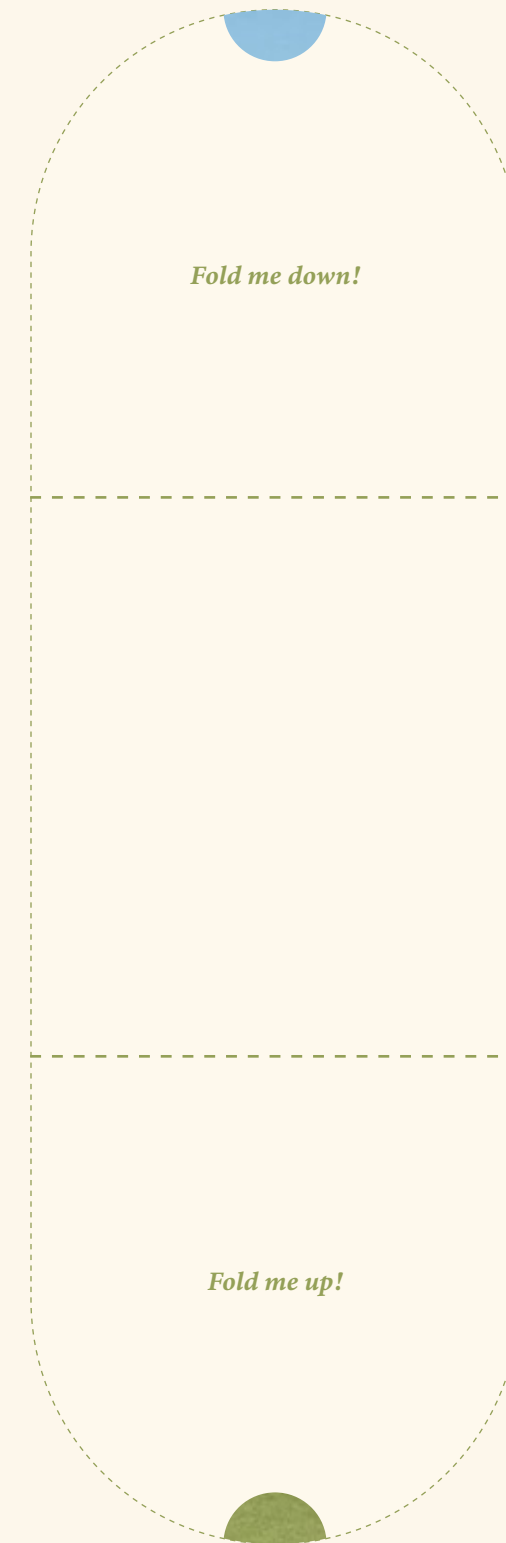
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Fold me down!

Fold me up!

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puts you through. Some playgrounds also sport a number of athletic elements. The most basic among them are 鉄棒 (tetsubō, horizontal bars), often in different heights, and うんてい (untei, monkey bars). Sometimes there may be a whole maze of apparatuses, to keep both young and older playground users in good shape. The ambitious Japanese term for this is アスレチック (asurechikku), derived from English “athletics.”

A Japanese playground wouldn't be what it is without a few other, nonplay prerequisites. A bench or two is always appreciated, after all you cannot sit on these swing protection bars all the time. In addition, a well-maintained playground needs a 水飲み場 (mizunomiba, drinking fountain) so you won't get thirsty, a トイレ (toire, toilet) for when you've drank too much from the

above, and a 時計 (tokei, clock) so you know when it's time to return to your nonplayground world.

Even if perhaps somewhat overregulated, Japanese playgrounds fulfill a vital function in everyday urban life — and not only for kids. They also provide a lunchtime space for hurried bento eaters (but don't litter!), toilets for taxi drivers and other moving professions (please keep them clean!), a turf for gateball tournaments (if not prohibited, that is), and an open-air ground for early morning ラジオ体操 (rajio taisō, “radio gymnastics”). Most importantly, they provide some green among the gray in your very own neighborhood.

FUN IS GOOD. FUN IS GOOD. FUN IS GOOD

- DR. SEUSS

CHINA'S CONCRETE JUNGLES MAKE ROOM FOR GREEN SPACE

BY KEITH BRADSHER

Joggers wind along burgundy paths lined with azaleas, wisteria and osmanthus. Fishermen catch carp weighing up to 11 pounds. Children skip rope, while elderly couples rest on waterfront benches.

“Building parks is very much similar to curbing pollution — though it looks like a money-losing proposition, it is nonetheless good for the society,” said Liu Jing, an accounting and finance professor at Cheung Kong Graduate School of Business in Beijing.

Parks offer an easy, albeit not cheap, way to satisfy some of those societal needs. As with other municipal programs in China, officials can quickly move entire neighborhoods to make way for green spaces — even when there is grumbling from residents.

Since 2001, China has nearly quintupled the acreage of public green space in its cities, according to data from the country’s Ministry of Housing, Urban and Rural Development. Park construction has taken on greater urgency during the pandemic. Many people have been cautious about going to restaurants, cinemas and other indoor locations.

Shanghai added 55 parks last year, bringing its total to 406. The metropolis, one of the world’s largest, has announced plans to build nearly 600 more parks in the city in the next five years.



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Shanghai added 55 parks last year, bringing the total to 406. The metropolis, one of the world’s most densely populated cities, has announced plans to build 100 new parks in the next five years.

养天地正气，法古今完人

增广见闻
增长才干
增长本领

更快 更高 更强



CHINA

CHINA'S CONCRETE JUNGLES MAKE ROOM FOR GREEN SPACE

ISSUE 01



“I see a lot more trees and flowers than before — it is changing the cities’ texture,” said Wang Min, a professor at the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing who was a design director for the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

The average Chinese city now rivals New York in publicly accessible green space per person. New York has long been a leader among densely populated American cities in building parks, thanks to the creation of Central Park, Prospect Park and Pelham Bay Park in the 19th century.

The comparison, though, isn’t exactly fair. American cities have not only parks but also many private lawns. Chinese cities have very few lawns, because municipal zoning rules generally prohibit them, as well as most single-family homes. The country’s rules instead favor checkerboard layouts of high-rise apartment buildings and lavishly landscaped parks.

China’s latest five-year plan, approved by the legislature on March 11, calls for a nationwide program of urban park construction through

2025. Cities were ordered to “scientifically plan and lay out urban green rings, green corridors, green wedges and green passages.”

“For the next five years, we can take steps more quickly,” said Hu Yonghong, the director of the 500-acre Shanghai Chenshan Botanical Garden, which is helping pick trees and other plantings for an expansion of green space across the city.

Parks being built in China bear little resemblance to those in the West. In the United States and Western Europe, parks have increasingly been returned to nature. Grass is left unmown near the base of trees to provide shelter for small creatures. Paved paths are few, and some are even torn up to let more rain reach plant roots.

WHAT THE NORDICS CAN TEACH US ABOUT HAVING FUN

BY CLARE DOWDY

What do you get if you mix a love of foraging and the countryside with a child-centred mindset and a healthy attitude to danger? Answer: playgrounds that are the envy of the world. “Scandinavia is a special place for children, no doubt,” says Brit Kieran Long, director of ArkDes, Sweden’s national centre for architecture and design, “and Sweden has children at the heart of everything it does”. He puts this, in part, down to “the amazing equality of gender between parents. Parenthood here is not women’s work, it’s much more equal, and there’s huge amounts of parental leave”. That creates an extreme demand for experience, and informs how public play is handled, he adds.

Since the 1940s, kids in the region have been getting muddy and wet and taking risks in well-designed play areas, and these once-pioneering ideas have spread. The idea of actually creating a playground with specifically designed equipment was conceived in 1850s Germany, with the first being built in Manchester, UK and then in Boston, USA.

But the Scandi philosophy of play, around free – rather than structured – play, and plenty of it outdoors, led to more inspiring settings. It all began when Danish architect Carl Theodor Sørensen came up with the notion of skrammellegepladser or “junk playgrounds”. His aim was to give urban kids the same chance to play as those in the countryside. He’d noticed that kids would rather play anywhere than in the playgrounds that he first designed, and in the 1930s was inspired by seeing resourceful kids turning construction sites into play areas.

*Open
Sesame!*





WHAT THE NORWEGIANS CAN TEACH US ABOUT HAVING FUN

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Surprise!

“PLAY IS SOMETHING THAT EVERYONE HAS A RIGHT TO - IT IS LIKE A BASIC SERVICE OF URBAN LIFE” - HANNA HARRIS



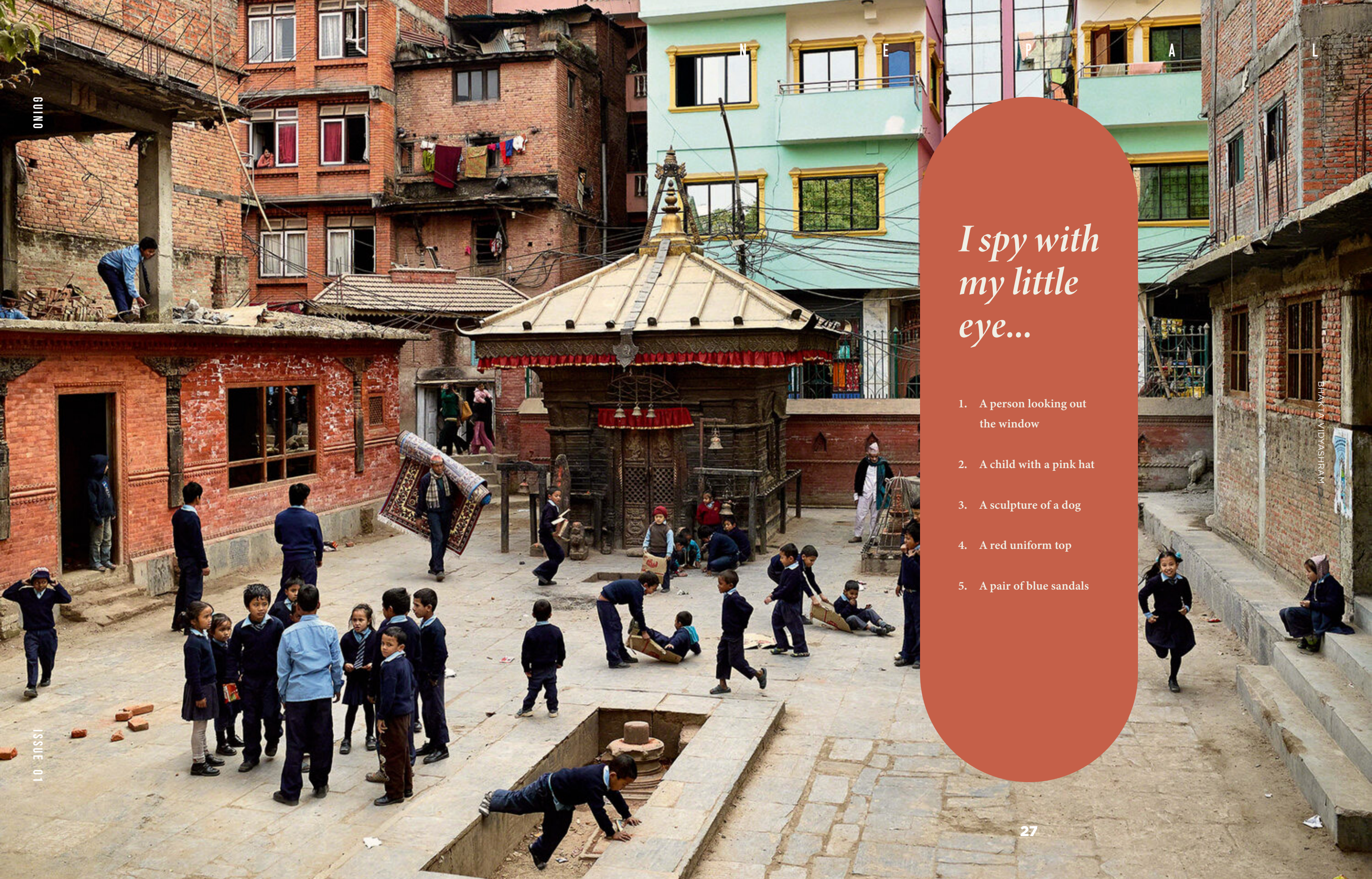
Not all playground equipment needs to look like play equipment, says British architect Jake Ford of Sweden-based White Arkitekter, one of the biggest architecture firms in Scandinavia. “It could be subtle, like a bench that you can climb on so it becomes a stage, or trees that are climbable.” Ford is part of the team working on the Gascoigne estate in London’s Barking, where the Scandi influence will be felt, as play in the public realm is central to the design.

If playgrounds are designed to be exciting and unique, they can perform further roles. Malmö families cross town to visit its network of individually themed parks, making them a motor of social exchange, says Long at ArkDes. “This breaks down barriers between diverse communities”.

However, in places with housing shortages, play areas can suffer. Brunge points out that even in some parts of relatively well-funded Scandinavia, playgrounds are under pressure. “In the new dense housing areas (of Sweden), it’s hard to get a big enough space for things like kindergartens, schools, play areas and parks. The parks get smaller and with the dense exploitation, more people are using them. This has meant that we are having a hard time getting natural vegetation like lawns, flowers and shrubs to survive because of wear and tear.” Long echoes this. “Now it’s a watered-down version, of ‘let’s make some nice play equipment’. The radical past is not so alive now.”

Sørensen’s designs reflected the modernist movement and included strong geometric shapes and graceful landforms. But it wasn’t just the Scandinavian modernists who brought geometry into play. The late Japanese-American sculptor Isamu Noguchi’s playground designs often referred to geometry and science, says Florence Ostende, curator of the Barbican’s recent exhibition Noguchi. She cites “triangulated structures such as the tetrahedron, which [Noguchi’s] close friend R Buckminster Fuller conceived as ‘a minimum structural system of the Universe’”.

His play equipment graced Japan’s Moerenuma Park, and in 2019, Danish artist Danh Vo placed Noguchi’s Play Sculpture – a red undulating loop of six large pipes – in the grounds of Pelican Estate in South London, creating somewhere for residents to play, climb and rest. “Noguchi’s fundamental contribution to playground design lies in the free, open and unscripted nature of our relationship to space and the environment,” adds Ostende, whose exhibition will tour to Cologne, Bern and Lille.



I spy with my little eye...

1. A person looking out the window
2. A child with a pink hat
3. A sculpture of a dog
4. A red uniform top
5. A pair of blue sandals

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF QATAR PLAYGROUND

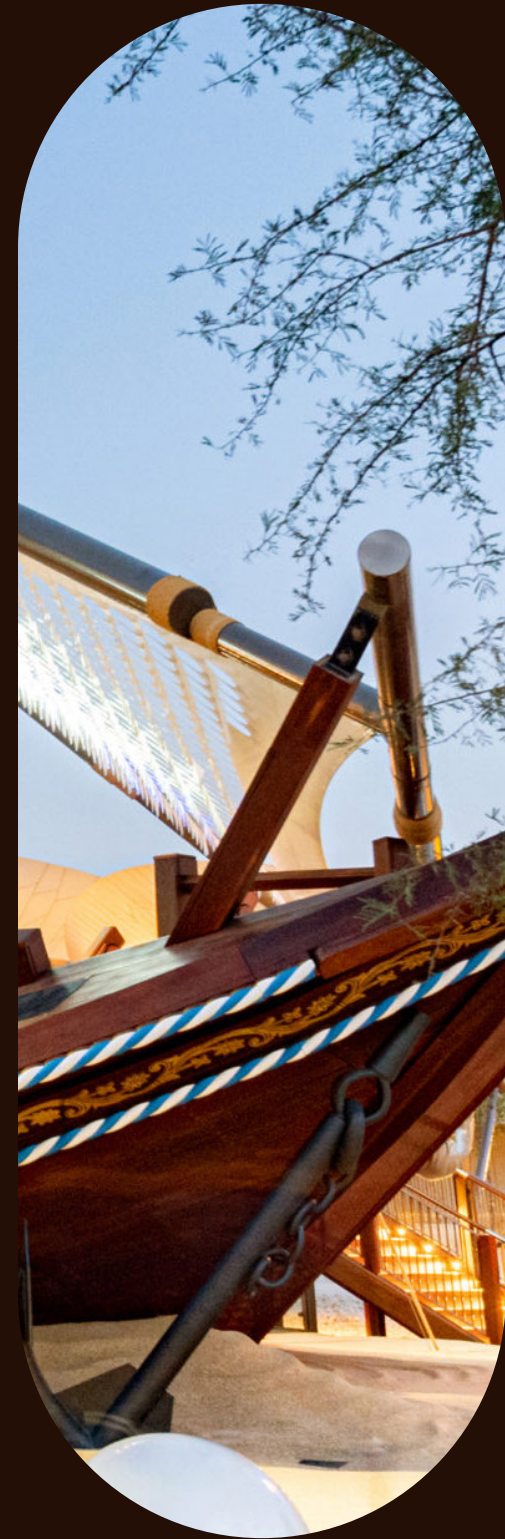
BY TAYLOR CULLITY LETHLEAN

The Adventure Ship and Cave of Wonders are the first in a series of playgrounds within the site of the National Museum of Qatar. The immersive and curated play spaces showcase the stories behind the importance of the sea and Qatari cultural history.

Each playground is specifically themed with a strong connection to the internal galleries of the museum and brought to life in a playful, interactive and natural setting to engage people of all ages and abilities.

Qatar's extreme weather was mitigated through an array of technologies including integrated cooling mist fans, chilled water systems for water features and cave structure, as well as optimised shade planning for the sails and structure.

Qatar's diverse landscapes includes naturally occurring and eroded caverns (or 'duhul') just below the surface. The Cave of Wonders playground is a direct response to the geology, fauna and history of the dahl, or cave formations, the Cave of Wonders creates a mysterious underground play space, and provides opportunities for story telling by the museum.



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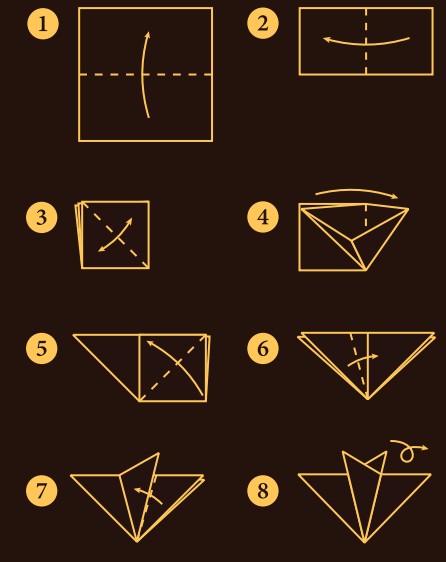
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Fishy Folds

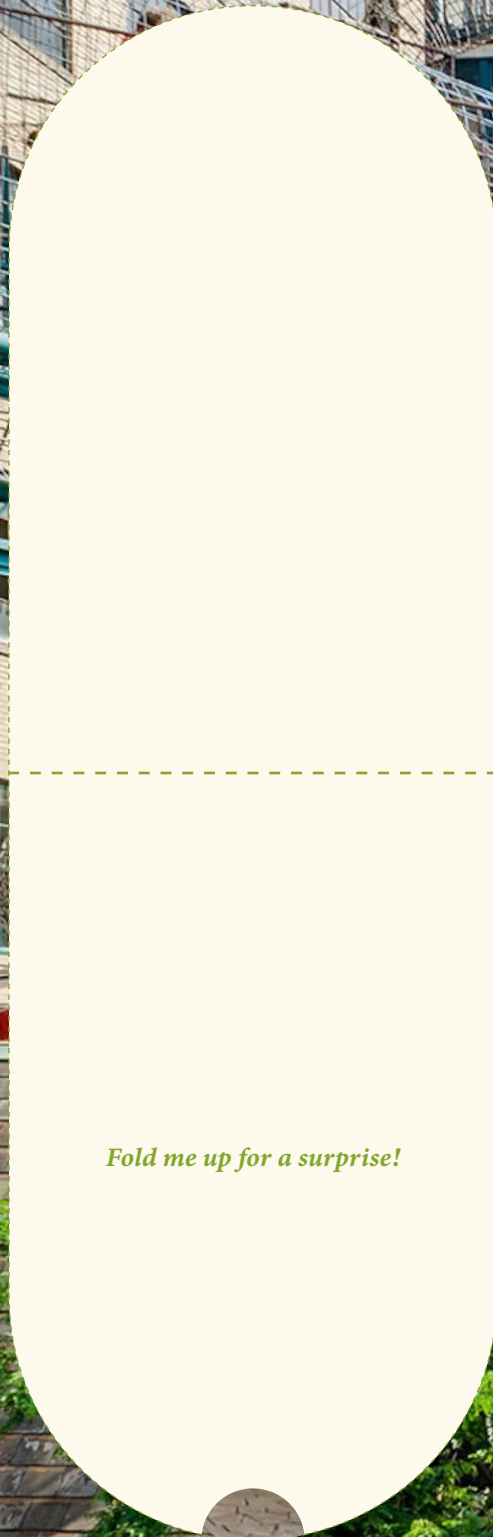
Tear me off!



Smells Fresh!



CHILD



Fold me up for a surprise!

ISSUE 01

ST. LOUIS CITY MUSEUM PLAYGROUND



Just kidding, use your imagination instead!

THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM CANBERRA

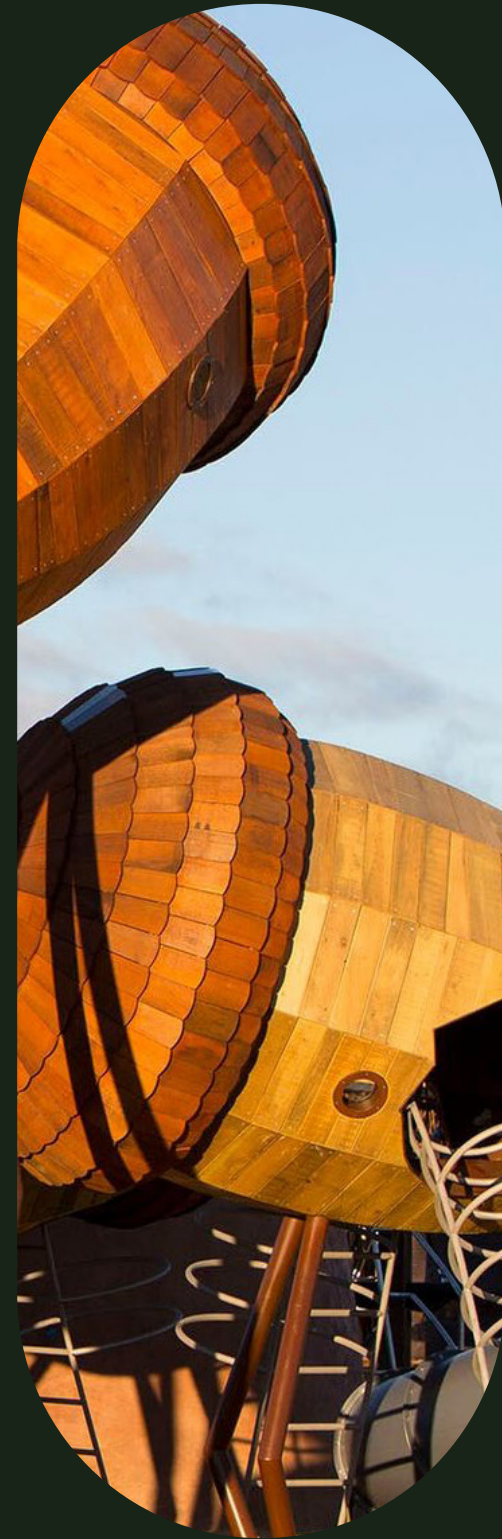
BY TAYLOR CULLITY LETHLEAN

The Pod Playground at the National Arboretum Canberra offered an opportunity to creatively engage children with the beauty of trees and, we hope, foster a life-long connection to this remarkable environment.

Using the idea of seeds as the beginning of life in a forest, children and their families can enter a fantasy world of exaggerated scales. This is a play space with giant acorns floating in the sky and enormous Banksia cones nestled on the forest floor. The play space occupies an enviable location, high on a hill overlooking the forests, with views to Lake Burley Griffin and central Canberra.

Colours are kept to earthy autumn tones to allow a sensory experience through smell, texture, form and feel. All plant species are native, except for one acorn-bearing oak tree, growing to perform its role as the 'story telling tree'. Indigenous grasses have been grown to be harvested for basket weaving, sitting among flowers of red, orange, yellow and white.

The playground aims to embody a sense of wonder, imagination and enchantment. It was designed to encourage flexibility and spontaneity in play. The play space challenges the conventional idea of play environments and demonstrates how a play destination can not only meet stringent play standards, but also offer a unique play experience for all.



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THE NATIONAL
ARBORETUM
CANBERRA
PLAYGROUND

INSPIRED
BY THE
ARBORETUM'S
100 FORESTS

