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PAYSAGE
EDITORE

**R2 Folly Forest, A Dance Floor
for 100 Trees**

**Folly Forest, Una Pista da Ballo
per 100 Alberi**

*finalist /
finalista*

**Dietmar Straub,
Anna Thurmayr**

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Entity / Entità
Straub Thurmayr Landscape Architects
and Urban Designers

Location / Sito
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Design date / Progetto
2011 - 2012

Construction date / Costruzione
2012

Area / Superficie
4.000 m²

Cost / Costo
15 € / m²

Client / Cliente
Winnipeg School Division, Strathcona
School

Photographer / Fotografo
Dietmar Straub, Anna Thurmayr





Strathcona School is located in one of Winnipeg's most impoverished districts providing a schoolyard which typically consists of asphalt, lawn and a play structure. Fostering a vision of holistic community "health and learning", Folly Forest carries the hope of inducing multi-layered transformations that would ultimately culminate in a stimulating outdoor environment for children but also in a vital public open space for the neighbourhood. The design intends to give the opportunity for children and families to gain physical, social, emotional, and intellectual outdoor experiences. Folly Forest demonstrates the immense potential of landscape architecture as a spatial and social transformer.

Cheap and Risky

The total cost for the metamorphosis of the fifty years old asphalt is \$20 per square metre. The controlled reuse, the second life of materials and their transformation into a new context, is key to Folly Forest. Reclaiming the concept of Bricolage played a major role in our design. Folly Forest has exemplary value with regard to budget, risk, execution and outcome. Folly Forest proves that projects do not need to have million dollar budgets or use vast amounts of resources.

Risk over Routine - The Landscape Architect's Role

The difficult task was to push the idea beyond the routines, thinking outside the box but playing according to rules and regulations. The designers elaborated on the design of the open space in dialogue with the administrator, teachers, students, school division personnel and most especially the children of Strathcona School. The discussion focussed on the future of the area's "nature" and the risk everybody was willing to take.

Gaps, Cracks, Fugues and their (Idea) - Ecological Application

The concept of perforating the existing asphalt showcases how a simple measure can take ecological and aesthetical effects and turn them into the formative element of design. The "star shaped fugues" create "free spaces" for trees, water infiltration, soil organisms, plant communities, insect habitats, and all of which is on the ground where people go by foot, by bike or by service vehicle. The existing grassy cracks are integrated in this concept. According to this principle, the fugues became a composed piece of everyday ecology and biodiversity.

Materials and Plants

Bricks, logs, asphalt, and stones - four materials and two colours are the main elements on the ground. Silvery wooden beams and rusty cauldrons became objects trouvés and serve as "jackstraws" or "look - out towers for earthworms". All materials are recycled or renewable. All plants in this project are native and have similar demands respective of the sun, soil and water. The star-shaped tree discs are pockets of good growing conditions to ensure that the trees feel comfortable in this environment. All tree discs are covered with permeable materials with space has been left between the stones and logs for plants to grow. In between the gaps, there is always enough space for life: freedom within limits.

Mass Balance

Every bit of the excavated materials remained on site. The asphalt was converted into asphalt bricks and reused as new paving cover for the tree discs. The excavation was dumped on site and shaped into humps. These humps became one of the children's favourite spots. It is great to elevate yourself in an otherwise flat landscape.

Students Involved

In the beginning of the fall term of 2012 University of Manitoba architectural landscape students were invited to Strathcona for a hands-on experience. They were involved in tree pit paving and asphalt painting. They dug in Winnipeg clay, compacted Manitoban limestone, hammered on stones, bricks, logs and asphalt and used brushes and paint rollers to underline the impression of the large star-shaped figure. The only complaint heard was that the students would have to move back into the studio because of the forthcoming winter.





Resume

The first step is done - a magical transformation of an asphalt court to a diverse environment. What the school and community will learn is that this project has the power to bring people together, building and enjoying community during the day and after school. The schoolyard is an important meeting point within the community and has gained importance through reorganization and redesign.

Folly Forest is a non-profit design which allows North End children and families to enjoy a similar privilege as South End families. It achieves beauty and learning through life and health of an urban forest. The low budget was a challenge but also an opportunity to explore fresh and uncommon ideas.

The Folly Forest project was a result of a collaborative effort between the designers, children, educators and families. The children used their imagination and creativity to visually represent their dreams for a natural place to play. With the children's voices in mind, the designers produced design concepts, details, images, text and several design portfolios for fundraising over two summers. The educators and families raised the money, supported the work and pitched in to help. This project would never have had happened without the openness of the Engineering Manager and the Contract Administrator persons from the Winnipeg School Building Department and their audacity to take a substantial risk. Vision, risk, tenacity and courage are key to extraordinary ideas!

La scuola di Strathcona si trova in uno dei quartieri più poveri di Winnipeg, possiede un cortile realizzato tipicamente in asfalto, prato e strutture atte al gioco. Incoraggiando una visione olistica della comunità "salute e apprendimento", il progetto Folly Forest porta con

sé la speranza di indurre trasformazioni multistrato che culminerebbero in un ambiente esterno stimolante per i bambini, ma anche in uno spazio aperto pubblico e vitale per il quartiere. Il progetto si propone di offrire la possibilità ai bambini ed alle famiglie di realizzare esperienze fisiche, sociali, emozionali ed intellettuali all'aperto. Folly Forest dimostra l'immenso potenziale dell'architettura del paesaggio come trasformatrice spaziale e sociale.

Economico e rischioso

Il costo totale per la metamorfosi dell'asfalto vecchio di cinquanta anni è di \$20 per metro quadrato. Il riuso controllato, la seconda vita dei materiali e la loro trasformazione in un nuovo contesto, è la chiave per Folly Forest. Il recupero del concetto di Bricolage ha svolto un ruolo importante nel nostro progetto. Folly Forest ha valore esemplare in materia di bilancio, di rischio, di esecuzione e di risultato. Folly Forest dimostra che i progetti non hanno bisogno di avere milioni di dollari di budget o di utilizzare una grande quantità di risorse.

Il rischio sopra la Routine - Il ruolo dell'Architettura del Paesaggio

Il difficile compito è stato quello di spingere l'idea al di là della routine, di pensare al di fuori degli schemi ma di giocare secondo le regole ed i regolamenti. I progettisti elaborarono il progetto dello spazio aperto dialogando con l'amministratore, con i docenti, con gli studenti, con il personale del comparto della scuola e maggiormente con i bambini della scuola Strathcona. La discussione si è incentrata sul futuro della "natura" dell'area e sul rischio che ognuno era disposto a correre.

Aperture, Crepe, Fughe e loro (Idea) - Applicazione ecologica

Il concetto della perforazione dell'asfalto esistente mette in mostra come un semplice provvedimento possa portare con sé effetti ecologici ed estetici e trasformarli in elementi



40,00 EURO

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