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International magazine for
sports, leisure and recreational
facilities

Internationale Fachzeitschrift
für Sportstätten und Freizeit-
anlagen

Revista internacional especiali-
zada en instalaciones deportivas
y recreativas

48th year
48. Jahrgang
Año 48

ISSN (Print): 0036-102X
ISSN (Internet): ISSN 2198-4271

2/2014

Sports in the urban environment Sport in der Stadt Deporte en la ciudad





Bethlehem

Skatepark as a ray of hope

Together with SOS Kinderdörfer and Deutsche Post/DHL, the organisation “skate-aid” is building a skatepark on the edge of SOS Hermann Gmeiner School, close to the historic Shepherds’ Field on the West Bank of the Jordan. In addition to the political instability and climate of violence, this area suffers from high unemployment and pervasive poverty – almost half of the population lives below the poverty line.



The aim of this project is to improve the circumstances of Bethlehem’s traumatised youngsters by giving them the chance to let off steam and gain confidence and a sense of belonging. While the emphasis for children tends to be on the fun of skateboarding and exercise, adolescents will benefit from special assistance in accompanying programmes so that they can experience community at the same time.

The 450 m² skatepark has been designed by Maier Landschaftsarchitektur/Betonlandschaften (Cologne) and is multifunctional. In addition to the classic skate pool, there will be an independent street zone with sitting walls that form an atrium with street-skating elements. This multifunctional area will thus be used by children of the children’s village not only for sitting and play, but also for sport (skateboarding, BMX, inline skating and scooting). Right next to the skatepark is a hard surface court which is mainly used for handball and football.

The youngsters will also help with construction work. This way they acquire basic craft skills in passing and develop a positive attitude to the project from the outset. This improves not only their self-assurance, but also their job prospects. In the course of the project, close links are to be forged between formal and informal education, leisure and sport.

www.maierlandschaftsarchitektur.de



Welcome to the Huts

Architecture Competition on Ice

The Warming Huts 2014 Art + Architecture Competition on Ice, endorsed by the Manitoba Association of Architects, invited architects from all over the world to submit proposals for warming huts online. This year’s huts – “Nuzzles” – could be found on the Red River Mutual Trail (Winnipeg, Canada) along with previous winners, for the duration of the season.

Inspired by the insulating properties of fur, Nuzzles – designed by RAW DESIGN – brings a playful and interactive experience to visitors. Constructed from a geodesic framework of metal conduit and an outer layer of foam bristles (pool noodles), Nuzzles offers protection from wind and creates an inner pocket of still air in order to increase thermal capacity. Occupants are encouraged to playfully engage with bristles in order to sculpt informal seating spaces as well change the lighting dispersions of the glowing structure.

www.warminghuts.com
www.rawdesign.ca

