

K271

Archeological Play Garden

Planty is a historic park surrounding the old city of Krakow. For years, there has been a discussion about the playgrounds. The city authorities have touted that it is a historic place and the playground does not fit there. Residents demanded space for children. Under the influence of strong pressure from the citizens and the local press, two playgrounds were realized. One of them was located near the Archaeological Museum.

The leitmotif of the playground is archeology. The main attraction are four elements for fun inspired by human residences from different eras: a cave, a hut, a cottage and a tenement house. Another inspiration taken from the Archaeological Museum are graphic motifs and interesting spatial forms of artifacts remaining in the museum's collection. All these references are presented on the educational boards placed on the wall.

In the entrance area are located an announcement board where parents can exchange information, educational materials prepared by the museum, a tactile map intended for blind children and carers and also racks for bicycles and prams. The most characteristic element is a sculpture – poles inspired by pins from the Bronze Age. The whole area is divided into five lanes. The first is a green belt. Parallel to it runs a strip of play equipment, intertwined with the main communication route. Along the wall, seats for carers are located. The boards on the wall are an educational layer. The four main play equipment are surrounded by vegetation that separate zones from the larger space. It has a compositional meaning, but on the other hand, the separation of smaller spaces will limit the number of stimulations. This is particularly important in the case of children with ADHD or with various types of autism. Along the wall there are benches with tables and a wooden platform for the youngest, crawling children can play. The „market” – the multifunctional space can be used to run workshops, organization of performances and other family events.

One of the basic assumptions of the project is accessibility for people with disabilities. The playground was awarded in „the Krakow without barriers” competition.

