shrubs were planted permanently. During the building process, most of the self-contained greenery was preserved which has set itself into cracks and edges. New herbaceous plants are selected, some known as weeds; many will be allowed to grow on the one that comes in and regulate the plant communities as needed. The species of plants with its raw look and nature diminish a slightly clinical sense of fresh pavement and keep the old factory's atmosphere. The two puddles were built in the new asphalt both for children to play with the rainwater and for animals and birds for drinking. Also they remind this time when courtyard was covered with broken pavement with hundreds of holes where and after rain those were reflecting the light from bulb chain.

Assessment

The Pocket Park is by far the most popular spot in culture factory. People drink coffee, sit in the sun, talk to each other. Artificial puddles and sandboxes provide hours of activity for children, greenhouse is full of vegetables grown by artists, table-tennis tables are always busy, there are concerts in the evenings. The park acts as an exemplary public space: there is life around the clock.

Widget Factory Pocket Park was awarded as "people's choice" as best public space of the year 2017. Voting was made in internet by Estonian Landscape Architecture Union.

Previous state

The Widget Factory (Aparaaditehas) is an old factory complex at the corner of Ria and Kastani streets in Tartu. During the Soviet times, the factory was used for manufacturing refrigeration equipment, secret submarine parts and in order to mislead the public, also non-functioning umbrellas and zippers. At its heyday in the middle of 1970s, the factory provided employment for almost 1,500 people, it had its own health centre with sauna and a pool, a canteen and enough administrative premises to occupy several buildings.

The Widget Factory Pocket Park
by Landscape Architecture Office KINO

In 2006, the complex of the Widget Factory was purchased by ABC Kinnisvarateenuste OÜ that is also the current owner of the factory. Since 2014, the 14,000 m² centre has been developed into a culture factory. By today, the Widget Factory and its surrounding city block have become one of the most rapidly developing areas in Tartu.

Aim of the intervention

Factory's perfectly proportioned backyard courtyard was used for parking and storage of materials. The wind coming from the carriage gateway caused a sandstone, which made it quite inconvenient to be in the courtyard. The situation turned out to be particularly bad when the bakerhouse was opened, where the cars started to run smoothly. It created uninterrupted car traffic, which made it impossible for pedestrians to use the space. The factory board made a decision to change the car park into Pocket Park and progressed gradually: first the courtyard was closed for parking, then the passing traffic - only serving transport remained, and as a last step, the courtyard of today is closed from 11 to 20 in any car dealership.

There are many different agencies in the Widget factory - offices, artists, shops, food stores - so the park has to offer a place for many, and in addition to allowing maneuvering for large transport. Thinking was fascinating, but also responsible, on all scales - from a log cabin to a tidal car. The yard must be suitable for everyday life, as well as for hosting festivals, fairs, concerts, performances, foodtrucks, while staying cozy in the human dimension.

Description

The yard is compact and quite small, lots of technical details have survived the old factory and the intermediate empty years. Consequently, the new park had to carry on the factory's mood, with the contemporary needs highlighted. The immediate perimeter of the building is a semi-public area for restaurant outdoor tables. The rest of the courtyard, including the children's play area, the stage, the greenhouse is a public space where keyword affordance. Most elements (planters, wooden platforms, skateboard box) are movable to leave room for all kinds of events and, if necessary, transport. The central active area of the courtyard is covered with asphalt; the rest of the area is pavement. And combination of lawn and stones is used in the walking area, which allows the places to be used, but the overall impression is green. Two new trees and