



Foto (9) Daniela Valentini



Description

On our small site, three vividly contrasting woodland images lie just a few hundred meters apart. Walking slowly, strikingly different experiences of „being in the woods“ display nature as a machine of response. The woods turn, twist, grow and shrink, becoming an expression of their ephemeral conditions. The first circle lies beneath grand silver trunks and high crowns of the climax beech trees, Baudelaire’s „temple of living pillars“, having survived hurricanes on the protected slope of the hill. The second circle, „emptiness in progress“, is enclosed by dense pioneer growth where hurricanes rased the exposed eastern slope. Select exotic trees have been left within the void. The third circle expresses the bizarre beauty of nature’s deformation and adaption. Many storms have left an apocalyptic scene behind. Hazelnut trees, with their shallow root balls, torn out of the ground, lie like fallen giant brooms. Rhizomes shooting in all directions. Ancient, enormous root balls create a strangest topography.

Evaluation

These public recreational spaces have received acclaim. The simple, inexpensive use of materials from the surrounding context creates a site specific character. The local people feel that «their» woodlands have not been given up to the public. The spaces retain an intimate, poetic and magical sense of being alone in the woods while offering places for gathering and seating - hence the name «wildwood plaza». A nearby boy scout club uses the space for their festivities and gatherings. The path, famed for dog walkers, offers a place of rest along the way. Apart from the functional success the project serves to offer a new reading of possible recreational spaces in the agglomeration.