



The Playground at the public Hospital "12 de Octubre" Madrid, Spain, is a project that brightens the conditions of children with cancer living in the hospital. Moneo Brock Studio has worked pro bono with the "non for profit" Juegaterapia Foundation. The project transforms the 800 m2 preexisting bare rooftop at the hospital, which is directly accessible to the school where the children spend their day --where 7,000 children are hospitalized every year--into a playspace surrounded by ornamental trees and plants.

The design was inspired by the children's drawings, which illustrated their ideal playspace. Thinking as children we realized that every element in the garden becomes a potential play element. We felt that the space had to be more than just a playspace - it had to feel unique for the children, their own, a secret place, a landscape able to empower their imagination, a place where they could dream, where their senses would delight in contact with nature. And, on top of that, it should bear no resemblance to the hospital, but instead create a variety of atmospheres through landscape design.

The design provides differently-sized circular areas, surrounded by trees and plants, variously focusing on playing and nature.

The project, which was completed and officially inaugurated on May 2015, enables the children inpatients to perform not just a physical activity, but to find entertainment, social interaction, evasion and joy, hopefully providing them with therapeutic benefits during treatment and recovery

