

# Mission Schoolyard Design

## The schoolyard as a place to live, play and educate is an important part of everyday school life.

Its functional and contemporary design is measured against a wide range of criteria. Extended periods of stay at school require schoolyard designs that meet the wishes, needs and interests of all users, the pupils, the teachers, the parents as well as today's educational content.

The living environment school offers numerous opportunities to accompany and directly implement the social aspect of sustainability in social development:

- · Making inclusion a reality
- Provide care and support
- Create conditions for successful learning and teaching
- Strengthening social competences
- Enabling health promotion and prevention

### We set off together.

We develop and build playground equipment that

- integrated into pedagogical movement concepts helps to exploit the potential of the playground with
  - Needs assessment
  - Define spaces of experience
  - Concept through structure

regard to these aspects and to encourage and support pupils in their needs for movement, communication and relaxation.

- Selection criteria playground equipment
- Planning and visualisation
- Realisation

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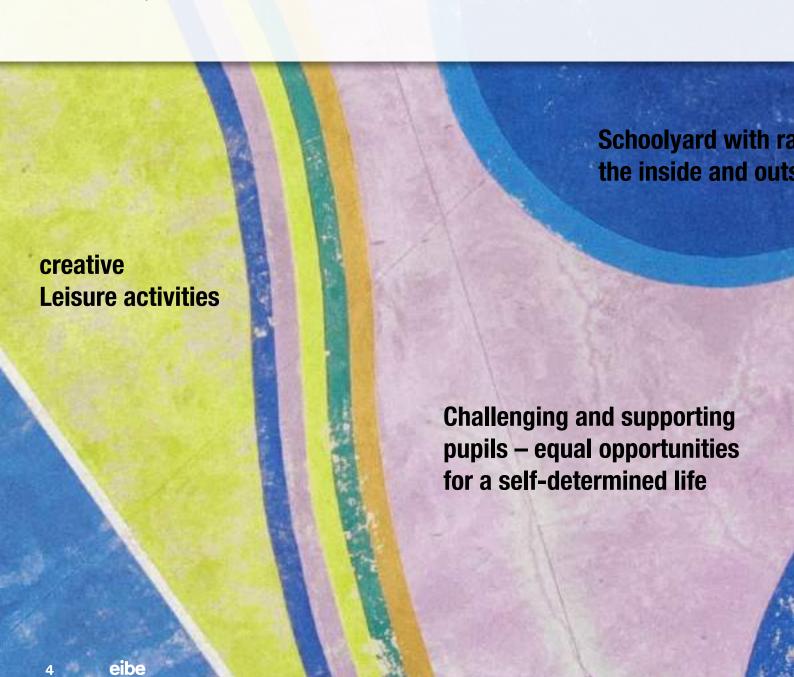
## Requirements for the playground:

A schoolyard should be well organised and arranged, as it is used at different times by users of different ages, demands and interests and has to meet many other requirements. These can be determined in participation processes - the goal is maximum acceptance of further planning and execution.

As different as pupils are, as diverse are their wishes, ideas and requirements.

Important objectives can be found in educational goals and in the curricula of the Länder - this results in requirements for educators, among other things.

The school as an institution has an outstanding task for society as a whole and faces increasingly growing challenges.





## Areas in the playground

#### **Communication & Meeting Place**

Communication areas are always created where smaller or larger groups can sit, stand or lean. Not only walls, stairs or railings, but also modern playground equipment that is suitable for this purpose can be used in the communication zones.



#### Dynamic Movement

**Dynamic movement** means variety and variance of movement sequences. The interaction of stationary play equipment and a multifunctional and integrative design of the floor areas creates great incentives for movement.



### Retreat & nature experience

In the **retreat and nature experience area**, children have the opportunity to experience and understand nature. The opportunities for direct experiences of nature have become rare for many children. It is more important than ever to give children an opportunity to learn about the interdependence between the plant and animal world as part of their school day and thus develop a sense of responsibility for their environment.



In the design of a school open space, the division of space plays a fundamental role. Here, interest- and age-specific requirements are translated into uses and become visible in functional zoning. For us, the goal is a "good choreography" with a system, which means that ideally an explorative exploration of the space is encouraged and thus a wide variety of play and movement stimuli can be experienced.

A playground is essentially divided into 5 zones. The weighting of the individual zones is determined in the final planning through the needs assessment.



#### **Creative area**

A **creative area** is especially important at all-day schools. This includes areas where creative and imaginative play with the elements of sand and water can take place in the afternoon. Movable material such as wood and small stones should be available in this area for building.



#### **Sports** area

A versatile **sports area** should not only be used for physical education classes, but should also be accessible during breaks and in the afternoon.



## Balance & Coordination

**Balance and coordination training**, here natural elements such as hills and valleys have a movement-promoting effect. Animating playground equipment with a high challenge character is important in this area. Children use objects and spaces in very different ways. The variety and balance of play and movement opportunities within an area are crucial.

## Cooperation with eibe



### Our eibe roadmap for a well thought-out schoolyard design:

## 1. Define wishes, ideas and requirements

What do we want to achieve with the space? Asking the right questions together to determine a conclusive basis

## 2. Prepare preliminary design and financing plan

Our specialist knowledge and your pedagogical expertise form the basis for initial concepts and planning drafts

## What is there to consider? We ask the right questions:

- What kind of play equipment makes sense for us?
- What play values are important to us?
- Greening and play how do both go?
- What zoning, sight lines and walkways should we consider?
- Sand, mulch, plastic what kind of fall protection do we want?
- Is our playground safe and certified?
- How much budget do we need and what grants are available?
- How is our educational approach reflected in the outdoor area?
- What guarantees do we get for the facilities and how are they maintained?
- What can we do ourselves?

## 3. Elaborate final design and offer

Presentation of the final design and movement concept paired with a binding offer

#### 4. Realise

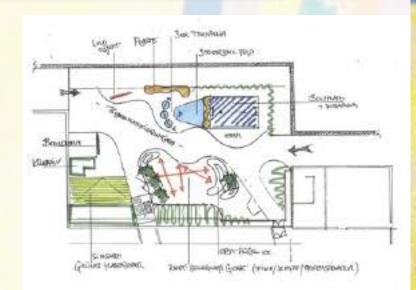
The realisation of the project can be carried out in whole or in part by eibe. In one go or in several phases. From production and assembly to safety acceptance, we offer you a cooperation that is completely inspiring.

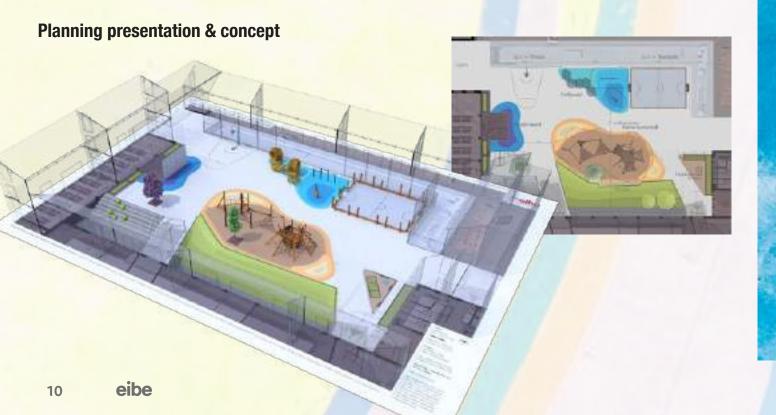
### **Project profile 1**

## | Georg Müller School | Villingen-Schwenningen

#### Requirements profile

- · Complete redesign of the schoolyard
- Open space concept by eibe
- Good balance between investment costs and achieved play value/quality of stay
- Target group pupils in grades
   1 to 8, i.e. approx. 6-14 years old
- Conversion of a predominantly asphalted area into a versatile movement landscape
- Addressing the diverse interests of pupils
- Movement, sport, play and communication as the most important functional focal points
- Low-maintenance and at the same time aesthetically pleasing floor covering
- natural materials for equipment and partly in the fall protection area
- robust and high-quality equipment
- Concept and realisation in cooperation between engineering office, construction company and eibe/playground equipment manufacturer







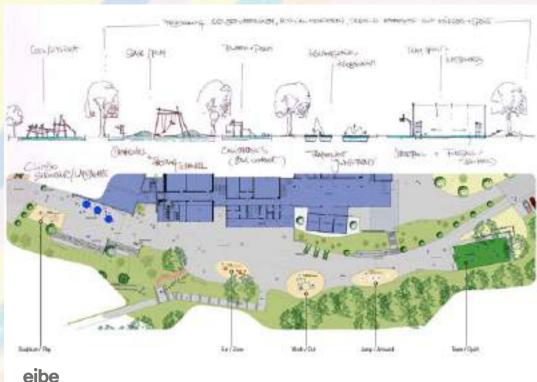
### **Project Profile 2**

# "Community Secondary School Burbach-Neunkirchen"

#### Requirements profile

- Redesign of the schoolyard area with play, exercise and sports facilities.
- Close cooperation with open space planning office (Dipl.Ing. Thomas Laufenburg, 57234 Wilnsdorf)
- Integration of eibe objects into the concept of the open space planning office
- High play value and movement incentives
- Challenge level through graduated degrees of difficulty
- Promote the flow of play in a very confined, elongated planning area
- Target group: pupils in the 5th to 10th grades, i.e. approx. 10-16 years of age.
- Conception of a tunnel slide in a steep slope
- Safe, low-maintenance and at the same time aesthetically pleasing floor covering
- very robust and high-quality equipment due to the pressure of use
- Concept and realisation in cooperation between engineering office, construction company and eibe/playground equipment manufacturer

#### **Planning presentation & concept**





## "Zurich International School, Wädenswil"

#### Requirements profile

- Preliminary project competition with rough ideas won by eibe Schweiz
- Detailed elaboration of the project in close cooperation with a project team
- Customer requirement: Turnkey complete planning and implementation, all from one source
- Target group: Children and pupils of the "Lower School", under 10 years of age
- Main requirement: Complete solution of the whole square, as close to nature as possible

#### **Implementation**

- Zoning of the square into different play areas, from active to chill out
- Inclusion of the slope and the hedge, including platforms around the trees.
- Intensive planting around the equipment, ground cover on the slope
- Use of natural materials (robinia wood, wood chips, grass, gravel, stones)
- Playground with many different play values and transition to the slope
- Course with direct connection to the main facility
- Water feature; mud kitchen and sandpit in the quieter zone
- EPDM play area directly in front of the building
- Benches and tables under a shade sail as a natural classroom
- Complete realisation under the direction of eibe Switzerland as general contractor

#### **Planning presentation & concept**





### **Project profile 4**

## 「"Turmmatta Naters"」

#### Requirements profile

- Project enquiry via a landscape architect, complete planning of a playground
- Already several projects successfully realised together

The Title of

- Customer requirement: Visually open play equipment with extremely high play value
- Target group: Primary school children from 6 12 years but also smaller children
- Main requirement: to configure a play equipment that meets all requirements

#### **Implementation**

- Standard play equipment slightly modified and adapted to the square dimensions.
- Evaluation and selection of offers by project group
- Project gain through eibe, but the facility has to be adapted again
- The highlight is the new type of course ascent ramp.
- Difficulties lie in the slope and the surrounding asphalt
- Solution to all problems through terraced construction
- Preparation of detailed level plans for the architect by our planner
- Takeover of the complete installation by eibe and their partners
- Difficult measurement and installation due to maximum space utilisation
- Perfect installation and compliance with all standard requirements

#### Planning presentation & concept





## A good piece of playground equipment - what makes it?

There are different views on this in the literature and in connection with different pedagogical models and objectives.

However, supported by the latest findings in developmental and physical education, we can identify a whole range of criteria as to which aspects should be particularly promoted and which benefits are relevant for the development of the child or adolescent.

The actual equipment elements then create optimal play and movement functions in interaction with the design elements.





## Playscape [Planning scenario 1]



A **climbing combination** with a lookout and **balancing course** is the central attraction of this play and movement landscape.

A variety of climbing elements with different degrees of difficulty make it attractive for children regardless of age or physical abilities. Movement types such as climbing, balancing and hanging are just some of the possible uses. Sustainable types of wood and various complementary materials such as nets, ropes and metal stimulate the

sensory and haptic experience. One's own strengths are tested, limits are tested, motor skills are trained and self-efficacy is experienced - movement is more than physical balance.

Chat niches specially designed for such situations create a communication and retreat area with further balancing elements, thus rounding off the overall picture.



## 



This playground design focuses on large **climbing facilities.** Challenging spatial **network concepts** meet playable **roundwood structures.** 

These play sculptures, arranged as if at random, combine everything we stand for:

The climbing structures challenge the children! They do not directly tell them how to use them. The children see the structures and find their own paths. Even from a distance, the fun begins here. What is this? How can I use it?

With our different types of wood as the main component of this design concept, we also want to encourage the pupils to feel, touch and grasp this material.

A coloured fall protection zone with roadway and hill elements connects the different areas.

Bouncing, turning, swinging and climbing – all kinds of movements are stimulated here and the children are motivated for a long time. Alternative pathways are offered and various platforms invite the children to linger and take a break.

All this makes up our climbo experience!



## Multisport [Planning scenario 3]



In order to stimulate the joy of sport and movement beyond the school lessons, larger open spaces on the school grounds are deliberately planned for sport and fitness.

Various offers are intended to provide incentives for movement and fun in sporting activities for a broad user group, from beginners to advanced.

Whether a **small playing field, fitness equipment** or a modern, vandal-proof **multi-sports field** with goals, basketball hoops and a volleyball net — there are a variety of uses for the classic team sports. Both for sports lessons, as break-time fun and as a meeting place after school.

For slightly older pupils, the holistic sports concept of the schoolyard is complemented by one of our new **tough trail** facilities. This unique equipment takes movement stimuli from well-known trend sports such as freerunning, parkour or Ninja Warrior and transfers them to a

safe, standards-compliant playground concept. In the process, the users train their cognitive and motor skills and strengthen their self-esteem at the same time. By encouraging and

supporting each other, the young people learn from each other and experience respect, tolerance and fair play.

The result is a well-rounded, wide-ranging sports programme for a modern school concept.

The schoolyard's holistic sports concept for older students and young adults is complemented by a tartan track and multi-functional areas for warming up and endurance training. A **BodyWeightStation** with its diverse exercise options for targeted muscle building picks up on trend sports such as **street workout** or **calisthenics** and has a motivating effect on young people who have not yet found access to a sport. With different levels of difficulty, the "outdoor fitness studio" caters to the abilities of the young athletes.



## Schulgarten Planning scenario 4



In the **green classroom** of the school garden, the children can directly observe plants and insects in seasonal change and become ecologically active themselves.

Raised beds, planting tables, a herb spiral and an insect hotel arouse enthusiasm for nature and support activities around topics such as nature conservation, healthy nutrition and sustainable consumer behaviour. This is also reflected in the materials used.

Relaxation and retreat options for the lunch break are provided by hammocks and other exciting seating.

## Get out of the school routine - lessons in the open air provide variety.

A relaxed learning environment promotes creativity and awakens new enthusiasm for learning. In the open-air classroom, learning takes place with all the senses, theatre is performed, class parties are celebrated, conflicts are solved, or students play and relax during the breaks.

Steps, a wall, a grandstand or wooden bollards provide seating for the class or spectators. A painting board can be used in many ways: as an information tool, backdrop or "canvas".

In the water and sand play area, pupils experiment and explore in teams with natural materials, training motor skills, communicative and social skills.

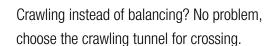


## | Modularity without limits – individual combinations! |

## Customised standard unit or a complete new play world – we compose your individual play unit!

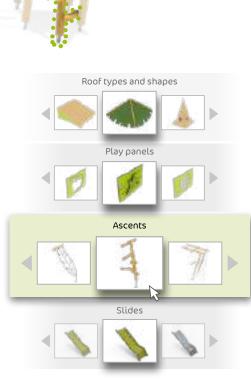
We check your bespoke combination on technical feasibility and stability, standard conformity, delivery time and price.

So we can guarantee the perfect construction process for your playground project.





Replace the log with the ascent of your choice!



Material

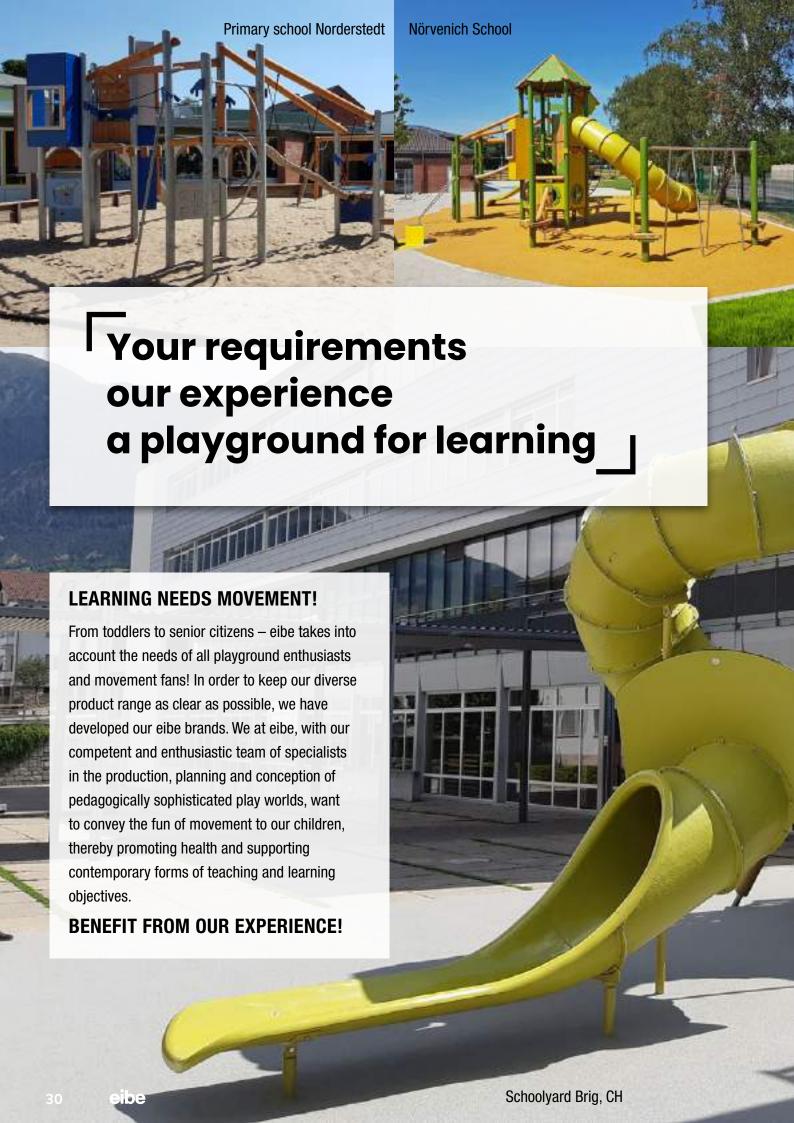
## The world is colourful: Happy colours for all!

#### Imaginative and attractive - great new colour combinations.

Well thought-out play concepts are made up of a multitude of different components such as educational play value, quality, modularity and most important: Does it fit the target group? Together with our experts, we at eibe develop play equipment

that makes children really enjoy playing and romping around. Our colour concepts convince, inspire and make movement even more attractive!







# Specialist consultant



### service/specialistsearch

**Counselling hotline** 

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