

BELLAJOV ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

Study by Daniel Jost + Nikky Zhang

At adventure playgrounds kids are free to build the playground of their dreams using leftover construction materials and junk. The landscape architect C. Th Sorensen first proposed creating “junk playgrounds” in 1931, and according to Richard Hare of the University of Copenhagen, Sorensen was involved with the creation of this playground in Bellahoj in 1965. The site is carefully screened from the community, so it has not become an eyesore. Unlike the adventure playground in Berkeley, California, which is a regional destination, Bellahoj’s playground is used mainly by neighborhood kids. It is connected with an after school program, for which the childrens’ families pay membership fees. Because the same group of kids is here every weekday afternoon, there seems to be a stronger sense of ownership over individual structures.



Image: Daniel Jost

Playground supervisors help kids build fires in this pit.



Image: Daniel Jost

This fort could be mistaken for a pile of junk.



Image: Daniel Jost

Kids dreamt up this homemade photo opportunity.



Image: Daniel Jost

Adults help build the larger structures and remove structures that are unsafe.



Image: Daniel Jost

Kids use hammers, nails, and saws in creative ways.



Image: Nikky Zhang

A fence hides the junk playground from the park.



Image: Daniel Jost

This pile of wood is used for building and burning.



Image: Daniel Jost

Kids are only allowed to demolish their own forts.



■ SITE: Solkrogen 6, Copenhagen, Denmark