

PLAY IN CIRCLE

PROPOSAL FOR YMCA

Instructor: Jennifer Leung
Core II Studio, Spring 2017 @ MIT

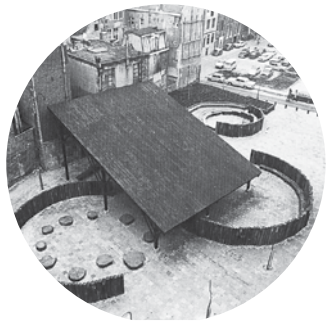
Play is a natural and meaningful activity. Not only is play a process for kids' learning and develop, but also is a activity through which people explore, discover and communicate. In Pieter Btuegel's painting, the Hunter in the Snow , the city is taken over by the child after the snowstorm, play become the theme. On the ice covered canal, everyone is playing, as it were, a child. After World War II, architect Aldo van Eyck turned the leftover spaces between buildings in the city into playgrounds as a way to reconnect the community. Through play, connections among different generations, different groups of people start to form.

YMCA has a unique program combination of childcare, gymnasium and community center. I propose the theme of play for YMCA. This YMCA will provide opportunities for playing, developing uniqueness and connecting with communities.





Hunters in the Snow, Pieter Brueghel



Amsterdam Playground, Aldo van Eyck



Otterlo Circle, Aldo van Eyck



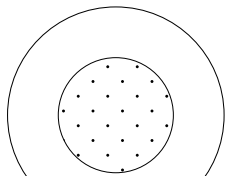
PLAY ON AND PLAY WITH

The project offers spaces for adults and kids to not only play on but also play with.

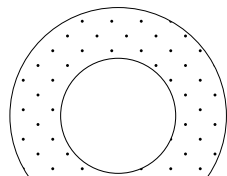
The sloped circular platform offers a kind of unique edge condition that the height of the platform gradually grows along the edge. In this condition, kids and adults could experience the change of their height while they holding hands and moving along the edge.

On the playground platform, a type of play device inspired by the circular form is also created for kids and adults to play with. The fan-shape play device was created from trimming the sloped circular platform with two circle in the same radius, allowing the edge of each other go

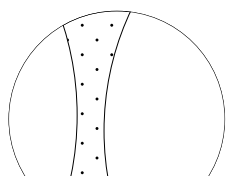
- ◆ References
- ◆ Diagram: kids space vs other space
- ◆ Illustration of circular space inside



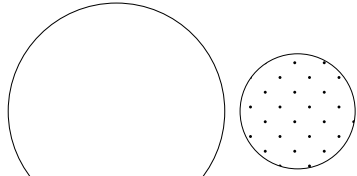
SURROUNDED



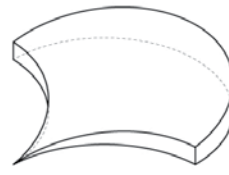
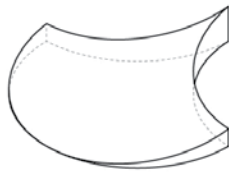
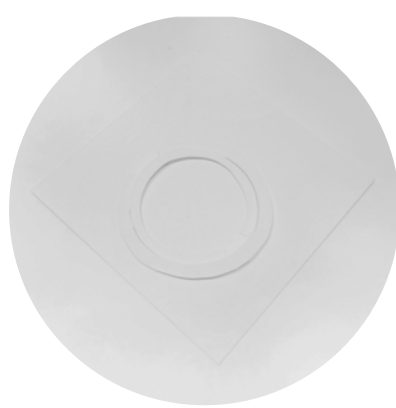
EMBRACING



PASSING



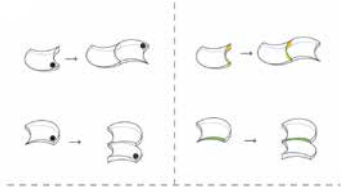
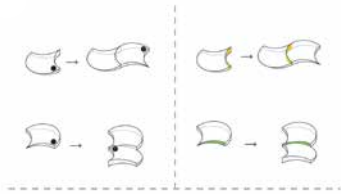
SEPERATED



- ◆ Studies on circles
- Prototype of self-assemble playscape

together. The rules of how pieces going together are generated by shape grammar and hinted by color or code on the joined faces. With certain rules and devices, creativity could be inspired.

Playing with these devices, different type of spaces, such as enclosed, linear, or many others could be constructed.





CIRCLE

The circular form is inspired by kids running. From observation, Kids likes to run in a circle. The field of circles allows this movement to happen. Meanwhile, circular space allows more visual access to ensure kids safety and care. The orientationless of the circular form gives the project a sense of discovery. Playful ways of dividing and blending spaces in both plan and section are studied in this project. In between circles or on the overlap of circles, interesting common space and circulation are able to be explored.

NATURE

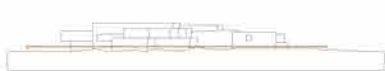
In many researches it shows, connecting people with natural environment makes people physically and mentally healthier. For children, the natural environment helps children's creativity, problem solving, and social relations. The site at the cross of Schieffelin Ave and Baychester Ave in Bronx, NY, originally is covered by trees and grass. In doing the project, keeping some of the trees and green areas was taken into consideration. On the one hand, keeping something on the site that they have seen for years would give the local some resonance with this YMCA. On the other hand, this project offers opportunity for people to connect with different types of natural environment, from wild nature to green platforms to inside the building. The natural scene will appear from far away, to adjacent to below and to above the person. Trees embrace the building, the building embrace the trees; entering the field of building will be like entering a field of trees. Here the building and the trees are like playing a game.



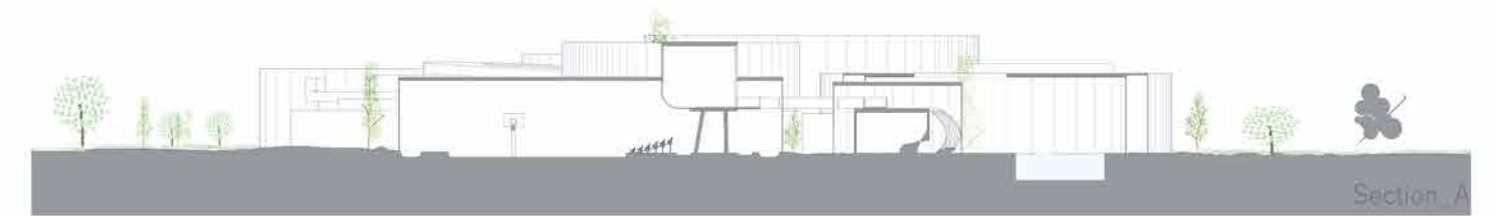
- ◆ Model plan view
- ◀ Model Perspective view
- ◀ Model on site



Ground Floor Plan



Plan_Second Floor



Section_A



Section_B