Designing for Play
Barbara E. Hendricks
Second Edition

Architects, landscape designers, builders, gardeners and teachers have all at some time been called upon to design a play area. Unfortunately, this diversity has not resulted in a similar diversity of design solutions for this problematic task.

Despite a proliferation of 'how to' books on this subject, playgrounds have remained virtually the same throughout the world since their creation over a century ago. This is not a 'how to' design book. Instead, based on thirty years experience as a specialist play area designer, Barbara Hendricks details a radically new approach, applying cutting-edge thinking from child development and child psychology to find innovative design solutions, challenging the established notions of play provision.

Covering key sociological, public policy, environmental and design issues, this book provides designers with an exploration of, and guide to, designing from a 'child's eye' view of the world.

Beautifully crafted and copiously illustrated with numerous examples of recently designed playgrounds, this book is not only stimulating and informative, but fun to read and seriously playful in itself.

This second edition brings the text up to date from 2001 to 2010 with added discussion about new ideas for play area designs and what has not worked in the past decade.

Reviews of the First Edition:
‘The style is attractively jargon-free, and the book will be of interest to anyone who is concerned about the well-being of children. It is so readable that it was sneaked away by a number of non-designers in my household…Designing for play may be a serious business. Reading about play in this book is fun, as it should be.’

Times Educational Supplement
‘For anyone who works in the field of play, this book is a delight. Hendricks writes not from a lofty and out of touch adult viewpoint but from an experientially grounded child-centred perspective and consequently there is a challenge to all of us on every other page to see life – and playgrounds in particular – through a child’s eye...This is a fine and timely book and one I warmly recommend.’

Local Government Studies

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About the author:

Barbara E. Hendricks
is a Play Environment Designer. She currently owns and operates her own design firm and serves as a consultant to several international companies which manufacture play items.

Designing for Play is part of the Design and the Built Environment Series.

To view more information on this series and for other titles in the series, please visit www.ashgate.com/designandthebuiltenvironment

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