

On Design

by Will Perry, managing editor



GameTime, Inc., faced a unique challenge when Temple Israel, the oldest Jewish house of worship in Minneapolis, Minn., selected the playground manufacturer to supply and install new play equipment as part of a \$6 million

construction and renovation project. In addition to the playground, the project included a covered entrance, a fully-equipped 235-seat auditorium, new and enlarged office space, classrooms, meeting rooms and terraces. It involved 20,000 sq. ft. of existing facilities and was the first major renovation of the Temple since the original structure was built in 1928.

GameTime was to install play equipment that would allow as much activity as possible for the children and to do it in a limited amount of space.

GameTime's Durascape play system was selected because of its bright, colorful scheme, the flexibility of design and proven safety features. Temple Israel needed a playground to accommodate both preschoolers and elementary age children, so the company custom-designed a modular structure to offer a variety of activities that would meet the physical development and social interaction needs of both groups of children.

The colorful Durascape system is not only appealing to the children, but also blends well with the buildings and landscape surrounding the play area.

A trike trail runs on the perimeter of the playground and a 42-inch brown chain link fence surrounds the area. Shrubs are planted around the fence for screening and a quiet shaded area with Kentucky bluegrass features a GameTime bench.

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WHERE THE C

Besides satisfying a large number of youngsters, this Timberform-2 structure by Columbia Cascade Company was chosen for Blue Lake Park, in Multnomah County, Ore., primarily because it's built completely aboveground, allowing the architect to circumvent the facility's irrigation system.

The public park has a large swimming lake, baseball fields and extensive picnic areas. The addition of the playground equipment offers entertainment choices to the younger park visitors.

The play area sits on what was once a baseball field. Its configuration was chosen from the hundreds of pre-designed variations and custom site-specific designs available from the company. Its various elements were chosen and installed in less than a week, according to a Columbia Cascade representative.

The playground is bordered by a 3-foot-6-inch fence with its metal rungs painted to match the yellow in the play structure. The area was constructed next to

a paved picnic area complete with benches and barbecue pit which allows less obvious parental observation. The ground around the play area is bedded by 10 inches of bark chips. The wood used in the play equipment is free-of-heart Douglass fir which is preserved with Niedox-10.

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Custom Structures Inc. used its "building block" approach to playground design when it introduced this system in a private recreational area in Butler, Pa.

The owner of this particular system wanted to accomplish three things: keep about 15 children of various ages busy, make them work their muscles a bit while playing, and offer them the opportunity to keep their imaginations active.

CSI accomplished this by incorporating two different sections within the playground. At left is an area designed for younger children. Its ramp is easily accessed and the slides somewhat simple. A bubble wall exists to stimulate the user's imagination, possibly

transforming the system into a spaceship or castle in the child's eye.

At the right, separated by overhead bars and clatter bridge, is a more challenging setup for older children. It is distinguished by the spiral slide, wood wall, and more daring approaches.

CSI's play systems are primarily crafted from free-of-heart center California Redwood. They offer a natural resistance to decay, insects and erosion. Its natural stability means it shrinks, warps, and splits less than most other woods.

The company offers custom designs and fabrications, such as this system, that allow the consumer the opportunity to deviate from the normal to meet their own needs.

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CHILDREN PLAY