



BSA Space  
290 Congress Street, Suite 200  
Boston, MA 02210-1024

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[architects.org/bsaspace](http://architects.org/bsaspace)

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*(Editor's note: High-resolution images and interviews are available upon request.)*

**A new exhibition exploring the best samples of playground design around the world premieres in Boston on June 8.**

***Extraordinary Playscapes***

(June 8–September 5, 2016)

Boston (April 28, 2016)—An exhibition featuring more than 40 pioneering playscapes from around the world will open at BSA Space on June 8. Curated by Design Museum Foundation, *Extraordinary Playscapes* will explore the latest thinking in playground design while presenting how vital free play is to childhood development, thriving communities, and social equity. From towering treetop playgrounds to hand-knit crochet installations, visitors will discover how architects and designers worldwide are engaging diverse communities to translate play objectives into state-of-the-art and meaningful play environments. Among the many sites on display, the exhibition will feature a project that reimagined a scrapped ambulance as a children's playground at hospital in Malawi, Africa, examples of how Danish design integrates nature and play, and innovative play-centered design happening right on the Boston Waterfront. As an interactive experience, *Extraordinary Playscapes* will include playable installations, videos, scale models, and hands-on elements for viewers as they explore the art, history, and science behind the world of play.

*"Our goal is to connect Boston to the free play movement through an exceptional public exhibition about the design of playscapes,"* says Sam Aquillano, Executive Director of Design Museum Foundation and co-curator of the exhibition. *"There are so many examples of extraordinary playscapes in the world, and we're hoping to inspire Bostonians of all ages to get outside and play."*

Mike Davis FAIA, 2016 BSA Foundation chair, welcomes the exhibition, *"BSA Space is a place to learn about design and the way it can improve people's lives. This is a great opportunity to mount an exhibition that directly aligns with the Foundation's existing kids and fam-*

*ily initiatives while exploring the positive impact that designers can have on childhood health and community development.”*

Michael Laris, chief product officer for Playworld, the main exhibition sponsor, states *“Play is the very backbone of child development. It is through a window of play that children experience the world around them and form social, cognitive, creative, spatial, and sensory skills upon which they build the rest of their development to adulthood. The Extraordinary Playscapes exhibition is incredibly needed, as it highlights the importance of play in general and focuses on how design has the power to change and improve the way we experience the world around us and the relationships we form.”*

*Extraordinary Playscapes*, free and open to the public, is on view from June 8 - September 5, 2016 at BSA Space, 290 Congress Street, Boston. The exhibition will travel to Portland, OR, San Francisco, CA, and Chicago, IL through 2017.

Curated by:

Supported by:



A press preview and tour of *Extraordinary Playscapes* will be held for the media on the morning of Wednesday, June 8, 2016.

## Public Events:

### Opening Reception

June 8, 2016, Design Museum and BSA Member Reception: 5:00 - 6:00pm;  
Public Reception: 6:00 - 8:00pm

**UNITE: The Problem With Play** *Why We Aren't Playing and What Designers Can Do.*

June 30, 2016, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Design Museum and BSA Members: Free, Non-member tickets: \$15

### Kid's Workshops

June 18, July 16, and August 13, 2016



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### **Curator's Public Tours**

Available upon request. Free and open to the public, Groups are welcome.

For full details on the public program visit [designmuseumboston.org](http://designmuseumboston.org)

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### **About BSA Space**

BSA Space, Boston's leading cultural institution for architecture and design, is home to the Boston Society of Architects/AIA (BSA) and the BSA Foundation. The BSA is one of the oldest chapters of the American Institute of Architects. The BSA Foundation, a charitable organization, supports activities that illuminate the ways that design improves the quality of our lives. All exhibitions at BSA Space are supported by the BSA Foundation. BSA Space is open Monday through Friday from 10:00 am–6:00 pm, and on weekends and holidays from 10:00 am–5:00 pm. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information visit [architects.org/bsaspace](http://architects.org/bsaspace).

### **About Design Museum Boston**

At Design Museum Foundation we believe design can change the world. Done well, it can elevate our quality of life, make businesses more competitive, and protect our environment. Design awareness, education, and expertise are more important now than ever before as design continues to impact communities, organizations, and markets around the world. Design Museum Foundation is redefining what it means to be a museum in the 21st century — we're online, nomadic, and accessible to all through a network of exhibitions, events, and content. Our mission: show the world the positive impact good design can have and create the most accessible museum imaginable. Design is everywhere. So are we. For more information visit [designmuseumboston.org](http://designmuseumboston.org).

### **About Playworld**

Playworld believes The World Needs Play®. Play is vital to everyone's health and well-being. It's something you are never too young or too old to enjoy. We develop playground environments where creativity is king, belly laughs are welcome and children make the rules. Playworld's equipment and surfacing are designed to unleash the transformational power of play so bodies grow stronger, children play safely and imagination can take flight. For 45 years, Playworld has created innovative, inclusive and meaningful outdoor play experiences for all ages and abilities. Come play with us. For more information visit [playworld.com](http://playworld.com).



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## Social Media

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Playworld:

[twitter.com/PlayworldInc](https://twitter.com/PlayworldInc) #saveplay

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