Playful Cities
Kids & Design in Urban Environments

Friday, November 21, 2014 • 3:30-5pm

This panel for landscape architects, city planners, and advisers will explore the design of play spaces in urban environments. Special consideration will be given to developing comprehensive plans for play; effectively engaging children and youth in the design process; and understanding the essential childhood need for challenging play environments.

Learning objectives:
Understand why child-friendly outdoor spaces are vital to child and community development

Learn methods for incorporating the views and participation of children in the design process

Identify ways in which urban play spaces can address community concerns of health, safety, and exposure to nature
Outline

I. Introduction, Sam Chermayeff
   a. Historical Framework – Aldo Van Eyck
   b. Speaker introductions

II. Central Park - Plan for Play, Chris Nolan
   a. Play Spaces in Urban Environments
   b. Case Study: Central Park Plan for Play

III. Growing Up Boulder/Participatory Design, Tori Derr
   a. Participatory Design + Children
   b. Case Study: Boulder Civic Area Master Plan

IV. Designing for Play Value, Julian Richter and Peter Heuken
   a. Play value, the joy of play, and the needs of children
   b. Self-determination
   c. Safety, Risk and Danger

V. Moderated Discussion

VI. Audience Questions and Conversation
**Moderator**

Sam Chermayeff is an architect from New York who lives and works in Berlin and New York. Together with Johanna Meyer-Grohbrügge he founded the office June14 Meyer-Grohbrügge & Chermayeff after working for SANAA in Tokyo for five years. Sam continues to teach at the Dessau institute of Architecture and the Graduate school of Architecture, Planning and Preservation at Columbia University. In addition to his architecture and teaching practices, Sam is the owner of Architectural Playground Equipment, Inc, the exclusive US partner for Richter Spielgeräte playground equipment.

**Presenters**

Christopher Nolan, ASLA is Vice President for Planning, Design and Construction at the Central Park Conservancy. Since joining the Conservancy in 1989, he has overseen a program of projects valued at greater than $170 million that is internationally recognized as the most significant and extensive renewal of the Park since its creation more than 150 years ago. He has worked extensively in the Park’s 21 playgrounds and in 2013, led the development of Central Park Conservancy’s “Plan for Play: A Framework for Rebuilding and Managing Central Park Playgrounds.”

Tori Derr, Ph.D. is a Senior Instructor in the Program in Environmental Design and Assistant Director of the Children, Youth and Environments Center at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Her research and professional interests include community engagement in design and planning, increasing youth voice through arts and planning, sustainable design, biophilic design, children’s access to nature, and ecological restoration and conservation. Dr. Derr has worked with children and youth in educational and planning contexts for over 20 years, and she currently serves as co-coordinator of Growing Up Boulder, a campus-community partnership working to make Boulder an exemplary child- and youth-friendly city.

Julian Richter, Sr. is the Managing Director of Richter Spielgeräte GmbH, one of Germany’s largest play equipment manufacturers. Mr. Richter will be joined by Peter Heuken, Director of Special Projects at Richter. The company is renowned for its advanced designs and its commitment to child-centered solutions. As the former chair of the European Committee for Standardization’s Working Group on Installation and Maintenance, Mr. Richter developed the criteria and tests for the majority of the existing of the European safety standards. Both Mr. Richter and Mr. Heuken spoke about safety standards and play value at the popular ASLA 2013 session, Playing It Too Safe?