

PLAY in PARKS and OPEN SPACES

A Theories Landscapes parks and open spaces case study

Crabtree Fields, London Borough of Camden £80k 2009/10



Boring old playground

"Crabtree fields offers a small oasis of calm in London's busy west-end. It may be small but with its winding path and maze like fence encompassing an expansive sandpit it offers a rich mix of play.

We have to make it a pit stop every night before tea. "One last swing one last slide one last sand castle"....."

said Karen Newell, parent, user and member of the Friends of Fitzrovia Group.uly 2011

On paper this central location would appear as one of London's wealthiest areas, however the play provisions for local children were undeniably poor. That was until Theories Landscapes were commissioned to refresh this tiny urban square, that was unloved, and had fallen into disrepair.

Out of humble beginnings appeared a play solution that worked for the whole community. Providing challenging play for older children, as well as a rich play environment for the very young. And above all, the capacity for all ages to play side by side without threat or fear, and all in a tiny urban space. Key play features include climbing and balance play, a tower, improved seating, decorative treatments, and a vast area of sand play.



Exciting new facilities

"As a Landscape Architect who focuses on children's engagement in making changes to their own outdoor play and learning environment, I am happy to work with Theories because their bespoke approach to design & build has the advantage that children's innovative ideas can be reflected more effectively in the physical realisation of a project.

Their construction team also brings additional innovation and new ideas during the implementation phase, responding cost effectively to site and needs rather than simply installing "off the peg" products."

said Felicity Robinson. Play Designer & Consultant 2011

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