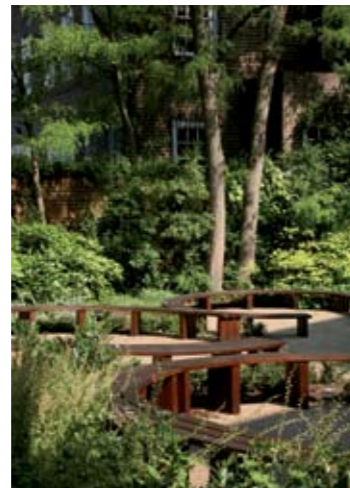


Watch this place° The American School in London

The American School in London is a coeducational, independent school in north west London. The school's philosophy has a strong emphasis on experiential learning – learning by doing – and seeks to encourage students to take educational risks. The school also maintains an outdoor educational centre.



The grounds include landscaping, fencing, planting, seating, sculpture, parking and security. It is comfortable and welcoming but also allows adventure and fun.



Intimate spaces have been created around the school site, with sculptural seating for individuals and small groups as well as circular wooden benches for classes.

Watch this place showcases examples of contemporary architecture and place making and asks how they work. It is published by CABE as a poster with its education magazine 360°. For further information please visit www.cabe.org.uk or email education@cabe.org.uk



Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment



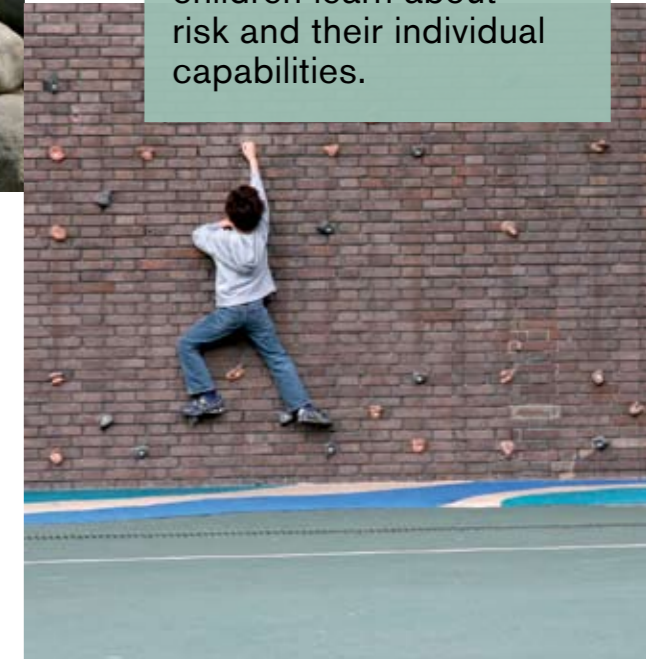
Staff were involved in the discussions throughout the design process and designs were displayed for student comment. The designer was also interviewed by the school magazine.

What's special about this place?

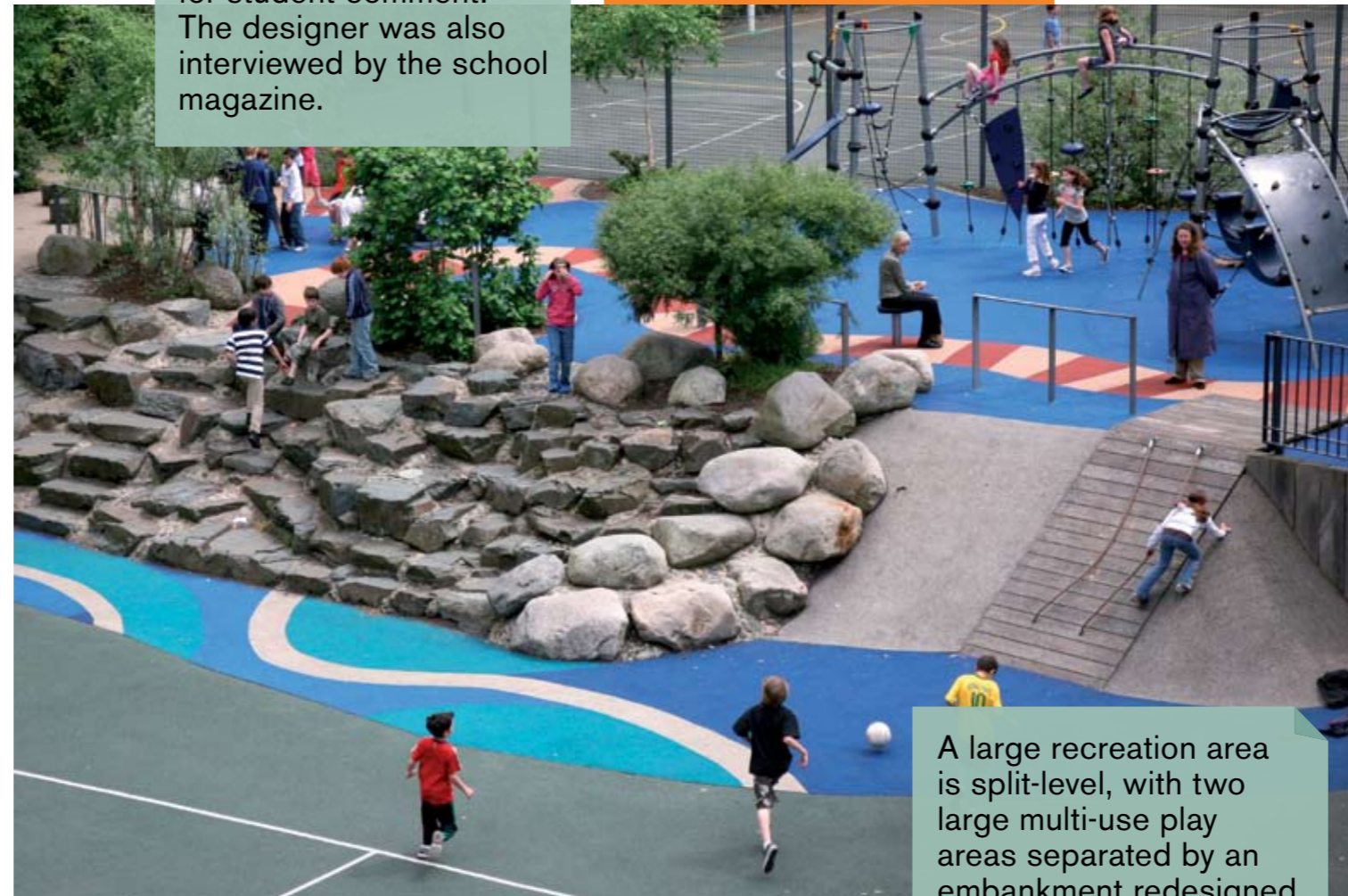
- staff and pupils consulted on designs throughout
- comfortable and welcoming – but exciting and fun too
- intimate spaces and seating around the playground
- rock wall offers adventure and informal seating
- climbing wall tests individuals capabilities
- large split-level recreation area.



A rock wall provides informal seating and opportunities for physical activity. Adjacent is a playground with colourful rubber flooring.



A climbing wall encourages physical activity and helps children learn about risk and their individual capabilities.



A large recreation area is split-level, with two large multi-use play areas separated by an embankment redesigned into a rock wall.

Playing fields to the north of the main school site are used for recreation and food growing. An allotment has been created using timber planks and tractor tyres to create raised beds. Tree logs act as seating areas for teaching.

