

# Now that's what I call a play experience!

*At last! API Members have been hoping for a design and build brief like the one for Playfair Playscape so they can really show just what they can do when not constrained by public procurement procedures.*



## Factoring in the 'Wow'!

"Oh! Wow! So much to do! So much to play on! So much to see, hear, and feel," children may say - as they run, from any direction, into Playfair's unenclosed Playscape. They will see the 'roly-poly' grass mound and slopes of the landscaping, the swings, spinners, trees, shrubs, net climbers, logs and boulders within the natural features. Noses may tingle as scents from aromatic plants simulate senses added to by the many different surfaces, shapes and colours of plants, trees, gravel, sand, shingle and climbing logs. From rocks to rope nets, there is every type of play for every child. With fun from age three to sixteen and for the widest span of abilities, there is something for everyone. This Playscape is for all ages because children, especially the very young, bring their older siblings and adults along as well. Older brothers and sisters, staying cool, may be tempted by some risk, challenge and apparent danger. It's there to thrill while they chill.

## Pooled Skills - an API multidisciplinary win-win

The designers of this Playscape have achieved several 'firsts'. All from API member companies, they have combined their ideas, swapped skills to generate new levels of shared professional excellence. That combines three layers of thinking, experience and knowledge in landscaping and planting, children's play and equipment. The layers give a focus to the layout of play points, the next layer to landscaped surfaces, paths, edging, natural materials of stone, logs and shingle. The third design layer is the planting with a mix of low height shrubs and taller trees all as bio-diverse as possible and selected to attract insects, birds and butterflies - and bring about a blitzkrieg of aromatic plant scents.

## Fit in and fit for purpose and budgets

Playfair's Playscape illustrates ideas which easily fit, unfenced, into many local authority public parks. Although 'not for sale as is' it shows just what can be done and in this case for just £150,000. That is for everything. The total cost includes design, play equipment, logs, boulders, the many different surfaces, installation, all the planting, landscaping and finishing and the post installation safety approval. Within the scope of larger budgets, it also comes in smaller part-sections.

## Bite-sized chunks

Created in modular 'play-points', Playscape illustrates designs ideas which can be installed in size suitable sections. They will fit more modest town and parish budgets and smaller area available in public spaces, schools, hospitals, travel termini, retail centres, holiday camps and theme parks.

## Lasting a lifetime and more

To be sure of Best Value, the designers have used sustainable materials and ensured the play areas, surfaces, equipment and especially the more natural features can be maintained easily and economically. Playscape is designed to be durable and as just as good, and even better, year after year.

## An API design team 'first'

Four API companies produced the final design. From eibe came Paul Redden and David Hibberd, from Kompan, Adam Grace, and with Proludic's Jeremy Lord they were joined by Patrick Martin from Sutcliffe. This is the first time several competitive companies, members of the API, have cooperated on design and the first time this dedicated team of four has produced a design cooperatively. The result will be excellent for visitors to Playfair's Playscape and for the customers of the participating API Members who all have a wider, shared and raised levels of excellence.