



ContemPLAY Pavilion

Montreal, Quebec



The ContemPLAY pavilion, developed by a group of students for the McGill Architecture School, is meant to be a multi-generational structure that gathers the ideas of contemplation and play in a single expression. As a socially sustainable public infrastructure piece that plays with the visual field through form and cladding, it challenges the current trend in public space furniture and approaches the realm of the abstract sculpture.

The structure itself is a three-dimensional mobius strip supported by a triangular truss, constructed with a combination of laminated plywood and galvanized steel elements. The cladding creates visual interest by playing with line of sight manipulation and interference patterns. As the public approaches and engages the pavilion, the visual field is modified and interrupted by the interference created by motion and the two layers of cladding, a moiré effect.

The eye continuously covers the surface of the ribbon-like mobius, expressing dynamic motion. Within, a bench anchors the project to the ground, allowing for a center seat in the never-ending structure. Light filters through the cladding, blurring the lines between the inside and outside world of the piece.

As you move around the pavilion, new interference patterns are continuously created depending on your position, creating a responsive, interactive experience. The simplicity of a half-twist in a ribbon was rendered extremely complex through the doubling and offsetting of the Mobius strip. This elaborate visual spectacle required a strong yet minimal structural solution for support. The solution to this complexity was a space frame comprised of hot-dip galvanized steel tube and wood supports.

To fabricate the space frame, the choice of galvanized steel tube was made for aesthetic and technical reasons. The hot-dip galvanized steel not only resulted in a soft, matte gray color, it also proved to be the most durable and cost effective corrosion protection system for the project. The color of the wood will turn from natural to a soft gray with time, as the pavilion is exposed to the elements; however, the galvanized steel will remain attractive and rust free for the life of the project.

With age, the galvanized steel and wood will form a common visual structure that achieves the artistic intentions behind the ContemPLAY design. ♿



Galvanizer
Corbec Inc.

Architect
McGill Architecture School

Fabricators
Protoplus Précison
Les Aciers Canam
Altitubes Steel

civic contribution