Joe Brown Collection

www.berliner-playequipment.com

BerlinerSeilfabrik

Play equipment for life

The invention of rope play equipment.

Joseph Brown was born in 1909 as a son of Russian immigrants in Philadelphia, United States of America. At the age of 18 he was the recipient of a football scholarship from Temple University in Philadelphia, where he studied physical education. Shortly before he was to graduate in 1928, he left university and became a professional boxer. Following an injury, Joe discovered he had a weakness for sculpture and devoted more and more time to the arts. In 1931, Joe Brown returned to Temple University and completed his studies. After six years as a sculptor, Joe was employed at Princeton University to train boxers.

Having recognized, that movement through sport and play is important for the development of young people, Joe Brown turned his attention to play equipment for the first time in 1950, examples of which he presented to the general public at the National Recreational Congress in St. Louis in 1954. Many experts believe his designs to have been revolutionary. He developed what he termed play communities, which drew attention both for their sculptural character and their play function.

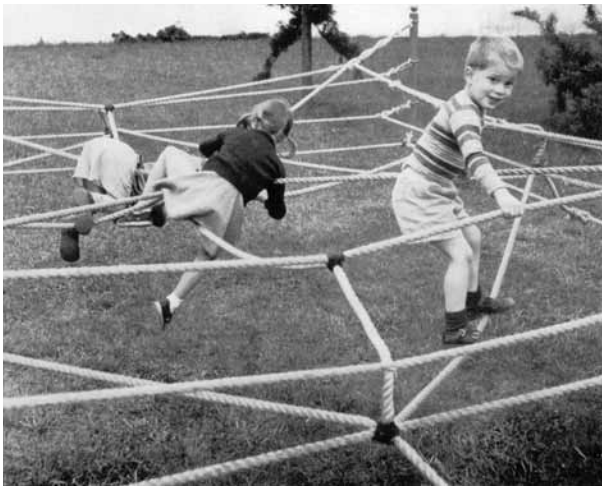
Joe Brown is thus also regarded as a pioneer of modern play equipment culture, having been one of the very first to define play as preparation for the responsibilities of adulthood.

Over the next few years, he installed a number of prototypes in Philadelphia and outside the USA, in London and Tokyo. However, there was no mass production of his designs, since he did not have the manufacturing capacity nor did he wish to hand everything over to others. In 1959, Joe Brown published a book called Creative Playgrounds and Recreation Centers containing the designs of his first spatial rope play equipment. He derived his play concept for rope play equipment from a classic boxing ring. He also created the first designs for today's very popular high rope gardens. Until long into the 1960s, he attempted but failed to find a licensee, so instead he implemented individual special projects. Ultimately, Joe Brown became an instructor in art and taught sculpture until his retirement in 1977. Joseph Brown passed away in 1985 in Philadelphia.

In Germany, it was Conrad Lehmann who further pursued the idea of rope play equipment and combined his approach with the insights of Frei Otto at the Institute for Lightweight Structures. Then in the early 1970s, these designs were developed to the mass production stage using the technical expertise of the Berliner Seilfabrik.

In the more than 40 years during which the Berliner Seilfabrik worked on the development of rope play equipment, a large number of new structures were created and many of them were patented internationally. These spatial structures are normally based on the 5 Platonic solids, also called regular polyhedrons because the regular structure means that the tensioning points needed for rope play equipment are optimally distributed. The rope play equipment originally invented by Joe Brown remains as popular as ever, and continues to provide a lot of fun for children in playgrounds as well as having an educational effect.

In memory of and homage to the pioneer of rope play equipment, Berliner Seilfabrik is releasing a new range of equipment called the „Joe Brown Collection" in autumn 2014.

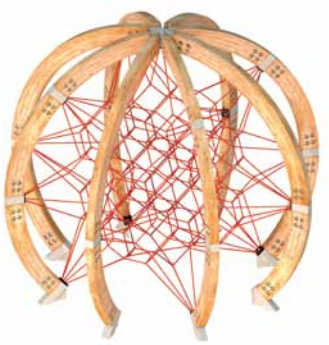


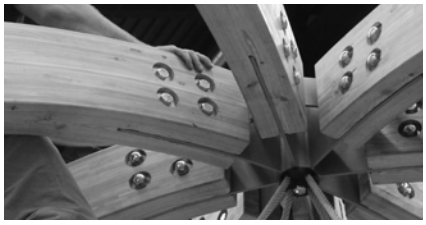
The Globe

90.100.04.31

	(m)	4,4 x 4,4 x 3,8
	('-")	14-4 x 14-4 x 12-4
	EN 1176 (m)	7,5 x 7,5
	ASTM/CSA(m)	8,0 x 8,0
	ASTM/CSA ('-")	26-4 x 26-4
	(m)	1,59
	('-")	5-2
		5-12

Climbing in a three-dimensional net helps children to develop and improve their psychomotor skills. Now Berliner Seilfabrik presents the classic play idea of a three-dimensional net climber in a new surrounding. The outer frame of the Joe Brown Collection is made from timber: glued laminated timber.





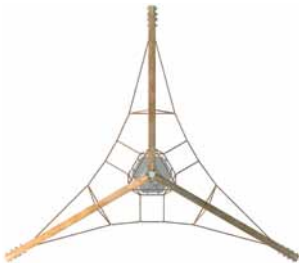
Natural Play

In comparison to grown wood, our special wooden material is long-lasting and has a higher load capacity. It is made from dried wood and consists of multiple layers, that's why there is less crack building. The load capacity is improved because it is made from pre-sorted high quality wood that is free of knots.

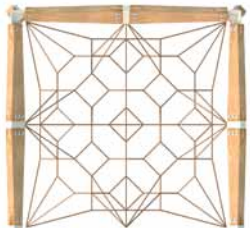
Only one type of wood is used for the production of glued laminated timber, for our net climbers we use larch. These layers are glued with the wood fiber going in the same direction. Glued laminated timbers are often used in architectural structures like roofs for situations with high load capacity. The material can be bent to a degree that satisfies all needs of the design team.

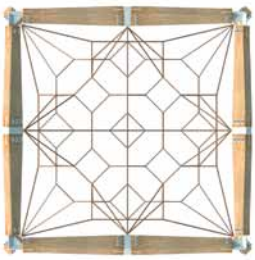
For kids this means: Natural play!

coming soon...



The Pyramid
Dimensions (l x w x h): **16‘-5‘‘ x 14‘-3‘‘ x 10‘-10‘‘**





The Cube
Dimensions (l x w x h): **10‘-5‘‘ x 10‘-5‘‘ x 11‘-6‘‘**

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