

MONSTRUM



Creating Colorful Playscapes That Let the Imagination Truly Run Wild

The innovative craftsmen and women at MONSTRUM create playgrounds that are more than just playgrounds—they create sculptural, story-based playscapes that inspire the imaginations of children and adults alike.

Study after scientific study reinforces what parents throughout the ages have always known: physical play with the right mix of risk and safety is crucial for healthy child development. And for children growing up in the digital age, this kind of active, imaginative play is more important than ever before. With this in mind, Danish playground masters MONSTRUM are dedicated to creating playgrounds “that fascinate and inspire both adults and children.”

With thematic designs that combine locally-inspired storylines, elements of risky play, traditional playground equipment, and all manner of oversized creatures, MONSTRUM’s landmark works are an innovative marriage of architecture, stagecraft, storytelling, and pedagogy. Founded by partners Ole Barslund Nielsen and Christian Jensen—who met while working as set designers in the Danish theatre world—MONSTRUM is made up of a team of designer-builders who employ a hands-on approach to creating unforgettable wooden playgrounds



for an array of communities around the world. “Today, we are 10 designers and architects and 30 builders working closely together on designing and manufacturing throughout the process,” explains Jensen, who leads MONSTRUM’s production. “We develop all of our projects through hand sketching and 3D modelling, with a focus on safety, play value, and the story in play elements.”

But MONSTRUM’s global adventure began back in 2003, when Nielsen was asked to help choose new playground equipment for his son’s kindergarten in Copenhagen. “I could see that for the given budget, I could do something more like a theater set and create something →