



Kohl Children's Museum

Booth Hansen

Making Place

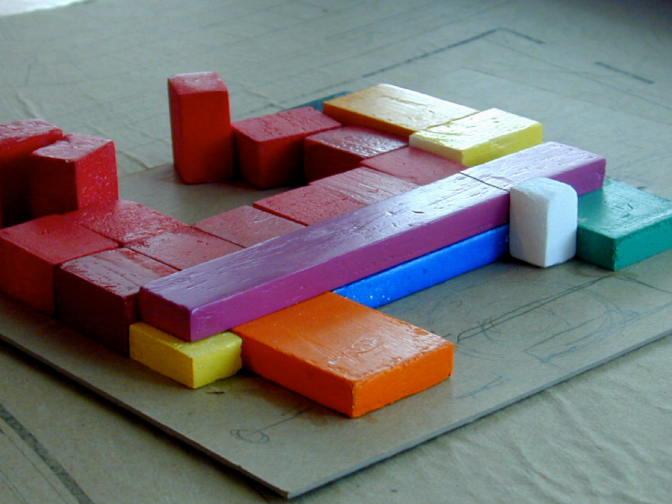
Inspired by the vision of Dolores Kohl Kaplan - to provide a safe place where children could creatively guide their own learning experience - the new Kohl Children's Museum is a state-of-the-art, sustainably designed facility that encourages curiosity, creativity, and self-discovery for children and their families.

Welcome...

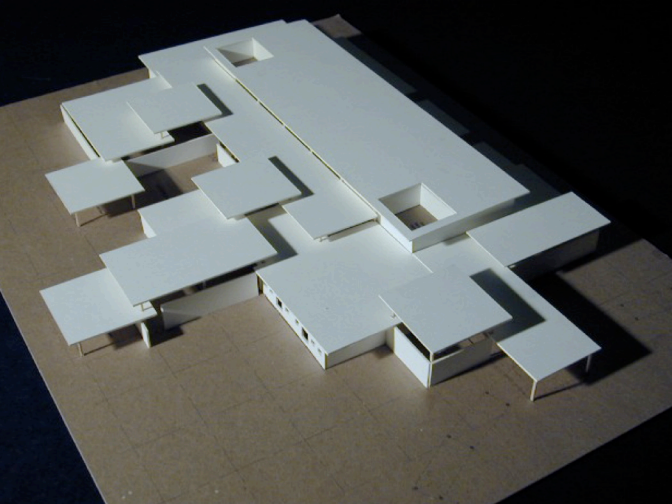


Once upon a time...

The leadership of the Kohl Children's Museum challenged architects BOOTH HANSEN to design a new facility that would literally embody the child-based mission of the institution. The firm's collaborative approach to programming - using colored blocks to explore various solutions - immediately involved Museum staff and trustees in the design process, fostering teamwork, a spirit of community, and a sense of ownership in the solution.







Dreams do come true...

With the program defined, numerous concepts were then explored through a process of open discussion, comparisons, and cost analysis.

Dimensional models helped everyone understand and envision each concept, leading the team to the best design solution. Later, interior spaces were explored through detailed modeling exercises, considering issues such as traffic flow, furnishings, and materials.











It's easy being green...

Beyond the obvious benefits a sustainably designed building offers the environment, a strong commitment to stewardship dovetailed with the Museum's mission and transformed the building itself into a powerful educational tool. In fact, the Museum designed an exhibit about the building's environmentally-sensitive approach, provided signage on green features for visitors, and identified new funding sources for the capitol campaign.











Happily ever after...

The Kohl Children's Museum has reinvigorated its mission to serve children and families in greater Chicago through the realization of their new facility. In its first year of operation, attendance was nearly doubled and membership grew substantially.

In 2007, the building was awarded Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver-level certification by the U.S. Green Building Council.





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