

Hyde and Seek Creche, Dublin



Solution:

Organised as a series of four small oval volumes encircled by an oval roof that serves as a safe yet expansive playground, the deceptive scale of the building is achieved through the application of brick in varying formations. Introverted at ground-floor level, the facade features three horizontal strips at one metre intervals, creating an oval construction of textured brick that provides a canvas for the sun to deliver a multitude of red shades throughout the day. This provides a backdrop of vibrancy for the private landscape courtyards, with geometric brick wall screens that the children can see through from all aspects. On the first-floor, the large circular roof unifies the building overall, whilst servicing as a vast external playground that is encircled by a three metre high brick parapet, punctuated with carefully placed windows to service as windscreens. Here the children can capture views well into the distance within the privacy of their own space, that isn't overlooked by the neighbouring buildings. The two horizontal strips of facade at 1.5 metre high intervals create individualised views for the respective age groups, again playing with scale and formation to reflect the viewpoint of the child. Across the site the brick is put to work as hard as it can, serving as a protective barrier between the children and the busy crossroads on which the site is located. The brick unifies with the red terracotta concrete panels of the boundaries to maintain a visual architectural dialogue with the surrounding red-brick buildings of the residential neighbourhood.

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Brick:

Ibstock Brick, Birtley Old English Buff