



DIPLOM | Tom Dowdall
 ETH Zürich 2010
 Prof. Dr. Josep Lluís Mateo

Tagesschule | Letzi | Zürich

Cedric Price once defined 'fun' as something offering the opportunity for active engagement - positioning himself in complete contrast to the 'amuse-me' ethic defined by Disneyland.

For the design of this project, I have heavily leaned on the ideas of Cedric Price. The school has become simply a framework, where activities, both formal and informal can occur. Or more fittingly, the school has become a large climbing frame, to be used in a similar way.

It is of prime importance that the school is conceived and used as a unity. Not only in agreement with the concept that the school should represent something urban, as a microcosm of the city, but also in response to the surrounding neighbourhoods and their housing typology. The surrounding blocks are arranged in clusters yet distinctly separate from other blocks by narrow, discontinuous gardens. In contrast to this and in an attempt to create a more convincing 'place', the handling of the landscape has been treated with much more intent. The school building addresses the park to the north and divides the gently sloping landscape - the public on one side, and the school play area on the other. In between, the school sits on an added third level - a platform from which activities take place.



