

RETURN TO THE OUTDOORS



Return To The Outdoors

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Prompt

Defining And Designing For The Commons

As a concept, Commons can refer to resources or space, but also strategies, practice, and tactics for collective care and reproduction.

Often design disciplines position themselves as critical in articulating systems, products, spaces, and platforms that foster the commons, but have also advanced primitive accumulation and the co-opting of commons language by capitalist, neoliberal regimes to the detriment of human and nonhuman communities.



The Commons

The commons is an outdoor space in which everyone is welcome
and accepted.

It is a place, policy, idea or thing in which there
is no privilege or hierarchy.



Nature

Nature as a Commons

The earth is one of the most important commons we share. In order to protect the planet, we need to raise children outside to instill in them care for our earth.

CHILDREN OF ALL AGES SHOULD
SPEND

90 min

OUTSIDE EVERYDAY



“Many of our shared natural resources
- fisheries, forests, groundwater -
as well as large parts of our life-giving environment
- the oceans and atmosphere -
are held in common and called “commons.”
Successful, sustainable management of the commons
is therefore one of the greatest imperatives of our time.”



Unstructured Play



Unstructured play allows children the freedom to explore, create and discover without predetermined rules or guidelines. While unstructured play can occur indoors, the outdoors is ideal because there are endless opportunities to explore and interact with the world.



Benefits

Outdoor and unstructured play is no longer prioritized and even recess has been diminished to a mere **20 min** per day in many states across the US. Benefits of unstructured and outdoor play include better school performance, a better imagination, higher levels of fitness, more friends, stronger bones, less depression, reduced hyperactivity, improved eyesight, and better sleep.



Children in the US spend an average of
7 HOURS
a day in front of a screen.



What If

What would a neighborhood would look like with communal, outdoor play spaces that are safe, used frequently and organized by kids. Spaces would include community gathered and donated items for children to use for unstructured play.

Community donated items are collected and curated by children, offering them a chance to organize and work together.

Items can include:

- Pots, pans, ladles and other kitchen essentials
- Gardening and building tools
- Wood, rope, yarn, cardboard and other building supplies
- Containers





Items are donated and placed in the neighborhood



Children organize donations and discard unwanted items



Children enjoy unstructured outdoor play!



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