



Asphalt to Ecosystems

Design Ideas for Schoolyard Transformation

Sharon Gamson Danks



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Case Studies from North America, Scandinavia, Japan, and Great Britain demonstrate organic outdoor teaching environment that support hand-on learning in research, math, language, and art in ways that nurture healthy imagination and socialization. With this publication, Danks broadens our notion of just what a well-designed schoolyard ought to be, taking visitors on a journey from traditional, normal grassy fields and asphalt, to explore the vibrant and growing motion to "green" college grounds in the United States and around the world. *Asphalt to Ecosystems* is a compelling color guidebook for designing and building natural schoolyard environments that enhance childhood learning and play experiences while providing reference to the natural globe. This book documents fascinating green schoolyard good examples from almost 150 academic institutions in 11 countries, illustrating that lots of things are feasible on school grounds when they are envisioned as outdoor classrooms for hands-on learning and play. The book's 500 vivid, color photographs showcase a few of the world's most innovative green schoolyards including: edible gardens with fruit trees, vegetables, chickens, honey bees, and outdoor cooking facilities; renewable energy systems that power scenery features, or the whole school; schoolyard watershed models, rainwater catchment systems and waste-water treatment wetlands; wildlife habitats with prairie grasses and ponds, or forest and desert ecosystems; innovative play possibilities that diversify school surface recreational choices and encourage kids to run, hop, skip, jump, balance, slide, and twirl, in addition to explore the natural world first hand. K-12 curriculum connections for an array of disciplines from technology and math to art and social studies; waste-as-a-resource projects that give new lease of life to old materials in beautiful ways; The book grounds these good examples in a practical framework that illustrates basic landscape design choices that all schools can use to create their schoolyards more comfortable, enjoyable and beautiful, and describes a participatory design process that schools can use to engage their school communities in transforming their personal asphalt into ecosystems.



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Inspiring Must-Read book for bringing GREEN into our schoolyards! I am a scenery architect and have been involved with transforming many asphalt schoolyards into green, sustainable, diverse community playgrounds in NYC for a long time. I bought this book because of my interest in environmental education in schoolyards and because it was highly recommended by a friend (and reviewed in Landscape Architecture Magazine). As I go through it, I was so inspired by the suggestions, elements of different types of ecological schoolyards and how to implement environmental education for colleges. Even though I've implemented many similar or the same suggestions found in this reserve, I still found it interesting and thought-provoking. Plenty of ideas Great job documenting a good number of effective seeking playgrounds.... Used it at school even though redesigning my yard to make it more 'kid friendly'! Sharon Gamson Danks, I wished I could work for her. Wasnt what I thought it could be. Properly organized and considered. Our children have to be outdoors learning how to care for their surroundings.G.) In this reserve you will find inspiration and types of innovative and transformative areas along with how academic institutions and community have designed outdoor spaces for specific needs and curriculum. There is a wonderful resource section and index aswell. This book is really packed with resources aswell for further reading and internet investigation and are also tied to the Asphalt 2 Ecosystems website:[. That is a nice reserve for the lay person who desires that their school site was a lot more than turf and asphalt. There are various photos, a strong thesis, and some implementation ideas. I could see the influence of The Last Child in the Woods by Richard Louv, The Inclusive City by the company M. Wasnt what I thought it will be. (I especially admired Danks inclusion of European outdoor areas. Wanted pictures of playground ideas and didn't obtain as many as I needed. My only argument with this publication is usually that after teaching for 35 years and in addition having earned a certificate in landscape architecture from the author's university, I would have liked to discover more curriculum tie-ins to entice teachers to utilize the space regularly. Much better than the rest I purchased this some months ago because I'm planning our school's new music garden. Furthermore, in the condition of California (and perhaps in other states aswell) science is not tested till 5th quality and social studies is not tested in the elementary school. So teachers are also less likely to use spaces where the curricular connections offer mainly with those two topics. I've looked through plenty of other books like this one, but this reserve had tons more great photos. Using the countless resources in the appendix, one is usually compelled to explore further and will perhaps find more strategies that will help their particular schools get over the barriers and make great sites for kids. And as everyone becomes more aware of the need for character and choice from our playgrounds, perhaps specific schools will take this book to center and help produce a groundswell of alter. Five Stars Great book! Excellent! This was so well written with thoughtful insight and worthy experiences. Good instruction/great presentation I'm starting a college garden and this book was an extremely helpful resource. Green the Black! I know I will refer to it frequently. If an area is not really well-used, it is more difficult to get people to take care of it (as volunteers), teachers are swamped with needs on their time, and everybody knows that universities can't afford enough backyard and playground stewards. It is sad, but true. It really got me influenced and excited. great for home and school Simply wonderful. Highly highly recommend this publication.]I recommend this book for all scenery architects, urban planners/designers, teachers, environmental educators, learners, school PTA members, community group leaders and anyone interested or involved with children's outdoor environments. A Must Have Reserve for all Education Establishments! If you want to bring advantages of kids being out of doors to learn to your childs school, this is actually the best book to learn. It will provide you with the tools, and information needed to provide Environmental Stewardship to any town, town or state. Practical, very well researched and very well cited guide for campus greening and the creation of outdoor play spaces as well as outdoor classroomsAsphalt and Ecosystems presents beautiful and inspiring examples of college campus transformations that suit most regions, sizes and college needs. I am so impressed with Ms. It is more than well worth the modest price on Amazon.I. Wanted photos of playground

concepts and didn't get as many as I needed.com! and, of course Clare Cooper Marcus' many years of work studying healing gardens.



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