

Project Description

In the spirit of New England folk artist Earl Cunningham, *The House that Eden Built* explores the unsuppressed use of vivid colour, combined with the playful incongruity of unexpected objects. Cunningham's paintings depict a unique view of New England as an Eden, and is the inspiration for the androgynous title of the project.

This year 'millennial pink' has quite possibly reached its peak, with the shade proliferating catwalks and design shows alike. Although likely to hang around, its prevalence symbolises a wider trend toward hues that blur the boundary between colours that can be easily named. The use of colour combinations in more unexpected ways, as beautifully illustrated in Cunningham's paintings, can add richness and enjoyment to the urban fabric.



Fig. 1: 'Goose Rocks Beach' 1960 – Earl Cunningham (note the daring addition of Viking war ships and flamingos on the shore)

The proposal draws from the colours of the painting 'Goose Rocks Beach', while placement of natural elements of palms (1), shark pools (2) and flamingos (3) add a cheerful and whimsical character to enhance children's delight.

Intrinsic to the idea is the requirement of children's imagination in their interaction with the playhouse. There are no formal boundaries to the playhouse. Interactive panels that swivel with a push (4) allow children to define their own spaces. A lonesome door (5) may demarcate an invisible threshold into any space of the imagination. Windows are positioned where walls might be (6). The roofscape is further deconstructed to encourage imagination at spatial transition zones (7).

High quality durable materials are key to the longevity and robustness of the proposal. It is proposed that James Hardie fibre cement boards could form the majority of the scalloped roof shingles (8). The remaining tiles could be interspersed with coloured translucent polycarbonate tiles (9) to allow for a stained-glass effect to the roof. Windows could also be glazed with the same coloured polycarbonate to enable colourful pools of light to animate the play space (10).

It is proposed that most of the swivel panels are perforated to allow for peeking through and shadows to be observed of those hiding behind. It would be great to be able to use laser cut HardiePlanks to create perforated panels (11). Alternatively, solid planks can be used but spaced apart to allow for gaps.

The playhouse would mostly be steel framed with a durable colour powder coating (12). A steel balustrade will provide fall protection to the upper deck for safety, and rubber surfacing on the ground would further prevent injury (13). It is proposed that the upper deck is formed of a robust timber such as Larch (14), creating a warm and safe environment for play.

We hope that *The House that Eden Built* examines the potential for exceptional colour combinations to be used, while at the same time creating a fun, exploratory playspace for children that can be enjoyed into the future. In a playful take on the New England architectural style, we imagine the playhouse could settle in nicely with its breezy Green Park Village neighbours.

Fisher Cheng Architects

The House that Eden Built

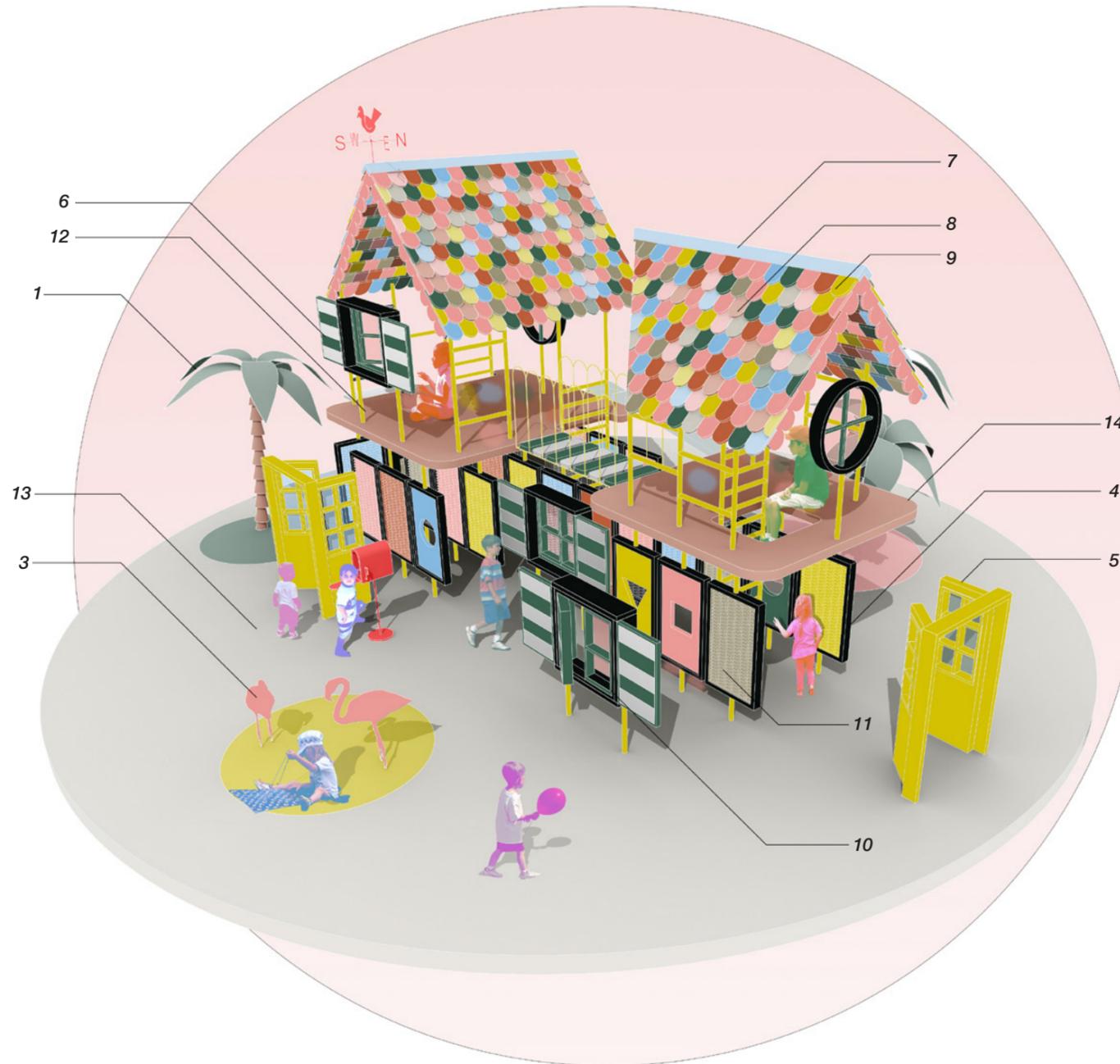


Fig. 2: The House that Eden Built Playhouse

About Fisher Cheng Architects

Fisher Cheng is a young architecture practice based in Edmonton, North London, dedicated to creating inspiring spaces driven by the enjoyment of those who use them.

Established in 2016 by Richard Fisher and Yuting Cheng, Fisher Cheng sets out to create socially driven architecture that is combined with high quality design.

The practice blends a playful design approach with a serious attitude towards functionality gained from multiple years of experience at award-winning practices prior to establishing Fisher Cheng.



Richard Fisher
BA(Hons) DipArch ARB
Richard is an ARB registered Architect with keen eye for detail. During his 4 years at Hawkins\Brown he has gained a broad range of experience in residential and education projects in the public and private sectors.



Yuting Cheng
BA(Hons) DipArch MArch ARB RIBA
Yuting is an ARB and RIBA chartered architect with a strong design sensibility. She has over 4 years of experience in residential and mixed use developments at Rogers Stirk Harbour + Partners. Yuting is currently a practice mentor for MA Interior Design students at the Royal College of Art.

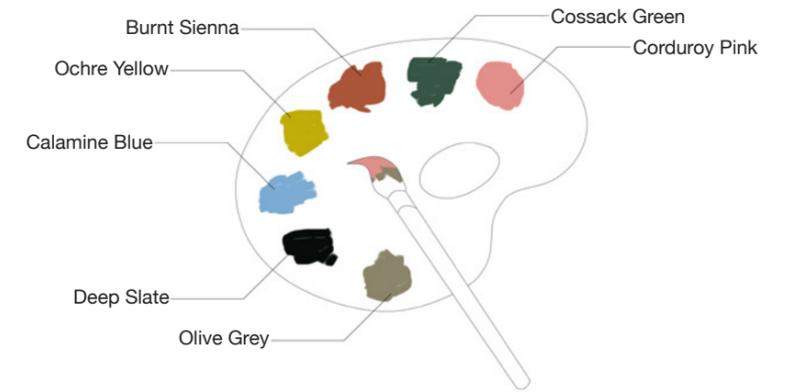


Fig. 3: Proposed Colour Palette

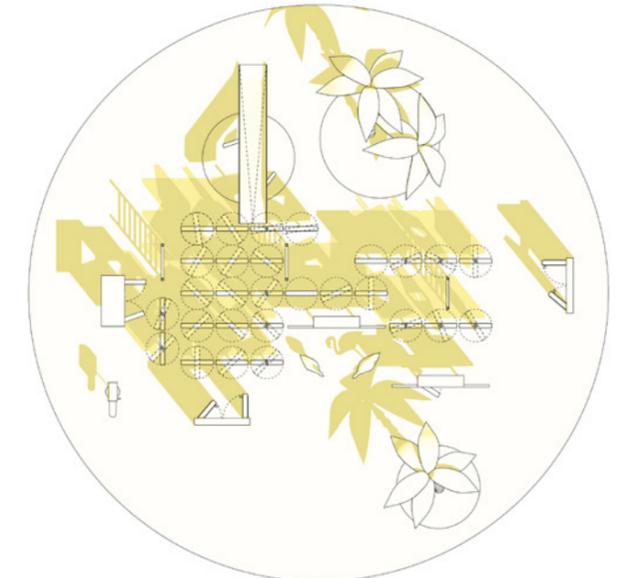


Fig. 4: Plan illustrating interactive panels allowing creation of private play spaces



Fig. 5: Axonometric showing reconfigured panels and relationship to upper deck