



playground catalog

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Homo Ludens
Playground catalog
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*All material, including photographs and maps, are
unless otherwise stated, by the author.*



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A deficiate abundance

During a guided site visit to Holmlia in November 2017, local resident and project manager of ByVerkstedet Holmlia, Catrine Lie, mentioned how she and her family always would discover a new playground whenever they went for a walk in the neighbourhood.

Being a suburb built in the 1980s, Holmlia is compounded of a number of low rise building blocks, terraced houses and terrace apartments carefully adapted to the shapes of the landscape. This leads to the neighbourhoods being perceived as more open, safe

and closer to the nature than the suburbs from the 60s and 70s, which mostly consisted of tall and massive building blocks.

The dwellings in Holmlia are all part of different housing cooperatives (borettslag). These are legal entities owned by the dwellers, and is the official owner of the buildings and the ground the buildings are built on and surrounded by.

The Norwegian Building and Planning Act states that when building a plot, an area for satisfactory residence, including playground



"Children's Play", painting by Pieter Bruegel the elder (1560).

Source: Wikimedia Commons

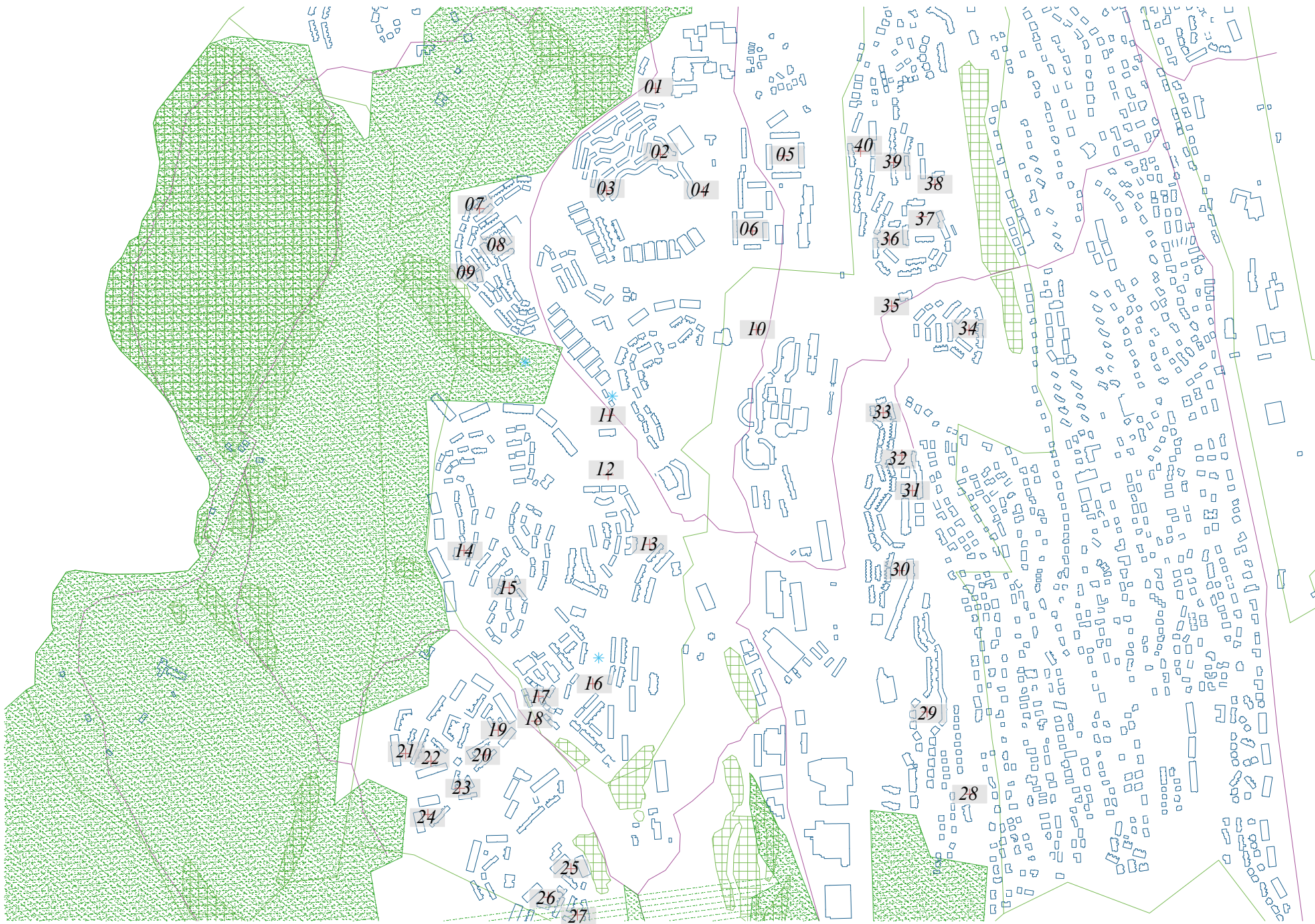
for children, must be established. This is a way to facilitate for good conditions for child rearing, and has led to the high number of playgrounds on Holmlia. Every housing cooperative has at least one.

The note from Catrine Lie made me curious: Does the abundance of playgrounds necessarily equal a ton of different opportunities on how to play? Do the playgrounds satisfy the children's needs?

As a part of my diploma project I have looked at 40 playgrounds dispersed in the two sub-districts of

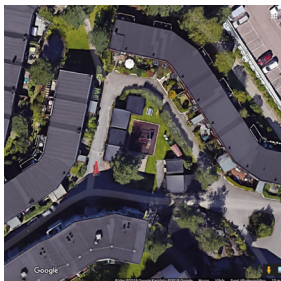
Holmlia Sør and Holmlia Nord. This catalog shows how I have studied their sizes, the materials they are made of and the categories of play they facilitate for.

The final pages of the catalog include a summary and a counting that reveals what I interpret as a copy-paste attitude towards playgrounds: minimal effort paid to make safe playgrounds with the same apparatus as the neighbouring ones.

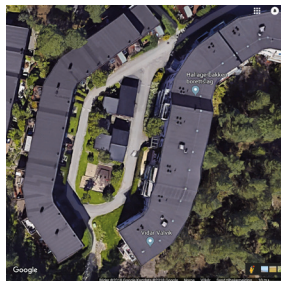




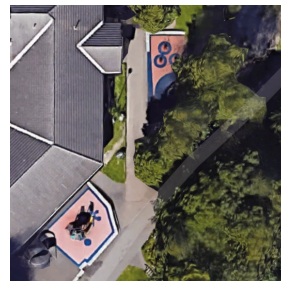
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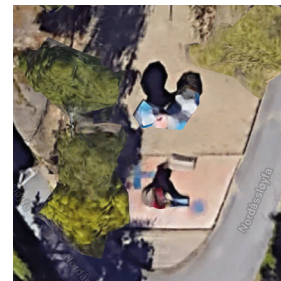
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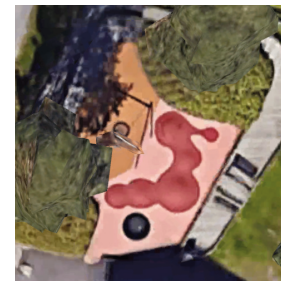
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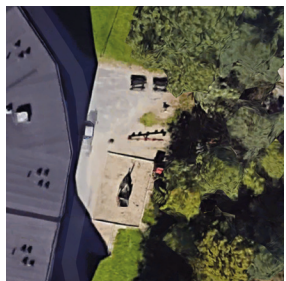
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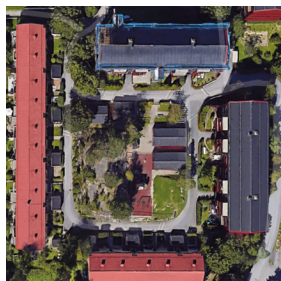
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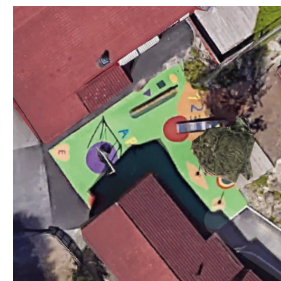
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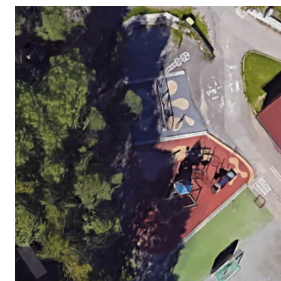
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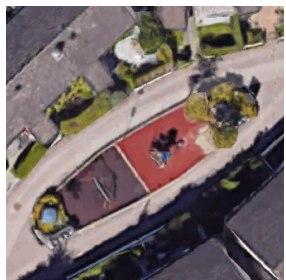
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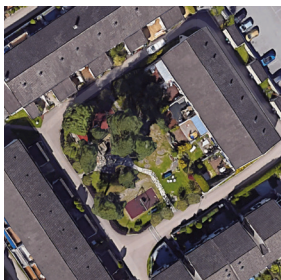
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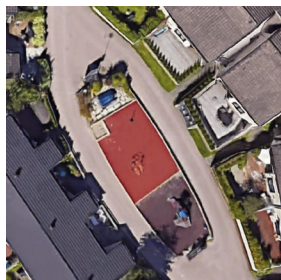
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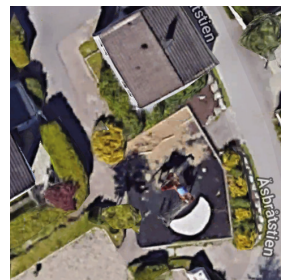
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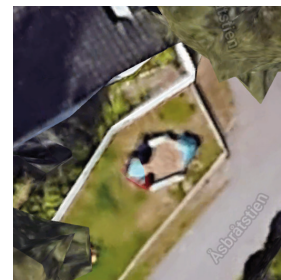
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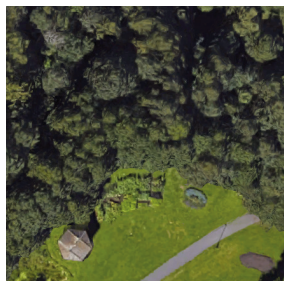
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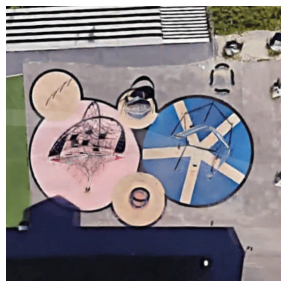
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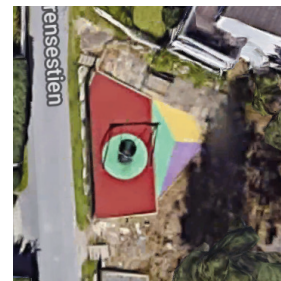
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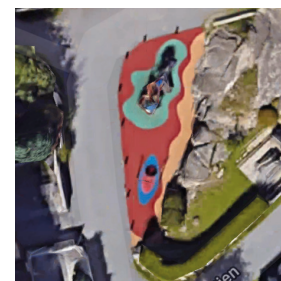
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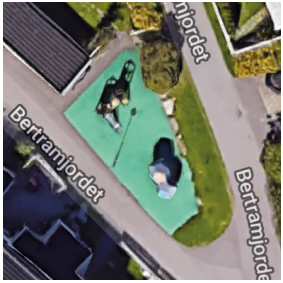


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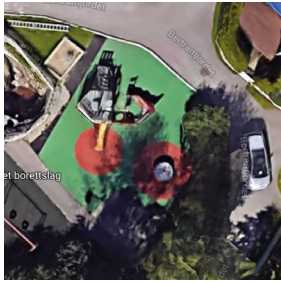


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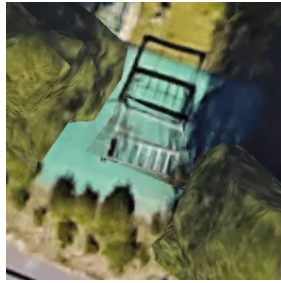
Photos: Google Maps



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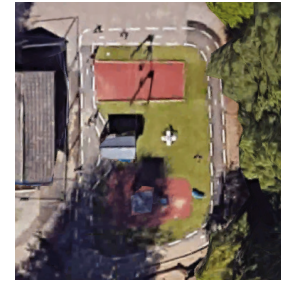
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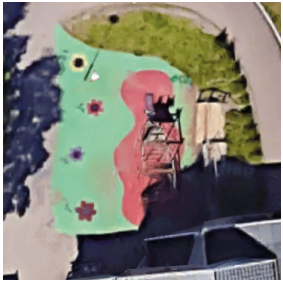
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39



28



29



30



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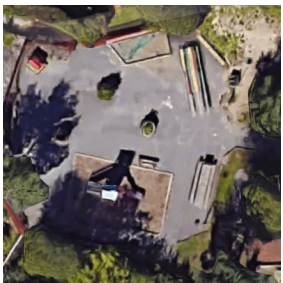
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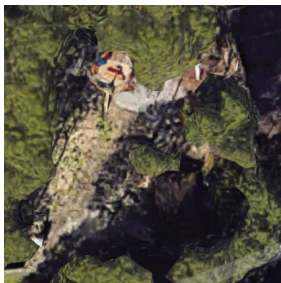
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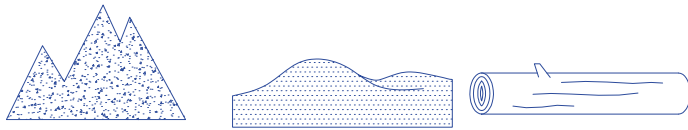


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Playground content and materials



Exposed bedrock

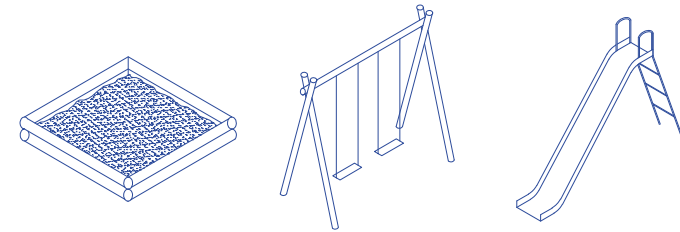
Considered a great quality as it (in urban environments) is a rare and direct piece of earth and nature. Steady, solid and longlasting. Visible, tangible, climbable. Rough and uneven surfaces are good for human bodies, young and old.

Rubber mulch

Common ground cover material on modern playgrounds. Often made out of rubber granulates based on tires, combined with an adhesive matter, for example polyuretan. Minimizes the risk of fall injuries, easy to clean, antiskid, sound absorbing. Comes in all kinds of different colors, possible to combine colors and patterns. Characteristic look.

Natural materials

Any material that comes from plants or the ground. Wood, rocks, sand, gravel, bark, soil, are materials suitable for playgrounds. These are most common in so-called natural playgrounds, of which one can be found in Holmlia.



Sandbox

Previously called sand table or sand garden. Origins from mid 19th century. A very common playground feature. Tactile. Suitable for construction games. Leaves it up to the child to decide how to use it. Few constraints, allows fantasy.

Swing

Hanging seat, suspended from chains or ropes. A swing set often has two seats, occasionally one of these are suitable for infants and toddlers. Apparatus for physical play. Pleasant sensation for people in all ages. Limited ways of use.

Slide

Often consists of a stair or ladder, and a smooth surface (plastic or metal) to slide down on. Invented around 1900. Can take different shapes (spiral, wavy, tube, straight). Limited ways of use.

Trees

Indigenous or planted. Climbable or non-climbable. Tactile and natural. Multiple ways of use, could also work as a good backdrop or extra in role based play.

Facilitating different sorts of play



In Oxford Dictionary, the verb to play is defined as “Engage in activity for enjoyment and recreation rather than a serious or practical purpose.” One of Maria Montessoris five characteristics of play is “Play is self-chosen and self-directed; players are always free to quit.”

There is an endless number of ways to play, but the phenomenon is usually structured in five categories: role based, rule based, physical, collecting and constructing play.

We use these ways of playing as ways of rehearsing and training for an independent adult life: training balance, learning to socialize and build social competence, experiencing justice. As human beings we need to practice all five categories in order to grow and evolve.

While studying the playgrounds in Holmlia, I have tried to determine which ones of the five categories of play the playgrounds are facilitating for.

Role based play

Pretence and socio-dramatic play. Role play, theatre, performance, live action role-playing game (LARP), historical reenactments, historical role play. Builds social competence, helps preventing behavioral disorders.

Rule based play

Games with rules. Hide-and-seek, kick the can, Simon Says, cannonball, soccer, basketball.

Physical play

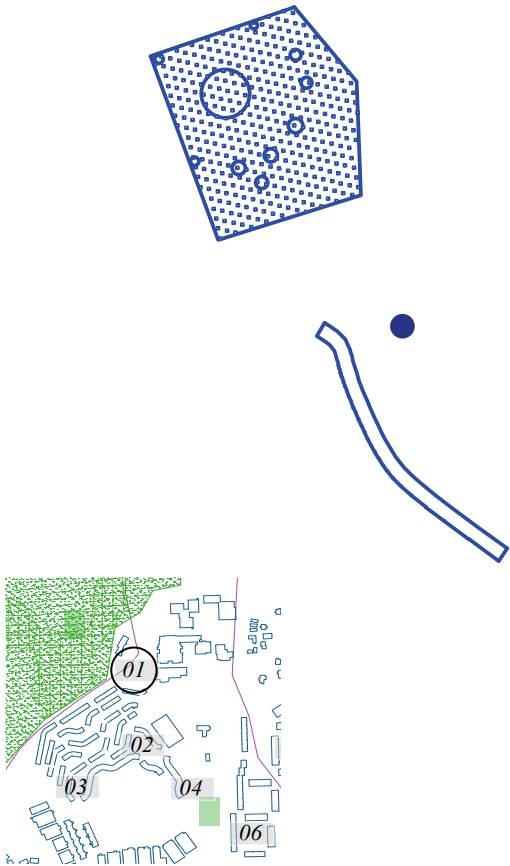
Climbing (in trees, on monkey bars), spinning around, rolling, doing somersaults, jumping, balancing.

Collecting play

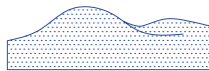
Collecting, gathering, sorting, trading, exchanging, keeping objects (for example Pokémons, football cards, rocks, Geocaches).

Construction play

Building lego, building with bricks, building snow caves, tree houses, drawing, experimenting with materials.



no.	name	context	m ²	apparatus
01	Hallagerbakken	school	150	2



*Role based
play*



*Rule based
play*



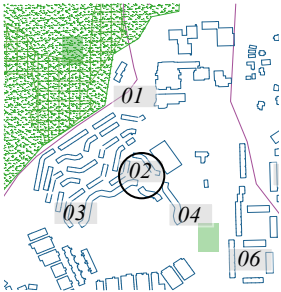
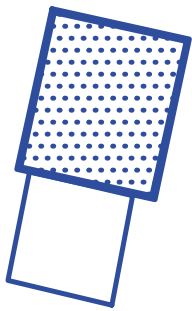
*Physical
play*








*Collecting
play*

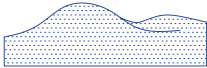


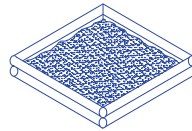
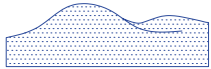
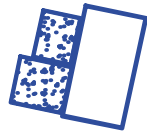
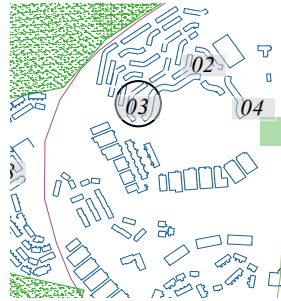
*Construction
play*



-  *Role based play*
-  *Rule based play*
-  *Physical play*
-  *Collecting play*
-  *Construction play*

no.	name	context	m ²	apparatus
02	Hallagerbakken	housing cooperative	75	3





*Role based
play*



*Rule based
play*



*Physical
play*



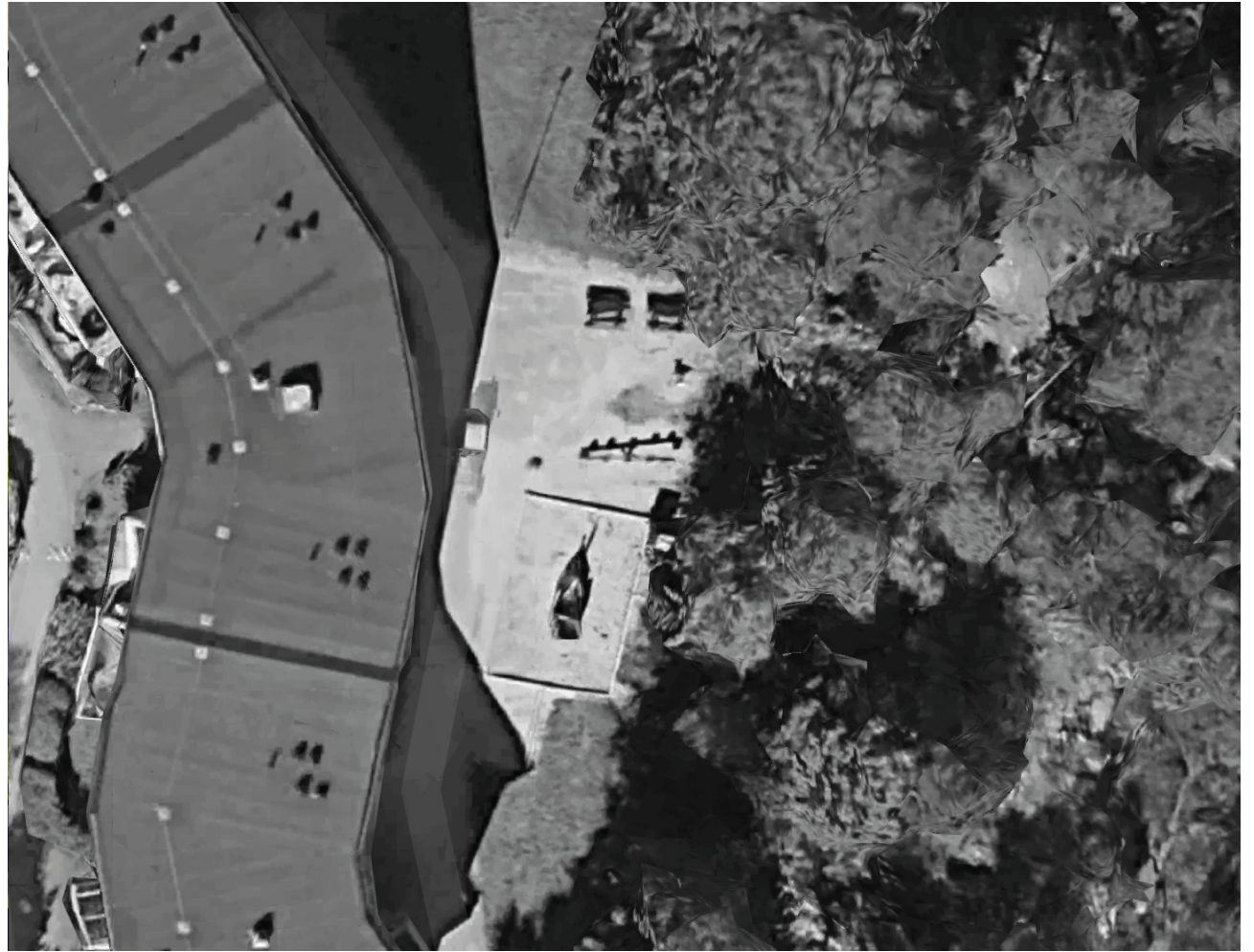
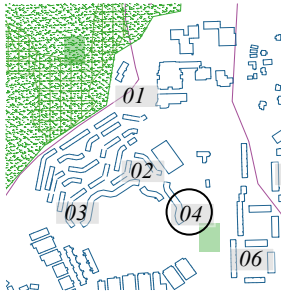
*Collecting
play*



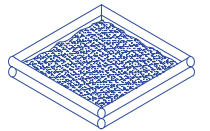
*Construction
play*






no.	name	context	m ²	apparatus
03	Hallagerbakken	housing co-operative	30	1

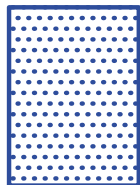
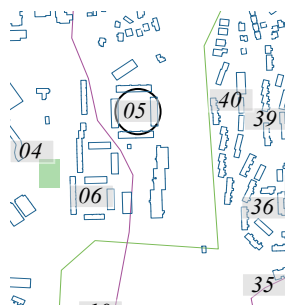




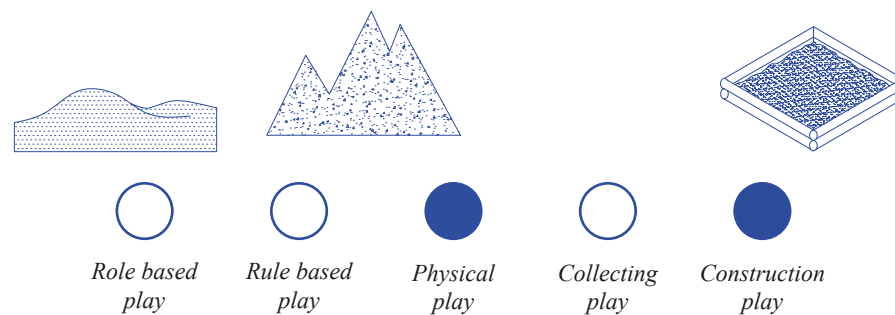
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04	Hallagerbakken	housing co-operative	60	2

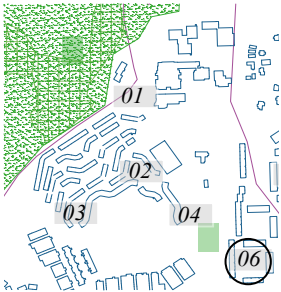
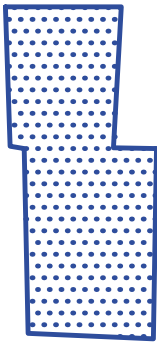


-  *Role based play*
-  *Rule based play*
-  *Physical play*
-  *Collecting play*
-  *Construction play*



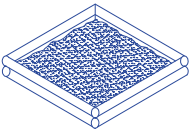
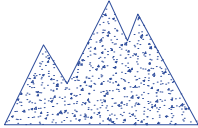
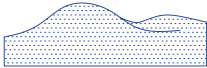
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05	Skovbakken	housing co-operative	100	2

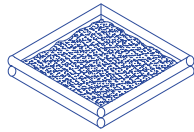
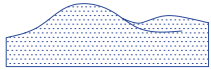
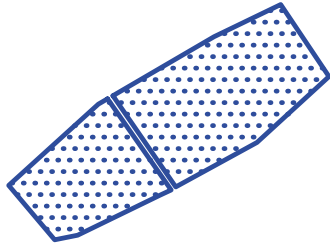
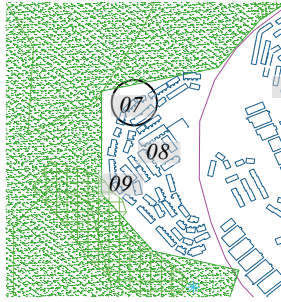




- Role based play
- Rule based play
- Physical play
- Collecting play
- Construction play

no.	name	context	m ²	apparatus
06	Skovbakken	housing co-operative	160	2





*Role based
play*



*Rule based
play*



*Physical
play*



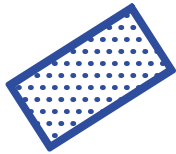
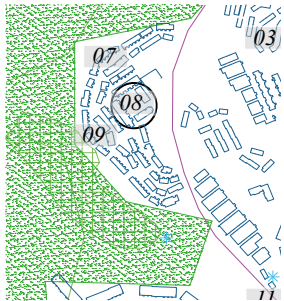
*Collecting
play*



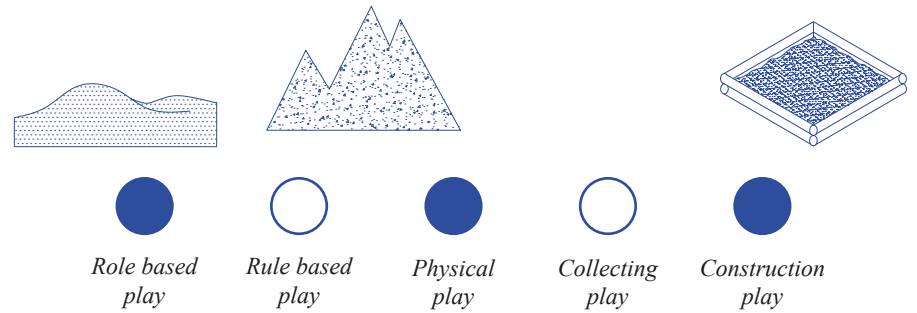
*Construction
play*

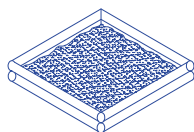
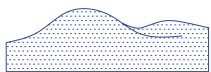
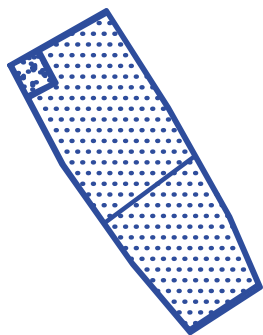
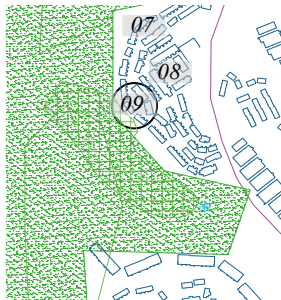
no.	name	context	m ²	apparatus
07	Gamlelinja	housing co-operative	50	2





no.	name	context	m ²	apparatus
08	Gamlelinja	housing co-operative	80	2





*Role based
play*



*Rule based
play*



*Physical
play*



*Collecting
play*



*Construction
play*

no.	name	context	m ²	apparatus
09	Gamlelinja	housing co-operative	135	2





*Role based
play*



*Rule based
play*



*Physical
play*

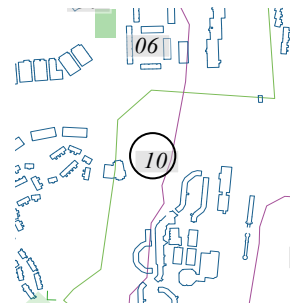


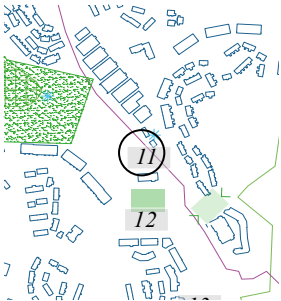
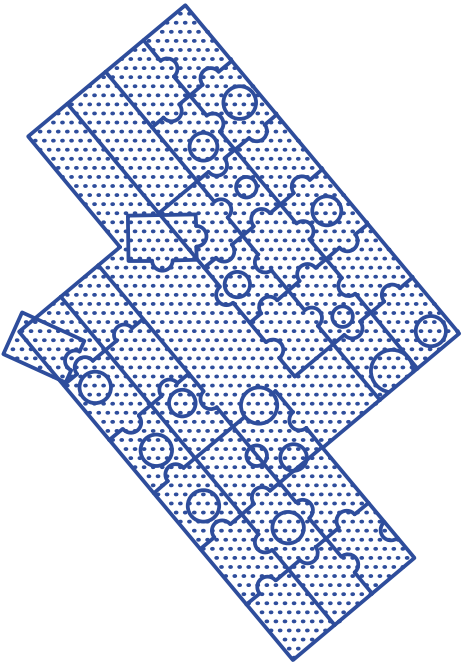
*Collecting
play*







*Construction
play*

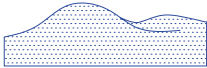
no.	name	context	m ²	apparatus
10	Barnas aktivitetsløype	forest	-	-

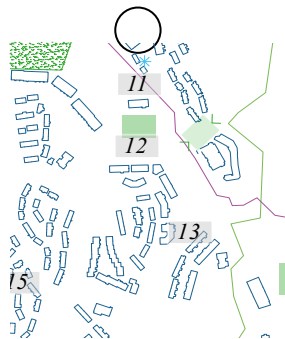
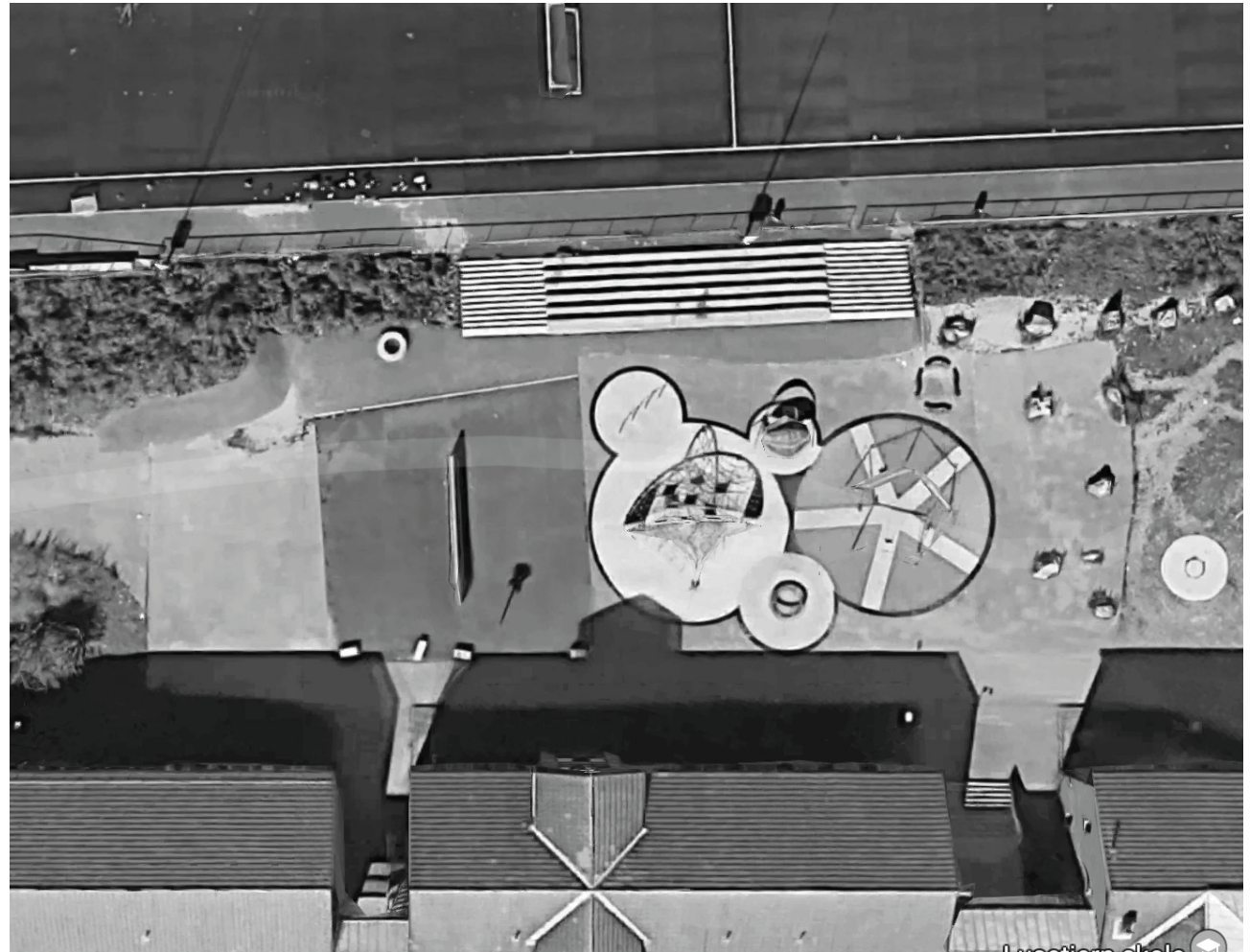
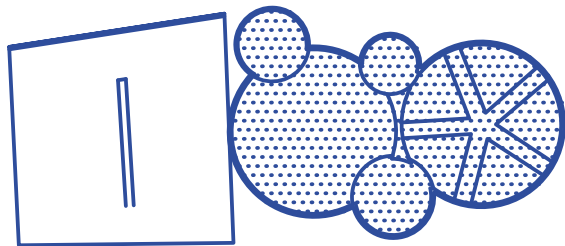




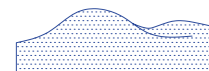
-  Role based play
-  Rule based play
-  Physical play
-  Collecting play
-  Construction play

no.	name	context	m ²	apparatus
11	Holmlia PressPlay	neighbour-hood	790	10





no.	name	context	m ²	apparatus
12	Lusetjern	school	470	6



*Role based
play*



*Rule based
play*



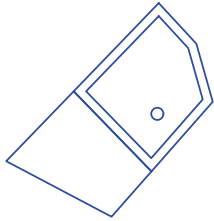
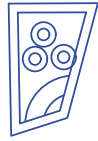
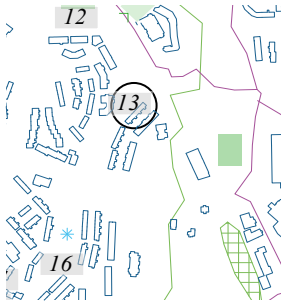
*Physical
play*



*Collecting
play*



*Construction
play*



no.	name	context	m ²	apparatus
13	Lusetjern	school	50 + 50	2



*Role based
play*



*Rule based
play*



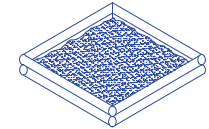
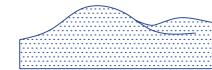
*Physical
play*

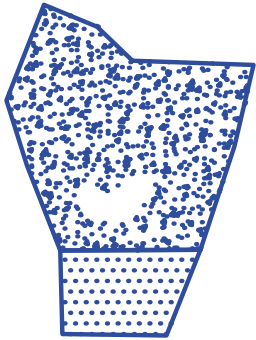
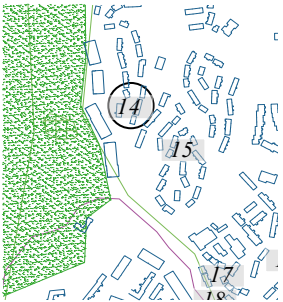


*Collecting
play*

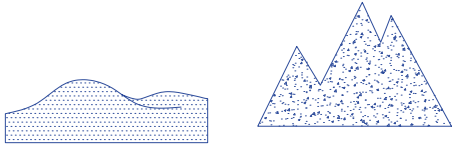


*Construction
play*

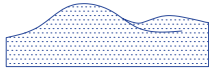
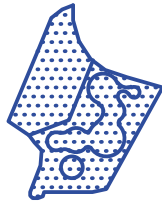
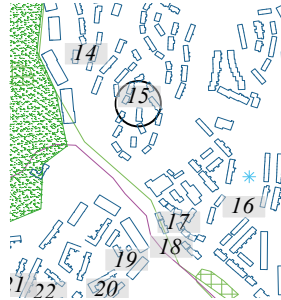




no.	name	context	m ²	apparatus
14	Nordæssløyfa	housing co-operative	140	2



- Role based play
- Rule based play
- Physical play
- Collecting play
- Construction play



Role based
play



Rule based
play



Physical
play

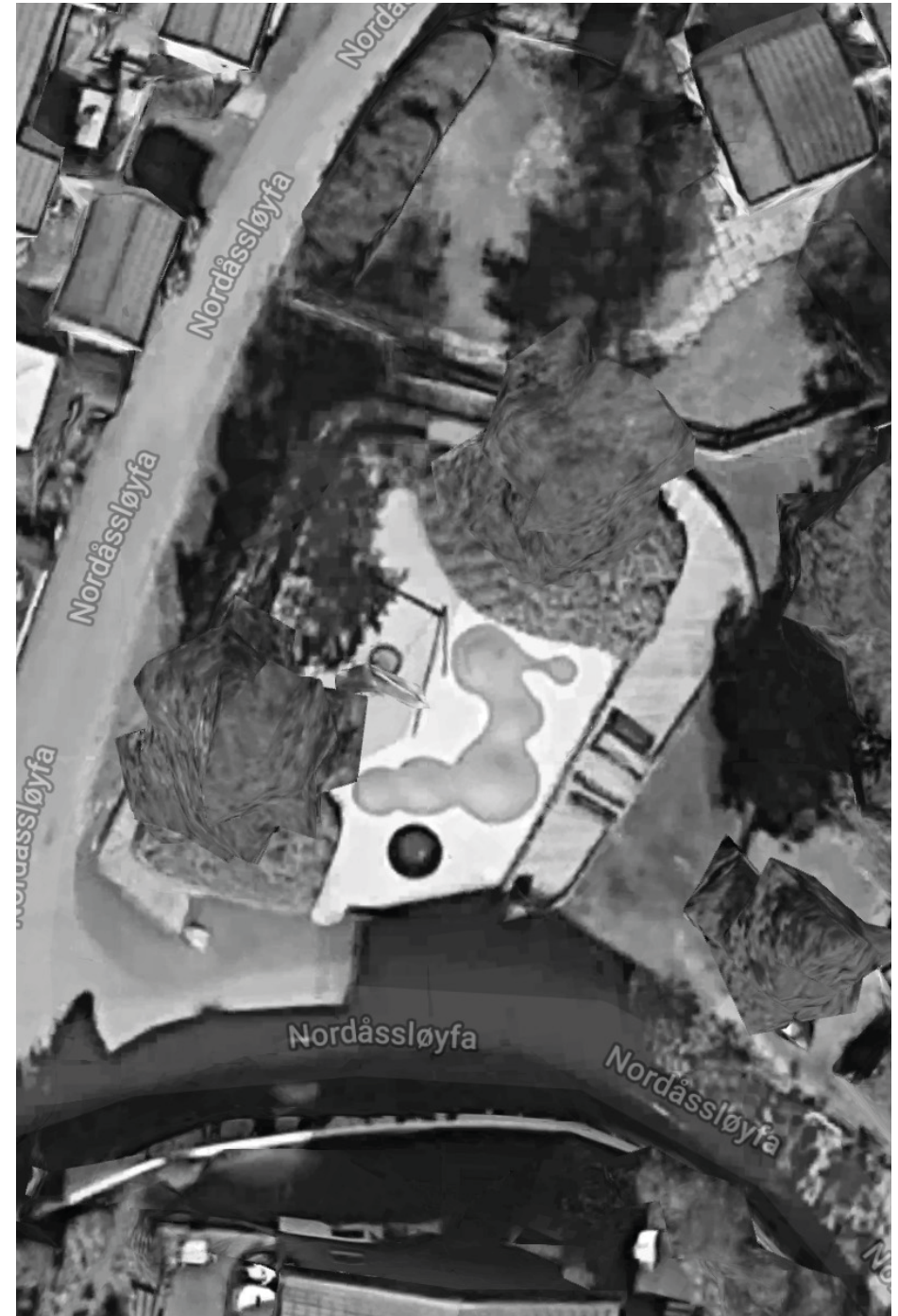


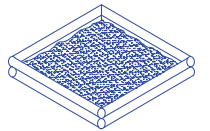
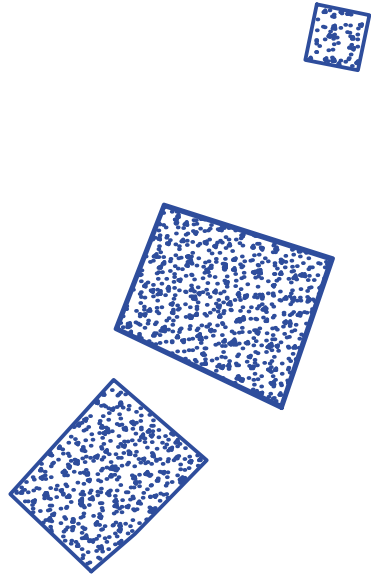
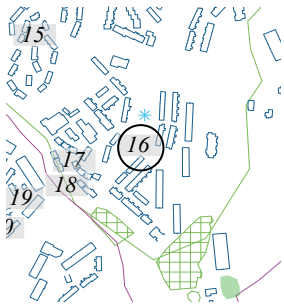
Collecting
play



Construction
play

no.	name	context	m ²	apparatus
15	Nordåssløyfa	housing co-operative	45	1





no.	name	context	m ²	apparatus
16	Søndre Åsgården	neighbourhood	13 + 120 + 80	3



Role based play



Rule based play



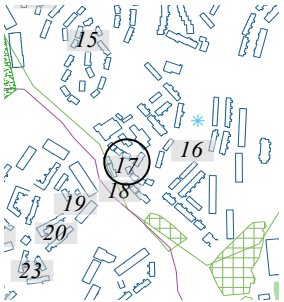
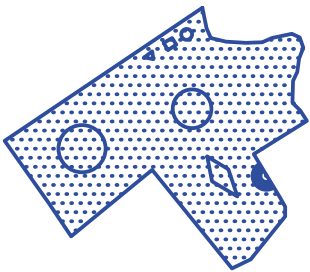
Physical play








Collecting play

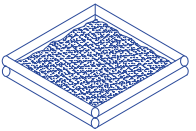
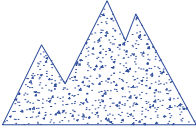
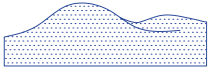


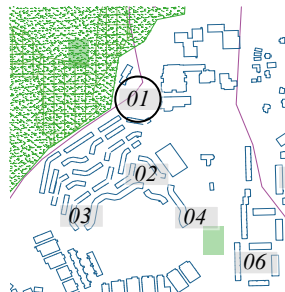
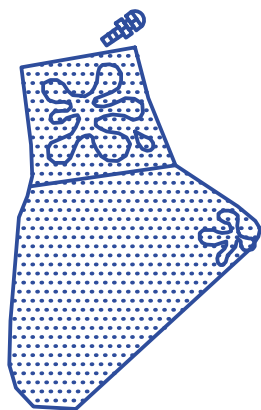
Construction play



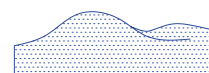
-  Role based play
-  Rule based play
-  Physical play
-  Collecting play
-  Construction play

no.	name	context	m ²	apparatus
17	Åsbråten	school	300	5





no.	name	context	m ²	apparatus
18	Åsbråten	school	300	3



*Role based
play*



*Rule based
play*



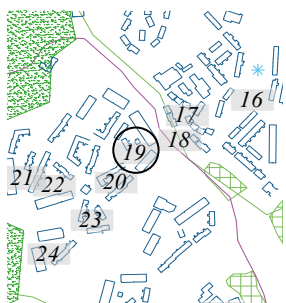
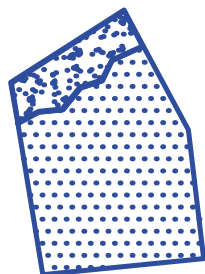
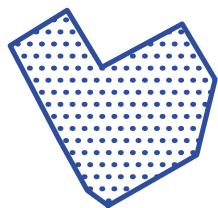
*Physical
play*



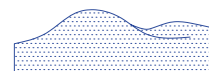
*Collecting
play*



*Construction
play*



no.	name	context	m ²	apparatus
19	Åsbråttstien	housing co-operative	90	2



Role based
play



Rule based
play



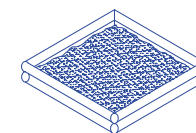
Physical
play

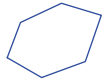
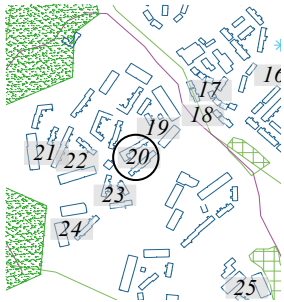


Collecting
play

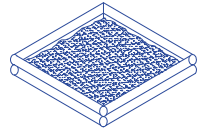


Construction
play





no.	name	context	m ²	apparatus
20	Åsbråstien	housing co-operative	7	-



*Role based
play*



*Rule based
play*



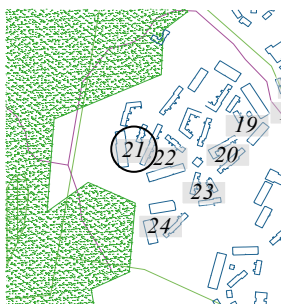
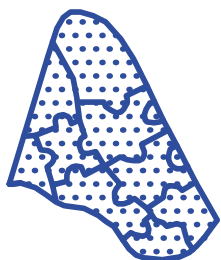
*Physical
play*



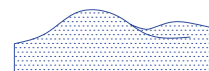
*Collecting
play*



*Construction
play*



no.	name	context	m ²	apparatus
21	Grensestien	housing co-operative	50	1



*Role based
play*



*Rule based
play*



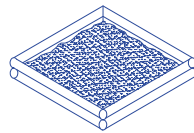
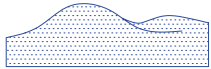
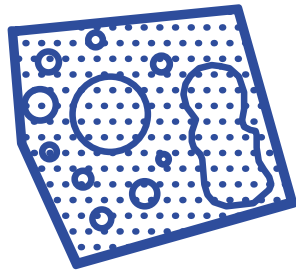
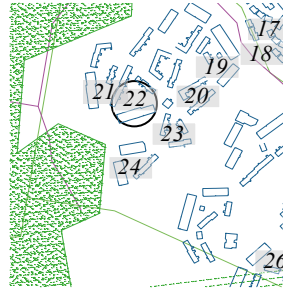
*Physical
play*



*Collecting
play*



*Construction
play*



Role based
play



Rule based
play



Physical
play



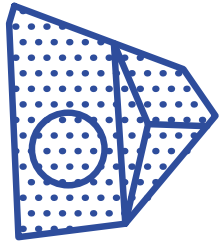
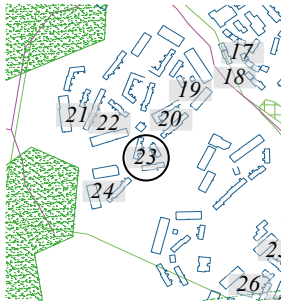
Collecting
play



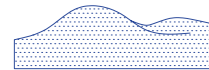
Construction
play

no.	name	context	m ²	apparatus
22	Grensestien	housing co-operative	90	3





no.	name	context	m ²	apparatus
23	Grensestien	housing co-operative	50	1



*Role based
play*



*Rule based
play*



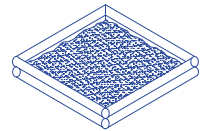
*Physical
play*

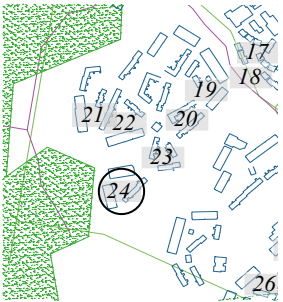


*Collecting
play*

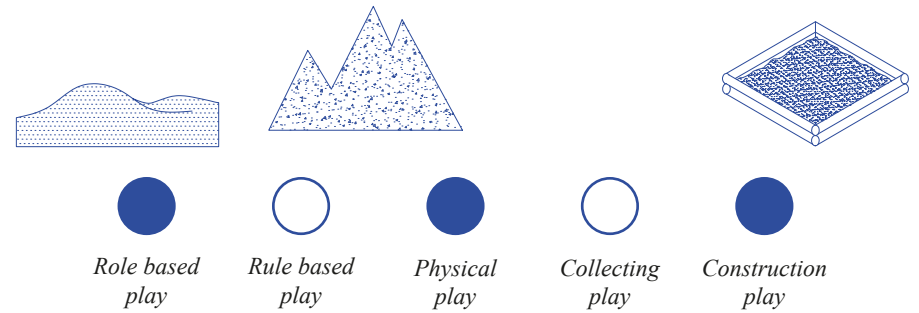


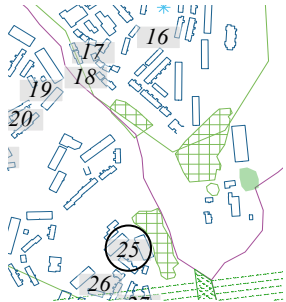
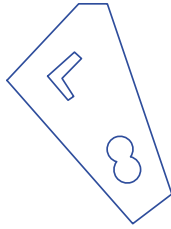
*Construction
play*



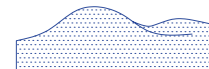


no.	name	context	m ²	apparatus
24	Grensestien	housing co-operative	75	2





no.	name	context	m ²	apparatus
25	Bertrams-jordet	housing co-operative	70	2



*Role based
play*



*Rule based
play*



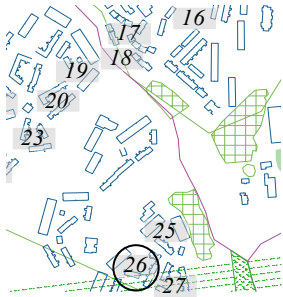
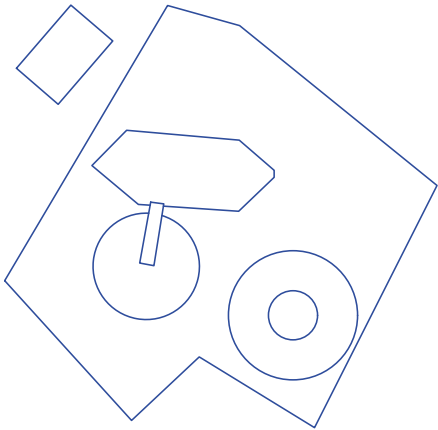
*Physical
play*








*Collecting
play*

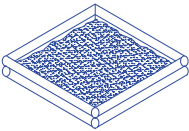
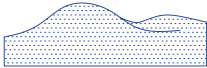


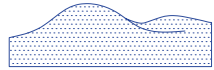
*Construction
play*



- 
Role based play
- 
Rule based play
- 
Physical play
- 
Collecting play
- 
Construction play

no.	name	context	m ²	apparatus
26	Bertram-jordet	housing co-operative	160	3





Role based
play



Rule based
play



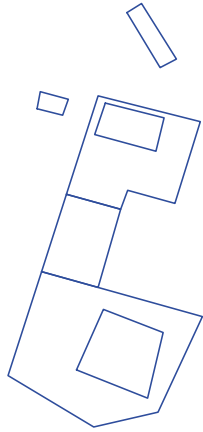
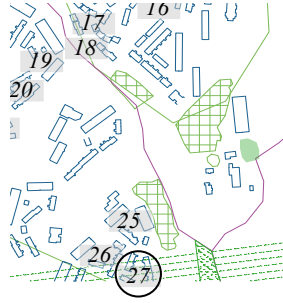
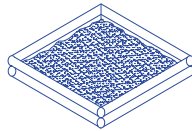
Physical
play



Collecting
play



Construction
play



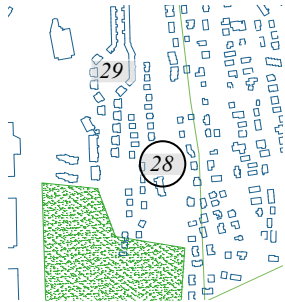
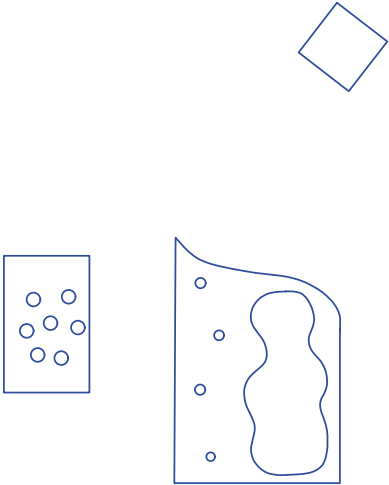
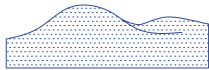
no.	name	context	m ²	apparatus
27	Bertram-jordet	housing co-operative	80	4





-  Role based play
-  Rule based play
-  Physical play
-  Collecting play
-  Construction play

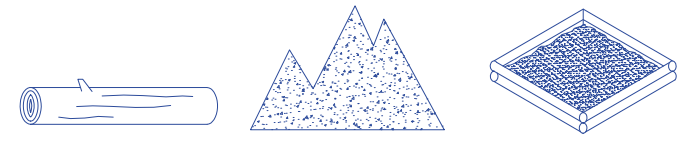
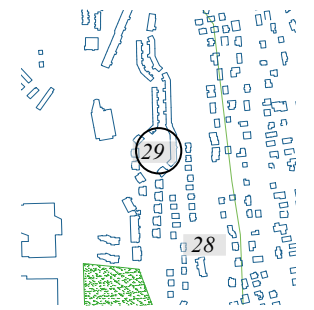
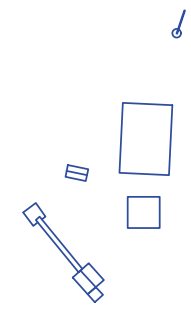
no.	name	context	m ²	apparatus
28	Holmsåsen	kinder- garden	100 + 25 + 30 + 35	5

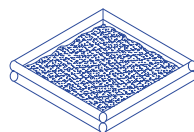
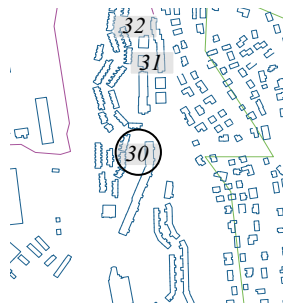
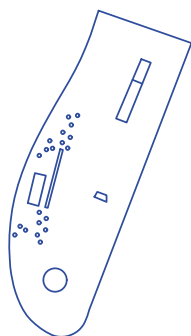




- Role based play
- Rule based play
- Physical play
- Collecting play
- Construction play

no.	name	context	m ²	apparatus
29	Liakollen	housing co-operative	170	3





*Role based
play*



*Rule based
play*



*Physical
play*



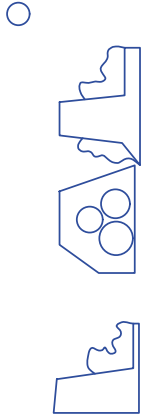
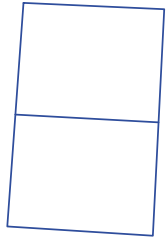
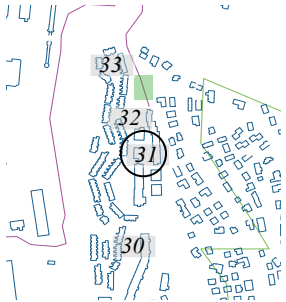
*Collecting
play*



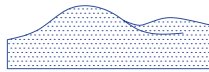
*Construction
play*

no.	name	context	m ²	apparatus
30	Tiriltunga	housing co-operative	85	4

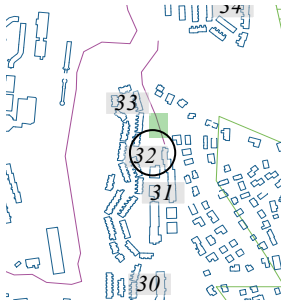
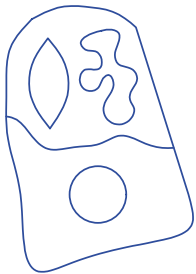









no.	name	context	m ²	apparatus
31	Toppåsen	school	1000	5

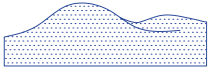


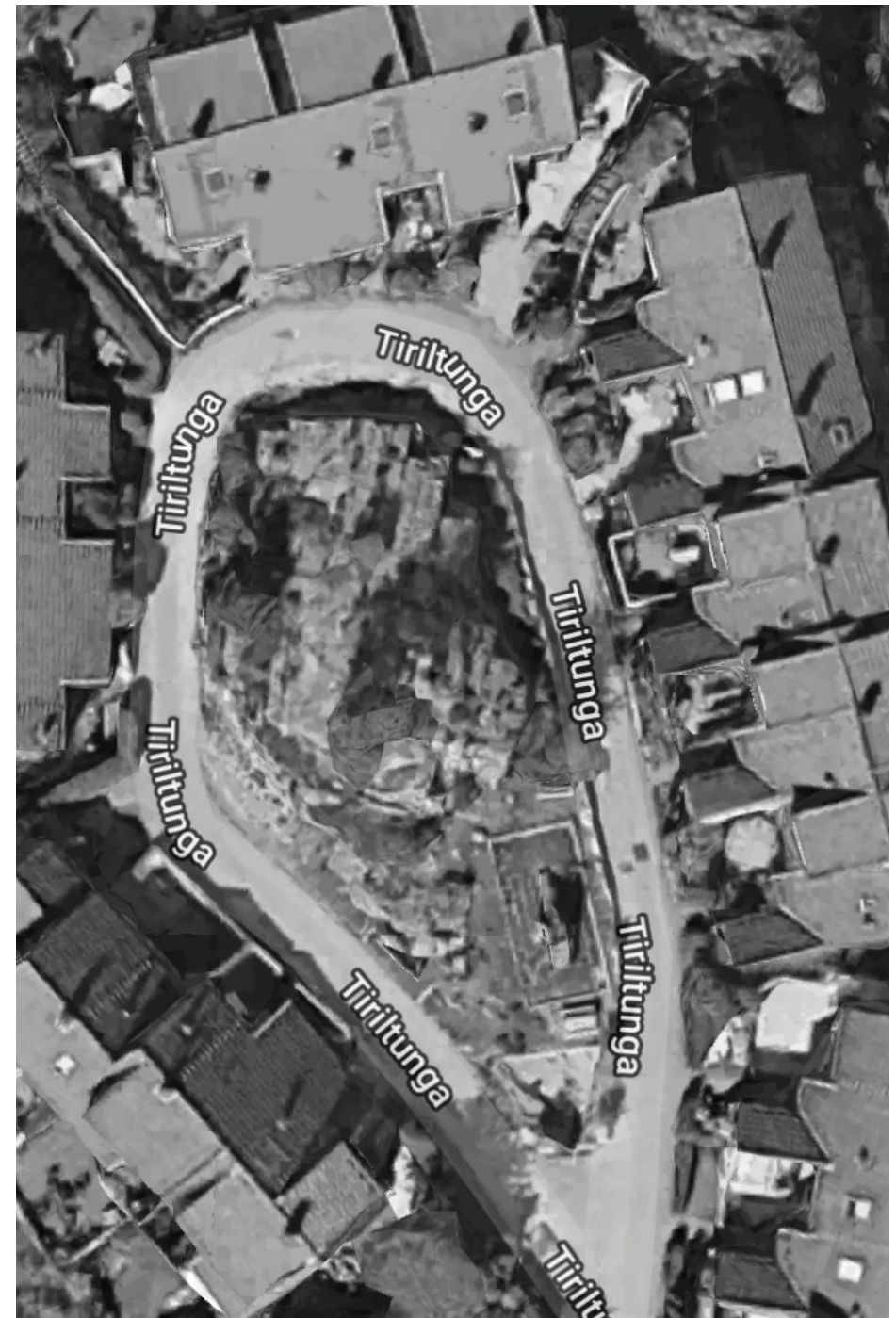
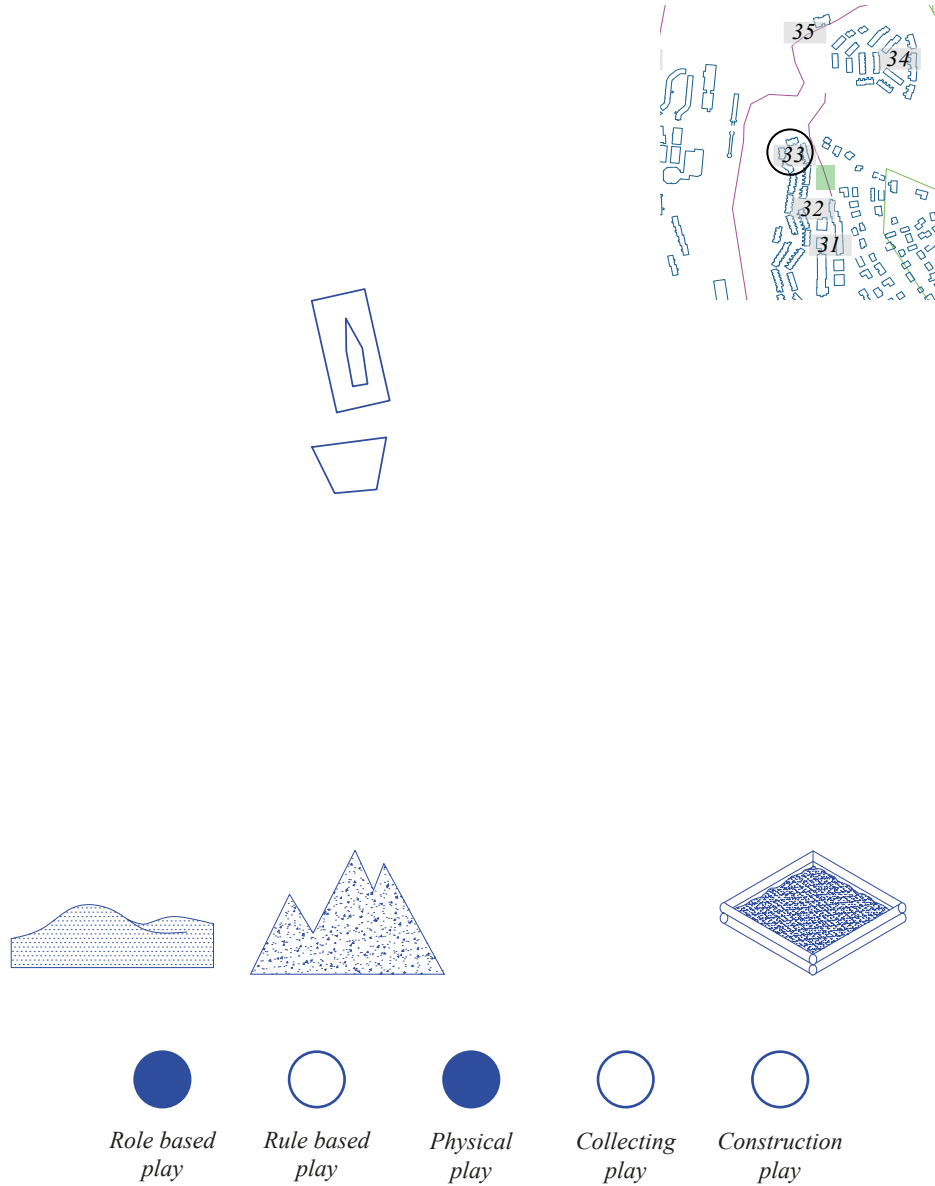
-  *Role based play*
-  *Rule based play*
-  *Physical play*
-  *Collecting play*
-  *Construction play*

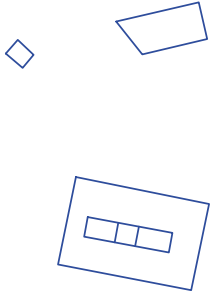
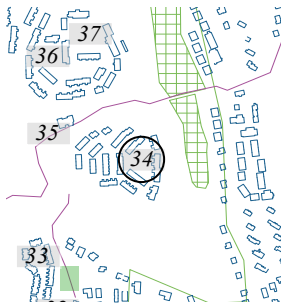


- 
Role based play
- 
Rule based play
- 
Physical play
- 
Collecting play
- 
Construction play

no.	name	context	m²	apparatus
32	Toppåsen	school	130	






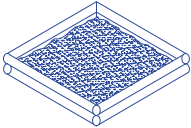


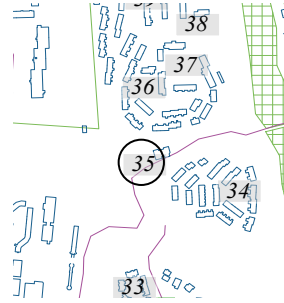




no.	name	context	m ²	apparatus
34	Lerdals- toppen	housing co- operative	150	3



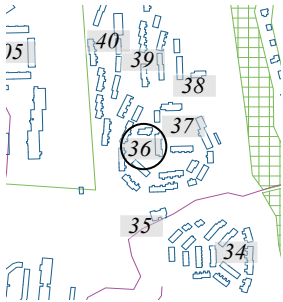
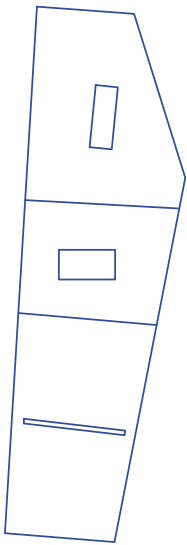
- 
*Role based
play*
- 
*Rule based
play*
- 
*Physical
play*
- 
*Collecting
play*
- 
*Construction
play*
- 







- Role based play*
 Rule based play
 Physical play
 Collecting play
 Construction play

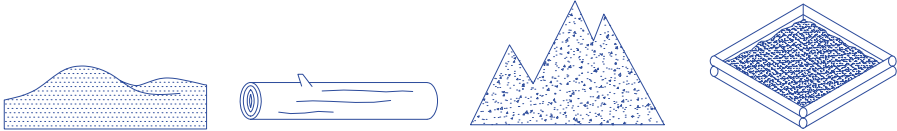
no.	name	context	m ²	apparatus
35	Lia	kinder- garden	140 + 300	3

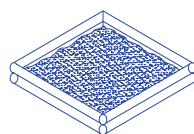
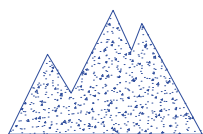
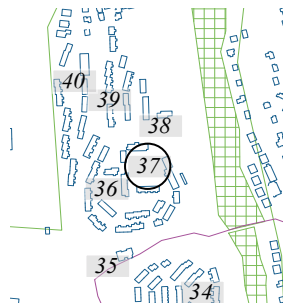
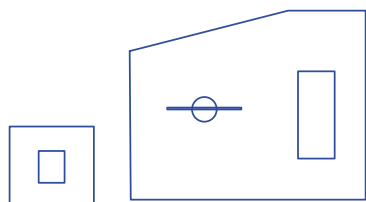




-  Role based play
-  Rule based play
-  Physical play
-  Collecting play
-  Construction play

no.	name	context	m ²	apparatus
36	Asperud-toppen	housing co-operative	85	3





*Role based
play*



*Rule based
play*



*Physical
play*



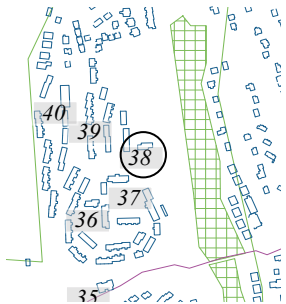
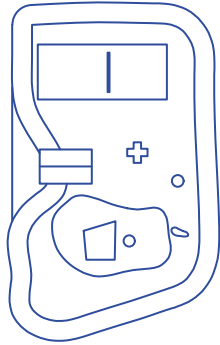
*Collecting
play*



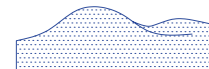
*Construction
play*

no.	name	context	m ²	apparatus
37	Asperudtoppen	housing co-operative	150	3





no.	name	context	m ²	apparatus
38	Asperud	kinder- garden	120 + 130	3



*Role based
play*



*Rule based
play*



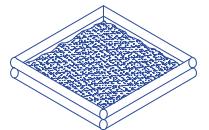
*Physical
play*

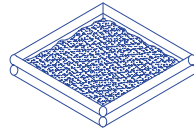
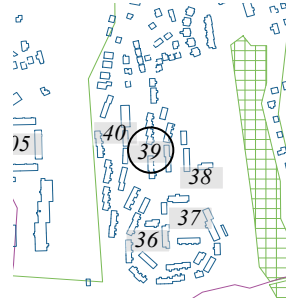
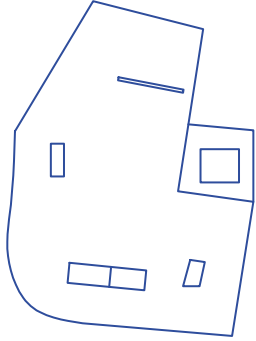


*Collecting
play*



*Construction
play*





*Role based
play*



*Rule based
play*



*Physical
play*



*Collecting
play*








*Construction
play*

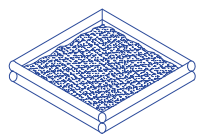
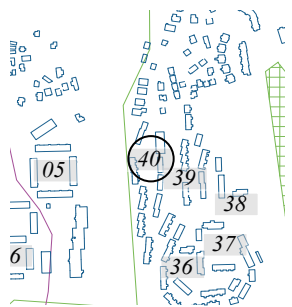
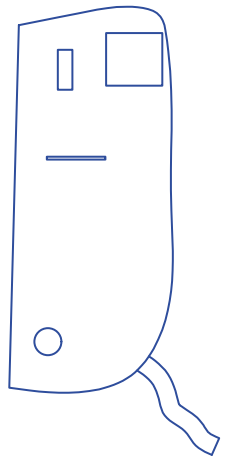
no.	name	context	m ²	apparatus
39	Asperudåsen	housing co-operative	150	2





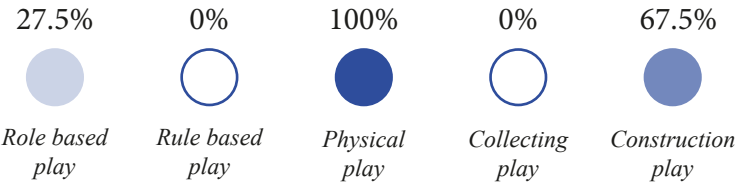
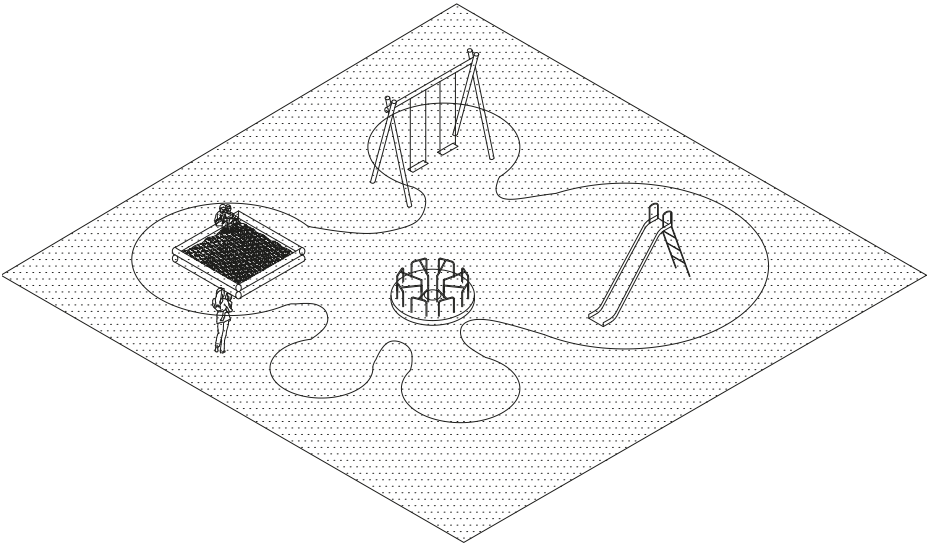
- 
Role based play
- 
Rule based play
- 
Physical play
- 
Collecting play
- 
Construction play

no.	name	context	m ²	apparatus
40	Asperudlia	housing co-operative	170	5



count and

conclusion

no.	name	context	m²	apparatus
XX	average play-ground	Holmlia	172.5	2.775

Out of the forty playgrounds examined, eleven facilitate for role based play, twenty-seven for construction play, and all forty for physical play. None of the playgrounds qualify as facilitating for rule based or collecting play.

Most of the playgrounds (65%) have a sandbox, in addition to an average of 2.775 other playground apparatus per playground. The average size of a playground in Holmlia is 172.5 m² and the average ground cover material is rubber mulch (72.5%).

