

重新定义公园： 迪拜“混凝土块”公园

REINVENTING THE PUBLIC PARK — THE BLOCK IN DUBAI

1 背景

desert INK是一家总部位于迪拜的注册设计咨询公司，以创造激动人心的空间并提升人们的生活质量而闻名。其创意团队由拥有18年全球设计经验的常务董事邓肯·丹利领导，同时，具有远见卓识的首席执行官迈克尔·马斯卡亨纳斯为团队提供支持。

2016年，一个面向迪拜当地和国际景观设计公司的公园设计竞赛正式启动。自加入这项国际公园设计竞赛之后，desert INK景观设计事务所即开始收集场地及其周边信息。此处平坦而未经开发的狭长场地长400m，宽60m，位于城市边缘，北邻新建成的迪拜运河，南面是一处繁荣的办公和商业开发区——迪拜设计区（d3）。d3最初被定位为一个创意产业中心，现已成为世界著名建筑事务所和室内设计公司的聚集地，凯达建筑设计公司、福斯特及合伙人建筑事务所、格雷姆肖建筑事务所、RMJM建筑设计集团、威尔逊室内建筑设计公司，以及扎哈·哈迪德建筑事务所等均落户于此。场地坐拥迪拜天际线和世界最高建筑哈利法塔的壮丽景观，占据着绝佳的滨水位置，距离d3仅50m。由于热门的d3社区近在咫尺，因此委托方认为这里是建造公园的绝佳场地，且公园的服务对象不应仅限于附近的上班族，还应包括广大城市居民。作为一家有政府背景的开发机构，委托方意识到只有吸引更多样的人群来到这里，才能激发场地活力，提高客流量，从而促进当地零售业和餐饮业的蓬勃发展。

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摘要

耗时7个月建造的“混凝土块”公园虽然刚刚落成，但已成为迪拜设计区内一处广受好评的滨水公园。desert INK景观设计事务所通过重新利用迪拜运河修筑工程中遗留下的700余块约30吨重的混凝土块，创造了众多儿童游乐空间、户外运动区，以及餐饮点。其设计打破了一般公园建造的定式，采用非常规设计手法，营造了这处放眼中东地区乃至全世界都极具独特性与创新性的景观。这座不同寻常的公园为原本的设计产业集聚区带来了更多儿童和家庭访客，多种不同的生活方式在这里碰撞交融，也使得整个社区日益繁荣。

关键词

混凝土块；回收；城市公园；非常规设计；迪拜设计区；生活方式

ABSTRACT

Recently completed, The Block was constructed over a seven-month period along the Dubai Water Canal in Dubai Design District, providing a much-celebrated public park for the people of Dubai. Through their re-purposing of seven hundred 30-ton concrete blocks left over from the canal construction, landscape architects, desert INK created countless play features for children, outdoor exercise areas, and food and beverage outlets. Breaking all public park stereotypes and incorporating an unconventional approach to design, The Block stands out as one of the most unique and innovative landscape designs in the Middle East, if not the world. With a clear brief to attract a diverse range of new visitors to d3, desert INK set out to create an extraordinary park which would attract children and families to this otherwise design-industry focused district so that different lifestyles could co-exist and the community could thrive.

KEYWORDS

Block; Recycle; Urban Park; Unconventional Design; Dubai Design District; Lifestyles

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EDITED BY TIAN Xiaojie TRANSLATED BY LI Huiyan TIAN Xiaojie

1. 在公园施工初期，巨型码头石的组装工作必须借助重型起重机。
2. 在公园施工中期，棕榈树被移栽到场地中，以为植物群落的形成打下基础。
3. 前景中的大幅围栏广告宣传着这一区域的市场品牌战略，其也与多功能运动场和作为边界的码头石的鲜艳色彩相呼应。
4. 公园鸟瞰图。沿翻翻新路修建的植被缓坡造价低廉，不仅可以作为缓冲隔离带，而且为路过的车辆及行人营造了极具吸引力的绿色景观。



1. Early in the construction stage, the huge quay stones were assembled by a heavy-duty crane.
2. Mid-way through the construction, the palms were planted to allow early establishment.
3. The vibrant colors of the multi-purpose sports and boundary quay stones align with the marketing and branding strategy for the district as evidenced in the foreground hoarding.
4. An aerial view of the park. Illustrating the low-cost buffer zone along the new road, this perspective demonstrates how planted mounds created an attractive green outlook towards the park for those passing by.

一进入场地，丹利和高级景观设计师威廉·班尼特即被成排堆放的巨大混凝土块所吸引。千余个混凝土块被临时堆放在这里，形成了荫蔽而狭窄的通道。在这些混凝土块之间行走，可以体会到一种独特的庇护感，这让设计团队萌生了利用它们建造新公园的想法。经过进一步询问，设计团队才知道这些混凝土块是附近新运河修筑工程中剩余的码头石，即将被运往垃圾填埋场。它们被设计为可以相互堆叠紧扣的样式，以构筑垂直的运河防波堤。委托方曾明确要求在建造公园前将这些混凝土块移出场地，且彼时大家都认为它们是既不具备观赏性，也没有实用价值的废弃材料；而desert INK团队敏锐地意识到，这些混凝土块可能成为公园的标志性特征。在进一步调研后，设计团队

了解到移除和处理这些石块是一项费时且成本高昂的工作——由于每块石头重约30吨，只能通过重型拖车成对运输，因此拖车需要在场地和填埋场间往返数百次，整个过程将耗时数月。不仅如此，使用重型机械抬升和运输石块也会对环境产生巨大的负面影响。

以上述初步概念为基础，设计团队确立了方案的切入点，即再利用混凝土块打造公园的多种用途——正是这一关键性创意使得desert INK最终赢得了竞赛，着手打造此处“混凝土块”公园。然而，项目启动不久，设计团队又遇到了另一项挑战——迪拜道路管理局正在计划重建和拓宽一条道路，其刚好位于场地临近d3一侧400m的范围之内。由于道路设计方案尚在制定，无法敲定确切细节，因此desert INK



与委托方共同提出了一个低成本的景观解决方案，即在公园与道路间预留一片灵活的“缓冲区”，使公园的边界能够灵活适应最终拟定的道路设计方案，确保了后续道路施工不会破坏公园的完整性。

2 设计过程

设计团队首先根据委托方的意愿，对公园的目标服务人群进行了分析。当时d3的居民主要为在该区域工作的25~40岁公司职员，而设计团队希望借由设计手段吸引其他类型的人群，特别是儿童、青少年和家庭群体，并结合图示列出了潜在节点的初步设想，交由委托方进行讨论和审核。经过一系列的汇报展示、案例研究和对迪拜其他公园设施的现状调查，设计清单最终得以确定，包括滑板公园、攀岩墙、多功能运动场、餐饮点、儿童游乐场，以及城市海滩等多种节点。

要想实现如此多样化的功能，一项重大挑战就是如何通过布局使这些空间和活动完美融合。设计团队将彼此关联的空间设计为组团，以此来进行公园的总体规划，例如儿童游乐场、咖啡茶座和卫生间被设计为一个组团，运动场则与滑板公园结合在一起。这种设计方法将公园的不同功能分区合理地衔接起来，保证了人流动线的通畅，并带来了“步移景异”的游览体验。和许多公园不同，为了使公园更具冒险感和趣味性，方案有意使游人无法在入口看到公园内的所有景致。人们必须穿过蜿蜒的小径才能到达不同的活动场所和开放空间，进而享受每一处空间的独特魅力，以及这一游览方式带来的惊喜和探索乐趣。

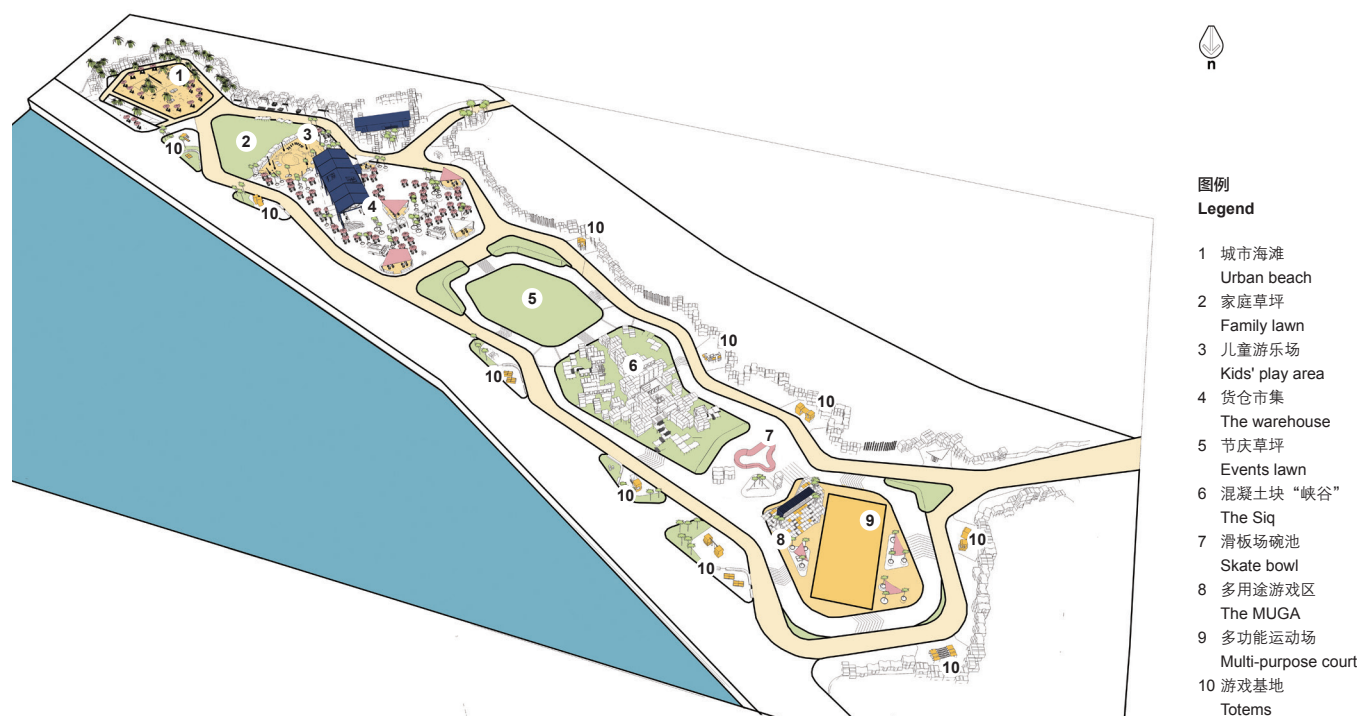
在确定公园分区之后，设计团队随即开展了一系列设计测试，以确定最佳公园布局。在此过程中，数字模型被用于模拟码头石的不同

堆砌方式以重新定义空间。由于场地周边存在大量的沙子，设计团队用其堆叠出许多小丘，从而在园内造景并增加趣味性。码头石则被置于其上，形成特色构筑物、挡土墙和运动/游乐设施等。在推敲过程中，码头石的多种功能被一一挖掘。例如，将码头石的一面进行抛光处理后斜嵌入地面，可形成一个滑梯；两块码头石既可作为秋千架的底座，也可部分嵌入地面，形成健身场中高度不一的跳箱。此外，不规则堆叠的码头石不仅构筑了醒目的景观，也将公园与东侧嘈杂的马路隔离开来。在d3市场营销团队的配合下，设计团队还为公园确立了一套与区域品牌相统一的色系，并将这套充满活力的配色以独特的分形几何图案形式应用于公园码头石的涂装，以及地区营销和品牌推广中。

由于委托方希望公园在开放首日即能以尽可能完善的面貌示人，同时为了满足迪拜迫切的遮荫需求，设计团队选用了成年棕榈树作为公园的主体乔木，并大胆选用速生灌木和草本植物作为补充对公园进行绿化。由于该地区的水资源非常稀缺，设计团队对种植方案进行了精心安排，不仅选用适应性较强的本土植物，还将铺设草坪的范围限定于游客休憩区，从而将草坪面积控制在最低限度。同时，精挑细选的灌木和观赏植物也被种植在小丘朝向游人的一侧，这种种植策略确保了将耗水植被最大限度地呈现在游客面前，以最少量的植被打造出绿意盎然的景观效果。此外，设计团队还制定了垂直绿化策略，包括在棕榈树和构筑物基部种植攀缘植物，使棕榈树树干和立柱被绿色植被覆盖。如此一来，公园不仅实现了良好的绿化效果，其灌溉耗水量亦远低于其他同等面积的公园。

尽管预算有限，但设计团队仍强烈希望为公园使用者提供足够的

5. 公园示意图
6. 碗池为专业滑板爱好者提供了富有挑战性的滑道。
7. 若干跳箱和滑板跑酷设施沿滑板道布置。
8. 多功能运动场是一处人气很高的活动区，它被一条滑板道环绕，坐在阶梯式座椅平台上可以眺望这一区域。
9. 滑板道的弧坡设计为往复滑行提供了动力。
5. The diagrammatic plan of the park
6. The bowl offers a challenging skating environment for the more advanced skater.
7. Several jump boxes and street skating features line the skate track.
8. The multi-purpose sports court is a hive of activity, looped by a skate track and overlooked by stepped seating platforms.
9. The skate track offers banked turns to provide momentum for the skaters as they circulate.





荫蔽，并为此进行了低成本遮荫材料的研究。张拉膜结构是中东地区常用的遮荫解决方案，但其价格非常昂贵，且需要大量工程手段降低装置的风荷载。作为替代方案，团队提出利用棕榈树作为支撑柱，其上覆盖迷彩织物，并为此进行了一系列细部设计，以较低成本实现了大面积遮荫。在儿童游乐区上方，密集层叠的迷彩织物营造出了置身大树浓荫下的感觉，也为空间增添了一番自然趣味。由于风能够轻松穿过织物，因此棕榈树树干几乎不承受任何荷载，不用担心树体会被疾风骤雨连根拔起。这种创新的低成本遮荫手段虽然是在项目的重重限制下提出的，如今却成为公园最具魅力的元素之一，并进一步增强了公园的独特性。

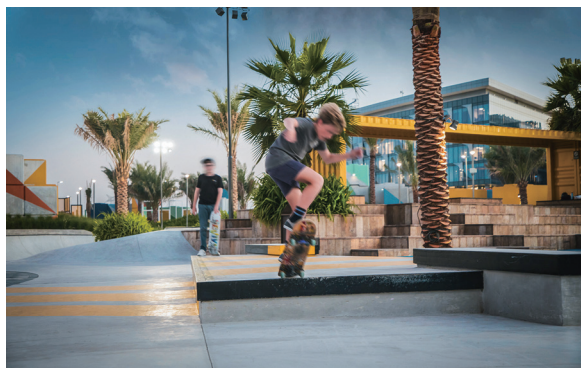
为了提高项目的环境可持续性，设计团队力求尽可能多地使用本土材料及可回收材料，例如，在攀爬区利用回收橡胶材料铺设柔软的跌落缓冲表面，并在公园其他区域利用压实的本地碎石骨料铺路。

回收的混凝土排水管件被制成种植池和游乐设施，集装箱被改造为凉亭和餐饮点。此外，一座受欢迎的公园还必须为那些想要静心欣赏公园活动或俯瞰公园景色的使用者提供庇护空间。这些空间最好位于高处，使用者可以在这里眺望各式各样的活动。设计团队没有采用常见的休憩廊架或具有仪式感的阶梯广场，而是别出心裁地将木制立方体进行堆叠，并设置了一处抬高的遮荫结构，以供眺望多功能运动场和滑板公园。木制立方体回收自脚手架木板，而遮荫结构则是一个去掉两侧挡板的集装箱。这些木制立方体不仅提供了自由坐憩的场所，亦可作为观赏雕塑和游乐设施，运动爱好者也能利用其进行多种技巧训练。

除了遍布各处的可供游人探索、玩耍和休憩的角落，公园内还有一处城市海滩，人们可以在此打沙滩排球、桌球或进行户外锻炼；在公园另一端则是攀岩、滑板区和篮球场。公园设计者之一的班尼特说：“我们希望这座公园能点燃人们的好奇心。这里有如此多的秘密空间等待着人们去发现或在不经意间偶遇。毫无疑问，我最喜欢的空间是‘峡谷’，这些狭窄蜿蜒的走廊空间由三层码头石堆叠而成。行走其间，仿佛走进了一条幽深的干河谷，而两侧则是陡峭的‘山壁’。由于混凝土块的蓄热作用，加上大部分空间都没有阳光直射，‘峡谷’内的空间凉爽舒适。此外，我们还在两侧‘山壁’上安装了攀岩脚踏点，这些攀岩墙特别受孩子们的欢迎。”

3 讨论与回顾

中东地区的许多公园都采用高度模式化的景观设计手法，元素与布局方式都极其相似，因此丧失了设计的独特性与多样性。直到最近，该地区的许多人还仅仅将公园视作一种应尽可能均匀分布在城市中的基本公共设施。随着“混凝土块”公园的建成，开发商和市政当局意识到，公园的意义绝不仅限于此：其还能为一个地区树立全新的形象，塑造鲜明的城市特征，并使城市肌理更加丰富。如今，该公园已经成为一个诠释如何将场地的特殊限制转化为机遇的绝佳案例，并展示了一个公园如何兼顾经济性、适应性，以及创造性。丹利认为：“公园会随着时间的推移而不断演变。设计团队只是提供初始框架，





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10. 公园四周安装了12个由混凝土块改造而成的“游戏基地”装置。此处“游戏基地”是将一块码头石斜插入地面形成的一个斜面。儿童可以首先沿坡度较缓的一面穿过若干细杆爬至顶端，然后从陡面滑下。
 11. 另一处由混凝土块改造而成的“游戏基地”
 12. 通过植入沙袋、单杠、跳箱和轮胎步道等多种活动设施，健身区利用混凝土块打造了一处多用途空间。
10. The park is surrounded by 12 "totems" made from the blocks, each offering a moment of play or exercise. This totem utilizes a quay stone block at an incline, challenging children to climb through a collection of posts before sliding down the steep side.
 11. Another totem made from the blocks
 12. Incorporating a number of features such as punch bags, pull up bars, box jumps and tyre walks, the workout zone utilizes the blocks in many different ways.

而真正赋予公园生命力的是使用者、艺术装置和各种节庆活动。有趣的是，人们经常会找到出乎设计师意料的方法来使用空间。所有这一切都说明，巧妙利用当地资源可以为景观赋予独特性、地域特征，以及可持续性。”

设计团队改变了混凝土块被送往垃圾填埋场的命运，并打造了这座绝无仅有的城市公园。这一大胆设计体现了desert INK景观设计事务所的创造性思维，并实现了与d3环境的完美融合。丹利总结道：“能够遇到积极鼓励创新的委托方非常幸运。他们知道这不是一座中规中矩的公园，但我们并没有花费太大力气就使他们相信，这些混凝土块可以在这里重新焕发生机。”

开园仅两周，公园就举办了一系列重大活动，包括欢乐节和迈阿密美食节等。公园广场和草坪区得到了充分使用，各种餐车、展览、装置和活动都被容纳其中。在公园空间规划过程中引入开放草坪、广场等可供举办活动的场地是一项重要环节，而在这些空间内举办大

型集会、摆放临时装置也是此类节庆活动的核心。令游客流连忘返的不只是公园内各种高质量的设施，还有人们对各种节庆活动的美好回忆，以及身处其中的悠闲时光。这座不同寻常的公园为原本的设计产业聚集区带来了更多儿童和家庭访客，多种不同的生活方式在这里碰撞交融，也使得整个社区日益繁荣。**LAF**

项目信息

项目地址：阿拉伯联合酋长国迪拜
 项目面积：25 000 m²
 项目委托：Tamdeen地产公司
 景观设计：desert INK景观设计事务所
 首席设计师：Duncan Denley、William Bennett
 设计团队：William Bennett、Ullas Fernandes
 合作团队：Patrick Parsons工程顾问公司
 设计时间：2016年10月~2017年3月
 建造时间：2017年3~11月
 所获奖项：2018年Architizer A+公众选择奖、2018年中东建筑师年度最佳景观项目、2018年中东设计奖年度最佳景观设计

13. 公园位于运河河畔的黄金地段，可以远眺壮观的迪拜天际线。
14. 阶梯式座椅区由可回收的脚手架木板制成，由集装箱改造成的遮阳篷为眺望运动场和滑板场的人们提供阴凉。
15. 人们不断探索公园设施新的使用方式。

13. The Block enjoys a magnificent canal-side location, with stunning views over the Dubai skyline beyond.
14. The stepped seating area is fabricated from recycled scaffolding planks, and a recycled shipping container is employed as a shaded hang-out for spectators watching the court and skate bowl in the stepped seating.
15. Visitors continually find new unexpected ways to use the park.



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1 Background

Known for creating exciting places which enhance lives, desert INK is a registered design consultancy based in Dubai. With 18 years of experience across the globe, managing director Duncan Denley leads a creative team backed up by the far-sighted CEO, Michael Mascarenhas.

In 2016, a park design competition was launched for the local and international landscape architecture companies. Upon entering this international competition to design a 400 m × 60 m

public park, desert INK set about gathering information about the site and surrounding area. The site, a flat and undeveloped strip of land on the edge of the city, is bounded by the newly-created Dubai Water Canal to the north, with the thriving office and commercial development of Dubai Design District (d3) to the south. d3 was envisaged as a hub for creative industries and is now home to world-renowned architecture and interior design companies including AEDAS, Fosters + Partners, Grimshaw, RMJM, Wilson Associates, and Zaha Hadid Architects among others. With magnificent views of the Dubai skyline and



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Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building, the site occupies a wonderful waterfront position just 50 m from the d3 cluster. Its proximity to the popular d3 neighborhood led the client to view the area as a perfect site to create a public park not only for d3 employees, but for a wider city population. The client, a governmental development agency, recognized that it must attract a much wider demographic to the community to create the vibrancy and footfall necessary for its shops and restaurants to thrive.

When visiting the site, Denley and senior landscape architect William Bennett from desert INK were immediately captivated by row after row of huge concrete blocks which were stacked in rows on the site. More than a thousand blocks were temporarily located within the site, forming shaded narrow corridors between. Walking between these blocks, recognizing the unique feeling of protection gave birth to the idea of utilizing them in the creation of the new park. Upon further questioning, desert INK discovered that the blocks were surplus quay stones from the canal construction process and were destined for landfill. They had been fabricated to shore-up the edges of the newly excavated canal adjacent to the site, hence were designed to stack and interlock to form a vertical sea wall. The client stipulated that the blocks would be removed from the site prior

to construction of the park and were widely regarded by all as an unattractive and unfortunate waste material. The desert INK team immediately recognized that these blocks could be the defining characteristic of the park. Investigating the idea further, desert INK learned that the removal and disposal of the blocks would involve a lengthy and costly exercise — weighing around 30 tons each, the blocks could only be transported in pairs on heavy-duty trailers, which would lead to many hundreds of trips between the site and the landfill site and this process would take months — not to mention the significant environmental cost of lifting and shipping the blocks using heavy machinery.

With this initial concept in mind, the design team began to structure a competition entry which reused the quay stones for a multitude of purposes. It was this critical idea that led desert INK to win the competition and have the opportunity to design The Block. During the early stages of the commission, a further challenge emerged — it was discovered that the Road Traffic Authority was planning to reconstruct and widen a road which bounded 400 m of the d3 side of the site. Since the road design was still under development and exact details were hard to secure, desert INK worked with the client to create a “buffer zone.” This low-cost landscape solution would allow a zone of flexibility to accommodate the final design of the road

16. 在这片绿草如茵的缓坡上，人们可以一边野餐，一边望着孩子们在不远处嬉戏。
16. A grassy hill provides a perfect spot for picnicking overlooking the children's play.



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once released. The use of the buffer zone ensured that upon construction, the road would not damage the integrity of the park.

2 Design Process

Upon commencing the design, the design team first focused upon the user group which the client wished to attract. Since the present inhabitants of d3 were largely limited to 25 ~ 40 years old working in the district, the design team set about creating attractions which would appeal to those outside of this demographic. With children, teenagers, and families at the top of this list, an illustrated list of potential attractions was put to the client for discussion and review. Through a series of presentations, precedent studies, and surveys of other existing public park facilities in Dubai, a final list of attractions including a skate park, climbing walls, multi-purpose sports court, food and beverage outlets, children's playground, and an urban beach was then agreed.

With so many different functions, a big challenge was to carefully design these spaces and activities to let them successfully tie into each other. This was achieved by establishing a number of complimentary activities, which would be beneficial to group together in the park masterplan. The children's playground, cafés and toilets were grouped in one cluster, while the sports court and skate park were intertwined. This enabled the design team to create successful functional associations, yet weave a seamless flow through the park with a gradually changing focus. The team's goal was to create a sense of "adventure and interest" in the park, so unlike many public parks, the design does not reveal all its elements upon entry. One must walk through the winding paths to discover these pockets of activity and open spaces, each one revealing itself and generating the sense of surprise and discovery.

Once the zoning of the park was settled, the team then created a number of test-fit designs which offered an opportunity to recognize the most successful layout. During this process, digital models were used to manipulate and stack the quay stones to define spaces. With abundant sand available around the site, the design team realized that it could be used to generate considerable hills which would serve to add interest and provide areas of prospect within the park. The quay stones were often set into these newly formed mounds to create features, retaining walls and exercise / play features. During this phase of the design, many new uses of the quay stones emerged. In one case, a quay stone was polished on one side and recessed into the ground on an incline to create a slide; in another, two



17. 公园游乐设施由码头石、回收的轮胎和管道等制成，可供自由玩耍。
18. 游戏区上方设置的迷彩编织网投下斑驳的光点，营造出身处树荫之下的感觉。
19. 以工字柱作为构筑框架并使用回收轮胎作为柱基防护的游戏设施传递出一种朴素、亲切的质感。

17. Using the quay stones and recycled materials like tyres and pipes for the features, the park provides endless play opportunities.
18. Camouflage fabric is layered over the play area, creating dappled-shade very similar to that experienced beneath trees.
19. Using I-beams for the structure and recycled tyres for the post protection gives the play area a "home made" feel.

quay stones formed the support for swings and elsewhere recessed into the ground to create various height jump-boxes in the gym. The quay stones were likewise stacked in an irregular and perforated arrangement to provide a striking containment and screening from the busy road to the east of the park. The design team engaged with the d3 marketing team to establish a color theme for the park which aligned with the district branding. A palette of vibrant colors was devised which were then applied to the quay stones in the distinctive fractal pattern which was beginning to emerge in the marketing and branding of this district.

Since the client was keen that the park would take on a mature appearance from day one, in addition to the urgent requirement for shade from the intense Dubai sun, mature palm trees were used as the primary source of structural planting. Supplementing the palms was a hardy selection of shrubs and grasses which would grow quickly to provide the green structure of the park. Since water is very scarce in the region, the design team also adopted a very calculated approach to the planting of the park. Specifically, the use of native and adaptive plants was established, while lawn areas were kept to a minimum in only those areas where visitors would derive recreational value. Shrubs and ornamental plantings were likewise carefully considered, being applied to mounds which tilted towards the viewer. This approach ensures that water-consuming vegetation achieves the maximum visible exposure to the visitors, creating an environment which appears very green, yet is actually minimally planted. Further strategies for creating vertical green were generated, including planting climbing plants at the base of palms and structures, enabling the palm trunks and columns



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to become draped with greenery. Such strategies ensured that despite a very green appearance, the park actually consumed far less irrigation water than parks of an equivalent size.

With a limited budget, but strong desire to create sufficient shade for park users, the design team conducted research into shade materials which could be cost-efficiently incorporated into the design. Tensile shade fabric structures are the default solution in the Middle East, but are extremely expensive and



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20. “峡谷”通道由三层码头石堆叠而成。
 21. 祈祷室外面的院子里设有盥沐设施。
 22. 将混凝土块作为攀岩墙。
20. The Siq is created by stacking the quay stones to three-level-high.
 21. Ablution facilities are found in a courtyard space outside the prayer room.
 22. Blocks are used as climbing walls.

23. 由码头石堆叠的通道使人宛如置身于峡谷之中。
24. desert INK景观设计事务所将建造公园所用的混凝土块制成等比例微缩模型，赠送给委托方与公司员工，以吸引更多了解这座公园。
23. The Siq with stacked quay stones creates a ravine-like experience.
24. desert INK created scale models of the blocks which were distributed among clients and colleagues to promote the park.



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involve significant engineering to withstand the wind-load exerted on the fabric. Arriving at an alternative solution which used palm trees as columns, and colored camouflage fabric as the shading element, the team developed a set of details which allowed for cost-effective and widespread shade provision. The camouflage fabric was layered densely in the children's play area, creating shade patterns similar to those experienced below large canopy trees, adding biophilic interest to the space. Since wind can easily pass through the camouflage fabric, almost no load was exerted onto the palm trunks, which could have otherwise caused the palms to be pulled over during a storm event. This innovative, low-cost shade mechanism was the solution to a project constraint, yet has become one of the most



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positive defining aspects of the park and is highly successful in further establishing the unique character of the park.

As an environmentally sustainable practice, the design team sought to use as many local and recycled materials as possible. Following on this theme of responsible design, recycled rubber surfaces create the soft fall-zones in the climbing zone and locally-sourced compacted stone aggregate gravel in other sections of the park. Elsewhere recycled concrete drainage pipes were utilized as planters and play features, and shipping containers were re-purposed as shade structures and converted into the food and beverage outlets of the park. Every successful park requires sheltered places of refuge for those who wish to spectate, supervise, and oversee the activities. Such places are best placed at points of elevation, where users can survey multiple activities from their refuge. Avoiding the conventional approach of installing pergolas and formal amphitheaters common in many park spaces, the design team instead formed a stacked arrangement of timber cubes, leading to an elevated shade structure — people could overlook both the multi-purpose sports court and skate park. The timber cubes were constructed from repurposed scaffolding timber planks, while the shade structure was formed from a shipping container with two side walls removed. The timber cubes provide not only multiple informal seating opportunities for onlookers, but likewise a

sculptural feature, play feature, and exercise potential for those trainings.

Throughout the park, nooks and crannies encourage exploration, play, and rest, while the urban beach at one side of the park invites people to play volleyball, table tennis, or take a workout in the outdoor gym. Further activities at the other end include rock-climbing, skateboarding, and basketball. “We wanted to set people’s curiosity alight with the park. There are so many little spaces to discover, almost by accident.” comments Bennett, one of the landscape designers of the park, “Without doubt my favorite space is the Siq, a series of narrow winding corridors which we created by stacking blocks stacked three layers high. The experience is very much like walking through a deep wadi, i.e. dry riverbed in steep sided valley, and the space remains substantially cooler due to the thermal mass of the blocks and the fact that most of the space is shaded from direct sun. We’ve introduced climbing holds on many of the walls in the Siq, which have proved very popular with kids in particular.”

3 Discussion and Review

With many parks in the Middle East applying a “one size fits all” approach to landscape design, most parks are composed of the same elements, arranged in similar ways, resulting in a



25. 种植设计选用棕榈树以及速生草本和灌木，以便在较短时间内获得成熟的景观效果。
26. 一座开放式的仓库桁架之下设置了数间由回收集装箱改造而成的餐饮点，并营造了一片宝贵的阴凉。
25. Palms and fast-growing grasses and shrubs were selected for the planting palette to achieve a mature appearance in minimal time.
26. Food and beverage outlets in recycled shipping containers are found beneath an open-sided warehouse structure offering much-needed shade.



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lack of distinctiveness and variety. Until recently, public parks across the region have largely been viewed as a simple amenity to be as evenly distributed as possible across urban areas. With the creation of The Block, developers and municipalities are recognizing that parks can deliver much more than just basic amenity; they are capable of defining a district, generating a bold urban character, and adding a richness to the urban fabric. Many also now point to The Block as an example of how the unique constraints of a site can be turned into opportunities. The Block has become a case study in how public parks can be low-cost, adaptable, and creative. “Public parks evolve over time. We are just here to provide the initial framework, but the best parks are brought to life by people, events, artwork, and activities, and the funny thing is that people often find different ways to use a space that we had never envisioned,” said Denley, “It is all about using what is locally available in a place that makes landscapes unique, locally-relevant, and sustainable.”

In diverting the concrete blocks from their destiny in a landfill, the design team created an entirely unique urban park. This bold move epitomizes the creative thinking of desert INK and fits wonderfully well into the d3 setting. “We were lucky to have a client who actively supports and encourages innovation. The client knew that this could not be a standard park, but we did not have to try too hard to convince them that the blocks would be amazing in this new context.” concludes Denley.

Within just two weeks of opening, a number of significant

events were held at the park, including the Happiness Festival and Miami Vibes food fest. The park’s plazas and lawn areas proved their worth, hosting food trucks, exhibit pieces, installations, and activities. The incorporation of “programmable” spaces such as open lawns and plazas was a critical move in the park’s space planning. These spaces allow for the large gatherings and temporary installations which are at the core of such festivals. Return visits are generated not only from the quality and variety of the amenities within the park, they are equally boosted by those positive memories predominantly created during events and festivals and the leisure time people enjoy in this park. This extraordinary park attracts children and families to this otherwise design-industry focused district so that different lifestyles could co-exist and the community could thrive. **LAF**

PROJECT INFORMATION

LOCATION: Dubai, the United Arab Emirates

AREA (SIZE): 25,000 m²

CLIENT: Tamdeen

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE: desert INK

CHIEF DESIGNERS: Duncan Denley, William Bennett

PROJECT TEAM: William Bennett, Ullas Fernandes

COLLABORATOR: Patrick Parsons

DESIGN PERIOD: October, 2016 – March, 2017

CONSTRUCTION PERIOD: March – November, 2017

AWARDS: Architizer A+Awards 2018-Popular Choice, Middle East Architect 2018-Landscape Project of the Year, Design Middle East Awards 2018-Landscape Design of the Year