

Temporary Urban Garden: Cleveland School of the Arts Cleveland, Ohio

JEANINE CENTOURI
Kent State University
RUSSELL A. ROCK
Artist,
with NANCY NOZIK

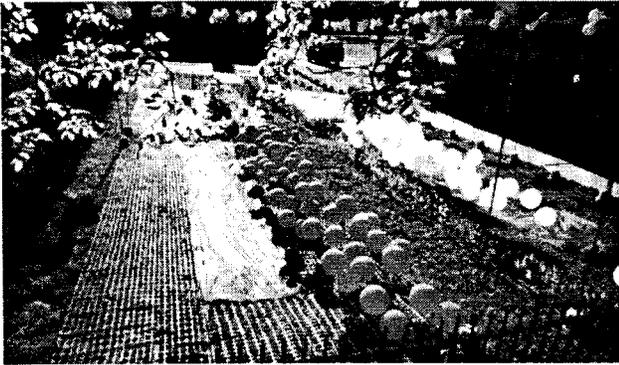


Fig.1. View from street.



Fig.2. View from entry.

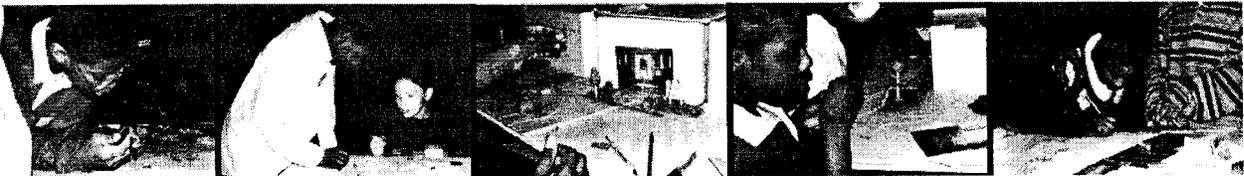


Fig.3. Design workshops.

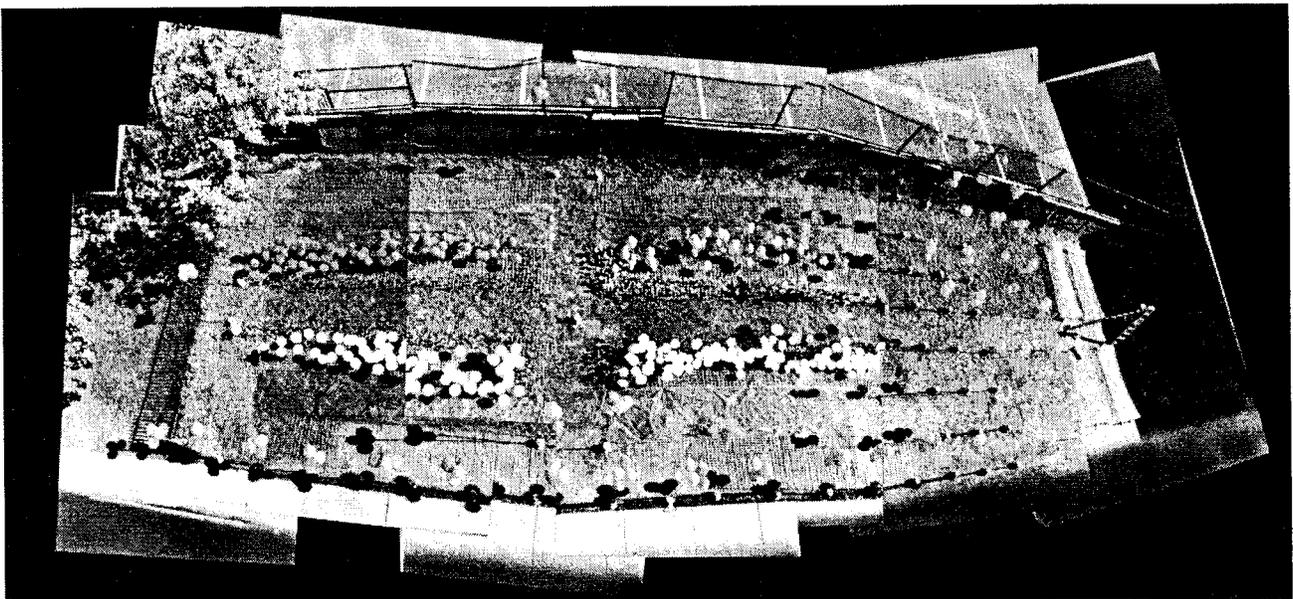


Fig.4. Plan view.

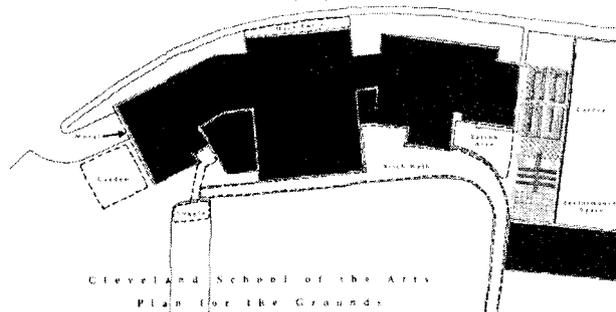


Fig.5. Plan.



Fig.7. View from schoolyard.

ORGANIZING SPONSORS

- *The Committee for Public Art:*
Kathleen H. Coakley, Director
Heather J. Mackey, Associate
Director and Project Director
Scott Cataffa
- *The Cleveland Botanical Gardens*
- *The Cleveland School of the Arts*
William Byron Smith,
Faculty Facilitator

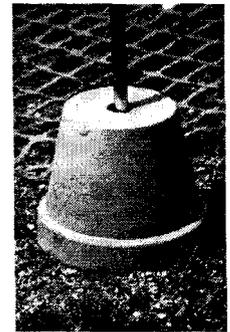


Fig.6. Base detail.



Fig.8. Detail.



Fig.9. Installation.

Project Overview: *The project for the grounds of the Cleveland School of the Arts is an educational and collaborative venture involving The Committee for Public Art, The Cleveland Botanical Gardens, workshop leaders, and sixth through eighth grade schoolchildren. A series of workshops focused around identifying needs and desires for the planning of the neglected open spaces adjacent to the school building. Drawings and models were created by the children which diagrammatically formed ideas for the grounds. One area was then chosen as a test site in which to construct a temporary full-scale mock-up. The Temporary Urban Garden was constructed in a two day time period as a collaboration amongst the workshop leaders and the schoolchildren. The group enterprise of building/making formed a strong common ground for all and concretized the transformative power of the designed spaces.*

Program: *The program is a comprehensive plan for the grounds around the school building. After several workshops with a core group of schoolchildren, a series of program/activities were identified for the area. a contemplative garden, a theatre/performance space, an eating area, an entry loggia,*

etc. Their locations were then diagrammed in drawings. The hands-on workshops with students developed an understanding of their needs and gave the students experiences in planning, drawing, and modeling. After four workshops with about twelve sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students, we chose one space to test with a temporary installation.

Temporary Urban Garden: *This full-scale exterior installation, The Temporary Urban Garden, constructed by the workshop leaders and students showed how one of the spaces could be used, and garnered community support and additional funding for the continuation of the project. This temporary installation is comprised of a garden space based on an Islamic precedent, and a theatre/performance space. As a response to the poor condition of the school grounds, this project seeks to illustrate the potential for beautifying the site with design. It also seeks to strengthen community through the common enterprise of building/making. This is a temporary installation that transforms part of the schoolyard into a contemplative garden and performance space. The next step in this project involves planting and constructing a permanent project in this site through additional workshops with the children.*