Joe Brown Collection

Berliner

Play equipment for life

Joe Brown
Inventor of Rope Play Equipment

Joseph Brown was born in 1909 as a son of Russian immigrants in Philadelphia, United States of America. At the age of 18 he was the recipient of a football scholarship from Temple University in Philadelphia, where he studied physical education. Shortly before he was to graduate in 1928, he left university and became a professional boxer. Following an injury, Joe discovered he had a weakness for sculpture and devoted more and more time to the arts. In 1931, Joe Brown returned to Temple University and completed his studies. After six years as a sculptor, Joe was employed at Princeton University to train boxers.

Having recognized, that movement through sport and play is important for the development of young people, Joe Brown turned his attention to play equipment for the first time in 1950, examples of which he presented to the general public at the National Recreational Congress in St. Louis in 1954. Many experts believe his designs to have been revolutionary. He developed what he termed play communities, which drew attention both for their sculptural character and their play function. Joe Brown is thus also regarded as a pioneer of modern play equipment culture, having been one of the very first to define play as preparation for the responsibilities of adulthood. Over the next few years, he installed a number of prototypes in Philadelphia and outside the USA, in London and Tokyo. However, there was no mass production of his designs, since he did not have the manufacturing capacity nor did he wish to hand everything over to others. In 1959, Joe Brown published a book called Creative Playgrounds and Recreation Centers containing the designs of his first spatial rope play equipment. He derived his play concept for rope play equipment from a classic boxing ring.

He also created the first designs for today's very popular high rope gardens. Until long into the 1960s, he attempted but failed to find a licensee, so instead he implemented individual special projects. Ultimately, Joe Brown became an instructor in art and taught sculpture until his retirement in 1977. Joseph Brown passed away in 1985 in Philadelphia.

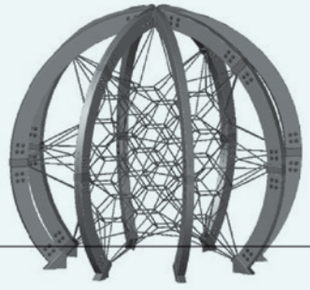
In Germany, it was Conrad Lehmann who further pursued the idea of rope play equipment and combined his approach with the insights of Frei Otto at the Institute for Lightweight Structures. Then in the early 1970s, these designs were developed to the mass production stage using the technical expertise of the Berliner Seilfabrik. In the more than 40 years during which the Berliner Seilfabrik worked on the development of rope play equipment, a large number of new structures were created and many of them were patented internationally. These spatial structures are normally based on the 5 Platonic solids, also called regular polyhedrons because the regular structure means that the tensioning points needed for rope play equipment are optimally distributed. The rope play equipment originally invented by Joe Brown remains as popular as ever, and continues to provide a lot of fun for children in playgrounds as well as having an educational effect.

As an acknowledgement of and homage to the pioneer of rope playing units, the Berliner Seilfabrik revealed a new playing unit in the autumn of 2014 – the worldwide first rope play unit with an outer structure made of wood: The Globe.

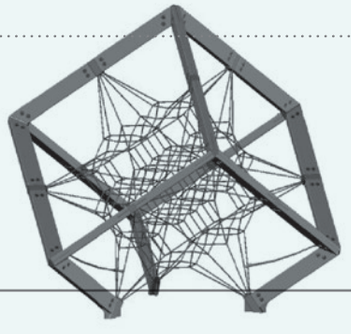
Expanding on the Globe, Berliner is presenting The Cube M and L, which combine the superior combination of a wooden frame and a three-dimensional space net.

5 m

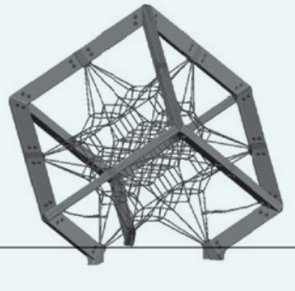
4 m



The Globe



The Cube L

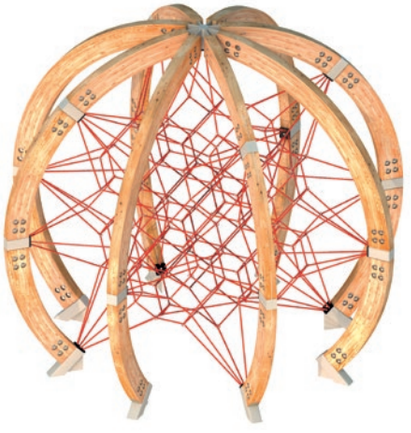


The Cube M

The Globe

90.100.043.1

	(m)	4,4 x 4,4 x 3,8
	('-'')	14-4 x 14-4 x 12-4
	EN 1176 (m)	7,5 x 7,5
	ASTM/CSA(m)	8,0 x 8,0
	ASTM/CSA ('-'')	26-4 x 26-4
	(m)	1,59
	('-'')	5-2
		5



Climbing in a rope web increases the psychomotor skills and the three-dimensional spatial sense of children. The outer structure is made of wood – laminated timber to be precise.

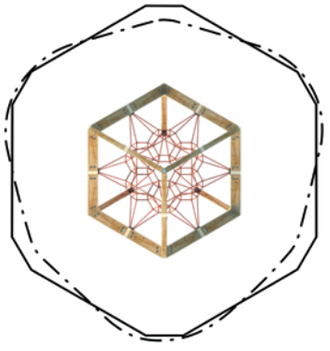
We use laminated timber, so-called glued wood, as it is especially durable and robust. As it is fashioned from dried wood and set up with multiple layers, fissures only occur in a limited amount. The bearing capacity is strengthened through the fact that laminated timber is made from pre-sorted timber that has been freed from imperfections.
For the production of laminated timber, only one type of wood is always used – we use larch for our rope play units. These are then laminated in layers and in the uniform grain direction. Laminated timber is predominantly used in timber engineering, i.e. for high static loads.

The Joe Brown Collection provides "natural" fun for kids!

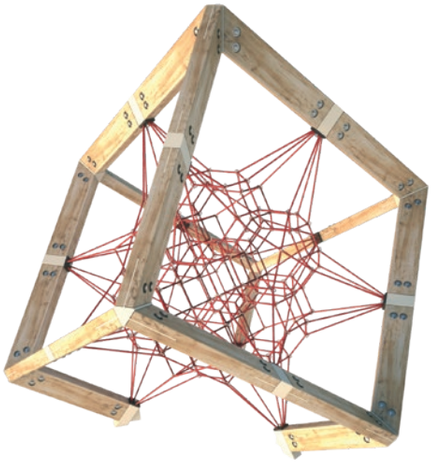
The Cube M

90.100.043.2

	(m)	4,2 x 3,7 x 3,7
	('-")	13-8 x 11-11 x 12-2
	EN 1176 (m)	7,6 x 7,5
	ASTM/CSA(m)	7,9 x 7,3
	ASTM/CSA ('-")	25-8 x 23-11
	(m)	2,17
	('-")	7-2
		5



"Natural" fun is also provided by the second model of the Joe Brown Collection. The Cube makes use of two classics of playground design. The rope web offers kids maximum developmental possibilities when climbing and romping about. Wood as a natural material provides warmth and blends into the natural surroundings. In addition, The Cube impresses through its futuristic design.



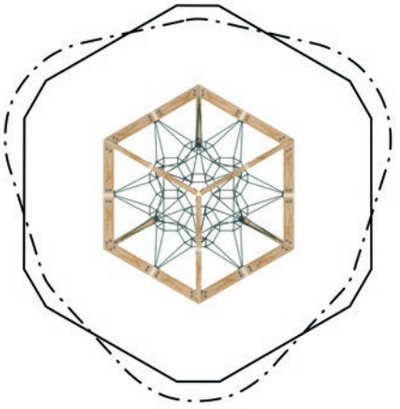
New

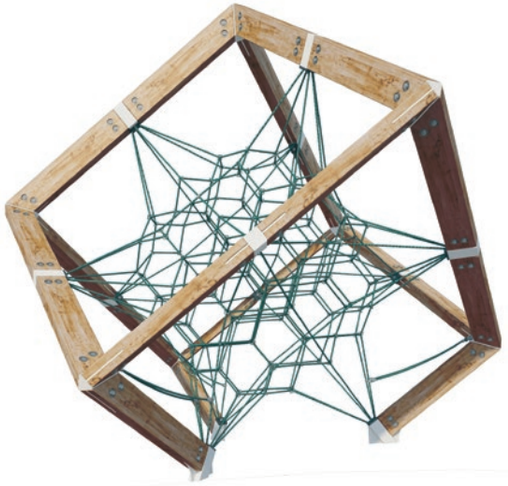
The Cube L

90.100.043.3

	(m)	5,1 x 4,4 x 4,5
	('-")	16-6 x 14-4 x 14-8
	EN 1176 (m)	8,8 x 8,9
	ASTM/CSA(m)	8,7 x 8,1
	ASTM/CSA ('-")	28-6 x 26-4
	(m)	2,63
	('-")	8-8
		5

The new Cube L offers even more space for climbing. There is 80% more play volume within the spatial net to make children happy. Like the smaller Cube, this new structure features a combination of futuristic design and the natural material wood.





Berliner

Berliner Seilfabrik GmbH & Co.
Lengeder Straße 2/4
13407 Berlin

Tel. +49.(0)30.41 47 24-0
Fax +49.(0)30.41 47 24-33

info@berliner-seilfabrik.com
www.berliner-seilfabrik.com

Berlin Partner