

ABOUT MONSTRUM

At MONSTRUM, we design and produce **unique playgrounds** with a focus on artistic and architectural quality. Our thematic playgrounds spark the imagination and inspire movement while gathering both kids and adults.

KEY INFORMATION

COMPANY NAME	MONSTRUM ApS
LOCATION	Engager 3, 2605 Brøndby, Denmark
EMPLOYEES	100+
PLAYGROUNDS COMPLETED	350+ globally
CEO & FOUNDING PARTNER	Ole Barslund Nielsen
WEBSITE	www.monstrum.dk
CONTACT INFO	post@monstrum.dk

- 350+ playgrounds all around the world.
- 100+ craftsmen, engineers, designers & architects at our workshop in Copenhagen, Denmark.
- Multi-award-winning playground manufacturer
- Tailor-made playgrounds
- Around 80% of production is for export
- Everything is designed & produced under one roof

HISTORY

MONSTRUM was founded in 2003 by Ole Barslund Nielsen. Ole's background in art and scenography design in the theater world became the foundation for a new kind of playground company. The catalyst for the creation of the company was a humble kindergarten playground project. When the kindergarten that Ole's five-year-old son, Sixten Gustav, attended was looking to source a new playground, Ole joined a parent committee tasked with planning the project.

"I realized that I could design a playground like a theater set design that gave better play possibilities than the known playground concepts. It became a really nice playground that the children and the teachers (and the parents) became very happy with. This playground led me to form MONSTRUM."

– Ole Barslund Nielsen.

At MONSTRUM, we now count over 80 builders, architects, and designers at our workshop in Copenhagen, Denmark. We export playgrounds to countries all over the world and we are proud that the world has seen the quality of our work.

PHILOSOPHY

The following three values are the pillars of our way of working:

ARTISTIC QUALITY

MONSTRUM's unique approach to playground design combines visual arts and design to create physically challenging play equipment that goes beyond mere functionality to inspire imaginative play.

We're committed to artistic quality and inclusive play and firmly believe that these two elements can co-exist. The artistic quality of a playground is a catalyst for kid's creativity and curiosity, stimulating the senses and developing a broad range of skills - both cognitive and physical.

GATHERING PLACES

Playgrounds are social hubs in the community - gathering places for children, adults, siblings, parents and others. No invitation is required - playgrounds are open, accessible spaces for all - a public space for fun and where new friendships are made.

We seek to create playgrounds that unite and gather people across generations and cultures - even if they're not there to play but to simply enjoy the artistic sculptures.

INSPIRING KIDS TO MOVE

A playground is a place for kids to get active and moving. When they're moving their bodies, assessing risk and learning to trust their judgment, they're learning and developing new skills and building resilience.

Designing playgrounds for movement of various kinds and levels of difficulty is integral to the design process at MONSTRUM. We design our playgrounds with many routes and flows of play in mind, taking into account the varying abilities and temperaments of the children who will play there. With no single pre-defined way to play or navigate the playground, kids of all ages and abilities are encouraged to dive in and explore for themselves - on their own terms.

SUSTAINABILITY

We are deeply aware of the climate emergency and the urgent need for tangible action to **reduce carbon emissions** and protect the environment. To address this, we have formed a committee—including our leadership—dedicated to mapping our carbon footprint and setting **actionable targets**, both small and large, to drive sustainability efforts.

At MONSTRUM, we build for both current and future generations. Building **long-lasting wooden playgrounds**, crafted from **certified timber**, is at the heart of our sustainability policy. Wood, our material of choice, is a renewable natural resource with numerous benefits—for both the environment and human well-being. We prioritize environmentally friendly production methods throughout our supply chain and strive to create playgrounds that will endure for future generations while actively minimizing our impact on the planet.

Our team selects only high-quality, fit-for-purpose materials that meet relevant safety standards and take environmental factors into consideration. Our playground equipment is built in certified timber, including **FSC-certified** Siberian Larch, PEFC-certified Duraply, and Robinia sourced from sustainable forestry operations in Europe. For large constructions, we also use galvanized and stainless steel.

We paint our playground equipment with water-based wood protection, known as 'Flügger Wood Tex'. This paint is certified with the Nordic Swan Ecolabel, which ensures it contains fewer harmful substances and fewer substances with health effects than other paints.

THOUGHTS ON PLAYGROUNDS

We create artistic playgrounds for customers with big ambitions—places that reflect values of inclusivity, identity, and play. Our work is rooted in design thinking. For us, design is not just about aesthetics—it's who we are. We take a holistic approach, where function, form, and storytelling are equally important. Functionality is the essence of good design and essential when outworking a playground.

We value close collaboration with our clients, aiming to create spaces where they see themselves reflected. Each playground is more than just equipment—it's a place for the whole family, the neighbourhood, and the community. A place where stories unfold, experiences are shared, and people come together across backgrounds and generations. In a digital world, we believe in the power of imaginative, analogue play. Our playgrounds invite children away from screens and into their own adventures—open-ended spaces where play sparks creativity, connection, and joy.

AWARDS

GERMAN DESIGN AWARD 2024

Special Mention - Lilidorei Play Village, The Alnwick Garden, England

RED DOT DESIGN AWARD 2017

Winner - Chunga Playground, Odense Zoo, Denmark

GERMAN DESIGN AWARD 2022

Special Mention - Surfer's Paradise, Helsingborg, Sweden

IDA INTERNATIONAL DESIGN AWARD 2017

Winner Category - Chunga Playground, Odense Zoo, Denmark

IDA INTERNATIONAL DESIGN AWARD 2021

Winner - Bronze, Surfer's Paradise, Helsingborg, Sweden

BEAUTIFUL PLACES COPENHAGEN 2013

Awarded by the City of Copenhagen for The Tower Playground in Fælledparken.

GERMAN DESIGN AWARD 2021

Winner - Gold, The Historical Playground, Viborg, Denmark

DANISH DESIGN AWARD 2012

Winner

GERMAN DESIGN AWARD 2021

Special Mention - The Colourful Peacock & The Hong Kong Skyline, Hong Kong

AOK, THE CITY'S BEST CHILDREN'S EXPERIENCE, COPENHAGEN 2012

Winner

GAZELLE AWARD 2012-2018

7 years winner for fast-growing healthy business, Denmark

SWEDISH ARCHITECT'S PLAN PRIZE 2010, MALMÖ CITY

Winner, Spider Playground

IDA INTERNATIONAL DESIGN AWARD 2018

Winner - Mobile Home for Homeless, Charity project, Denmark

GERMAN DESIGN AWARD 2018

Winner - Chunga Playground, Odense Zoo, Denmark

SELECTED PROJECTS



LILIDOREI PLAY VILLAGE, ALNWICK, UK

(CLICK IMAGE TO SEE CASE)



THE STURGEONS AT PIER 26, NEW YORK, NY, USA

(CLICK IMAGE TO SEE CASE)

SELECTED PROJECTS



SURFER'S PARADISE, HELSINGBORG, SWEDEN

(CLICK IMAGE TO SEE CASE)



THE JOURNEY TO LEGO HOUSE, LEGO HOUSE, BILLUND, DENMARK

(CLICK IMAGE TO SEE CASE)