

## The somewhat different "moonscape"

### **With the participation of Melos GmbH, a physical activity center for motor function and senses was created**

At the Rothenberg – Park in Kassel-Rothenditmold, a one of a kind physical activity center was ceremoniously opened on November 12, 2014. For more than three years, the consultants at the Planungsbüro TEO Industriedesign GmbH have, together with Melos GmbH from Melle, conceptualized this project and driven its implementation. This productive cooperation resulted in the creation of a unique publicly accessible area, in which users ranging from the young to the old can sustainably train their coordination, motor function and self-awareness; thereby using these sensory experiences to foster their own creativity.

At the beginning, there was the idea of TEO-General Manager Jens Freitag, to create an outdoor variant of sports flooring successfully brought to market by his R&D Service offices years ago, and to create a public space with it in Kassel. The existing indoor variants were already used successfully in professional sports, as well as in medical applications in the treatment of the sick and the elderly, and have thereby proven their functionality.

In order to bring the successful concept of his sports flooring to the general public, Jens Freitag needed partners for the technical development and access to public offices. In the course of a sporting activity development plan, the City of Kassel came to the conclusion that the physical activity opportunities offered to the public should be expanded. Now, all Freitag needed was a partner that would help him to drive the implementation of the materials development associated with the project, because the demands on an outdoor variant of the sports flooring were quite special. To this effect, he was looking for a premium manufacturer of rubber granulates whom was located in Germany, and able to share the enthusiasm for his project. He was able to find that suitable partner in Melos GmbH from Melle in Lower Saxony.

The phase between planning the area and the actual implementation lasted for more than three years. Melos GmbH was included in this process from the very beginning, and a very close cooperation with the TEO-Planungsbüro was born. Various experiments with EPDM granules were conducted in order to develop the suitable flooring for the physical activity center. Aside from suitability for the training- and experience effect, requirements were: being weather-proof, lightweight, and featuring an anti-slip surface with a visually pleasing appearance. The defining factor were not merely the individual granules, but a suitable layering. Eventually, the standard EPDM granules of type "60 Shore A sulphur-cured" with a 1.0 – 3.5 mm grain by Melos were used. This granulate is particularly well suited to fit sports- and play areas, and aside from the weather-proofness and its fall protection properties, it also scores big with its low-dusting and hygienic properties. Color-wise, a mix of May-green, Reseda-green and yellow fit splendidly into the lawn environment of the park. The actual construction of the center was successfully performed by Procon Play & Leisure GmbH from

Geseke within two weeks, and thus, nothing stood in the way of the ceremonial opening by the Director of Urban Development Christof Nolda and District Mayor Rolf Löscking.

In the end, it was proven that the successful interaction of various parties can realize projects even of an unusual nature, such as the one in the Rothenberg-Park in Kassel. Now, citizens have an hitherto unique opportunity to experience themselves and to do something for their own health. The concept will certainly elicit many reactions, and one would should assume that, with the support of Melos, more "moonscapes" will be created in Germany.

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## **Über die Melos GmbH:**

*Die Melos GmbH aus dem niedersächsischen Melle bei Osnabrück ist u.a. einer der international führenden Produzenten von farbigen Kunststoff- und EPDM-Gummigranulaten. Die Produkte der Melos GmbH werden insbesondere in der Verarbeitung für Laufbahnen in Sportstadien, als Fallschutzböden für Kinderspielflächen, als Einstreugranulat auf Kunstrasenplätzen sowie für rutschfeste Fußböden in Schwimmbädern eingesetzt. Das Unternehmen beschäftigt derzeit ca. 180 Mitarbeiter am Firmenstandort in Melle.*

*Am Standort Melle sind auf einer Betriebsfläche von 47.000 qm Lager, Produktion, Forschungslabor, Qualitätssicherung und Verwaltung untergebracht. Im Referenzportfolio finden sich nationale und internationale Projekte. Darunter fallen zum Beispiel die Laufbahn im Berliner Olympiastadion und die weltweit größte Pferderennbahn in Dubai. Weitere Informationen unter: <http://www.melos-gmbh.com/>*

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