

**WLA**  
**20**





# Skatepark Bethlehem

MAIER LANDSCHAFTSARCHITEKTUR & BETONLANDSCHAFTEN







# SKATEPARK BETHLEHEM

## maier landschaftsarchitektur | Betonlandschaften

### Skate sport

Skate-Aid executes development assistance especially for children and teenagers through fundraising, donating equipment and getting know-how and manpower together. Information search, design as well as construction supervision was done by Maier landscape architecture.

Skate sport doesn't differentiate between religious or political beliefs. Skateboarding connects teenagers and helps them to develop an identity. The future skate park shall give the children and teenagers a new opportunity of leisure activities and out of it a new perspective. The skate athletes are required to concentrate on their own abilities, which will help them to become more self-confident. Self-confidence is a basic requirement for young people to orientate and advance in a comparatively insecure environment.

### SOS Children's village

The SOS Children's village is located in the Christian characterized district Bayt Sahur which is located in east Bethlehem. The free moving space of the Palestine people is limited by the Israel security fence. The population suffers from political instability, prevalent violence, high unemployment rates and increased poverty. The main business sector of Bethlehem is tourism. The tourism is regressive since 2003 (commencement of the security fence). Many children lost their parents through terror, war, illness and other problems; thereby they couldn't experience enough education. A lack of prospects emerged among the young generation.

The SOS Children's village covers an area of 15,000 m<sup>2</sup> (18,000 yd<sup>2</sup>). As far as 126 children live in 14 SOS-Families. Over 400 children are being taught

in the SOS-Hermann-Gmeiner-Elementary-School.

### The Project

The property comprises 19 homes including cisterns and outdoor facilities. A playground and 400 m<sup>2</sup> large skate park were newly built and completed in March 2015. The adjoining multifunctional sports court was renewed in part. The location for the skate park was stated in the east part and partly surrounded by agricultural areas. The skate park can also be used as an extension of the schoolyard. The skate elements consist of in situ concrete which comes from Palestine. In addition, the elements are designed in a way that they can be used by all children and are not too demanding. Thus, the facility also serves as a play and meeting place for children and is therefore multifunctional usable.

Construction and skateing-workshops done by an international team

Skate -Aid has put together an international team. A Serbian (Milorad), an American (Jim) and a German (Christopher, landscape architecture student) were working on the construction site. They didn't only worked on construction but also gave workshops and skate lessons for the kids. Accordingly large was already the inlet at the SOS Hermann Gmeiner School. All the children now have the opportunity to skate.

The construction of this project was completed in March 2015. After that the children and teenagers of this village can enjoy their childhood. They can have fun without worrying and develop social and cognitive skills without experiencing further violence. Kids that play and have fun with their friends cannot fall into the clutches of the terrorist or other violence-prone groups.



# SKATEPARK BETHLEHEM

maier landschaftsarchitektur | Betonlandschaften



SKATEPARK BETHLEHEM  
BETHLEHEM, PALESTINE, DERECH S.O.S.  
STREET

Landscape architectural design |  
maierlandschaftsarchitektur (Maier landscape  
architecture)/ Betonlandschaften (Concrete  
Landscapes)

Builder owner | SOS Children's Village Bethlehem

Image and Text Credits |  
Ralf Maier (text and images), Samantha Robinson  
(images), Christopher Kintrup (images)



# WLA 20

WLA LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE MAGAZINE

EDITOR | DAMIAN HOLMES  
damian@worldlandscapearchitect.com

PROJECT SUBMISSIONS  
submit@worldlandscapearchitect.com

DISTRIBUTION |  
DIGITAL | gumroad.com

ADVERTISING |  
advertise@worldlandscapearchitect.com

WORLD LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
ADDRESS |  
ROOM 801 BUILDING 13 2518 LONGHUA ROAD  
SHANGHAI P.R.C. 200232

PUBLISHED JUNE 2015  
©2015 WORLD LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

DISCLOSURE |  
DAMIAN HOLMES - EDITOR IS AN EMPLOYEE OF ASPECT STUDIOS.

## PARTNERS

**ASPECT Studios™**

**BURR**

public elements



## SUPPORTERS

SINATRA MURPHY

MATHEWS NIELSEN

ATLASLAB

THOMAS R RYAN RYAN ASSOCIATES

H S CROTHERS