



## The Architecture of ANOHA – **The Children's World of the Jewish Museum Berlin**

A narrative architecture

**Since 2020, the children's museum of the Jewish Museum Berlin has been located in a former wholesale flower market. ANOHA Children's World is a place of discovery, exploration, and play for young visitors between the ages of three and ten and their families.** The Jewish Museum Berlin selected the architects and designers through an international competition. In their statement, the jury awarding the work to Olson Kundig said: "From a museum pedagogy point of view, the scenographic approach is highly attractive and professional. It playfully picks up current and relevant **themes (...) such as** diversity, migration, creation, second chances, and new beginnings."

At the center of the exhibition stands a seven-meter-tall wooden structure with a diameter of 28 meters. Designed as a single-story building, it is freestanding and forms the core of the children's museum. The ring-shaped construction is a modern interpretation of the Mesopotamian ark—and it also looks a little like a spaceship. In this way, it brings together the past and the future. Its narrative architecture allows visitors to experience the flood and rescue on the ark on multiple temporal levels, and to interpret it in the context of current social and ecological questions.

A sensitive approach to the existing building

The new children's museum is integrated into the former flower market hall across from the main building. The three-naved hall was built in 1963 in frame construction, based on the plans of the architect Bruno Grimmek. It receives only indirect light through the sawtooth roof, typical of factory buildings. The Olson Kundig design provides for a sensitive approach to the existing building and its surroundings. Designed as a building-within-a-building, the children's museum will integrate the sawtooth roof in its original form. The round ark offers a soft counterpoint to the straight lines and concrete construction of the hall.

Sustainable construction

The children's museum is designed with CO2-neutral wood construction. The main structure of the museum and the ark are made of indigenous spruce; the floor, interior fittings, and furniture are made of durable hardwood and beechwood. All of the areas have natural ventilation and can be used without conventional, energy-intensive air conditioning. The construction of the animals is also climate-friendly: they are made of found objects, everyday items, and recycled materials.

The Jewish Museum Berlin building ensemble

The design by Olson Kundig fits in with the W. Michael Blumenthal Academy building (designed by Daniel Libeskind), and completes the museum ensemble consisting of the *Kollegienhaus* and annex on the other side of the street.

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