

Rather than integrating Karin Dom into the environment, the project integrates the environment into Karin Dom by enclosing a vertical inner courtyard.

Both the program related straight to the children, and the program related to the Karin Dom staff, are directed in two vertical strolls through the in-between spaces of a patio. The children related program extends beyond the compound of individual rooms, to form nooks for semi-independent activities where, for example, you can study on your own but not completely shut down either. The entrances of the rooms contain micro-spaces for displaying the identity of the individual groups. Each in-between space can potentially implement a look at the other. This frequent face to face encounter creates a precondition for unmediated and spontaneous play.

The inner courtyard is covered with opening polycarbonate sheets maintaining the microclimate. Its walls and floors are figured out of rammed earth due to inherent thermal mass properties. It enables storing temperature, providing inertia against temperature fluctuations. The inner volumes are inclined in order to increase surface area for a greater effect of the thermal mass presence. In summer the cover is opened during the night and the rammed earth accumulates cooler night temperatures. During the day the cover is closed retaining cool temperature in the patio, and in winter the cover is closed holding sun heat in the courtyard. Finally, in the in-between spring and autumn the cover stays mostly opened.