

Kindergarten Jelka

Name: Kindergarten Jelka
Location: Ljubljana, Slovenia
Architecture: Arhitektura Jure Kotnik
Project team: Jure Kotnik, Andrej Kotnik, Črt Čuček
Structural Engineering: CBD Bruno Dujič
Mechanical Engineering: Linasi Peter
Electrical Engineering: Iztok Zlatař
Size: 155 m²
Project year: 2009
Construction year: 2010
Built by: Riko Hiše d.o.o
Client: Mestna občina Ljubljana
Photographs: Miran Kambič
Web: www.jurekotnik.com

ARHITEK
TURAJUR
EKOTNIK

Kindergarten Jelka is an extension of a kindergarten in a housing neighbourhood from the sixties in a Slovenia's capital city Ljubljana. When a new housing complex was built in the vicinity, this kindergarten extension became a necessity. Local authorities have commissioned a local prefabricated company to build the new annex entirely from wood, also to showcase the adequacy of wooden constructions for the kindergarten use. Building with local wood is not only a nature-friendly way to create a healthy and cosy environment, but it is also a first step to invite the children into the world of sustainable values.

The new kindergarten annex is attached to the east side of the existing building and stretches into the garden, which has enlarged the volume by an additional 155m² of playroom surfaces. The extension consists of two playrooms for 28 children, two cloakrooms, a central washroom, staff cloakrooms, an entrance hallway, a playground toilet for external use and a covered terrace. Both playrooms are south orientated, while they also both receive additional light from the large side openings and are therefore well illuminated and offer to the little-ones an environment that supplements the warmth of their own home. The design of the playrooms is compact but still allows for the furniture to be arranged in various formations. Located between the two playrooms, washrooms have large glass openings, which visually increase their volume as well as ease tutor supervision. Playrooms share a covered terrace that enables children's activity when the weather is bad, while also protecting them from the hot sun in the summer. Kindergarten façade consists of thin vertical lamellas in natural wood, while the wood on the covered terrace is painted in dark grey colour. New and old building is connected with a narrow hallway made from wooden pillars of various green and yellow colours and it is covered with translucent polycarbonate boards that soften the passage between buildings.