

CONTEXT

examining planning

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**Bacon's
Rebellion**

**Taking
Initiative**

**Rise of the
Civic Planner**

SCHOOL OF THE FUTURE
CONTEXT IN CONTEXT

Quark Park Princeton Design Guild



All Photos: Catherine Stroud

As homage to the 100th anniversary of Einstein's birth, Kevin Wilkes, AIA, Alan Goodheart, ASLA and Peter Soderman designed a temporary installation to bring science, art and architecture together for the public's enjoyment. They titled the landscape "Quark," the sub-atomic building block of everyday matter in tribute to the late physi-

cist. The temporary installation ran for four months; its November 2006 deconstruction made way for a new multi-family residential development.

Over 60 participants were responsible for the design and installation of 24 pieces of sculpture, each of them a collaborative effort between scientist, architect and landscape designer. Soderman describes Quark Park as a place where "people can forget about whom they are and who they're supposed to be."

Silo corn stalks were planted in concentric rays, surrounding the unique pieces and creating a landscape filled with dense installations and foliage. The gate to the park was a sculpture in itself—woven wire surrounded varying sizes of white paper. A neon sign hung at its top.

Working with so many contributors, a collaborative project such as Quark Park requires and accommodates flexibility. Soderman explains, "You have to massage things as you go along. Nothing turns out the way you expect." Despite multiple additions and subtractions to the original plan, Quark Park stayed true to its cause—illustrating science

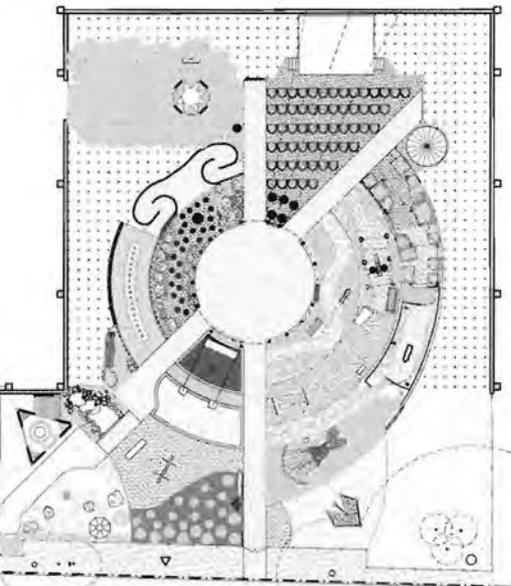
Above: "Sensation" (foreground) – Brilliantly colored disks resemble oversized buttons and a bundle of brightly colored wires trail behind. The sculpture—created by artist Nancy Cohen, Jim Sturm, professor of electrical engineering, and Shirley M. Tilghman, president of Princeton University—is an abstract representation of how mammals sense smell and remember scents.

Below-right: "Augmented Lithophone" – Sculptor Jonathan Shor drew inspiration from childhood memories of dragging sticks along a white picket fence. Running batons down the row of 17 posts, visitors re-create the familiar "rat-ti-tat" sound along the 10 foot by 30 foot narrow parcel.

Below-left: The New Jersey Chapter of the American Planning Association named this plan a "Short Term Project with Long Term Consequences" and AIA New Jersey honored the designers' ability to artistically convey the body of knowledge while creating a process that encouraged freedom of expression for artists.



through art and creating a sense of community in Princeton. Wilkes, Soderman and Goodheart are already plotting their next landscape experiment focusing on poetry.



Location: Paul Robeson Place, Princeton NJ

Client: Community-supported. Major funding provided by Princeton University, Bristol-Myers Squibb and Trillium Trading

Size: 15,000 square feet

Architecture: Kevin Wilkes, AIA

Landscape Design: Garden Artist Peter Soderman, Bohemian Grove Landscaping Company, Landscape Architect Alan Goodheart, ASLA

Construction: Carpenters Local #781

Photos: Cie Stroud Photography