
Forever Young

2005

A kidney-shaped school building, incorporating the reception desk and a dispensing counter, has been constructed on the roofed-over central square of the OSG Singelland College in Drachten, The Netherlands. The school media library is located on the first floor.

Sandberg has designed a piece of artwork integral to the architecture. A point relief of demi-spheres has been applied to the facade of the pavilion, functioning as typographic elements of a line of text. Its length covers the entire circumference of the edifice so that the beginning and end touch each other. Because each new text line is displaced relative to the one above, a dynamic image is created of new word combinations, one upon the other. The rhythmic repetition of a lyric, sampled ad infinitum: a universal refrain spreading over the pavilion's skin like a form of acne.

The artist has translated his commission to create this artwork literally into a commission to eternal youth to hold on to the ultimate school playground feeling: Sleep All Day, Party All Night, Forever Young, Never Grow Old.

(text: Nienke Vijlbrief)

Title: 'Forever Young'

Artist: Martijn Sandberg

Location: OSG Singelland, Van Haersmasingel 37, Drachten/ NL

Material: point relief cast, plaster

Size: circumference 49m/ height 6.5m/ surface area 270m²

Completion: 2005

Concept and design: 2003

Final design: 2004

Realisation: 2004-2005

Commissioned by: OSG Singelland, Drachten/ NL

Advice and supervision: Kunst en Bedrijf BV, Amsterdam/ NL

Also funded by: Mondriaan Foundation, Amsterdam/ NL

Architect: Team 4 Architects, Groningen/ NL