

Recreational Equipment Project

The contribution that follows consists of a selection of the notebook and folder of a final year student at Goldsmiths College, London, 1977. It displays the progress of a typical project – in this case the design and construction of a piece of child's recreational experience from the earliest stages through to realisation. The notes and drawings are left to speak for themselves: no further editorial words are necessary. The work is presented with the kind collaboration of the student and the college tutors.

3rd Year Project

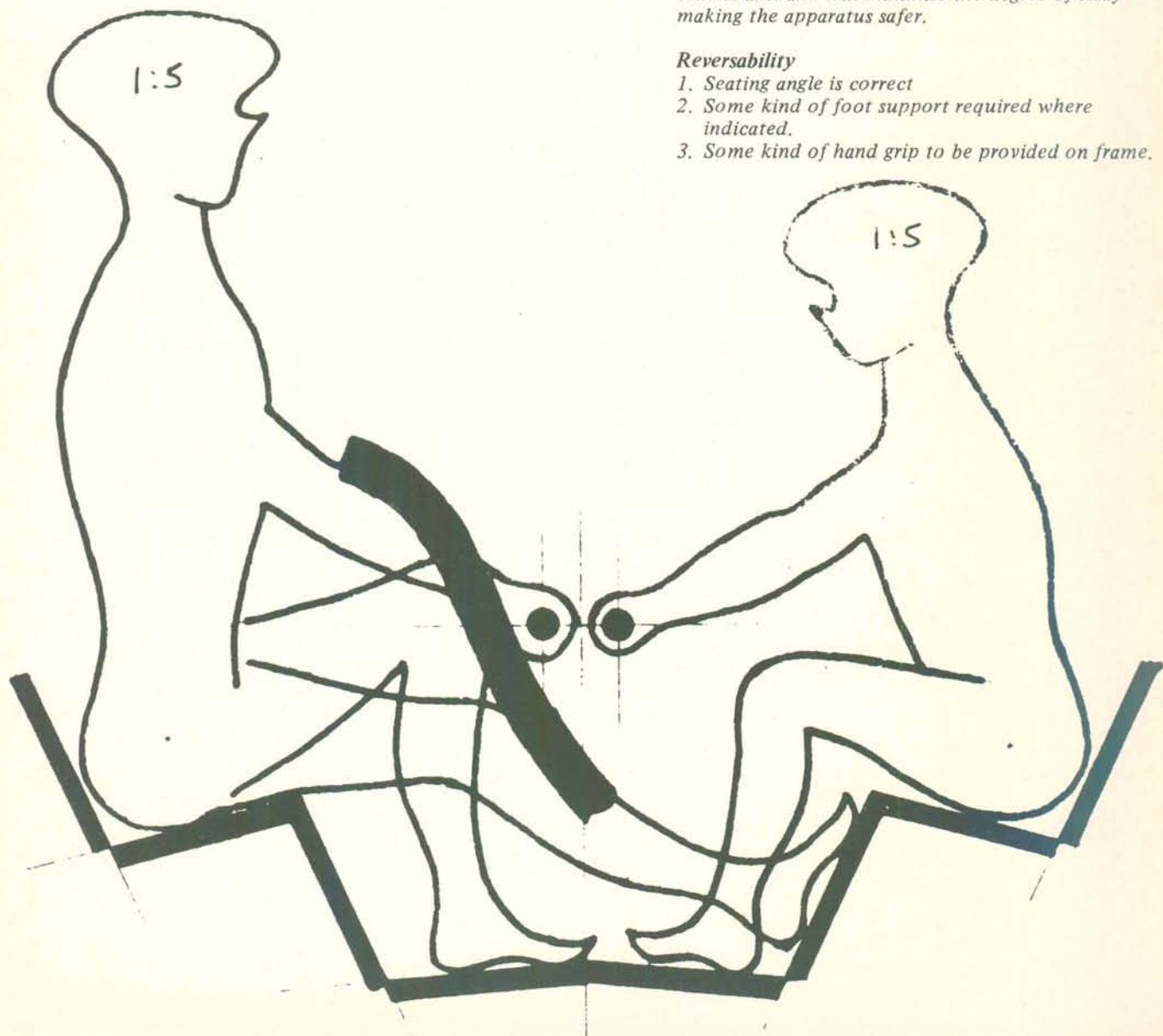
Brief Design and makes a toddlers (age range 2-3 years) piece of 'recreational equipment' for use in the College Creche. Item to be of possibly rocking type to seat 2 (?) kids. If possible to have dual purpose e.g. conversion to static seating.

Hand Rails

Note: making the kids lean forwards appreciably reduces the effective weight movement about the central axis and will minimise the degree of sway making the apparatus safer.

Reversability

1. Seating angle is correct
2. Some kind of foot support required where indicated.
3. Some kind of hand grip to be provided on frame.



Safety factors to be included

1. Must withstand kicks, bangs and knocks
2. Any finishes must be non-toxic and must not chip.
3. Must support weight of 3 or 4 kids with safety. Could it work with only one kid?
4. Must not tip over – low centre of gravity.
5. Must not catch feet or hands.
6. No sharp edges.
7. No bits sticking out.

Considerations

1. Resistant to outdoor weather as well as indoor use.
2. Nice if it was easy to clean.
3. Not too heavy to move around (or convert).
4. Must be exciting or soothing.
5. Cars or things to ride in are popular with all kids. Something they can assume an identity in.
6. Enclosed 'shell' safer for young kids than open frame.
7. Unfortunately not much scope for muscle development.

The Age Group

18 months. Walks fairly well, can avoid objects or walk around them. Can trot a little but finds difficulty in stopping. Can push and pull quite large playthings and carry things from place to place. Explores and investigates environment ceaselessly during waking hours. Can walk upstairs by holding on to something, crawls down stairs backwards.

Scribbles a good deal and is by now definitely right or left handed.

Needs Patience with ceaseless activities and messes. Simple playthings some larger for pushing and pulling.

21 months Walks and trots more confidently, can stop without falling over. Can squat to pick things and can walk backwards.

2 years Weight 26lb. Height 32 ins. Can run, can walk up and down stairs, holds on and both feet on one step at a time coming down. Can make neat rows or stacks of blocks.

Needs Beginning to develop imagination, likes to play 'pretend games'. Enjoys things to ride on, tries to be independent.

2½ years. Climbs over furniture easily. Can kick a ball from standing position. Sits on tri-cycle and moves it with feet on floor. Pushes and pulls large boxes and toys about.

Needs Freedom to work with adults, likes to help with things to do. Playthings as above.

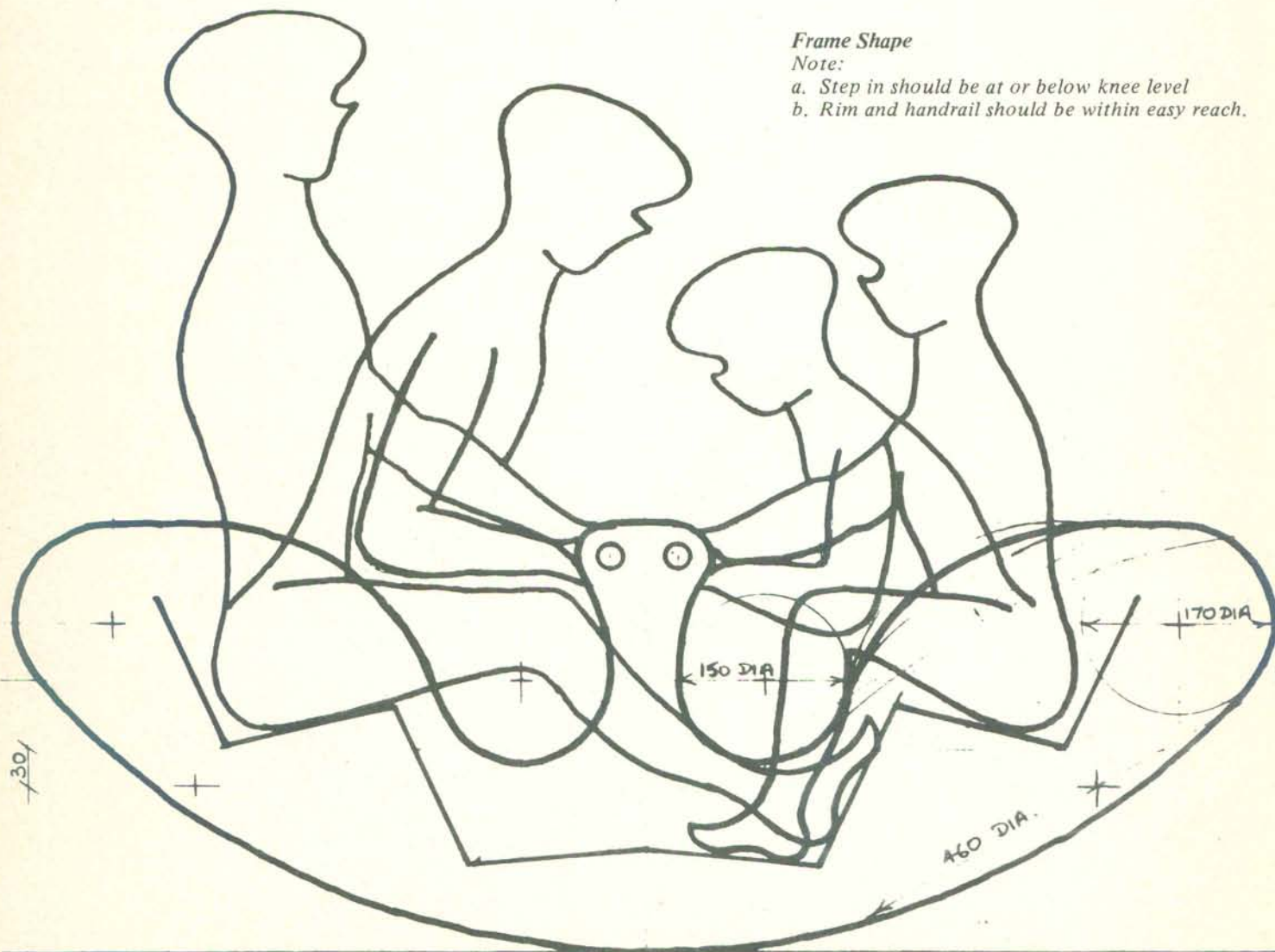
3 years Weight 33 lbs. Height 35 ins. Runs, jumps, walks on tiptoe, climbs, swings. Can throw a ball and ride a tri-cycle. Can build well with blocks in patterns and tries to make bridges. Paints confidently and scribbles freely. Can carry things without spilling.

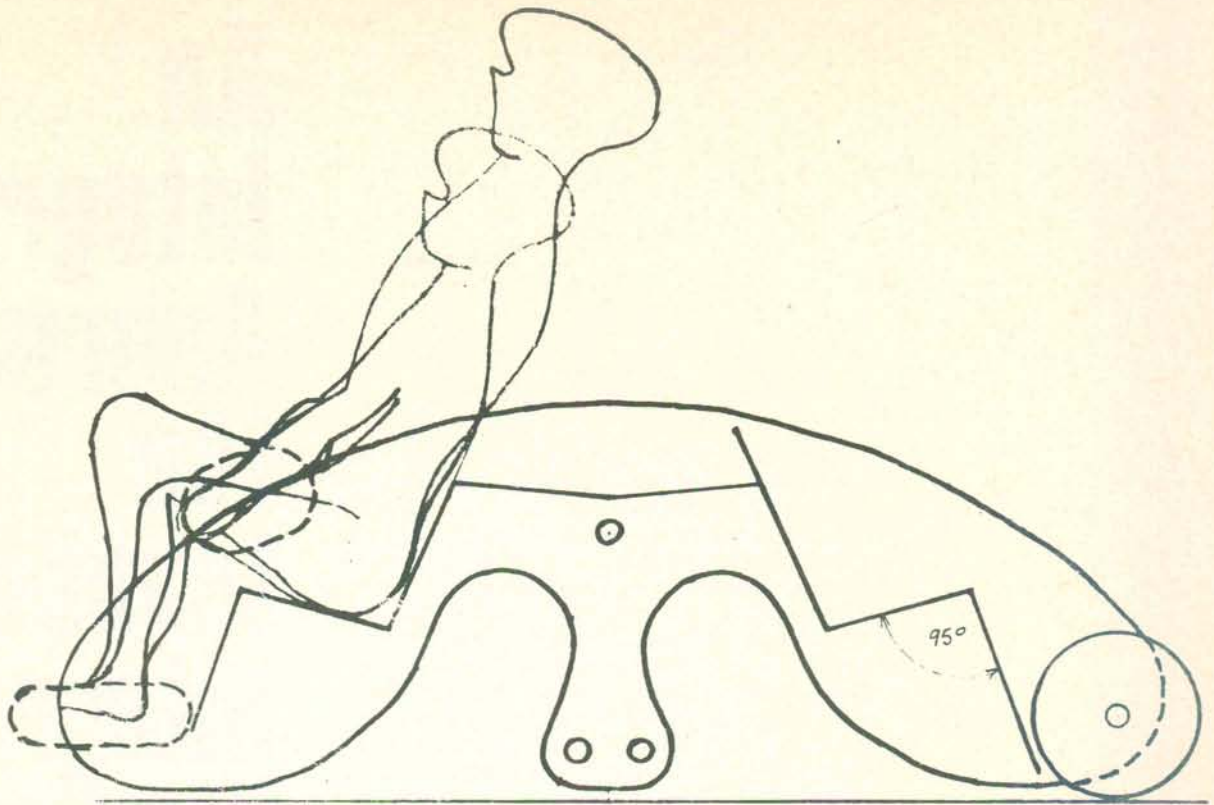
Needs Freedom and opportunity for vigorous physical play. Dressing-up clothes. Likes to model and paint.

Frame Shape

Note:

- a. Step in should be at or below knee level
- b. Rim and handrail should be within easy reach.





REVERSABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

SEAT MODIFICATIONS

1. Seats modified to give greater back support.
(Note: movement at worst has not been drawn)
2. a. Area of common hand hold indicated
b. Area of common foot rest indicated
3. For safety reasons in limited indoor area apparatus to be mobile along one line of direction only.
4. Non-spoked wheels mounted on outside act as:
 - a. Means of mobility
 - b. Impact buffer
 - c. Rocker end stops at 40°
 - d. Rocker non-catch end.

