

## The transformation of one level of an office building into a school with a cheerful atmosphere

The Baupiloten converted the fifth floor of an office building located in the Lützowstraße 106 into a school for the company Familienservice. Anonymous waiting rooms and drab offices were transformed into learning and activity spaces, as well as common areas for pupils.

### Garden/Activity room

From the elevator, one enters an **indoor garden** full of plants and pictures. Here, visitors can wait in comfort amongst the white garden furniture or learn about school events. Together with the neighboring activity area, the garden is the modern equivalent of a classical school yard. The ceiling of the activity room opens up into the sky with large glass windows. The expansiveness is reinforced by mirrors located on the ceiling, as well as **adjustable mirror-walls** in which the children can observe, discover, and experiment. The room offers plenty of space to play and even boasts a stage for the children to climb around on.

### Modular walls

The Familienservice's new school is devised to grow together with its pupils. Each year, new pupils from the incoming class fill the empty rings of the plant holders with new plants. All of the school's installations have a **modular design** and can be expanded, divided, or newly arranged. As the classrooms see more use, **separation walls** made of single **polygonal units** can be utilized. The units can be decorated, inhabited, climbed through or used as play objects – and are always adaptable to the use of the individual room. Parts can be taken from the walls and used as chairs, tunnels, or whatever else the children think up. **Here, no limits are set for the child's imagination.**

### Common areas

Platforms, counters, and tables jut out from the walls, creating a surrounding school lounge in what used to be a sterile waiting room. This is a place to hang out, work with a laptop, or have some alone time. A large counter separates the room from a modestly designed kitchen area.

### Learning walls

In contrast to the drab beige and grey tones of the former administrative offices, the new school shines with fresh and cheerful colors. On the school walls, pupils can realize their artistic interests. They can hang the pictures or artwork on large **magnetic surfaces**, or learn about geography by inspecting a **room-sized world map**.

### Susanne Hofmann Architects/The Baupiloten

The Baupiloten are led by architect and professor Susanne Hofmann in a joint venture with the Technical University Berlin. Her firm, Susanne Hofmann Architects, is hired by external contractors for all projects and as chief architect, she assumes full responsibility and is personally liable for all work completed. The firm is comprised of a team of 8 highly skilled and productive architects and engineers who also support the student project at the TU Berlin. This allows for projects to be selectively worked on by either the architects or the pupils – ideally, in direct collaboration.

Project Manager: Dip. Arch. Marlen Weiser

Employees: Dipl. Ing. Jannes Wurps, Dipl. Ing. Daniel Hülseweg

Model building: Laure Severac

**Start of planning:** February 2009 **Completion:** August 2009

**Client:** Global Education pme Familienservice GmbH  
Anja Umbreit, Anke Sauerteig, Alexandra Stieper

**Sponsors:** MagPaint (magnetic and fluorescent color), Growing Table/pure position (benches and tables), Lümmel (seating elements), der Holländer (plants)

### Contact

Prof. Susanne Hofmann AA Dipl. tel. 030 314 289-23, fax. -25 post@baupiloten.com, [www.baupiloten.com](http://www.baupiloten.com)

Adresse: TU Berlin, Sekr A1, Die Baupiloten, Straße des 17. Juni 152, 10623 Berlin; **Photos:** www.janbitter.de