

Schloss Dyck Foundation – 5th September 2014 5th European Garden Award awarded in Schloss Dyck

Eight winners and finalists from Great Britain, Austria, Finland, The Netherlands, Denmark and Germany honoured by the European Garden Award

On 5th September the European Garden Award of the EGHN was awarded in Schloss Dyck for the **fifth time** since 2010. **Simeon Graf Wolff Metternich, chairman of the foundation board of the Schloss Dyck Foundation**, and the **State Secretary Mr Michael von der Mühlen** from the Ministry for Construction, Housing, Urban Development and Traffic of North Rhine-Westphalia inaugurated the prestigious awards ceremony in the Great Hall of Schloss Dyck.

As the project carries the **European Garden Heritage Network EGHN** (EGHN) and the Schloss Dyck Foundation, Centre for Garden Art and Landscape Design – supported by Nurseries Lorenz von Ehren – honoured four winners and four further finalists from six European countries (Austria, The Netherlands, Finland, Great Britain, Denmark and Germany) in the presence of an international professional audience.

The European Garden Award follows a broader approach and is cross-sectional oriented. Evaluation is made by an international jury, this year: **Mariachiara Pozzana (Italy), Gunnar Ericson (Sweden), Ed Bennis (Great Britain/USA), Alan Thornley (Great Britain), Roswitha Arnold, Kerstin Abicht, Stephan Lenzen, Jens Spanjer (all Germany)**. Important criteria for the nominations of the winners and finalists are innovative concepts for implementation and management, urban development aspects, sustainability aspects, or the possibility of active participation as well as high quality of a new design and set-up, restoration or care of a park or garden.

These values are also shared by Nurseries Lorenz von Ehren in Hamburg, who have supported the European Garden Award since 2012. With their commitment they wish to contribute to substantially increase perception of outstanding parks and gardens as well as special initiatives in gardening culture throughout Europe.

For the first time the European Garden Award was awarded in four categories this year. In the categories covering contemporary and historical gardens three gardens each were awarded. In the categories for the special prizes the jury members chose one winner each from the numerous nominations.

- In the first category of “Best Development of a Historical Park or Garden“, the “Prussian Versailles“ Sanssouci in Potsdam (Brandenburg, Germany) and – as a “piece of art with many dimensions“ – Hedge House/Schloss Wijlre (Heuveland, The Netherlands) were honoured as finalists. In the Europe-wide comparison the jury ranked the awakened „Sleeping Beauty“ **Lost Gardens of Heligan** (Cornwall, Great Britain) first.

- As finalists in the second category “Contemporary Park or Garden“ both the project City Dune with its symbolic expanse of sand and snow made of concrete (Copenhagen, Denmark) and Autostadt (Wolfsburg, Germany) founded as a theme park and communication platform were awarded. For the first time a German park, **Zukunftspark Killesberg**, designed as a “green joint“ on the former Stuttgart fair grounds ranked highest at the European Garden Award.

- The “Special Award of the Schloss Dyck Foundation“ went to the garden of **ARCHE NOAH**, located in Schiltern in the valley Kamptal. (Krems/Danube, Austria) reacting to the loss of diversity of cultural plants with a vast collection of plants and seeds.

- The prize for “Spacious Green Networks and Development Concepts“ – awarded in 2014 for the first time – was won by the development concept of the **National Urban Parks** for which Finnish cities can apply at the Ministry of Environment. So far six metropolitan areas in Finland have been accepted as National Urban Parks.

“All honoured eight parks and gardens from the different European countries have qualified due to an excellent performance in the designing respectively valorising of parks and gardens or in urban and regional planning. The European Garden Network EGHN and the Schloss Dyck Foundation wish to acknowledge outstandingly innovative projects, acting as best practise for the future, by awarding this prize. By the categories both historical parks and gardens and contemporary landscape design and by the special prize of the foundation outstanding initiatives of garden art should be honoured. The fourth category focusing on spacious green concepts is new. In view of climate change adaption and requirements for cities and metropolitan regions these concepts are gaining more and more importance“, says Jens Spanjer, director of the Schloss Dyck Foundation and member of the jury.

Further information about the winners and finalists:

Category 1: “ Best Development of a Historic Park or Garden

Lost Gardens of HELIGAN (winner)

Heligan, seat of the Tremayne family for more than 400 years, is one of the most mysterious estates in England. At the end of the nineteenth century its thousand acres were at their zenith, but only a few years later bramble and ivy were already drawing a green veil over this “Sleeping Beauty”. After decades of neglect, the devastating hurricane of 1990 should have consigned the Lost Gardens of Heligan to a footnote in history.

Instead, a tiny room was discovered, buried under fallen masonry in the corner of one of the walled gardens. A motto etched into the limestone walls in barely legible pencil still reads “Don’t come here to sleep or slumber” with the names of those who worked there signed under the date – August 1914. This was the start to bring these glorious gardens back to life in every sense and to tell, for the first time, not tales of lords and ladies but of those “ordinary” people who had made these gardens great, before departing for the Great War.

The gardens include aged and colossal rhododendrons and camellias, a series of lakes fed by a more than a hundred-year-old ram pump , highly productive flower and vegetable gardens, an Italian garden, and a wild area filled with sub-tropical tree ferns called "The Jungle". The gardens also have Europe's only remaining pineapple pit, warmed by rotting manure, and two figures made from rocks and plants known as the Mud Maid and the Giant's Head.

The gardens are now leased by a company owned by their restorers, who continue to cultivate them and operate them as a visitor attraction. There is a large working team with its own vision for the third decade. The team intends Heligan to remain a living and working example of the best of past practice, with a contemporary focus on working with nature and protecting and enhancing the variety of habitats. <http://www.heligan.com/>

SANSSOUCI (finalist)

Park Sanssouci has been part of the larger World Heritage Site “Castles and Parks in Berlin and Potsdam“ since 1990. It is helpful to quote from the UNESCO literature: “Potsdam-Sanssouci – often named as “Prussian Versailles“ – acts as the manifestation of a large number of influences from Italy, England, Flanders, Paris and Dresden. Castle and park are a synthesis of art movements in European cities and at courts of the 18th century, and offer new models,

which highly influenced the development of art monuments and the organisation of room."

In 1995 the Foundation Preußische Schlösser und Gärten in Berlin-Brandenburg (Prussian Castles and Gardens in Berlin-Brandenburg) was founded to take care of Sanssouci and other former imperial palaces and parks in and around Berlin. Important restoration measures (also with respect to Sanssouci) are mentioned in a master plan, and their realisation should be finalized by 2017 with an investment of about 155 Million Euro.

Numerous events, e.g. in the literature and music segment, but also new ideas, such as After-Work guided tours, are attracting new visitors. Good communication is also vital: a visitor magazin "sans,souci" (without worries) is published four times a year and supplemented to two local daily newspapers. Marketing, communication and design of the foundation were awarded with numerous renowned prizes in the past years.

At present an innovative open-air exhibition is taking place in Park Sanssouci: "Paradiesapfel" (apple of sin). Visitors are invited to use all their senses and experience the park as a historically grown and developing synthesis of the arts. The exhibition stimulates the interest in new findings and offers insight into royal garden worlds. All in all 19 stops and some "Interventions" throughout the park invite visitors to experience the different facetes of the park – like "Cultivation", "Design" or "Pleasure".

The jury liked this mixture of World heritage and modern ideas, and agreed on Sanssouci to be one of this year's finalists. <http://www.potsdam-park-sanssouci.de/sanssouci.html>

HEDGE HOUSE (finalist)

There is a lot to tell about Hedge House and Schloss Wjilre. However, it is much better to visit this place, enjoy a hearty welcome, explore the many secrets of the place, and make very personal experiences with art.

The estate can be called a "piece of art with many dimensions" or "a synthesis of arts". It was designed by Jo and Marlies Eyck on the basis of their art collection and particular philosophy of life. The latter joins art with the wonderful environment of the castle in Wjilre. The parks of the castle became an important exhibition area – a garden and a manor in dialogue with nature. In 1999 Hedge House, a very state-of-the-art exhibition building made of concrete and glass, was built on the premisses. As a lineare exhibition area it spreads in a garden area offering views of the garden and mirroring the same on the exhibition area.

You stroll through a park in the style of an English landscape garden with winding paths, rare species of trees and modern sculptures. On the opposite

side of the castle there are some rather formally designed gardens near Hedge House. In a small piece of wood you can also discover the Land Art by Giuseppe Penone.

The future of the estate is now secured by the Bonnefanten Hedge House Foundation which is responsible for the care and development of this beautiful garden and the outstanding art collection. Do as the jury did and pay a visit to that location: The current exhibition is titled "The Mystic Gardener". <http://charlzz.com/de/wijlre/freizeit-sport-entspannung/erholsam/natur-tiere-landschaft/kasteel-wijlrehedge-house/schloss-wijlrehedge-house/>

Category 2: " Innovative contemporary concept or design of a park or garden"

ZUKUNFTSPARK KILLESBERG (winner)

Not far from the Stuttgart State Academy of Art and Design and the Weißenhof, and next to the grounds of the former Reichsgarten horticultural show, this former trade fair ground was developed as a new urban district with a focus on creative industries and housing. Much like a 'Green Joint', a large-scale extension to Killesberg Park is the green heart of the new quarter, adding new features of present-day landscape design: "Zukunftspark Killesberg".

The new park is the result of the fusion of two themes characterising Killesberg: smooth, near-natural landscape and man-made quarries as hard topographies. In terms of space, the latter theme has been implemented by superimposing enormous masses of earth onto the former quarry areas and show grounds – smoothing out irregularities – and by a new topography of lawn cushions between path systems.

This project was carried out in a participatory process of local authorities as well as citizens and neighbours providing an understanding of the design intent and a convincing basis for subsequent decisions.

Hill-shaped pads of grass, traversed by a tightly knit network of paths, make the experience of the park even more alluring. The animated topography and the lowered paths offer visitors a wide range of perspectives when sauntering through the park. As Killesberg has always been a place of trees, the new design of the parks includes empress trees, hedges of crab apples as well as old fruit tree species extending into the residential area. Thus there is a mix of local tradition and exotic aliens.

The residential houses are grouped around a garden courtyard. This courtyard is characterised by grass-covered parterres sheltered by a roof of trimmed

historic fruit tree varieties. Individual hedge bordering and pavements give each of the housing clusters its own character.

The demolition of a multi-storey car park uncovered the Rote Wand, a natural landmark of red sandstone reminding of the former use as a quarry. Traditional design purposes rooting in Romanticism have been translated into the form of a spatial invitation to a stroll through new worlds of experience of organic landscape and nature.

CITY DUNE (finalist)

An inviting and unique atmosphere was created with quite characteristic design tools for a public place and a townscape in front of a new bank building in Copenhagen.

In doing so it is obvious that the landscape architect Stig Lennart Andersson (SLA Landschaftsarchitekten) was inspired by the Danish landscape. Accordingly the concrete fields can be interpreted as sand or snow expanses protruding into a wood. Thus the name "City Dune".

The result is a sustainable urban room with unlimited access and an area of 7.300 m². It glides between the buildings like a huge sand or snow dune, achieving a spatial coherence in the design. At the same time, this urban room, located 7 meters above the surrounding areas, ensures the mobility of pedestrians and cyclists.

The moving fold structure of the concrete surface enables the highest possible reflection of the incident solar radiation, by this creating a cooler micro climate in the warm months of the year. In addition to this the planting and the 110 water sprayers the spray mist of which is diffused by the wind increase the cooling effect. As a result no rainwater runs into the sewerage or onto the streets.

Trees and herbaceous border were arranged in columns between the horizontal levels. Deciduous trees and evergreen plants were used to ensure the water exchange throughout the year and to improve the micro climate by wind resp. shielding.

Trees and planting were not arranged as a copy of nature. A new way to perceive and experience nature in a city was created. The aim is to create an urban view of nature via a design that illustrates the presence of nature as a process and, at the same time, support acclimatization and other functionally conditions.

Poetic perception and ecological awareness together created a new exemplary strategy for public places in a very urban context.

AUTOSTADT Wolfsburg (finalist)

Autostadt, a theme park and communication platform of Volkswagen AG founded in 2000 committed itself to themes and values having a basic importance for responsible business management right from the beginning. Themes like environmental protection and social responsibility have been brought together under the keyword sustainable development since 2006.

Autostadt is a landscape architecture designed by WES LandschaftsArchitektur – highly moving and full of contrasts, lively, complex, dense and artistic. The area is mainly hilly and rich in water. There are both peninsulas with hard edges and peninsulas with a smooth and soft decent into the water. A landscape capturing the single buildings wraps them and links them with each other, also creating and offering, however, unique sites for each pavillon.

The green and the colours of the plants, shrubs and hills represent soft breaks between the single architectural elements. Willows have been planted on the banks of the Mittelland Canal and plane trees and pines on the promenade. The path along the riverside lies in bright light while it is rather shadowy under the roof of the boardwalk. These contrasts of Yin and Yang, soft and hard, shadowy and sunny, male and female, form the structure of the landscape.

The promenade passes the ZeitHaus and the forum until it reaches the Piazzetta, a quiet and sunny place between the two pavillons for Porsche and Volkswagen. Visitors can relax at a pond or the well and recuperate vital energy at this place.

Each year in spring the theme park Autostadt prepares for an impressive event: the renewal of the scent tunnel by Olafur Eliasson). Then the tunnel is filled up with various flowers in more than 2000 flower pots til the beginning of autumn.

Recently new gardens were incorporated in Autostadt, one of them is called "Doing Nothing". Due to the coherent overall concept and the themes, but also, because here people are always in action, which means "Doing Something" the jury came to the mutual agreement that Autostadt should be one of the finalists. <http://www.autostadt.de/>

Category3: " Special Award of the Schloss Dyck Foundation"

ARCHE NOAH

ARCHE NOAH was established in 1990 on the initiative of heirloom - gardeners, farmers and journalists, concerned with the future of seeds and old varieties.

ARCHE NOAH responds to the loss of agro-biodiversity with a positive vision and numerous activities. This demonstrates how all of us can contribute to more diversity through cultivation of threatened varieties in the garden, through shopping awareness and political commitment. This attitude connects more than 8.000 members involved. It is to look at our cultural plants respectfully, to value gardening and farming as a cultural achievement, to consider ethically motivated consume as a contribution to organic and sustainable agriculture, to make cooking a declaration of love.

ARCHE NOAH's garden is located in the valley of the River Kamp not far from the City of Krems/Donau, in a small town called Schiltern. Visitors enter a formal baroque garden - today home to hundreds of rare cultural plants grown organically - through a beautiful wrought-iron gate. There is something for everyone at ARCHE NOAH's Garden - for gardeners, farmers, shoppers, children and those simply looking for a relaxing day out. Throughout the season, visitors can always find something new to explore in the garden. More than 30.000 visitors yearly are attracted by the beautiful garden with its huge diversity shown.

The ARCHE NOAH Seed Bank is one of Europe's biggest private collections of cultural plants, maintaining over 6.000 accessions of rare vegetables and grains - many of them are not to be found in any other places any more. The breeding, description und research on these plants are carried out in a special (organic!) breeding garden.

There are also huge collections of fruits and berries, which are partly kept in the visitor's garden, but mostly they have been "adopted" by members and are preserved in different private orchards. Furthermore the maintenance of more than 200 rare potato varieties is really hard work - all the varieties have to be planted and harvested every single year. Organic farmers from the region "Waldviertel" assist in fulfilling this task.

<http://www.naturimgarten.at/schaugaerten/waldviertel/arche-noah>

Category 4 " Spacious Green Networks and Development Concepts"

National Urban Parks (winner)

Green zones, wedges or corridors are far from new invention. But there are signs of a comeback of green zones and networks in urban planning, this time in view of multi-functionality and climate change adaptation.

In Finland, the need for more intensified land use and urban infill puts great pressure on valuable urban environments like green areas and historical quarters and can lead to short-sighted, scattered development and to loss of sense of a place.

One policy to avoid this is very successful – the National Urban Park (NUP). The initiative to be accepted as a NUP and the relevant charter come bottom-up from the city government. The Ministry of the Environment grants the charter but has also a consultative role in the application and further development processes of the NUP.

The NUP zone must fulfil the following criteria and must fit into the operative city plans: diverse environments, including urban biodiversity, cultural historical structures, scenic parks and green areas, the inclusion of the central urban core area, undisturbed and extensive green and recreation areas and interconnections with a possibility to walk from one district to another, and ecology and continuity with corridors and links to natural, rural and forest areas outside the city centre.

The National Urban Park status does not exclude development, from which land use conflicts may follow. Any major change in regard to the central values of National Urban Parks must be negotiated between the city representatives and the Ministry of the Environment.

So far the network has consisted of six NUPs with different cultural and natural landscapes, townscapes, historical characteristics, and biodiversity as well as social, recreational and other special values. The network of National Urban Parks provides the most valuable Finnish urban environments. A NUP also represents image value to the cities, which indeed is one of the key motives for their foundation. At the same time, NUPs are everyday outdoor living rooms for citizens and visitors.