

PRESS RELEASE – 4<sup>th</sup> September 2015  
Schloss Dyck Foundation

## **Four winners from Germany, France and Sweden honoured by the 6<sup>th</sup> European Garden Award**

**Four further awards awarded to Italy, Portugal and the United Kingdom. The award ceremony was held in Hamburg as part of the celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> company anniversary of Nurseries Lorenz von Ehren**

The 6<sup>th</sup> Award Ceremony of the European Garden Award by the Schloss Dyck Foundation and the European Garden Heritage Network - EGHN was held in Hamburg and marks a special occasion. As part of Nurseries Lorenz von Ehren's celebration of their 150<sup>th</sup> company anniversary, the ceremony was held on the afternoon of 4<sup>th</sup> September 2015. A day before the internationally operating, long-established company had already hosted the symposium "Green Pioneers". Nurseries Lorenz von Ehren has been supporting the European Garden Award since 2013. After all, the selection criteria for the award have also always been of great importance to the nurseries. Accordingly it were once again pioneering spirit reflecting the development of new ideas, a striking mix of tradition and modernity, and the enhancement of the quality of life through urban green initiatives that had a decisive impact on the selection of the winners and finalists. The "Special Award of the Schloss Dyck Foundation" demonstrates the jury's consideration for outstanding and innovative planting concepts.

### **International communication and co-operation**

"Since 2003, the importance of international communication and co-operation for the appreciation and sustainable support of parks and gardens as a whole, and the benefits of networking for individual partners is demonstrated by EGHN - with today more than 170 partners in 12 countries", explains Christian Grüßen, project coordinator of the European Garden Heritage Network EGHN.

So it was appropriate that, after their presentation, the four winners and four further finalists from France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Sweden and the UK had the opportunity to talk to their representatives and the other guests during the subsequent “Lorenz von Ehren Gala - Dinner“.

#### **Four categories – eight awarded parks and gardens**

This year again, the European Garden Award was awarded in four categories:

- For the first time since the establishment of the European Garden Award, Germany was the honoured winner in the category “**Best Development of a Historical Park or Garden**“. The baroque **HERRENHÄUSER GÄRTEN** in Hanover ideally combines cultivated garden art with numerous events, consequent marketing and the restored castle as an additional attraction. Both PAINSHILL PARK from Cobham, UK with its restored 18th-century Crystal Grotto and the Italian private SIGURTÀ Garden Park in Valeggio Sul Mincio, a magnet for botanists and enthusiasts of gardens and nature, were honoured as finalists.
- Besides the winner from Paris, **PARC MARTIN LUTHER KING**, re-designing a former area characterized by warehouses and stockyards into a highly attractive and ecologically oriented park, also Portugal with its ETAR de Alcântara, a garden landscape designed on the roof of a wastewater treatment plant in Lisbon, as well as Italy and its horticultural work of art, the BOSCO DELLA RAGNAIA in San Giovanni d'Asso near Siena, qualified for the final in the category “**Contemporary Park or Garden**“.
- The “**Special Award of the Schloss Dyck Foundation**“ honoured **HERMANNSHOF** in Weinheim (Germany), a privately owned public trial and show garden, for its outstanding, innovative and internationally respected planting concepts.
- This year again, the price for “**Large Scale Green Networks and Development Concepts**“ was awarded to Scandinavia, namely to „**GREEN MALMÖ**“ in Malmö, Sweden. Within the planning process its green – a positive historic heritage of the city - played a very important role for the development of the city and the change of its character. After the economic recession the city had experienced its green has brought hope and has given many inspiring solutions and outcomes. An excellent best practice showing that visions indeed can be realized!

“This year again, 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 wishes to acknowledge these outstanding projects by awarding them the Garden Award. So they will not only gain duly attention, but will be increasingly perceived publically as best practice for other projects, or may even inspire further projects“, says Jens Spanjer, director of the Schloss Dyck Foundation and member of the jury, getting to the heart of the intention of the Garden Award.

### **Further information on the European Garden Award and EGHN:**

[www.europaescherergartenpreis.eu](http://www.europaescherergartenpreis.eu)

[www.europeangardenaward.eu](http://www.europeangardenaward.eu)

[www.eghn.eu](http://www.eghn.eu)

### **Further information on the winners and finalists:**

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

#### **HERRENHÄUSER GÄRTEN**, Hanover, Germany (Winner)

An almost unchanged example of a baroque garden with a formal layout, splendid parterre, bubbling cascades and fountains, the Grosser Garten invites visitors to explore it at their leisure. "The garden is my life" - these were the words of Electress Sophia (1630 - 1714), who had the garden created from 1679 to 1714. The Grosser Garten was the setting for the glittering festivities of court society at the time, with gondola trips on the water, Venetian nights and masked balls.

During this period, Herrenhausen was home to high politics, a meeting place for science and art.

Music, dance and theatre at Herrenhausen - this tradition still lives on today. Performances in the garden theatre, concerts, festivals, performing arts on a large scale and the international fireworks competition - all of these bring sparkling life to the Grosser Garten at Herrenhausen throughout the year.

The palace, erstwhile residence of the Welf dynasty, was destroyed during the Second World War. Reconstructed as a conference centre and museum, it now forms the architectural reference point for the Herrenhäuser Gärten once again.

Both the gallery building with its frescoed ballroom and the unique historical hedge theatre are also testimony to the sparkling life at court.

The grotto designed by Niki de Saint Phalle is a fascinating modern addition. The French artist used figures, glass mosaics and pebbles to create a walk-in work of art which radiates happiness and joie de vivre.

Countless native and exotic plants thrive in the botanical garden "Berggarten" which houses, among others, one of the largest orchid collections in the world. Near-natural, landscaped and varied areas such as the prairie, the herbaceous garden and the "paradise" invite visitors to stroll and enjoy the changes throughout the garden year. Flowering magnolias and rhododendrons in spring, prairie perennials and grasses in late summer and the moor pond in winter are just some examples of the many beautiful facets of the Berggarten. A 300-year-old avenue of linden trees leads to the mausoleum of the Royal House of Hanover.

The Georgengarten, which was laid out in the 18th and 19th centuries in English-landscape style, was conceived from the outset as a park for the people. And it has remained so to this day. The lawns, pools, rare trees and lines of sight in the Georgengarten create a landscape scene for visitors to explore. The two-kilometre Herrenhäuser Allee - a four-row avenue of linden trees - once linked the Herrenhausen summer residence with the city of Hanover.

Over a few years the site almost doubled its visitor numbers thanks to a high quality of the gardens, of the shop, events and exhibitions.

<http://www.hannover.de/en/Welcome-to-Hannover/Tourism-Culture/Places-of-Interest-City-Tours/Tourist-Highlights/Royal-Gardens-of-Herrenhausen/The-Herrenhausen-Gardens>

#### PAINSHILL PARK, COBHAM, UK (Finalist)

The restoration project at Painshill landscape garden has been conducted over the past thirty years with the intention of rescuing the garden created by Charles Hamilton (1738 and 1773) which had fallen into dereliction.

One of the biggest achievements has been the restoration of the Crystal Grotto - a truly exceptional example of an 18th century grotto in its entire and original form. In March 2012, specialist craftsmen

started work on the crystal Grotto to restore the main chamber and carry out repairs to the original decoration in the entrance tunnel. The restoration of the main chamber involved the construction of a timber framework and the stalactite formations. 100s of 1000s of crystals – calcite, gypsum, red oxide, quartz and fluorite – including originals recovered from archaeological works were then skilfully embedded with lime mortar onto a framework of inverted wooden cones, to re-create the dazzling stalactite effect of the original folly. These crystals were strategically positioned as the play of light inside the chamber was of fundamental importance.

The final restoration stage was the repair of the water system which creates the marine cave illusion. The rock pools were then liberally decorated with the original corals, shells and a large South Pacific clam shell.

Restoration works also included the reinstatement of the historic Woollett Bridge. The new replica of the 18th century bridge was craned into place onto the restored original brick abutments that were discovered in 1983. The design is based on the 1760s engraving by William Woollett, which is the only known illustration of the original bridge.

The replicate of the Five Arch Bridge has been made of white concrete with Portland stone copings. The long lake vista which Hamilton created in the 18th century has been restored and the lake now flows freely under the bridge.

As a result of the Ornamental Planting Review which revisited the planting decisions over the past 30 years, some of the planting schemes have been refreshed to mirror Charles Hamilton's original vision.

[www.painshill.co.uk](http://www.painshill.co.uk)

SIGURTÀ, Valeggio Sul Mincio, Italy (Finalist)

600,000 square meters of lawns and woods, a million tulips and 30,000 roses in spring, 18 ponds and lakes, the Maze and a 400 year-old oak: these are just a few of the treasures of Sigurtà Garden Park, an oasis close to Lake Garda.

The Sigurtà Garden Park was originally (1417) a "walled wooded knoll", with the buildings that housed the aristocratic family and its servants, as well as areas used mainly for livestock breeding and

agriculture. Within the complex there was also the garden itself, where the landowners passed their leisure hours.

From 1407 to 1436 "wooded knoll" or "brolo" belonged to the Contarini family and subsequently to the Guarienti family (1436 - 1626), the Maffei (1626 - 1836), and Nuvoloni (1836 - 1929) and finally for about ten years to Maria Paulon, wife of the local doctor, Cesare Sangiovanni. That was up to April 1941, when Dottor Carlo Sigurtà, Milanese pharmaceuticals entrepreneur, bought the property. On Sunday 19 March 1978 the Park opened to the public for the first time: over the years, Doctor Sigurtà, together with the son Enzo, transformed the garden park into a magnet for botanists and enthusiasts of gardens and nature.

Today the Sigurtà family continues with a passion and commitment, with this same intent to welcome everyone to this particular Eden: it is a *modus operandi* that has brought the family great satisfaction as well as recognition.

Between March and April a million tulips, as well as muscari, hyacinths and narcissus burst naturally into flower as well as in elegant flower beds throughout the 600,000 square metres of the park. In May, 30,000 roses bring colour to the Avenue of the Roses. And then, the dahlias, the canna indicas, the water lilies, the lotus flowers and many annuals accompany visitors as the seasons unfold.

The Maze, designed by Giuseppe Inga Sigurtà in co-operation with Adrian Fisher, a famous maze specialist, took six years to develop from drawing board to completed feature: 1,500 yew trees surround a tower from which the viewer can look down on the 2,500 square metres of the Maze.

The Great Lawn is the most extensive feature of the whole park: a green expanse that is mown on alternate days; at the centre of the lawn are the flowering lakes with their many varieties of water plants, sequoias and the romantic weeping willow. 18 lakes and ponds show their summer displays of tropical and local water lilies and petal colours ranging from pale to deep pink, red to cyclamen, and white and yellow.

From the Panoramic Walk the River Mincio valley stretches out below, with the 14th century Visconti Bridge and the historic settlements of San Martino and Solferino.

<http://www.sigurta.it>

Category 2: „Contemporary Park or Garden“

**PARC MARTIN LUTHER KING**, Paris, France (Winner)

Architects: Atelier François GRETHER, Atelier Jacqueline OSTY, Omnium Ingénierie

From what were formerly warehouses and stockyards, the organizers of Parc Martin Luther King have already rebuilt 4 of over 10 hectares. The park is truly a new piece of Paris making connections between the quarters of Epinettes and Pereire, Batignolles and Boulevard Berthier, and connecting with the green spaces along the river.

The renovation project will eventually include lodging, business space, underground parking, and public transport access. The park, open for almost three years, is a favourite of residents of the Clichy-Batignolles area, already home to a charming two-hundred-year-old park and not far from Parc Monceau.

This newer green space, however, declares itself uniquely attractive. Construction priorities include emphasis on carbon usage approaching zero, solar panel and wind turbines, rain water recycling, waste management, and low-maintenance regional plants and shrubs. There are play areas for very small children and others for older kids who enjoy activities like roller-blading or basketball.

Walkways made of reconstituted waste material align with attractive ponds while rivulets display water fowl and fish. Tall wispy cattail reeds succeed at times in hiding some of the surrounding high-rises, thus engendering a feel of rustic and rural.

Care was taken to appreciate all seasons and the statistics alone bear witness: 624 trees, 5600 shrubs, 47,000 bulbs, 200 climbing plants, and 8400 m<sup>2</sup> of lawn.

In spring and summer, magnolias, cherry trees, apple trees, dogwoods, and Judas trees exude their particular scents. The effects of autumn daylight and sunsets will come into play with crimson oak trees that line several walkways.

Soon an overall feel of a forest will impress once hardwoods are planted. Water is also a major player and evinces as life source, ecological component, and support to sport and physical well-being, to say nothing of its decorative and reflective qualities. Along one artery, the biotope basin of more than 3,000 m<sup>2</sup> collects rain water to render it drinkable or to be used to nourish plants. Water jets, too, amuse and add to the playful quality of the space.

The sound of children at play on a sunny afternoon adds a quintessential feel to any city park, and on this score Parc Martin Luther King will hold its own. Here, however, the concept of renewal, reuse, and preservation poses a keen, contemporary option for those who desire a stroll, lunch break, or simply hanker to exit for a time the hubbub of everyday Paris. The central goal, to quote Paris's mayor, Bertrand Delanoë, is to emphasize the essentials of what a green space really is: a corner for nature in the heart of our city, one that is beautiful, fragile, and productive.

[www.didierfavre.com/MairieParis-ClichyBatignolles.htm](http://www.didierfavre.com/MairieParis-ClichyBatignolles.htm)

[www.evous.fr/Le-Parc-Clichy-Batignolles-Martin,1131457.html](http://www.evous.fr/Le-Parc-Clichy-Batignolles-Martin,1131457.html)

ETAR de Alcântara, Lisbon, Portugal (Finalist)

Architects : PROAP, Joao Nunes

ETAR de Alcântara includes a garden designed on the roof of a wastewater treatment plant. It is a cornerstone of the design strategy devised to reference the site's agricultural history, also functions as an important element of environmental mitigation. Reshaping the topography the design nearly concealed the Etar de Alcântara plant from the exterior. The station's planimetric and volumetric design, mostly underground, is camouflaged above by a landscape recalling former uses and creating a semblance of pre-existing countryside.

The intervention was developed as a moment of territorial reconfiguration of the Alcântara Valley where the hillside meets the station's roof garden. The restructuring between the two previously disconnected slopes towards a coherent identity relied on the integration of the water treatment station.

Further downstream, this breach was exacerbated by urban development and transformation of the western slope. The site refers to landscape regeneration and to reclaim lost continuities, both visually and ecologically.

The farming history of Alcântara Valley is reinterpreted by the reconstruction of patterned plots below the ring road on the hillside. The bioengineering of the slope's soil provides a suitable load-bearing groundcover rich in floristic and visual diversity.

This action is fundamental for the stabilisation of the hillside and, consequently, for its biological reactivation and full integration with the urban infrastructure.

The Alcântara Wastewater Treatment Plant serves more than 750 thousand inhabitants of the cities of Lisbon, Amadora and Oeiras.

[www.proap.pt/project/alcantara-wastewater-treatment-plant-2/](http://www.proap.pt/project/alcantara-wastewater-treatment-plant-2/)

BOSCO DELLA RAGNAIA, San Giovanni d'Asso, near Siena, Italy  
(Finalist)

Architect: Sheppard Craige

Is it a garden? Not in the English sense of the word, as it is not a place full of flowers. Is it a landscape? Yes, partly, but it requires more detailed, close-up attention than landscapes usually demand. It is certainly the product of a human 'interfering' with nature for the sake of meaning, and perhaps beauty, and therefore it must be a horticultural work of art.

The "Bosco della Ragnaia" is a woodland park and garden created by the American artist Sheppard Craige at San Giovanni d'Asso, a small town near Siena, Italy. Although some parts may appear ancient, the park is a contemporary work that began in 1996 and continues today.

The site is divided into two complementary parts – the shady woodland where it has been necessary to thin the trees before planting some formal hedges and adding some manufactured objects, and the open field, full of light, where Sheppard has been able to start construction and planting from scratch. In the wood, like a sculptor chipping away at a block of marble to reveal the chosen form, he has been removing the scrub so that the great evergreen oaks are revealed; in the field he has worked like a modeller, adding piece by piece.

The wood, which now seems well-established, if not finished, is set in a steep-sided valley, and as the visitor looks down, the colours, lit by the shifting light filtering through the canopy, are all green and brown – moss, evergreen hedges, fallen leaves of oaks, the fresh leaves of spring, an occasional glint of water. The descent is steep. Under tall oaks one may find many inscriptions that gather moss while waiting to be noticed by a visitor. Some will be familiar, others enigmatic, while yet others merely express Sheppard's sense of whimsy.

Notable built features include: an Altar to Scepticism, the Center of the Universe, and an Oracle of Yourself.

The Bosco does not offer a meaning, but is, on the contrary, open to all interpretations. Sheppard tells of a time long ago when the woods were ruled by sages. He repeats the sonorous question with which they concluded all their incantations: *Se Non Qui, Dove? (If Not Here, Where?)*

The mysterious woodland takes its name from the 'ragnaia', the nets in which birds were caught. The work that Sheppard has created similarly captures his visitors' imagination. Like the garden at Little Sparta, created by Ian Hamilton Finlay, (one of the great influences on this garden) this is a highly original and challenging art work.

[www.laragnaia.com/EN/](http://www.laragnaia.com/EN/)

Category 3: "Special Award of the Schloss Dyck Foundation"

**HERMANNSHOF**, a public trial and show garden, Weinheim, Germany (Winner)

Hermannshof, an estate of 2.2 ha with a manor house of classicistic style, has been used as a representative private garden for over 200 years. Many trees date back to that time, such as Sequoia, Cedrus, Platanus, Ginkgo and Myrtus.

Since 1888 a family of industrialists, the Freudenbergs, has owned the estate. In the 1920s the garden was redesigned by the landscape architect Heinrich Wiepking-Jürgensmann. As from 1979 on Hermannshof has not been used privately anymore, the landscape architects Gerda Gollwitzer and Professor W. Rossow, Munich, and Professor Richard Hansen, Weihenstephan, suggested a transformation into a public trial garden.

From 1981 until 1983 Hermannshof was newly designed and changed by the landscape architect Hans Luz, Stuttgart. Planting schemes were designed by Urs Walser, the first director of the trial garden. Finally Germany's only privately owned trial garden for perennials was opened to the public.

Today Hermannshof is a place to see successful examples of new trends in planting design, especially in naturalistic planting style. The trial garden shows plants according to their habitats in naturalistic style.

A habitat like woodland or border is characterized by special conditions of light, water and nutrient. In one habitat, plants are combined, which have the same needs. Most situations for cultivating perennials are represented by seven habitats: woodland, woodland edge, open ground, water, water edge, border, rocky steppe. These seven habitats can be found on the grounds of Hermannshof.

Furthermore, Hermannshof is a scientific institution supported by the Freudenberg Company and the city of Weinheim.

The Hermannshof team does research on the use of hardy perennials in the wine-growing climate. The garden shows about 2500 different perennials. Moreover the garden is formed by very old trees, which are partially very rare in Germany.

The research pursues three essential aims: firstly observing competition between plants depending on their cultivated conditions; secondly creating plant combinations, which are very aesthetic, because of the harmony and the contrast respectively in structure and colour; thirdly establishing permanent plant communities with low maintenance and high attraction.

[www.sichtungsgarten-hermannshof.de/](http://www.sichtungsgarten-hermannshof.de/)

Category 4: "Large Scale Green Networks and Development Concepts"

**„GREEN MALMÖ“**, Malmö, Sweden (Winner)

We just love reading good stories. Most of them are created by authors and film directors doing their utmost to please us with thrilling, romantic, sentimental and even realistic stories. But storytelling is not only created within the field of art. Another discipline which is more and more in focus for storytelling is urban planning. Of course urban planning still is about investigations and surveys, social and economic analysis, scientific reports, planning documents, master planning and strategies solving upcoming problems and realizing visions. But urban planning is also about those stories composed over time by many different competencies and responsibilities. It is about the lively and fruitful interaction between citizens and city governance.

One of the cities with such a story is Malmö in southern Sweden. Here storytelling is obviously realistic but also inspiring and fantastic: a “novel in urban and green planning” we just love to read. The name of the novel? Inhabitants name the city (and the novel) as “City of the parks” emphasizing it’s importance for daily life.

Malmö was not on anybody's lips some 25 – 30 years ago when depression and despair was its daily life. But the city did face its challenges: unemployment, bad economy, segregation, sustainability and need for climate change. Malmö did say: Our challenge can be used as a tool for necessary development and can in the end give us a more prosperous future.

A comprehensive planning process did start and is still ongoing. The city of today is a new city; it really has changed: increasing population, many new entrepreneurs, expanding academic education, many public-private partnerships and a new confidence and pride. It is almost a boost to live in Malmö today.

Within the planning process green visions and objectives have played a very important and strategic role. The green was a positive historic heritage (large old and beautiful city parks) and was now used to develop a modern up to day-feature and character of the city. But more important – developing the green has engaged and involved people themselves in the process of change. It has brought hope and has given many inspiring solutions and outcomes.

Let us tell you of some best practices in Malmö. Malmö did say that children’s environment is even more important than adult’s. A number of thematic playgrounds with different design concepts have realized children’s wishes and dreams. The overall vision, which is bringing children and their families together, has succeeded. Visits in other city districts are also an outcome –helping the breaking of social barriers.

For young people some very spectacular skating arenas and events have been a similar tool for increasing use and sharing a deeper responsibility for public spaces and parks. The skating arena “Stapelbäddsparken” was created in close co-operation with youngsters in the city and is today a venue well-known in the world-community of skaters.

The park is located in the new city district Western harbor which has been developed since 2001. This district shows us a number of very distinguished parks, squares, green roofs, playgrounds, canals and beaches. Interesting landscape architecture, quality in construction and maintenance has given the city a new valuable green structure.

Some of them are today valuable public icons - almost as important as the world-famous building "Turning Torso" by Sergio Calatrava.

Behind all projects realized and in pipeline today is a strategic work with a visionary green plan and several programs and action plans for important aspects as a tree planting, restoration of historic parks, flowering and lightning as well as for urban sports and art – mentioning some. Behind programs and action plans is of course the work by skilled planners, landscape architects and engineers. Most important is the interest and demand from the inhabitants and visions from politicians for a new and better green future. This strategic work has all together already given Malmö a number of national and international awards.

Work in Malmö is ongoing and never-ending. Just now there is focus on a new large 90 hectare park under construction at the urban fringe. Its first phase, the Millennium forest, opened last year bringing meeting places and beautiful green experiences to people living in neighbor housing areas from the sixties and seventies. Malmö – it represents great visions, strategic objectives and skilled staff working hand in hand. Malmö is a best practice showing that visions indeed can be realized!

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