

PRESS RELEASE – 09. September 2016
Schloss Dyck Foundation

7th European Garden Award EGHN goes to four winners from Germany, England, and Ireland

Four 2nd Prizes go to Scotland, Spain, Sweden, and Germany. The ceremony took place in Schloss Dyck with the participation of the Minister of Interior of the Republic of Austria, Wolfgang Sobotka, and the North Rhine-Westphalian Minister for Federal Affairs, Europe, and Media and Head of the State Chancellery Franz-Josef Lersch-Mense.

The seventh ceremony for the European Garden Award from the Schloss Dyck Foundation and the European Garden Heritage Network EGHN took place with about 120 invited guests in the Schloss Dyck grand ballroom on the afternoon of September 9, 2016.

A total of 57 nominations were presented to the international jury. The choice of the three winners in the category "Historical Parks" clearly shows the effort and creativity needed to eliminate unwanted usage traces and thus to make the original aesthetics and diversity perceptible again and to integrate new qualities and uses sustainably.

The three selected winners in the category "Contemporary Gardens and Parks" create new quality of life and urban connections, allow the first use of a site, or bring the historical usages and history of a place back to life. The winner of the category "Large-scale Green Concepts" shows how to give a city or region a better image and increase growth potential.

This year, the international expert jury focused its attention for the Schloss Dyck Foundation's Special Award in particular on outstanding and innovative kitchen gardens.

Also this year, the nursery Lorenz von Ehren (Hamburg) is again supporting the European Garden Award. It also aims to honour the value and uniqueness of design ideas, plans, and solutions, for which

the safe and impressive implementation of "green product" is highly important.

"Every year we are thrilled by the many great parks and gardens that are nominated for the European Garden Award. But we also note that many do not receive the attention and appreciation they deserve. There was a television series about the Nobel Prize winner "The Silent Stars". This is how I also see many of the nominated and awarded parks and gardens. With the garden award we are succeeding more and more - as with the European Garden Heritage Network in general - to make a difference and increase public interest," explains Christian Gruessen, Project Coordinator of the European Garden Heritage Network EGHN.

It is also important to communicate with each other. It is therefore fitting that after the presentation of the winners from Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, Sweden, and Spain their representatives were given the opportunity to talk amongst themselves and with other guests at the subsequent reception and tour of the light show "illumina Schloss Dyck".

Four categories - eight winning parks and gardens

The European Garden Award was again presented in four categories this year:

- In the category "Best development of a historic park or garden", a park in the UK has again been awarded first prize this year in this category with **HESTERCOMBE GARDENS**. While the formal gardens were restored in the 1970s - one of the first garden restoration projects in the UK - the famous landscape park with its numerous temples, waterfall etc. owes its rebirth in particular to the commitment of one man: Philip White. Today, Hestercombe Gardens is also the site of numerous art exhibitions and events. **SCHLOSSPARK LUDWIGSLUST** in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern took second prize for the exemplary restoration of the park and its buildings as well as the **ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN EDINBURGH** for the quality of its collections, its pedagogical and social involvement, and the "return" of a building rich in tradition.

- In addition to the first prize winner in the category "Contemporary park or garden" the park of **KLOSTER LORSCH**, with which earlier uses are experienced again and relationships with the surrounding cultural landscape are made clear in this UNESCO World Heritage Site, second prize was taken by **STADSPARKEN SKELLEFTEÅ** (Sweden) connecting the older and the modern elements and thus creating an attractive link between the city centre and the adjacent riverside

and by **ATLANTIC PARK** in Santander, Spain, which offers multi-level space for various uses and nature and is the core of urban expansion.

- The "Schloss Dyck Foundation Special Award" - this year for kitchen gardens - went to the **BALLYMALOE COOKERY SCHOOL** in Ireland. The jury was not only impressed by the variety of the fruit, vegetable, and herb gardens, which are organically farmed and contain many old varieties, but also by their integration into many other attractive garden rooms and in particular the direct use of crops in the cooking school with its holistic course offers which is increasingly gaining international reputation.

- The first prize for "Large-scale green networks and development concepts" went - after the first two winners from Scandinavia - to North Rhine-Westphalia this year. According to the jury, it is clearly due to EMSCHER LANDSCAPE PARK that the Emscher region and even the entire Ruhr region have undergone such a successful, structural change since the late 1980s. The Emscher Landscape Park is now a park for 5.3 million inhabitants, the adventure destination of international culture, provides new gardens in an urban landscape, and wild beauty the nature industry as well as sports and games on approximately 450 square kilometres. It is a much studied test case for similar development processes throughout Europe.

"It's good to see that the awards are used by many gardens intensively in their marketing activities and also help to obtain the necessary support for the development of a park or for new projects in a garden. The Herrnhäuser Gärten as the winner and Park Sigurtà as the finalist from last year are the best evidence of this. But previously, Egeskov in Denmark, Monserrate in Portugal, and Trentham Gardens in England have also used their awards very intensively and long-term", notes Jens Spanjer, Director of the Schloss Dyck Foundation and member of the jury, another important effect of the garden award.

Further information on the European Garden Award and EGHN

www.europaischergartenpreis.eu

www.europeangardenaward.eu

www.eghn.eu

Links to photographs:

Showing the awarded parks and gardens: <http://cms.eghn.org/ega2016p1>

Taken at the ceremony: (available 12.09.): <http://cms.eghn.org/ega2016p2>

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