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PRESS RELEASE
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European Garden Award 2018/2019 | AWARDING HERITAGE

On September 7, 2018, this year's winners of the European Garden Award were presented in Schloss Nordkirchen. As a contribution to the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018 additional awards for cultural landscapes and for garden heritage have been handed out. The five 1st Prizes went to Greece and two each to Great Britain and Germany:

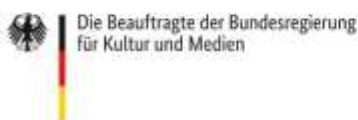
The Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew and Wakehurst, near London, won the new award for "Europe's heritage of gardens and gardening" thanks to many years of excellence in botany and gardening.

The other new award focusses on "Best development of a cultural landscape of European relevance". Here, the Lusatian Lakeland (Lausitzer Seenland) and the Spreewald Biosphere Reserve jointly secured the 1st Prize, as the jury wanted to support the co-operative development of this neighbouring and yet so different cultural landscapes.

Broughton Grange was honoured with the 1st Prize in the category "Best development of a historic park or garden" for the bold addition of a modern reinterpretation of a kitchen garden to a historic garden. After more than 15 years, this new garden design is more and more convincing and is now an essential element of Broughton Grange and its dialogue with the Oxfordshire countryside.

The 1st Prize for "Large-scale green networks or concepts", acknowledged 100 years of work on the pioneering green belts in Cologne and their consistent extension, namely the completion of the inner green belt by the future Parkstadt Süd with its innovative open space concept.

Finally, for the first time, a prize was awarded to Greece. The Stavros Niarchos Park in Athens, which surrounds the new cultural centre as a Mediterranean garden and partly serves as its green roof, has been awarded as the best contemporary park.



(Press release: European Garden Award 2018 | page 2)

In addition, eight 2nd Prizes were awarded in Nordkirchen:

In the category "Europe's Heritage of Gardens and Gardening" to:

Giardino di Ninfa (Italy)

Tirsbæk Manor (Denmark)

In the category "Best Development of a Cultural Landscape of European Relevance" to:

Krajiinski park Ljubljansko barje (Slovenia)

Mihai Eminescu Trust (Romania)

In the category "Best Development of a Historic Park or Garden" to:

Adare Manor Estate (Ireland)

Kasteeltuinen Arcen (Netherlands)

In the category "Innovative Contemporary Concept or Design of a park or garden" to:

Bartokpark (Netherlands)

Pancras Square (United Kingdom).

Information on all winners can be found in the attachment of this press release and on www.europeangardenaward.eu (including some press photos).

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THE EUROPEAN GARDEN AWARD AND THE EUROPEAN YEAR OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

The European Garden Award was started by the European Garden Heritage Network EGHN in 2010. Immediately the award became an important element in the work of the EGHN, which was founded in 2003 with the aim to strengthen public awareness for Europe's garden heritage and contemporary gardening and to promote international cooperation. 190 parks and gardens in 14 countries joined the network as partners to support these objectives.

As a contribution to the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018 and thanks to the support given to the project AWARDING HERITAGE by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media and by the two regional associations in North Rhine-Westphalia (LVR and LWL), two new categories have been added to the European Garden Award:

- Best development of a cultural landscape of European relevance
- Europe's heritage of gardens and gardening.

Until 2017 the European Garden Award, which is supported by Lorenz von Ehren Nurseries since 2012, was given to a total of 67 winners from 14 countries and in four categories:

- Best restoration or development of a historic park or garden
- Innovative concept or design of a contemporary park
- Special Award of the Schloss Dyck Foundation
- Large scale green concept or network.

Anyone who delves into the details of the excellent parks, gardens and cultural landscapes and into their history, notes that sharing ideas and expertise across Europe always contributed to quality and diversity – as denoted in the theme of the European Year of Cultural Heritage: SHARING HERITAGE.

Finally, it becomes clear that these special places, created by man with nature or sometimes in the fight against nature, tell their beauty and exceptional values without many words and without borders.

JURY MEMBERS EUROPEAN GARDEN AWARD 2018/2019:

Kerstin Abicht (Germany), Roswitha Arnold (Germany), Ed Bennis (United Kingdom), Gunnar Ericson (Sweden), Jacob Fischer (Denmark), Davorin Gazvoda (Slovenia), Stephan Lenzen (Germany), Brigitte Mang (Germany), Nuno Oliveira (Portugal), Mariachiara Pozzana (Italy), Alan Thornley (United Kingdom), Lieneke Van Campen (Netherlands), Michael Walker (United Kingdom), Udo Woltering (Germany)

ATTACHMENT – PRESS RELEASE EUROPEAN GARDEN AWARD 2018 / 2019

INFORMATION ON ALL WINNERS (in alphabetic order):

ADARE MANOR (Ireland)

The natural, built and heritage assets of Adare Manor Estate provide several contrasting landscape typologies. Recent developments significantly improved the character and restored key views.

The arboretum as a heritage feature has been supplemented with new trees. The 'white' Ballroom Garden is bursting with flowering plants set amongst an evergreen structure. Spring bulbs are followed by drifts of herbaceous plants, contrasted by sculptural topiary cones and columns. The Secret Garden is shaped by neat hedging and pleached *Carpinus betulus* trees and bordered by shade-loving plants. The River Walk has been enhanced with seating in hedged and planted niches.

The Formal Garden with its ornate parterre was restored using *Taxus baccata* to create decorative patterns referencing the original layout. Six topiary cones measuring 5m in height frame the view. Below are 32 smaller cones to create a dynamic composition. The western side of the garden is defined by *Fagus sylvatica*, hedging and sculpted topiary archways.

BIOSPÄRENRESERVAT SPREEWALD (Germany)

The Spreewald is a unique landscape in Central Europe. After the last ice age, the Spree divided into a network of rivers that meandered through the jungle. The charm of today's Spreewald lies in its park-like landscape with a mosaic of meadows, fields, woods and the network of rivers and canals.

The Spreewald is a man-made, yet largely natural landscape and habitat of a rich flora and fauna. In 1990, the Spreewald was declared a biosphere reserve. In 1991, it was granted UNESCO status, which included the obligation to develop this historically grown cultural landscape in a sustainable way. Today the biosphere reserve is often considered as a best practice for sustainable development, based on certified regional products, on the use of regenerative energies and on the revitalization of valuable habitats. Preserving the unique nature and – at the same time - developing it as a tourist experience is a task that is supported by all stakeholders responsible for the Spreewald Biosphere Reserve and by the citizens.

BARTOKPARK (The Netherlands)

In March 2012, after the developments of the BK40 complex and the demolition of the Bartok Hall some years before, this square in Arnhem was a thorn in the eyes of entrepreneurs and local residents. The Departement Tijdelijke Ordening (DTO), however, together with BUROHARRO designed the Bartokpark, a mini piece of Veluwe - the famous heath just outside Arnhem. This pop-up park was realized within 3 months.

At the end of 2012, artist Florentijn Hofman, searching a place for a monument donated by Burgers Zoo, fell in love with the place of sloping heathland. After a first reticent response from client and municipality, everyone became enthusiastic. Indeed, the park was even enlarged, and since July 2013 the party aardvark can now nestle in the landscape.

House owners and organisation around the square now recognize the potential of the park and turn their former back doors into inviting front doors. Thus, with the arrival of the Bartokpark the latently present qualities of the area were awakened and the whole now exceeds the sum of the parts.

BROUGHTON GRANGE (United Kingdom)

The gardens of Broughton Grange are beautifully set in 350 acres of parkland, farmland and open meadow, with planting that owes its origins to the Victorian era. The gardens include the Knot Garden, the Long Borders, the Yew Terrace and others. The recent gardens' development started in the late 1990s and accelerated in 2001, when Tom Stuart-Smith was commissioned to transform a south facing field into a walled garden. Already now the garden, full of flowers and vegetables, appears to have been here for decades.

Three south-facing terraces were created, which share some features, but have their individual character. Although the garden has a formal structure it was conceived in relation to the Oxfordshire landscape.

From 2003 onwards, a significant arboretum has been planted, including a wide range of interesting species and cultivars. Overall, this diverse and interesting horticultural collection shows all the potential for being a garden of much significance in the future.

GIARDINO DI NINFA (Italy)

The town of Ninfa has a Roman origin and was built close to a spring. Of the abandoned medieval town remained a double wall and the ruins of a castle, churches, municipal buildings and private dwellings.

Gelasio Caetani and his English mother, in the 1920s, started the creation of a garden at Ninfa, using the potential of a site completely covered by a mantle of vegetation. But Lelia Caetani remains the true artisan of the garden and in her time Ninfa took on the romantic character we know today. Her gardening approach was inspired by her talents as a painter, selecting plants in the landscape as if at work on a canvas. In 1977 ownership passed to the Roffredo Caetani Foundation.

Ninfa comprises the medieval ruined town, the English-style romantic garden, the 17th-century Hortus Conclusus, a river and a lake. Ninfa hosts a renowned plant collection and the early-flowering ornamental cherries blossom spectacularly. Many rose varieties grow along the avenues, trees, ruins, and the river. Wild flowers are much in evidence, such as anemones, cyclamen, marguerites, and primulas.

KASTEELTUINEN ARCEN (The Netherlands)

Arcen Castle dates back from the 17th century. The original garden had a division of sixteen rectangles. Ten of these areas, each with a different theme, were reinstated. The rosarium, surrounded by a pergola, includes more than 250 species and many perennials and shrubs.

There is also a lovely woodland garden with blooming azaleas, violets, fritillaria and astilbes. Little streams and waterfalls flow beneath blooming cherry trees. Visitors are also attracted by the Asian gardens with a Thai fishing hut and miniature rice field terraces or the rhododendron garden.

In the water and sculpture garden seven ponds at different levels function as mirrors reflecting monumental trees, the art objects and the sky.

Kasteeltuinen Arcen, now owned by the foundation Het Limburgs Landschap is a charming ensemble offering a wide range of experiences, inspiration and relaxation, but also various events that have found an increasing and enthusiastic clientele over the years.

KEW GARDENS (United Kingdom)

Being a historical site, it is fascinating how Kew Gardens during its 250 years of existence is open to society and was never satisfied to work only in preserving the attractiveness of the site and its collections, but instead opened its vision and knowledge to a world of knowledge and science.

The collections are curated to excellent standards and used for benefit of humankind (especially in combination with the Millennium Seed Bank at Wakehurst). The gardens at Kew are not only beautiful, but also show the historical and contemporary interaction of the natural and built landscapes with the botanical science conducted within them.

Sharing knowledge and providing high quality education programmes for school groups, apprentices, higher and further education students, professionals, and keen amateurs alike has been proved to be one of the best ways to guarantee a striving future for the site and nature conservation.

Kew is truly an inspiration for those who work in heritage conservation and gardening as well as for all gardeners and garden lovers.

KRAJINSKI PARK LJUBLJANSKO BARJE (Slovenia)

Ljubljansko Barje, an almost 160 square kilometres large plain, originated two million years ago through the sinking of the Ljubljana basin. Consequently, rivers deposited shingle and sediments, virtually damming the Ljubljanica river and inundating the entire Barje basin. Some 6,000 years ago, the Barje lake dried up, leaving a marshy plain. Layers of peat were formed, in places even up to 9 metres thick.

With the peat almost gone, the Barje is still a rich cultural landscape of traditional character as the high groundwater level and regular floods prevent intensive farming and reduce its economic efficiency. Today, the Barje is an endless mosaic of grasslands, small woodlands, fields, ditches and hedges. The interlacement of all these diverse habitats is home to numerous plants and animals that can rarely be seen elsewhere in Slovenia and Europe.

The founding of Krajinski Park Ljubljansko barje nature park and its successful management thus present a direct implementation of the EU nature-conservancy requirements (NATURA 2000).

LAUSITZER SEENLAND (Germany)

From 2000 to 2010, the IBA Fürst-Pückler-Land in Lusatia (Brandenburg) rectified a landscape in which more than 150 years of mining of lignite left their marks and changed the landscape. Creative processes helped realizing innovative uses for large-scale industrial areas, industrial buildings and other "remains" of the industrial past. The IBA has moved mountains and created new lakes.

Since the IBA, the Lausitzer Seenland e.V. continues the development of the diverse and multifunctional landscape with an emphasis on "being made by man" and requesting highest quality of use and design as well as the pursuit of the unusual. The "Lusatia Charter" serves as the base and as a model for dealing with former mining landscapes.

In the Lausitzer Seenland (Lusatian Lakeland) flora and fauna are winners of the transformation process too. Existing valuable environments have been protected and new habitats have been developed. Today, biodiversity in Lusatia is scientifically documented and at the same time a core element in the sustainable development process of this surprising cultural landscape.

MIHAI EMINESCU TRUST (Romania)

Transylvania can be considered as a visual record of rural Europe with all its ancient richness and beauty intact. It offers more than just a panorama of evocative architecture and magnificent churches or a survival of the harmony between man and nature or traditional farming. Its secret lies in the outcome of successful settlement and in the visible result of routines maintained over centuries, in which men and women had shaped the earth to themselves and themselves to the earth.

The core concept of the Mihai Eminescu Trust (MET), is The Whole Village Project – a program of sustainable rural development.

The Whole Village Project is created by its people and made to last the passing of time. A whole village is a bee's nest where each has a specific task. The survival and healthy evolution of the nest is the result of everybody working together. To date the MET has completed 1,228 large and small projects in different intervention fields, in 111 villages and 5 towns.

PANCRAS SQUARE (United Kingdom)

Close to London's St Pancras Station, Pancras Square forms part of the 72-acre King's Cross redevelopment with over 40% of public open space. Pancras Square, a 4.000 sqm 'outdoor room', has a strong sense of place inspired by the atmosphere of a continental town square with areas of lawn, lush planting and a cascading water feature.

Marked by a majestic Pin Oak tree, the layout accommodates spaces and routes that allow a range of activities for all users, as well as providing attractive access to building entrances, and inclusive, useable sub-spaces for relaxing.

As a centre piece to the square, a water feature gently cascades downhill emphasizing the change in level and providing sound and movement. A variety of tree species introduces scale and filters views. Combined with hedges, planting and lawns this green environment provides subtle and regular displays of colour at different times of the year as well as evergreen structure.

PARKSTADT SÜD (Germany)

Parkstadt Süd is Cologne's largest urban development project. South of the railway ring, the Inner Green Belt will finally be completed towards the Rhine, creating new quarters for living and working.

In Cologne – as in many other bigger cities - the development of the public green spaces faces challenges resulting from climate change and urban growth. In this context, it is indispensable to

support the connection of open spaces. Traditional green areas are of immense importance in this green network. And in Cologne the unique system of the Green Belts (Grüngürtel), dating from 1923, is certainly the key element of the entire urban fabric. With the upcoming conversion of brownfields into Parkstadt Süd, there is the historic chance of extending the inner green belt.

In a cooperative process of negotiations and workshops, planning teams, the citizens, experts and politicians jointly sketched the concept of Parkstadt Süd in the year 2015. The concept and the first designs and plans incorporate the style of the historic green belt and respond to new requirements such as integrated rainwater management and climate change adaptation measures.

STAVROS NIARCHOS PARK (Greece)

The new National Library of Greece and the Greek National Opera House are sited in the Stavros Niarchos Park in Athens by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation. This 17-hectare ensemble is located on an abandoned seafront piece of land - a parking lot left over from the 2004 Olympic Games. The park restores connections between the city and the sea and has quickly been accepted as a green space for the enjoyment by Athenians and visitors.

Diane Nevins, landscape architect, used many indigenous Mediterranean plants to give the sense of being in a Greek landscape. From the Mediterranean Garden curving landscaped pathways wend their way up a gentle grade to a summit 32 m high. This forms the green roof of the opera and library, one of the largest in Europe and significantly reducing air conditioning requirements. The summit offers spectacular views of the sea, the Acropolis, and the cultural and educational park below, as well as of the Agora, the central plaza for cultural and educational events, and the 900 sqm glass-walled Reading Room.

TIRSBÆK MANOR (Denmark)

The garden of Tirsbæk is particularly special as its history leads back to the Renaissance, which is only the case for quite a few manor houses in Denmark.

The main building is separated from the garden by a moat. There were only few remain of the original garden, and there was insufficient evidence for a proper reconstruction. Instead, the focus was on adding garden elements in a contemporary language that can refer to and create images of the Renaissance garden.

In the ornamental garden straight paths subdivide the area. Four smaller gardens are built symmetrically around the main axis and frame a new fountain. Two of the rooms make up a private garden and a kitchen garden. In the orchard 300 apple trees are distributed on both sides of the hedge-crowned main axis. The wall around the garden has been restored where it was collapsed. Terraces adding additional levels to the garden have been emphasized and made accessible, offering perfect views.

Tirsbæk has been given a new identity enveloped in the spirit of the original garden.

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