

European Garden Award 2019/2020

Winner of the Special Award of the Schloss Dyck Foundation

Domain Chaumont sur-Loire,

Laudation by Jens Spanjer,

Board of the Stiftung Schloss Dyck and member of the jury European Garden Award 2019/2020

The Domaine Chaumont-sur-Loire Located is located in the Loire Valley, an UNESCO world heritage site for its cultural landscape.

Since its acquisition by the Centre Region in 2007 during the transfer of State heritage to regional authorities, the Domain of Chaumont-sur-Loire has developed very well, both in terms of the increase in visitor numbers and the growth in its national and international reputation.

The site has three artistic facets: the historical château and its park, the contemporary artworks of the Centre for Arts and Nature and the famous International Garden Festival.

This three-fold identity – heritage, art and gardens – makes the Domain of Chaumont-sur-Loire a unique place to visit. Chaumont considered it to be the largest indoor and outdoor art centre in France and has received a number of certifications including: including 3 Michelin stars as a cultural event.

Château Chaumont-sur Loire is certainly one of the most beautiful Châteaux in the Loire Valley. In the 16th century it was the property of Queen Catherine de Médicis, and at the end of the 19th century of the Princess de Broglie. Today the Château is furnished and decorated in the spirit of the late 19th century. In the late 19th century the landscape architect Henri Duchêne, transformed the site in an "English-style" landscape garden. His composition created eight perspectives, five of them converging on the entrance to the château, with evergreens ensuring that their layouts and the shapes would be preserved in wintertime. The various tree species were chosen to create harmonious tableaux of colours. The current maintenance in combination with creatively changed plantings in the park is outstanding

The Centre of Arts and Nature is a natural space dedicated to creation, poetry and nature, where art dialogues with the memory of the site. Initiated in 2008, visitors can enjoy a cross-cutting exhibition designed by a living artist of international renown.

The third theme was an important one for the nomination within the European Garden Award. Since 1992, the International Garden Festival has been providing a unique panorama for contemporary gardens and landscape design all over the world. At the same time, the Festival is a source of ideas and gains the interest of both the public and those in the trade by displaying new flower arrangements, new materials, new ideas and new approaches.

The diversity and the high quality of the projects have contributed to the Festival's international reputation, which has become an indisputable meeting place for displaying the work of a new generation of landscape architects.

In 2014 the European Garden Heritage Network commissioned, in the context of the project Hybrid Parks, a case study about garden festivals in Europe. Prof. Ed Bennis from the University of Manchester and today member of the Garden Award jury has

compared 13 garden festivals in Europe. The Giardina in Zürich, the Hampton Court Flower Show and the Chelsea Flower Show in London were included. One conclusion by Ed Bennis was, "the Garden Festival in Chaumont can be considered as more adventurous and avant-garde compared to most other shows in Europe".

I have visited Chaumont several times in the last 15 years. Last year as part of an excursion with the French Ministry of Culture within the project Rendez-vous aux jardins. We developed a successful cooperation for a Rendez-vous aux jardins in Germany. In addition to that, I was very impressed by the successful development and the outstanding concept of the Domaine Chaumont-sur-Loire.

Chaumont receives the Special Award of the Schloss Dyck Foundation in our anniversary year of the park and the foundation in Schloss Dyck. This fits with the French roots of our landscape garden and is in line with the ideas of current developments of our foundation Schloss Dyck. That is why we are pleased that Chaumont accepts the special award of the Schloss Dyck foundation.

Congratulations to the 1st Prize of the European Garden Award. I am very pleased, that the director of the Domaine Chaumont-sur-Loire,

Mrs. Chantal Collet-Dumond is with us to accept the award. Please give her a warm welcome.