Cultural heritage in our cities, villages and landscapes is European: it changes us. It connects us. The European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018 raised the awareness of this rich heritage and showed a willingness to preserve it – understood as discovering common roots, not just preserving the familiar. In Germany alone, there were more than 400 projects with 1,500 events and more than 100,000 visitors. A success that is to be continued.

The Schloss Dyck Foundation and the European Garden Heritage Network EGHN were able, thanks to support given by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media for the AWARDING HERITAGE project, to expand the European Garden Award by two categories, to enhance its presentation and to organise additional events.

On 4 June 2018, international good practice examples for the conservation and development of large historical parks were on the agenda at Schloss Branitz. On 6 September 2019, the diversity of the garden heritage was shown and discussed at Schloss Dyck thanks to the lectures given by seven winners of the garden award. On 7 September 2018 at Schloss Nordkirchen, the focus was on European cultural landscapes, including lectures by the award winners in this new category. And on 13 May 2019 in Bad Homburg international experts had a fruitful exchange on cultural landscapes: how to develop their values, how to increase appreciation and how to create sustainable economic benefits.
The European Garden Award was started by the European Garden Heritage Network EGHN in 2010 and is supported by Lorenz von Ehren Nurseries since 2012. 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. More than 190 parks and gardens in 14 countries joined the network as partners to support these objectives.

Until 2019 93 winners from 15 countries were awarded. Since 2010 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.

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, two new categories have been added:
- Best development of a cultural landscape of European relevance
- Europe’s heritage of gardens and gardening.

This support also allows presenting the winners of the European Garden Award in a publication for the second time now.

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 German 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 2019/2020:**
Kerstin Abicht (Germany), Roswitha Arnold (Germany), Ed Bennis (UK), Gunnar Ericson (Sweden), Jacob Fischer (Denmark), Davorin Gazvoda (Slovenia), Stephan Lenzen (Germany), Brigitte Mang (Germany), Nuno Oliveira (Portugal), Jens Spanjer (Germany), Alan Thornley (UK), Lieneke van Campen (Netherlands), Michael Walker (UK), Udo Woltering (Germany)
WINNERS BEST DEVELOPMENT OF A CULTURAL LANDSCAPE OF EUROPEAN RELEVANCE

ILHA DO PICO (AZORES/PORTUGAL)

Pico Island is one of nine volcanic islands in the Azores Archipelago. Listed by UNESCO, Pico’s landscape is an outstanding example of the adaptation of farming practices to a challenging environment. The island contains spectacular evidence of grape-growing and winemaking, with an imposing pattern of orderly, long, linear walls running inland from, and parallel to, the rocky coastline. The stone walls form thousands of small, rectangular plots to protect vines from wind and salt spray. This landscape including the specific buildings (manor houses, wine cellars, warehouses, conventional houses, and churches), pathways and wells, ports and ramps, was produced by generations of farmers.

Begun in the 15th century, wine production on Pico Island reached its peak in the 19th century and then declined due to plant disease and desertification. In the last years incentives for winemaking and good landscape management were set up. These actions safeguard geodiversity, biodiversity and cultural heritage and promote an integrated architecture. By promoting the rehabilitation of vineyards and the traditional production system, the production area and the quality of the wine increases. Nature tourism and wine tourism developed through the creation of accommodations, restaurants and services.

Thus, the trend of the abandonment of a landscape was reversed into a living landscape, functioning as the driving force of the local economy.
2ND PRIZE: MØNSTED KALKGRUBER (DENMARK)

This limestone mine – the largest in the world – is an important part of the Danish cultural heritage. It has been used for lime mining between 1874 and 1980 and then for storing cheese. In 1997 the Danish Nature Agency acquired the limestone caves of Mønsted and initiated the protection and reopening of the caves. Now it is made available to everyone and the museum conveys many stories.

It is an underground landscape, but with substantial traces in the landscape too.

There are more than 60 kilometres of underground paths, some as large as cathedrals and others extremely narrow. The main path gives direct access to the oldest cave system. Further down is “Nonbos Cave” where people worked around 1840. From this cave paths lead to the deepest areas with two lakes. Across the largest lake a multi-media show tells the history of the caves by projections on the walls and waters.

In the landscape above the caves, the mining has left characteristic surfaces and vegetation. At some places sink holes have developed as the result of soil breaking through tunnel holes, or higher situated tunnels having collapsed causing material to fall down.

The limestone caves are also inhabited by more than 18,000 bats during winter, which is one of the largest populations of bats in Europe.
2ND PRIZE: ARNSIDE & SILVERDALE (GREAT BRITAIN)

Designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), Arnside & Silverdale is bordered by the Morecombe Bay, the Irish Sea and the Lake District. It is a rolling landscape with scattered historic farming patterns and an overlay of mid-19th century coastal and inland villages. Many villas take advantage of the sea views and the River Kent estuary. There was little development until the mid-19th century when the railways connected the area to Manchester, Preston, Crewe and Glasgow.

Its distinctive limestone geology has led to some unique developments up to the early 20th century. Limestone had been removed and used as ornamental features in the landscape and in the villas and gardens of northern industrialists. These gardens retain many of the features such as terraces, walks and viewing points although many are under threat.

One estate includes a rare post-war garden by Ralph Hancock, who designed roof gardens at Rockefeller Center and CBS Television Center in New York, and in Kensington/London.

As an AONB, the area is quite unique as the management covers more than the natural landscape. Research to promote the cultural landscape was commissioned and restoration projects were implemented, deeply supported by volunteers.
The Royal Horticultural Society was founded in 1804. Its core objective was and is to be the world’s leading gardening charity by inspiring passion and excellence in the science, art and practice of horticulture. The guiding principles are summarized as “inspire”, “involve”, “inform” and “improve”.

There are five historic gardens owned and operated by the RHS across England: Wisley, Harlow Carr, Rosemoor, Hyde Hall and Bridgewater, due to open in 2020.

These five gardens are the RHS’s key resource for achieving its objectives. They are extremely attractive, diverse and informative. They also need to be understood within the idea of group value and in conjunction with the overall activities of the RHS.
The 1st Prize in the category “Europe’s Heritage of Gardens and Gardening” reflects all this, but in particular the diversity of activities in terms of education, but specifically towards children. Each garden has events, workshops and courses as well as specific activities for children.

The newest garden, RHS Bridgewater, will have dedicated classrooms for children and adults and an exclusive feature, a community garden for local people. This will provide space, encouragement and training in an area that is economically deprived.
2ND PRIZE: MERIAN GÄRTEN (SWITZERLAND)

The Merian Gardens in Basel exist in their present form since 2012. They are an amalgamation of the agricultural Bruglingerhof founded in 1824, the Botanical Gardens built since 1968 and the new gardens laid out as part of the ‘Grun 80’ horticultural exhibition. The Merian Gardens are run by the Christoph Merian Foundation and have a wide circle of sponsors, patrons and active friends.

As a botanical garden, the Merian Gardens understand ‘education’ as part of their social responsibility. They intensively promote the relationship with nature by providing visitors with experiences that have a lasting effect on them. There is a special focus on nature education for children and young people. The aim is to promote appreciation for the beauty of nature and the development of sensitivity and respect for nature.

“School & Agriculture” was started in 1994 and was very successful from the beginning. The focus is on working and learning on agricultural land. Each class cultivates gardens and fields and cares for animals over a longer period, observes growth and processes the harvest. In this way the children learn where food comes from and how to use natural resources responsibly. Every year, around 600 children take part in this programme that is unique in Switzerland.

WWW.MERIANGAERTEN.CH
2ND PRIZE: GÄRTEN DER WELT (GERMANY)

Gardens of the World offers unique opportunities to experience a range of garden styles from different eras and different parts of the world. Every culture on earth regards the garden as a place of peace, beauty and happiness.

Eleven themed gardens allow a journey around the world to Bali, Japan, China, Korea, the Orient and Europe. In addition, the themed gardens are enriched by the water gardens of the “Promenade Aquatica”, the rose garden and the rhododendron grove.

The Gardens of the World site was extended to more than twice its previous size for the International Garden Exhibition IGA Berlin 2017. Nine smaller gardens were created from Australia, Brazil, Chile, China, Germany, Great Britain, the Lebanon and South Africa. Some are inspired by centuries-old traditions such as the Australian Aboriginal practice of fire-stick farming or the 16th century Chinese garden. Others use the techniques of modern landscape design to tell stories of mythical figures, such as the fire god Vulcan, or sunken Lebanese gardens. Iconic features from the islands of Thailand and the Chilean Andes are borrowed to create atmospheric new landscapes, while other exhibits draw upon issues such as social and environmental change in Brazil, the USA and Africa.
WINNERS DEVELOPMENT OF A HISTORIC PARK

JARDINS D’ÉTRETAT (FRANCE)

Inspired by Claude Monet, the renowned Belle Époque actress Madame Thébault decided to create her dream garden in 1903, assisted by local landscape gardener Auguste Lecanu. The main terrace of Les Jardins d’Étretat sits on the famous cliff d’Amont. Claude Monet spent many hours here working on a series of paintings.

Alexandre Grivko re-conceptualised and restructured the gardens in 2015. The historical plant collection was restored, the garden enriched with new imagery and its boundaries expanded creating a harmonious coexistence of the historical garden with contemporary ideas.

The garden is a laboratory for plant nursing and sculptural plant trimming. The shapes of the plant compositions reflect the nature of Normandy, such as the waves of the English Channel, oyster farms and the rock formations and arches of the Alabaster coast.
Les Jardins d’Étretat is an open-air museum of contemporary art. The unusual combination of trimmed plants and modern sculptures lends the gardens their tone, as well as a striking sense of individuality. It provides a social, natural and artistic milieu stimulating creativity, improving ethical values and preserves the environment, historical and cultural heritage. Grivko believes that the landscape surrounding a person is an extension of this person’s inner self. Therefore, he keeps his work restrained and limited, to avoid excessive graphic linearity or colour palettes.
2ND PRIZE: CHATSWORTH (GREAT BRITAIN)

Chatsworth House is home to the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire and has been passed down through 16 generations of the Cavendish family. The 105-acre garden is the product of nearly 500 years of careful cultivation. Although some elements have been replaced, the garden retains many early features, including the Canal Pond, Cascade and 1st Duke’s Greenhouse.

The waterworks include the 300-year-old Cascade, the Willow Tree Fountain and the Emperor Fountain. As well as the Maze, the Rose, Cottage and Kitchen Gardens, there are also five miles of walks with rare trees, shrubs, streams and ponds to discover.

Improving the fabric of the garden is fundamental to maintaining its heritage. In 2018 Chatsworth celebrated the continued reinvigoration of the grounds with the completion of planting at the Trout Stream, widespread hedge renovation, path upgrading, as well as redeveloping the Rock Garden.

House and garden are surrounded by the park, which holds a key position in the history of English landscape design, influenced by some of the greatest artists, including George London, William Kent, Lancelot Brown and Sir Joseph Paxton.
2ND PRIZE: VRTBA GARDEN (CZECH REPUBLIC)

Vrtba Garden in Prague is one of several baroque gardens in the Czech capital.

The garden was created in 1720 as an Italian style terraced garden by František Maxmilián Kaňka. Situated on a hill, the garden is divided into several terraces, connected to each other by staircases. The lowest part is enclosed on three sides by the palace. At the centre stands a small fountain decorated with a sculpture of a putto and a dragon. On the south side of the lower terrace is the Sala Terrena, a hall connecting the palace with the garden. The wing opposite the Sala Terrena houses an aviary.

The lower terrace is connected to the middle terrace by two staircases. Here beautifully designed flower beds flank a small circular pool. A Baroque wall decorated with eight statues divides the middle and upper terrace, which can be reached via an ornamented staircase with two wings. The upper terrace leads to yet another staircase which culminates in a small building fronted by a blind arch, which is decorated with reliefs of water gods.

Between 1990 and 1998 the Vrtba garden underwent structural conservation and extensive replanting and was reopened for public in June 1998. It is listed for its historic cultural values by UNESCO.
WINNERS INNOVATIVE CONCEPT OF A CONTEMPORARY PARK

JARDÍ BOTÀNIC (SPAIN)

The design for the Botanical Garden won the 1st prize of the international competition in 1989 and was built from 1999, with funds from the European Union. The site in the Monjuic Mountain has been a landfill of urban detritus. The whole concept is the result of a cooperation between Carlos Ferrater’s OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE IN BARCELONA S.L.P. (OAB), Bet Figueras, Artur Bossy, Joan Pedrola and Josep Lluís Canosa.
The new Botanical Garden works on the idea of fractality and Mediterraneanity, gathering the floras of the several Mediterraneans of the world: California, Eastern Mediterranean, Western, North Africa, Canary Islands and Chile in the South Parallel, together with South Africa and a part of Australia.

The garden is developed from the strictest sustainability, easy acclimatization of the species according to the types of soil as well as maximum efficiency in the drainage and irrigation network. On the basis of the initial landfill, the landscape is constructed defining the criteria and solutions for a new contemporary landscape.

Since the year 1999 when it was built, several extensions have been made, including the maintenance building and the amphitheatre. The Botanical Garden attracts not only scientists, but an increasing number of Barcelona’s citizens and visitors.
2ND PRIZE: GELLERUP BYPARK (DENMARK)

Designed in the typical architectural style of 1960s modernism with un-programed areas between the houses, Gellerup is one of Denmark’s largest social housing estates with many social, cultural and economic challenges.

Central to the recent transformation into an attractive part of Aarhus was adding a natural and human scale. It is here that the 230,000 m² Gellerup Bypark plays a central part. The design by SLA makes the area safer by creating more and better social opportunities and activities. The concept is based on an extensive citizens-engagement process and expert knowledge in safety, marginalized social groups and how to alleviate socially and physically challenging neighborhoods.

In the design, nature was both removed and supplied. The wildernesses that created insecurity was removed and varied nature typologies supplied. New curving paths throughout the park improve the accessibility and visibility. Finally, more than 2,000 trees were planted, selected based on their functional, social and aesthetic capabilities. The trees provide an extremely large species variation. This is a conscious homage to Gellerup’s large ethnic and cultural diversity. The many varied species also make the park more robust to climate change and potential diseases.
2ND PRIZE: FORT SAINT JEAN (FRANCE)

Fort Saint-Jean perches on an imposing rocky spur on the gorge of the Saône River in Lyon. This 16th century military fortress now hosts the National School of the Public Treasury.

The new constructions of Vurpas & Associates integrate smoothly into the fortress, employing the vocabulary of terraces, fortifications and walls. Here the landscape design by Atelier In Situ further improves the quality of the site and the benefits that it offers for the city. At the centre of the parade grounds, paved with limestone, three elms frame the principal entry. On the roof of the new restaurant, laid out as a balcony over the city, a Mediterranean garden opens the view. It is composed of several lines of low, flowering evergreen shrubs and scented perennials.

The “wall-walk” connects the terraces and creates a number of contrasting mineral and vegetal environments: the central place is dominated by stone, luminous and sunny. The fortress garden has a woodland environment beneath the foliage of the existing plane trees. The redoubt features pines and Judas trees. The library gardens use soapberry bushes and a carpet of grasses. A high footbridge functions as a trellis where the wisteria clings. The low terraces feature rustic flowered meadows, fig trees and hollyhocks. These look-out gardens marry the geometry and military rigour of the fortifications with spaces of a wilder nature.

WWW.LANDEZINE.COM/INDEX.PHP/2013/01/FORT-SAINT-JEAN-BY-IN-SITU-LANDSCAPE-ARCHITECTS
WINNER SPECIAL AWARD OF THE SCHLOSS DYCK FOUNDATION

DOMAINE DE CHAUMONT (FRANCE)

Since its acquisition by the Centre Region in 2007, the Domain of Chaumont-sur-Loire has developed rapidly, both in terms of the increase in visitor numbers and the growth in its national and international reputation. It offers a comprehensive experience and an example of ‘French sophistication’, available to everyone and respectful of its visitors and the environment.

The Château with its exhibitions and collections has been completely refurbished. Highly acclaimed artists are invited to work at this intersection between art and nature. The International Garden Festival is organised each year as a laboratory for the gardens of tomorrow, inventing new ways of experiencing gardens.
This “three-fold identity” based on the successful combination of heritage, art and gardens is considered as a best practice example at a number of sites across Europe that with comparable challenges and similar resources try implementing similar approaches. This is true for Schloss Dyck as well and thus Schloss Dyck Foundation decided to grant its Special Award to Domaine de Chaumont.