

PRESS RELEASE – 09. September 2016  
Schloss Dyck Foundation

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

**Four 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.europaischergartenpreis.eu)

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

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

## **Detailed information on awarded parks and gardens:**

Category „**Best Development of a Historic Park or Garden**“

### **HESTERCOMBE GARDENS**, Taunton, UK (1<sup>st</sup> Prize)

The gardens of Hestercombe are located only 6.5 km from Taunton in the county of Somerset.

Hestercombe Gardens is a unique combination of gardens from three periods: a Georgian landscape park, a Victorian terrace garden, and a formal garden from Edwardian times.

The soldier and artist Coplestone Warre Bampfylde, who was known for his good taste in the design of gardens, created the landscape park in the mid-18th century. With the expansion of the Victorian terraces and planting various shrubs, his vision was expanded in the 1870s. Between 1904 and 1908, Sir Edwin Lutyens and Gertrude Jekyll eventually created the wonderful Edwardian gardens.

After a relatively short period of use, however, a long period of neglect of the gardens began and they grew wild for many years. In the 1970s, the terraced gardens and the formal gardens were restored by the Somerset County Council. This was one of the first garden restoration projects in the UK.

The landscape park was particularly wild at that time and was not included in the restoration work. Many structures were unrecognisable, a large lake was completely silted, and buildings such as small temples were falling apart. It was Philip White who discovered this sunken and overgrown paradise on a walk at lunchtime. He made its restoration his priority, in which he invested a lot of his time and for which he took out a mortgage on his farm. He founded the Hestercombe Gardens Trust, of which he is the chairman today.

Visitors can now rediscover old giant trees, streams, temples, lakes, cascades, lookouts and more on 17 hectares of landscaped grounds and thus take a trip through history. Hestercombe has thus been a full experience for several years now along with the other garden spaces and the newly established restaurants, shops, and showrooms.

But the daunting task is not yet over and the success story continues. With the acquisition of the mansion, formerly used by the Somerset Fire Brigade, in 2013, new uses and services for visitors emerged. In the house there are now attractive rooms for parties and other events, a new restaurant and, above all, an art gallery, which focuses on temporary exhibitions on land art and the connection between art, landscape, and gardens.

[www.hestercombe.com](http://www.hestercombe.com)

### **SCHLOSSPARK LUDWIGSLUST**, Ludwigslust, Germany (2<sup>nd</sup> Prize)

Schloss Ludwigslust, a Baroque residential palace built in 1772-1776 is called as the "Little Versailles of Mecklenburg". Its huge park of 127 hectares was laid out with formal canals, fountains, neoclassical stone bridges and a cascade that falls across a lip so perfectly regular that it has the name "Roll". A wonderful park view can be enjoyed from the terrace of the Swiss chalet. It was built in 1789 as a summer residence for the Duchess Louise. In the castle park the Louise-Mausoleum, built in Egyptian style, the Helenen-Paulownen-Mausoleum, a Gothic church, a grotto and various monuments can be admired.

In the mid-nineteenth century much of the park was re-landscaped in the more naturalistic English landscape garden manner, under the direction of a garden designer much admired by German aristocracy: Peter Joseph Lenné. He remodelled the water near the Schloss in a more naturalistic manner and the surrounding woodland edges were modified with clumps of trees. But the main axis "Hofdamenallee" centred on the palace straight through the woods, and the narrow Great Canal, laid out at an angle to one side, were remained.

Since the 1990s and until today the main tasks of park management are preservation, care and supplement of the trees and shrubs and the restoration and enhancement of the unique green structures with their vistas and baroque design elements. But the buildings are of major relevance for the appearance and attractiveness of the park too.

Since 1997, most buildings have been renovated or even reconstructed, also the cascade at the Schlossplatz and all hydraulic structures, the Hofdamenallee and the grass parterre with a huge number of sculptures and vases. A flower garden was opened in 2009.

Today visitors enjoy the park in perfect shape as an important cultural heritage site and as a location for a number of events in perfect harmony between nature, art, culture, heritage and sustainable development.

[www.mv-schloesser.de/?+Schlosspark-Ludwigslust+&id=2500,,1003293](http://www.mv-schloesser.de/?+Schlosspark-Ludwigslust+&id=2500,,1003293)

### **ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN EDINBURGH**, Edinburgh, UK (2<sup>nd</sup> Prize)

The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) was founded in the 17th century as a physic garden. Comprising more than 28 hectares of stunning scenery, just a stone's throw from the city centre, it captures the imagination of everyone who visits: from the knowledgeable gardener to the curious sightseer.

Highlights include the largest collection of wild-origin Chinese plants outside China, the Scottish Heath Garden, the Rock Garden, which is home to over 5,000 alpine plants and the stunning 165m-long Herbaceous Border, backed by an outstanding century-old Beech Hedge. Opened in the summer of 2006 is the Queen Mother's Memorial Garden.

The magnificent Victorian Temperate Palm House offers visitors the opportunity to explore ten distinct climatic zones.

During the entire year the garden hosts a number of events, such as concerts, cinema nights and a light show "Botanic Lights" which was somehow inspired by the illumine at Schloss Dyck too.

The Botanic Cottage is simultaneously the newest and oldest building in the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. It is an inspirational hub for community and education activities. The Botanic Cottage originally stood at the entrance to a long lost incarnation of the Botanic, across the city. It was built in 1764 and moved recently stone by stone across Edinburgh, rebuilt and finished so that it looks as good as it did 250 years ago. It is the new core of the Demonstration Garden, where schools, students and community groups have plots.

RBGE is committed to lifelong learning and international capacity building. It provides a diverse range of formal and informal education programmes, including online programmes, for people of all ages and at all levels ... from primary school to PhD, amateur or professional.

We are proud that the Botanic Garden also joined our application for European funding to explore the links between cities and the landscape.

[www.rbge.org.uk](http://www.rbge.org.uk)

Category "**Innovative Contemporary Concept or Design of a Park or Garden**"

**KLOSTER LORSCH**, Lorsch, Germany (1<sup>st</sup> Prize)

Architects: TOPOTEK 1, Berlin

The Benedictine abbey in southern Hesse, Lorsch, ceased to be a convent in 1557. Although the former substance has been largely lost, Lorsch Abbey was recognised in 1991 as a World Heritage site, not least because of the gatehouse as one of the last Carolingian monuments and a testimony of the post-Roman period east of the Rhine. Highlighting the remaining relics, tracing marks, and carefully adding new structures to ensure that the history and importance of the site and its relation to the cultural landscape are recognisable and can be experienced again were the goals of the landscape architectural redesign.

As soon as they approach the site, visitors are given a sense of its scope and structure with views of the abbey walls and the higher-lying abbey grounds. You can find out more about the relationship between the abbey and its surrounding cultural landscape if you follow "Nature's Path" or "Culture's Path."

Within the abbey walls, the former buildings (monastery church, enclosed atrium, conclave with cloister) and their configuration with each other through slight topographical changes are usually recognisable with precisely sloped depressions. The disappeared buildings have left their mark, so to speak, in the deep greenery.

At the gateway changes from lawn and paved areas lead to an inclined plane, which is like a staircase with extra wide steps.

The herb garden behind the still standing tithe barn is a new element for which although historical evidence is lacking, its planting builds on the "Lorsch pharmacopoeia", which was written in 800AD and recorded in the UNESCO Register of documentary heritage in 2013. The garden has many of the plants found there. With numerous dry stone walls, it nestles into a small hillside shaped as a terrace. It is a magnet for visitors with its blossoms and fullness of colours and the surrounding (fruit) trees. Its smallness is a stark contrast to the overall picture of the site and so it is not surprising that this herb garden behind the tithe barn has somewhat of a "hidden" effect.



Visitors are led here, as in the whole area, by a route structure that was placed like ribbons on the structures and their ends or bends do not "seamlessly" merge, but overlap and act as a kind of switch.

The European Garden Award jury agrees with the judgement of the jury of the German Landscape Architecture Prize awarding the Lorsch Abbey with a first prize in 2015: "Buildings, topography, and vegetation are combined both creatively and delicately as a very diverse "place of knowledge ", which is now very inviting as a lovely individual discovery of historically changing limits of nature and culture."

[www.topotek1.de/#/en/projects/geographical/151](http://www.topotek1.de/#/en/projects/geographical/151)

[www.kloster-lorsch.de](http://www.kloster-lorsch.de)

### **STADSPARKEN SKELLEFTEÅ**, Skellefteå, Sweden (2<sup>nd</sup> Prize)

Architects: Ramböll, Ulf Nordfjell, Stockholm

Looking at the photographs, it is hard to believe, but Skellefteå is a small city in the very north of Sweden. As most cities in the region, it is located close to a big river. Consequently many of the main the public spaces of the cities are located there as well.

The old Skellefteå City Park was built at the turn of the 19th and 20th century and was last renovated in the 1950s.

Now the old City Park got a total make over. The objective was to create an all year venue for the inhabitants and a better link between the river and the city centre. Inspiration from projects in other European cities is obvious.

In the new design by Ulf Nordfjell, the City Park has a clear structure with birch trees and hedges retained, and the central axis strengthened. New green spaces have been created along the park's fringes. Large characteristic trees have been preserved. The park has a number of flower beds of different sizes and designs with perennial plants, a rose garden and summer flowers. Stairs, benches and arches link the park with the river. There are plenty of options to sit down, to relax or to have a bath.

In spite of the rough climate, it is especially the use of plants and their great variety that is one of the most important features of the design. The project is, among many other aspects, a good example of combining "Nordic light and summer flowers".



The new park is opposite the town hall and the entire population loves the new green and the opportunities it offers. The park was the main hub in the annual city event (and survived without major damages), it has a big number of visitors during normal days and an increasing number of “likes” on Facebook.

[www.skelleftea.se/stadsparken](http://www.skelleftea.se/stadsparken)

### **ATLANTIC PARK**, Santander, Spain (2<sup>nd</sup> Prize)

Architects: Batlle i Roig, Barcelona

The Atlantic Parks was created between 2006 and 2008 on a large open space on the outskirts of the city of Santander in the North of Spain. The architects “Batlle i Roig” from Barcelona had won the competition. Because of its location amidst a major growing urban centre that is vertical to El Sardinero Beach, its special river-bed topography and its long narrow shape (1100 x 300 m), the park is a highly peculiar urban element.

The main entrance provides access through a grove of trees that culminates in a lookout point and a green amphitheatre. Here the two levels of intensity can be seen: areas for large events and the more intimate level of going for a walk and enjoying the place for its own merits.

A large artificial lake occupies the whole central zone of the park. With an irregular perimeter evoking the outline of the Atlantic Ocean, the lake includes much the pre-existing reed-beds and added new marsh grasses and water-lilies. This provides a vegetal cover inhabited by a great variety of birds and amphibians.

Slopes structure the park into three topographical levels that organize the main layouts: one at the lowest level, alongside the reed-beds; the next halfway up the slope, with spaces to rest and play, and a third running parallel to the roads that delimit the park.

At the bounds of the central plain are terraced banks with wooden garden plots displaying a wide variety of plant species from all latitudes of the Atlantic coast. Above the banks are fields, either open or planted with different kinds of trees, both indigenous or from other zones of the Atlantic.

The paths across the reed-beds comprise raised walkways with a low impact on the colony’s hydraulic and biological structure. The routes of these walkways trace out well-known voyages across the Atlantic:

Christopher Columbus, the slave trading routes, commercial routes between Europe and the United States, etc.

Today the park is established as a green space for public use and as a key piece in the physical integration of different types of urban fabrics. The site has developed from being a barrier and dumping ground, to a civic axis, the backbone around which the structure of the future city is organised.

[www.batlleiroig.com/en/landscape/parc-atlantic-a-santander/](http://www.batlleiroig.com/en/landscape/parc-atlantic-a-santander/)

Category „**Special Award of the Schloss Dyck Foundation**“

**BALLYMALOE COOKERY SCHOOL**, Shanagarry Co., Ireland (1<sup>st</sup> Prize)

With this year's theme "kitchen gardens", the jury was asked to address the origins of gardening for the Special Award of the Schloss Dyck Foundation. Although early gardens were primarily used to grow fruits, vegetables, and other crops, gardeners were soon endeavouring to create an attractive design.

The jury accepted this dialogue intensively, and a variety of outstanding gardens were found, many of which would have been worthy of an award. For some, the decorative use of crops is the priority, for others it is about the preservation of old species and varieties or currently also about alternative economies and social cohesion known as "Urban Gardening".

A convincing combination of these and other aspects distinguishes this year's winners of the special prize: the gardens of Ballymaloe Cookery School in Shanagarry Co., Ireland. These historic names stand for the programme of this easily 40-hectare organic farm: Ballymaloe means "place of sweet honey" and Shanagarry means "old garden" in Gaelic.

Since its founding in 1983 by Darina Allen, not only fruits and vegetables are grown in Ballymaloe but diverse cooking and catering courses are also offered, as the participants from around the world see. Because only in Ballymaloe do horticulturally skilful cultivation and perfect culinary use go hand in hand in this intense form. Only here can you see a group of white-robed chefs streaking through the gardens in search of the most plump and ripe vegetables and fruit.

But aesthetics matters too: The design and variety of gardens are an aesthetic experience and inspiration for any garden lover. In the

ornamental orchard, spring flowering shorten the time of waiting for the numerous berries and espalier fruit (including peaches and apricots). The kitchen garden, too, with its many old vegetable varieties and the hedged herb garden combine utility and design standards in a magnificent way. And they are just some of the garden sites, which include a water garden, a small landscape park, a maze, a double-sided perennial garden, and other ornamental gardens.

For the jury members it was this whole experience and the high standards of the Ballymaloe Cookery School that ultimately made the difference for the award. In addition, it was perhaps the fact that such a successful international "Garden of Eden with a cooking school" was not found in France or Italy, but in "rough Ireland".

[www.cookingisfun.ie](http://www.cookingisfun.ie)

Category „**Large Scale Green Grids and Development Concepts**“

**EMSCHER LANDSCHAFTSPARK**, Metropole Ruhr, Germany (1<sup>st</sup> Prize)

The jury of the European Garden Award is convinced that the Emscher Landscape Park made landscape architecture and urban development of outstanding quality possible with the "predecessor" IBA Emscher Park and continues to support it and is also of importance for the successful economic, environmental and social structural change in the region.

In particular, it is the mixture of various measures, ranging from spectacular projects such as the Landscape Park Duisburg Nord, to the conservation and enhancement of the relicts of the industrial heritage, to the many projects in the working and living environment that made the Emscher Landscape Park this year's winner. All the more so because it combines a compelling and highly attractive and effective overall concept. With the changes in its biggest problem zone, the entire Ruhr region has gained ecological quality, created new residential and recreational quality, and also gradually achieved the economic successes that the IBA initiated in 1989 with the concept "Working in the park".

Unlike many places in Europe, for Emscher Landscape Park it was never about removing all traces of industrial history, but the targeted valorisation of its resources and the preservation of selected architectural structures. Parks were therefore created at many locations which are and will remain unique in this form. The

landscape architecture and urban and regional planning has been able to tap stockpiles and ennoble with "Haldenkunst" (art on the top of the stockpiles), develop greenway connections with often extravagant bridges, create new parks around relics of industrial culture - as a kind of modern Follies - and put a large, but forgotten island in the centre of the next envisaged major project (IGA 2027).

The jury particularly emphasised the exemplary cooperation of the many participating municipalities, counties and associations, the continuation and sustainability of the Emscher Landscape Park, and the leadership of the regional managing association, the Regionalverband Ruhr.

The Emscher Landscape Park initiated and nurtured changes in consciousness of the regional population of the values and diversity of their region and positive impact on the image and external perception of the region. But - according to the jury - also many renowned follow-up projects, such as the Night of Industrial Heritage, the Ruhr Triennale, and the Emscherkunst, which are internationally known and have inspired similar projects, owe their success to Emscher Landscape Park.

By giving the European Garden Award of the European Garden Network EGHN and the Schloss Dyck Foundation in the category "Large-scale green development concepts" to the Emscher Landscape Park, the international jury wants to celebrate diversity and durability of the concept and the high quality of each individual part. The prize is also a reminder that the new qualities of the Emscher region and the Ruhr metropolis, which are now often seen as "commonplace" and used as a matter of course, have a long history that is testament to the visions, commitment, and staying power of many figures and the residents of the region.

The jury wishes the Emscher Landscape Park continued good development and success in the bid to host the International Horticultural Exposition 2027 (and its implementation).

[www.metropol Ruhr.de/freizeit-sport/emscher-landschaftspark.html](http://www.metropol Ruhr.de/freizeit-sport/emscher-landschaftspark.html)

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