



**EUROPEAN GARDEN
HERITAGE NETWORK**

Stiftung Schloss Dyck
D - 41363 Jüchen
Fon: +49 21 82 / 824-0
Fax: +49 21 82 / 824-110
E-Mail: info@eghn.eu
Web: www.eghn.eu

PRESSEMITTEILUNG

(SPERRFRIST: 23.06.2023; 18:00)



European Garden Award 2023 | Europäischer Gartenpreis 2023 |

Awards for historic gardens, contemporary parks and climate adaptation measures

Since 2010, more than 120 award winners from 21 countries have already received the European Garden Award as a seal of quality for outstanding achievements in contemporary garden design or the management and development of historic gardens.

The County Governor of Rhein-Kreis Neuss, Hans-Jürgen Petrauschke, opened this year's award ceremony on the afternoon of 23 June 2023 in Schloss Dyck. Two winners from the Netherlands and one winner from Germany were pleased to receive 1st Prizes. The six 2nd Prizes went to Great Britain (2) as well as to Italy, Denmark, Latvia and France.

Thanks to a grant by the federal programme "Adaptation of Urban Spaces to Climate Change" for its project to realise a climate-neutral castle and park, the Schloss Dyck Foundation was able to award three winners in the category "Climate Adaptation Measures in Historic Parks and Gardens". All three winners show - with quite different starting points and goals - that such urgently needed measures can also create new urban qualities, attractive landscapes and ecological benefits.

Here, 1st Prize went to Zuidpolder Barendrecht (Planned by ARCADIS) in the Netherlands. This approximately 110-hectare landscape park near Rotterdam creates new lakes as an attractive storage space for water, which can be used to supply the city in times of drought, while also offering numerous leisure facilities and new pathways, and increasing biodiversity. All this has been achieved here in a shape that corresponds to the many people's understanding of a typical Dutch landscape, which has developed over many years.

2nd Prizes went to Kokkedal in Denmark and to Knepp Estate and Gardens in Great Britain. In Kokkedal, the 35 individual projects of the Kokkedal Climate Adaptation Plan (Planned by Schønher) reduce the risk of flooding in a residential area, allow people to experience (rain)water with a lot of fun, offer new recreational opportunities and create attractive, nature-oriented pathways.

In the historic garden of Knepp Estate (Planned by Tom Stuart-Smith and others), various microclimates were created by putting layers of concrete debris from a demolished building on the grass of a historic garden and by planting 900 species that are particularly suitable for dry and nutrient-poor soils. Together with wild plants, they now form plant communities that improve biodiversity enormously.

In the category "Management or Development of a Historic Park or Garden", two gardens were awarded this year that owe their creation, beauty and decades of further development to the work and knowledge of the female garden architects and plant experts Mien Ruys and Beth Chatto respectively. The gardens in the Netherlands and Great Britain have inspired gardeners for many decades and today's managements offer inclusive courses for many target groups.

For a good seven decades, the Dutch Mien Ruys experimented with planting concepts in her garden and combined her knowledge of plants and design with the latest trends in garden design. Today, the garden history of the 20th century can be experienced in the numerous garden rooms. A foundation preserves this heritage, but also adds gardens that influence current trends and provide answers to new challenges. Therefore, the 1st Prize in this category goes to Tuinen Mien Ruys.

Another mecca for garden lovers are the gardens of Beth Chatto in England, which were awarded with one of the two 2nd Prizes. Already in the 1960s, when Beth Chatto started her private garden here, she had placed great emphasis on using the right plant in the right place and thus creating attractive gardens even in nutrient-poor soils and without irrigation. A topic that is more relevant today than ever before and one of the topics covered by the Beth Chatto Education Trust.

Also awarded a 2nd Prize were the measures implemented at the Kemerī Resort Park in Jūrmala (Latvia). Pavilions, bridges, islands and a water tower, which are characteristic and decisive for this resort park from 1839, were reconstructed based on historical photos. New paths, a playground and an exhibition as well as an avenue and numerous other new plantings carefully adapt the park to current requirements. Furthermore, nature conservation regulations have been observed.

In the category "Design or Concept of a Contemporary Park or Garden", the 1st Prize went to the city of Augsburg, where the Westpark Augsburg (Planned by Lohaus - Carl -Köhlmos) was created on a former barracks site. A meandering ribbon serves as a guiding line through the park and connects it to the surrounding landscape. It changes its width, individual paths drift apart and connect again. Many spaces in between offer opportunities for sport and play. Grassy hills and boulders, some of which have water bubbling out of them, also invite people to play. Other areas show plantings with an American focus, fields of perennials and grasses through which one can roam.

Parco Portello (Planned by LAND and Charles Jencks) in Milan (Italy) combines postmodern, philosophical design concepts with offers for city residents to enjoy nature and tranquillity. Spiral paths allow experiencing the hills as green sculptures. Ponds are lined with trees and benches and linear structures offer numerous flowering experiences. The 2nd Prize also acknowledges the integration of this former factory site into Milan's large-scale green concept.

A 2nd Prize was also awarded to the Park Petite Saussaie (Planned by paysarchitectures) in Vitry-sur-Seine (France). The course of the little river of the same name - and thus the history of the place and village - is made visible again. The water is guided by an aqueduct in a very modern and restrained design language in such a way that very attractive places are created on different levels. The water now invites children and adults to observe and play.

(Press release: European Garden Award 2023 | page 3)

Detailed information on the winners (from 23.06.2023, 19:15), on the EGHN and on the European Garden Award can be found on the EGHN website www.eghn.eu, on the European Garden Award website <http://www.europeangardenaward.eu> and in the publication, which is available as a PDF here: <https://www.eghn.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/EGA-EGP-bilingual-2023.pdf>

These press photos are available for download:

3 images of 1st Prize winners via this link:

<https://www.eghn.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/1st-Prizes.zip>

6 images of 2nd Prize winners via this link:

<https://www.eghn.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/2nd-Prizes.zip>

CONTACTS:

Press and Public Relations:

Anja Spanjer

Schloss Dyck Foundation

+49-2182- 824119

presse@stiftung-schloss-dyck.de

Competition Management:

Christian Grüßen

Plan+ | EGHN

+49-231-104464 | +49-175-5000659

feedback@eghn.org



(Press release: European Garden Award 2023 | Appendix)

THE EUROPEAN GARDEN NETWORK EGHN AND THE EUROPEAN GARDEN AWARD

With the European Garden Heritage Network EGHN, an institution with a range of services has been established in North Rhine-Westphalia since 2003. It draws the interest of international garden lovers to the parks and gardens in the state and is valued by the professional world as a competent and attractive partner for professional exchange and cooperation in diverse projects. This success is also based on the professional and financial support by the state government, by the two regional associations LVR and LWL and the Regionalverband Ruhr, on the commitment of the Foundation Schloss Dyck, Centre for Garden Art and Landscape Design in Jüchen as the lead of the EGHN as well as on the good cooperation within the EGHN with more than 200 partners in 15 countries.

Current focal points of the cooperation are projects on the influence of climate change on historic gardens, on further education in the green sector and on international communication.

The European Garden Award, which is presented by the EGHN and the Schloss Dyck Foundation since 2010, enjoys Europe-wide recognition that extends far beyond the EGHN. At the latest with the acceptance of the award by UNESCO World Heritage Sites such as Sintra and Lorsch, by Kew Gardens in 2018, by the Festival of Chaumont in 2019 and by the Royal Horticultural Society in 2019 and 2022, the European Garden Award has arrived in European professional circles. It has also positioned itself impressively on the themes of sustainability and climate adaptation through awards for the cities of Malmö and Copenhagen.

For the third time, there was a public call (Open Call) for proposals for award winners by the European Garden Award at the end of 2022. Together with nominations from their own circle, the 2023 jury made their selection of nine award winners from 59 nominees in these three categories:

- Management or development of a historic park or garden
- Design or concept of a contemporary park or garden
- Climate adaptation measures in parks and gardens

With this year's award ceremony, the thirteenth since 2010, a total of 122 winners from 21 countries has been awarded so far. The European Garden Award has been supported by the Lorenz von Ehren nursery for eleven years and by Garpa Garden & Park Furniture since 2022. This year, funding has been added by the Federal Ministry of Housing, Urban Development and Building, which supports the announcement, selection and publication of the award's category "Climate adaptation measures in parks and gardens" with its federal programme "Adapting urban spaces to climate change".

