



**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

PRESS RELEASE

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European Garden Award 2024 | Europäischer Gartenpreis 2024

Awards for historic gardens, contemporary parks, and climate adaptation measures

Since 2010, more than 130 winners from twenty-two countries have received the European Garden Award. Most of them as a seal of quality for outstanding achievements in contemporary garden design, the management and development of historic gardens or climate adaptation measures.

This year, ten winners have been selected by the international jury, based on their own nominations and a selection of proposals from the Open Call.

On the afternoon of 28 June, *Simeon Graf Wolff Metternich*, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Schloss Dyck Foundation, opened this year's award ceremony at Schloss Dyck. He warmly welcomed *Ina Scharrenbach*, Minister for Regional Identity, Communities and Local Government, Building and Digitalisation of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia.

The Minister congratulated the Schloss Dyck Foundation on its 25th anniversary and summarised its achievements for the Schloss Dyck estate, for garden culture and green projects in North Rhine-Westphalia and congratulated the Foundation and the EGHN on the strong position they have established among Europe's green professionals.

Minister *Ina Scharrenbach* then also acknowledged the importance of the idea, implementation, and success of the first garden from Ukraine to receive a European Garden Award: Nad Dzherelom in Lviv.

Nad Dzherelom (UA) is a very special place for internally displaced people, created from an abandoned quarry. The structures of this landscape have been kept as much as possible when a lake, playgrounds and sitting areas were created. The material used allow nature to regain as much of the site as possible. Nad Dzherelom is an initiative by *Lviv City Council* and by organisations, which were set up to care for people strongly affected by the war. It received the **1st Prize** of the **Schloss Dyck Foundation's Special Award** after a laudation by *Jens Spanjer*, Board of the Schloss Dyck Foundation.

In addition to this winner from Ukraine, two winners from the United Kingdom, and winners from Germany, France and the Netherlands were pleased to receive 1st Prizes. The four 2nd Prizes went to France, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, and the Czech Republic.

Thanks to a grant by the federal programme "Adaptation of Urban Spaces to Climate Change" for its project to realise and to promote a climate-neutral castle and park, the Schloss Dyck Foundation was able to award three winners in the category "**Climate Adaptation Measures in Parks and Gardens**". All three winners received a 1st Prize as they show - with quite different starting points, locations, and goals - that such urgently needed measures can not only safeguard cultural values, but also create new urban qualities, attractive landscapes, and ecological benefits. The joint laudation for these three winners was given by *Philipp Sattler*, Managing Director of the Foundation Die Grüne Stadt.

"**Mount Stewart**" (UK), owned and managed by the *National Trust*, demonstrates the surprising diversity of microclimates in a historic park close to the coast, and how the landscape needs to be adapted to the effects of climate change, including the relocation of parts of the garden and the introduction of new, hardier plants, while at the same time preserving the historic values and outstanding beauty. The **1st Prize** for Mount Stewart also recognises the *National Trust's* decades of work to preserve cultural heritage, nature, and garden culture.

The "**Grüner Bunker St. Pauli**" (Germany), the second winner of a **1st Prize** in this category, is a unique public park of high environmental quality and socio-cultural significance in Hamburg. Planned and initiated by *Landschaftsarchitektur+* and *Hildegarden e.V.*, the park consists mainly of a roof garden and a 560-metre-long green mountain path leading up to the 58-metre-high former anti-aircraft bunker. Trees and other plants had to be selected by the Lorenz von Ehren nursery to thrive in this difficult location.

A third **1st Prize** for a climate adaptation project went to the **Waterdunen** in the Netherlands, planned, and managed by the organisation *Het Zeeuwse Landschap* in cooperation with a number of regional partners. This large-scale measure combines the need for coastal protection with the creation of a new tidal landscape that enhances biodiversity, recreational opportunities, and the economic strength of the region.

The recognisable development of the site with new gardens and landscapes, a range of historic gardens and features, high quality design and careful maintenance were the attributes that convinced the judges to award **Walmer Castle and Gardens** (UK) this year's **1st Prize** in the category "**Management or Development of a Historic Park or Garden**". Walmer Castle is managed by *English Heritage*, which, similar to the National Trust, is highly acclaimed for its wide range of activities to maintain and develop sites of natural or historic interest in the UK. This 1st prize also celebrates this success story of *English Heritage*.

The two 2nd Prizes in the category "Management or Development of a Historic Park or Garden" went to parks in the Czech Republic and France.

Lednice Palace (CZ) and its park are the jewel of the Lednice-Valtice area, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1966. The **2nd Prize** honours the restoration and sometimes redesign of the buildings and gardens in recent years. Visitors can discover 550 species of trees from all over the world. The Palm House, designed as an artistic biotope, is an eye-catcher. The restoration was based on ten photographs with the aim of recreating the atmosphere of the 19th century.

Owned by the same family for 22 generations, the current appearance of the gardens at the **Manoir d'Eyrignac** (FR) is based on old manuscripts and illustrations, combining aspects of a 'grand siècle' Renaissance garden with medieval kitchen gardens and a contemporary design. More than 300 box and yew sculptures line the avenues, demonstrating the excellence of the art of topiary with scissors, string, and plumb bob. This horticultural excellence is rewarded with a **2nd Prize** in this category.

Not a single garden, but a unique landscape full of contemporary gardens was awarded with the **1st Prize** in the category "**Design or Concept of a Contemporary Park or Garden**": the **International Festival de Jardins – Hortillonnages Amiens** (FR). Since 2010, designers, architects and artists have been invited to submit innovative ideas for gardens. Those selected by *art & jardins | Hauts-de-France* and its jury are then realised in this water landscape near Amiens and can be visited on foot or by boat. Visitors will not only discover surprising gardens, but also gain a better understanding of the relationship between nature, art, history, society and about the effects of climate change.

At **The Hepworth Wakefield Garden** (UK), the winner of a **2nd Prize** in this category, there is also a strong interplay between art and garden design. Softening the new museum complex, *Tom Stuart-Smith's* garden is based on a naturalism that reflects the artist's deep connection with the landscape. Over 14,000 perennials, 120 metres of hedges, 52 trees and shrubs and 60,000 spring bulbs provide a lively and vibrant setting for art installations, as well as being a major attraction in their own right.

A comprehensive green strategy contributes much to the atmosphere and quality of living and working in the rapidly developing area of Zurich West. A very special and essential element of this strategy, and therefore awarded **2nd Prize**, is the **Atmos Roof Garden** (CH), designed by *Studio Vulkan* and *EM2N*. This garden not only offers quiet zones for contemplation and group work, but also rich vegetation, carefully selected to grow in the given conditions and to function as a buffer for rainwater.

JURY MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN GARDEN AWARD 2024:

Kerstin Abicht (Germany), Roswitha Arnold (Germany), Ed Bennis (UK), Gunnar Ericson (Sweden), Jacob Fischer (Denmark), Davorin Gazvoda (Slovenia), Johanna Leissner (Germany), Phillip Sattler (Germany), Jens Spanjer (Germany), Lieneke van Campen (The Netherlands), Michael Walker (UK).

Detailed information (available from 28.06.2024, 18:15) on the winners 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/2024/06/EGP_Publikation_2024.pdf

These press photos are available for download:

6 images of **1st Prize** winners via this link:

<https://www.eghn.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/First-Prizes.zip>

4 images of **2nd Prize** winners via this link:

<https://www.eghn.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Second-Prizes.zip>

CONTACTS:

Press and Public Relations:

Anja Spanjer

Schloss Dyck Foundation

+49-2182- 824119

presse@stiftung-schloss-dyck.de

Competition Management:

Christian Gruessen

Plan+ | EGHN

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

feedback@eghn.org



THE EUROPEAN GARDEN HERITAGE NETWORK AND THE EUROPEAN GARDEN AWARD

The European Garden Heritage Network (EGHN) was established in 2003 in North Rhine-Westphalia. It attracts the interest of international garden lovers to the state's parks and gardens and is valued by experts as a competent and attractive partner for professional exchange and cooperation in various projects. This success is also based on the professional and financial support of the state government, the regional associations Landschaftsverband Rheinland LVR, Landschaftsverband Westfalen-Lippe LWL and Regionalverband Ruhr RVR, the commitment of the Schloss Dyck Foundation, Centre for Garden Art and Landscape Design in Jüchen as the EGHN's lead organisation as well as the good cooperation within the EGHN with around 210 partners in 21 countries.

Current collaborations include projects on the impact of climate change on historic gardens, further education in the green sector and international communication.

The European Garden Award, which has been presented by the EGHN and the Schloss Dyck Foundation since 2010, enjoys Europe-wide recognition that extends far beyond the EGHN. With UNESCO World Heritage Sites such as Sintra and Lorsch, Kew Gardens in 2018, the Festival of Chaumont in 2019, and the Royal Horticultural Society in 2019 and 2022, the European Garden Award has become a well-established name in European horticultural circles. It has also made a strong statement on sustainability and climate adaptation, with awards for the cities of Malmö and Copenhagen and for public spaces with pioneering climate adaptation measures.

For the fourth time, the European Garden Award has launched an open call for nominations for the European Garden Award. Together with nominations from their own circle, the 2024 jury selected ten winners from 65 nominees in these four 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
- Special Award of the Schloss Dyck Foundation

With this year's award ceremony, the fourteenth since 2010, a total of 132 winners from 22 countries has been awarded so far. The European Garden Award has been supported by the Lorenz von Ehren nursery for twelve years and by Garpa Garden & Park Furniture since 2022.

Since 2023 funding has been added by the German 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 programme "Adapting urban spaces to climate change".

In this category, the jury decided to hand out three 1st Prizes as the selected projects demonstrate very well that climate change is a global challenge, but that the impacts and opportunities for local action vary widely.

TEN WINNERS OF THE EUROPEAN GARDEN AWARD 2024

CLIMATE ADAPTATION MEASURES IN PARKS AND GARDENS

1st Prize: Mount Stewart, Newtownards (UK)

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/northern-ireland/mount-stewart>

The National Trust's Mount Stewart is an environmentally remarkable site. It sits on the eastern shore of Strangford Lough, the largest sea inlet in the British Isles and Northern Ireland's most protected nature reserve. In the early 19th century, the estate's 'sea plantation' was created. Acting as a buffer against the winds, it alters the local climate by raising temperatures, by preventing sea spray from depositing salt and by reducing wind speeds.

In recent years, high storm surges have caused saltwater intrusion in parts of the ornamental gardens, with the salinity subsequently damaging or killing many plants that required replanting. Long-term, such flooding seems inevitable and is even expected to take the sea plantation with it.

To understand the nature of the microclimate and the importance of its sea plantation, sensors around the site now measure the temperature, humidity, soil temperature, soil moisture and precipitation. These sensors cover the ornamental gardens' microclimate, the walled gardens, the surrounding area, agricultural areas, and the shoreward side of the sea plantation.

The National Trust will use the information to plan their next steps. They are already in the process of planting the next generation of sea plantation further inland and ultimately the majority of the gardens may have to move.

By honouring Mount Stewart, the European Garden Award also recognises the National Trust's outstanding achievements in the preservation and development of garden culture and cultural heritage as a whole.

CLIMATE ADAPTATION MEASURES IN PARKS AND GARDENS

1st Prize: Waterdunen, Breskens (NL)

<https://www.hetzeeuwse-landschap.nl/natuurgebieden/waterdunen>

At the end of the 1990s, the region of Zeeuws-Vlaanderen was facing several challenges: a weak seawall, the coast needed strengthening, the region's economy and quality of life were at a low ebb, and a lot of tidal nature had been lost due to the deepening of the Westerschelde. The Waterdunen are therefore more than just a coastal reinforcement. It is a unique nature and recreation area for locals, day-trippers, and tourists. Waterdunen brings it all together: saltwater tidal nature, water safety, coastal defence, saltwater aquaculture, nature, recreation, and economic development.

The water in Waterdunen comes from the North Sea and enters the area through a special tidal culvert. The tides are muted, i.e. less high at high tide and less low at low tide than on the seaward side. Nevertheless, the tides bring life to the area! With the water comes food for all kinds of animals, such as worms, crabs, and shrimps. This in turn attracts thousands of birds. Under the influence of the tides, salt marshes begin to grow, making it possible to grow saline organisms such as sea vegetables and oysters.

The first salt water flowed in in 2019. The area was opened to the public in 2022. In the meantime, 350 hectares of mudflats, salt marshes and recreational areas have been created. Birdwatching huts, new and upgraded roads, cycle paths, three marked walking routes and car parks have also been built. There is a dune campsite and holiday cottages. The Waterdunen are a climate adaptation

project that also stimulates the economy and contributes to nature, the landscape, and the living and recreational environment.

CLIMATE ADAPTATION MEASURES IN PARKS AND GARDENS

1st Prize: Grüner Bunker St. Pauli, Hamburg (DE)

<https://www.l-plus.de/projekte/bunker-st-pauli>

<https://www.hildegarden.org/>

The former anti-aircraft bunker, one of the largest high-rise bunkers in Germany with a floor area of 75 x 75 metres, has been extended by five pyramid-shaped storeys to a height of 58 metres. A 560-metre-long green mountain path leads up to the roof via ramps and stairs. In total, more than 7,600 square metres of public and communal green areas have been created, with an additional 1,700 square metres of façade greening. Some 4,700 plants make the bunker a natural oasis in the city, designed by Landschaftsarchitektur+.

For this unique project, it was particularly important to take into account the specific features of the site. Due to the exposed location of the city garden on top of the bunker's new 5-storey roof structure, the trees and shrubs had to be not only drought and frost resistant, but also wind resistant. The trees selected and supplied by the Lorenz von Ehren nursery included *Acer campestre*, *Malus domestica* 'Weißer Winterglockenapfel', *Pinus sylvestris*, *Acer neglectum* 'Annae', as well as various shrubs, climbers, hedges, and overhanging shrubs.

The green roof and façade of the World War II-era building act as a natural air-conditioning system for the entire complex, which includes a hotel, event locations, rooms for social and cultural projects (by Hildegarden e.V.) and much more. This pioneering landscape architecture project is also scientifically monitored. More than 60 sensors collect data on how the various plants affect the microclimate (humidity, temperature, etc.) in their respective locations.

DESIGN OR CONCEPT OF A CONTEMPORARY PARK OR GARDEN

1st Prize: Festival International de Jardins / Hortillonnages Amiens, Amiens (FR) by art & jardins — Hauts-de-France

<https://www.artetjardins-hdf.com/en/festival-international-jardins-hortillonnages-amiens/>

The International Garden Festival - Hortillonnages Amiens offers gardens, landscape creations and works of art accessible to the public on foot or by boat on the islands of the Hortillonnages in Amiens and along the river Somme. Each year, landscape designers, architects and visual artists are invited to respond to a call for proposals to create works in situ. Spread over this exceptional site, these creations offer a quirky or poetic view on this complex environment, its history, and its future, sometimes funny or critical, but always unexpected. It is also a gentle exploration that allows us to question the links between nature, culture, agriculture, and heritage in the face of the many effects of climate change.

The landscape of the Hortillonnages was formed when the river Somme widened into several indistinct ponds, creating a kind of jigsaw puzzle of land and water. In the Middle Ages, the inhabitants dug irrigation canals to create an area of productive market gardens (or hortillons). In the 19th century, there were as many as 950 hortillons. These gardens supplied the entire city with fruit and vegetables.

Created in 2010 by the Maison de la Culture d'Amiens, this garden festival is organised since 2018 by art & jardins | Hauts-de-France to further strengthen the links between contemporary gardens and

works of art, ecology, social inclusion, and sustainable regional development. It is also part of a larger garden project covering the whole of the Hauts-de-France region, the Grand Est region and internationally.

DESIGN OR CONCEPT OF A CONTEMPORARY PARK OR GARDEN

2nd Prize: Roof Garden Atmos, Zurich (CH) by Studio Vulkan Landschaftsarchitektur and EM2N Architekten

<https://www.studiovulkan.ch/project/orion-zuerich/>

Zurich West has developed rapidly in recent years, and the pressure on open spaces has increased as a result. The Atmos site is located in the immediate vicinity of a very characteristic existing poplar avenue. The new development creates more space, e.g. for a pavilion with climbing plants. A popular bakery has found a new home here, making the square one of the most important neighbourhood squares in Zurich West. The wooden piles around the square form a playful boundary between the meeting spaces and the entrances and are popular with children as a playground.

The other part of the site is the roof garden, designed by Studio Vulkan. It is an important part of the green roof landscape that is developing rapidly in Zurich West. Roofs are often the only way to bring large, contiguous green spaces into the neighbourhood. The lively roof garden of Atmos with its 1,500 sqm provides plenty of space for peace and inspiration. Furnished recessed balconies have been established that are within easy reach of the offices. The roof is also part of the water management system, as it is heavily planted and the entire roof surface and its raised beds function as a water reservoir. This makes it possible to limit the maintenance of the roof, as most of the water from the roof and façade is used for the plants.

DESIGN OR CONCEPT OF A CONTEMPORARY PARK OR GARDEN

2nd Prize: The Hepworth Wakefield Garden, Wakefield (UK) by Tom Stuart-Smith

<https://hepworthwakefield.org/whats-on/the-hepworth-wakefield-garden/>

Tom Stuart-Smith's design is inspired by its unusual setting between 19th century red brick mills and a 21st century art gallery, bordered by the River Calder. It echoes the bold, angular forms of the gallery, designed by David Chipperfield, while drawing on a naturalism that reflects Barbara Hepworth's deep connection with the landscape.

Seating, open spaces and stepless paths within the garden allow the widest possible audience to use and move through the space. A Victorian gatehouse in the garden has been restored and brought back to life as a small café.

Over 14,000 herbaceous perennials, 120 metres of beech hedges and 52 trees and shrubs have been introduced to the site. A further 60,000 spring bulbs have been planted throughout the garden. Carefully selected for their colour and architectural form, the plants change with the seasons, creating evolving vistas and year-round interest.

The drought-tolerant planting of the complex meadow beds has evolved to cope with periods of drought, with many plants originating from the prairie habitats of North America, where summers are warm and winters cold, allowing the plants' deep root systems to retain moisture and collect whatever falls. This greatly enhances the biodiversity of the site and much needed places for birds and insects, creating an oasis in the heart of the city.

MANAGEMENT OR DEVELOPMENT OF A HISTORIC PARK OR GARDEN

1st Prize Walmer Castle and Gardens, Deal (UK)

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/walmer-castle-and-gardens/>

This English Heritage garden has a wide range of areas from beach, natural woodland and meadows to formal gardens, a kitchen garden, and perennial borders. Although it is a historic garden where groups of plants are maintained in certain areas, modern and more exotic plant species are used.

The replanted herbaceous borders in the Broadwalk Garden were unveiled in 2016. The colour and planting of the double borders is inspired by Gertrude Jekyll. A visually striking feature of the Broadwalk is the organic undulating 'cloud' hedge.

The Queen Mother's Garden is laid out along classical lines, reflecting Penelope Hobhouse's interest in Islamic gardens. The result is a tranquil combination of still water, lush planting, and cool shade. When it opened in July 1997 it was the first new garden created by English Heritage. It launched a design programme for other contemporary gardens at English Heritage properties.

A £2.3m project restored the wildflower meadow known as the Paddock and the planted former chalk quarry known as the Glen. Paths have been restored to historic plans and historic sites have been helped to recover their natural flora, fauna, and habitats, such as the fragile and distinctive chalk grassland flora and fauna. The Glen has been re-created, inspired by the evergreen planting mentioned in letters written by Lady Hester Stanhope, and the 'keyhole' view has been re-established.

The 1st Prize for Walmer Castle also recognises the work and achievements of English Heritage in the conservation and development of historic and cultural heritage and in particular garden culture.

MANAGEMENT OR DEVELOPMENT OF A HISTORIC PARK OR GARDEN

2nd Prize: Gardens of Manoir d'Eyrignac, Salignac-Eyvigues (FR)

<https://www.eyrignac.com/en>

Family owned for 22 generations, the garden is open to the public since 1987. Originally laid out in the 18th century as a formal French garden and redesigned in the 19th century in the English style, the gardens were completely redesigned by the present owner's father in the 1960s. Today's appearance is based on old manuscripts and illustrations and combines aspects of a 'grand siècle' Renaissance garden with medieval kitchen gardens and a contemporary evergreen design.

More than three hundred box and yew sculptures line large avenues and demonstrate the excellence of the art of topiary with scissors, string, and plumb bob.

The seven landscape gardens include a white rose garden with over five hundred white roses, a water garden with five pools, fountains and water features, a flower garden, a cottage garden, and a kitchen garden. Alongside the structured gardens, which showcase the essential elements of horticulture, there are colourful and poetic worlds of pine, hornbeam and cypress groves and colourful flower beds that create a rural atmosphere. An avenue of Atlas cedars separates the vegetable garden from the flower garden. There is an extensive programme of garden tours given by the head gardener and the owners, as well as courses in tree care and pruning.

MANAGEMENT OR DEVELOPMENT OF A HISTORIC PARK OR GARDEN

2nd Prize: Lednice Castle Park; Lednice (CZ)

<https://www.zamek-lednice.com/en>

The first historical record of this locality dates from 1222, but the castle as it looks today dates from 1846-1858, when Prince Alois II of Liechtenstein decided that Vienna was not suitable in the summer and had Lednice rebuilt into a summer palace in the spirit of English Gothic.

The remodelling of the park, which began in 1805 and was completed in 1811, was radical and followed English models. This took place much earlier than the remodelling of the castle building in the "English style". The new park was created by diverting the River Thaya and digging a new pond there. The excavated material was used to model islands in the pond and the rest of the park was backfilled by 60 to 100 cm. The park of almost 200 ha includes a palm house, a Venetian fountain, Roman aqueduct, a Chinese pavilion, artificial ruins, a minaret, and Johns Castle.

In recent years, the buildings and grounds have been renovated and, in some cases, redesigned. A survey of the tree population showed that there are about 550 species from all over the world. The palm house in Lednice is an eye-catcher. The semi-circular roof is made of cast-iron arches. The greenhouse was designed as an artistic biotope. The restoration was based on ten photographs with the aim of recreating the atmosphere of the 19th century.

Since 1996 by the whole Lednice-Valtice site is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

SPECIAL AWARD OF THE SCHLOSS DYCK FOUNDATION

1st Prize: Nad Dzherelom, Lviv (UA)

<https://city-adm.lviv.ua/news/society/social-sphere/292291-u-lvovi-vahitnym-pereselenkam-prezentuvaly-suchasnyi-tsentri-materi-i-dytyny-nezlamni-matusi>

The park Nad Dzherelom (Above the Source) restored an abandoned natural area for the social integration of internally displaced persons into the local community, while preserving the ecosystem and biodiversity. Nad Dzherelom is part of the Unbroken Mothers complex, which in turn is part of the Unbroken Ecosystem in Lviv, consisting of the best surgery, rehabilitation, housing, job search, sports, and art.

The main objective of the Nad Dzherelom project was to distance itself from the usual standards of natural environment development and to restore the barely healed abandoned quarry landscape and open it to the public. The restored lake is the heart of the park. In addition to its recreational function, it collects rainwater from the surrounding area. Planning decisions and construction work were organised to minimise interference with the established ecosystem.

The topography of the area has not been altered. Playgrounds and sports areas are located on existing flat areas, so as not to disturb the existing topography and to integrate the recreational areas into the vegetation. Paths are made of crushed stone so that the line between "wild" and "tamed" is blurred and depending on the intensity of human use of the paths, nature can absorb part of the cover.

The project shows how an unattractive area has been transformed into an aesthetic space for community regeneration and recreation. This project, which recently wins one of the New European Bauhaus Prizes 2024, also demonstrates how cheap and quick methods can be used to revive abandoned natural areas, make them accessible and reintegrate them into urban life.