

private plots & public spots 2010

Results of the international competition
best private plots 10 – Die besten Gärten 2010

www.privateplots.at



best private plots 10 – Die besten Gärten 2010 And the winners are...

The only international award for private gardens has been conferred for the fourth time by the province of Lower Austria – a distinction coveted around the world that makes an essential contribution to promoting garden architecture.

Gardens as places of innovation, as contemporary combinations of architecture, ecology and landscape were the focus of the international competition **best private plots 10 – Die besten Gärten 2010**. The award recognizes exemplary achievements in the design of sustainable private gardens implemented in the past ten years and is endowed with EUR 15,000 in prize money.

From among 72 projects from 22 countries and four continents submitted to the competition, the five members of the international expert jury nominated 28 projects. The final jury meeting decided on three winning projects and two honorable mentions that were presented to the public by Lower Austrian Deputy Provincial Governor Wolfgang Sobotka at the festive award ceremony on September 25th, 2010:

1st prize: **Landscape-Niwatan, Japan: mori x hako, Fukuyama**



Photo: Teruyo Nishiya

This miniature garden amidst buildings in a densely built-up city combines nature and architecture. It was created by close interaction between architecture and landscape design. The garden surprises visitors and can be perceived from all floors of the building: a narrow jungle that evokes positive emotions. The project is exemplary for the design of high-quality green spaces despite extreme limitations of space.

2nd prize: Calonder Landscape Architects, Switzerland: Le Very, Ecoteaux



Photo: Augusto Calonder

The garden reacts with sensitivity and honesty to the agricultural history of the farmstead and the landscape. Nevertheless, it presents new elements of design and meets the requirements of a different, contemporary lifestyle. It opens up to the environment and creates differentiated spaces for varied uses.

3rd prize: Andrea Cochran Landscape Architecture, USA: Stone Edge Farm, Sonoma Valley



Foto: Vicky Sambunaris

The garden impresses with its atmosphere, its gorgeous colors and materials, and the perfect execution of its design and construction. The composition creates a sequence of captivating spaces and integrates the architecture into the landscape, which is in turn brought into the garden to some extent.

Honorable mentions

wirbel institut für feministische forschung und praxis, Austria: Nachbarschaftsgarten Roda-Roda-Gasse, Wien

This example of communal gardening is a potentially trendsetting social project. Creative involvement in community gardens, including strategies to ensure ecological sustainability, could become a field of work for landscape architects.

Swift Company, USA: Stone Quarry Bay Point House, Montana, USA

This garden appears as if it had not been designed. The underlying principle was to emphasize respect for the natural environment first and foremost, and to unobtrusively submerge the building into the landscape.

Criteria

The award recognizes exemplary achievements in the design of private outdoor spaces and gardens, appraising sophisticated design ideas, artistic and conceptual quality, ecological quality, innovative use of plants and materials and the diversity of individual uses and functionality.

The jury

The jurors are renowned personalities from the fields of landscape architecture, architecture and cultural theory, who deal with the issues of garden design and landscape architecture in very different and innovative ways. The jury participated in the award ceremony and as lecturers in the symposium.

Bart Brands, karres en brands (NL)

Andrea Cejka, hutterreimann+cejka (A/CH/D)

Xavier Perrot, cao | perrot studio (F/USA)

Neil Porter, Gustafson Porter (GB/USA)

Judith Wieser-Huber, After Image Productions (A)

Biographies of the jury members see last page!

Exhibition and catalogue



The 28 projects nominated by the jury are presented in an exhibition at Loismus till November 5th, 2010. They are published in the bilingual catalog „best private plots 10 – Die besten Gärten 2010. Internationale Beispiele zu Gartenarchitektur“, along with essays by the jury members and symposium lecturers.

Catalog orders: <http://www.privateplots.at/en/catalogue.html>

Award ceremony



Photo: Johann Pfeiffer

From left: Augusto Calonder, Andrea Cochran, deputy governor Wolfgang Sobotka, Zenjiro Hashimoto

More information and printable photos for download: <http://www.privateplots.at/en/media.html>

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public spots on private plots

International Symposium on Landscape Architecture

September 25th, 2010 at Loisiium Hotel, Langenlois, Österreich

The symposium highlighted scenographic approaches to the design and use of gardens. The qualities of gardens were explored in terms of their functions as scenic, social or illusional spaces. Presenting their own work, the speakers engaged in a discussion on spatial, symbolic and social dimensions of outdoor spaces as well as the varied dynamics of perception and action in garden design and landscape architecture.

The symposium, which has taken place for the 4th time, is meant to be an open forum which fosters discussion of garden and landscape architecture. The participants, arriving from more than 20 countries, consistently appreciate the possibility to discuss the lectures as well as the informal talks.

Program

Judith Wieser-Huber and Gisela Steinlechner

Gardens on Film

Mise-en-scène is nothing new for gardens. This also holds true for films, even if the genre has rarely been associated with the significance of gardens so far. Using a number of film clips, the speakers illustrated how films have used private gardens in particular as settings and/or motifs.

Using the catchwords “normalcy” and “place of desire”, they explored gardens as “family strongholds”. In old, “organically grown” gardens in particular, questions of ancestry and memory, breaks and breakthroughs within the family structures are negotiated, as in “Un dimanche à la campagne” (Bertrand Tavernier, FR 1984) or “L’heure d’été” (Olivier Assayas, FR 2008).

Another recurring trope shows private gardens as “idylls”, and their fragility and illusory nature are used as metaphors and dramaturgical elements, for instance in David Lynch’s “Blue Velvet” (US 1986).

And then there are gardens as “artificial worlds” that films stage as spaces for projections, ideals and visions. These “paradises” are dominated by the elements of artificiality and transformation, causing the protagonists, as well as the viewers, to stand in wide-eyed wonder. A recent example shown was a clip from “Avatar” (James Cameron US/UK 2009).

Thanks to this innovative presentation, the function of gardens in films as backdrops that convey mood and meaning is bound to draw more attention in the future.

Bart Brands

The best private spots are public

Most of Karres en Brands’ work centers on public and large-scale projects determined by a variety of stakeholders, factors and changing conditions. Bart Brands therefore chose to focus on processes and developments in the projects “Park de Hoge Weide” and “Cross River Park London” in his presentation.

He demonstrated how many factors that cannot be influenced by planners have an impact on projects, and was not afraid to explore discontinuation and failure of projects as well. His presentation was nevertheless marked by enthusiasm and optimism, reflecting his office’s aim “to carefully accompany the emergence of a new and often unexpected process that influences the shape of the design. Design and research should result in a physical public space that is not so much an end product, but something that can constantly respond to changes over time. (...) If this takes place under good guidance, a new beauty will start to emerge, and in this lies the true quality of the design.”

<http://www.karresenbrands.nl/>

Xavier Perrot

Dreams

For the past ten years, cao | perrot studio has created hybrid environments blurring the line between landscape and art. Intuition and emotion are the design leitmotif to create places for dreaming. Based on case studies, Xavier Perrot presented the approach of “cultural sustainability” that is the basis of the studio’s work, as well as the “non-site” concept in his presentation.

The projects in France, Canada and the US presented ranged from public art projects (Willow Tree, Grand Prairie Central Park, Texas) to gardens (Jardin K, Quemper-Guézennec) and landscape installations (Cloud II, Malibu); some of them were planned as purely temporary interventions (Pillow Field, White Center, Washington 2010).

Xavier Perrot succeeded in describing the development of the projects as an exciting voyage, taking the audience along for the ride. In-depth research on materials and the use of unusual materials such as fishing nets or coconut shells, creating links to different cultures, were particularly interesting aspects of his presentation.

<http://www.caoperrotstudio.com/>

Neil Porter

Il faut cultiver notre jardin: we must cultivate our garden, we must tend to our affairs!

Gustafson Porter rarely design private gardens, but in their projects in public space, they seek to provide the same qualities of escape, intimacy and illusion that one may find in the privacy of a private garden. They describe their approach as follows: “In our congested cities, it is a privilege to own or have access to a garden; however, through our public work we strive to feed the soul and enrich the lives of many people.”

Neil Porter presented two projects in London – the well-known “Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fountain” and the “Government Office Court Yard” – as well as the “Garden of Forgiveness – Hadiqat as Samah” in Beirut, Lebanon, and the “Bay East Gardens” in Singapore.

The presentation allowed the audience to understand how the elegance of these internationally renowned projects emerges from great precision in design and not least due to carefully crafted models.

<http://www.gustafson-porter.com/>

Andrea Cejka

Moderator

Andrea Cejka moderated the lectures and discussions. She identified topics for discussion and encouraged dialogues between speakers and visitors, between international positions and regional conditions.

Garden & Art Tour

Sunday, September 26th, 2010, 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

A one-day tour of the Weinviertel region and the Kamptal valley took the participants to places where the elements of nature, landscape design, architecture and the fine arts combine to form their very own, specific dynamics – here, art is not relegated to museums, but alive, often out in the open. The tour featured private collections of contemporary art, historical country estates and gardens, and contemporary art projects as well as modern landscape design projects. Participants had also opportunity to sample the region’s culinary delights and fine wines.

Guide: Iris Meder, architecture historian and curator

The tour comprised among others:
historical river resorts on the river Kamp
Marienschlössl at Straß, rosarium

Buchberg castle, collection of contemporary art of Dieter and Gertraud Bogner, among others Dan Graham, Star of David Pavilion
Juliusburg castle at Stetteldorf, reconstruction of historic garden
Albéric G. Moreels, installation "Hedge" at the permanent garden show "Die Garten Tulln"
Promenadology with Bertram Weisshaar at Tulln
Grafenegg, English park and contemporary art, conclusion at the vinotheque

Conceptual idea and host

The combination of an international expert discussion with a competition was made possible by the host of the symposium, the government agency "Natur im Garten" of the Federal Province of Lower Austria.

Landscape architect, event organizer, editor and initiator Karin Standler (Austria): "Public spots on private plots brings private outdoor spaces to public attention and allows to discuss them in the broader context of society.

Across continents and cultures, new perspectives are opening up; cultural and social change, the approaches and ideas of designers, and not least the thoughts and needs of users are manifested in gardens in a multitude of forms and complex constellations.

Above and beyond that, when we explore the role of private outdoor spaces as testing grounds for spatial invention and material use, when we highlight their position as interfaces with public space, we demonstrate the great importance of this discourse for the design of public space and the quality of landscape architecture at any scale, as well".

The event fosters networking between garden and landscape architects and related professions. The exchange between participants, visitors and speakers takes place at various levels – the competition, the symposium, the award ceremony, the meet & greet – in the context of contemporary architecture and a centuries-old cultural landscape in Langenlois, Lower Austria.

Outlook for "private plots & public spots 2012"

The event is scheduled to take place every two years. 2012 is the next date for private plots & public spots, the international symposium and competition for garden architecture.

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Biographies of jurors and speakers

Bart Brands founded the landscape design practice Karres en Brands in Hilversum, The Netherlands, with Sylvia Karres in 1997. Their work encompasses all levels of scale and all aspects of the public domain, from designing street furniture and detailing public squares and parks to urban development and strategic urban planning. They were awarded the European Landscape Award by Topos, the international review of landscape architecture, for their projects and working methods in 2004. Bart Brands is an adjunct professor at RMIT University in Melbourne, Australia.

Andrea Cejka has worked as a self-employed landscape architect in Vienna since 1993, and has been a member of the joint venture hutterreimann+cejka landschaftsarchitektur, Berlin and Vienna, since 2001. In the course of her work as an independent landscape designer, she has gained experience in landscape architecture, open space planning, garden conservation, urban planning and rural development, landscape planning, urban green space planning and project development. In 2004, she was appointed professor of landscape architecture and design at HSR Rapperswil, Switzerland. Andrea Cejka studied landscape architecture in Vienna and Berlin.

Xavier Perrot is a partner in the office cao | perrot studio, Paris and Los Angeles. Cao and Perrot see themselves as artists and landscape architects. In their projects, they seek to create hybrid environments and places for dreaming. Their unconventional choices of materials enhance the impression of spaces determined by colors and sensuous materials. Xavier Perrot studied landscape design at the Saint-Ilan School in Brittany and at the "Conservatoire international des parcs et jardins et du paysage" in Chaumont-sur-Loire. He is a 2007-2008 laureate of the "Nouveaux albums des jeunes paysagistes" awarded by the French ministry of culture.

Neil Porter founded the landscape design practice Gustafson Porter with Kathryn Gustafson in 1997. They collaborate on all designs and projects created by the office. Their most prominent works include the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fountain in London's Hyde Park, the Old Market Square in Nottingham and the Gardens by the Bay in Singapore. Neil Porter studied architecture in Newcastle and at the Architectural Association in London, where he also taught after completing his studies. He has worked for a number of renowned architects, including work for Bernard Tschumi on the Parc de la Villette in Paris, where he first met Kathryn Gustafson.

Gisela Steinlechner is a cultural critic, literary critic and exhibition curator. She works on various literary and cultural research projects and has been teaching at the Department of German Philology at the University of Vienna since 1992. Gisela Steinlechner studied German philology and comparative literature in Innsbruck and Vienna.

Judith Wieser-Huber is an event organizer and curator based in Vienna. She has been working in the film industry since 1988 and founded After Image Productions, a cultural events office with a focus on film, fine arts and multimedia, in 1996. After Image Productions offers expertise in curating, artistic direction and management, event marketing, sponsoring, event management and logistics. Judith Wieser-Huber has explored the subject of gardens in film since 2001 and has worked as an advisor on dramaturgy in documentary films since 2002. She teaches at the Institute of Culture Management in Vienna.