

LAUSANNE JARDINS 2009

JARDINS DESSUS DESSOUS
20 JUIN – 24 OCTOBRE

Association Jardin Urbain
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PRESS RELEASE

Official opening of the *Lausanne Jardins 2009* Festival

The fourth *Lausanne Jardins* festival, which was launched in 1997 and took place in 2000 and 2004, presents around thirty contemporary gardens, created by landscape architects from all over the world. They are positioned along four scenic and surprising promenades which stretch from the old Berne road to the edge of the lake, from Epalinges to Ouchy.

The *Lausanne Jardins 2009* festival, has chosen as name “Gardens over and under”, linking it closely with the circuit taken by the m2 metro. The launch of the metro has metamorphosised Lausanne and called for the reorganisation of the whole public transport network, transforming the daily habits of its users and of those who visit the city.

Lausanne Jardins 2009 accompanies this considerable urban change by changing perceptions of the city and its landscapes since the m2 metro is not only a useful means of transportation but also a plaything, inciting us to take time out to saunter through the city. A “teleski” connects four pedestrian loops which have been created like a scenography, bringing together cinematographic sequences creating contrasting sensory experiences – wide landscapes /micro landscapes, nature / artifice, opening / closure, ridges /woody banks, open fields /urban spaces etc.

The theme “over and under” comes from the combination of two different modes of transport, by metro, underground and on foot, physically in contact with the earth. The viewpoint of romantic engravings showing Lausanne with the lake and mountains in the background is directly opposed to the hypermodernity of Lausanne and its metro’s automatic rail system. Further oppositions of slowness to speed, the hidden to the seen, darkness to light, mineral to vegetable, serve as metaphors for a plant itself, which is composed of roots hidden below and an airbound stalk.



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International competition

This context served as the basis for an international competition from which over thirty contemporary gardens, created by landscapes architects from China, France, Germany, Holland, Italy and Switzerland, were selected.

Urban situations and negotiations

The landscape architects were free to situate their projects at any point along the proposed circuit. The consent of the grounds' owners, both private and public, had to be sought before taking steps to get permission from the relevant authorities. This phase of negotiations gave way to some unexpected collaborations, support from volunteers and solid partnerships, without which the festival would not have been possible.

The “temporary”

Lausanne Jardins is conceived around the concept of the “temporary”, the etymological origin of which comes from the Latin word “providere”, meaning “to provide”. The gardens are prototypes which can test situations, perceptions and new habits. They aim to transform our perception of the city and maybe even serve as a prelude to its modification.

Categories

Even though each garden project has its own conceptual autonomy, we can find certain elements which allow us to group them together in families.

Prodigious gardens

Several projects offer up the fruits of their garden, whether they be animal or vegetable, in the form of community soups or for distribution to the needy. This is the case of the projects “Plantons” (1.04), “Et In Arcadia Ego” (1.05), “La revanche de la fresa” (3.01) and “Champinox”(4.02). They continue the tradition established in the last two festivals of involving the inhabitants and various associations in the projects.

Revealing gardens

Many of the projects choose to draw our attention to a particular aspect of the natural landscape and the urban context. This is the case of “Topographies



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végétales”(1.01), “Sillons chantez” (1.02), “Les Ors du Lac” (1.03), “Rhize” (1.06), “Dentelles”(2.01), “La traversée”(2.03), “La promenade des eaux/ The Wall”(2.04), “Secrets de gouttes”(3.03), “Intertwined landscapes”(4.03) or “Coupons de paysage”(4.07).

Prototype gardens

Some projects propose new solutions for urban layout, on a large scale. “Golden garden”(2.08) is a roof covered with vegetation. “A chaque château son jardin” (2.07) suggests an alternative to the presence of a car park in the heart of old city. “Green Trap”(3.04) presents a vegetation covered giant spider’s web, spreading between the two roadways of the Bessières bridge. “Transporting-Transpotting”(4.08) is a new way of showing the limit between earth and water.

Poetic manifestos

Certain projects are characterized by their poetic dimension, like the projects “De cocoons et cocoons”(1.07), “Heaven can’t wait” (2.02), “La reconquête”(2.09), “Green Tower”(3.05), “Le monde renversé”(4.04) and “L’ère du futur”(4.06).

Underground gardens

Three gardens have been created in the underground space of the m2 metro stations: “Ligne de vie” (5.01), “Macchina meravigliosa” (5.02), “Hosepipe garden” (5.04). The technical support throughout the construction of the 32 gardens was carried out by l’*Atelier du Paysage Jean-Yves Le Baron Sàrl*, who have done a remarkable job.

Roadbook

One of the new features of the fourth *Lausanne Jardins* festival is the publication of a 140page long bilingual French / English accompanying guidebook. The *Roadbook* groups together documentation compiled by several specialists- landscape architects, geographers, historians and biologists – along with the presentation of the contemporary gardens, portraits of key actors we can find along the circuit and a list of cultural events associated with *Lausanne Jardins 2009*. It can be found in around twenty sales points dotted along the circuit, at the price of CHF 14.50 (10 Euros).



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Photography and graphic design

The photographer Léonore Baud will provide a visual record of the different projects and their evolution throughout the summer. The graphic design of the festival is the work of l'Atelier Poisson, Giorgio Pesce.

Music

Numerous cultural events are taking place in association with *Lausanne Jardins 2009*. For example, the exhibition "Nature in kit" currently showing at the Mudac, the "Wide Landscapes of Europe" exhibition currently showing at the Lucy Mackintosh gallery; the musical performances of the "ensemble baBel", of the Gangbé Brass Band and the singer Erika Stucki.

Francesco Della Casa, Head Curator of *Lausanne Jardins 2009*

Committee members of the Association Jardin urbain

President: **Jacques Richter**, architect, Lausanne

Vice-President: **Jean-Christophe Bourquin**, City Councillor, Director of the Social Security and Environment Department

Substitute Vice-President: **Daniel Brélaz**, Mayor of Lausanne

Olivier François, City Councillor, Director of Public Works

Nicole Christe, Head of the Architecture Service of Lausanne City Council

Chantal Prod'hom, Director of the mudac museum

Michel Joye, Director of Lausanne and Region Public Transports

Eric Perrette, Head of the Architecture Service of the Vaud canton

Marc Perrin, Head of the Parks and Walks Service of Lausanne City Council

Claude Petitpierre, Director of Lausanne Tourist Office

Laurent Rivier, Chief Administrator of LO Holding

Fabien Ruf, Head of the Cultural Affairs Service of Lausanne City Council

Sponsors and patrons

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