
CALL FOR PROPOSALS 13th INTERNATIONAL GARDEN FESTIVAL

Grand-Métis, Québec, Canada. September 13, 2011 – The International Garden Festival is launching a call for proposals to select designers to create the new temporary gardens for the Festival for its 13th edition to be held from June 22 to October 7, 2012 on the site of Les Jardins de Métis/Reford Gardens. The Festival encourages participants to form multidisciplinary teams to favour an approach that encompasses the various design disciplines. There is no theme for this edition. This call for proposals is thus open to:

- **Canadian designers;**
- **International designers;**
- **Multinational and/or multidisciplinary teams** composed of **at least one landscape architect** and accompanied by an architect, designer, artist, engineer, scientist, botanist, etc.

For additional information consult www.internationalgardenfestival.ca.

Deadline for the Reception of Proposals

The deadline to receive proposals electronically is **FRIDAY NOVEMBER 11, 2011 at 5 pm EST**. Applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.

Further Information: **Alexander Reford**
Director
Reford Gardens / International Garden Festival
200, route 132, Grand-Métis (Québec) CANADA G0J 1Z0
Email: alexander.reford@jardinsdemetis.com

International Garden Festival: Forum for Innovation and Laboratory for Experimentation

The International Garden Festival is recognized as one of the most important events of its kind in North America and one of the leading annual garden festivals in the world. Since 2000, hundreds of thousands of visitors have discovered more than one hundred contemporary and ephemeral gardens created by designers from 15 countries. The Festival is a unique forum for innovation and experimentation and an exceptional showcase and launching pad for participating designers from a host of disciplines. It provides an annual *rendez-vous* for admirers of contemporary gardens and design as well as offering a unique space for those involved in the renewal of this art form. This artistic and tourism event also gives visitors a chance to discover inspiring spaces bringing together the visual arts, architecture, design, landscape and the environment.

The Festival encourages participating designers to explore all facets of the garden, from the physical setting (site and context) to creating a range of sensory, emotional and intellectual experiences for the visitor. The Festival sees the garden as a space for creative interaction, while not negating its botanical and horticultural dimensions. The Festival imagines the garden as a multi-sensorial space and encourages designers to consider the visitor's experience in the design of the garden, provoking interaction, participation, exchange and reflection.

The Festival is an opportunity to compare and contrast approaches and engage in a critical examination of the theory and practice of the art of gardens, offering a host of points of view on this contemporary art form to a broad and diversified audience. The goal of the event is to stimulate new creation by presenting temporary projects that question the very idea of the garden in light of its history and its place in today's society while also allowing visitors to enjoy new sensory experiences.

In addition to designers selected by an international call for proposals, the Festival also selects designers by invitation. The Festival featured invited designers from the city of Berlin in 2010 and from New York in 2011. Designers from London, England will be invited to participate in 2012. This does not preclude designers from these cities from submitting proposals as part of this call for proposals.

The Festival Site

Located in Grand-Métis, in the Gaspésie region of Québec, Canada, the International Garden Festival is held on a 10-acre site adjacent to the Jardins de Métis / Reford Gardens, the historic gardens created by Elsie Reford from 1926 to 1958. In 2012, the Gardens are celebrating the 50th anniversary of their opening to the public. A program of special events, celebrations and exhibitions will form part of the 2012 program.

The Festival site is delimited on the north by the St. Lawrence River, on the west by a mature forest of deciduous trees (trembling aspen) and on the east by a field that opens onto a forest of conifers. The site is articulated around two perpendicular axes. The north-south axis is defined by a geometric grid of identical rectangular spaces that are 10m x 20m. These sunny and open spaces possess one entry/exit from the West and/or the East. They are separated from each other by a filter of trees (birch, ash, maple and linden) underplanted with ground covers.

The west-east axis consists of a series of garden rooms that are variable in size and of irregular configurations (from 150 m² to 250 m²). Surrounded by mature conifers (mostly white spruce) and poplars, these garden rooms are shadier than those on the grid. They mostly have a single entrance/exit from the access road but offer filtered views to the St. Lawrence.

The natural soil is clay and designs and designers should take into consideration that the water table is about 1.5 meter below the surface. Extensive excavation should thus be avoided. All of the sites have been used for the past 10 years and thus have adequate soil and subsurface drains. All sites have access to water and electricity. Wi-Fi is also available on the site and has been used for various projects.

The summer climate in Grand-Métis is temperate, with temperatures varying from 15°C to 25°C from June to October. Most perennials flourish in this climate (hardiness zone of 4b). The [hardiness zone map](#) outlines the different zones in Canada where various types of trees, shrubs and flowers will most likely survive based on the average climatic conditions of each area. Most annual plants and several varieties of exotics (such as agapanthus, plumbago, etc.) can be used for the summer months.

We produce most of the plants in our greenhouses beginning in February/March. Planting is done in June. Designers should thus expect to use mature plants or plants with a rapid growth rate if they wish to assure bloom during the time the temporary garden is exhibited.

Festival gardens are often exhibited for more than one summer and designers will be asked to propose ways in which the garden can evolve over two years, either by plantings, structural changes or events for the second year. Not all gardens are presented for more than one year.

Selection Process

The designers will be selected by a jury on the basis of:

- The positioning or critical basis of their proposal with regard to the practice of garden design;
- The contribution of their approach to the art of the garden and its renewal;
- The originality, coherence and clarity of the creative approach;
- The quality of the professional practice and recognition of the excellence of constructed work of the designers.

The selected gardens will be announced on Monday December 5, 2011 on the International Garden Festival website (www.internationalgardenfestival.ca).

Project Oversight and Construction

The design and construction of the temporary gardens will be overseen by the Festival team. An experienced foreman (François Leblanc) and Festival horticulturist (Jean-Yves Roy) oversee the construction and planting of each garden. The construction of the gardens will begin in May 2012. The Festival and workers assure the maintenance of the garden after the opening.

Designers are expected to be on site to assist in the construction of their garden during the week leading up to the opening of the Festival (June 16 to 23, 2012).

The candidates chosen to participate in the Festival agree to work to the schedule established by the Festival.

Budget and Honoraria

The budget for the creation and construction of each garden is **\$25,000 (CAN)**. This budget is divided in the following fashion:

- **\$5,000** for the designers' honorarium, which is paid to the designers in two instalments;
- Up to **\$10,000** for the purchase of materials necessary for the realization of the project (including engineering or other fees if required). This budget is managed jointly by the Festival and the designer;
- Up to **\$10,000** for labour costs for the construction of the garden. The budget for labour is non-transferable.

Up to **\$2,000** is available for travel expenses and meals to allow designers to travel to the Festival. In addition, designers are housed in nearby Métis-sur-Mer at the Festival's expense during the week of the Festival opening, from June 16 to 23, 2012.

Designers are free and encouraged to solicit donations or grants for materials or other expenses (travel, printed material, etc.) for the realization of their garden. The Festival offers a range of visibility for donors and sponsors depending on the magnitude of the contribution in cash or product.

Presentation of Entries

The proposal (in French or English) must be sent electronically as 3 separate files:

- A. 1 PDF file identifying the TEAM (maximum 10 meg.);
- B. 1 PDF file presenting the PROJECT without the designers' name to assure anonymity (maximum 10 meg.);
- C. 1 JPG image presenting the PROJECT.

A. 1 PDF file (maximum 10 meg.) identifying the TEAM and presenting the following documents, in this order:

- Presentation page 11" x 17" or A3 with:
 - Title of the project;
 - Name of the team;
 - Name of the members of the team and their title (architect, landscape architect, etc.);
 - URL address of each of the members of the team;
 - City, country of residence of the team;
 - An 80-word presentation of the team;
 - Your answer to the following question (70 words): In what way, in your view, will your project contribute to the renewal of the art of the garden?
- A schema 11" x 17" or A3 presenting up to three recent projects by the team and/or its designers.
- *Curriculum vitae* of the designers (2 pages maximum per person).
- Name of the primary contact person with complete information (address, telephone, e-mail, web site).

N. B.: Please avoid compressing your texts or images in bitmap in the PDF file.

B. 1 PDF (maximum 10 meg., 300 dpi and RGB mode), presenting the PROJECT with the following documents, in this order (making sure to present the information without the team's name or designers):

- A schema 11" x 17" or A3 with:
 - A 180-word text describing the concept and presenting the experience offered to visitors in the proposed garden;
 - A layout plan of the garden (at minimum scale of 1/100);
 - A list of suggested plants.
- A schema 11" x 17" or A3 with:
 - 2 main views or elevations of the garden (candidate is free to choose the scale);
 - A perspective, sketch or rendering, showing the garden in its entirety.

N. B.: Please avoid compressing your texts or images in bitmap in the PDF file.

C. 1 JPG IMAGE presenting the PROJECT:

- An overall view of the project in JPG. Maximum size: 3000 x 4500 pixels.

Registration of Entries

Registration is first required in order to submit your application and will take a few minutes.

To complete your registration and submit your application, visit:

www.internationalgardenfestival.ca.

The deadline to receive proposals electronically is FRIDAY NOVEMBER 11, 2011 at 5 pm EST.

Proposals may be presented as part of an on-line exhibition showing each of the projects submitted. By taking part in this call for proposals, candidates authorize the International Garden Festival to make public, exhibit and disseminate their proposals. The Call for Proposals section of the Festival web site presents the projects submitted for the 2010 and 2011 Festival.

Schedule

2011

- September 13** Launch of the call for proposals
- November 11** Deadline to submit proposals
- December 5** Announcement of the chosen projects

2012

- February 1** Deadline to submit documents showing preliminary design for the garden
- March 1** Deadline to submit plans and estimates for the construction of the garden, incorporating comments by the technical committee of the Festival
- March 15** Final approval of plan and budget by Festival's artistic and technical committee
- March 15 to May 4** Purchase of materials and preparation of plants by the Festival in collaboration with the designers
- May 7** Construction begins by the Festival team
- June 16-23** Designers are on site to supervise the completion of their garden, participate in the opening events and meet the media
- June 22** Inauguration of the 13th edition of the International Garden Festival
- June 23** The Festival opens to the public
- June 23** Designers meet with the public
- October 7** The Festival closes

This schedule may be modified without notice.

The International Garden Festival reserves the right to not respond to this call for proposals.

