

INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR PROPOSALS 11th INTERNATIONAL GARDEN FESTIVAL

The **International Garden Festival** is launching a call for proposals to select designers to create temporary gardens for the Festival for its 11th edition to be held from June 26 to October 3, 2010 on the site of Les Jardins de Métis / Reford Gardens.

The Festival encourages participants to form multidisciplinary teams to favour an approach which is open and encompassing of the various design disciplines. This call for proposals is thus open to:

- **Canadian and international designers;**
- **Multidisciplinary teams** composed of a landscape architect and an architect, engineer, scenographer, artist or designer from other disciplines.

The theme for the 2010 Festival edition is: “Paradise”.

For additional information consult the www.refordgardens.com/festival2010.

Deadline for the Reception of Proposals

The deadline to receive proposals electronically is **Friday, November 6, 2009 at 17h00 EST**. The International Garden Festival will not accept applications submitted after the deadline.

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International Garden Festival: a Forum for Innovation and a 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 two leading annual garden festivals in the world. Since 2000, 850,000 visitors have explored more than 100 gardens created by over 200 designers from 10 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 participants to explore all facets of the garden, from the physical setting (site and context) to creating a range of sensory, emotive 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 conceives the garden as a multi-sensorial space and encourages designers to consider the visitor's experience in the conception 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.

Theme for the 2010 edition: “Paradise”

Since time immemorial mankind has re-imagined the idea of paradise on earth through the garden and has imagined places of great beauty. These places, by evoking our senses, have pulled us out of our everyday world to experience the sublime.

What does paradise look like today?

By reading paradise in different directions (not only the religious one), designers are invited to frame the theme by using, for example, the notion of the landscape or garden as a metaphor and framework to support a story or myth, whether religious or not. Another direction to explore would be to frame paradise within the technical or pragmatic imperative to recover the world in its primeval state prior to the destructive forces that are perceived to be undermining the environment; the notion of the lost state of “nature” as a kind of environmental and technical ideal. It would also be interesting to explore the notion of Utopia, bringing the metaphoric ideas of paradise within the realm of the real.

Building on emerging practices in landscape architecture, we ask you to imagine your garden of paradise; a creation that will speak to the history of gardening, to philosophy, to religion and to history in general, as well as to contemporary society and to your own personal history. This contemporary garden should be considered as an exploration, an experimentation and a strong expression of community. It will be a complex landscape, living and responding to the human condition, a composition of natural and artificial elements that will give meaning to everyday life. Proposed projects must demonstrate through the use of new practices the role that landscape architecture may be expected to play in our current historical and social context.

The Festival Site

Located in Grand-Métis, in the Gaspésie region of Québec, Canada, the Festival is held on a 10 hectare site adjacent to the historic gardens, Jardins de Métis / Reford Gardens, created by Elsie Reford from 1926 to 1958. 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 the boreal forest.

The site is articulated around two perpendicular axes. The north-south axis, called the Grid (or “La Plaque”), is defined by a geometric grid of identical rectangular spaces that are 10m x 20m. These sunny and open spaces possess one entry/exit at the West and/or the East. They are separated from each other by a filter of trees (birch, ash, maple and linden) underplanted with different varieties of 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 it is best not to dig more than 1 meter in depth. However, most 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.

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 (<http://sis.agr.gc.ca/cansis/nsdb/climate/hardiness>) 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 many 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.

Candidates of the 2010 Festival

This call for entries is open to all professional designers (or teams of designers) from Québec, the rest of Canada and internationally that work in the fields of landscape architecture, architecture, visual arts, and design. **We encourage each team to incorporate a landscape architect or a garden designer.**

The Festival seeks to promote an “auteur” approach and favours individual creativity rather than submissions from professional offices (without identified designers) or associations.

Submission of Entries

The entries must be sent electronically as **a single PDF file not exceeding 30 Mb**. It should contain (in this order) the following documents (in French or English):

- Presentation page with:
 - Name of the project;
 - Name of the designers;
 - Name of the respondent for the team;
 - Address;
 - Telephone, fax, e-mail and web site address (if appropriate);
 - A 150-word presentation of the team showing the strength of this multidisciplinary association;
 - Your answer to the following question (70 words maximum): 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 with:
 - A 150-word text describing the concept and presenting the experience offered to the visitors;
 - 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 showing the garden in its entirety.
- *Curriculum vitæ* of the designers (2 pages maximum per person).
- A schema 11" x 17" or A3 presenting up to three recent projects by the team and/or its designers

To submit your application, go to www.refordgardens.com/festival2010 to complete your registration and obtain a password to submit your proposal.

The deadline to receive proposals electronically is Friday, November 6, 2009 at 17h00 EST.

Proposals may be presented as part of an on-line exhibition. By taking part in this call for proposals, candidates authorize the International Garden Festival to make public, exhibit and disseminate their proposals.

Selection process

The designers will be selected by a jury, chaired by an internationally-known designer, 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 their professional practice and recognition of the excellence of their work.

The selected gardens will be announced on Tuesday December 1st, 2009.

Festival gardens may be exhibited for a one, two or three-year period and designers will be asked to propose gardens that 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.

Project oversight and design

The design and construction of the temporary gardens will be overseen by the artistic and technical committee, consisting of the director, the artistic director, and the technical co-ordinator of the Festival. The candidates chosen to participate in the Festival agree to work to the schedule established by the Festival.

Honoraria and budget

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;
- Up to **\$10,000** (including taxes) for the purchase of materials and/or the employment of consultants necessary for the realization of the project. 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 construction is done by a team of workers employed by the Festival under the supervision of the technical co-ordinator, working in collaboration with the designers. This budget is non-transferable. The Festival is responsible for the maintenance of the garden.

Up to **\$2,000** is available for travel expenses and meals to allow designers to travel to the Festival.

The designers are housed in the area at the Festival's expense during the final week leading up to the Festival opening, from June 18th to 27th, 2010.

Schedule

2009

- September 14** Launch of the call for entries
- November 6** Deadline to send proposals
- December 1st** Public announcement of the chosen projects

2010

- February 1st** Deadline for reception of documents showing the preliminary design for the garden
- February 26** Deadline to submit plans and estimates for the construction of the garden, incorporating comments by the technical committee of the Festival
- March 12** Final approval of the plans and estimates by Festival's artistic and technical committee
- March 16 to May 1st** Purchase of materials and preparation of plants by the Festival in collaboration with the designers
- May 5** Construction begins by the Festival team
- June 18-25** Designers are on site to supervise the completion of the gardens, participate in the opening events, meet the public and the media
- June 25** Inauguration of the Festival
- June 26** The Festival opens to the public
- June 27** Designers meet with the public
- October 3** The Festival closes

This schedule may be modified.

The International Garden Festival reserves the right not to follow up on this call for entries.