

THE AWAKENING

Villa Erba, Cernobbio (Como)

30th September, 1st – 2nd October 2016

THE AWAKENING...
MORE THAN 23.000 VISITORS WERE AT ORTICOLARIO EIGHTH EDITION

Orticolario proved to be one of most cherished and appreciated event among those for gardening enthusiasts with more than 23.000 visitors.

Moritz Mantero, president of Orticolario, stated: *“With this eighth edition, Orticolario proved to be an International event, not just for the presence of foreign exhibitors and nursery farmers, but also for the increasing amount of foreign visitors from France, Switzerland and England. Not to mention, this year winner of “La Foglia d’Oro del Lago di Como” is Satoru Tabata (Enzo): Japanese designer of the exhibition “Vedere con le orecchie, ascoltare con gli occhi” along with Spazio Floema. Even the Spanish landscape designer Fernando Caruncho, winner of the award “Per un giardinaggio evoluto”, has been fascinated by Orticolario. Clearly Orticolario is able to induce great emotions, fusing passion for nature with art and design within a setting made of beauty and elegance.”*

Oddities of this eighth edition...

Visitors had the possibility during the past three days of the event, from 30th September to 2nd October, to discover 250 exhibitors and their “stories beyond leaves”; to admire inside Villa Erba Garden flowerbeds of more than 20 varieties of anemone, flower of the wind and protagonist of this year edition; to experience the eight creative spaces selected during the International contest; to be intrigued by art pieces and exhibitions created by artists and designers; to listen to tales and advices of writers, researchers, gardening experts. Even children had the chance to experience nature while having fun through many workshops designed just for them.

Here some oddities of this concluded eighth edition:

For the first time on show, **“Smeralda Green Show”, the “green” rose without thorns has been presented during the event and created by Twelve Energy**, an Italian-Indian society that had built the world biggest site of photovoltaic greenhouses in Villasor, Sardinia. The “Smeralda Green Show” has a peculiar appearance, green and lush without thorns; nurtured in the soil, can reach three-metres height and grows of a centimetre per diem after stems cutting. The innovation of Smeralda Green Show consists in its decorative branches (which come from Corallo ErettaTM – Patfru variety) without thorns and very flexible, permitting to manipulate them easily.

Orticolario did also want to pay homage to Villa Erba, **planting again two *Salix babylonica* “Pendula”** (nurtured by Piante Mati, Pistoia, since 1909), weeping willows which already were inhabiting the “Laghetto delle carpe” area since few years ago until their death. In that magical place, Orticolario wanted to bring life where it once was: a portal for the Sixth Sense. *Salix babylonica* ‘Pendula’, better known as weeping willow, (Salicaceae family) is native of the Middle East area, between Tigris and Euphrates. It is told to grow in the Hanging gardens of Babylon. It is a plant that loves water, common to live on river sides and lakes.

Orticolario is for an Evolved Gardening: for this reason it will push to repeat the process of planting new specimens, in order to rebuild a botanic heritage of Villa Erba Garden paying special consideration and respect to its *genius loci*.

First anemones of the season, 800 specimens sent by **Ligurian coast nursery farmers**, were used for floral demonstrations directed by Rudi Casati, professor at Fondazione Minoprio.

Two firms associated with Distretto Florivivaistico Alto-Lombardo have presented some novelties, already

purchasable. Floricoltura Mondelli has shown a **new variety of cyclamen (*Cyclamen Petticoat*)**, characterised by a compact appearance and by its unique flower, which resembles a skirt lifted by the wind, setting it apart from other cyclamen. It can tolerate cold weather. The firm Vivai Nord instead has shown these specimens: ***Cornus kousa* “Re TiVano”[®], *Mahonia confusa* “Nara-hiri”, *nandina domestica* “Twilight” PBR and “Encore”[®] azaleas.**

Two visitors worth mentioning who attended this year event were: **Luc Noël**, creator and presenter of RTBF Belgian Tv program “Jardin et loisirs”, and **Louis Benech**, renown French landscape designer who had restored Tuileries gardens in Paris.

Orticolario 2016 awards go to...

On 30th September were presented the **awards** that international Committees assigned to those installations proposed by this year event exhibitors and considered to be the best.

Technical Committee evaluated **variety as well as rarity of arboreal specimens of the collection, attention to research and detail proposed by nursery farmers.**

The **“Collection Award”** went to **Azienda Agricola Zanelli Mauro & C** (Montichiari – BS) for the impressive show of more than 35 varieties of Japanese anemones (hybrids of *Anemone japonica*) complete of explanation sheets.

Special mentions went to: **Pépiniere Figoli** for the selection of fig seeds (*Ficus carica*) collected in the Mediterranean basin and **Vivai Tara** for the 30 and more varieties of pomegranate (*Punica gratum*) with fruits of different shapes, colours and taste.

The **“Research Award”** went to **Donne di Piante** for the passion and commitment into exposing non-invasive and unusual species of bushes like Buddleja.

Special mentions went to: **Vivai Piante Omezzoli** for the interesting selection of table grapes and **Associazione Vivai** for the wide selection of unknown trees and bushes.

The **“Rarity Award”** went to **Geel Floricoltura** for the rare specimen of *Moringa oleifera* with its numerous uses, especially as edible plant for human and animals.

Special mentions went to: **Riboni Alfredo Floricoltura** for the orchid *Mexipedium xerophyticum* as botanical rarity and **Florservice “Cactus Lago Maggiore”** for its notable specimen of *Euphorbia multifolia*.

Aesthetical Committee evaluated **staging of spaces, as well as lighting solutions, awarding the best set-up.**

The **“Best set-up Award”** went to the **landscape designer Alexandre Thomas** (France) for his project of a garden harmonizing bushes and herbaceous leaf plants with refined elegance. Special mentions went to: **Minari Buxus** (Parma) for the setup of a formal topiary garden of *Carpinus* and *Buxus* on different tones of green, the Italian magazine **Dove** (Milan) for being able to recreate inside the idea of an enclosed garden inviting the visitor to enter and experience resting moments, the exhibition **Sofia di Francesco Mazzola | iFlame** (Capriate San Gervasio – Bg) for its exciting sculptural impact.

The **“Best products set-up Award”**, for the best exhibition space non-nursery farmer, a simple but effective and harmonious disposition of products on show went to **All’Origine** (Imola – Bo), together with the landscape designer Silvia Ghirelli, for the poetic setting within a fairy wood able to enhance products and vintage elements.

Special mentions went to: **Shitmuseum** (Gagnano Trebbiese) for the collection of vases and furnishing made of Merdacotta[®], hand-crafted, paying particular attention to detail and sustainability, **Anna Flower Designer** (Cassano Magnago – Va) for the specific floral compositions made of fruits and leaves, an “Animated 9 Still-life” painted with autumnal colours, **Tillandsia di Michieli Floricoltura** (Vescovana – Pd) for the original exhibition of aerial bromeliaceae and tillandsia suggesting interior green walls, with a little maintenance.

The **“Best plants set-up Award”** for the best nursery farmer exhibiting space, a simple but still refined and harmonious exhibition of plants on show and on sell went to **Azienda Agricola Zanelli Mauro & C.** (Montichiari – Bs), for a wide variety of perennial herbaceous, autumn blooming plants, a vivid border

with a rich biodiversity.

Special mentions went to: **Aromatiche ClaGia** (Sciaccia – Ag) for the exhibition of unusual medicinal plants which involves all 5 senses and the Sixth Sense too, 2016 Orticolario theme, **Vivaio Anna Peyron di Saskia Pellion di Persano** (Castagneto Po – To) for an elegant exhibition enhancing a wide variety of berry plants autumn coloured, **Floricultura Federico Billo** (Merlara – Pd) for the appealing idea of English Dianthus presented inside wooden boxes, as if they were carnations.

Out of the competition, the Committee highlighted the beauty of the Japanese style permanent garden **“Suono dell’anima”** by **Yasuo Kitayama (Kitayama Zouen)** at Golfo Platani, realised by Orticolario during 2013 edition. A place for meditate, where admire the true magic of *genius loci*.

Gardens Committee evaluated the **quality of set-up, harmony of staging, botanical choices, quality of plants, viability (for an actual garden), innovation, correspondence between the presented project and actual installation, and also conformity of presented plans besides of what previously declared.**

Awards and special mentions has been chosen among winners of the International contest “Spazi creativi” for the realisation of theme gardens and artistic-landscape exhibitions within Villa Erba Garden.

Winner of the prize **“La Foglia d’Oro del Lago di Como”** is **Spazio Floema with “Vedere con le orecchie, ascoltare con gli occhi”** designed by **Satoru Tabata (Enzo, Japan)**, a garden where the relationship between art and nature shaped a place open to the spiritual dimension, drawing together Japanese inspiration and Italian artisanal manufacture.

Conceived and realised exclusively for Orticolario by Gino Seguso of Vetreria Artistica Archimede Seguso, the prize is a curvaceous vase blown on Murano island (Venice) in which floats a golden leaf decorated with gold 24k. The Prize is unique and will be held by the winner for a limited period of time, after which it will return on show at Villa Carlotta in Tremezzina, on Lake Como, until Orticolario next edition. The name of the winner will be included inside the Golden book exhibited next to the Prize.

Last year “La Foglia d’Oro del Lago di Como” was won by the exhibition 12 **“Concluso con tatto”** designed by Roberto Benatti of Giardini Benatti (Cusano Milanino – Mi) and by Luca Bonoldi of F.lli Bonoldi (Carate Brianza – Mb).

A special mention goes to **Fondazione Minoprio students** and **their coordinators** that set up Central Pavilion exhibition, the “Acoustic Orchard” and “Dove” Space.

The **“Press” prize**, for a storytelling exhibition able to also evoke deep feelings, went to **Spazio Floema “Vedere con le orecchie, ascoltare con gli occhi”** by Satoru Tabata (Enzo, Japan), for an exciting and refined use of space, that invites inside.

The **“Empathy garden” prize**, for quality of specimens and exhibition social functions went to **“Giardini interiori”** by Studio Zero (Como) because, even if it has a simple concept, is able to draw a path for visitors which goes from rational to natural, through shapes and plant types.

The **“Artist garden” prize**, for a space where art and nature, and even different languages coexist. **Spazio Floema “Vedere con le orecchie, ascoltare con gli occhi”** by Satoru Tabata (Enzo, Japan) was awarded for being able to wrap itself of an artistic aura through the piece effective presentation.

The **“Great Italian Gardens”**, for a space where shapes and light express tradition and innovation all together, went to **Spazio AM Casali “Inside Nature”** by P’ARCNOUVEAU (Milan) for being able to create an attractive space.

The **“Essence prize”**, for the best combination of arboreal specimens, went to **“Disconnect to Reconnect”** by Verde Passione (Vedano al Lambro – Mb) for the research on varieties of specimens, precise matching and labeling of specimens inside the exhibition.

The special award **“For an Evolved gardening”** this year was given to the Spanish landscape architect **Fernando Caruncho** “for his talent to instill harmony in his own landscape projects, among different contexts and linking together philosophy and garden design, history and botany, culture and nature”.

The award is realised by iFlame in collaboration with HortensiaGardenDesigners.

“People’s choice” award, chosen by Orticolario visitors, will be assigned and the winner proclaimed during next weeks, after all votes has been counted.



After 2016 event, the Strategic Committee is already working **on the ninth edition, that will take place on 29th – 30th September and 1st October 2017.**

Cernobbio, 4th October 2016

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