



VALFREDDA SEMINAR 2023

MEDITERRANEAN GARDENS & LANDSCAPES DIFFERENT WORKING PHILOSOPHIES FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA

How the inspirations of the natural landscape can be declined within a project

21st September 2023

Sala Piatti, Città Alta Bergamo

SPEAKERS



Veronique Mure: For 30 years, Botanist and Tropical Agronomy Engineer Véronique Mure has been defending the heritage of the Mediterranean gardens and landscapes using the very history of the vegetation that compose them. A large part of her professional career has been in the public domain. Véronique Mure works to bring space to life in her gardens and landscapes. It's a conviction that she shares and transmits, which brought her to publish several works and to teach botany at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure du Paysage de Versailles in Marseille.



Valerio Miragoli: Valerio started his professional career in 1999 in Italy at Boboli Gardens learning from the tradition of renaissance Mediterranean gardens (Boboli and villa Castello) transmitted by a great team of experienced gardeners, at his return to Spain 3 years where spent under the guidance of Fernando Caruncho learning about the reality of contemporary gardens. In 2005, Miragoli Estudio, started his path in Madrid. The philosophy of the Studio is the creation of tailor made gardens directed to private clients. In 2013 the studio, was moved to Ibiza. Since then the practice it's been carried most of it in this island with a really special and extreme reality.



Maurizio Usai: Born in Cagliari in 1979, and fascinated from a tender age with the natural world, he graduated in Architectural Engineering in his home city, while at the same time independently studying cultivation, the art of gardening and the characteristics of the landscape. In his very early teens, in Solanas, just a short distance from Cagliari, he created "La Pietra Rossa", which soon emerged as a veritable laboratory for experimentation, in complete and defiant contrast to local concepts of gardening. His passion for plants is inseparably bound to his love for architecture, creating a singular focus that is clearly evident in his designs. An all-round fount of knowledge, he combines his design work with educational activities, publishing articles and taking part in conferences and seminars in Italy and abroad

Landscape Festival - I Maestri del Paesaggio

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Thomas Doxiadis: is an internationally recognized Greek architect and landscape architect. In 1999 he founded the architecture/landscape practice doxiadis+, who are devoted to design excellence and work to jointly satisfy the needs of people and the environment. The practice consists of architects and landscape architects, and has extensive international collaborations. Projects are often research-driven, and include design of developments, parks, marinas, residencies, resorts, urban interventions, landscape restoration, and policy.



James Basson: James and Scape Design Studio Working in the South of France for over 18 years, they have established a reputation for creating low maintenance, dry gardens that mix contemporary design with traditional skills. Creating timeless sustainable landscapes that are sympathetic to the natural environment, we use young plants that are compatible with the native climate and soil, requiring little if any, irrigation. Gold medal and 'Best Show Garden' for our 'M&G Garden' at the Chelsea Flower Show 2017.



MORNING SESSION

9:30 – 10:15 | FIRST ROUND TABLE (MEDITERRANEAN LANDSCAPE)

A different point of view from several part of south of Europe about what Is mean talk about Mediterranean, about make landscape and garden in that place, what kind of challenge we have to face off

A good point to start our training day.

10:15 – 11:05

SPEAKER: VERONIQUE MURE

TITLE: The Mucem's "Jardin des migrations", a laboratory garden to meet current ecological challenges

Within the Museum of European and Mediterranean Civilizations (MuCEM), the Migration Garden has maintained its reputation as a model of new Mediterranean gardens since 2013, the year it opened. Designed by the landscape architects of the APS agency in collaboration with the nurseryman Olivier Filippi and the botanist Véronique Mure, it overlooks the port of Marseilles, the place where plants and people arrived.

11:05 – 11:20 | BREAK

11:20 – 12:10

SPEAKER: VALERIO MIRAGOLI

TITLE: Looking for coherence in the Garden.

Coherency is our must and help us to learn and evolve in gardening and personal growth. our vision of the landscape through the experience gained between Madrid and Ibiza

12:10 – 12:55 | SECOND ROUND TABLE (RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOIL, ROOTS & WATER)

Create a garden is like create a small ecosystem, we couldn't talk only about plants or talk only about the use or water or not. We have start to think about soil and climate and after we can start to talk about vegetation, style of landscape and gardening and consequently water and management, is a complex subject to develop but if we want create a long life garden we have start from here

12:55 – 14:30 | BREAK FOR UNCH



AFTERNOON SESSION

14:30 – 15:20

SPEAKER: MAURIZIO USAI

TITLE: Waterwise doesn't mean dry – designing gardens for people and plants.

- There are many Mediterranean landscapes that can be very different from each other.
- It is necessary to thoroughly understand the environmental and microclimatic characteristics of each, to design gardens that are linked to the place and the people who will live there.
- Carefully understanding the place and its peculiarities allows you to create gardens deeply linked to its territory without holding to the stereotype of a "dry" Mediterranean garden.
- Respect and care for soil, multiply shady areas, manage rain and irrigation are the main technical aspects from which to start.

15:20 – 16:10

SPEAKER: THOMAS DOXIADIS

TITLE: The Snake in the Garden: Designing for symbiosis-

Utopia, the perfect place, is a form of paradise created not by God but by "man". This has been transcribed in many cultures. Yet the overall process of changing the Earth into our own image has been extremely destructive, as we replace nature with what in the end is Dystopia. Now, in the Anthropocene, we have both the capacity to destroy the rest of the planet and the understanding not to do so. Clients have opened our eyes, challenging our beliefs of the good and the beautiful. Being passionate about design, we bring value by providing inventive and harmonious solutions to complex problems. Seeking the new equilibria, we think of the result of our efforts as designing for symbiosis: between humans and the other inhabitants of the planet, between humans themselves, between old and new. Designing for Symbiosis reverses the trend of transformation as destruction by formulating transformation as a new synthesis, a cohabitation.



16:10 - 17:00 | THIRD ROUND TABLE (CLIMATE CHANGE & LANDSCAPE FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE)

In recent years, climatic upheavals with extreme weather phenomena (major droughts or floods) seem to be increasingly part of our daily life. Some studies predict that in thirty years London will have the climate of Barcelona. BUT from an ecological point of view and the creation of gardens and green spaces, what challenges await us. How flexible we will have to become in our varietal choices and what risks we run in trying to emulate an ecosystem different from ours by bringing it into conflict with the one we live in, what is the limit and where does the grey area end where it makes sense to experiment. How much we will have to rely on the plants that have distinguished that place up to now and how much instead we will have to start experimenting with new solutions with plants from different contexts.