

RECOMMENDATIONS

The first international symposium on the conservation and restoration of gardens of historical interest, meeting in Fontainebleau from 13th to 18th September, 1971, on the initiative of the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA),

expresses its extreme gratitude to the French National Committee of ICOMOS and to the French authorities for the excellent way in which the symposium has been organized and for the warm welcome extended to those taking part,

adopts the following definition of the term "historic garden" :

"A historic garden is an architectural and horticultural composition of interest to the public from the historical and artistic point of view";

observes that historic gardens, despite the watchful care bestowed on them, are imperilled by the action of time and of human beings. They are endangered as a result of :

- decay of their architectural and sculptural features;
- decay of their vegetation and refusal to replace it;
- the decline in the importance of artistic values resulting from the industrial development;
- disorderly urban development;
- pollution;
- changes in ways of living;
- failure of legislators and public to understand their significance and even in some cases ignorance on the part of those in charge of them;
- damage caused by the presence of excessive numbers of visitors;

in the knowledge that it is far easier to destroy a garden than to create one or restore it;

and emphasizing that a historic garden surrounding a monument is an integral part of that monument,

recommends that the greatest attention be paid to the training of the personnel responsible, at all levels, for the conservation and upkeep of gardens;

draws the attention of the public authorities and the legislator to the educational value of historic gardens and their value as a relaxation to the mind and to the grave consequences of any ill-adapted legislative and fiscal policy. The garden must not be considered an anachronistic luxury;

stresses the cultural and educational value of the historic garden as a means of promoting a higher degree of sensibility. Knowledge and understanding of historic gardens must be actively encouraged and such gardens must not be turned into recreation grounds, since the two functions are incompatible;

recalls that it is essential to maintain and conserve historic gardens in such a way that their architectural and horticultural composition remain absolutely unimpaired. To this end all necessary measures must be taken,

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Replacement of trees and plants at the appropriate moment (special attention being paid to restoration of the tree and plant "architecture" in accordance with the spirit of its original design),

Meticulous upkeep of architectural and sculptural features

Introduction of the necessary amenities to enable the gardens to be opened to the public. These must not affect their historical or artistic value and no architectural or horticultural changes

of keeping with the composition of the garden must be tolerated; in certain cases there must be refusal to comply with particular demands on the part of the public;

requests that historic gardens be provided for under town-planning and regional development schemes. so that they may remain at a distance from :

- main roads
- aerodromes
- major building projects which alter the level of the water-table and affect the landscape,
- industrial areas, which, as sources of pollution for the air, water and soil, are a danger to plant life,
- car-parks, whether at street-level or underground.

Such schemes must make reliable provision for the permanent maintenance of the surroundings of historic gardens by systems of green belts and must involve measures ensuring the continued existence of an atmosphere and environment in keeping with the character of such places.

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The meeting has therefore decided to draw up an initial inventory country by country, of all historic gardens in existence, with particular emphasis, in this first attempt to deal with the subject, on those which are the most important and, which it feels must be preserved at all costs by the adoption of all and any appropriate measures. This initial list will be followed by three further ones covering gardens of national, regional or local interest.

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The meeting recommends that ICOMOS and the IFLA pursue the study of the problem, by jointly setting up an international specialized committee and by arranging further symposiums on specific aspects of the conservation of historic gardens. It expresses its thanks to the Spanish National Committee of ICOMOS for its proposal to organize a second symposium in Granada in 1973.

VOEUX

WISHES

Le premier colloque international sur la conservation et la restauration des jardins historiques, réuni à Fontainebleau, du 13 au 18 septembre 1971, à l'initiative du Conseil International des Monuments et des Sites (ICOMOS) et de la Fédération Internationale des Architectes Paysagistes (IFLA)

exprime ses vives inquiétudes devant les dangers qui menacent aux Pays Bas deux jardins historiques de première importance, les parcs de Twickel et de Zeist;

recommande que soit envisagée la restauration du "Jardin de Diane" à Fontainebleau, dans son état ancien, bien connu par les documents et les plans.

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expresses its deep concern at the dangers threatening two historic Dutch gardens of the highest importance, at Twickel and Zeist;

recommends that plans should be drawn up for the restoration of the "Garden of Diana" at Fontainebleau, as shown in contemporary documents and plans.