

AR-361

History of park and garden design

Jessel Beate

Cursus	Sem.	Type
Architecture	BA6	Obl.
Architecture	MA2, MA4	Opt.

Language of teaching	English
Credits	3
Withdrawal	Unauthorized
Session	Summer
Semester	Spring
Exam	During the semester
Workload	90h
Weeks	12
Hours	2 weekly
Lecture	2 weekly

Number of positions

Il n'est pas autorisé de se retirer de cette matière après le délai d'inscription.

Summary

The course introduces the most important periods of European and international garden history and design up to the present day and shows the importance of public parks and green spaces for modern urban development. Students are given the opportunity to analyze and interpret their own example.

Content

From the medieval garden to the gardens of the Renaissance and Mannerism, the Baroque, the English garden and eclectic gardens through to contemporary trends, the most important periods in the development of the European garden are presented. At the same time, the focus is broadened to include important international trends in historical garden design such as Persian and Islamic gardens as well as Chinese and Japanese gardens. The typical characteristics of the respective epoch are worked out and at the same time outstanding individual gardens are analysed as paradigms of their type.

The aim is to understand that gardens are not just collections of plants, but can also express social status and power relations, reflect views of nature and different relationships between the 'inside' and 'outside' of the associated buildings, and that they represent dialogues between nature and culture. The different types of gardens not only form aesthetic units, but are also part of a broader socio-political context. The design of each garden reflects the philosophical approach of its creator and, in a broader sense, is also embedded in the respective social context.

The reflection of social conditions and the development of social visions also applies in particular to the public parks created from the 19th century onwards, which became essential elements of urban development. In addition, some park types were motors for the development of ideas for the socialisation of urban vegetation and new models for living together in the city.

The course aims to teach students that today's gardens and parks are also part of a historical tradition, while developing their own unique characteristics in response to social and environmental challenges.

Keywords

Historical gardens, Garden history, Garden city, Public parks, Reference to nature

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, the student must be able to:

- Recognize some of the major historic gardens and parks and designers in history from the Renaissance to the present.
- Classify the styles developed during these periods and their key characteristics.
- Describe the terminology of garden history.

- Characterize the relationships between gardens, buildings and landscape
- Categorize gardens and parks in terms of their historical roots, their views on nature and their embedding in social contexts.
- Recognize the importance of parks for urban development.
- Analyze and write a dossier (thesis) on a historical garden according to academic criteria.

Transversal skills

- Communicate effectively with professionals from other disciplines.
- Demonstrate the capacity for critical thinking
- Access and evaluate appropriate sources of information.
- Write a scientific or technical report.

Teaching methods

Weekly lectures with integrated discussions.

Follow-up in the form of an own analysis of selected examples of historical and contemporary gardens and parks, which will be prepared in a final report.

Expected student activities

Individual study of a (private) garden and a (public) park presented in the form of a small paper.

Assessment methods

Submission of a dossier at the end of the semester.

Resources

Moodle Link

- <https://go.epfl.ch/AR-361>