



2006  
GIARDINI  
DI LAGO  
IN EUROPA  
VERBANIA, MUSEO DEL PAESAGGIO



Provincia del  
Verbano Cusio Ossola

Museo del Paesaggio



EDITORIA: GIARDINI

In collaborazione con



ICOMOS - IFLA  
Scientific Committee

## Press Release

### VERBANIA, END OF THE WORKING SESSIONS AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LAKESIDE GARDENS IN EUROPE

#### The Scientific meeting ends on a note of resounding success with over 250 participants from 20 countries worldwide

***The proposal: "Unesco should recognise the gardens of Lake Maggiore as a  
World Heritage site".***

***The "Verbania Charter" was presented to update the survey criteria for  
historic gardens and cultural landscapes.***

From historical, literary and philosophical references to environmental, botanical and landscape questions, as well as management methods and opportunities for improvement: these were some of the different cultural and scientific topics covered by the International Conference on "**Lakeside Gardens in Europe**" which was held on **Friday 6 and Saturday 7 October** in Verbania Pallanza, against a splendid background of villas and gardens.

The scientific meeting was organised by *Regione Piemonte* and the *Museum of Landscape in Verbania – Villas and Gardens Archive*, in collaboration with the *Province of Verbano Cusio Ossola* and the *Municipality of Verbania*. The two-day event was attended by over 250 participants, including university lecturers, experts, professionals from the sector and enthusiasts from all over Italy, as well as representatives from many other countries, including Mexico, Argentina, Sweden, Moldovia, Turkey, Iran and Japan.

"The two-day programme of events," explained **Renata Lodari**, scientific coordinator of the Conference, "highlighted the extraordinary wealth of this heritage, characterised by a fascinating synthesis between nature and culture." "It reveals an imposing but fragile beauty," Lodari continued, "which needs our care." "Moreover," she concluded, "if the European motto is 'United in diversity', then it is encouraging to think that we can start with gardens."

A number of proposals were put forward during the discussion. These ranged from a cultural approach that is increasingly targeted at the integrated management of historic gardens by citizens and administrators, supporting voluntary associations, for example – as already happens in many parts of the world, and the idea of a sort of "Doc brand" for gardens; as well as the need for a specific regional law for the sector and to enhance the professional status of gardeners, who are key figures for the survival of these realities that have such a positive impact on the quality of life in a given area.

In his conclusions, **Luigi Zangheri**, president of the *Scientific International Committee on Historic Gardens – Cultural Landscapes of ICOMOS-IFLA*, commented that: "In spite of facing quite a few difficulties, the world of historic gardens has shown incredible cultural vitality in terms of its energy, the capacity for work, the experience, and the quality and number of its publications." Speaking about the gardens on Lake Maggiore, in particular, Zangheri also launched a proposal: "Why not put forward the candidature of the Lake Maggiore system as a Unesco World Heritage site?"

An important step forward was also achieved in terms of surveying this cultural landscape, an area in which Piedmont is definitely at the forefront thanks to the activities of the **Museum of Landscape of Verbania**, which has already surveyed over 800 historical gardens throughout the Region (the scientific survey is now complete except for the provinces of Turin and Vercelli). The **Annual world meeting of**



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**the ICOMOS-IFLA Committee**, which met during the conference, presented the "ICOMOS-IFLA document on the inventory and cataloguing of historic gardens". This is a proposal to update and standardise, wherever possible, the models and procedures required to "catalogue" historic gardens worldwide. In two years' time, Icomos-Ifla International will meet in Canada to discuss and possibly approve this document, which has already been renamed "The Verbania Charter".

A number of other important initiatives were held alongside the Conference, including: the illustrative **Exhibition "Lakeside Gardens in Europe - Cultural Landscapes designed by water"** which can be visited at the Museum of Landscape - Palazzo Biumi Innocenti and will remain open to the public throughout October; the presentation of the Catalogue/Atlas; a **Photography competition on the theme "The Garden and Water: forms, landscapes, visions"** and the relative Exhibition; an illustrative Exhibition at the **CNR Institute for the Study of Ecosystems** in Verbania Pallanza; support by all participants for the fundraising initiative "Blue Revolution" run by **AMREF Italia Onlus**, which will be used to build a well in East Africa named after the event.

The patrons of the event include, among others: the *Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities, TCI - Touring Club Italiano and AIAPP - Italian Association for Landscape Architecture*, and it is supported by the activities of many other organisations and bodies working at a local level.

Further details are available on the website:

[www.museodelpaesaggio.it/giardinidilago2006](http://www.museodelpaesaggio.it/giardinidilago2006)



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