



Private Garden of Bernd von Ehren

Green quality is nothing unusual in the Elbe suburbia of Hamburg, but at Bernd von Ehren's it is. A 200 year old yew hedge, that is maintained by the senior partner himself, hides the garden that has grown over decades and the house nearly perfectly. You notice that somebody lives here who loves nature, whose heart is green and whose profession is his passion. The group was impressed!

50 Years ELCA: Study Trip to Hamburg

On the Occasion of the International Garden Show 2013

On the occasion of its 50th birthday the European Landscape Contractors Association, ELCA, organised a study trip to the Hanseatic City of Hamburg, the founding site of the ELCA in 1963. About 120 guests from more than 20 countries accepted the invitation of Antoine Berger, the Chairman of the ELCA Committee of Firms, who after his valuable work is stepping down. While most of Germany suffered from torrential rain the City of Hamburg was not

affected. The study trip took place during spring-like weather with sunshine.

The participants – including many regulars – came from Canada, Japan and Australia, but also from Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Great Britain, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway, Austria, Poland, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and from the host country Germany. „The diversity of the participat-

ing countries would have brought honour to any UN meeting“ said Antoine Berger, to whom the ELCA owes a lot for his outstanding services. Erris P. van Ginkel, NL (ELCA President from 1998 – 2001), Gerold Hauser, AT (ELCA President from 1983 – 1992) and Maarten de Winter NL (ELCA President from 1980 – 1983) also came for the special birthday of the ELCA.

Overall the international experts of the landscape gardening indus-

try were offered a really varied specialist programme including visits to the International Garden Show 2013, the Hamburg city park „Planten un Blomen“, the landscape gardening company Maschmann, the private garden of the Senior Partner Bernd von Ehren and the tree nursery Lorenz von Ehren as well as a sight seeing programme that included a guided tour of the city, a boat trip on the river and a visit to the Airbus Plant in Hamburg-Finkenwerder.



Tree Nursery von Ehren

The visit to the tree nursery of Lorenz von Ehren started with a lunch followed by a guided tour through the show gardens and the buildings. This presented the whole range of products: from Bonsais to complete boulevards. The ELCA members were especially taken with the spectacularly shaped bushes of the traditional tree nursery.



Private Garden Bernd von Ehren

A special highlight was the beautiful private garden of tree nursery senior partner Bernd von Ehren on the Elbchausee. The former show garden of the company Lorenz von Ehren contained many unusual and ancient topiaries. The group was very lucky regarding their timing because the rhododendrons and azaleas were in full bloom.



Private Garden Bernd von Ehren

There is a vast variety of different solitary trees, azaleas and rhododendrons. A Japanese Maple (*Acer palmatum*) has grown to be comparable to a crown above the house roof. The Japanese Maple is highly valued in Europe due to its graceful shape and its intensive autumn colouring. In Japan it is the most important tree for traditional garden designs and announces autumn.



Baumschule Yellow Bird

The magnolia *brooklynensis* 'Yellow Bird' of the tree nursery von Ehren is one of the prettiest yellow-flowering magnolia's. It convinces with a long flowering phase and at the same time it is frost-resistant. As an attractive solitary tree it is especially shown to advantage among blue flowering plants.



Maschmann

Visiting the company Maschmann GmbH Landscape Gardening: The participants of the ELCA study trip standing as a group in front of the new company grounds of Maschmann in Moorrege. For more than 20 years Maschmann has been constructing green spaces for private, public and commercial customers in and around Hamburg. Maschmann was founded in 1985 and since 1996 has been successfully headed by Diethard Possehn, who is the owner and manager. He informed the international colleagues about the history of the company and work methods. The mayor Karl-Heinz Weinberg did not miss the opportunity to attend the international visit – as some of the prestige of the “showpiece company” reflects positively on his municipality.



Maschmann

As a future-oriented landscape gardening company with a broad range of services it awakens the interest of the European guests who want to look behind the scenes of the company. The guests use the opportunity of touring the company grounds that were only completed in 2007. On 20,000 square meters the combination of commercially used areas on the one hand and naturally landscaped green spaces on the other hand has been successfully set up so that the company buildings are set in a park style landscape with a large body of water. From here, from the left to the right, Per Nevermann, Sweden, Peter Berg, Brigitte Schingen, Helmut Schingen and BGL President August Forster are looking at the company.

Garden of the Shipping Company Döhle

Peter Döhle is one of the biggest European shipping companies. The headquarters of the well-known company are located in Hamburg directly on the Elbchaussee and is not only impressive with its unique grounds but is also an architectural highlight. For the roof garden in the style of boxwood waves and a box wood labyrinth 38,000 boxwood plants were planted on the roof of the new construction. Both the inner courtyards are in Japanese style. An automatic irrigation system ensures the survival of the plants. The shipping company granted us access to the private garden that is closed to the public.



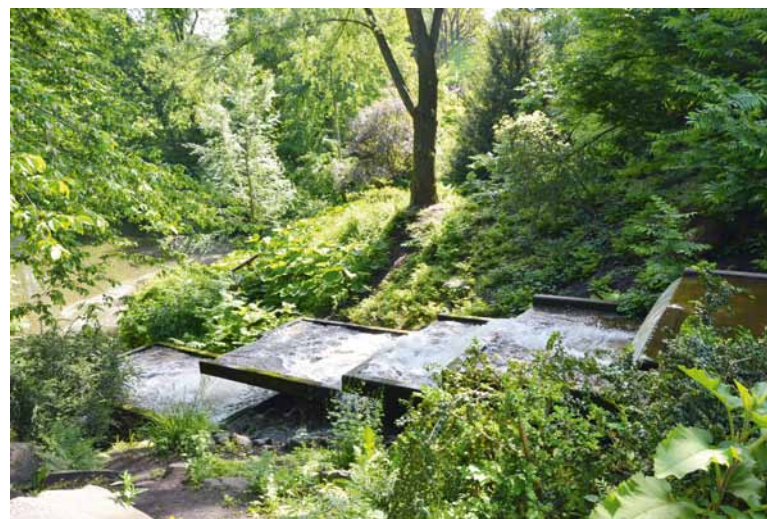
IGS

One central focus of the ELCA study trip was the visit to the International Garden Show (IGS) Hamburg 2013. A boat transported the ELCA participants via the Reiherstieg (an anabranch of the river Elbe) through the Ernst-August lock to the Wilhelmsburg town hall and finally to the grounds of the International Garden Show. There they were welcomed by Lutze von Wurmb, Philip Hageney, Werner Preuss, Wolfgang Deni, Nico Albrecht and Anette Ehret. The motto „Around the World In 80 Days“ represents the connection to the multi-cultural citizens of Wilhelmsburg. The “World of the Harbours” and the “World of the Continents” refer to the internationality of Hamburg, the “World of Religions” and the the “World of Cultures” refer to different beliefs and the diversity of societies, the “Water Worlds” and “Nature Worlds” symbolise the conflicts between man and nature and the “World of Movement” finally offers the possibility for many diverse sports activities. The participants were divided up into groups and selected different guided tours through the seven worlds. Lutze von Wurmb led his group to the theme gardens constructed by him with such fascinating names like „Verse by Verse“, „Savannah Dream“, „Power Water“ or „Natural Worlds“. They all included a visit to the Hamburg „Haus der Landschaft“ (House of Landscaping) for coffee and cakes. The International Garden Show in Hamburg is still open till 13th October 2013



Planten un Blumen

The park „Planten un Blumen“ spreads out over about 47 hectares and is located in the centre of the City of Hamburg. In 1953, 1963 and 1973 the International Garden Shows were held in „Planten un Blumen“. It contains various theme gardens and areas. The ELCA discovered exotic plants, flowers and herbs or became acquainted with the Japanese Garden. Especially ELCA members Saki Kosugi and Andreas Hamacher from Tokyo were interested in the Japanese Garden, that guided visitors past rocks, water ways and quiet ponds as a complete work of art. The Japanese Garden was constructed in 1990 and is largest one in the whole of Europe. The Mediterranean terraces were constructed by the garden architects Karl Plomin, Heinrich Raderschall and Günther Schulze. The dark slate stores the warmth of the sun and as such offers ideal conditions for many Mediterranean plants like hibiscus, clematis, figs and limes. This area with its Mediterranean flair is surely one of the sunniest places in Hamburg. Another special design element is the playful waterfall in the park „Planten un Blumen“.



Airbus

The Airbus Plant Hamburg-Finkenwerder is located south of the Elbe in front of the gates to the city and is where the final assembly of the A320 family as well as the interior assembly and the paintwork of the A380-800 is done. The tour went through the halls directly next to the assembly sites. The landscaping experts experienced the impressive airplane construction virtually hands-on. It was an exciting airbus plant tour!

Guided City Tour

On the last day the City of Hamburg presented itself from its best side, namely from the water. Many stately villas with nice gardens could be seen during the tour on the river Alster followed by a canal tour. Hamburg is always worth a visit!