

*A SITE DEVOTED TO PRESERVING THE MEMORY OF GARDENS*

*From the Renaissance to the First World War, the art of gardens enjoyed unprecedented growth throughout Europe. From the new perception of ancient times to the integration of distant influences, gardens bear fine witness to transformations in our society and associate, within an artistic perspective, vast cultural and scientific fields. They offer, at varying degrees, a synthesis of our botanical, economic, historic and literary culture.*

*Yet the changing nature of plant life and the spatial occupation of garden areas devoted to contemplation and distraction are the very demonstration of their fragility. The erring ways of the 20th century took their toll on this fine heritage before each European country progressively revived its love of gardens.*

*Inspired by reflection and committed towards the same momentum, the European Institute of Gardens and Landscapes strives, via a plurinational approach, to encourage debate and shared experience, conservation, knowledge development and dissemination, public awareness, appreciation and enjoyment. Its partners and public include garden professionals, historians and amateurs.*

## EUROPEAN INSTITUTE FOR GARDENS & LANDSCAPES

CHÂTEAU DE BÉNOUVILLE, BP 13  
14970 BÉNOUVILLE, FRANCE  
contact@iejp.eu +33(0)2 31 53 20 12  
www.europeangardens.eu



# European Institute for GARDENS & LANDSCAPES



*Calvados, an area perfectly propitious for international encounters and home to a number of remarkable gardens, has facilitated convergence between the Fondation des Parcs et Jardins de France (French Foundation of Parks and Gardens), the Calvados Council and the University of Caen Normandy, and has prompted support from the French Ministry of Culture via the Normandy Regional Cultural Affairs Directorate (DRAC).*

*Hence, these three founding bodies created the European Institute for Gardens and Landscapes, whose aim is to develop knowledge and the promotion of garden art throughout Europe. The Calvados Council, owner of the Château de Bénouville, has enabled the Institute to establish its head office there and has provided the material resources required for its development. In order to accomplish its different missions, the Institute also works in partnership with the Research Centre for Humanities and Social Sciences (MRSH), a University of Caen Normandy research institute, along with the Comité des Parcs et Jardins de France (French Parks and Gardens Commission) and several European organisations.*

*When the European Institute for Gardens and Landscapes collects and disseminates archives and inventories of European parks and gardens, the MRSH provides its skills for the compilation of virtual archives. Hence, the Institute and the MRSH work together to encourage cooperation between French and foreign academic specialists on the subject of gardens and landscapes.*

#### **THE AIMS OF THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE FOR GARDENS AND LANDSCAPES**

- To gather knowledge and work from the many European institutions and associations concerned, in order to digitise and develop an accessible network available to all.
- To identify public and private archives in France and Europe that relate to gardens, parks and ornamental landscapes. The preservation of archives belonging to landscape designers and garden owners are also addressed.
- To organise exhibitions at Bénouville, including events in the park.
- To establish on-line exchanges and meetings both at Bénouville and elsewhere in Europe for European specialists.
- To encourage the compilation of digital archives relating to the creation, care, and management of gardens, parks, and ornamental landscapes in France and Europe.
- To organise exchanges between European regions on the protection, conservation, care and sustainability of gardens, parks and ornamental landscapes. This includes experience in other continents such as America, Asia, etc.
- To set up a reference library at Bénouville including all European magazines and books on the subject.
- To provide an educational centre on the art of gardening and landscape design with conferences and workshops as well as activities for children.
- To participate in the development of garden tourism.
- To design and create the very first Garden Museum in France, in line with those already present in the UK, Germany and Italy.

These missions concern an audience comprised not only of specialists from France and across Europe, but also the general public by way of exhibitions, conferences and other events.

It is worthy of note that the European Institute of Gardens and Landscapes' operation is ensured by a small team of professionals who in turn rely on the network of regional garden associations and the commitment of a great number of volunteers.

#### **THE CHATEAU DE BENOUVILLE AND ITS PARK, A PERFECT SETTING FOR THE INSTITUTE**

Built between 1769 and 1785 and restored in the mid 1980s, the Château de Bénouville is a rare example of Claude-Nicolas Ledoux's fine architecture. With Bénouville, this illustrious architect offered a major contribution to his own work, whilst introducing neoclassical architecture to Normandy. The Château is located to the north of Caen, within grounds covering several hectares. It is in the immediate vicinity of Pegasus Bridge, a highly popular heritage site.

Close to the Paris region and to Ouistreham, the arrival and departure point for several hundred thousand British visitors every year (Great Britain is by far the leading European country for garden tourism), the Château de Bénouville and its park offer tremendous potential. The venue is perfectly suited for hosting receptions and offers library facilities, fully equipped archive storage areas, offices and a conference room with seating for up to 140 delegates.

The existing buildings provide over 4,000 square metres of floor space and are suitable for a variety of uses. The Institute also intends to make use of the park to organise specific events.

