The Challenge:
When landscape architects Corinne Julhiet Détroyat and Claude Pasquer’s BioLabyrinthus garden was shortlisted for Italy’s prime international creative garden show organized by ORTICOLARIO (http://www.orticolario.it/) they were faced with a dual challenge. On one hand, the artists took inspiration from classical French gardening tradition, associating with it a dynamic, sustainable development concept. Two ordinarily conflicting notions ...
On the other hand, having to finance the venture themselves, they launched a crowd funding initiative through the ULULE platform (http://fr.ulule.com/jardin-francais/).

Orticolario 2014, will take place at Villa Erba in Cernobbio, Luchino Visconti’s former mansion on Lake Como, from October 3rd to 5th 2014. The theme of this year’s edition is the sense of smell, with the title «Visions odor». A late summer blossom, Aster, will be the celebrated flower of this year’s show. On the shores of Lake Como, in the Villa Erba, BioLabyrinthus will welcome visitors to an experience combining classic references with sustainability.

How to visit the garden:

At the garden’s entrance, strict embroidery welcome the visitor. Sedum windings, imitating leaves, represent the ancient and absolute domination of Nature.

Facing the Labyrinth, an essential component of the French garden, the visitor strives to access its epicenter. The path seems easy to grasp and the circles are concentric. At first glance simple and elegant, a référence to gardens of yesteryears and the art of horticulturist Jean-Baptiste de la Quintinie, the maze’s pathways are lined with metal structures cut in the shape of pear trees which support climbing plants.

As soon as one enters the labyrinth, one is faced with a surprise: A mirror faces the visitor and rather than being a mere part of the decoration, it bends the visitor’s vision, challenges his sense of beliefs and makes him relinquish his pursuit of perfection.

At the epicenter the Labyrinth, the visitor meets two new sculptures by Claude Pasquer, conveying messages about the protection of biodiversity.
- **The OlfactoTrophy ©**, is a Medici vase. Claude Pasquer uses the ancestral bell-shaped structure and brings modernity to it by using poultry netting to make it. He also adds specific functions to the vase... With its stuffing, a reference to Bacchus, it becomes a generous bird feeder ... At night, it radiates, creating a magical atmosphere ... During the day it releases fragrances ...

- **The Insectoplaire ©**, symbol of botanic architecture, of man’s subjugation of nature, this topiary consists of a cube and three crowns topped by a dome, following the precise rules of proportions and symmetry. The cube, foundation of the topiary, takes the form of an orangery socle, achieving the required stability, but also assumes another function: that of a refuge for insects which take possession of crevices in twigs and bamboos ...

Throughout the tour, the visitor sees plants evolve in gradient and increasingly warm tones. The last circle is a wooden wall made of logs, which girdles the center of the maze. At the heart of the garden, is the **House of Biodiversity**: a floral exuberance of warm tones, orange-yellow, golden, pink, red ... yellow-peppered “sculptillonnages” ©. This new word, coined from the «floating gardens» of Picardy, describes artificial flowers made from poultry netting. They offer an aesthetic space while indicating to the gardener the locations not to mow. These small sculptures offer birds fat pellets for food and wool pompoms for nest-building. This space surrenders to Nature and offers the visitor a ‘**WoodStockChair**’ © or **ChampiStool ©** to rest on and reflect on his role as a human in the ecosystem.

*Contrary to a common misconception, one does not get lost in the BioLabyrinthus but quite the opposite, it is a place to find oneself!*

Facing the **ChampiComposteur ©**, a symbol of sustainable development associated with contemporary art, the Visitor sees at work biodiversity through composting, this simple gesture known by all gardeners.

**Our bias**

BioLabyrinthus is a tale, with its theatrical décor which blends nature and artifice.

Revisited, the labyrinth conveys a message for a better future, filled with philosophy and sustainability. Its playfulness also speaks to children, with a simple idea: He who observes nature to understand her will make her an ally.

**The balance between the beautiful and the good ...**

The BioLabyrinthus concept is based on the harmony between the Beautiful and the Good: the Beautiful design of the labyrinth, the aesthetics of the space;

The Good, differentiated organization of the garden, from total control to the vegetal dynamics of the free garden and the space reserved for auxiliaries.
BioLabyrinthus garden ©
International Competition «Creative Gardens» - Orticolario - Italie - 2014

Partners who support us:

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That enlightens us with his scented candles and candleholders

Italian nursery, which lends us this ephemeral plant garden.

More than 132 contributors, known and unknown, to the crowdfunding initiative
http://fr.ulule.com/jardin-francais/

In alphabetical order:


Our friends who lend us their villa Vistalario Colombo to house the entire team: