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REVIEW

“An Intercultural Garden to grow and to create with”, 2nd to 9th August 2009 in the garden of the old parish house, Apold in Transylvania/Romania

Within the framework of the garden-artistic project “An Intercultural Garden to grow and to create with”, thirteen participants from six European countries came to Apold, a Transylvanian village close to Sighișoara. Together with the initiators, Marlen Hoesselbarth and Leonie Rhode, both Landscape Architects from Germany, they designed and built a labyrinth-garden on the grounds of the old parish house by means of natural architecture and artistic gardening.

The old parish house, which lost its original function as a result of the emigration of the Transylvanian Saxons, is now used as a guesthouse and open platform for socio-cultural and ecological events since spring 2006.

During one week of joint construction and garden-artistic work, a labyrinth-garden out of braided willow- and hazel-rots and with numerous niches emerged. Through the open and at the same time closed structure, many usages are possible. Besides a dining corner and a fire place, niches for washing-basins and a solar heater have been built to produce warm water. The “Intercultural Garden” demonstrates in a creative and garden-artistic way how the element water can be used efficiently and effectively.

The “Intercultural Garden” is seen as a supplement to the existing facilities of the old parish house and should serve the guests from now on as summer-shower-garden and resting place. Parts of the plot are used to grow vegetables and an ecological-pedagogical garden has been built together with and for the village children.

The participants were between 6 to 57 years old, among them landscape architects, artists and academics from Austria, Germany, Italy, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. They enriched the “Intercultural Garden” by their enormous motivation and creativity. The garden was inaugurated during a party with invited guests from the village and the surroundings. Culinary specialities from the respective countries of the participants were served.

The basic design of the “Intercultural Garden” is now created. As a special feature, in future every visitor can become active and perpetuate himself as a garden artist.

People are now needed, who continue the work, who let the garden grow and who maintain it. For spring 2010 a follow-up workshop is therefore planned.

The “Intercultural Garden” -workshop was planned and organized by Marlen Hoesselbarth and Leonie Rhode. Since 2008 they are working under the name “transage” as freelancers in the field of Landscape Architecture and -Education in Romania.

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transage Landschaft

Marlen Hößelbarth and Leonie Rhode

project leader „Green trApPOLD“ and project team „Intercultural garden“

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proiect transage Landschaft

Marlen Hoesselbarth
D +49 (0) 163 451 08 02 || RO +40 (0) 726 471 336

Leonie Rhode
D +49 (0) 177 302 17 59 || RO +40 (0) 731 478 243

E-Mail: info@transage.net
Blog: www.tr-a-pold.net

Contact adress in Germany:
transage c/o Marlen Hoesselbarth
Bürgerstraße 29
DE-011127 Dresden

Contact adress in Romania:
transage c/o Casa parohiala
Str. principala Nr. 244
RO-547040 Apold



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