

ARCHIVES DE PAYSAGISTES ET PROJET DE PAYSAGE

des archives vivantes pour penser la ville durable aujourd'hui

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Christopher Woodward, director at Garden Museum London - directeur du Garden Museum de Londres

Christopher Woodward is an historian of architecture and gardens, who has been Director of the Garden Museum since 2007, which has recently re-opened after a £7.5 million reconstruction. He was formerly Director of the Holburne Museum of Art, Bath, a curator at Sir John Soane's Museum and was a Trustee of the Heritage Lottery Fund, the body which awards funding to natural and architectural heritage. He is the author of 'In Ruins' (2001), a study of the inspiration of ruins.

Christopher Woodward est un historien de l'architecture et des jardins, directeur du Garden Museum depuis 2007, récemment réouvert. Auparavant directeur du Holburne Museum of Art de Bath, commissaire d'exposition au Sir John Soane's Museum et administrateur au Heritage Lottery Fund. Il est l'auteur de l'ouvrage 'In Ruins' ('En ruines'), 2001, une étude qui interroge l'inspiration que procurent les ruines

'The establishment of the garden design archive at The Garden Museum'. La création des Archives du 'garden design' au Garden Museum à Londres

The Garden Museum has recently built the country's first archive of modern garden design, as part of a wider reconstruction and extension of the site which has included new galleries of garden history, and learning spaces around a new garden designed by Dan Pearson. In this talk I will begin by asking why no such archive has existed, despite the status of garden making as a national obsession in Britain.

At first we decided that we could not begin such a project but we were persuaded by the success of a retrospective exhibition of Beth Chatto; visitors enjoyed seeing the letters, notebooks and photographs which tell the story of the garden in her mind but at the end of the exhibition these returned to a cupboard in her office.

The next stage was to discuss the boundaries of such an archive with the Landscape Institute (landscape architects), the Royal Horticultural Society (horticulture) and architects (Royal Institute of British Architects). We have concentrated, therefore, on collecting the papers of 20th-century designers and makers of gardens, such as John Brookes, Penelope Hobhouse, and Russell Page, together with photographers (Andrew Lawson) and writers (Hugh Johnson) who have interpreted their work.

Initial funding for designs was given by a Sponsored Swim I did of the Strait of Gibraltar in 2011, and the facilities for studies and storage were incorporated in the designs for a new Museum. The construction cost has been incorporated in a £7.5 million reconstruction which I will show you, and would add that fund-raising for the archive

has been very potent, as supporters see this as a chance to preserve the spirit of their heroes and heroines. However, the archive is also central to the life of the Museum, the basis of exhibitions and displays and learning; the Museum is visited by over 50,000 people a year, and I cannot imagine building the archive without this audience.