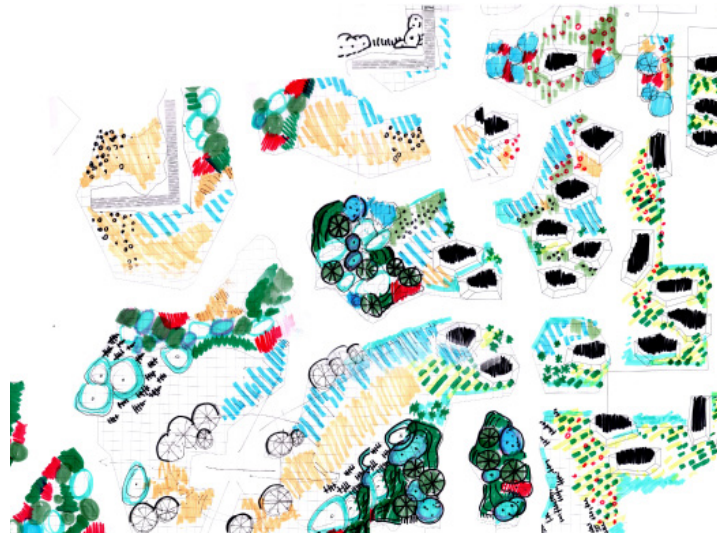




Reinventing the Existing: Creating a New Logic in Historic Places

April 18, 2018

Erik Dhont, Landscape Architect, Brussels, Belgium



Erik Dhont sees garden-making as a form of art, and he embraces it with imagination in order to give the clients a place to dream. Gardens are places to enjoy and appreciate, as well as places to grow and unwind. Whether the commission is to restore an old garden or to build a new one, the design emphasis is always on discovering and conceptualizing elements from the past based on the practical demands imposed by the present, from playing, cultivating to healing.

For Erik the essential goal of the garden and landscape is to make sure that the strongest element is there: you look, you observe, you take time. It is this sense of rhythm—moments of the day, seasons of the year, and periods of life—that Dhont strives to highlight in his design. After the lecture, Erik Dhont will sign the latest book on his work in La Gara, Geneva.

6:30 pm meet and greet
7:00 pm lecture

IFNH Conference Room (101)
New Jersey Institute for Food, Nutrition & Health
61 Dudley Rd, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Parking will be available at the Douglass Deck.

Since the beginning of the practice in 1989, Erik Dhont has worked on a wide variety of projects, and established a client base throughout continental Europe, and beyond in Russia and the US. Commissions from private individuals, public bodies and commercial institutions have echoed a wide range of contemporary demands and challenges, meanwhile have provided platforms for continuous creativity: How would modern taste coexist with historical context? How would 2D-graphic layout transform into 3D-dimensional place making? How would abstract sculpture dialogue with classical topiary? How would furniture and horticulture illuminate one another? Such questions are explored from various angles in various means—drawing, collage, model, installation, dance, film, and first of all, gardens.

Recent commissions include several private gardens in Switzerland and France, a sculpture garden in California and a shore garden in the Azores. The office also works on social and urban development projects in Brussels.

