



The ELCA study group from Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Finland, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Russia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland in front of the imposing facade of the Allianz Arena. Location: Munich, Fröttmaninger Mountain

ELCA Autumn Study Trip to Munich: Full Open Air Programme

Facing the conflicting fields of modern landscaping

The European Landscape Contractors Association (ELCA) planned its study trip in the Bavarian capital Munich to coincide with the "Bundesgartenschau 2005" (Federal Garden Show). ELCA-President Antoine Berger and Nico Wissing, Chairman of the Committee of Firms, welcomed more than 80 participants from Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Finland, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Russia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland. The programme of the three-day study trip from 23rd till 25th September 2005 offered an excellent basis for a very varied study trip.

The places visited in and around Munich were an interesting study of conflicting fields of modern landscaping with natural and artificial elements and spaces.

Study trip programme in keywords:

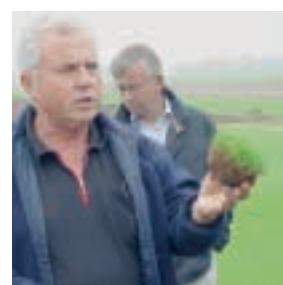
- Friday, 23rd September 2005
Schwab Rollrasen in Waidhofen
BUGA Munich 2005, Landscape Park Riem
- Saturday, 24th September 2005
Private gardens in Nymphenburg and Gräfelting
Pine woods in Uptown, Munich-Moosach;
Greenery of the Swiss Re Munich-Unterföhring
Allianz Arena of FC-Bayern and TSV 1860
- Sunday, 25th September 2005
City tour with various garden aspects

THE FIRST DAY:

Lawn turf for expensive footballer legs

By visiting Schwab Rollrasen in Waidhofen in upper Bavaria a landscaping goal such as a garden or park was purposefully not given priority, but instead a site using modern production methods for an important landscape gardening product.

Horst Schwab, who has been producing lawn turf for more than



Horst Schwab, lawn turf producer since 1970 explains the production and properties of his "Power Turf", the basis of which is a good supply of nutrients.

Laying 60 cm wide lawn turf rolls is demonstrated with a handheld laying machine. The weed free lawn turf consists of durable high grade grass varieties.

The production methods for durable lawn turf require three mowings weekly.





Within two days only the complete pitch of the Allianz Arena was laid down. 250 lawn turf rolls of the make "Power Turf" from Schrobenthausen were laid out, measuring 72 m x 111 m in all.



With 66.000 covered seats the owners Bayern-München and TSV München 1860 created a milestone of modern architecture.

30 years on an area of 1.5 million square meters and is internationally recognised, explained the importance of the correct lawn treatment for maintaining lawn turf to the group. He especially explained the importance of plant nutrients and pest control.

Regarding the licensing for suitable pesticides, Schwab sees a lot of necessary political work that needs to be done. Especially in this regard the ELCA has promised to cooperate far closer with Horst Schwab as a new member of the ELCA-Committee of Firms.

Schwab demonstrated the mowing, aeration, hoovering as well as the harvesting of lawn turf and how machines lay out the lawn turf rolls, some of it with self-developed

machines. This made it clear that Schwab's method of the forced development of increasingly wider lawn turf rolls was correct. These have working method advantages compared to smaller width rolls when being laid out – for example in football stadiums.

The lawn turf can be walked upon immediately after being laid down and in four weeks is ready for proper use. Laying down the lawn turf rolls for a whole football stadium (approx. 8000 qm) can be done in about two days.

The "BUGA 2005" with impressive elements

In the afternoon the visit to the BUGA Munich 2005 was on the programme. The approx. 200 hectares large grounds spread over an area of about four kilometres from East to South and have a width of about one kilometre from North to South.

The ELCA had competent experts at hand, they were three landscaping entrepreneurs, Christoph May, Wendelin Jehle and Josef Gaissmaier, as well as the landscaping architect Heiner Luz.

The Office Luz was responsible for following projects for the BUGA: the South entrance with the German pavilion, temporary herbaceous plantings in the parallel gardens, integration of the cable car in the landscaping park as well as the maintenance of the landscaping park during the BUGA. Furthermore, the plans for sowing the meadows in the landscaping park and the planting of the shrubs on the BUGA lake were further important tasks of the Luz landscape architects. Luz used few but impressive elements in the landscaping design.

Christoph May informed about the very varied work that his company has done in more than seven years in an area larger than 100 hectares, ranging from small private gardens to the planting of a hectare large elevated woods. Just to create the optically desired height increase of the woods towards the lowered meadows May had to shift about 400.000 cubic metres of soil. In the two elevated woods more than ten thousand trees ranging from 100 to 350 centimetres height with roots were planted in spring 1999.

Finally Wendelin Jehle explained the "garden details", that were created in twelve theme gardens for more than one million Euros by Bavarian landscape gardeners. According to Jehle the gardens have become the highlight of the visitors, because they present designs from the picturesque wooden terrace to the Koi pond, from artistic elements in the gardens to modern paving work. The sample gardens are maintained the whole day by landscape gardeners.



Wendelin Jehle from Erlebnisgarten Schleizer from Munich guides the ELCA through a highlight of the BUGA (Federal Garden Show), namely the "Garden Details of the Landscape Gardeners". The Koi pond with valuable Japanese Kois in the Schleizer garden is especially fascinating.



Christoph May and Heiner Luz explain the construction and planning of the landscape work in the BUGA grounds. The concept behind wild and planted bushes, lawn and meadow, herbaceous shrubs in beds and wild shrubs next to each other was explained.

An exclusive house garden located in Munich Gräfelfing that was redesigned by the company M&M GaLaBau. A prominent feature is the terraced landscape in water that invites you to linger.



Ernst Mehrkamp on the right explains the planning concept for the house garden, that also included many technical details concerning the lighting in the garden for example.

Later on there was an invitation to a coffee break from the Verband Garten-, Landschafts- und Sportplatzbau Bayern e. V. (Landscaping Association of Bavaria) in the landscape gardeners meeting place that was enriched by an expert lecture held by the company Bruns.

After a short pause in the hotel there was a social evening in the "Franziskaner" followed by a walk around the Munich Oktober Fest.

THE SECOND DAY:

Garden aspects

The second day focussed on modern designer gardens and parks. Two private gardens were visited in Munich-Nymphenburg and Munich-Gräfelfing, that both were either newly constructed or reconstructed by M & M GaLaBau. Planting and stonework played the biggest role in these gardens in combination with water and lighting in the garden.

Pine woods in the city

60-year old pines transported on low-loaders from Lower Saxony to Munich, surrounding the new Uptown skyscraper were presented by Jan Dieter Bruns. To correspond to the Mediterranean flair pines were the preferred plants of the estate agent group Hines. The shallow rooting trees taller than three floors decorate the boulevard between the campus buildings and the sky scraper of Uptown Munich to the south of the Olympia shopping centre, stated Jan-Dieter Bruns, who was the expert guide for this part of the study trip. The construction completed in 2004 was done by Schmidt & Hauck.

The enfant terrible of garden art

The study group continued to the greenery of the modern insurance company "Swiss Re". The planner of the "house garden", Martha Schwartz, is one of the most controversial contemporary landscape architects.



Uptown Munich is a project of the US American estate agent company Hines. A wood of pine and poplar has been planted around the highest office tower block in southern Germany. The trees were grown in Lower Saxony. The transport of the up to 60 year-old pines from Bad Zwischenahn to Munich was costly.

The spectacular administrative building of the "Swiss Re" in Munich/Unterföhring seems to be suspended in the air. A hedge floating at 7 m grants the glass building the necessary shade. Wild wine and wisteria weave themselves around the steel ropes of a steel arbour.



In the entrance hall of the insurance company Swiss Re the landscape gardening experts listen to the explanations of Peter Kluska and Volker May about the creation of the outdoor garden that in actual fact is a roof garden on an underground car park.



The Landscape architect Peter Kluska was responsible for the detailed planning of the garden concept that was designed by the American Martha Schwartz. Volker May, on the right, describes the good cooperation between the owners, the planning and construction.





The city tour of Munich included many garden aspects like a visit to the Nymphenburg Palace. In the foreground the English speaking delegation of the ELCA study group.



The town hall of the Federal capital is radiant in the bright sunlight.

She herself describes her work as "funky minimalism". Bakery goods or golden frogs characterize her American garden. In her first big project in Europe she however showed herself to be more moderate. The garden that is surrounded by a "suspended hedge" can be divided into four quadrants with the colours yellow, green, red and blue.

Each quadrant is divided into smaller strips in which relatively easily

maintained plant species are allocated into ribbons and grouped according to colour. In the yellow zone there are plants such as narcissus, witch hazel, Echinacea and others that blossom yellow throughout the year. The concrete detail work and realisation of the plans was done by the landscape architect Bernd Kluska and the landscaping company May.

In the interior of the building there is a central courtyard that the architects planned with a water basin. However, it was dry due to maintenance work.

The dominating design element is surely the floating hedge" from the first to the third floor circling the building on the outside and you can walk along it. It not only has optical but also functional features, like generating shade for the glass offices. Especially in the autumn the coloured leaves of the wild wine in combination with the wisteria offers contrasting coloured aspects.

New sports aesthetics

From the vantage point Fröttmaninger Berg the slightly floating outer view of the stadium of the two Munich football clubs Bayern München and TSV 1860 looks like a futuristic UFO.

The Allianz Arena in Munich/ Fröttmaning is not only regarded as one of the most modern football stadiums in Europe, but also as a milestone of

innovative stadium architecture.

A building for an audience of 66.000 in three covered stands that grants them an immediate closeness to the playing action and shines in the colours of the football clubs on the outside.

The construction volume was about 500 million Euro.

The ELCA was able to view the executive suites, the seating of the North curve, the catering and adventure worlds including the fan shop of FC Bayern München as well as the pitch turf.

The Esplanade is a landscaped area of 153 metres width and over 600 metres length and simultaneously is the roof of the underground car parks below.

THE THIRD DAY:

City Tour of the Highlights of Munich

The last day of the study trip focussed on the sights of Munich with an emphasis on gardening aspects.

They visited the English Garden und Nymphenburg Palace as well as the realisation of an interior garden in Fünf Höfe. A walk through the old town of Munich, past the town hall with its world famous bells, St. Peter's Church, the Platzl square and the Residence Royal Palace, as well as the Opera, the General's Hall and the Cathedral. The concluding bus tour passed the Angel of Peace, the Residence Royal Palace and the Olympia Park.

Enthusiastic Participants From Over 15 Nations

The three-day study trip of the ELCA-Committee of Firms to Munich and its surroundings showed an interesting range of landscape garden styles enriched by individual tourist attractions. Having fantastic autumn weather Nico Wissing, the Chairman of the ELCA-Committee of Firms, was happy about a successful study trip in regards to expertise and organisation with more than 88 participants from over 15 nations. Apart from many positive impressions the central aspect of the German trip was getting to know each other and the many talks with colleagues from Europe. It can be assumed that the next study trip from 28th till 30th April 2006 to Barcelona will be just as delightful.



ELCA-President Antoine Berger, on the right, congratulates Gerold Hauser, a founding member, to being elected an Honorary President of the ELCA. Gerold Hauser chaired the ELCA from 1983 till 1992.