



## **Lieux Mouvants gardens**

Elaine As our regular listeners will be aware, we have been following the Lieux Mouvants garden design project, where 15 students have designed gardens on 5 different sites.

During our summer break, Maggie Campbell-Culver, our favourite garden lady, together with Marilyn Le Moign, also a garden enthusiast, took a day out to visit the different sites and I went along for the ride!

We started at the domaine de Kerguehennec where Marilyn describes 'Cultiver L'Horizon' and Stanislav tells us about his particular project.

Marilyn Well, I came into the garden from a parking space which is above it, so I came down into this part without really knowing what it was, I just saw a lot of posts, square posts, with little white tops - although I could see that something was going to grow soon, I wasn't quite sure what was going to grow and it's also interrupted by blocks of granite which ... well, it's a mystery, and the young team of eight which is what we call in French 'pluridisciplinaire' with all sorts of.... some are gardeners, some were architects, some were art students, I presume, explained that the ground here within the potagers, the vegetable gardens, which is over a hectare, is sloping and they wanted it to be horizontal, so the garden is actually called "horizontal", and the white posts, if you actually look at them, they're not just any old white posts, they are actually making the whole thing level, and they've planted beans and it's going to be the form of a labyrinth and so I'm longing to come back here when the beans will have grown and it's going to be a completely difference work from than what we're seeing today.

Marilyn That space over there, what's that lawn there?

Stanislav Oh no, this is pleurifleuri

Marilyn OK right that's to come up....

- Stanislav .... yeah, yeah, it will be in flower in August ..
- Marilyn August...
- Stanislav Yup, you know it's a *labyrinthe*, I don't know the ...
- Marilyn Oh yes OK..... a maze ...
- Stanislav Yes, it's a maze, a maze of wild flowers, and so, we have also a big hammock and we decide to put some hammocks inside the ...
- Marilyn Oh, so we'd be lying on a hammock with lots of wild flowers about the same height as us, ok .... almost like a dream
- Stansilav We can, we can be on the wild flowers in the *hammock* , there is some wild flowers who grow.....
- Marilyn Grow through it. Wow!
- Elaine That sounds like a potentially relaxing place!

However, before we could get too comfortable we were off to the Chapelle de Berthulet. Maggie and Marilyn comment on 'Le Jardin des Simples', one of the three designs there.

- Marilyn Right, we've just arrived at Berthulet in the most gorgeous setting, a chapel amongst pine trees, and in the corner in front, there is a modern interpretation of a medieval garden - it's divided into different squares with herbal aromatic plants. Now, Maggie's got a lot to say about the choice of plants because, it's designed as a showcase for the summer and perhaps not enough thought has gone into its long-term resistance ... so here's Maggie to just give some thoughts on it ...
- Maggie Well, it's absolutely enchanting in fact, because there are nine small squares, divided up with wooden arrangements between them, and in each square there's perhaps two or three different plants or the same plants but different varieties. One over here which is really rather nice, has thyme and lavender with it as well which is really quite sweet ... this one here, there's another one here repeating itself, there's also prostrate rosemary in the centre of the one that we're looking at ... there's some cabbage plants, there's a rose - now, lots of these plants in fact on Charlemagne's list in the year 800 .... they were listed, so there's a lot of continuity in what they've been looking at and doing. Students when they're designing for clients where money is involved have to give a great deal of thought as to the plant material that goes in - after all there's two bits to being a design student - the design of

what you're doing and the plants that fill the design you've made. Now here, we're in fact quite shady under the pine trees, lots of the plants are suitable really in full sun and are going to get very leggy if they were here for any length of time, so things like that have to be taken into consideration if they're thinking of making a career, of being a landscape designer.

Elaine Some helpful advice from Maggie on where certain plants will thrive.

Onwards and upwards, actually down to the Chateau de Tregarantec, near Mellionnec.

Marilyn talks to Maina, the Châtelaine and then she and Maggie discuss the design of 'L'Art du semis a la Francaise'.

Maggie Well, we've come to ... what do you call this?

Marilyn This is called *jardin du semis à la française*, semis means, you know, seedling, and so this is, uh, a French garden, French style, using different crops.

Maggie The seeds that have been used are going to be very effective, it's, it's a wonderful idea - first of all, it doesn't cost a lot of money, secondly, the maintenance is very low, and thirdly, it gives satisfaction to the eye. We've got a great swath of blue going through the centre ... which is... metres? About 50 metres? 50 metres long, in full bloom, absolutely buzzing with bees, and that is Phacelie and the other side is flanked by white flowers, again in swaths about 50 metres long ... we've got flax which is traditionally of course grown in Brittany, it's just coming out, filled with vetch as well, but the blue stars of the flax look lovely. But it's ...this is one of the most intriguing gardens, the students have really understood the need to take into account the client's needs, sort out what it is visually that they feel they could cope with and want, and there it is, it just, the seeds set, come up, bloom and die down again - it's a self-sufficient garden.

Marilyn What is your project for next year?

Maina I like the idea of keeping high grass and low grass and make designs, so it's interesting, and so we don't have to bother to water the plants or to, to, because we have already a very big garden and the idea is that when you are up there on the terrace, you have a view from the top and it can look very nice.

Elaine Now over to Maggie for a brief summary of a very enjoyable day o

Maggie All the gardens that we've actually seen over the past few days

have been designed by young students who are training to be landscape designers - without exception, they've been intriguing, interesting, challenging, some of them, some of them stupendously wonderful, one of two of them need a little bit more thought, but overall it's just been the greatest pleasure to go round and see young people's work, starting out on perhaps what they're going to create their own gardens, gardens for clients which perhaps their planting and their designs might last a hundred years, a century of gardens and plants ... wonderful!

