

We are delighted to announce a new publication by the Chair of Christophe Girot

Pamphlet Lost in Paradise – A Journey Through the Persian Landscape

Throughout history, gardens have elicited intangible fascination. Mystical beauty and a poetic sense for eternal yearning are intrinsic to the long Persian Garden tradition. These values formed the foundation for Western gardens that followed, even giving us the word ‘paradise’, the setting for the biblical Garden of Eden. The Avestan word *pairidaēza*, derived from Zoroastrian culture, simply means ‘walled around’. Looking in from outside, Iran’s image today is often marked by political and cultural ambiguity. Yet one can experience its Persian heritage most vividly in the arid country’s gardens. In the sparse landscape between the Caspian Sea and the Persian Gulf, the gardens lie solitary and almost untouched by time, still serving as places for quiet contemplation. *Lost in Paradise* offers different interpretations of the walled garden and aims to reconcile contemporary events with the enigmatic notion of paradise.

In the spring of 2019, students of the Department of Architecture at ETH Zurich participated in the seminar week “Paradise Lost: Building a Dream between the Mountains and the Desert” in Iran, organized by the Chair of Prof. Christophe Girot. Under the guidance of local landscape architects, architects and many other experts, we had the opportunity to discover hidden treasures of Iranian history, culture and heritage, thus gaining a new awareness of contemporary Iranian society in a controversial era.

The contributions of international authors form a reflective discussion on the conditions which shaped the Iranian landscape from its origins to the present day.

Contributors: *Siamak Anvari, Annemarie Bucher, Fujan Fahmi, Janic Fotsch, Javad Hoseinzadeh, Azadeh Arjomand Kermani, Reihaneh Khorramrouei, Amin Mahan, Ali Mousavi, Mahroo Movahedi, Dunja Richter, Shirana Shahbazi, Myriam Uzor, Saskia de Wit*

Editors: *Fujan Fahmi, Christophe Girot, Myriam Uzor*

Publisher: *gta Verlag*

Pamphlet

Publikationsreihe der Professur Girot

Institute of Landscape and Urban Studies LUS, D-ARCH, ETH Zürich

15 x 23 cm, Klammerheftung, 88 Seiten

22.00 CHF / 22.00 Euro

Englisch

Erscheint im Juni 2020

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