

**INTERNATIONAL GARDEN FESTIVAL  
JARDINS DE MÉTIS/REFORD GARDENS  
GRAND-MÉTIS, QUEBEC**

**PRESS RELEASE  
For immediate release**

**The International Garden Festival issues a call for entries to select  
designers for the 2005 edition**

**Grand-Métis, October 8, 2004** – The International Garden Festival is preparing its sixth edition and is issuing a call for entries to select some of the designers who will be invited to create temporary gardens for the 2005 Festival. This call for entries is open to all landscape architects, architects, artists and designers from Canada and abroad. **The deadline for submission of entries is Monday, November 15, 2004.**

The Jardins de Métis/Reford Gardens, located on the shores of the St. Lawrence and Mitis rivers in eastern Québec, attract more than 100,000 visitors every summer. Designed as a private garden by a collector and avid gardener, the Reford Gardens were declared a national historic site in 1996 by the historic sites and monuments commission of Canada.

The International Garden Festival, which takes place on a site adjacent to the historical gardens, is a unique forum for innovation and experimentation which consists in the presentation of temporary gardens created by Quebec, Canadian and international designers. The Festival has become an exceptional showcase and launching pad for the participating designers from a host of disciplines. This artistic and tourism event also gives visitors a chance to discover inspiring spaces bringing together the visual arts, architecture, design, landscape and nature.

Launched in 2000 the International Garden Festival has attained an enviable reputation in the space of just five years. It won the second prize in the National Post Design Exchange Awards in 2003, the *Grand Prix du tourisme québécois* in the “Tourist Attraction” category and the Attractions Canada Award for Quebec in the “Cultural Event” category in 2002. The Festival received the Award of excellence from the Société des musées québécois as the best exhibition of the year in 2002.

The International Garden Festival is managed by a not-for-profit foundation whose mission is the advancement of research and innovation in the art of gardens.

For specific details on this call for entries, please consult our Website:  
[www.jardinsmetis.com](http://www.jardinsmetis.com)

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Source:

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**INTERNATIONAL GARDEN FESTIVAL  
JARDINS DE MÉTIS/REFORD GARDENS  
GRAND-MÉTIS, QUEBEC**

**2005 EDITION**

**Call for entries**

The International Garden Festival is preparing its sixth edition and is issuing a call for entries to select some of the designers (landscape architects, architects, artists and designers) who will be invited to create temporary gardens for the Festival.

Designers interested in participating in this call for entries have until **5 p.m. on Monday, November 15, 2004** to submit their entries. The entries must be received by the date and time indicated at the following address:

Lesley Johnstone  
Festival international de jardins  
Jardins de Métis/Reford Gardens  
200, route 132  
Grand-Métis, Quebec  
G0J 1Z0

The documents can also be e-mailed in PDF format, under the same conditions, to the following address: [festival@jardinsmetis.com](mailto:festival@jardinsmetis.com)

Only one copy of each entry is to be submitted. Entries will not be returned.

Information:

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## **The objectives of the Festival**

The International Garden Festival is a cultural and tourism event held at the Jardins de Métis/Reford Gardens, a historic site that attracts over 100,000 visitors every summer. The Festival is a unique forum for innovation and experimentation in the art of gardens. It has become an exceptional showcase and launching pad for the participating designers from a host of disciplines. This artistic and tourism event also gives visitors a chance to discover inspiring spaces bringing together the visual arts, architecture, design, landscapes and nature.

The Festival encourages participants to explore all facets of the garden, from the reality of the physical setting (site and context) to creating a range of sensory, emotive and intellectual experiences for the visitor. The Festival sees the garden as a space for creative interpretation and a theme for reflection, while not negating its botanical and horticultural dimensions.

The Festival is also an opportunity to compare and contrast approaches and engage in a critical examination of the theory and practice of the art of gardens, offering a host of points of view on this contemporary art form to a broad and diversified audience. The goal of the event is to stimulate new creation by presenting temporary projects that question the very idea of the garden in light of its history and its place in today's society, while also allowing visitors to enjoy new sensory experiences.

The Festival promotes an encounter between diverse disciplines and as such encourages designers to form interdisciplinary teams to submit proposals. It is initiating a programme of rotating gardens over a two-year period and the selected designers will be asked to propose gardens that evolve over two years.

The primary objectives of the Festival are to:

- ◆ stimulate contemporary creation in garden art;
- ◆ promote an encounter between diverse disciplines (landscape architecture, architecture, visual arts, design...)
- ◆ help promote the work of Canadian designers interested in landscape architecture;
- ◆ reinforce Québec and Canada's growing reputation as a leader in contemporary garden design on the international stage;
- ◆ enhance the international reputation of Reford Gardens, by developing a creative element;
- ◆ develop new clientele for the arts and for gardens
- ◆ inspire the general public and the horticultural industry to integrate the latest trends in garden design;
- ◆ position the Reford Gardens as a site for formation and learning

## **The 2005 edition of the Festival**

For its sixth edition, the International Garden Festival will present five temporary gardens by designers selected through this call for entries.

This call for entries is open to all professional designers (or teams of designers) from Quebec, Canada or abroad that work in the fields of the landscape architecture, architecture, visual arts, and design.

The Festival promotes an encounter between diverse disciplines and as such encourages designers to form interdisciplinary teams to submit proposals. The Festival is initiating a programme of rotating gardens over a two-year period. The selected designers will be asked to propose gardens that evolve over two years.

Designers interested in participating should submit their entries (free and open format) comprising a statement, curriculum vitae, and a portfolio illustrating three recent projects designed by the candidate. The statement should explain the designer's interest in participating in the Festival, demonstrate the relation to the designer's creative process and describe his/her approach to the garden. The text may be illustrated with drawings (without being a preliminary drawing of the garden to be built).

Because the Festival seeks to promote an "*auteur*" approach to gardening and individual creativity, entries presented by professional associations (or offices) will not be accepted.

## **The selection process**

The designers will be selected by a committee chaired by **Alexander Reford**, Festival co-founder and director of the Jardins de Métis/Reford Gardens. Its members are **Renée Daoust**, architect of Daoust Lestage and member of the Festival Board of Directors; **Peter Jacobs**, Professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture at the Université de Montréal; **Carl Johnson**, Director of the Musée régional de Rimouski and member of the Festival Board of Directors; **Lisa Rapoport**, landscape architect with PLANT/Branch PLANT, Toronto; **Annie Ypperciel** landscape architect with Claude Cormier architecte paysagiste, Montreal; and **Lesley Johnstone**, Curator of the 2005 International Garden Festival.

The designers will be selected according to the following criteria:

1. The positioning or critical basis of their proposal with regard to knowledge and practice of garden design;
2. The contribution of their approach to the art of the garden and its renewal;
3. The originality, coherence and clarity of their creative approach;
4. The quality of their professional practice and recognition of the excellence of their work.

(The International Garden Festival reserves the right not to accept any of the proposals submitted).

## **Project oversight and design**

The design and construction of the temporary gardens will be overseen by the artistic and technical committee, consisting of Alexander Reford, Director of the Reford Gardens, Lesley Johnstone, curator, and Yvan Maltais, technical co-ordinator of the Festival.

## **Production conditions and process**

The budget for the purchase of materials and specialized services for each garden is \$10,000 (CAN), taxes included. The designers will receive an honorarium of \$5,000 (CAN), and up to \$2,000 for travel and expenses, all taxes included.

The Festival will undertake the construction of the gardens in collaboration with the designers. The labour costs are estimated at \$10,000 (CAN) for each garden.

The candidates chosen to participate in the design process agree to work to the following schedule:

### December 1, 2004

The selection is made and designers are invited to present proposals. Site descriptions are given to selected designers (sites to be allocated at random)

### January 24, 2005

Designers submit preliminary drawings of gardens

### March 7, 2005

Designers submit final plans and specifications for gardens in accordance with the comments of the Festival's artistic and technical committee

### March 14, 2005

The Festival's artistic and technical committee gives its comments and approves plans and specifications

### March 14 to May 3, 2005

Purchase of materials and preparation of plants by the Festival in collaboration with the designers

### May 3, 2005

Construction of temporary gardens by the Festival team begins

### June 20 to 26, 2005

Designers are present for the completion of the gardens, to participate in the opening events, meet the public and the media

### June 23, 2005

Inauguration of the Festival

### June 24, 2005

The Festival is open to the public

June 26, 2005

Designers meet with the public.

July and August 2003

Program of summer activities (to be determined).

The program may include the participation of designers in various public activities (presentations, lectures, etc).

October 2, 2005

The Festival closes.

(The schedule is subject to modification)

(The International Garden Festival reserves the right not to follow up on this call for entries.)

