



AIPH Spring Conference, 2 March 2020

## Lessons Learned from Garden Tourism

- How Garden Tourism can benefit Expo and Legacy development and operation —



#### Introduction

#### Ibo Gülsen, managing director of IGMPR

- Specialized project development firm assisting (local) governments and private investors in the design and development of horticulture attractions and destinations.
- Imagineering *Horti* Culture
- Rooted in the Netherlands, grown in Asia, blooming the world.

Vice-Chairman of World Tulip Society

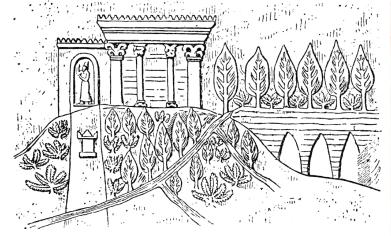
Vice-Chairman International Garden Tourism Network



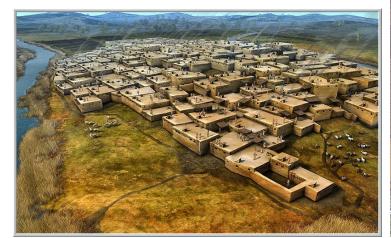
# Gardens

A (very) brief history

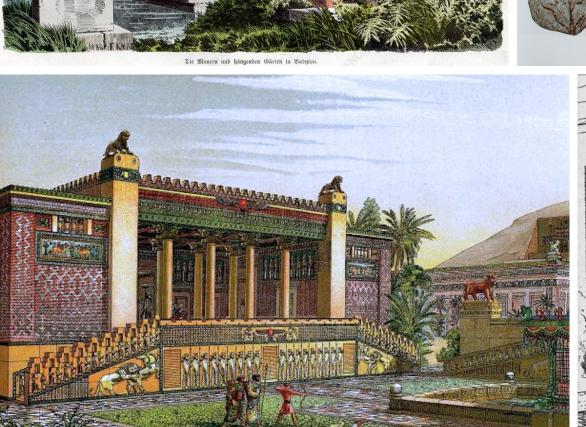




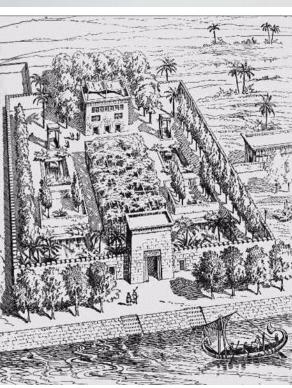


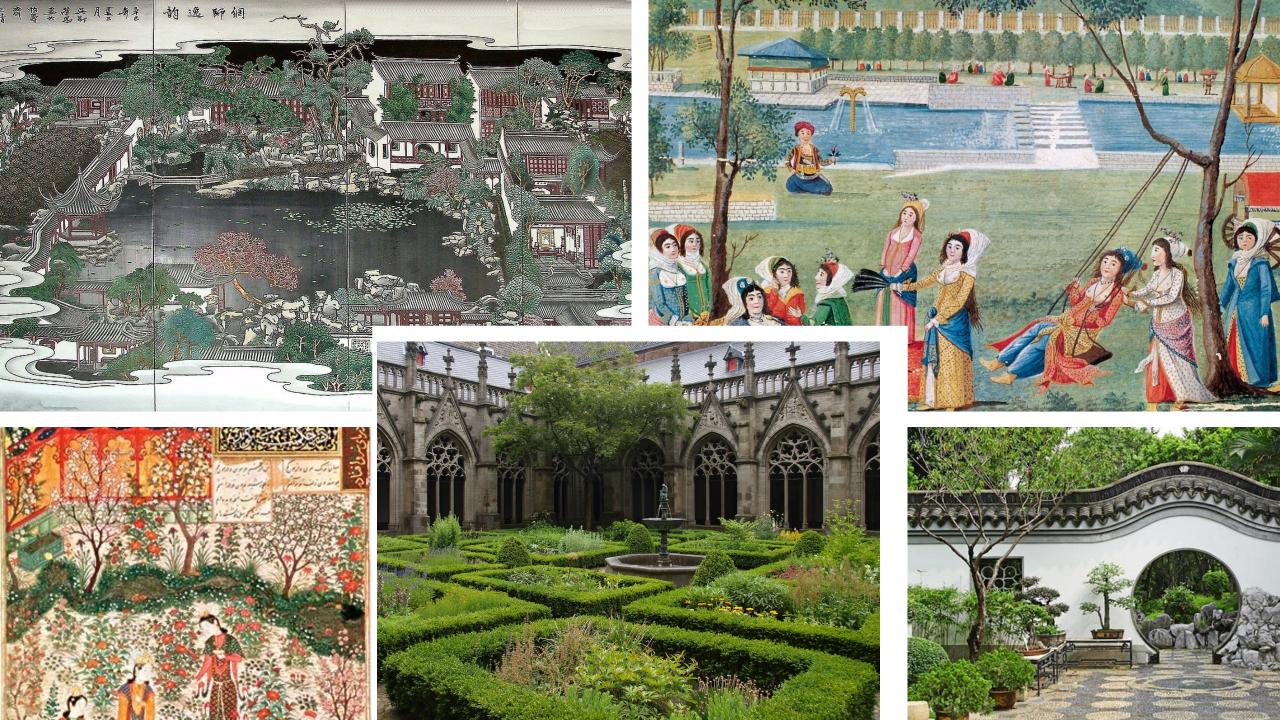


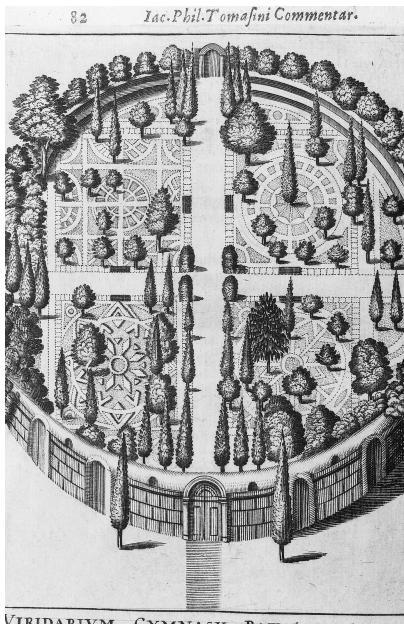






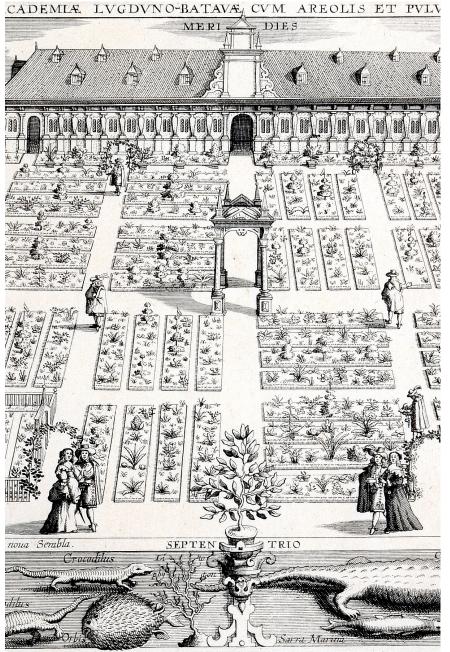






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# Garden Tourism

**Definition and Impact** 













Number of visitors (x million)	
3.6	
1,8	
1,1	
1,0	
1,4	
0,5	
2	
0,6	
1,6	
1,5	
1,2	
1,2	
1,0	
0,9	

Gardens by the Bay, Singapore Kew Gardens, UK Wisley, UK

Eden Project, UK

**Examples of Garden Tourist destinations** 

Keukenhof, Netherlands \* Trautmannsdorf, Italy\*\*

Dafeng Holland Flowers, China

Atlanta Botanical, USA

Longwood Gardens, USA Dubai Miracle Garden, UAE\*\*

Mainau Island, Germany

New York Botanical Garden, USA

National Kandawgyi Garden, Myanmar

Butchart Gardens, Canada

\* 2 month operation

\*\* 8 month operation

# Economic Impact of Garden Tourism

#### Direct spending:

- Admission fees, Food & Beverage, Retail, Parking
- Typical range: USD 20- USD 30 per visitor

#### Indirect spending:

- Transport, accommodation, Food & Beverage, Retail
- Leveraged with other tourist attractions and destinations
- 25%-50% contribution of average daily international tourist spending
- Obviously, regional and national tourists have different spending amount and allocation

#### Indirect benefits:

- Destination Branding and improved quality of life = Increased real estate and land value
- Increased horticulture awareness = increased spending on horticulture products



#### The value of garden tourism

4. In 2018 there were 37.9 million overseas visitors who came to the UK.<sup>2</sup> Almost one third of all visits to the UK include a trip to a garden or park, and there have been annual increases in garden day trips in England every year since 2014.<sup>3</sup> A 2018 study by Oxford Economics<sup>4</sup> found that garden tourism generates £2.9 billion of UK GDP, employs 32,000 people, and that international tourists spent an estimated £2.2 billion visiting the UK's parks and gardens in 2017. The report also estimates that garden tourism generated an additional £1.2 billion for related industries like hotels and restaurants. Since we took evidence for our inquiry, the Government has announced a new Tourism Data Hub to better understand the movements and motivations of visitors to the UK.<sup>5</sup>

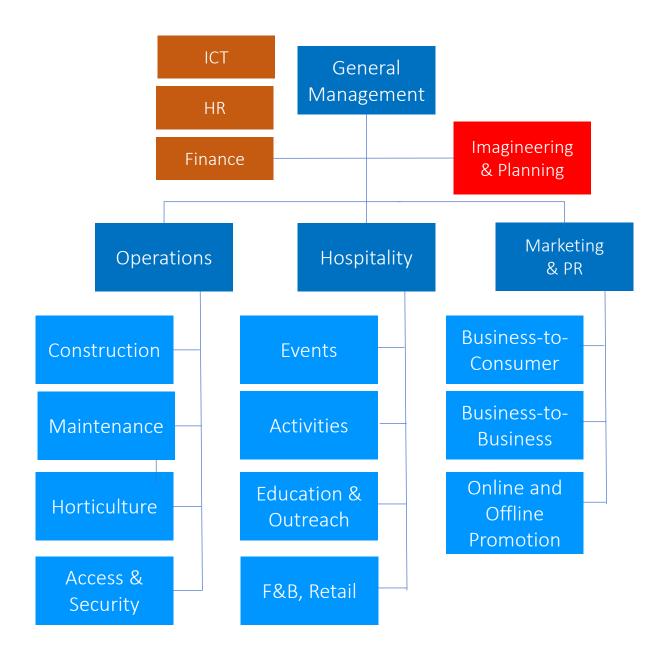






# Lessons Learned from Garden Tourism

- Size does not matter, quality does:
  - You don't need a very large footprint to attract and accommodate large visitor numbers
  - Quality of attraction points and time spent, determine the attraction value of any destination, whether it is a Garden or Expo
- Garden Tourism can offer additional synergies between Expo and Legacy planning, in economic impact, investment and attraction value
  - Turning an Expo into a Garden Tourist destination can be efficiently achieved, but requires more attention in the design and planning stage
- Expo can be a driver to connect other regional/national garden tourism destinations into one tourist promotion programme (see examples from UK, British Columbia-Canada)
- Horticulture industry is interested to support continuing operations.
  - Many different companies and industries are involved in the support and curation of horticulture in gardens (e.g. bulb growers in Keukenhof)
- Organization model of Garden Tourism Operations can be applied to expo's as well, consisting of Imagineering, Marketing, Operations, Activities & Events and F&B/Retail services



## Organization Model

- Key organization disciplines of a Garden Tourist Destination
- Staff numbers depend on seasonality of operations and potential for outsourcing (promotion, retail, F&B, maintenance)
- Fixed staff can vary from 30 FTE to 300 FTE

# Imagineering (*Horti* Culture)









Target groups

transportation time

Time spent

Capacity









Climate

Storyline and theme

Photo moments

**Plants** 







Hospitality

Activities & Events

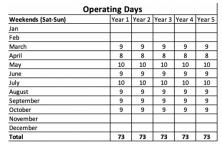
Business Case

Attraction Value

Quality of Experience

X

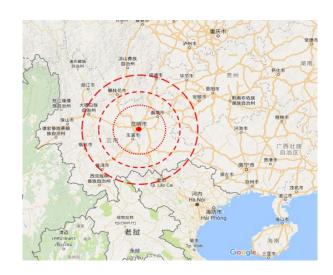
Time Spent



National Holidays (Ecxl weekends)	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Jan					
Feb					
March	0	0	0	0	0
April	4	2	2	2	2
May	1	3	3	3	3
June	1	1	1	1	1
July	0	0	0	0	0
August	0	0	0	0	0
September	1	1	1	1	1
October	5	5	5	5	5
November					
December					
Total	12	12	12	12	12

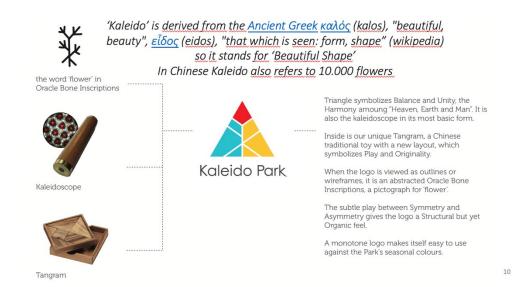
Weekends (Sat-Sun)	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Jan					
Feb					
March	65%	65%	65%	65%	65%
April	70%	70%	70%	70%	70%
May	70%	70%	70%	70%	70%
June	60%	60%	60%	60%	60%
July	40%	40%	40%	40%	40%
August	40%	40%	40%	40%	40%
September	75%	75%	75%	75%	75%
October	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%
November					
December					

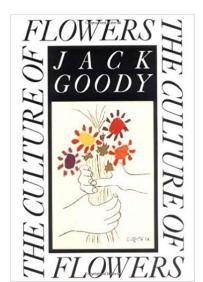
National Holidays (Ecxl weekends)	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
lan					
Feb					
March	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%
April	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%
May	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%
lune	60%	60%	60%	60%	60%
luly	40%	40%	40%	40%	40%
August	40%	40%	40%	40%	40%
September	75%	75%	75%	75%	75%
October	90%	90%	90%	90%	90%
November					
December					

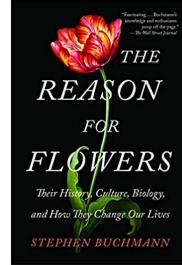


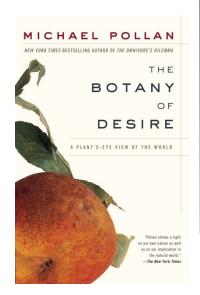
















Integrating (Flori) Culture and Local Identity in the overall storyline, theme and visitor journey



We live in the 'selfie'age, which requires a different design approach











န်ခဲ့သည့် နှစ်ဖေါင်း (၁,၀၀၀) ခန့် တည်းက လက်ဝတ်ရတနာအဖြစ် ဘိထင်ခဲ့သည့် 'Zeeland button' ကိရာပုံစံသည့် Astrantia ပန်းဖွင့် ဂံကို ယူထားဖြင်းဖြစ်သည်။

The 'Zeeland button' is inspired by the astrantia flower and the first use in jewelry dates back









## Questions?



### Contact Us



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