The AIPH World Green City Awards 2024 closed for entries. AIPH and partners are proud of the impressive interest from cities around the world. Following the 15th September 2023 deadline, cities who entered are invited to select their final list of 7 case studies, to go forward to the AIPH World Green City Awards 2024. The final list will be announced in October 2023, and the winners will be a dedicated gala dinner awards ceremony in September/October 2024.

Green City Principles

The Critical Role of Ornamental Horticulture in Urban Greening

AIPH calls for a study code of ornamental horticulture. Examples from around the world demonstrate the critical role the ornamental horticulture industry is playing in creating and maintaining green cities. A 5 new case studies showcase the various ways in which the ornamental horticulture industry makes a significant contribution to city greening initiatives.

Trees for Resilient Green Cities: Strategic Screening and Action Toolkit

As urban greening gains momentum, ensuring that trees are effectively integrated across relevant plans, regulations, management and governance approaches will be key to cities receiving their return on investment. UNECE's Trees in Cities Challenge has developed this toolkit to ensure trees are part of the plan and solution.

Future of Landscape Architecture Series

In a world facing multiple crises, landscape architects are vital in designing resilient, sustainable, and equitable landscapes that can withstand and recover from environmental, social, and economic stresses. AIPH's new book sets the framework for discussions on the future of the profession at the 2023 IFLA World Council in Nairobi.

News & Events

Call for Submissions: Cities&Health Special Issue & Research Symposium

AIPH, Cities&Health, and Expo 2023 Doha are calling for submissions for a special Cities & Health journal issue, titled ‘Living Green, Liveable Cities.’ This special issue was instigated by AIPH and Expo 2023 Doha, Qatar, to investigate the science and practice supporting the concept showcased at the Expo of creating livable and healthy urban environments through city greening. This special issue is accompanied by the ‘Living Green, Liveable Cities’ Research Symposium, which is set to take place from 4-5th February 2024 in Doha, Qatar, alongside the Expo.

Submit as Author

Register your interest in the Symposium
Urban change is an opportunity to raise awareness, promote participation, and harness the power of plants to make our cities greener, healthier, and more liveable. This will enable us to create better future urban spaces. The marketing campaign launches on 3rd September on that day with the theme “Flourishing urban spaces”. The next theme is “Growth and recovery” and runs until World Food Day, on 23rd September with the theme “Food for the future”. The third theme is “Innovation and impact” and runs from World Food Day until 20th October. In November, the theme is “The Power of nature in our Metropolises” and runs from 20th October to 31st October. The overall theme, “Greener, Healthier and Happier Urban October” is an opportunity to raise awareness, promote participation, and harness the power of plants to make our cities greener, healthier, and more liveable. This will enable us to create better future urban spaces.

UrbanShift Launches Online City Academy

The City of Doha. Expo 2023 Doha Qatar is the sponsor of the 2022/23 series. We invite you to join us as we bring this inspiring series to a close.

Japanese Landscape Contractors Association

JLCA actively participates in a variety of events relating to urban planning themes. JLCA has held several international conventions and conferences to promote the power of plants to re-shape cities.

Greenlife Industry Australia

Local governments, landscape architects and urban greening professionals can now determine which plants will survive where over the next 50 years using green city reports. The reports describe how different plants have implemented to optimise the resilience of hedge and shrub plants in green infrastructure projects.

Registration is Open: World Forum on Urban Forests (WFUF)

The 2023 edition of WFUF will take place in Washington DC, from 10th-14th October 2023. The overall theme, “Greening Inclusive and Accessible Cities for All” highlights the importance of building inclusive and accessible cities where the benefits of urban trees are universally available. The Forum will showcase positive examples of approaches that help demonstrate the important contributions that trees have to offer in accessible cities.

In case you missed it, the September webinar took place on 4th September 2023, with the theme “Climate-Resilient Urban Trees: Towards a Sustainable Future”. The webinar focused on urban planning themes related to the impact of climate change on urban trees. The next topic is Urban Trees as Drivers of Inclusivity and Liveability. The webinar is aimed at providing insights and recommendations for future research, case studies, and urban planning strategies.

In the Spotlight: The AIPH Global Green City Forum

The AIPH Global Green City Forum is a virtual space developed to drive transformational change in cities by harnessing the power of plants. The forum will showcase positive examples of approaches that help demonstrate the important contributions that trees have to offer in accessible cities.

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AIPH Green City Briefings

Each webinar in the series will focus on a specific topic related to the City of Doha. The next topic is “Resilient urban economies: Cities as drivers of economic growth and recovery”. The webinar will take place on 20th October 2023, with the theme “Resilient urban economies: Cities as drivers of economic growth and recovery”. The webinar will focus on the importance of building inclusive and accessible cities where the benefits of urban trees are universally available. The Forum will showcase positive examples of approaches that help demonstrate the important contributions that trees have to offer in accessible cities.

In September, participants from around the world will connect to join the Global Green City Forum, and share the latest research trialling the resilience of hedge and shrub plants in green infrastructure projects.

The overall theme, “Greener, Healthier and Happier Urban October”, is an opportunity to raise awareness, promote participation, and harness the power of plants to make our cities greener, healthier, and more liveable. This will enable us to create better future urban spaces.

The inaugural Circular Cities Summit explores “Flourishing Innovations in the Circular Economy”, with a focus on innovative solutions and strategies for achieving sustainability and circularity in the build environment. The Summit will feature a global conversation amongst leaders and practitioners, with a focus on showcasing real-world examples and best practices.

Citymakers and local governments are invited to contribute news, innovative approaches and best practices.

Apply to Become a Tree City of the World

The Tree Cities of the World programme is committed to inspiring cities to care for and celebrate their urban trees. The 2023 Tree City campaign will take place from 1st January to 31st October 2023. The campaign is open and accepting applications.

The UrbanShift City Academy, launched on 25th September 2022, offers city officials and urban practitioners open access to eight self-paced online courses, focused on urban planning themes that are critical to shaping greener, inclusive, and accessible cities.

The AIPH Global Green City Forum is a virtual space developed to drive transformational change in cities by harnessing the power of plants. The forum will showcase positive examples of approaches that help demonstrate the important contributions that trees have to offer in accessible cities.

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In the Spotlight: The AIPH Global Green City Forum

The call for contributions is now open, with the theme “Towards a Sustainable Future: Harnessing the Power of Plants”. The Forum will showcase positive examples of approaches that help demonstrate the important contributions that trees have to offer in accessible cities.

The overall theme, “Greener, Healthier and Happier Urban October”, is an opportunity to raise awareness, promote participation, and harness the power of plants to make our cities greener, healthier, and more liveable. This will enable us to create better future urban spaces.
Macquarie and Western Sydney Universities as part of a five year research project.

Case Studies

Our Spaces Strategy
Leeds, UK
The City of Leeds aims to create a vibrant, inclusive and world-class public realm by reimagining the city centre, removing barriers to movement, and repurposing highways infrastructure into new high quality green spaces. The City’s strategy enhances the quality and quantity of new and existing spaces to ensure a greener future for Leeds.

Qionghai Lake
Xichang, China
Qionghai Lake is the second largest natural freshwater lake in Sichuan Province, covering an area of about 30 square kilometres. It not only regulates the climate of the Xichang region, but is also an important drinking water source in the city. With the aim of making urban development and ecological protection of Qionghai symbiotic, the results of the systematic restoration and protection initiatives are inspiring.

Plant Selection and Substrate for Green Walls
This research introduces the elements which affect the success of living walls by testing the impact of plant selection, substrate and irrigation regimes. Plant selection was found to be more critical than substrate or irrigation regime for the native plants used in these trials. There was also a difference in plant growth based on plant position on the wall.

Climate-adapted Urban Green Infrastructure for Human Wellbeing and Biodiversity
This paper brings together global case studies that review approaches to urban green infrastructure planning, design and delivery. The findings support planners and managers of urban green space to consider changes for biodiversity, human health and climate change. With examples from the UK, Brazil and Italy this report highlights the similarities and peculiarities across geography and culture.

Best Practice
Blueprint for Innovation in Urban Forestry
This report provides a first-of-its-kind framework for assessing innovation factors influencing urban forestry. Through the analysis of 20 case studies on urban forestry best practices in the EU, this report offers an overview of urban forestry innovation with the intention to spread the knowledge about the potential of urban forests as NBS for cities.

Nature Positive Sydney
The Committee for Sydney presents a new paper that sets out 10 actionable ways to increase nature in urban areas. Sydney’s plan is to grow living infrastructure in a manner that engages the community and supports the city’s world-renowned natural assets. The 10 actions provide a replicable blueprint for nurturing nature back into the city.

Urban and Community Forest Sustainability Standard
The Sustainable Forestry Initiative is leading the way to greener, healthier cities with the release of the world’s first Urban and Community Forest Sustainability Standard. The standard, accompanied by a useful factsheet, promotes goals for maintaining and improving the many values of urban trees.

City Practitioners Handbook: Circular Food Systems
This handbook, designed for local and regional governments, provides experiences from 50 local governments and provides practical advice, case studies and tools to help develop circular food systems. With chapters on food waste and packaging, this handbook brings together global best practices from different cities in leveraging the power of food systems for resilient futures.

Research Findings

Plant Selection and Substrate for Green Walls
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International Association of Horticultural Producers (AIPH)

Since 1948, AIPH has united horticultural producers in an international community that thrives to this day. Much has changed in that time. Technologies advanced, cities rose from the ground, and we have become more connected than ever. As a result, our essential bond with nature has been weakened. AIPH strives to reignite and uphold an appreciation of plants that we believe is a basic human instinct. We support the work of grower associations globally and together we champion a prosperous industry, growing plants that enhance lives, advance societies, and sustain our planet, for this generation and the next.