

# ICOMOS

CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES MONUMENTS ET DES SITES  
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF MONUMENTS AND SITES

## **LES JARDINS DE L'ISLAM** **ISLAMIC GARDENS**

2EME COLLOQUE INTERNATIONAL SUR LA PROTECTION ET LA RESTAURATION  
DES JARDINS HISTORIQUES ORGANISE PAR L'ICOMOS ET L'IFLA

Grenade, Espagne, du 29 octobre au 4 novembre 1973

2ND INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON PROTECTION AND RESTORATION OF HISTO-  
RICAL GARDENS, ORGANIZED BY ICOMOS AND IFLA

Granada, Spain, October 29th to November 4th, 1973

COMPTE RENDU  
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Hôtel Saint Aignan

75 rue du Temple

75003. PARIS (France) tel 277 35 76

Manuscrit réuni par le Centre de Documentation UNESCO/ICOMOS  
textes en français revus par Madame Pascale Grémont  
traductions de l'espagnol au français par Madame Pascale Grémont  
textes en anglais revus par Madame Margaret Rubens  
traductions du français à l'anglais par Madame Margaret Rubens

Text assembled by the UNESCO/ICOMOS Documentation Centre  
French texts revised by Mrs. Pascale Grémont  
translations from Spanish to French by Mrs. Pascale Grémont  
English texts revised by Mrs. Margaret Rubens  
translations from French to English by Mrs. Margaret Rubens

Manuscrit préparé avec le concours financier de l'UNESCO, subvention 1975 DG/ 3.4  
Text assembled with the financial support of UNESCO, subvention 1975 DG/ 3.4

Ilustración de la cubierta: Vista del Generalife. Reproducción de la Página 138 del libro " los Jardines de Granada" de Francisco Prieto Moreno. Madrid. Ministerio de Educación y Ciencia. 1.973.

Imprimé avec le concours financier du PATRONATO DE LA ALHAMBRA Y DEL  
GENERALIFE. GRANADA.

Gráficas LUCAMO - Ricardo del Arco, 2 - Granada. 500 ejemplares. Noviembre 1976  
I.S.B.N. 84-500-1682-7 Depósito legal Gr.463/1976. *Made in Spain.*

Printed with the financial support of PATRONATO DE LA ALHAMBRA Y DEL  
GENERALIFE. GRANADA.

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## FOR WORD

I am very pleased to accept the kind invitation extended to me as Chairman of the Spanish National Committee of the International Council of Monuments and Sites and as a member of its International Consulting Committee, to present this publication containing the reports and communications addressed to the 2nd International Symposium on Protection and Restoration of Historical Gardens, held in Granada from October 29th to November 4th, 1973, as well as the discussions had after each presentation, and the important recommendations made as a result thereof.

It will be good to remember that the first meeting of the ICOMOS, which dealt with the problems arising from the preservation and protection of historical gardens took place in Fontainebleau in September of 1971, but there, only the most general aspects of such problems were examined, while at the same time presenting a tentative inventory of the historical gardens existing in the various areas of the world.

The Granada meeting was devoted to a specific subject - even though this was dealt with in its different aspects, "Islamic Gardens", and was organized, with the cooperation of the Spanish National Committee, by the International Council of Monuments and Sites, ICOMOS, and the International Federation of Landscape Architects, IFLA.

So as to get an idea of the significance of this Symposium and of the contents of the present book, it will suffice to consider that the most distinguished specialists from fifteen countries (Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France, India, Italy, Iran, Morocco, Portugal, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, USA and West Germany), were active participants in it; that the topics studied ranged from the Sassanian-Persian origins of the Muslim garden to its neo-Arabian perpetuation in Gaudí's gardens; the chronology and typology of Islamic gardens; the orchard-gardens of Muslim Spain, the problems involved in garden archeology, the application of the most recent techniques in Paleobotany to the restoration of ancient gardens; the conditioning factors and principles that should inspire and limit the restoration of gardens; and from studies on Indian, Iranian, Turkish Anatolian, Egyptian, Moroccan, Russian of the Alhambra gardens... to the subject of the garden in the poetry of Islam.

Special thought should be given to the recommendations concerning the need to develop a specialized branch of Archaeology devoted to the study of historical gardens using the most recent research techniques available, as well as to the need to train landscape architects specialized in the problems of historical gardens, together with the suggestion to update the repertoires of historical gardens of Islamic origin and to update as well the scientific literature on the subject.

*I should like to publically make expression of the deep gratitude due all the individuals and institutions that took part in the organization and development of this Symposium and in the preparation and translation of the contributions included in the present volume. Express mention of their names is made in the opening speech delivered by Mr. Piero Gazzola, Chairman of the ICOMOS at the time, and so, let them be taken as reproduced here, for which reason I shall limit myself to mentioning again the names of those institutions that sponsored the Symposium: "Patronato de la Alhambra y del Generalife", "Consejo Superior de los Colegios de Arquitectos de España", and "Dirección General de Bellas Artes" (now "Dirección General del Patrimonio Artístico y Cultural") of the Spanish Ministry of Education and Science.*

*As a last word I should only like to point out that the texts included in this volume were prepared in their English and French versions, the official languages of the ICOMOS, by the Documentation Center UNESCO-ICOMOS. The fact that they be published by the "Patronato de la Alhambra y del Generalife" is to be valued as an important new service to the Spanish culture, and a valuable contribution to the ends pursued by the ICOMOS and its Spanish National Council.*

RAMON FALCON RODRIGUEZ, Chairman of the  
Spanish National Committee of the  
International Council of Monuments and  
Sites

LUNDI 29 OCTOBRE 1973

*Matin. OUVERTURE DU COLLOQUE*

Le colloque est ouvert par Monsieur Francisco Prieto Moreno, Architecte Conservateur de l'Alhambra et du Généralife, qui donne ensuite la parole à Monsieur René Pechère, Président de la Section Historique de la Fédération Internationale des Architectes Paysagistes (IFLA), à Monsieur Francisco Cabral, Coordinateur des groupes de travail de l'IFLA, puis à Monsieur Juan González Cebrián, Président du Conseil Supérieur des Collèges d'Architectes d'Espagne représentant l'Union Internationale des Architectes (UIA).

Le Directeur Général des Beaux Arts présente au colloque tous les voeux de succès de son Excellence le Ministre de l'Education et de la Science, Monsieur Rodríguez Martínez.

Monsieur Piero Gazzola, Président du Conseil International des Monuments et des Sites (ICOMOS) prend ensuite la parole.

*Après midi. VISITE DES JARDINS DU GENERALIFE*

Une visite des jardins du Généralife a lieu, sous la conduite de Monsieur Francisco Prieto Moreno et de Monsieur Jesús Bermúdez Pareja, directeur des Musées de l'Alhambra et du Généralife. A la suggestion de Monsieur Pechère, les jets d'eau qui ont été installés au siècle dernier seulement dans le bassin de la grande cour du Généralife (Patio de la Acequia) sont arrêtés. Le bassin redevient un miroir d'eau, calme et silencieux, où se reflète l'architecture: il retrouve le rôle pour lequel il avait été conçu.

18 heures. *SEANCE DE TRAVAIL*

MONDAY, 29th OCTOBER, 1973

*Morning: OPENING OF THE SIMPOSIUM*

The symposium was declared open by Mr. Francisco Prieto Moreno, Architect-Curator of the Alhambra and Generalife, who called first on Mr. René Pechère, Chairmann of the Historical Section of the International Federation of Landscape-Architects (IFLA) to say a few words, and then on Mr. Francisco Cabral, Coordinator of the IFLA Working Parties, and Mr. Juan González Cebrián, Chairman of the "Consejo Superio de los Colegios de Arquitectos de España", who represented the International Union of Architects (IUA).

On behalf of His Excellency Mr. Rodríguez Martínez, Minister of Education and Science, the Director-General of Fine Arts wished the symposium every success.

The floor was then taken by Mr. Piero Gazzola, President of the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS).

*Afternoon: TOUR OF THE GENERALIFE GARDENS*

The visitors were shown round the gardens of the Generalife by Messrs. Francisco Prieto Moreno and Jesús Bermúdez Pareja, Director of the Alhambra and Generalife Museums. At Mr. Pechère's suggestion the water-jets in the basin in the "Patio de la Acequia", or main court of the Generalife, which date only from the last century, were turned off, and the basin became once more a silent and unruffled mirror reflecting the buildings - as was originally intended.

6.0. p.m. *WORKING SESSION*