



RADICEPURA  
GARDEN FESTIVAL  
*biennale del giardino mediterraneo*

organised by



in cooperation with



*Presents*

**CALLforIDEAS**

FOURTH EDITION  
MAY - DECEMBER 2023  
Radicepura, Giarre (CT), Sicily, Italy

## The Garden of Plants

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Much has been said about the contemporary garden which, in recent years, has explored various forms of architecture and design. At the same time, ecological issues have been brought to everyone's attention, so much so that the garden, as an artistic and cultural manifestation of nature, cannot ignore the principles of energy saving, the conservation of water resources and an unconditional respect for all forms of biodiversity.

Science has made great strides allowing us to understand the strength of our interdependence with our planet, both as human beings and as part of a complex system, ecosystems of inter-species relationships between organisms that, directly or indirectly, hold up the delicate balance that our planet requires in the way we know, admire and wish to preserve. Furthermore, technology continues to advance, so that we can no longer imagine a future without innovation. One element is however being lost: the gardens in which every day, we develop a close relationship with plants

Therefore, with this call for ideas - conceived by **Antonio Perazzi**, artistic director of the Radicepura Garden Festival - our purpose is to invite designers to engage with the theme of gardens in which plants are not an ancillary or simple decoration, but the starting point and the inspiration for design. The designers and planners, regardless of their training, will be required to try their hand at **"botany for landscape designers"**, remaining light and joyful like the flowering of a wild-flower, or

sophisticated as the most precious rare plant, which needs care and culture, artistic sense and poetry. While remaining committed to environmental principles, which we support as the highest priority, we expect to receive elegant, well-designed projects that show the benefits of a high-quality, modern, functional, poetic and peaceful garden.

Through this call, we want to encourage a debate around a new style of garden capable of promoting the conscious belonging to the natural world, putting plants at its heart, and these we will be happy to make available in abundance from the very rich catalogue of Piante Faro.

In **the first phase**, designers are invited to join our call by submitting an idea that is convincing enough to access a selection. After this initial phase, we will draw up a short-list: those who are selected will access a **second phase** in a restricted form and will be invited to produce a detailed project for a specific area to be assigned to them. Finally, in **the final selection, the 7 winners** will be invited to create their garden in the park of the Radicepura Biennale, where throughout the festival thousands of visitors, photographers and journalists from all over the world will visit, study, and enjoy their projects, appreciating their quality and beauty.

### *Type of Selection*

Radicepura Garden Festival announces an international competition for the selection of garden designers who will have the task of designing and creating **7 temporary gardens**. The selection is international as an open competition looking for new ideas.

### *Participation requirements*

Professional freelancers or teams of emerging architects, landscape designers, agronomists, garden designers, botanists, nurserymen, urban planners, engineers, artists, curators, and all those with the skills to design and build a garden can participate. The Festival encourages participants to form multidisciplinary teams. The selection is also open to companies, associations, cooperatives, schools, and universities.

- The competition includes **six under-36 gardens** for students or young professionals: all members of the design group must be younger than thirty-six (36) on 30 November 2022. Students will be able to use a university tutor older than thirty-six (36).
- The call is also open to the **over-36** category, without age restrictions, for the creation of **1 garden**.

Each designer or member of a design group can submit only one application. The winning designers of previous editions of the Radicepura Garden Festival cannot participate

### *Application*

Candidates should submit the project according to the online guided procedure, which they will receive via email upon registration, by the deadline of **November 14, 2022, at 12:00**. Participation is free.

### *Selection process*

The selection process of the winning designers will be divided into two phases.

**PHASE 1- IDEA** The designers are asked to illustrate their projectual idea for a garden in the form they prefer through a synthetic dossier that describes a concept, adding a title and a short

explanatory text with reference images and evocative sketches capable of conveying a botanical vision and idea.

After examining the dossiers, the jury will choose the best projectual ideas and select the finalists called to participate in the second selection phase, assigning them to a specific project area from the areas of the Festival on the basis of which they will give a new interpretation of their project for the final phase.

## **PHASE 2 - SPACE PLACEMENT**

The designers are asked to place their idea of a garden in the assigned area by developing an executive project provided with technical drawings, construction details, and a planting plan, as well as a financial estimate of the project which must not exceed the total cost of € 10,000 unless there are independent sponsors who have agreed to cover the excess extra costs.

The gardens will be selected by an Artistic Jury and by a Technical Jury, on the basis of:

### **PHASE 1**

- *The creative response to the theme proposed for the 2023 edition*
- *The originality, coherence, and clarity of the design idea and the potential interaction with the public*
- *The contribution of the project the **arte dei gardini** and to innovation*

### **PHASE 2**

- *Consistency with the initial idea, feasibility, and respect for the budget limits assigned.*

The shortlist of the first gardens selected in PHASE 1 will be communicated to the participants by **28<sup>th</sup> November 2022** via email.

The Festival reserves the right to invite garden designers to create installations/gardens at the Radicepura park.

The list of the **7 winning gardens** which will be created by the team that has presented the project and that will be guided and supervised by the staff of Radicepura will be communicated to the participants by **January 27, 2023**, via email.

For more information, please contact us at the following address:

[application@radicepurafestival.com](mailto:application@radicepurafestival.com)

### ***Deadline***

The deadlines for delivering the project proposals in digital format are the following.

Phase 1 deadline: November 14, 2022 at 12.00

Phase 2 deadline: January 16, 2022 at 12.00

### ***Further Information***

Website: [www.radicepurafestival.com](http://www.radicepurafestival.com)

E-mail: [application@radicepurafestival.com](mailto:application@radicepurafestival.com)

Tel: +39 095 964154

## *Radicepura Garden Festival*

Radicepura Park is located in Giarre, between Etna and the Ionian Sea. In over five hectares of land the Faro family has collected more than 3000 plant species for a total of 7000 varieties: bushes, flowers, trees, rare palms, and medicinal and aromatic plants which create a real living archive of experimentation and training. A centre of excellence for researchers, landscape architects, greenkeepers, and lovers of nature and its creations. The Biennale dedicated to the Mediterranean landscape - the Radicepura Garden Festival - has been organised since 2017 and hosts architects, landscape designers, artists, intellectuals, gardeners, and enthusiasts called to create gardens on the theme of the year stimulating reflections and actions to protect the landscape and the environment.

## *Project area and guidelines*

The gardens are meant to be a celebration of biodiversity, the natural, and the Mediterranean anthropic landscape. Gardens must be innovative, attractive, and enjoyable; they must capture the attention of visitors and clearly illustrate their design idea and their message; they must also be accessible in the evening, therefore it is recommended that participants include a lighting system since various evening events will be organized during the Festival. Since the Festival will be open for six months it is necessary to consider the evolution of the garden during this period, minimizing maintenance requirements.

The Festival encourages interaction with the public, and an innovative approach with new ideas that support and develop a positive relationship between people, their culture and the natural environment around their homes. The diversity of the climatic zones of the Mediterranean and the complex cultural developments of the territory offer a wide range of creative ideas.

In order to design properly, some characteristics of the soil and climate are indicated as follows: the soil is volcanic, fertile and well-draining. The climate is generally warm, with very hot summers (with peak temperatures in August) and mild winters. The area is quite windy in winter, with moderately intense rainfalls between November and March.

## *Building phase*

The Festival is responsible for the building of the temporary gardens. The works supervisor and the team leader will manage the construction and installation of each garden made by a group of professionals consisting of students and volunteers. The construction of the gardens begins on **February 1, 2023** and must be completed by **April 30 2023**. The Festival and its staff will ensure the maintenance of the garden after the opening and throughout the Festival. The designers must assist and work on-site during the week dedicated to the completion of their gardens and during the opening of the festival which will take place on may **6 and 7 2023**. The designers who choose to participate, agree to work according to the program established by the Festival.

Special works that include electrical connections (ex: pumps, lights...) machinery and plants (ex: tractors, plough...) will be carried out by the Radicepura staff. All participating students will be provided with "Health and Safety" training, before starting the activities on site.

The gardens of the Festival can be exhibited for more than one edition; designers will be asked to refresh their garden over two or more years, through re-planting.

The Radicepura Garden Festival will have the right to modify the plant list of the gardens or make other changes after the end of the Festival. Not all gardens will be maintained beyond the end of the 2023 edition.

During the installation week, the designers will be able to stay at the Piante Faro guesthouse in Carruba - Giarre - at the Festival's expense.

### ***Budget for the garden creation***

The Budget will be **€ 10.000** including:

- **€ 5.000** for plants
- **€ 5.000** for materials

*The Festival offers a range of visibility for donors and sponsors, depending on the size of the contribution or the product/materials donated. **The Radicepura Foundation will have sole responsibility for the assigned Budget.***

**For the choice of plants and an estimate of the costs, it is possible to consult the Plants catalogue:**

**[Catalogo-PianteFaro-2020-21.pdf](#)**

If the Budget is exceeded and the project is of interest to the Artistic Jury, it is possible to:

- 1) Include your own Sponsor that will:
  - A. provide materials
  - B. Give a mandate to proceed with the construction, subject to an economic agreement with the manufacturer of the part exceeding the budget established by this Call.
- 2) The designers themselves will be responsible for paying the costs due to the Builder for the excess part, subject to a financial agreement.

*Each garden can be funded either partially or totally by a sponsor.*

### ***Award***

At the conclusion of the third edition of the Radicepura Garden Festival, the garden that has evolved most successfully over the six months of the event will receive the **Gardenia Award**, a special award from the garden magazine.

### ***Documents required***

**PHASE 1- IDEA** Designers are asked to describe the concept of their garden through texts, evocative pictures/sketches, and a botanical idea.

**A - 1 file PDF max 4 pages, A3 landscape layout, max 20 MB, containing:**

- title of the project (do not indicate the names of the designer/designers);
- a text of max. 2000 characters (spaces included) with the description of the concept of the garden and the presentation of the proposed visitor experience;
- sketches, pictures (any technique) that give a feeling for the idea of the garden;
- reasoned choices for the plants selected

**B - 1 file PDF max. 1 page, A3 landscape, max. 10 MB, containing:**

- title of the project, name of the designer or members of the team and their profession or work experience; if designers are students, specify the name of the mentor, or the school/ university;
- the contact details of the designers or team leader (address, telephone, e-mail, website, social network);
- short presentation of the designer or of the team, max. 1000 characters, spaces included;
- picture of the designer/designers with the following technical features: headshot, horizontally oriented picture, high resolution.

**PHASE 2- SPACE PLACEMENT** Designers are asked to place their idea of a garden in the assigned area by producing technical drawings, the planting plan, and metric assessment calculations.

**C - 1 file PDF min. 4 pages, A3 landscape format, max. 20 MB, containing:**

- a technical layout of the garden (min 1:50 scale) with captions and notes on materials used. The plan must be sent on an A3 size page;
- at least one view which illustrates the garden (perspective or axonometric);
- significant elevation sections of the project
- planting plan with a list of the plants chosen (scientific names);
- estimate of materials and plants expenses

For a more complete evaluation of the project, in the second phase a scale model of the garden should ideally be sent to the following address:

**RADICEPURA**

**BOTANICA S.r.l.** Via Fogazzaro N.19 - 95014 - Giarre (Ct), ITALY

*By participating in the aforementioned Call for Ideas, the authors of the Projects and the winners of the Contest, will irrevocably assign, exclusively to the Radicepura Garden Festival, the right of economic use of the winning Projects, without territorial and/or temporal limitations. Candidates also authorize the Festival to exhibit, broadcast, and make their projects public.*

***Bonus and Sponsor***

The selected teams will be awarded a maximum bonus of € 1,500.00, which can be used exclusively for travel, transport, and food expenses: this Bonus will be managed directly by the Festival staff.

The designers are also encouraged to solicit donations or funding for materials and other costs and to involve such sponsors as are interested in the theme and values of promotion, dissemination, and protection of the culture of the Mediterranean landscape carried out by the Radicepura Garden Festival and by the individual project proposals.

***Processing of Personal Data (GDPR)***

For the purpose of the program implementation, the Radicepura Foundation collects and processes your personal data, to name: name and surname, date of birth, e-mail address, telephone number, nationality, country of origin, profession, and newsletter. Personal data will be processed and stored in accordance with the provisions of the European Regulation 2016/679 (GDPR) and the current national legislation related to the protection of personal data. Your consent allows the Organizer to collect, process, and store personal data and will serve as a basis for the processing of the latter. By submitting the application, you express your consent to the processing of personal data, which is an integral part of the program; and participants express their consent to the transmission, collection, processing, and storage of their personal data. Personal data will be kept for the time strictly necessary for the implementation of the program as well as, subsequently, for the fulfilment of all legal obligations related to or deriving from it.

The user also agrees to allow the Radicepura Foundation and its members to use the materials received through any means of communication and without compensation, for review and judgment purposes, and for promotional aims with the indication of the author.

### ***Organiser of the Contest***

Radicepura Garden Festival

### ***Offices***

Head Office

Via Fogazzaro n.19 Giarre (CT) CAP

95014 Tel. + 39 095 964154

## *Calendar*

- Deadline phase 1 14/11/2022, at 12.00
- PHASE 1 - Announcement of selected gardens 28/11/2022
- Deadline phase 2 16/01/2023 at 12.00
- Announcement of 7 winning gardens 27/01/2023
- Beginning of gardens construction by personnel 20/02/2023
- Designers on site to complete the project 30/04/2023
- Preview Radicepura Garden festival 06/05/2023
- Opening Radicepura Garden festival 07/05/2023
- Last day to visit the gardens of the festival: 03/12/2023

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