



THE SINGAPORE GARDEN FESTIVAL

It's attracting everyone



AWARD WINNING DESIGNER



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SINGAPORE'S FIRST INTERNATIONAL GARDEN & FLOWER SHOW

NICO WISSING - Holland

For the Dutch garden designer **Nico Wissing** (Megchelen, 1961), this is a remarkable project: the design and layout of a model garden during the first *Singapore Garden Festival* ; "From all around the world, ten landscape architects and garden designers have been invited to design a garden in Singapore. It is a great honour to be part of such a select group".

Wissing is - what should be described in all modesty as - a *rising star* in the global landscape of garden designers. His designs are increasingly attracting attention in the Netherlands and abroad. Without exception, every Wissing Garden is well-received. The starting point for the design of a Wissing Garden is basically simple: emotion. Or, as the designer himself likes to say, "You should as it were be able to feel a garden".

This Dutch designer still lives in the village where he was born and grew up, Megchelen, a green village surrounded by nature, right on the border with Germany . Wissing's love of flowers and plants, in particular roses, emerged at a young age. Nico was born with green fingers, and those same green fingers are now bringing him international acclaim.

At the invitation of the Dutch government, Nico Wissing was one of the four participants to produce the Dutch submission for the World Expo in Germany (Hanover 2000). His *moving garden* , designed in 2002 for the Floriade, the Dutch world garden exhibition organised only once every ten years, proved a major talking point. Wissing has also designed other remarkable foreign projects in such diverse locations as Majorca , Italy and Germany . Wissing is a member of the think tank that is already hard at work preparing for the next Floriade in 2012.

In 2006, Wissing felt the time was right to lay down his thoughts and ideas in a special book. This undertaking resulted in **Wissing Tuinen | Outlook** , an inspirational and colourful reference work. Anyone who reads **Wissing Tuinen | Outlook** will immediately understand exactly what this talented garden designer means when he talks of gardens and emotion.

This Dutchman draws his inspiration and motivation from the peace and space in his own living environment. Many of his new projects are born, as it were, ten metres off the ground, when Wissing settles down in his own tree hut, surrounded by cornfields, and accompanied by nothing more than a sketchbook and a few pens. There, in his own, spacious back garden at a location where mother nature is fully in command, his basic ideas cautiously take form. What follows is a series of sketches and ideas, resulting eventually in a definitive design.

Nico Wissing produces formal gardens, romantic gardens and contemporary gardens as well as therapeutic gardens intended for example to stimulate the sensory perceptions of institutionalised residents, often with senile dementia. All are unique gardens, originating from a deep respect for nature, in relation to human wellbeing. Every Wissing Garden is intended to give the residents a sense of wellness.

Almost unnoticed, Nico Wissing has joined the select guild of garden artists, but he remains *the people's designer*. Wissing takes care to avoid being hallmarked as a gardener for the elite. "Every garden I design is the unique result of a creative process. All my gardens, large or small, bear my own personal signature".

As with all the other exhibitors, in Singapore , Wissing will be given precisely one hundred square metres to show why he is currently viewed as the *coming man* amongst landscape designers. His will be a special

project. "Mine is a plea for green. Green in villages, green in towns and green in Singapore . Towns and buildings deserve far more green than many of them receive at present. Green has been proven to reduce stress. Against that background, my garden at this *Garden Festival* will be an urban garden in which the users will be "embedded" in green. It is up to us to soften the hard lines. Upwards and onwards to the green city!"

Information and contact: www.wissingtuinen.nl



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