Garden of Peace

The contribution of the “House of Peace” to the Floriade 2022 International Exposition
Almere | Amsterdam
Floriade is a decennial international exposition whose themes are flora and horticulture. The 2022 edition is devoted to cities of the future, under the title "Growing Green Cities." The contributors, coming from 70 different countries, present their exhibits in the form of a pavilion, a stand or a garden, showing their new technologies and solutions for global urbanization, food security, health, and energy production for the green and healthy cities of tomorrow.

In The Netherlands, at the center of a 60-hectare peninsula on the shores of Lake Weerwater. From 14 April to 9 October 2022. Six months, open every day for 2 million expected visitors. Hundreds of participants, including official national delegations, but also businesses and organizations. Some participate through a garden, others expose in the exposition hall.

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The House of Peace at the Floriade 2022 Exposition

The House of Peace is participating in the Floriade 2022 Exposition focused on cities of the future. It will be exhibiting its Garden of Peace.

When we speak of cities of the future, we often think of “science fiction”, new technologies, or a virtual world—and we forget the links that unite the human being to the rest of the living world.

For us, the essential thing in a city is to imagine the best way to live together in harmony with respect for differences. In order to alleviate the conflicts that might occur, we propose preventive mediation. History reminds us that cities have always grown and prospered through choices based on solidarity and by the joint actions of their citizens.

Moving from “me” to “we”...

This is our objective: education for a culture of peace in the generations to come.

In this way, it is crucial to create special spaces, incubators of ideas, to promote greater sociability and habitability in sustainable and inclusive future cities.

We must all contribute to this goal, and see that the world we bequeath to our children shall be based on “living one with another, and not one against the other”.

It is this desire that the Garden of Peace wishes to promote on the occasion of the Floriade 2022 Exposition.

Garden of Peace

On a 1,000m² lot situated at the heart of the exposition, the House of Peace—in partnership with AISA International-NGO—will plant its garden inspired by the Golden Ratio and bringing together the flora of the different continents.
The Golden Ratio

The Golden Ratio is a principle at once simple and mysterious which is repeated ad infinitum in nature, the arts and the sciences. We see it in the stamen of plants, in the genealogical tree of bees, in the pyramids, in the architecture of holy places, as well as in the human body. Wherever we find it, it shines forth with simplicity, beauty, efficiency, perfection and harmony.

We took inspiration from the Golden Ratio in order to design the Garden of Peace and the model of the future House of Peace, as well as to conceptualize a better urban environment.

The science or the art of “living together” can be called social and behavioral mimetism, and this plays a crucial role in childhood education, in proactive sociability, and empathy.

Continents

The Garden of Peace has been designed on the pattern of the floral diversity of the continents. It is harmoniously divided according to species, colors and heights, in order to show to the visitor the wealth of biodiversity. It has taken shape in the botanical workshop of the House of Peace with the assistance of Madame Josje Bicker of the Botanical Garden of the city of Amsterdam.

Nature, in its infinite creative wisdom, invites us to protect and to cherish the multitude of animal and vegetable species, and to reflect on the wealth embodied in the diversity of the human family.
Garden of Peace

Visitors will discover displayed on a wall of vegetation, in a spiral, the words of women and men who bore witness to the values of unity and the common destiny of our shared humanity. These testimonies invite us to recognize that there exist universal values shared throughout history by women and men of different countries, traditions and cultures. Knowing them nourishes our reflection and encourages us to take action to build a more just and fraternal world.

Specifically for younger visitors, the House of Peace has designed an interactive learning method, baptized as “Generation Peace”, in partnership with education students at NHS Stenden.

Education for Peace, Noble Action, Living Together

This is a presentation of the guide for Schools of Peace, which aims to promote positive change in education by introducing the culture of peace from the earliest ages. This pedagogical guide opens up a new and innovative approach, placing peace at the very heart of education. It calls for an “awakening education” which:

• initiates children to an ethos of respect for the diversity and sacredness of life;
• calls upon their powers of imagination;
• develops their creativity;
• accompanies their sense of wonder at the world around them.

This “awakening education” gives to children the means to know their own emotions, to manage them, and to interact with others through listening and communication using games and activities based on a variety of methods.

This guide was elaborated in a partnership between the “Education for a Culture of Peace” committee of AISA International-NGO and the Mediterranean Foundation for Sustainable Development-Djanatu al-‘Arif Foundation, based in Mostaganem, Algeria.
In the Garden of Peace an array of medicinal plants is displayed so as to highlight for the public the virtues and healing properties we derive from each one.

The first medicinal codex describing the use of medicinal plants (simplices medicinae) came from ancient Mesopotamia, but it is likely that plants were already used for treating ailments in prehistoric times. The first exhaustive work, entitled De materia medica in Latin, was written towards the end of the first century CE by the Greek doctor and botanist Dioscorides. It became the authoritative work in the field of pharmacology in Europe and the Muslim world. It was widely disseminated in Antiquity and the Middle Ages. Today, knowledge of herbal remedies is used in phytotherapy, aromatherapy and gemmotherapy, as well as in various fields of natural medicine.

“A weed is just a plant whose virtues have yet to be discovered.”

The model of the House of Peace invites the visitor to have an immersive experience in a natural and soothing atmosphere, in a symbiosis of tradition and modernity. This model gives a preview of the future House of Peace, an original architectural and landscaped expression providing:

- a place for meeting and getting to know one another in diversity;
- a forum for free expression, so as to foster a collective and democratic voice;
- sensitivity to shared problems, and encouragement for change towards global solidarity;
- accompanying and enacting projects which promote better “living-togetherness”;
- finally, a new and inclusive incubator to produce connection, inspiration and education for a culture of peace for all.

This model is the brainchild of the architect Atman Amrani, following the ecological principles which embody the notions of Living Together in Peace and of the economy of nature, all in a contemporary spirit. It will be exhibited for the first time at the Floriade 2022 Exposition.
Presentation of the School of Peace in Almere (The Netherlands)

The School of Peace is a public primary school which will open its doors to children from the Dutch city of Almere in August, 2022. It will be founded on the pedagogy of the culture of peace, and it will function as a community of practice whose members are the children, the educators, the parents and the grandparents.

This School is characterized by an innovative pedagogical concept and an educational model elaborated by numerous academic partners. The emphasis placed on human qualities such as benevolence, responsibility and sincerity permeates the process of learning fundamental academic subjects.

The School of Peace integrates into its educational program the recommendations of the United Nations concerning the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and Living Together in Peace (A/RES/72/130).

The School of Peace recognizes the importance from early childhood of education for a culture of peace, as the development of skills and the learning of values begin in the first years of life.

The School puts into practice “awakening education” which introduces children to respect for the diversity and sacredness of life, sparks their imagination, develops their curiosity, and reinforces their sense of wonder at the world around them.

It also takes into consideration and develops the cognitive, the sensorial-motor, and the socio-emotional potential of the child.

The School of Peace contributes to the development of human skills, as well as attitudes which will allow its students to play a positive role in mediation and orientation towards the construction of a peaceful world and restoration of the relationship between the human being and nature.

For more information: schoolvanvrede.nl

The International Day for Living Together in Peace

On the 8th of December 2017, the date of 16 May was unanimously declared by the 193 member–states of the United Nations Organization as the “International Day for Living Together in Peace” (Resolution A/RES/72/130).

The idea of an international day devoted to living together—and the driving force behind it—was the initiative of the Honorary President of AISA International-NGO, Sheikh Khaled Bentounes.

On the 15th of May 2022, the Garden of Peace will present a musical and intercultural event as the keynote for the celebration of the International Day for Living Together in Peace.

Premier showing of the film “Nous Tous” (“All of Us”). On 16 May 2022, the documentary film by Pierre Pirard will be shown for the first time on site as well as in numerous other cities around the world, thanks to the support of our partner organizations.

See the trailer at www.16mai.org
Living-Together Perfumes Sublime and Oud

“Living Together” is a line of unique and exceptional perfumes. Created by the most eminent “noses” of the French Riviera in a spirit of respect for nature and man, the Living Together line reveals the secrets of noble essences such as Bergamot, Iris, Patchouli and Oud.

Through exploration and discovery, our fruitful collaboration has allowed us to create authentic olfactory sensations which are 100% natural, and which convey the delicacy, sophistication and sensuality of French perfumery. The Living Together perfumes enchant the senses, elevate the spirit, and invite us to a peaceful place. They are the official sponsors of the International Day for Living Together in Peace.
When Sheikh Khaled Bentounes invited me to expose my collection of posters entitled EcoHumanity at the Garden of Peace for Floriade 2022, I was enthused and honored. In 2022 I designed for the United Nations Organization a poster showing the Dove transforming war into peace—and it was used in the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the ONU. It is now shown around the world.

Since then, I have begun designing a collection of posters on the themes of “denunciation” and “hope”—all for a better quality of life for humanity. The images I create echo the philosophy of Living Together, which is the only way to survive through the difficult times we are experiencing.

Armando Milani

During my visit to the Garden of Peace at the Floriade 2022 International Exposition, I was entranced by the enthusiasm of the members of the House of Peace, who all manage through this project to communicate their feelings and their message to the public at large.

While reflecting upon this message of peace and hope, I realized that I wanted to create a work of art which would give it shape.

How can we, as human beings, build a future one with another, and not one against another? How can we nourish and educate our children?

I used the symbol of the medicinal plant echinacea, or sunflower, which reinforces the natural resistance of the body, as the centrepiece of my artistic work. I replaced the heart with a transparent plexiglass ball in which we see a baby. I placed the baby in the center, surrounded by the protective petals. We must watch over our children, and provide the best for them. “It takes a whole village to raise a child.”

In one of the flowers, the baby has dark skin, while in another white skin. The flowers are not distinct plants, but stem deliberately from the same plant.

Angela Groeneveld
Bambou for Peace

MAURICIO CARDENAS

Bamboo is a strategic natural resource that contributes directly to at least 7 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG’s) adopted by the United Nations.

The diversity and versatility of bamboo makes it an amazing resource for achieving an equilibrium between the three pillars of sustainability—economic, social and environmental—which are the basis for peace-keeping, peace-building, and peace-making.

As an architect, I believe that awareness, rather than sustainability, is the attitude with which to face the creative process of design. Conscious design is based on the use of tangible and intangible natural materials including natural light, heat from the sun, natural ventilation, rainwater, and plants. We focus on the processes and application of natural materials for construction—in the first place bamboo, which is the product of nature that best integrates the values of ecology, community, nutrition and beauty. Designing ecological environments is a key contribution to building, making and keeping peace.

www.studiocardenas.it

Supporting the House of Peace

In 2016 the House of Peace in Almere (Netherlands) was inaugurated by the Scouting organization of Cirkel and by the Dutch branch of AISA International-NGO. The initiative for this inclusive place was inspired by the actions carried out with the United Nations Organization, urging this body to officially adopt the International Day for Living Together in Peace.

The House of Peace hopes to become a sort of breeding ground for a future inclusive society—at once peaceful and sustainable. It brings together people of diverse origins so as to enlarge, deepen and put into practice their vision of a culture of peace. It aims to achieve these objectives by applying the fundamentals of the “circle of virtues and qualities”, by organizing interactive conferences, training, and workshops; and by facilitating intercultural dialogue.

The House of Peace took the initiative to create a public primary school in Almere with an educational philosophy which transmits a culture of peace in everyday education. In August 2022 the “School of Peace” will open its doors in Almere.

We count on you to support our projects
Do you wish to help make all this possible?
Contact Madam Najoua FARES via:
info@huisvanvredealmere.nl
www.huisvanvredealmere.nl
AISA International-NGO: Ways and Words for Peace

Global warming, war, and the COVID-19 pandemic should alert us to the fact that we have reached the point of no return. Faithful to its values, AISA International-NGO remains convinced that it is through dialogue, mediation and actions in favor of living together that humanity will be able to live up to its main responsibility: to bequeath to our children a world at peace, a world preserved, rich in diversity.

The International Alawiyya Sufi Association (AISA) was created on 11 October, 2001. A non-governmental organization, it enjoys special consultative status in ECOSOC (Economic and Social Commission of the UN) (Rapport E/2014/32 Part 1). AISA International-NGO is founded upon the universal wisdom of the Alawiyya Sufi order, which was recognized by UNESCO in 2013 as being “a school for interfaith tolerance and conviviality”, promoting the notion of Living Together in Peace.

It strives to preserve and to transmit the Sufi spiritual and cultural heritage, both material and immaterial. As the creator and standard-bearer of the International Day for Living Together in Peace (JIVEP), unanimously adopted by the 193 member-states of the UN on 8 December 2017 (A/RES/72/130) AISA International-NGO strives to foster an international dynamic favoring the introduction of education for a Culture of Peace into school programs.

In order to disseminate and transmit this Culture of Peace, AISA International-NGO has created Schools and Houses of Peace, the first of which was inaugurated on 4 June 2016 in Almere (Netherlands). Other Houses of Peace have sprung up in Algeria and Spain.

AISA International-NGO is delighted to be associated with the House of Peace in Almere, especially in working together to create the Garden of Peace at the Floriade 2022 International Exposition, from 14 April to 9 October, 2022.}

Placing peace at the very heart of this education for a Culture of Peace sparks awareness of the importance of reinforcing the bonds that unite humans, and of preserving links with the ecosystems of life. It is urgent to restore our connection to an “economy of nature” which produces abundant resources in a cycle of renewal, without producing excessive waste.

Strengthening the bonds of the human family, planting the seeds of hope in the younger generations, teaching the culture of peace, developing an economy of well-being—this is our mission, and these are the goals pursued by AISA International-NGO.

www.aisa-ong.org
Audiotour-app

In order to help you discover the Garden of Peace, we place at your disposal audiotour.app, which is directly accessible by cell phone by scanning the QR-code here.

You can navigate in Dutch, English, German or French.
Garden of Peace

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