

1948 // NATIONAL PROFILE SPAIN

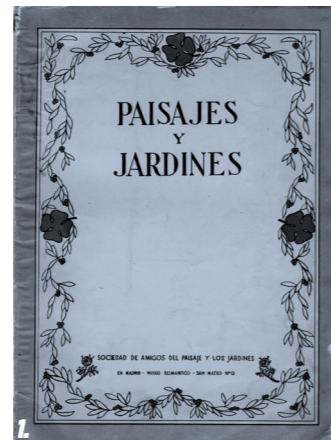
By Niek Hazendonk

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE IN 1948

Spain has a great and diverse history of garden art, spanning many centuries. The physiographic and cultural context has given rise to an extremely rich heritage of landscapes and gardens. After the Civil War, interest was reignited in garden art in Spain. This can be seen in the many general, monographic or popularised studies that appeared in a wide variety of publications.

By decree in 1941, the Board of Trustees for the Protection of the Gardens which was part of the General Directorate of Fine Arts, was formed and the official Inspector of Gardens, Javier de Winthuysen, began preparing a catalogue of Spanish artistic gardens. The development of modern garden architecture culture in Spain is not yet well understood but shows influence of designers from other countries, like Jean-Claude Nicolas Forestier as well as some nationalistic, regional design tendencies. However, the formalised profession of landscape architecture had not yet established in Spain, seen in the fact that at the first international conference of landscape architects and the IFLA founders meeting in London, only Spanish architects attended.

It is worth noting that IFLA as a peace project invited colleagues from Spain even though, at that point, the country was under a Francoist dictatorship and therefore completely isolated from the world. Eager to have some contact with the rest of the world Víctor d'Ors successfully proposed that the second conference of IFLA should be organised in Madrid, Spain. This was fully supported by the



María Martino walking in parc during the after conference tours in 1948. Photo from Revista de Arquitectura n0 1950 Source: COAM

1. The first number of the Journal of the Society of Friends of the Landscape and the Gardens, 1950, archive Niek Hazendonk
2. Passport photograph of Victor d'Ors Perez-Peix, out of his collection in shistorico@coam.org.
3. Passport photograph of Josep M. Martino, out of his collection in l'Arxiu Historic del COAC Ft. SI
4. The inauguration of the Monterols Park 8 July 1947 The mayor and the baron of Terrades. Photo: Pérez de Rozas, Carlos AFB
5. Victor d'Ors, his wife, Luis Riudor and José

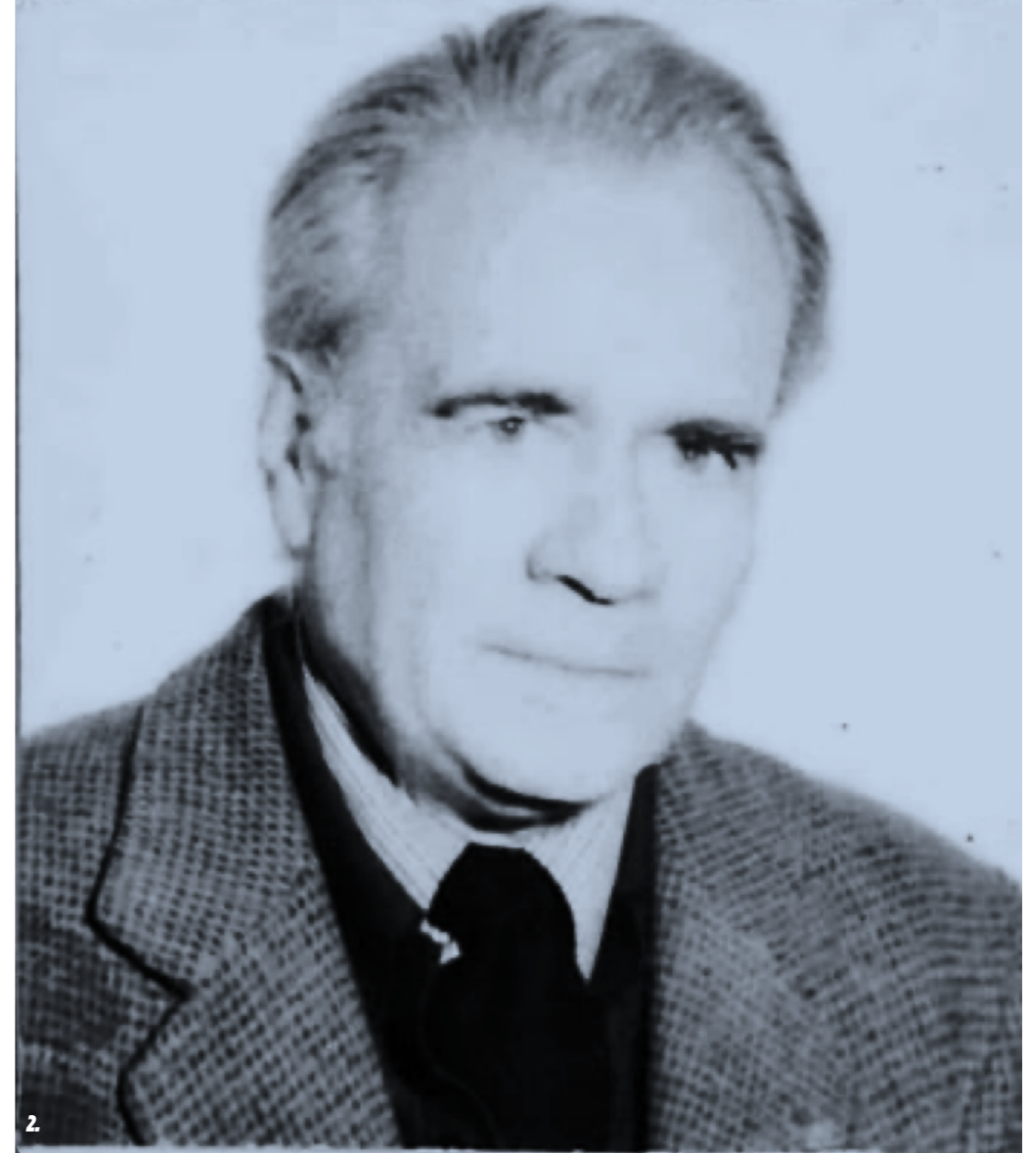
Spanish government. As a result of the attention that the start of IFLA garnered, the constitution of the Society of Friends of the Landscape and the Gardens (Sociedad de Amigos del Paisaje y los Jardines) took place in Madrid.

NOTABLE INDIVIDUALS

The Spanish architects Víctor d'Ors, José María Martino and Luis Riudor, took part in the founder meeting and first conference of IFLA. The first of whom represented the General Directorate of Architecture, the Madrid Higher Technical School of Architecture (Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura de Madrid, ETSAM) and of the Madrid City Council. The final two individuals were from Barcelona City Council. Victor d'Ors signed the founding document of IFLA.

Victor d'Ors Perez-Peix (Madrid, 1909 - Madrid, 1994) was a Spanish architect and urban planner, son of the controversial Catalan writer, philosopher and Falangist Eugenio d'Ors. A representative of Spanish post-civil war architecture, in 1942 he became, Professor and then much later Director of the ETSAM, as well as Head of the Architecture Theory Seminar and Professor of Aesthetics and Art. One of his works was the urbanisation plan of Salamanca that he began to design in 1938. As the municipal architect of Madrid, he was responsible for the creation of the gardens of the Paseo del Prado. Before Fernando Garcia Mercadal had been Madrid's municipal architect and head of gardens between 1933 and 1939 and initiated much of the modernising of the green spaces of Madrid. He later had to quit public commissions because of political purges.

In the Civil War, d'Ors had joined the Spanish Falange and was an ardent anti-Catalanist who defended extreme positions of Spanish nationalism. He later became the founder and first President of the Society of Friends of the Landscape and the Gardens (Sociedad de Amigos del



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Paisaje y los Jardines). He later became and remained the vice-president of IFLA for many years. He co-organised the 2nd International Congress of the young IFLA in Madrid in September 1950.

Lluís Riudor i Carol (1906-1989) was a Spanish architect and landscape designer. He was Director of Parks and Gardens of Barcelona between 1940 and 1968 and was one of the initiators of landscaping in Catalonia. The famous Nicolau Rubio I Tuduri, who was Director of Parks and Gardens of Barcelona until 1938, had to flee because of the nationalistic repression during and after the Civil War, and Riudor replaced him. Riudor was an active member of the Asociación Católica de Propagandistas.

In his youth he worked for the modernist architect Bernardi Martorell. As Head of the Garden Department of the Barcelona City Council, he carried out works such as the Turó de la Peira Park (1936) and the Monterols park (1947). He was also present at the 2nd international congress of the IFLA in Madrid in 1950. Later he was the author of various written works on gardening.

Josep Maria Martino i Arroyo (1891-1957) obtained his degree at the Escuela Superior de Arquitectura de Barcelona in 1916. Martino began to receive important commissions such as the project of a sewerage network for the eastern sector of Sitges. In September 1916, the

City Council appointed him Municipal Architect of Sitges. He was interested in the Garden City concept. It was in these early years that Martino promoted and became the Director of the Revista de Arquitectura, an important architectural journal. Later he planned the Passeig Maritim (1918), became Architect Director of the Terramar Garden City urbanization (1919) and in 1924, he became the Head of the urbanization of the Vinyet sector. After the Spanish Civil War he started working for the Barcelona City Council. He



was also present at the 2nd international congress of IFLA in Madrid in 1950 and later in Stockholm.

IFLA CONFERENCE REPORTS

During the first session of the IFLA conference, Víctor d'Ors presented a talk on "The Evolution of the Landscape", establishing Spanish position on this matter. In the discussion of the second talk entitled "The House and the Landscape", José María Martino intervened, focusing on the question that was being debated and advocating that landscape considerations should be taken into account in management plans of all kinds. Both Mr. d'Ors' talk and Mr. Martino's perspective, were very well received by the assembly and was met

with consensus agreement.

"At the exhibition, each country had three banners...Spain distributed fifty-seven magnificent photographs, which powerfully attracted attention [along with] three graphics. In the first one, "The system of parks of Madrid", with twenty-one photographs and a plan; in the second, twenty-two photographs and a graphic, overlooked the public parks of Barcelona; and in the third, fourteen photographs and a plan of projects from the General Directorate of Devastated Regions and the National Institute of Colonisation appeared, and in terms of landscape architecture, including, among them, the parcs of Monfort de Lempis and of Castilleja de Guzmán: The Spanish delegates were constantly congratulated

on the work presented."

Both individuals were required to be present where the Exhibition took place, in order to give complementary explanations. After the Conference, the Spaniards participated in several excursions.

