

Premio Internazionale Carlo Scarpa per il Giardino

31st edition, 2020-2021

**Güllüdere and Kızılçukur:  
Rose Valley and Red Valley in Cappadocia**

**Press release**  
25 August 2020

The Scientific Committee of Fondazione Benetton Studi Ricerche has decided to dedicate the thirty-first edition of the International Carlo Scarpa Prize for Gardens to a site in Asia Minor that emerged out of the complex history and geography of **Cappadocia: two adjoining valleys carved out of the volcanic rock known as the Rose and Red Valleys, Güllüdere and Kızılçukur** in Turkish.

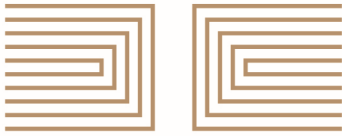
Cappadocia lies in the heart of the Anatolian peninsula, a bridge for the different cultures between Asia and Europe, between the Mediterranean and Black Sea. It consists of a series of plateaus over 1,000 metres in altitude surrounded by volcanic peaks, with an arid land carved by wind and water, and a difficult climate. All of these factors have shaped the natural landscape of a region that saw the arrival of early Christianity and the Fathers of the Church in the first centuries onwards, followed by the diffusion of the Byzantine culture with its countless eremitic and monastic settlements, churches and sanctuaries, thus giving rise to one of the leading Christian communities of the first millennium. This community produced a series of spaces decorated with stunning cycles of paintings, sacred buildings and constructions scattered throughout a vast territory. From the 13th century onwards, as the Byzantine presence declined, these buildings were turned into stables, rural dwellings and cisterns, and into a multitude of dovecotes providing farmers with the guano necessary to fertilize their fields.

The two valleys emerging from this context reveal the extent and profound value of a **landscape in which forms of human settlement and the sensational geology of the land conserve the traces of an ancient culture of living based extensively on rock-cut dwellings in an equilibrium between different manifestations of the nature and the cultures succeeding each other here over the centuries.**

This is a context of rapid changes, abandonment of traditional landscapes, emergence of new uses and forms of settlement connected to mass tourism, and an overall rise in studies and discoveries linked to this vast historical heritage. And it is in this context that we find an Italian team working towards the recovery of the precious painting cycles contained in these rock-cut churches. In the process, they have not only established significant human and cultural relationships but also contributed to restoring the legibility and value of an entire landscape. Their work embodies the value of citizenship, the sense of belonging and care for a place that crosses national boundaries.

For these reasons, the Scientific Committee of Fondazione Benetton Studi Ricerche decided to award the **“seal” designed by Carlo Scarpa, symbol of the thirty-first edition of the Prize, to the art historian Maria Andaloro**, creator and director of the Cappadocian Mission of the Tuscia University, whose work combines the development and continuous transmission of care and knowledge with a growing focus on the landscape in terms of a sense of belonging and of responsibility.

Every year since 1990, Fondazione Benetton Ricerche has awarded the **International Carlo Scarpa Prize for Gardens** – named in honour of Carlo Scarpa (1906-1978), architect and garden designer – to a place in the world that is particularly dense in natural values, memory, and invention, identified in the wake of encounters, specific research projects, and in-depth



study trips.

The Prize involves a campaign comprising a series of activities contributing to the knowledge, safeguarding and promotion of the designated place. These include the editing and publication of a book in Italian and English, the production of a documentary film, the curation of an exhibition, the organization of one or more study encounters and a public ceremony to hand over the “seal” designed by Carlo Scarpa to the person representing the care for this place as a form of symbolic recognition of their work.

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This thirty-first edition will have a “biennial” timeline – 2020-2021 – in response to the restrictions imposed by the current health emergency. As a result of this reorganization, the public encounters will be held from the penultimate weekend of October 2020 until May 2021, using this as an opportunity to offer a number of occasions promoting knowledge.

The first public encounter of the 2020-2021 Carlo Scarpa Prize will take place on **Saturday 24 October 2020**, with the opening of the **exhibition *Cappadocia. The landscape in the depths of the rock*** curated by Patrizia Boschiero and Luigi Latini, and set up in **Ca’ Scarpa**, Treviso’s new cultural space in the former Church of Santa Maria Nova, a building used for many years as a storage area by the Revenue Office. Following its purchase by Edizione Property, Luciano Benetton commissioned the architect Tobia Scarpa to restore it and transform it into a space hosting cultural events in the names of Carlo and Tobia Scarpa. Ca’ Scarpa has now become the “natural venue” for the exhibitions on the places awarded the International Carlo Scarpa Prize for Gardens.

The exhibition will also provide the opportunity to present the documentary film *Güllüdere and Kızılçukur: the Rose Valley and the Red Valley in Cappadocia* produced by Fondazione Benetton Studi Ricerche and directed by Davide Gambino, in collaboration with Gabriele Gismondi, and the collective volume *Güllüdere and Kızılçukur: the Rose Valley and the Red Valley in Cappadocia*, edited by Patrizia Boschiero and Luigi Latini, Fondazione Benetton Studi Ricerche-Antiga, Treviso 2020.

The exhibition will be open to the public until January 2021. In March and April there will be various public conferences organized by Fondazione Benetton Studi Ricerche in collaboration with IUAV University of Venice and the University of Florence. Held at the facilities of the two universities in question, these events will be collective study days on issues and themes connected to the Cappadocian landscape and to Asia Minor in general. The programme will end in May 2021, in Treviso, with a conference focusing specifically on the Cappadocian valleys designated by the Prize, with a ceremony for the handing over of the seal designed by Carlo Scarpa to art historian Maria Andaloro, director of the Cappadocian Mission of the Tuscia University. The public encounters held in May will also provide an occasion to re-explore other places designated by the Carlo Scarpa Prize, creating a dialogue with the landscape of *Güllüdere and Kızılçukur*.

#### **Scientific and coordinating committee**

*Luigi Latini*, architect, Università Iuav di Venezia (chair);

*Giuseppe Barbera*, agronomist, Università degli Studi, Palermo;

*Hervé Brunon*, garden historian, CNRS, Centre André Chastel, Paris;

*Thilo Folkerts*, 100Landschaftsarchitektur, Berlin;

*Anna Lambertini*, landscape architect, Università di Firenze;

*Monique Mosser*, art historian, École nationale supérieure d’architecture de Versailles;

*Joan Nogué*, geographer, Universidad de Girona;

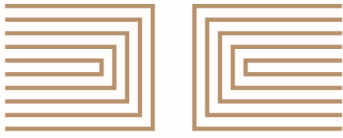
*José Tito Rojo*, botanist, Universidad de Granada.

The Carlo Scarpa Prize activities are coordinated by *Patrizia Boschiero* and *Luigi Latini*.

Honorary committee members:

*Carmen Añón*, landscape architect, Universidad de Madrid;

*Domenico Luciani*, architect, director of Fondazione Benetton Studi Ricerche from 1987



to 2009, deviser of the Prize and its chief executive in 1990-2014 (honorary member from 2015 onwards).

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