



Premio Internazionale Carlo Scarpa per il Giardino

The Fondazione Benetton Studi Ricerche

The Fondazione Benetton Studi Ricerche, whose headquarters are in Treviso, was established by the Benetton family in the late 1980s. Chaired by Luciano Benetton, the Foundation has a permanent working group that works together with Scientific Committees composed of internationally renowned scholars and experts to conduct cultural activities in the vast world of landscape, the study and care of places, in the history and civilisation of games, and in the cultural heritage sector, also taking into account the territory of origin.

In the ambit of its **landscape** studies, the Foundation carries out studies, research, and experimental activities distinguished by a constant exploration of different fields, from garden and landscaping culture to historical and geographical studies, from environmental and ecological issues to aesthetic and philosophical questions, using this combined knowledge to develop the innovative scrutiny necessary in both theory and practice. One of the most original initiatives of these last thirty years of experiences is the *International Carlo Scarpa Prize for Gardens* – the result of the combined efforts of a Scientific Committee and specific work groups, which change for every edition. It takes the form of an annual project carrying out studies regarding a designated site and the people responsible for the ‘care of the place’ and symbolising a link with the contemporary value of landscape stewardship. This research is a form of itinerant discussion, which starts with a preliminary stage converging in the direction of a particular geographical and thematic area and each year goes on to explore and encounter the chosen place, whether rural site, park, vegetable patch, garden, urban space, memorial or wood. The Prize then has the task of gathering, further exploring, and diffusing knowledge about the award-winning site.

In addition to the Carlo Scarpa Prize, the Foundation carries out a variety of other landscape research involving annual events such as the *International Landscape Study Days*, seminars and *landscape design workshops*. It also edits and publishes books in its ‘Memorie’ series. These initiatives are accompanied by a programme of residential *bursaries* extending the reach and scope of the Foundation’s research.

Studies into the history and civilisation of **games and gaming** is another specific field of activity promoted by the Foundation that has obtained the recognition of both the national and international scientific community. Since 2016, the Foundation has also organised *two annual prizes* awarded to young scholars for unpublished essays on games, in addition to thirty years of assigning scholarships – over seventy bursaries given to graduates on all levels.

At the centre of these activities, along with the organisation of regular seminars, conventions and exhibitions, is the publication of a scientific journal *Ludica. Annali di storia e civiltà del gioco*, now in its twenty-eighth year of publication, along with the editorial series of the same name.

The initiatives dedicated to studies and activities in the field of **cultural activities** cover several sectors, with special attention paid to Treviso and its territory: archives and libraries, cartography, music, cinema, art, with a number of specific projects including meetings and exhibitions. The Foundation is also involved in safeguarding the historical heritage as in the recent renovations of the churches of San Teonisto and Santa Maria Nova (now Ca’ Scarpa) in Treviso, both projects designed by Tobia Scarpa: these refurbished spaces have now been converted into venues hosting exhibitions and other international cultural events.



The Foundation engages closely with the world of **education**, working together in particular with public and private schools as well as with the world of the university.

The Foundation's research and study activities are supported by its **documentation centre**, which is open to the public and comprises a library, a library of maps and an archive containing over 75,000 books, 60 subscriptions to periodicals, 12,000 maps, and 60,000 photographs.

Its studies and research projects are promoted through the publication of journals, series of books and monographs edited by the **publishing department**, which has been active within the Foundation since 1993, publishing and disseminating over a hundred works concerning landscape studies, the history of the Veneto region, the history of games and gaming and cultural activities, all available in bookstores and online thanks to the various co-publishers involved, Antiga and Viella.