

Millennium Park: Exclusive Accommodation in a Park

With the Millennium Park a new landscaped residential park was constructed on the outskirts of Moscow. The whole residential complex covers an area of 285 hectares and 670 unique villas. For the first time in the surroundings of Moscow water canals were created of more than five kilometres length with embankments inviting you to go for a stroll. Overall the landscape gardening work close to the houses was given lots of attention. The Millennium Park won important prizes in 2007 and 2008 for the brilliant design of residential estates. Apart from the water features lots of trees were planted in the grounds.



“Off to Moscow!” – an adventure ...

ELCA Study Trip: Green Metropolis impressed the Landscape Gardeners

Not everybody travels to Russia “on their own”. For the most recent study trip of the European Landscape Contractors Association (ELCA) under the motto “Off to Moscow!” – an adventure ... not only the Russian association but also the ELCA Office was strongly involved in the preparations. After all visas needed to be applied for and many other formalities completed. After arriving in Moscow the “culture shock” the partici-

pants expected did not occur. On Friday the group consisting of one hundred landscape gardeners met in the centrally located Muscovite Hotel Peter I. with the aim of being shown the landscape gardening features of the metropolis and to gain some insights into the culture of the Russian capital.

After arriving the participants gained first impressions of beech tree woods, industrialized apartment blocks, onion domes and

weekend houses. Due to the visits to parks, the Kremlin and the sights of the city centre, the numerous churches as well as the walks, meals in restaurants and bus trips, slowly a picture of this metropolis emerged.

Twenty years after the new Russia emerged

Twenty years after the new Russia emerged Moscow presents itself with enormous neon adverts,

expensive European cars, unpredictable traffic jams and repeatedly one of the monumental buildings built by Stalinist. Conclusion: Moscow is a really beautiful green and impressive city. All visitors agreed that a three to four days stay is far too short to get to know Moscow with all its sights and hidden treasures. The trip to Moscow was an unforgettable experience and thanks to the excellent organization by the Russian association it offered many opportunities to get to know this country, its gardens and parks as well as its way of life.

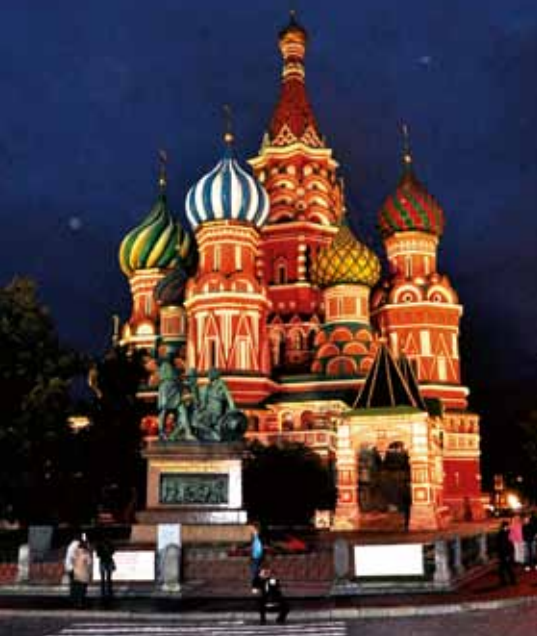
A selection of photos from the whole event showing some highlights can be seen below.

By the way, the next ELCA study trip will be to Malta from 28th till 30th April 2011.

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In the Millennium Park (from the left): Antoine Berger, President of the ELCA-Committee of Firms, Olga Ruda, Vice-President of the Villagio Group and responsible for the construction in the Millennium Park, and Dr. Hermann J. Kurth, Secretary of the ELCA. Olga Ruda explained the concept of the large detached housing estate “Millennium Park” as an exclusive project, which is understood as a model of aristocracy, aesthetics and the comfort of the landscape. The park is characterized by a system of water canals and tree plantings. The first construction phase will be completed by the end of 2010.



Landmarks of Moscow

Saint Basil's Cathedral at the southern end of the Red Square is a landmark of Moscow. In 1561 the cathedral was built by order of Ivan the Terrible. It has nine main domes. Each one has a different appearance and colour scheme. The cathedral itself is constructed exclusively with simple red bricks. According to the legend Ivan the Terrible ordered that the eyes of his architect be cut out after completing the construction work as he stated that they should not be able to construct something of comparable beauty. This legend is not based on fact, because the architect was honoured for his designs at later dates.



Thank you to Nico Wissing

From left to right: Pierre Emmanuel Mony, Nico Wissing and Antoine Berger. Pierre Emmanuel Mony (left) and Antoine Berger (right) thank Nico Wissing (centre) with a book for being the Chairman of the ELCA-Committee of Firms for nine years. Nico Wissing from Megchelen (The Netherlands) was committed to increasing the specialist know-how and experiences through international study trips and promoting the exchange of landscape gardeners within the group. Nico Wissing, being a competent contact on behalf of the ELCA, always understood himself to be a supplier of services when expertise from practical experience was required.

Mony: "Think green first!"

The European Landscape Contractors Association (ELCA) will continue its successful expansion under its new President Emmanuel Mony. Since 2007 Emmanuel Mony (47) has also been the President of the French landscape gardening association Union Nationale des Entrepreneurs du Paysage (UNEP). E. Mony is being supported in his work by the newly elected ELCA Vice-Presidents Neil Huck from Great Britain and Tamás Vincze from Hungary. The new ELCA-President is planning to do a lot in the next three years under the motto "Think green first!". Among other things he wants to establish the idea of the "Green Town" and develop it further.



ELCA Attendees from 19 Nations

The ELCA expert group from 19 European countries presented themselves in front of a pavilion in the historical park of Kolomenskoe. The pavilion is located on the embankment of the Moskva river and was constructed in 1825.





Unique Architectural Memorial

The museum complex Kolomenskoe is in the south east of Moscow. The Church of Ascension (left) was built by Tsar Vasili II in thanks for the birth of his son Ivan (later called “the Terrible”). The unique architectural memorial of Kolomenskoe is also on the list of the United Nations World Heritage. The gardens were reconstructed from 2000 to 2005.

Luxurious green residential park Nikolino

Residential complex Nikolino: a luxurious, residential complex with a landscaped garden and more than 250 villas that were constructed in a wooded area characterize the landscaped park with picturesque water games, fountains and sculptures.



Marina Nazarova has everybody’s thanks for the excellent organisation of the trip to Russia. The varied conversations and impressions have left a good picture of an impressive region. Thanks to her brilliantly organised trip many interesting contacts were established.



Resurrection Gate at the Red Square

The Resurrection Gate is a centrally located Muscovite city gate. It is at the northern entrance to the Red Square. Its name originates from an icon that represents the resurrection of Christ. The original from 1680 was removed in 1931 because it hindered the passage of large military vehicles to the Red Square. A reconstruction was built from 1995 to 1996.



Capital of the Russian Federation Metropolis Moscow

Moscow with 10.6 million inhabitants in the city and 14.6 million residents in the surroundings is the capital of the Russian Federation. It is also the political, economical and cultural centre of the country with universities and polytechnics as well as numerous churches, theatres, museums and galleries. Since the break up of the Soviet Union the economy has been privatised. That means that 85 per cent of the businesses are privately owned – which shows that the market economy dominates today in Moscow. The town is divided into ten administrative districts that are each headed by a prefect. As the town has grown in circles this is reflected in the form of the individual districts.

While the average September weather in Moscow is stated at 11.2 degree Celsius and 58 millimetres rain, the ELCA travel group was able to enjoy far higher temperatures with many hours of sunshine.



Landscape Park at the Tsar Palace

Tsar palace Tsaritsyno: More than 200 years ago Czarina Catherine the Great had a summer residence built in Moscow. Due to arguments with the architect the construction was never completed. As a consequence nobody ever moved in and in time it collapsed. In 2004 the Mayor of Moscow, Yuri Luesckov, decided to have the complete complex renovated and completed. All the facilities were reconstructed in many stages and brought up-to-date. Not only the buildings were reconstructed but also the landscaped park with its superb trees and water features.



Antoine Berger (middle) is looking forward to the invitation to Malta from Ronald Cuschieri, Secretary of the Maltese landscape gardening industry association. Cuschieri does not share the worry of the Russian colleagues that rain could prevent a successful study trip as Malta has a sub-tropical dry Mediterranean climate. The forthcoming ELCA study trip to Malta will take place from 28th till 30th April 2011.



Antoine Berger (second from the right) thanks the Russian organisation team for the excellent planning and escort for the study trip in the metropolis of Moscow. The adventure of Moscow has gained the participants a lot and ranks among the most impressive study trips of the ELCA. On behalf of the Russian delegation Marina Nazarova (3rd from the left) also thanked the ELCA Office for their support.

ELCA Participants on Television

A short television report about the ELCA study trip was broadcast on Russian television. In it ELCA-President Emmanuel Mony (on the right in the front) informs the television reporter about the very efficient study trip with its varied programme. Mony explains that over 100 participants from all over Europe are interested in the trip to Russia. Collectively they want to promote more high quality green and more biodiversity.



Grave of the Unknown Soldier

The Muscovite grave of the Unknown Soldier is in the Alexander Garden next to the Kremlin. This is a memorial for the Soviet soldiers who died in the Second World War. Since 1997 there is a guard of honour that changes every hour.