

# Lille - "The Giants' Garden" Creation of a fantasy garden



**Country**  
France

**Client**  
Lille Métropole  
Communauté Urbaine

**Date**  
2006-2009

**Cost of works**  
€5.5m exc. VAT

## Sogreah's services

► Infrastructure services: preliminary outline, preliminary and detailed design studies, assistance with works contract, working design studies, supervision of works, assistance with acceptance

Joint venture

- Mutabilis - Atelier Acanthe Paysagistes (representative)
- Sogreah Consultants
- Duncan Lewis Scape Architecture
- DVVD Ingénierie
- Arc-en-scène Scénographie
- Atelier d'Ecologie Urbaine

## Aims

The main aims of the project were as follows:

- to enhance the image of the greater Lille urban area authority by redeveloping the head office from the functional and urban standpoints, taking into account the environment and in particular development and construction projects carried out in the neighbourhood;
- to bring together staff from all the central departments in the same place in order to improve working conditions by having everyone close to one another at a single site;

- to create a fantasy garden featuring various themes (Giants, Water Trail, Greenhouse, etc.).

The goal of the project was to improve the aesthetic quality and usage of this busy area. Via this project, with its landscaping, architectural, functional and urban aspects, the aim was to recreate a coherent and identifiable entity closely linked to its environment in the area occupied by the head office, its buildings and car parks.

## Description

- Demolition of the existing car parks.
- Earthworks (11,000 m<sup>3</sup>) and levelling of platforms throughout the garden area.
- Connection to the various networks.
- Construction of a transformer substation and power supply for the garden buildings.
- Lighting effects and lighting for the paths (85 in-ground LEDs).
- Installation of vide osurveillance cameras.
- Sewerage: laying of 320 lm of sewers.

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- Various utility networks: laying of 1300 lm of ducts.
- Civil works structures (retaining walls, railings, cast iron walls).
- Ground coverings (blue Hainault stone slabs, pavements remade with "starred" asphalt, an interior pathway made of gratings over the ponds, etc.).
- Water pumped from a borehole (creation of a 30 m deep borehole).
- Creation of ponds (total volume of 3,000 m<sup>3</sup>).
- Closed circuit for the pond water system.
- Water temperature raised by means of solar panels in the greenhouse.
- Atomisers along the grating.
- Construction of a green noise-barrier wall.
- Installation of an irrigation system (14,000 lm of trickle pipes).
- Creation of scenic features on the site (living benches, giants' chairs, nests of tables, animal heads spouting water).



**Labyrinth - Allée des lentilles**



**Garden of springs**



**Green walls - animal heads spouting water**