



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Barcelona, May 2026

Parlour Gardens: Dreams from the Rooftop

A Century of Garden Thinking — Barcelona Botanical Garden, June–September 2026

Barcelona will host one of the most compelling design exhibitions of 2026: Parlour Gardens: Dreams from the Rooftop, a landmark project bringing together fifteen ceramic garden models — one original from 1927 and fourteen new commissions — at the Barcelona Botanical Garden on Montjuïc from June to September. The exhibition is a core component of the UNESCO–UIA World Capital of Architecture 2026 official programme, selected through an open call and fully funded by Barcelona City Council.

Fourteen internationally recognised landscape architects and architects, working across all five Mediterranean-homoclimatic climate regions of the globe — California, Chile, South Africa, Australia, and the Mediterranean basin — have each created an original ceramic garden model. Together they enter into dialogue with a historic piece: a *jardin de saló* conceived in 1926 by architect Nicolau M. Rubió i Tudurí, ceramicist Josep Llorens Artigas, and French Fauvist painter Raoul Dufy, and first exhibited at the Bernheim-Jeune galleries in Paris in 1927.

Each contemporary model has been realised in glazed ceramic — combining advanced direct 3D ceramic printing with traditional craft techniques — by Martí Baltà and his team at Barcelona 3D Ceramics, and planted with living Mediterranean species curated by horticulture specialist Enric Sancho of Cultidelta.

“To give the imaginative the pleasures of the garden, something real on which to rest their dreams, I imagined tiny ceramic gardens, decorated by Raoul Dufy and fired by Josep Llorens Artigas.”

— Nicolau M. Rubió i Tudurí, 1926

EXHIBITION

Barcelona has been designated UNESCO–UIA World Capital of Architecture for 2026 — the first city to hold this title in the congress’s modern form. Parlour Gardens: Dreams from the Rooftop is presented as a unique multidisciplinary intersection of art, technology, architecture, and landscape design. Its home, the Barcelona Botanical Garden — a 14-hectare ecological showcase on Montjuïc designed by Carlos Ferrater, Josep Lluís Canosa, and Beth Figueras for the 1992 Olympics — organises flora into homoclimatic zones mirroring the climates from which the invited designers come. Each model is placed in the sector of the garden that echoes its creator’s home region.

The exhibition employs a déballage strategy: each model is presented directly on its wooden transport crate, making visible the materiality of displacement and the journey each object has made. Fifteen models, fifteen journeys, one garden.

KEY FACTS

- Exhibition: Parlour Gardens: Dreams from the Rooftop
- Venue: Barcelona Botanical Garden (Jardí Botànic de Barcelona), Montjuïc
- Dates: June – September 2026
- Programme: UNESCO–UIA World Capital of Architecture 2026 (official programme)
- Funding: Barcelona City Council (open call, fully funded)
- Models: 15 ceramic garden models (1 original 1927 piece + 14 new commissions)
- Participating studios: 14 teams from 14 countries
- Climate regions represented: California (USA), Chile, South Africa, Australia, Mediterranean (France, Greece, Lebanon, Egypt, Algeria/Germany)
- Website: parlourgardens.nablabcn.com

PARTICIPATING STUDIOS — 14 COUNTRIES

Southern Australia

- Adrian McGregor / McGregor & Coxall — Landscape Architecture & Urban Design
- Peter Stutchbury Architecture

- Phil Harris / Troppo Architects

Africa

- Gareth Doherty / Critical Landscapes Design Lab (NUS / Singapore)
- Tarna Klitzner & Lovell Friendman / TK Landscape Architecture

California, USA

- James Corner / Field Operations
- Adam Greenspan / PWP Landscape Architecture
- Walter Hood / Hood Design Studio

Mediterranean

- Catherine Mosbach — Mosbach Paysagistes (France)
- Thomas Doxiadis — Doxiadis+ (Greece)
- Jala Makhzoumi & Abdul-Halim Jabr (Lebanon / Egypt)
- Kamel Louafi — Louafi Landschaftsarchitekten (Algeria / Germany)
- Teresa Moller — Teresa Moller Paisajista (Chile)

PUBLIC PROGRAMME — ROUND TABLES

5 June 2026 · 6 PM

Art, Nature and Contemporary Expression: One Hundred Years of Salon Gardens. With James Corner (USA), Tarna Klitzner (South Africa), Thomas Doxiadis (Greece), and Peter Stutchbury (Australia). Moderated by Marina Cervera. Free admission with prior registration.

27 June 2026 · 6 PM

Architecture, Landscaping and Urban Resilience: The Garden as Interdisciplinary Practice. With Kamel Louafi (Algeria/Germany), Adam Greenspan (USA), Phil Harris (Australia), Catherine Mosbach (France), and Jala Makhzoumi (Lebanon). On the eve of the UIA World Congress of Architects Barcelona 2026. Moderated by Marina Cervera and José Luis Cortés. Free admission with prior registration.

4 October 2026 · 11 AM

Technologies, Climate Adaptation and Botanical Research: Gardens for the Future. Closing session with Adrian McGregor (Australia), Walter Hood (USA), Teresa Moller (Chile), and Gareth Doherty (Ireland/USA). Moderated by James Hayter. Free admission. The session will close with a presentation of the international itinerary of the pieces, which will continue to botanical gardens in homoclimatic Mediterranean climates around the world.

CURATORIAL TEAM

Marina Cervera — Project Director

CEO of NablaBCN · Director, Barcelona International Landscape Biennial

Cervera conceived the project and led the process from concept to realisation, selecting participating designers within a homoclimatic framework and coordinating the exhibition's spatial and botanical dimensions. She worked directly alongside the Barcelona 2026 World Capital of Architecture team, the Botanical Garden and the ceramic studio.

James Hayter — IFLA Past President

Founding Partner, Oxigen

Past President of the International Federation of Landscape Architects. Hayter connects Parlour Gardens to the global landscape architecture community, bringing decades of experience in cross-cultural practice and professional leadership.

José Luis Cortés — UIA Past President

Past President, International Union of Architects

Cortés anchors Parlour Gardens within the architectural ecosystem mobilised by the UIA congress and the official Barcelona 2026 World Capital of Architecture programme.

CRAFT & PRODUCTION

Martí Baltà — Ceramic Realisation Director, Barcelona 3D Ceramics Responsible for the ceramic realisation of all pieces. Baltà leads a studio that combines craft knowledge with advanced direct 3D ceramic printing technology, transforming his family workshop into a benchmark practice collaborating with artists, designers, architects and research teams internationally.

Enric Sancho — Plant Species & Living Garden Advisory Technical Director, Cultidelta (Amposta) A horticulture expert specialising in Mediterranean plant species, Sancho curated the botanical programme for each model—ensuring every planting scheme is both ecologically coherent and true to each designer's vision. Exhibition plant sponsor.

Jaume Pascual — Planting & Plant Care Project Director, Talio SA Technical agricultural engineer with over 25 years of field experience, responsible for the installation and ongoing maintenance of all living planting throughout the duration of the exhibition.

Montse Cortés — Graphic Design & Video Technical architect, interior designer and neuroarchitect. Trained at the Barcelona School of Building Engineering and later specialising in ephemeral architecture and interior design, she has worked across exhibition design, television set design and integral renovations. In 2024 she completed a degree in Neuroarchitecture, combining her interest in spatial experience with the science of how people perceive and inhabit space. Her work for Parlour Gardens brings together graphic communication, video and a deep understanding of space as something to be lived.

Helia García — Green Advisor Landscape architect with over 26 years of professional experience. She co-founded Liquidambar with her siblings before establishing Verdalis in Catalonia and the Balearic Islands, and later leading the landscape division at Tierra Ingeniería y Paisajismo, applying rigorous technical standards to gardening, green roofs and vertical gardens. Her advisory role in Parlour Gardens brings this accumulated expertise to the selection and care of the living species that animate each ceramic model.

Lotema Muntatges — Installation, Dismantling & Transport Specialists in the conception and execution of exhibitions and events, offering tailored solutions for each project from initial idea through to final installation. Their expertise ensures that every element of Parlour Gardens is assembled and presented with precision, care and lasting impact.

Àuria Mercadé — Web Development 1redpandauria618 on GitHub

Special Acknowledgement

The photographs of the jardí de saló painted by Nicolau M. Rubió i Tudurí and produced by Ceràmiques Serra are reproduced with the kind permission of the Serra family. This piece—completed by Rubió i Tudurí in the final months of his life, at the request of the 1979 Fundació Joan Miró exhibition—stands as his last creative work. Special thanks to Josep Ramon Reventós for his first-hand insights and for sharing images of original models from his personal collection. Finally, heartfelt thanks to Marta Cervelló and Montse Rivero for their historical assessment of the original ceramic models by Artigas, Rubió i Tudurí and Dufy.

NOTES TO EDITORS

High-resolution images, designer portraits and exhibition visuals are available on request. Exhibition design and museography by Nablabcn Studio SCP, winner of the New European Bauhaus Prize for the Carrer Girona Green Axis.

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MEDIA CONTACT

Parlour Gardens — Nablabcn

parlourgardens.nablabcn.com

Barcelona, Spain

More information



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Barcelona Botanical Garden · June – September 2026

UNESCO–UIA World Capital of Architecture 2026 Official Programme