



**IFLA EUROPE**  
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION  
OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

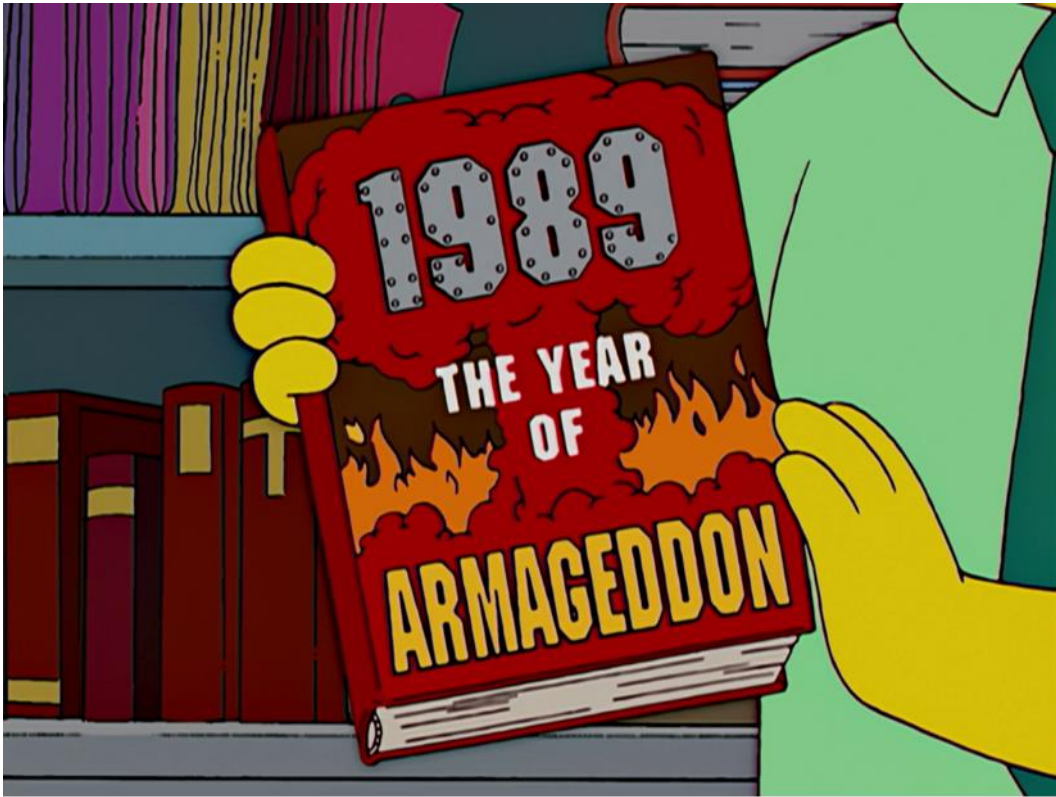
PEARL JUBILEE 30 YEARS CARING FOR LANDSCAPE

# Once upon a time...

Jef De Gryse

General Assembly IFLA Europe Antalya

November 2019



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# 1989: let's remember...



Tiananmen



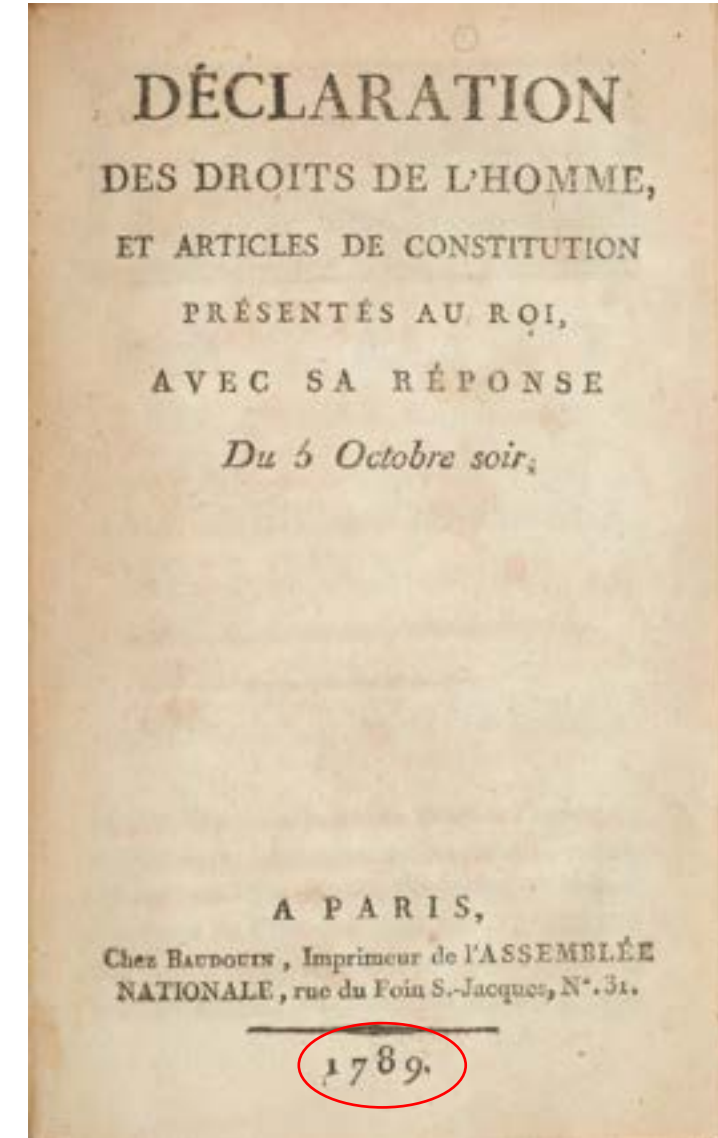
Tchernobyl



200 years ago...



French Revolution – Serment du Jeu de Paume



1989 it's also...

- The birth of intensive care in medicine
- WWW enters in our lives
- The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded to Dalai Lama

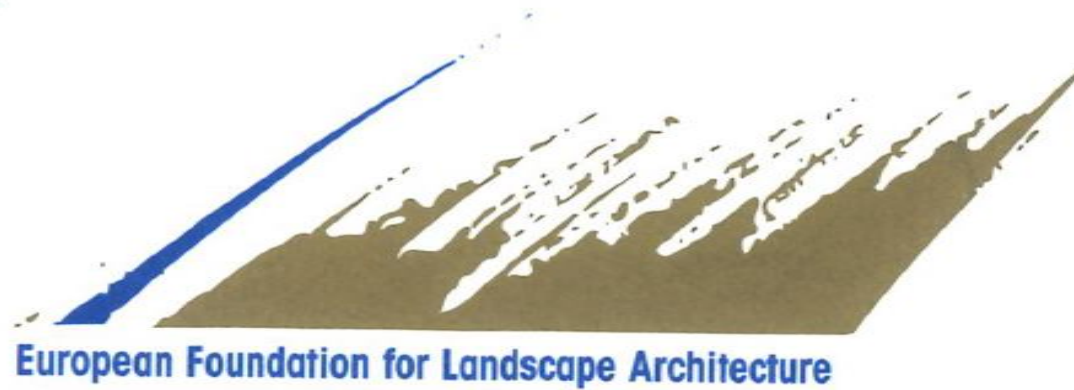


Berlin

All this happens 30 years ago...

*Any analogy with the situation of IFLA at that time is pure imagination of your speaker!*

But 1989 it's also...



WHY? HOW? WHAT? WHO?

1989 – 2 = 1987

- IFLA is admitted to category A at UNESCO
- During the IFLA Congress in Paris, held under the theme «The Reasons of Landscape», the Assembly on proposition of **Zvi MILLER** creates the «REGIONAL COUNCIL EUROPE»
- But the childbirth was going to be complicated
- A series of meetings... difficult
  - that lack of commitment
  - without motivations and moreover
  - the absence of an European spirit
- therefore we decide to go and look for the elements able to motivate and energise

1989 – 1 = 1988

- Contacts, meetings on an accelerated rhythm
  - Athens – George Anagnostopulos agrees the creation of a group of professional associations from 12 EU countries
  - Then Rotterdam, Den Haag, Cologne, London...
- 
- Info collected from Adolf Schmitt (the memory of a CEGAP that is sleeping and dying ...)
  - The last meeting in Cologne, on the eve of the «D-day» for IFLA in Brussels
  - Where the 12 EU capitals expose their landscape plans in presence of...



1989 – 1 = 1988...



Brussels: the 12 EU capitals exhibit their landscape plans  
Princess Paola (left) and Charlotte Skibsted (Denmark)



Arno Schmid, Zvi Miller and the Belgian Minister  
of the Environment, speakers in front of 500  
people before the opening of the exhibition

1989!

- The last minutes of setting up ...
- The day before the 3rd of April, *Adolf Schmitt, Johannes von Korf, Michael Oldham and your servant* meet one last time in Cologne and despite the differences in language, the doors and the spirits open on the morrow ...
- At the meeting in Brussels (in Vilvorde), the 12 EU institutes and associations on the background of education, training and professional practice, meet and together create EFLA (European Foundation for Landscape Architecture)

**It is April 3, 1989.**

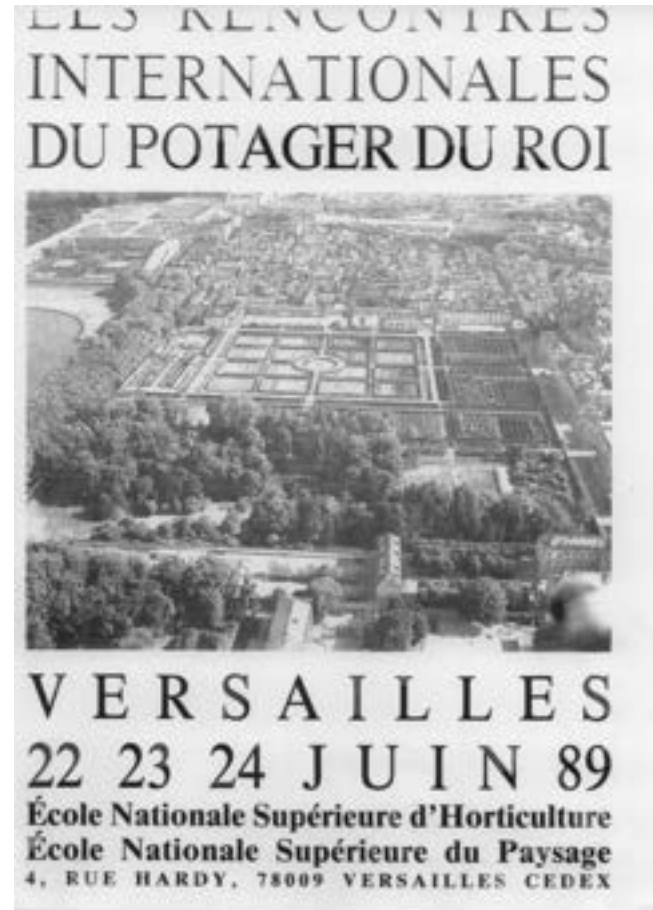
- The will and the motivations are found and returned. Europe conscious ... exists !

1989!

- We have the choice to appoint a president among the delegates of the associations ...
  - to motivate and stimulate more ...
  - preferably from a country where the profession is already respected ...
  - Germany too busy after the fall of the Berlin Wall,
  - the choice fell on Great Britain.
- **Michael Oldham** accepts the delicate mission of leading EFLA.

1989!

- June 22-24 : the National School of Landscape of Versailles invites :
  - the schools of Europe
  - a representation of EFLA
- To discuss about education
- To be part of a think tank group with Jean Cabanel, Michel Corajoud, Pierre Donadieu



This international meeting at the Potager du Roi in Versailles remains  
a strong and conditioning moment

1989 + 1 = 1990

The culmination... the consecration

- The Academic session on the Grand Place of Brussels
- Almost 20 years after the passage of the IFLA Congress in Brussels
- The Gothic Hall of City Hall hosts the EFLA – the newborn



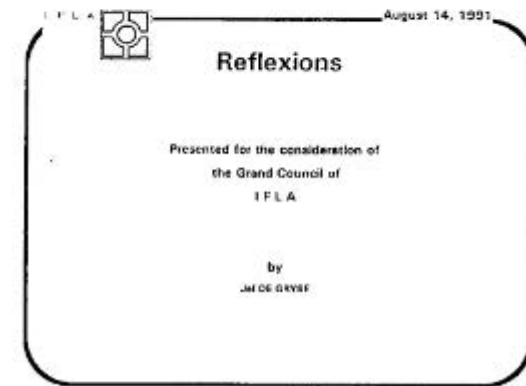
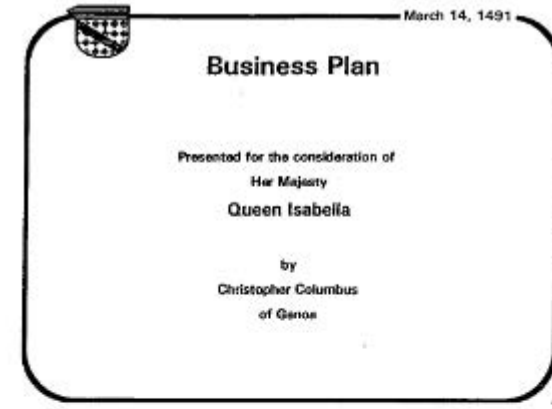
1989 + 1 = 1990

- In presence of several ministers, ambassadors and mayors, Arno Schmid pleads for a better relation between the professions of architecture and places the profession at the highest level.
- In response, the Minister reminds us of the plea of Georges Vranckx, President of the Order of Architects, held in the jubilee of the ABAJP in 1985. His argument was punctuated by the famous quote of Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe, first president of IFLA:  
*"We must invent a landscape art that has never existed before in history"*
- The term "Landscape Architect" is omnipresent that day ... the Gothic Hall still remembers it ...!



1989 + 2 = 1991

- Boston: the IFLA CONGRESS
- EFLA is alive and the "European Council" as such is coming to an end
- But the IFLA treasurer (your servant) encounter financial problems
- (already ?)



1989 + 2 = 1991

Thanks to the assistance and advice of Jeanine Colin and her husband André, we finally see clearly in the finances of IFLA ... and its three regions at that time

IFLA  August 14, 1991

## World Organization

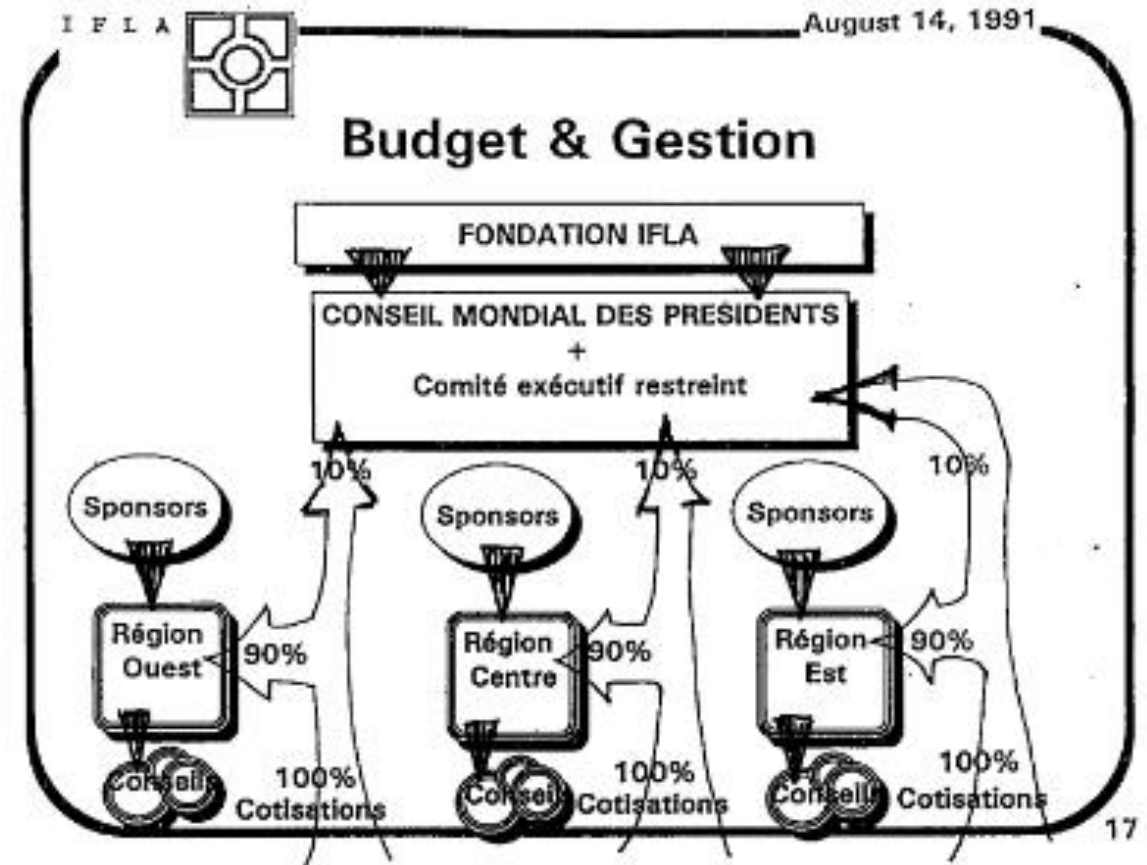
We don't have to discover  
new Indies anymore :  
we have to rediscover ourselves

- λ **Current Route:** sail to the top of IFLA, overland across nations
  - A long and difficult way to the President and its committee
- λ **New Proposed Route :** use local, national, subregional, regional support before requesting worldwide assistance
  - Regions have to be the new basic structure of IFLA

1989 + 2 = 1991

- These three regions - symbolized by the 3 boats of the pioneer Christopher Columbus which was celebrating the 500th anniversary of his "coming" to the Americas
- Boats that do not sail at the same speed and whose landings will not be simultaneous or balanced
- These malfunctions result in some management proposals ... so that IFLA gets better and the regions get busier

All this occurs in 1991



- The proposal of a national and regional databank
- Greater autonomy of the regions
- A regional landscape architecture prize, based on national associations.

1989 +3 +4 +5 etc.

Finally...

- October 1995 the first public exhibition
- Germany sets the tone ...
- The BDLA exhibits its first Landscape Architecture Award.
- This exhibition is also accompanied by an event inaugurated by the Minister for Spatial Planning, held at our headquarter on Brugmann Avenue in Brussels and declared open by **Teja Trüper**.
- Progressively we feel that the time has come to go back to the roots - mission accomplished - and to join IFLA by going beyond the limits of the European Union ...



1989 +3 +4 +5 etc.

- The FFP organises its “Assises du Paysage” in Aix-les-Bains under the auspices of EFLA .
- At the same time **Didier Vancutsem** leaves the n° 0 of the newsletter, first letter of the teenager EFLA with messages from **Teresa Munoz Roncera, Philippe Thébaud, Michael Downing, Tony Edwards, Wybe Kuitert and Jacky Mazy** ... A whole page is reserved for management work and the secretariat.
- A few years have passed ... EFLA becomes IFLA Europe.



- But with ***Meto Vroom, Isabel Figueras Ponsa, Harry Harsema, Annalisa Maniglio Calcagno*** and ***Robert Holden***, we create LAE-Landscape Architecture Europe, an international European foundation on a cultural basis.
- LAE-Landscape Architecture Europe is at the service of the profession and IFLA Europe.
- Foundation chaired by ***Michaël van Gessel*** who succeeds the late ***Meto Vroom***.

I almost forgot...

- History repeats itself, even the very old
- **Michael Oldham** and **Stef Stegen**, with the help of **Michaël Downing**, have chosen and proposed for the cover of the EFLA ...
- The fall of the Roman Empire followed by the non-functioning of the Wall allows eyes and spirits and cultures to move from place to place ... from landscape to landscape!
- Symbol that no element of the landscape is eternal.
- The landscape finally does not like the walls ...

It has no limits, neither political nor legal, as proposed in Article 1 of the Landscape Charter not finalised by IFLA and that could have celebrated its 10 years of age in 1989 and today its 40 years.



**European Foundation for Landscape Architecture**

The ruins of the Hadrian's Wall built  
20 centuries ago to separate  
Scotland from England

## STARRING at Brussels-Vilvorde

Jette Abel  
Teresa Andresen  
Anon Carmen  
Anouk Debarre  
Jean-Marie Defalque  
Veronique de Grave  
Michael Downing  
Jean-Marie Duprez  
Karel Eerdeken  
Georges Ertzinger  
Jerome Espargiliere  
Jef De Gryse  
Marian Hoey  
Gordon Hyden  
Klaus Neumann  
Michael Oldham  
Johannes von Korff  
Jan Voskens  
Helmut Weckwerth  
John Weier  
Thierry Weil

DECLARATION

The National Associations or Institutions for Landscape Architects in the European Community do hereby agree

1. to form a "European Foundation for Landscape Architecture"
2. to adopt the "Aims and Objectives for Landscape Architecture. Education" included in Appendix B ;
3. to give reciprocal recognition to the academic qualifications awarded by the courses and countries as detailed in Appendix C.
4. to adopt the model structures for undergraduate and masters, graduate and postgraduate courses as being representative of the minimum education requirements for the training of Landscape Architects as detailed in Appendix D.

BELGIUM : .....  
Georges ERTZINGER Jean-Marie DEFALQUE  
Belgian Association of Garden Architects and Landscape Architects (ABAJP/BVTL)

DENMARK : .....  
Jette ABEL  
Foreningen af Danske Landskabsarkitekter (DL)

FRANCE : .....  
Thierry WEIL  
Fédération Française du Paysage (FFP)

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY : .....  
Dr. Johannes von KORFF  
Bund Deutscher LandschaftsArchitekten (BDLA)

GREAT BRITAIN & N. IRELAND : .....  
Michael OLDHAM  
The Landscape Institute (LI)

NETHERLANDS : .....  
Jan VOSKENS  
Netherlands Association for Landscape Architecture (BNT)

LUXEMBOURG : .....  
John WEIER  
Association Luxembourgeoise des Paysagistes (ALP)

PORTUGAL : .....  
Teresa ANDRESEN  
Associação Portuguesa dos Arquitectos Paisagistas (APAP)

SPAIN : .....  
Carmen ANON  
Instituto de Estudios de Jardineria y Arte Paisajista (IEJAP)

Brussels, 4th April 1989.

ITALY : .....  
Annalisa MANIGLIO CALCAGNO  
Associazione Italiana Architetti del Paesaggio (AIAPP)

Brussels, 5th April 1989

This modest intervention is dedicated to the memory of our great friend **Meto Vroom** who left us this summer





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