

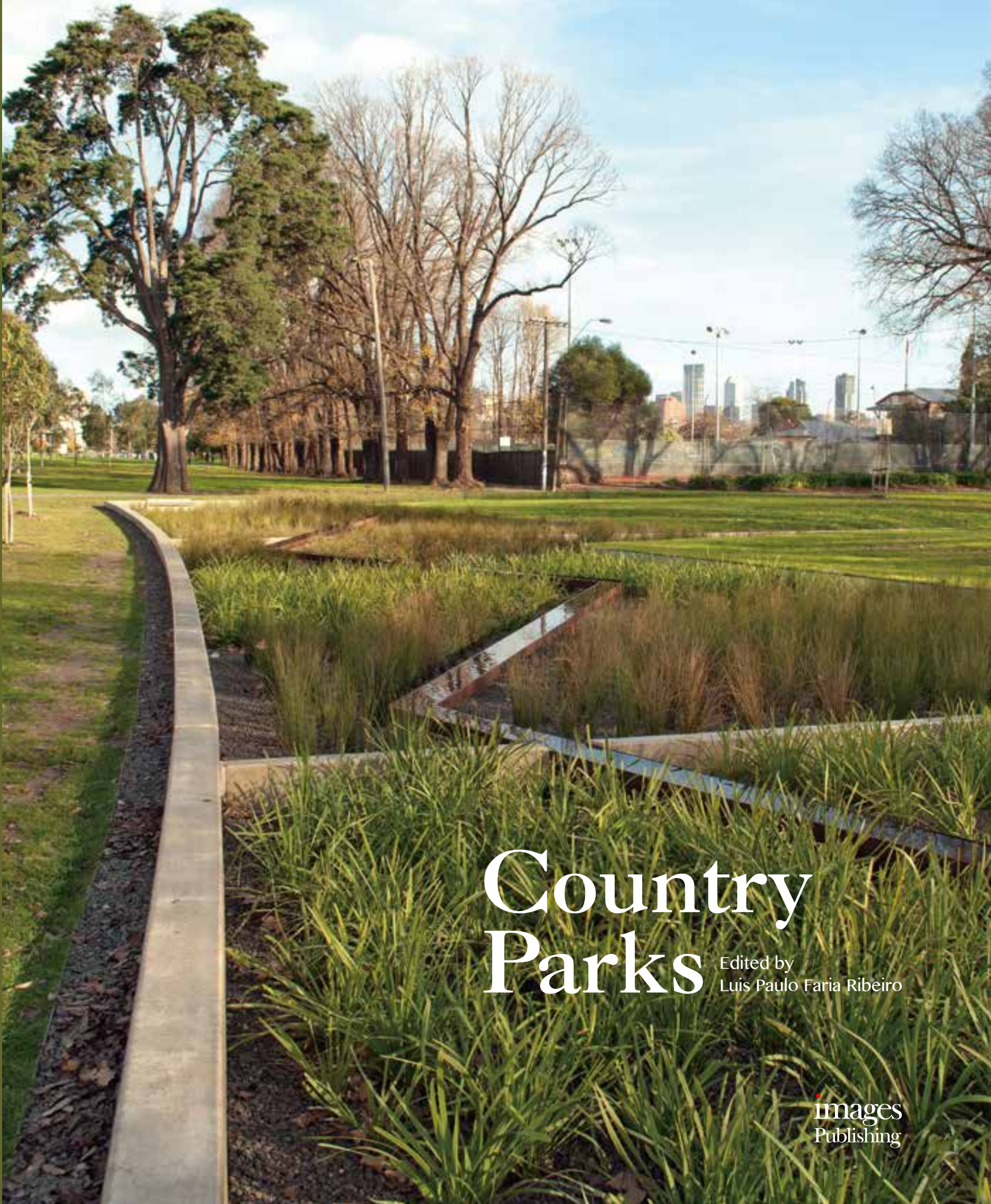
Country Parks

Edited by Luis Paulo Faria Ribeiro



Traditional country parks, which originated in the United Kingdom, are very different to the country parks we know today. With the development of urbanization and the improvement of living standards, city dwellers were no longer satisfied with small urban green spaces, and a new style of country park was born. Conveniently located in the outer city suburbs, with tranquil, natural environments, this new type of park met society's desire to return to nature, and they have since become hotspots for tourism and leisure.

Country Parks includes detailed theory and case studies showcasing outstanding international country park design, analyzes and promotes the current status and development of the country park and its role in urban development, and provides valuable guidance for professional designers working in the field today.



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Luis Paulo Faria Ribeiro



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Luis Paulo Faria Ribeiro is a professor at the School of Agriculture/University of Lisbon and has twice served as the chairman of the Department of Landscape Architecture (1999–2001; 2004–2006). He is currently the director of the Master's Degree in Landscape Architecture at Instituto Superior de Agronomia (ISA)/Technical University of Lisbon (UTL) and is a member of the scientific board of the doctoral program in Landscape Architecture at LYNK/ISA/UTL. A landscape architect, he is a graduate of ISA/UTL (1993), and has a PhD in Regional Planning from the University of Massachusetts (1997) under the Luso-American Foundation grant. He is a founding partner and an Executive Director of Topiaris Landscape Architecture, a professional consulting firm comprised of landscape architects and planners with an office in Lisbon, Portugal. Under his direction Topiaris has received several national awards, and his work, and the work of Topiaris, has been published nationally and internationally.

Le Syndrome de la Page Blanche

Location: Amiens, France

Area: 1500 square meters (16146 square feet)

Landscape Design: Les Jardiniers Nomades

Photography: Les Jardiniers Nomades

Client: Maison de la Culture d'Amiens

A stone's throw from the center of Amiens lays the Hortillonnages, an area of unique gardens set in a world heritage destination. Reclaimed from ancient marshland, this vast 'floating garden' is made up of a network of canals surrounding cultivated islands. This remarkable man made landscape has experienced a slow evolution over the centuries, but fell into decline in the early 2000s. Faced with extinction of the islands due to erosion, members of the local community mobilized to save this area.

In 2010 the Maison de la Culture d'Amiens launched its first cultural festival, with the aim of attracting visitors to the Hortillonnages and inform and educate through the intervention of young architects, artists, and landscape architects.

Les Jardiniers Nomades were selected to develop an attraction for the festival. A neglected island dominated by a hut in ruins lay at the heart of the Hortillonnages, and the design team was drawn to this location, seduced by the inherent symbolic reference to a landscape in decline. The project, le Syndrome de la Page Blanche ('syndrome of the blank page'), didn't take the island as a basis for a work of art, but rather saw it as a work of art in its own right.

The work Les Jardiniers Nomades undertook on the island characterizes the Hortillonnages and its different components,





namely: the exceptional fertile nature of the soil, which is illustrated by the abundance of the wild meadows on the island; the trees that spontaneously appear, revealing the architectural strength of nature; the hut, sober and mysterious, which is open on one side and acts as a 'camera obscura' from which the observer can appreciate the apparent tranquility of the water and the illusion of a constant landscape; and the plenitude offered by this remarkable environment, which is put at the hand of the observer thanks to big wooden structures that invite visitors to meditate in the hollow

of a net, suspended in limbo between the foliage of trees and the meadow below.

By bringing to light the character of the island, Les Jardiniers Nomades encourage visitors to question the future. If the success of the cultural festival contributes largely to educating and connecting visitors to this important heritage area, the question still remains: what history can be written on this 'blank page'?



Top: The cabin of the island becomes a window open to the landscape
Bottom: A panorama on the landscape
Opposite top: A hammock resting area



A White Horizon Drawn by Whitewashed Trunks

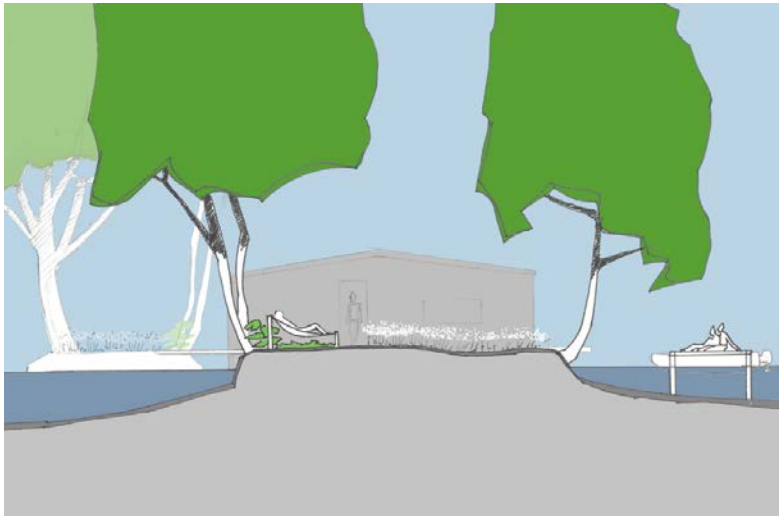




Top: A terrace overlooking the landscape
Bottom: Moment of reflexion at the heart of the Hortillonages



Top: A big, inclined hammock



A White Horizon Drawn by Whitewashed Trunks



A White Horizon Drawn by Whitewashed Trunks



Top: A place to enjoy the water
Bottom: Individual hammocks
Opposite top: An alignment of whitewashed trunks pointing out the limits of the island
Opposite bottom: The verticality of whitewashed trunks