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Several international experts gather in Barcelona to discuss the need for performative landscapes

The [10th International Landscape Biennial](#), organized by the Catalan Architects Association and the UPC University, took place in Barcelona from 25th to 29th September.

The Biennial's aim is to debate and deepen into the intervention in the landscape, both from the architectural perspective as well as from other disciplines.

This year's slogan, "Performative nature", emphasizes the need to create landscapes which face today's threats, [playing ecological, social and political roles at the same time](#).

An [action of guerrilla gardening](#) drew a green ephemeral landscape all over Plaça Nova in Barcelona with more than 2.000 little oaks.

The International Landscape Architecture 'Rosa Barba' Prize was awarded to the best project or landscape plan designed during the last five years.

[The Saxhóll crater's stairway wins the Rosa Barba International Landscape Prize](#). The intervention developed around the Saxhóll volcano (Iceland) to revert the tourism effects from all the visitors hiking up to the crater everyday has been awarded the Rosa Barba International Prize. The project was built by the Landlag ehf firm and the architect Þráinn Hauksson and the prize was given away last 28th September in Petit Palau de la Música.

A needed intervention to reduce the erosion caused by visitors: The Saxhóll volcano, 45 meters high, rises from the lava covered fields of moss in the Snæfellsjökull National Park on the Snæfellsnes peninsula in western Iceland. The hill is a popular attraction for tourists seeking for lava fields views, with the Atlantic Ocean and the picturesque Snæfellsjökull glacier on the horizon. The volcano hike also awards the visitor with the opportunity to look inside the deepness of its crater. And, on top of it and to make it even more literary, this is the crater which Jules Verne imagined to be the entrance to the Centre of the Earth. The stroll to the top of Saxhóll follows a path formed across the years by the visitors who day by day hiked up the volcano. The increase of tourists from the past recent years started to be noticed: the slopes of the mountain began to deform, and the way upwards divided itself into parallel and deformed paths. That's why, in 2014 it was indispensable to intervene and avoid a major damage around the landscape.

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This IFLA News comes from Marina Cervera De Alonso, Chair of IFLA PPP Committee

designed a stairway made of black steel which followed the already existing path. The stairway draws two curves that converge in the middle of the path with a bench to sit down and rest before continuing the climb to the top of the 396 steps. The path is 160 m long | 1,5 m wide, enough for two people to cross or walk by. The project was finished by 2016, and the black steel rapidly started to oxidize and mixed its initial tone with the red coloured volcano and the alpine vegetation. The intervention resulted in good reviews from the visitors, who often call it 'The stairway to heaven'. The architects team, called it after 'The stairway to heaven and hell', based on the metaphoric denomination that craters have as a gateway to the burning flames of hell. This project was already nominated for three other awards in 2017: The Nordic Architecture Fair Prize in Gothenfurt, the Island Design Awards and the Cultural DV Reykjavík Awards in Iceland. More information on the project [here](#).

Rosa Barba International Prize: The Landscape Rosa Barba International Prize is awarded within the International Landscape Biennial, organized by the Catalan Architects Association and the UPC University. The prize's aim is to recognize the value of the best landscape projects from around the world. It is supported by the Banc Sabadell Foundation and it has a 15.000 euros economical award. 232 projects participated in this 10th edition.

In addition:

- Job on the IFLA Website [Assistant Professor Landscape Architecture](#), Syracuse, NY, USA
- [Nominations for the 2019 ASLA Honors are open](#)
- [Canadian Landscape Architects Support the International Global Accord: Adaptation for a Changing World](#)
- MLAA 11 – [call for submissions now open](#)
- Deadline for submissions for [CSLA Awards of Excellence](#) 25th January 2019
- Catch up on all the exhibitions from [Landscape Architecture as Common Ground](#)
- Landscape Institute [Announces Award Winners](#)

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