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Photo cover:
Alex Raduan –
Potted Forest by
Estudio Ome

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Fireflies and butterflies

This is a spring issue, and it is green. It is about gardens, about butterfly gardens, about wild gardens with flowerpots, about a path through a forest and about how close you can get to nature. Daniel Ganz calls it 'to be connected' and talks about his favourite project, a small courtyard with a narrow plant bed with leaves that create a friendly atmosphere. He quotes the Scottish artist and poet Ian Hamilton Finlay who talked about 'a small task which brings true salvation'.

Estudio Ome from Mexico finds such small tasks, moments that help to find a way in an oak forest garden. A few steps, a wall to catch water, with its 'fleeting presence'.

It is also a song about making, like the wonderful and artistic inventions of Daan Roosegaarde who developed a bioluminescent light show. (Reflective particles that dance in the air like fireflies - replacing the noisy, wasteful and polluting fireworks that we usually use when we want to celebrate something big).

In a forest cemetery near Barcelona, an organic 'wall' has been constructed, integrated in the design by Batlle i Roig. The biodegradable urns are placed between the dead trunks and living plants, to slowly become one with the surroundings: a green terraced space in the forest. The plants are in bloom, oriented to the south. In the sunlight, the play of butterflies unfolds.

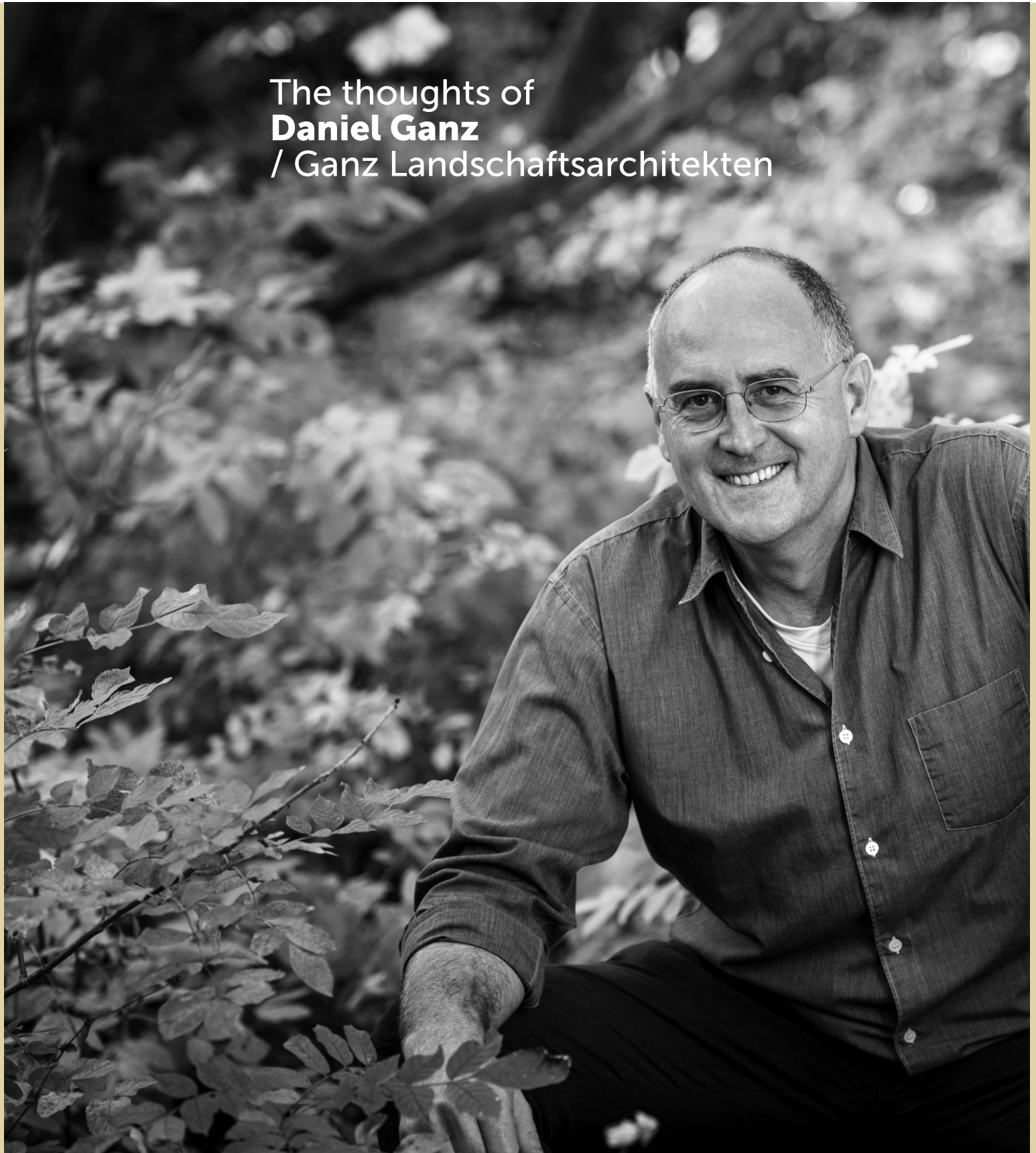
Peaceful scenes.

*Harry Harsema
Editor in chief*

designer's thoughts

*In this fairly new feature we ask a designer about his motives, his favourite projects, his examples and sources of inspiration. In the second episode **Daniel Ganz**, landscape architect of Ganz Landschaftsarchitekten, Switzerland.*

The thoughts of
Daniel Ganz
/ Ganz Landschaftsarchitekten





Name
Daniel Ganz
Age
60
Office
Ganz
Landschaftsarchitekten
Job description
Landscape architect
Country
Switzerland

What do you like most about this profession?
I like that it means I am always in close dialogue with nature. This is so important! To be connected with weather conditions, climate, the seasons, the ground, vegetation, topography and geology. It gives me the feeling of being rooted to the ground. The other aspect I like is to be able to come in contact with so many different craftspeople, since landscape architecture relies on so many different crafts, such as those involved in the working of timber, glass, stone, ceramic and metal. But above all, I also love our profession because we are always dealing with time. Our projects are never finished and always part of a dynamic process. You only can work with patience, much like how someone might become a master of meditation through years of practice.

Do you have a favourite project? Which project is it and what is so special about it?
I have many favourite projects, but when I really think about it I realise that a **very small project** we made a few years ago could be the one. We took a small courtyard and made it into a very atmospheric outdoor space. Its design adapts to the surrounding building structures, creating a place of tranquillity in the midst of the bustle of the city. A paved path made of split boulder stones inlaid with rectangular sandstone stepping stones connects the two houses which face one another. The paving widens in front of the northern building and forms a terrace. Along the other facades, narrow flower beds with hydrangeas and lilacs, among other kinds of plants, provide the courtyard with green foliage and thus create a gentle atmosphere. The middle of the courtyard is kept open, covered with gravel of a matching tone, which gives it a feeling of generosity. This project is a fine example of what the late Scottish artist Ian Hamilton Finlay was referring to when he spoke of 'a small task which brings true salvation'.

Which colleague do you admire? And why do you admire this person?
I have great respect for my colleague **Beat Nipkow**, a Zurich-based landscape architect. His projects are always embedded sensitively into their context and are never loud. He works on a task as if it were a science project, which brings him towards a broad understanding of our universe as a cabinet of curiosities, much as I see it too.

A favourite project: the small courtyard in Zurich

/ Could you name and show 2-3 sources of inspiration? Why do these inspire you?

I admire the late Swiss architect and ecologist Edward Neuenschwander for his approach to embedding architecture within a natural and ecologically valuable environment. He worked closely together with the Zurich-based landscape architect Christian Stern, a former teacher of mine. A fine example of this collaboration is the Irchel Park in Zurich, established in the late 70s and early 80s.

'I admire Edward Neuenschwander for his approach to embedding architecture within a natural and ecologically valuable environment'



The Irchel Park in Zurich by Christian Stern and Edward Neuenschwander.



Little Sparta in Scotland,
by Ian Hamilton Finlay.

Photo Philip Shelley

■ The other person I have great respect for is the Indian architect Balkrishna Doshi. In his work he expresses a deep understanding of humans and their basic needs. Another long-standing inspiration of mine is the garden of Little Sparta in Scotland. It was made by the late artist and poet Ian Hamilton Finlay. I admire how he brought poetry to a cultivated garden embedded in the wilderness of the Pentland Hills.

'scape asked Luka Javornik, our previous participant in this serie, what he would like to ask Daniel Ganz.

How do you see the world in 50 years from now?

In the future, digital technology will bring us closer to nature! Because by then we will realise what it means when we lose touch with the ground. We all will appreciate the cool shady trees, the beauty of changing foliage or the lushness of our vegetation in the forests. By then, people will crave for nature because it will be such a privilege to be surrounded by it. People will spend as much time as possible being in a green environment. They will do anything to live in a green city with many public parks and the height of the rent for the flats will depend on the number and size of trees around it. In the future people want to work in nature-related fields because of their relaxing atmosphere and status. Working with digital technology will be the most undesirable kind of work and the lowest paid.

■ **Who would you like to see answering these questions next time?**

Ivan Juarez, a Mexican-Spanish architect, landscape architect artist and lecturer. Founder of X-studio.

■ **Is there another question you would like to ask this person?**

What would you recommend a young landscape architect at the start of their career?

'In 50 years from now, people will crave for nature because it will be such a privilege to be surrounded by it'