

2026 INTERNATIONAL GARDEN FESTIVAL 27th EDITION

Whispers of Time

A Living Threshold between past and present, where reflection becomes passage.

Whispers of Time bridges two worlds—celebrating a century between Elsie Reford's historic gardens and Claude Cormier's contemporary Blue Stick Garden.

Notables

- 10 m x 20m plot
- full sun required
- fully accessible
- solar power generates energy for misters
- 1.5m wide min. path width
- red water tanks can be used for seating
- water supply is gravity-fed
- low maintenance, water tank will need to be filled 2 times per summer
- optional placement of solar panels is atop the red frame

At its heart stands a striking red frame: a walk-through mirror that marks the threshold between eras. From a distance, it reflects the surrounding landscape; up close, it becomes a doorway. As visitors step through, they move not just across space but across time—entering a garden shaped by different ways of seeing, feeling, and understanding the world.

Each side reflects a distinct emotional geography: the historic garden, soft and layered, evokes memory and intimacy; the modern garden, minimal and structured, conveys clarity

and innovation. Together, they invite visitors to navigate the invisible lines that connect past and present—reminding us that the landscapes we build are shaped as much by perception as by design.

In crossing the red portal, visitors will feel a light mist that traces their own map of sensitivity, where reflection becomes movement and time becomes space—a reminder that time, like light, becomes both reflection and passage.



Plant List

Historic Garden Side

Red Rugosa Rose
White Regal Lily
Purple Delphinium
Iris Siberica
White / Pink Peony
White Campanula
Mauve Campanula
White / Pink Aster
Creeping Thyme

Planting style will emulate Reborn's long garden, a stunning mix of flowering perennials.

Contemporary Side

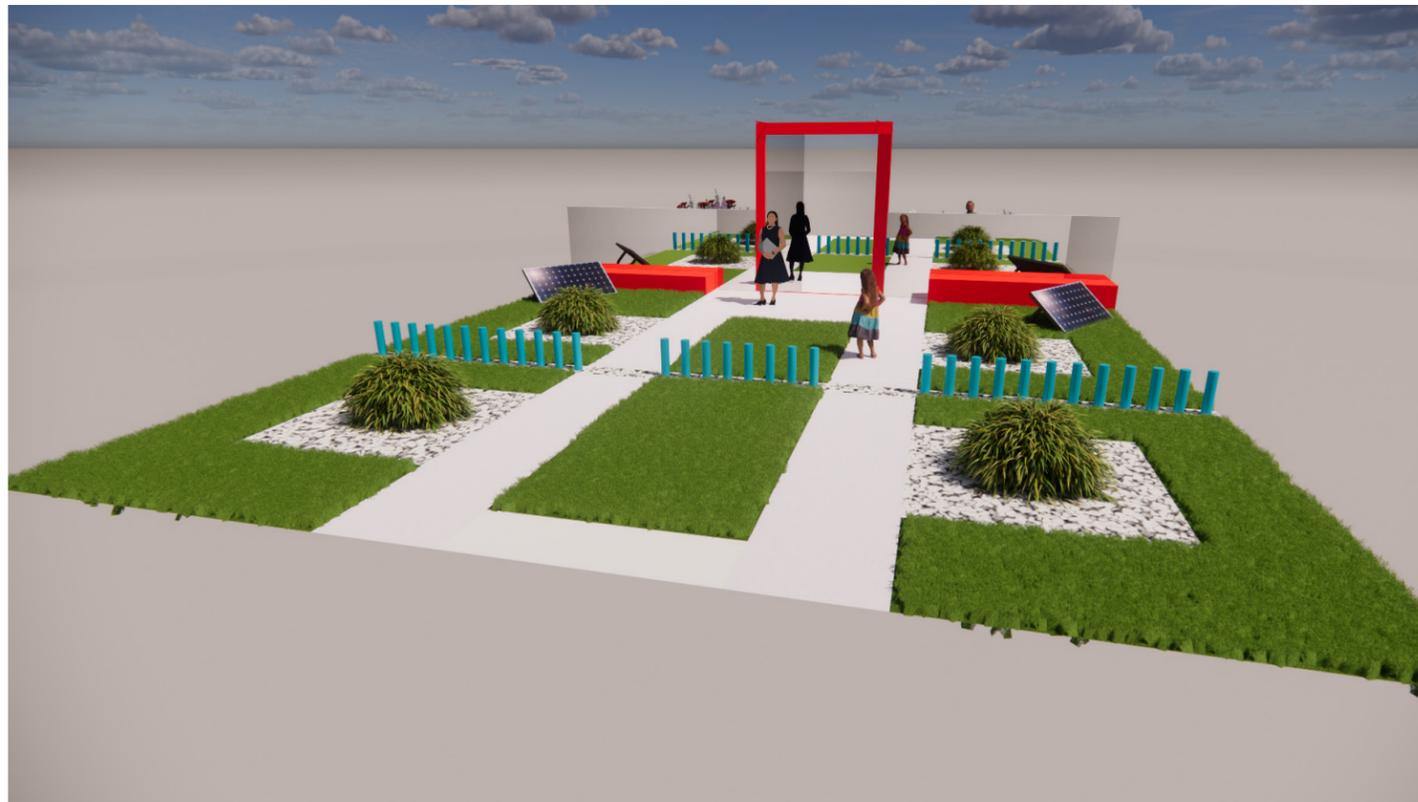
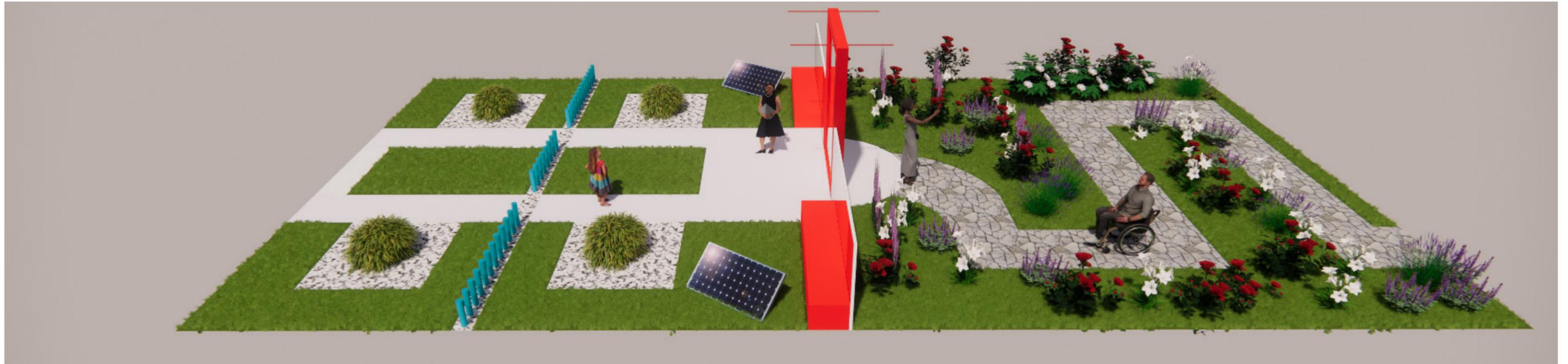
Fountain grass, or Karl Forester grass, or 4 Delphinium clumps

One plant / clump per square. One row of poppy-size blue plastic cylinders pays homage to Claude Cormier's design that was the first to demonstrate excellence at the competition.

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*A Living Threshold between past and present,
where reflection becomes passage through time, space, experience, memory*



Contemporary Garden

Abstract, modular, interpretive, symbolic ... celebrates Claude Cormier's Blue Stick Garden



Historic Garden

Natural, lush, whimsical, bountiful ... celebrates Elsie Reford's long garden