

WINTER WONDERLAND

As the 2024 International Garden Festival at Chaumont-sur-Loire draws to a close, three of the participating designers – Annick Lavallée-Benny, Hanna Reidmar and Etienne René-Contant – are celebrating winning the Creation Prize for Théâtre du Rideau Blanc (pictured), their response to this year's Festival theme of the garden as a source of life. Designed as a winter landscape, the scene is one of calm silence, a monochrome world 'holding its breath' while it waits for Spring. Seated inside the timber structure, visitors can enjoy the 'show', watching the characterful and diverse evergreens above ground while wondering as the 'snow and ice' protect the sleeping bulbs, seeds, roots and micro-organisms below. The question is, say the designers, 'Who's watching whom?'

Garden designers interested in entering the 2026 competition should visit domaine-chaumont.fr/en/international-garden-festival/contest-home-page