



Dani Karavan, Axe Majeur, Cergy-Pontoise (Paris), 1980-2009, photo by Georges Farhat, May 2013

DUMBARTON OAKS GARDEN AND LANDSCAPE STUDIES  
PUBLIC LECTURE

## LE NOTRE AND VERSAILLES IN MODERNITY (20<sup>TH</sup> TO 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURIES)

GEORGES FARHAT, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD, AT 5:30 P.M.

From the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the landscape architecture of André Le Notre (1613-1700), the famed designer whose 400<sup>th</sup> birthday we celebrate this year, has constantly inspired an inventive interplay between design practices, theories, and critique. Informed by innumerable cultural exchanges between different disciplines and historic eras, this interplay entails conceptual and technological mutations of an open-ended landscape type, an adaptive scheme that evolves according to place and time.

The lecture will touch upon few expressions of such exchanges, including design projects and texts, looking first at gardens from Cubism to Minimalism, then at urban landscapes from the Mall in Washington (1901-1902) to Axe Majeur, west of Paris (1980-2006). It will show how Le Notre and Versailles remain key markers in the broader interaction between past, present and future that defines and renews modernity in the West.

Associate Professor at the University of Toronto, Georges Farhat is an architect and a historian. He has edited *André Le Nôtre, Fragments d'un paysage culturel: Institutions, arts, sciences et techniques* (Musée de l'Île-de-France, 2006) and is the curator of *André Le Nôtre in Perspective*, the exhibition celebrating Le Nôtre's 4<sup>th</sup> centennial at the château of Versailles (Oct. 2013-Feb. 2014) and editor of its companion book (Hazan and Yale University Press, 2013). He is the author of *The French Formal Garden* to be published by Birkhäuser in 2014.

Reservations are required and are first-come, first-served. Please RSVP by Sept. 19 to: [Landscape@doaks.org](mailto:Landscape@doaks.org) or 202-339-6460.

The lecture will be held at **Dumbarton Oaks** located at **1703 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, NW, Washington, D.C.**

Open to the public without charge. A light reception to follow. Parking not provided.