

## **PRESS RELEASE SEPTEMBER 2014**

### **Living willow pillar is the light pole of the future**

A new way of thinking outdoor lighting is now visual to the guests at the 460 year old Egeskov Castle in Denmark. A number of living willow pillars with built-in spot lights light up the historical castle park and guide the guests at night. "We needed orientation light for our evening visitors, but we were not interested in traditional light poles" says Chief Gardener Peter Bonde Poulsen. The solution was an avenue of living willow pillars called "Sif" designed by Baugaarden Living Art from Denmark.

The willow pillar "Sif" is made of 16 living willow trees which are weaved in a Harlequin pattern. An iron stand holds the willow trees in place for protection against wind the first couple of years. Heinrich Braun, owner of Baugaarden Living Art and designer of "Sif" says: "The idea behind "Sif" was to create an alternative to a traditional light pole. They are typically very expensive and I don't think they fit in a garden or park environment. I'm fascinated by the idea of combining light and living trees. Besides being functional the light inside the trees adds an extra visual dimension. On top of this "Sif" has many positive features: It has a beautiful and elegant design and will grow even more spectacular as the willow trees join where they cross. It is very winter hardy, it can stand wetlands and temporarily floods and you actually plant 16 trees every time you establish a single "Sif" pillar. I believe it's the light pole of the future".

The historical park at Egeskov Castle has great traditions which affect new initiatives, but the decision on the new and innovative light pillars was not hard. "We strive to continuously improve this place and although the castle park embodies so much history, we also need to renew ourselves and be innovative. A living willow pillar, which also provides the necessary orientation light, adds a new chapter to the history of Egeskov Castle" says Caroline Ahlefeldt-Laurvig-Bille, Countess of Egeskov Castle.

"Sif" comes with a stem height of up to two meters and is available in different willow types. "Sif" is design protected. Baugaarden Living Art will be exhibiting at the LANDSCAPE show in Battersea Park 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> September 2014 and "Sif" will be represented at the stand IP15.

In 2013 Heinrich Braun created a living monogram to the impressive park at Egeskov Castle. Countess Caroline and Count Michael Ahlefeldt-Laurvig-Bille wanted to create an element in the park that could become their personal fingerprint in the history of the Castle. The monogram is made of living willow and formed as the initial "C" leaning over the initial "M". The spectacular willow sculpture is located at the main entrance to the castle park.



*Caption: The living light pillar is a green and eco-friendly solution in an elegant and simple design. It will become even more beautiful over the years when the 16 willow sticks grow together and becomes one unique living sculpture. Photo: [www.baugaarden.com](http://www.baugaarden.com)*



*Caption: The living monogram is originally made of 30 living willow trees and the sculpture is now merging where the trees cross. In a few years the monogram will grow completely together and become one living willow sculpture. Photo: [www.baugaarden.com](http://www.baugaarden.com)*

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Baugaarden Living Art creates trees and sculptures made out of living willow. With respect for nature and with focus on simplicity and elegance Baugaarden designs beautiful sculptures which turn into masterpieces of living art every spring.

The unique features of the willow are the foundation of the designs. It is true craftsmanship based on many years of experience. It's Danish design – simple and elegant – living art founded by nature.

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