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Photos: Cristina Gastaldi, Matteo Montesano

Design and layout of this guide were inspired by The Perfect Guide to One of Ireland’s Greatest Gardens, Mount Usher Gardens, Ashford, Co. Wicklow, Ireland.

The Turin Centre Tree Trail has been created, and this guide published, to mark the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Covenant between the ILO and the City of Turin on 29 July, 1964.
The International Labour Exhibition *People at work: one-hundred years of technical and social development: achievements and prospects*, was held in Turin in 1961 to celebrate the first one hundred years of the unification of Italy. The City of Turin was chosen for this major event, known as *Italia ’61*, as it was the first capital city of Italy after unification as well as the industrial heart of the country.

The Exhibition was held from May to October 1961 and was visited by over six million people. It was designed to reflect the best of Italian culture, economic progress and design. The main designer of the event was the Milan architect Gio Ponti (1891-1979) who was one of the most influential designers of the mid-20th century.

The site selected for the Exhibition covered an area of more than 600,000 square metres. It was the *Millefonti* district along the banks of the rivers Po and Sangone on the south side of the City of Turin. This area was upgraded with new buildings designed by some of the best known Italian architects of the time including Pier Luigi Nervi (1891-1979) who designed the *Palazzo del Lavoro* and Annibale Rigotti (1870-1968) who designed the *Palazzo a Vela*.

Nineteen Pavilions, each one representing a Region of Italy (the regions of Abruzzo and Molise were represented together) were designed by the Turin architect Nello Renacco (1915-1978). They were located in the area between *Corso Unità d’Italia* and the left bank of the River Po. This area is now occupied by the International Training Centre of the ILO under a Covenant signed in 1964 between the City of Turin and the ILO. The United Nations
System Staff College (UNSSC) and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) are also based on the campus.

When construction works on the *Italia ‘61* project started, the area was covered by brambles, weeds, reeds, ponds and natural springs which explain why the area was called *Millefonti* (one thousand springs). At that time, the area was occupied mainly by refugees from Istria and migrants from the South of Italy who came to Turin in search of a job and a better life. When this area was selected for the *Italia ‘61* project, these residents were relocated.

In 1960, the reclamation work started. As the area was frequently flooded, the 19 Pavilions were designed to overcome this problem. The design was very simple and functional: iron and steel, very little cement and a lot of glass to maximize the natural light. These buildings are now protected by a preservation order as part of the architectural heritage of the City of Turin.

The 19 Pavilions and the larger Unity Pavilion (*Il grande padiglione unitario*) were laid out in the shape of the Italian peninsula. The underlying idea was to offer visitors a relaxing walk from Trentino in the north of Italy to Sicily in the south of Italy! Each Pavilion hosted an exhibition showcasing the produce, culture and lifestyle specific to the Region(s) it represented and was surrounded by typical trees and shrubs. For example, Norway Spruces were planted near the three Pavilions representing Trentino, Valle d’Aosta and Piedmont; Cypress trees were planted around the Pavilion for Tuscany; London Planes and Stone Pines were planted around the Campania and Lazio Pavilions, and the Umbria Pavilion was surrounded by olive trees.

The campus is now populated by more than 600 trees of 52 different species. Some of them like the Black Poplars, English Oaks, Stone Pines, London Planes and European Beeches, were planted for the *Italia ‘61* event and we can still admire them today. Many others have been planted over the years since the campus was entrusted to the care of the Centre.
The arrival of Spring is announced on the campus by the Cherry Plum tree as it is the first to flower with its pink flowers. Also in early Spring, we can admire the white flowers of the Blackthorn. The fucia blossoms of the Judas Tree and the fragrant flowers of the elegant Magnolia and the Paulownia quickly follow.

Then in June, we see the big tulip-shaped flowers of the Tulip Tree followed by the small sweetly scented flowers of the Lime Tree. In late Summer, the Pagoda’s fragrant flowers come out.

In the Autumn, there are spectacular displays of colour: the Japanese Maple and the Silver Maple are some of the best-known trees for an Autumn show with shades of red, orange and yellow; the green leaves of the Sweet Gum turn to yellow-purple-red; the Bald Cypress, which is a unique combination of a deciduous conifer, turns an impressive orange red color; the European Hornbeam, the Birch and the European Beech, display extraordinary golden-yellow leaves.

In the Winter, the park turns into a wonderland when frost covers the leaves and branches of the trees with ice crystals. Following a snowfall, the park is covered in a pristine white cloak bringing the snows of the Alps to the banks of the River Po.

During your walk in the park, you will see many shrubs and flowers and also some wildlife including squirrels, rabbits and ducks that have chosen this park as a peaceful, safe and quiet hideaway.

I hope that you enjoy your walk through this precious and beautiful park.

Patricia O’Donovan
Director
International Training Centre of the ILO
July, 2014
1. **Caucasian Walnut** - *Pterocarya caucasica*
   It is commonly known as the Caucasian wing nut or Caucasian walnut. It is native to the Caucasian region. The flowers appear in April, the male catkins thick and green, the females longer with less dense flowers.

2. **London Plane** - *Platanus acerifolia*
   The tree is widely planted as a street tree in large cities for its ability to adapt to urban conditions and its resistance to pollution. The wood used to be popular for making veneers, as it is an attractive golden brown colour with dark brown flecks.

3. **Blackthorn** - *Prunus spinosa*
   This is a small thorny deciduous tree with dark green, ovate leaves, and small white flowers in early Spring. Blackthorn wood has been used to make walking or riding sticks, and was the traditional wood for Irish shillelaghs.

4. **Pagoda Tree** - *Sophora japonica* “pendula”
   This tree is native to eastern Asia (it was introduced in Japan); it is a popular ornamental tree in Europe, North America and South Africa, grown for its white flowers in late Summer after most other flowering trees have long finished flowering.

5. **European Beech** - *Fagus sylvatica*
   In Celtic mythology, Fagus was the god of beech trees. Beech timber is used for a variety of purposes, including fuel, furniture, cooking utensils, tool handles and sports equipment. The wood burns well and was traditionally used to smoke herring.

6. **Himalayan Cedar** - *Cedrus deodara*
   A majestic, large tree, that broadens into a wide spreading tree with a broad flat top. It can grow to heights of 30 metres or more and as such is often used in large gardens and estates. It is in great demand as building material because of its durability.

7. **Katsura** - *Cercidiphyllum japonicum*
   This tree can grow to more than 30 metres in its native Japan. It is another tree which gives interest
all year round, with its constantly changing colour displays. Its leaves flush out pink in Spring, gradually turning to a lush green in Summer. Autumn brings brilliant displays of orange yellow and red.

8. **Japanese Maple - Acer palmatum**
   This is a small tree with small, deeply lobed leaves often colouring well into Autumn. Small red flowers in Spring are followed by red or green fruit.

9. **Purple-Leaved Plum - Prunus pissardii nigra**
   Purple-leaved plum is a deciduous ornamental tree cherished for its beautiful purple leaves and small pink colored flowers.

10. **Atlas Cedar - Cedrus glauca atlantica**
    This stunning evergreen conifer can be a very large specimen tree in the landscape. Its young, silvery foliage turns vivid blue as it ages. Cedar needles are noticeably different to other conifers. They are arranged in small rosettes and each set remains on the tree for three or four years before falling off.

11. **Lime Tree - Tilia hybrida**
    This is a large, deciduous tree, reaching typically 20 to 40 metres tall, with leaves 6 to 20 centimetres across. They are very important honey plants for beekeepers, producing a very pale but richly flavoured monofloral honey.

12. **Fern-Leaved Beech - Fagus sylvatica asplenifolia**
    This is a large tree with an expected height of over 6 metres after 10 years. This beech has a smooth silver grey bark in common with most beech. The attractive, narrow, lance-shaped, dark green leaves make this a very graceful tree. The leaves turn copper-gold in the Autumn.

13. **European Black Pine - Pinus austriaca**
    Native to Austria and the Balkans and known as Austrian Pine or European Black Pine, this tough evergreen plant grows well in a wide range of conditions. It is ideal for screening and windbreaks and is tolerant of urban, coastal and exposed environments.
14. **Norway Spruce** - *Picea abies*
   The widespread use of the Norway Spruce as a Christmas tree is down to Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria. In 1841, he introduced an old German custom of decorating a spruce tree with lights. Since then, the Norway Spruce has been used as a 'Christmas tree' across Europe.

15. **Blue Pine** - *Pinus excelsa*
   It is a popular tree for planting in parks and large gardens, grown for its attractive foliage and large, decorative cones. It is also valued for its relatively high resistance to air pollution, tolerating this better than some other conifers.

16. **Scots Pine** - *Pinus sylvestris*
   This is a large evergreen tree which can grow to 25 metres, with the upper trunk and branches orange-brown, developing a picturesque, irregular outline with maturity. Twisted grey-green needles are produced in pairs. Scots pine timber is one of the strongest softwoods available, and is widely used in the construction industry and in joinery.

17. **Japanese Cedar** - *Cryptomeria japonica*
   This is a vigorous evergreen conifer making a large tree with distinctive, fibrous red-brown bark. The leaves are short, awl-shaped, spirally arranged.

18. **Canadian Poplar** - *Populus canadensis*
   This is a deciduous tree, very fast-growing and large, with male and female catkins on separate trees, opening before the leaves. Male catkins are the more ornamental, female ones can be a nuisance from the cottony, wind-blown seeds.

19. **Black Locust** - *Robinia pseudoacacia*
   It is considered an invasive species in some areas. The wood is extremely hard, resistant to rot and durable, making it prized for furniture, flooring, panelling, fence posts and small watercraft. Black locust is highly valued as firewood for wood-burning stoves.
20. **Judas Tree** - *Cercis siliquastrum*
   This is a bushy, deciduous small tree. The reason that most people plant this tree is for the glorious abundance of deep pink flowers which appear in late April - May. The flowers are quickly followed by the foliage, bright green and fresh, developing into rounded heart shape leaves. In Autumn, the foliage turns yellow but the main feature in this season is the cluster of seed pods which hang from the branches.

21. **Tulip Tree** - *Liriodendron tulipifera*
   This is a vigorous deciduous tree with attractively lobed leaves and green and orange, tulip-shaped flowers in Summer; good Autumn colour. The tolerance of pollution makes it a great urban tree where space permits.

22. **Paulownia** - *Paulownia imperialis*
   This is a deciduous tree 12–15 metres tall, with large, heart-shaped leaves, arranged in opposite pairs on the stem. The flowers are produced in early Spring resembling a foxglove flower. The fruit is a dry capsule, containing thousands of minute seeds.

23. **Tree of Heaven** - *Ailanthus glandulosa*
   Tree of heaven is an exotic, rapidly growing, deciduous tree that emits an offensive odor. It is known to produce a toxin in its leaves and bark that can inhibit the growth of other plants.

24. **Birch** - *Betula alba*
   This is a medium sized deciduous tree with attractive bright green, heart-shaped foliage and a smooth, silvery trunk. Foliage turns golden in Autumn before falling and branches have a slightly weeping habit.

25. **Black Poplar** - *Populus nigra italica*
   This is a large, vigorous deciduous tree which can grow to 30 metres tall, with bright green ovate leaves and crimson male catkins before the leaves open in early Spring.

26. **Sweet Gum** - *Liquidambar styraciflua*
   This large, deciduous tree is often mistaken for
maple as the foliage is similar in appearance. However, the leaves are arranged alternately on stems whereas the leaves of Acer species are opposite each other. The Autumn colour ranges from fiery red, orange and yellow through to sumptuous purple.

27. **Weeping European Beech** - *Fagus sylvatica pendula*
This is a large deciduous tree with smooth grey bark, ovate leaves colouring well in Autumn, and inconspicuous flowers followed by usually spiny fruits.

28. **Bull Bay** - *Magnolia grandiflora*
This is a large, rounded evergreen shrub or tree with glossy dark green, leathery leaves, often rusty-brown beneath, and highly fragrant, cup-shaped, cream flowers in late Summer and Autumn.

29. **Saucer Magnolia** - *Magnolia soulangeana*
This tree originated by chance in 1820, as an accidental seedling in a French garden. The person who described this hybrid gave it its specific scientific name in honor of the man, Étienne Soulange-Bodin, in whose garden the tree was found.

30. **English Oak** - *Quercus pedunculata*
These can be deciduous or evergreen trees or shrubs, with entire, lobed or toothed leaves; flowers inconspicuous, followed by characteristic acorns; sometimes good Autumn colour.

31. **Lawson Cypress** - *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*
It is a large evergreen tree, maturing up to 60 metres or more, with feathery foliage in flat sprays, usually somewhat blue-green in color.

32. **European Larch** - *Larix decidua*
European larch was one of the first trees to be introduced for its timber. It is hard and resistant to rot, and is often used for fencing, gates and garden furniture.
33. **English Yew - *Taxus baccata***
Probably the most long-lived tree in Northern Europe. Yew is a popular hedging and topiary plant and has long been planted in churchyards. Anti-cancer compounds are harvested from the foliage of *Taxus baccata* and used in modern medicine. Bright red, berry like fruits ripen in the Autumn and are attractive to birds during the Winter.

34. **Midland Hawthorn - *Crataegus oxyacantha***
This familiar tree will reach a height of 15 metres and lives to a great age. It possesses a single seed-vessel to each blossom producing a separate fruit, which when ripe is of a brilliant red and this is in miniature a stony apple. The flowers are mostly fertilized by nectar-feeding insects.

35. **Stone Pine - *Pinus pinea***
It is the seeds inside the cones which are of particular interest, called pinoli or pine nuts. The closed cones
are gathered, then laid out in the direct sun which forces them to open so the seeds can be harvested. Eaten raw or roasted like peanuts, pinoli nuts are a traditional ingredient of certain Italian dishes.

36. **European Hornbeam** - *Carpinus betulus*
Hornbeam timber is extremely hard and strong, and so is mainly used for furniture and flooring. A hornbeam hedge will keep its leaves all year round, providing shelter, roosting, nesting and foraging opportunities for birds and small mammals.

37. **Silver Maple** - *Acer saccharinum*
It gets its name from the silvery sparkle of the underside of the leaf when it blows in the wind. Its fruit, called samaras, are commonly known to children and adults alike as "helicopters" as they flutter and swirl in the wind.

38. **Japanese Flowering Cherry** - *Prunus serrulata*
This is widely grown as a flowering ornamental tree, both in its native countries and throughout the temperate regions of the world. From early to late May these trees are covered with a wealth of double pink flowers of exceptional charm and beauty.

39. **Double Flowered Wild Cherry** - *Prunus avium flore plena*
It is the spectacular double flowered variety of the wild cherry which has been in cultivation for over 200 years. In Spring, the magnificence of this tree is seen when it is laden with the brilliant double white flowers, hanging in clusters from the branches.

40. **Bald Cypress** - *Taxodium distichum*
Although it looks like a needled evergreen in Summer, it is deciduous ("bald" as the common name suggests). Taxodium is Greek for "yewlike," which refers to a family of generally small trees prized for hard wood. The species name, distichum, means "two-ranked" and refers to the two rows in which the leaves grow. Cypress is also called the "wood eternal" because the heartwood is resistant to decay.
41. **Black Cherry** - *Prunus serotina*

Black cherry trees are most commonly noted for their profuse spring bloom. The fragrant white flowers of the black cherry tree appear with the Spring foliage. The blooms are in slender pendulous clusters. When the flowers are finished blooming, they are replaced by drooping clusters of small red cherries.

42. **Horse-Chestnut** - *Aesculus hippocastanum*

Its leaf stalks leave a scar on the twig when they fall, which resembles an inverted horse shoe with nail holes. This association with horses could explain why conkers used to be ground up and fed to horses to relieve them of coughs, and could be the origin of the tree's name.

43. **Northern Red Oak** - *Quercus rubra*

It is grown as an ornamental tree in parks and gardens, where it is prized for its incredible Autumn colour.

44. **Date-Plum** - *Diospyros lotus*

It is characterized mainly by its small fruit, resembling a plum, the reason why in English it is called date-plum. Its name is also related to a date because its fruits possess the flavour of dates, as you eat them dry.

45. **European Nettle Tree** - *Celtis australis*

Celtis is an ancient name in the Mediterranean region and was used by Pliny the Elder for one of the plants reputed to be the lotus fruit of the ancients. The specific name australis is from the Latin “southern”, thus paired with the generic results in the descriptive phrase “the southern Celtis”.

46. **California Incens Cedar** - *Calocedrus decurrens*

Its rich, glossy, green foliage is made up of small scale like leaves which form a flattened spray. The exquisite flaking bark makes it an unmistakable tree.

47. **Cherry Plum** - *Prunus cerasifera*

It is one of the first prunus species to flower in Spring and is often mistaken for true cherry trees.
Cherry plum is often grown as an ornamental tree for its early display of flowers.

48. **Persian Iron Wood** - *Parrotia persica*
   This is a highly ornamental tree, that makes a great year round feature with something to offer in every season (especially Autumn and Winter).

49. **Douglas Fir** - *Pseudotsuga menziesii*
   Douglas fir timber is of great commercial importance, and is used to make beams, veneers, furniture, cladding, decking and flooring. Its bark is non-flammable. This protects the tree from fires in its native range.
50. **Oriental Thuja** - *Thuja orientalis*
   This is a common ornamental evergreen tree native to Northwest China. This tree can be distinguished from other similar trees in the Juniper and Cypress families by the unique shape of its cones.

51. **Eastern Black Walnut** - *Juglans nigra*
   Black walnut gets its name from both its dark timber and dark brown to black bark. All walnut trees (*Juglans* species) produce edible seeds (known commonly as nuts), but those of black walnut are notoriously difficult to extract from their husks; it is the common walnut, *Juglans regia*, that is cultivated commercially for its nuts.

52. **Common Walnut** - *Juglans regia*
   Walnut was originally grown for its nuts and was introduced by the Romans for that purpose. Later it was grown for its timber, which is fine with a decorative, wavy grain. The best wood is at the base of the tree, so walnuts are often dug up for timber, rather than felled.