

## CATEGORY 3: URBAN GARDENING – CREATIVE GARDENING IN THE CITY



### **BIRGIT SCHATTLING (DE, 2019)** **ORGANIC BALCONY**

*There are far too many unused balconies. The vision is to make sure that more people make use of these areas, which are often very small, in a near-natural way – for self-supply, as well as for relaxation to make sure that our cities become greener, more colourful, livelier, more diverse and healthier. Balconies do have the potential for biodiversity in the city and in the countryside, and provide an easy start to get closer to nature. This way, humans get acquainted with indigenous animals, wild and crop plants. Since November 2016, Birgit Schattling has been operating the Online Project Bio-Balkon (“Organic Balcony”) in Berlin and she sees herself as a balcony ambassador and an organiser of congresses. The heart-piece of her work is the organisation of the online organic balcony congresses with increasing numbers of participants. Through the website and via social media, information on organic gardening and the design of near-natural structures on the balcony is shared. Two balconies with a total area of 9 m<sup>2</sup> located on the 6th floor used in permaculture since June 2016, as well as the improved tree disc in front of the residential building, provide the basis for the project. In this place, indigenous wild plants, shrubs and crop plants grow, additionally offering space for two worm boxes producing worm compost. The practiced near-natural design of balconies with nesting aids attracts insects and even successful rearings of blue tits and squirrels have been reported.*

EUROPEAN  
AWARD  
FOR  
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GARDENING



2019