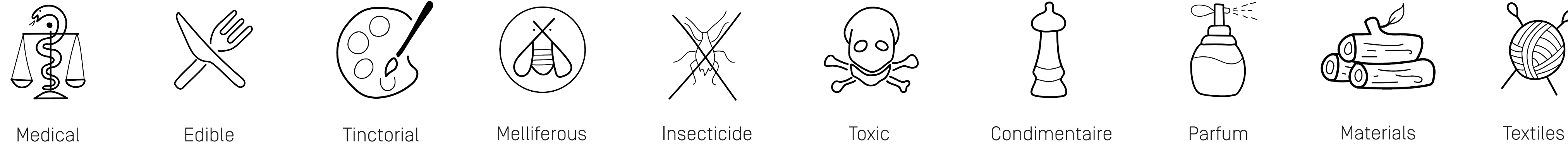


WELCOME TO THE SYSTEMATIC GARDEN OF MEDICINAL AND USEFUL PLANTS!



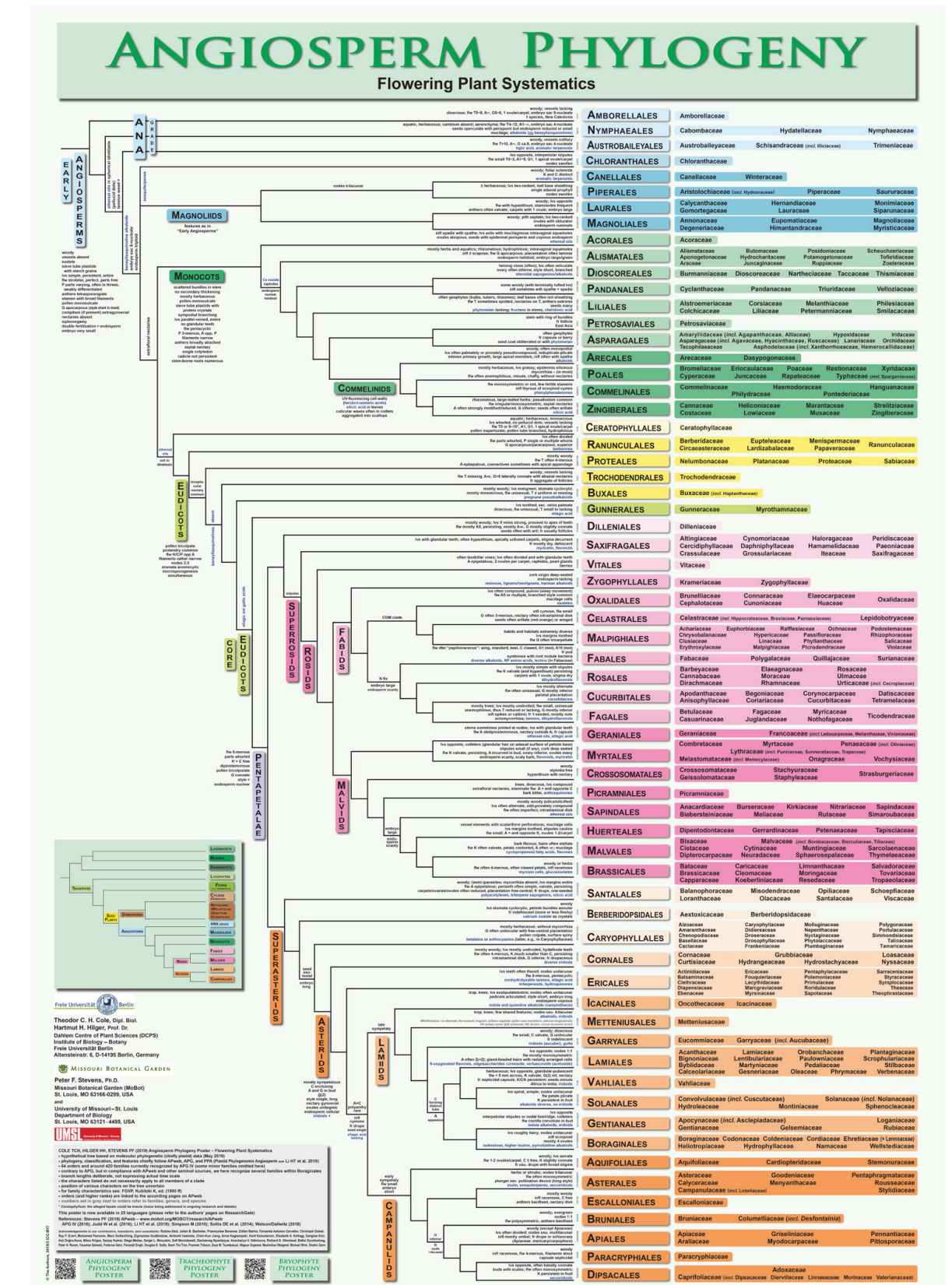
The garden section that surrounds you is a series of beds whose original layout was designed around 1940 by the Lausanne-based urbanist-architect Alphonse Laverrière and Professor Florian Cosandey, then director of the garden. In 2024, it was redesigned and rearranged to bring it closer to its original layout and fulfil its dual role: a collection of medicinal and useful plants, and a systematic garden illustrating the current scientific classification of plants.

ILLUSTRATION OF THE SYSTEMATIC CLASSIFICATION

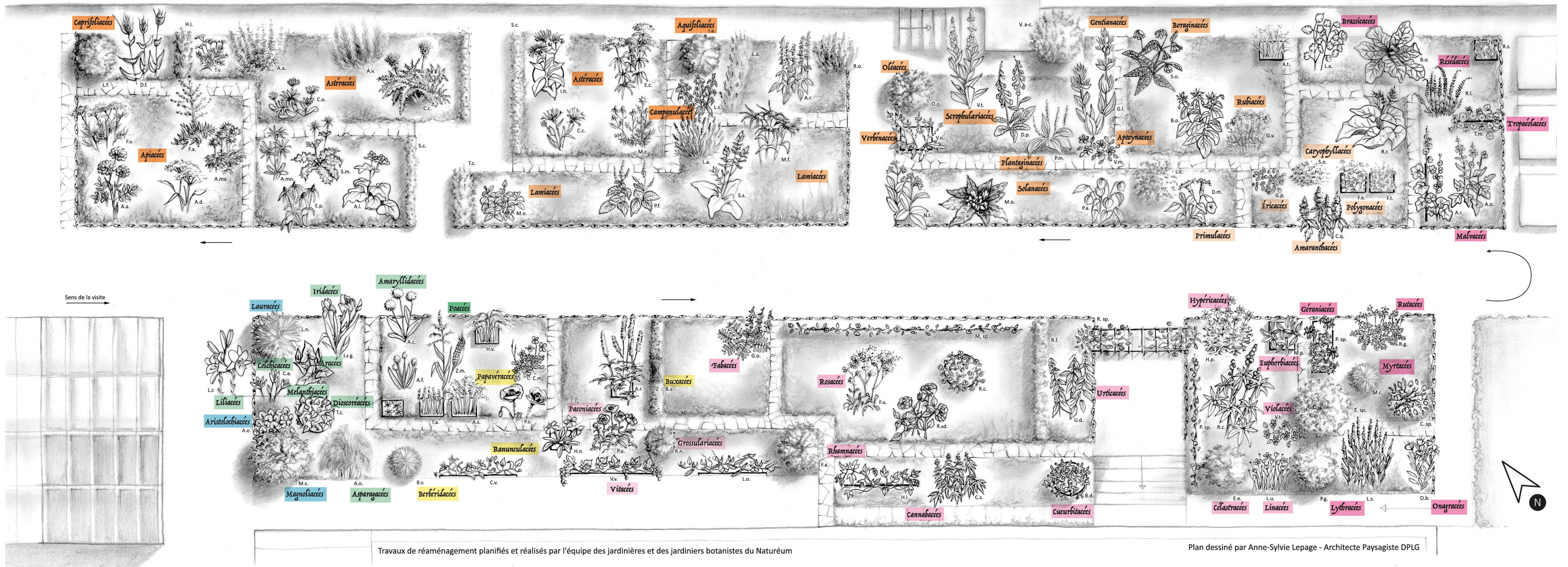
The plants could have been arranged according to their uses or active compounds, were it not for the long tradition of medicinal systematic gardens that, while displaying medicinal plants, represent the classification system in use at a given time.

In this garden, the current layout follows the fourth edition of the phylogenetic classification of flowering plants (APG IV, 2016*) based on the genetic study of 400 plant families. Plant families thus succeed one another in the beds following the presumed order of their appearance through the course of evolution. Their degree of relationship is represented by their proximity. Families planted next to each other share numerous characters and have a relatively recent common ancestor.

The first families (Magnoliaceae, Lauraceae, Araceae) bear a large part of characters considered as "ancestral", that can be found in ancient plant fossils. Conversely, the last families (Asteraceae, Apiaceae, Caprifoliaceae) bear many characters that are considered as "derived", because they appeared later in the history of flowering plants.



*The APGIV classification (Angiosperm Phylogeny Group IV, 2016) can be accessed by scanning this QR code.



Travaux de réaménagement planifiés et réalisés par l'équipe des jardinières et des jardiniers botanistes du Naturéum

Plan dessiné par Anne-Sylvie Lepage - Architecte Paysagiste DPLG

PLANTS WITH NUMEROUS PROPERTIES AND USES

Around 300 species of plants belonging to about 50 families are grown in this section. Most of them are medicinal plants: they have therapeutic properties recognised by the official pharmacopoeia and are used in the production of medicines and other curative preparations.

Among them are plants producing various active compounds such as glucosides, alkaloids, phytoosterols, essential oils, etc. Some of them are toxic, and can only be administered under medical supervision.

The remaining plants are used by humans for multiple purposes. These are food crops, aromatics, condiments, melliferous plants, insect deterrents, or species used in the production of dyes or textiles. Their properties and main uses are indicated by a pictogram.



*Full species list available on demand at the reception desk or by scanning this QR code.

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