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LANDSCAPE PLANNING OF URBAN ENVIRONMENT

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Modern city can be considered as an ecosystem, in which the most favourable conditions for life are created, but we must not neglect spaces where humans connect with nature. Specifically, in park spaces, there should be optimal environment for its characteristics. Recently, the organization of gardens, parks and other spaces has become popular, in which the main focus is on landscape and natural vegetation.

This is known as “landscape architecture” – development of harmonious environment, consisting of natural elements, which are formed with the help of tree-planting, irrigation, plastics

of the earth in combination with small architectural shapes and lighting. In planning of the design each detail plays vital role. There has always been a connection between old and new, such as historically developed environment and requirements of modern life. Nowadays, there has been increased interest in development of urban environment as a special form of architectural, artistic, and project activity. Thus, the definition of urban environment entitles combination of urban interior and spatial development.

Maintenance of the facility or operation is followed right after construction process. This is a production process, which includes a complex of work for greenery care and elements of upgrading to eliminate minor deformations and damages on structural elements of three-dimensional constructions.

In particular, parks solve series of ecological issues within a city. First of all, they help to reduce air pollution. Trees and bushes with dense crowns, dense large leaves, and many small branches absorb the sound, best of all. The noise penetration into park is prevented by open ground spaces – lawns. Parks also help in the elimination of dust and gas pollution by reducing the noise level. A development of parks with multi-row strips of trees and bushes with the width of 50m and height of 15-20m, reduces pollution of atmospheric air up till 70-75%. Once a person arrives to a park, he does not leave the city borders, but simultaneously enters the nature zone, while experiencing psycho-emotional discharge and reduced irritability. By caring for greenery, each urbanite can make an individual impact into improvement of ecology of the city.

The aim of organization of culture and recreation parks is to create the most favourable conditions for the recreation of the population, including variety of cultural, educational, sport and health activities among adults and children.

The tasks of such parks include: organization of variety of cultural activities, recreational activities, show-programs, that meet demands of different age groups; the provision of information and propaganda of scientific and educational knowledge; development of physical activities and sports.

The artistic unity of park territories is reached with different ways and determined by potential opportunities of natural conditions, the absolute dominance of compositional center, spatial solutions, systems of main and auxiliary viewing standpoints. Constructions should not clash with general character of landscape greenery and harmoniously fit within its surrounding. Each structure is individualized and ornated with various groupings. Buildings and small architectural forms (SAF) must be designed in one style. At the places of mass visits capital buildings should be connected with neighbouring buildings.

It should be also noted, that today's park has become more complex than it was few decades ago. Parks are categorized under following groups:

- a) Facility of actual urban environment, aimed at actual social contract;
- b) Piece of art, which has a potential to be realized into other aesthetic standards;
- c) Facility, in which there is a dynamic process of continuous update and expansion of performed functions;
- d) Technological facility, where newest accomplishments of science and technology are achieved;
- e) Part of city's ecosystem, which plays important role in ensuring environmental sustainability;
- f) Facility of implementation of new economic approaches, which is constantly developing through involvement of private investors;
- g) Facility of town planning, which stimulates new legal approaches to tackle matters of land use [35].

There is a countless multitude of landscape projects in today's practices of landscape organization, that reflect modern approaches, directions and trends in park development on city territories. Another essential element of landscape design of urban environment is square. Square is an average-sized developed territory, usually located on streets, or in public and administrative buildings. Square planning follows its surrounding architectural ensemble. Contours of the square

usually set by geometrical shapes of rectangle, triangle and circle. Squares compliment landscape and recreational system of the city, and its main purposes: planning, regulating, recreational and decorative.

There is a special focus on improvement and landscape, which can be supported by fundamental approach, from solving of utilitarian tasks to creation of harmonious environment. Historical heritage and modern practices within green building initiative are reflected through examples of various construction of city squares. Squares differ from another through sizes, configurations, purpose and principles of architectural and planning decisions. Its' architectural appearance has been developing under influence of variety of factors: historical conditions, architectural and artistic trends (the most prevalent out of all), new requirements in development of town planning, local climatic, national and other features, and creative traits of the creator.

Thus, architects constantly analyze existing experience and look for fresh ideas, and quite often attempt to combine basis of different styles, common to Eastern and Western cultures. Such kind of work is not always successful. It is impossible to reach excellent results without knowledge of basic principles of planning of park facilities or inner feeling of style philosophy.

Let us look at the following styles:

1) Regular (geometric or French) style – this type of garden or park has precise symmetric lines and geometrically correct planning of all objects. Planning of such park begins with establishment of centerline, which holds main focus point. All alleys are based on straight lines, flower beds and squares of the regular shape. Bushes and trees are trimmed.

2) English garden – divides into two categories, depending on the natural placement of all objects. This style originated in England in 18th century after the Baroque era went out of fashion. The basics for this style are distinguished by beautiful smooth natural lines, paved cobblestones or stone walkways. All objects preserve its natural state as maximum as possible, which is absent in French parks. Also, distinguishing feature of said parks is a multilevel approach to planting.

3) Chinese style – basis for this style fully harmonized when placing garden compositions. All is subject to the laws of Eastern philosophy and has deep sacral meaning, which is absent in European cultures.

4) Muslim (Mauritian garden) – reflection of Eastern wisdom and slowness. Aromas of exotic flowers, birdsong, quiet pond sounds fully contribute to relaxation and pacification. In eastern countries, parks and garden spaces have always been pieces of heaven on Earth. All Islam laws must be obeyed when arranging park's architecture. It was at the palaces of eastern rulers that garden and park art have been actively developing.

Harmony and beauty of natural islands have positively affected on physical forms and inner peace. The positive influence on emotional state of the person through nature and right organization of surrounding has been proven long time ago by scientific researches. Fully planned design of projected territory will bring joy and satisfaction to a person, located on said territory. Theory of planning of parks and squares of European and Asian civilizations differs as much as, frameworks of philosophical views and global perception.

The emergence of park territories matched with predominance of so-called landscape style in gardening and park art. Many territories of park zones of said era, that fall in line with techniques of independent landscape planning, have been preserved. Abridged or partially reconstructed territories of large park arrays of older origins – period of regular style with prevailing geometric fragments of planning were formed.

The middle and the end of XIX century have left behind samples of random mixture of regular and picturesque compositional methods of town square construction. Square of modern big city with wide streets and tall buildings, with its new architecture, naturally, takes on a new artistic look. And if currently, there are no examples of full-fledged solutions, there are still some features of architectures of modern town square.

Let us consider following definition of city parks – is a place, where people can spend their free time, get to know each other in safe space, rest up from the hustle and the bustle of the city and

simply enjoy nature. Park zones enable in improvement of air quality and are habitat for species of flora and fauna. Also, it helps in uniting urban population and increase in quality of lives.

According to statistics for monitoring on leisure and culture parks' activities, it has been identified that most frequent visitors during the first half of the day are seniors, and number of them with pre-school children. Young and middle-aged people prevalently visit park during evening time to relax after work day, enjoy silence and be more intimate with nature. During winter, majority of visitors comprises of fans of skiing, ice skating and sledging. Therefore, main purpose of city parks – providing recreation and socially educational work to its visitors.

Main requirement for these parks is a presence of zones of quiet relaxation with pleasure and domestic subzones and zones of active leisure with subzones for entertainment and games. Territories of architectural sights and gardening and park arts can be classified under term “park”.

In landscape-gardening art, there are new concepts like “art-object”, “synthetic element” of urban environment with vivid artistic expressiveness that make use of fully or partially traditional means of fine and plastic art. To create design and engineering tools on the basis of modern engineering and technical means, there is a construction of new facilities happening, that increases visual quality of environment, since visual environment is a determining factor for its comfort. Based on the historical review of the inclusion of facilities of decorative and applied art and art-objects within urban environment, a classification of these facilities is proposed based on the principle of structural-semantic hierarchy: by the nature of composition (three-dimensional, flat), by the type composition (sculptural (monumental, monumental and decorative, genre, mounted, round), installations (informational, interactive, modular, decorative and functional), frontal compositions (by subject).

Within varieties of art-objects, one can distinguish following genres: domestic, animalistic, historical, mythological, allegorical, surrealistic and so on. It is also distributed according to materials, implemented in the development of monumental and decorative art objects and objects of art: traditional (bronze, artificial and natural stone, gypsum, wood, metal) and new (plastic, mirror, glass, fabric, household trash, as well as LED panels, projection screens, light and laser installations).

The proposed classification of objects of decorative and applied art and art objects helps in the selection of artistic means, as it provides a wide range of possibilities for its' use in architectural creativity. Each type of artistic element of urban environment is a set of traits that, depending on the application of it, the author's interpretation and its town-planning design, acquire one or another principle of shaping. The square, just like the park, is an object of the city improvement. In most cases, it is a piece of land with an area that does not exceed over two hectares. Public gardens are often located at the intersection of streets, squares or in residential areas. Their layout usually includes plots, flower beds, pathways, lawns, individual clusters of bushes and trees. These one a kind oases within a city are designed for short-term rest. So-called aesthetic square center decorated with sculptures or fountains. It is a lovely place for a walk with children and short-period relaxation while travelling through the city.

Issue of existing conditions and development of parks and squares is a relevant concern of today's world. A lot of attention is given to issues of modernization, improvement of city parks, planning on reconstruction of park zones. Main goal of construction of new or reconstruction of existing park is development of contrasting architectural and artistic atmosphere in correlation to the city [2 c. 47].

Silence, alternation of open and tennis spaces, ponds and fountains, colourful flower ornaments, picturesque clusters of trees and brushes against lawn background, has a positive effect on nervous system, mood and well-being of visitors [3 c. 87].

One of the main elements of design of facility is lawn, which serves not only as decorative ornament of the site, but also create microclimate, favourable to a humans and other species. It adds to composition harmony and fullness, purifies the air from harmful vapours, dust, gases, enables in cleanliness. It has a feature to reduce the temperature through moisture evaporation in soil, thus, increasing the moisture of ground layers, which leads to cooling effect [3 c. 76].

Let us look at landscape design as a whole set of works, which aid in changing original landscape. A.V. Sychev defines landscape design as creative activity, directed towards development of spatial environment and tools of landscape architecture, artistic construction of details of cultural landscape. That is why at the beginning of 21st century, thoughts and plans over land improvement are particularly relevant [14, c. 72].

Park management experience has been accumulating throughout centuries of Ancient times, when parks were considered to be gems of entertainment. The most popular type of city parks at the moment is a leisure park, in which people's rest in healthy natural environment is combined with educational and physical training. Per A.S. Vergunov and M.F. Denisov, it is useful to divide territory of such parks according to zones with prevailing type of use, including:

Mass events: 5-17% from total park territory;

Relaxed leisure: 50-75% from total park territory;

Cultural and educational activities (that requires isolation from noisy forms of leisure): 3-8% from total park territory;

Sports and leisure: 10-20% from total park territory;

Children's leisure - 5-10% from total park territory;

Economic: 1-5% from total park territory.

Currently, landscape design has become popular and relevant, which include design and architecture. Improvement of park territories is a basis for regular human existence in urban conditions. Object creation of landscape architecture (such as parks, city squares) is a complex and long process, consisting of stages of planning and construction, proper maintenance and operation, repair and restoration. Objects of landscape architecture are nature's components (topography, soil, water systems, vegetation), as well as various engineering construction and commutation. [11, p.25]

While considering abovementioned, we can deduce that park designs are interchangeably linked to natural conditions and general plan of city development, which dictates the nature of overall spatial concepts of multifunctional park, the basis for which is an interaction of architecture and landscape elements.

Parks and recreation area are heart of the city, and play vital role in lives of not only capital districts, but also in lives in small provincial towns.

Undoubtedly, interpenetration at such different levels of all type of creative activities opens up new opportunities for planning or urban environment, that meets all requirements of modern society. The framework for the art development is a harmonious urban environment. Growing demand for high artistic urban environment includes both disadvantages of existing planning and construction of urban spaces, and advantages of upcoming new trends in art, new technologies, construction materials. Nowadays, the most motivating factors are planning and functional and conceptual solution for design-projects of park territories.

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