

TINERETULUI PARK – FUNCTIONAL AND COMPOSITIONAL COMPONENTS IN THE URBAN LANDSCAPE OF BUCHAREST

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Abstract

Tineretului Park is a component of the urban green spaces system of Bucharest, being one of the most important green entities of the city. The current study highlights the diversity of the park landscape functions, according to the urban needs regarding the population's loisir activities. Furthermore, the aspects of the landscape composition are analyzed, as well as the manner in which the socio-economic and urban development conditions have influenced the selection of the location for the future park; moreover, the particular conditions of the site have had a determinant role in the design of the actual landscape-architectural composition, as well in the options for choosing and distributing the loisir functions in the whole park area.

Key words: urban park, landscape functions, landscape composition.

INTRODUCTION

Tineretului Park is located in the southern part of Bucharest, the site being bordered by Șerban Vodă Hill, Piscului Hill, Olteniței Highway and Tineretului Boulevard. During the 1960's the question was raised regarding the development of an urban park in this area, at that time the location being referred to as "Plângerii Valley" (Marcus, 1958). The park's surface is 83 ha, while the surface of the lake is 13 ha.

This enclosure of the site has been envisaged in the systematization and urban development plan of Bucharest since 1956; the park - as distinct green entity - was to be part of large green area ("feather") in the southern part of Bucharest. These aspects of urban development had been provided even since the Interbelic period (1935), when a sketch with general development guidelines of Bucharest was conceived (Marcus, 1958).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The methods of research and evaluation of the green area "Tineretului" are based on establishing connections between a functional landscape approach (in which function is predominant) and the compositional - stylistic

approach specific to the second half of the XX century. The connections target three approach levels for the design solution, which are reciprocally determinant: physical, social - functional and aesthetical. The physical level refers to the determination of the park's location, which was defined by the following considerations:

- the necessity to develop the urban and green landscape towards the southern part of the city;
- the nature of the soil in this area, which (except for Piscului Hill) did not allow the development in normal economical conditions of any type of urban constructions;
- the necessity to fill up the area of existing urban green spaces at that date (Carol Park, Bellu Cemetery) and the development - through this operation of the green area mentioned above;
- the construction of a valuable urban core as a point of perspective closure, which took place along side the important urban artery - Base Line North-South;
- highlighting the most favourable natural elements: the difference of topographic level between the cornice (high ground) and the Dâmbovița Meadow, also the semi-circular shape - amphitheatre style - of Piscului Hill and Șerban Vodă Hill;

- eliminating an important harmful source in this area of the city, which was affected at that time by the presence of swamps and trash deposited on the site, aspects which led to the formation of a pest hole (Marcus, 1958). The architectural-landscape composition was founded on the concept of optimal exploitation of the natural configuration of the land. Four study versions for composition design were created (Figure 1).

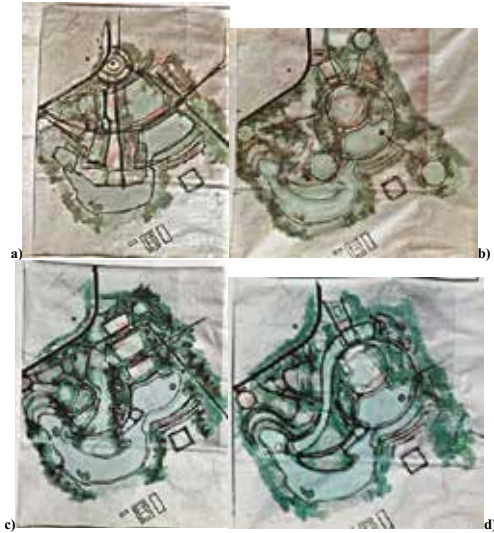


Figure 1. Study versions of Tineretului Park

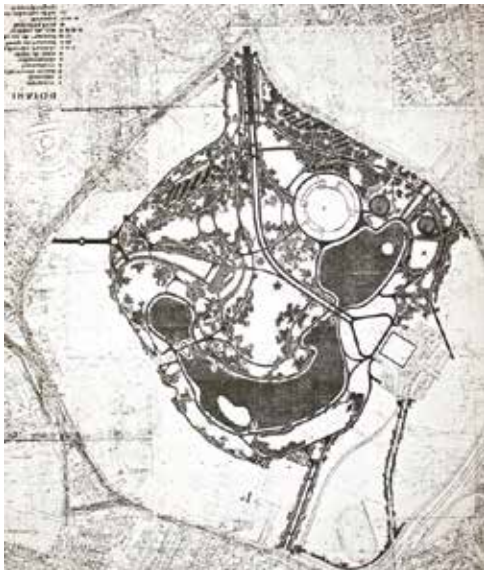


Figure 2. Final composition of Tineretului Park

The style of the final composition (approved by the beneficiary) is a mixt one, with a greater percentage of the free-landscape style (Figure 2). The complex parks of the 20th century find their best compositional solution within the mixt style, which includes and combines in resolution all the processing needs of different functions and areas of the park (Stănescu, 2008).

Regarding composition, the designers developed a complex of access paths, axes and perspective in tight correlation with the main circulation arteries in the area, by which the park is accessed. The access and the main axis of the park lead to the Sala Polivalentă building, where social cultural events are hosted, which involve a large audience. Thus, the most important alley is located alongside the main axis, which is approximately 28 meters high (Figure 2).

The landscape architect chose the preservation of the natural landscape, which is mostly the optimal solution (Stănescu, 2008). However, the terrain, being very degraded, required ample remediation works in order to assure the optimal levels of quality for the vegetation development. In this context, approximately 290000 m³ of healthy soil were brought on site, quantity mixed in with the existing soil. By means of hydromechanical works, 236000 m³ of excavation and compensational fillings were carried out.

In the place of the old swampland, a 13 ha lake was created (Figure 2), which is supplied by eight shafts of low depth (20 meters) upstream, while the excess waters are evacuated to the collector at the base of Piscului Hill.

The actual shape of the lake was created by correcting an existing profile, while pursuing the ample modification of the contour, which was supposed integrated in the general composition by shape, sensibility planning solutions conceived by the designer (Stănescu, 2008).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The park's functionality is based on the terrain conditions and the particularities of the site. The landscape architect's options for choosing and distributing the loisir functions was determined by the specifications of the project theme and by the needs regarding the spending

of free time of the inhabitants. Regarding this, the functional aspects subscribed to the general trends of urban landscape design in the 20th century: the public gardens and parks have developed in various directions in the 20th century, while the dominant types were represented by recreational and amusement parks (Kluckert, 2005).

On the other hand, a garden should not be a substitute for nature, but an artistic expression for bringing the human being in close contact with nature - this aspect is met by a public park because nature is used as a frame for relaxation and fun (Kluckert, 2005).

By applying the connections method in the compositional approach, the present study demonstrates that Tineretului Park is the result

of an integrator concept in the creation of the designing solution, concept which brings together at the same time physical, social – functional and aesthetic elements, all of which based on environmental factors, on the physical characteristics of the site, and also on the urban development and socio-economic factors.

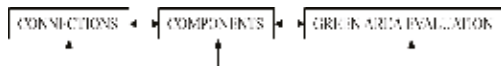


Figure 3. Diagram of the composition's integrated formation

The synthesis of the determinant compositional characteristics of Tineretului Park is presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Synthetic evaluation of the determinant compositional characteristics of Tineretului Park

CONNECTIVITY	COMPONENTS	GREEN AREA EVALUATION		
		QUANTITY	QUALITY	EFFICIENCY IN THE URBAN LANDSCAPE
PHYSICAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - urban definition - extension of the city's green space system - area landscape - terrain composition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - distance to city centre - surface of the park: 83 ha 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - personalization within the city's green space system - urban landmark - conformity with the site's natural character 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - urban comfort - capitalization of natural potential - accessibility - diversification of urban texture - beneficial effects in the urban microclimate
FUNCTIONAL AND SOCIAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - integrator character of functionality - population and area serviced - nature of use (individuals or groups) - average use time (days/week) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - landscape functions: loisir, rest, relaxation, sport, nautical recreation, parade - facilities, equipment and physical furnishing, distinct for each type of function 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - coherent organization of recreational activities - differential application for categories of users - specificity of facilities in proportion to the park's profile and categories of users 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - social utility - diversification of free time activities for the population - multiple possibilities for socialization
AESTHETICAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - mixt composition type with predominant elements from the free style - composition principles: axis, perspective, symmetry and asymmetry, dominant, composition centre, contrast, accent, calibration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - optimum mineral/vegetal ratio - shapes of water bodies and alleys - contours of vegetation groups and clusters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - unity and variety - conformism and non-conformism - diversity of mineral and vegetal textures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - enrichment of the general urban ambiance - aesthetic diversity

The main function for Tineretului Park is that of rest - relaxation - promenade, materialized

by the alleys system (including the lake's contour alley). Furthermore, the lake can be

used as an area for practicing nautical recreation activities (boat rides). The park also holds functions for practicing outside sports, playgrounds for children, and also the rose garden which corresponds to the functions of education and floral décor; the most diverse functions are found within most of the contemporary European parks, e.g. Els Pinetons Park from Ripollet del Valles - Spain. The project comprises the construction of a pedestrian alley which surrounds the park and unites a series of platforms with the dimensions 8×55 m, having various usages: barbeques, children's games, a bar for barbeque serving (Mostaedi, 2004).

CONCLUSIONS

The development of contemporary urban parks answers to a wide range of functional and aesthetical-compositional demands. All these comply with the whole composition of the park, spatial layout, the landscape functions included within the park, as well as with the vegetation components and design. This aspect affirms the landscape cogitation and also the evolution in good condition of all the functions,

establishing at the same time a most valuable natural support for the facilities corresponding to each type of function.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The current paper was elaborated on the project for Tineretului Park, developed in the design institute "Proiect București" by architect Valentin Donose, the author of the project and the coordinator of the entire construction of the park.

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