

RESTORATION STUDY IN ORDER TO INTEGRATE NEW FUNCTIONS IN THE ACTUAL STRUCTURE OF OROMOLU MANOR

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Abstract

In time mansions and palaces that belonged to nobles and representatives of the Romanian monarchy underwent transformations that were due to changes in the architectural ensemble of dominant functions. Many of them have lost the function of dwelling and turned in office buildings or public interest. Mansion at Pausesti Maglasi Valcea County, which belonged to family can be a model for transforming ancient architectural structures with a single family dwelling leading role in buildings for training and leisure. The methodology to integrate new functions in the context of restoration of built architecture targeting and assembly of garden landscaping related Oromolu Mansion. To conduct the study of landscape restoration has outlined a set of specific analysis of complex landscape that provided information absolutely needed to successfully perform the task of adapting the current functioning of the whole history, atmosphere and ambience of the reference time fall monument, so restoring the whole area is not foreign to the values heads and authentic memoirs. After synthesizing this information it has been generated a series of major strategic directions that underpins the concept development and restoration solution / redevelopment landscaping.

Key words: restoration, adaptation, refunctionalisation.

INTRODUCTION

If the restoration of works of art or architecture, the study and intervention aims mainly accurate reconstruction of the original shape and appearance of that object, in the restoration of the historic landscape, the main objective is to reconstruct the atmosphere of that landscape and not necessarily to restore the original state of its component entities.

Garden, as part of the landscape, generates by itself a certain kind of atmosphere and implicitly refers to the archetypal patterns that generated the history of European garden art garden classic or romantic gardens.

Classic garden style praised supremacy of reason, order, geometry and human power to master nature, while romantic garden style rediscovered the beauty, perfection and harmony generated by human relationship with nature, gardens of that time were greatly reflecting natural model as unaltered by man. (Ilescu, 2008)

"The Romanian Garden "takes these features, the two styles of gardens and combines them according to the measure of local

understanding, however, beyond simple imitation or use of formal models and principles characteristic of European gardens (Toma, 2001)

The spirit and atmosphere that gives life to Romanian garden is rather a natural space, abundant with fruits, which provides shelter from the scorching sun, path that you refresh in cold and clear water, shining of people cheerfulness, which resounded with music and noise of games and parties.

These are the characteristic features found in most Romanian gardens, which established them authenticity and pragmatic character, inclined to practical use without neglecting the harmonious relationship with European models taken as reference in the way of building the gardens.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Since the World Heritage Convention drafted in 1972 in Paris, are considered part of the cultural heritage those sites that constitute the work of man or man and nature, serving as a valuable historically, aesthetic, ethnological

and anthropological landmarks. Expression of the relationship between civilization and nature, place of leisure and reverie, the garden captures an idealized image of the world carrying over time, culture, style, age and originality of the creator.

In the absence of relevant historical documents and other sources of information today in an effort to restore the garden, were conducted historical research on similar buildings in the same space-time framework – XX century.

The set of analyzes carried out on the site aimed to identify the historical reference period and items of special historical value, assessment and quantification of the existing plant fund value, defining the existing functions, facilities, their current status and the way they relate with each other, the geoclimatic environment that houses the garden and its relationship with the surroundings.

Research has revealed a major empirical and spontaneous landscape design intended to ennoble the buildings constructed at that time.

Regarding the garden of Oromolu there were identified pieces of furniture having a special historical and aesthetic value (two benches carved in natural stone, but placed indiscriminately); plant specimens whose size and approximate age suggests that they are part of the composition of vegetable garden during the early twentieth century (linden - *Tilia platiphillos*, Maple - *Acer platanoides*, Ash - *Fraxinus excelsior*, Oak - *Quercus pedunculiflora*, pine - *Pinus nigra*, spruce - *Picea abies*, yew - *Taxus baccata*, fir - *Abies alba*) and at the same time revealed a spatial zoning that may suggest how the garden was organized (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Spatial zoning of the garden (own source)

Certain geometric formations made of vegetal and elements and the vertical systematization of the land, suggested the existence of models using the principles of space organization in

landscape architecture: garden's space of honor for the main façade of the manor consists of a sequence of two terraces whose difference is taken over by a slope with two sets of symmetrically placed stairs (Figure 2), on the left and right along the perspective that opens up the windows of the mansion.



Figure 2. Stairs – constructed elements that are part of the garden initial planning (own source).

On the upper terrace there is a spatial formation of circular invoicem made of *Buxus sempervirens* specimens (Figure 3). Specimens phytopathology status is precarious, the entities being aged, unstructured and aesthetically unpleasing. Spatial organization and the use of vegetation in thi area gives the mansion a representation framework that includes overall perspective to and from the edifice (the garden), geometric compositions, symmetrical to the central perpendicular axis for the main façade of the manor.



Figure 3. Circular space shaped by a group of shrubs of *Buxus sempervirens* the species - the initial arrangement of the garden (own source).

At the top of the forest garden was identified plant specimens arrangement according to principles of landscape architecture, trees and *Tilia* species *Tilia cordata platiphillos* being arranged in an inconsistent alignment, extending throughout the northern side of the

garden. The alignment keeps a relatively constant distance to the north fence of the property, suggesting the possible presence of a utility road in this area of the garden (Figure. 4).



Figure 4. Alignment of trees and the utility road, part of the initial planning of the garden (own source).

In the "forest garden type" the spatial arrangement of vegetation and its diversity is an undeniable reference to the characteristics romantic landscape gardening, seemingly natural way through the bush and trees are composed in this area (Figure 5).



Figure 5. Forest garden (own source).

The vegetal spectrum, in this area covers both kind of species: from the local ecosystem, and exotic species such as *Platanus acerifolia*, *Paulownia tomentosa*, *Acer saccharinum*, *Ginkgo biloba*, *Maclura aurantiaca*, *Sophora japonica*, etc. The dominant species are represented by specimens of *Carpinus betulus*, *Juglans regia*, *Acer platanoides* and *Tilia platyphellos*.

The significant percentage, the favorable pedoclimatic regime and good status of exotic species in this ecosystem supports the idea of using some species that are very similar with the existing ones. Also, the spontaneously herbaceous layer identified in the site indicate, in addition to invasive plant groups, a number of perennial grasses category (*Phleum*, *Festuca*,

Dactylis Lolium etc.), possibly favored by soil composition, which is an excellent environment for developing this type of perennial vegetation.

The existing plant fund and the evolutive state in which it is located makes a good relationship with the neighbouring landscape as vegetation having reached maturity, is part of a massive plant extending on several ha. in the north of the property. In contrast, in the southern part of the site passes the National Road 64A, which brings a transport station (a visual conflict with the character and atmosphere of the manor) and noisy traffic. In the distance, a series of hills bring back to sight an image and an atmosphere that is suitable to the dominant character of this historic monument.

In time, however, there is a risk that the image and character of these picturesque surroundings are altered by various elements built that does not fit in a landscape of such invoice. This involves taking measures limiting factor inappropriate assault on the historical monument. Unsightly constructions, noise, visual and air pollution are harmful factors that can be annihilated by legal measures of protection of historical monuments outside localities. This approach requires legal protection zone delineation and establishment of the historical monument (500 m. - Measured from the outer limit of the property), which had already limit accompany the historical and plans should provide for landscaping (Law nr.422 / 2001, art. 8). At the same time, planting trees and shrubs with dense contour perimeter of the property will be a visual and sound barrier that will allow isolation to the historic area in relation with national road.

Accessibility of motor vehicles on the property is made with great difficulty because there is no space to allow a stationary waiting outside the perimeter of national road 64A until the opening of doors by an authorized person (Figure 6).

This issue raises the necessity of establishing functional withdrawals for the purposes of traffic on National Road and the flow conditions in the roadway accesses the property (or a band's speed reduction or an outlet practiced within the property, the input roadway).



Figure 6. Site access (own source).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

In terms of the concept of landscaping, the solution is focused on highlighting all of the "strong" aspects that characterizes the historic mansion (studied in complex analysis of landscape) and integration of facilities and functions to meet the high requirements of new functional purpose of the building. In this regard were designed multifunctional spaces, areas of interest, objectives and diversified atmospheres which provided perfect relaxation, both active and passive activities that invite and encourage playful, and meditative, providing abundant color, tactile, olfactory and characteristic charm and harmony of the Romanian garden type and to give benefit of the murmur and the cool water, gentle warmth of a clearing or occurring in forest meadows.

At stylistic approach is proposed the mixed style, style that characterizes gardens established during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, bringing gardens that harmonize the two styles that preceded it; classic and romantic. The area in the vicinity of the manor is treated in a conventional manner using geometric rigor and order to enhance the architectural value of the building.

The main facade is accompanied by a reminiscent circular lawn making an imaginary circle of buxus species, but the overall appearance, and also in size, obstruct the affirmation of the value of construction in relation to land. The pedestrian walkways stresses the lawn circularity, then backing off two branches that lead to natural stone stairs that go down to the lower terrace. At the end of the path is a decorative pond, also circular in form, a keystone closing the semicircular design of the alleys on the lower terrace. In this space there is the possibility of organizing

outdoor group sessions or tea can provide a delightful atmosphere (Figure 7).



Figure 7. The representative area of the garden – virtual simulation (own source).

The transition between the levels of the two terraces is taken by a succession of stairs that are designed to emphasize the geometric nature of this area. The end point of the shaft which is drawn perpendicular to the main facade of the manor, is supported by an end view defined by a group of five pieces of pyramidal oak (*Quercus rubra* "Fastigiata"). This plant is a focus group color and a volume that will serve to structure and prioritize the entire space of representation in the vicinity of the manor.

To the right of the mansion, near the proposed park, a group of three specimens of the *Liquidambar styraciflua* (which turns bright red in autumn) founded another accent color point, making a very interesting contrast, is profiled against a background consisting of pieces of the species *Acer saccharinum* (colored in golden yellow in the same period). All proposed plant composition in the representativeness of the manor offers a varied but unified solution, based on a volumetric decor and color spread and sustained throughout the growing season.

Both species, existing and proposed, with persistent foliage or obsolete offers a harmony of shapes and colors through all the decorative elements: flowers, foliage texture and color coating, architecture and texture stem and canopy.

Moving in the "forest garden type" it has been proposed a number of elements to reinforce the potential landscape of manor garden. After studying topographical plan and following the requirements imposed by the theme launched (so to arrange the existing cave), were able to

identify the key points that could be a spring area and a lake area in the garden. The stylistic approach for this romantic area encouraged us to introduce a watercourse in this proposal, the route meandered with stone or earth bank covered with grassland. The role of water in this landscaping proposal is to give life to the space, to reflect and double through reflection the trees verticality, increasing the character, sometimes mystical of the garden, but also to enrich through movement and sound the atmosphere of the place. The river route arise small islands formed almost natural way water finds its way through the forest, river captured by specific vegetation. Aquatic plants and perennial grasses accompanying riverside bring more atmosphere to the texture and color range of the whole arrangement. In the upper course of the river forms a waterfall, such as water around us would find the natural drainage outlet, on its way upstream (north side domain) to downstream, where it meets Olanesti River (south side). Fortunately, the natural existing terrain allows, without major land movements, the potentiation of the garden's space garden and the introduction, almost naturally, an element so much important for a romantic atmosphere in Historic Gardens, namely water (Figure 8).



Figure 8 Waterfall area – virtual simulation (own source).

In the vicinity of this area, with absolute power recharging energy, there could not be another area for passive recreational activities (contemplation, rest, relaxation). At the same time, this space can be a dining area outdoors, near the main access to the historical manor building, this being one of the main arguments underlying the establishment in that area of

functions that include relaxation and water. The platform covered with natural stone slabs carved with lawn between joints will create a special atmosphere and the decor will be absolutely delightful. For the furnishing of this platform there will be two options: either use easily removable furniture, allowing its transport inside when the weather conditions are unfavorable, or the option to mount a fixed body of natural stone table, with similar banquetts, to provide strength and stability, but in a way that fits perfectly and harmoniously into the special atmosphere of this area. In this case, the decision will be subject to further analysis, together with the client space. The waterfall will become a spectacular element that will transform this dining area into one of the three major areas of interest in the proposed arrangement. The characteristic landscape of the "forest garden" lays the dining platform at the highest point, thus providing an overview of the watercourse of the river. In the forest, the lowest topographical land turns into a special place, by joining three other very important elements - lake, gazebo and lawn (Figure 9).



Figure 9 Lake and gazebo area – virtual simulation (own source).

During the vegetation analysis was identified in this area, one of the most spectacular plant specimens from the entire site. A superb specimen of the species *Platanus acerifolia*, a spatial structuring element is in this area of the garden. The conclusions of the analysis performed on the vegetation proposed to eliminate several common species around the dish to give it a major importance and landscape value.

To emphasize the romantic landscape value and character of the area, the presence of a gazebo situated partly in the console above the lake,

and inspired by the traditional romanian architecture (pillars and arches) can complete a picture of romantic garden.

The pedestrian walkways and routes of natural stone thrown into the grass, walk you through this space by passing successively through the brook, forest, and even water, reminiscent of natural bridges, created naturally in natural streams.

At the left and the right access point in kiosk are placed two weeping willows (*Salix alba* 'vitellina') whose role is to enhance the romantic atmosphere and the presence of water in the area.

There were also put into value, view points that open from the entrance into the property, by marking perspective endpoints with vertical forms like columnar oak (*Quercus rubra* "Fastigiata"), which emphasizes and highlight adjacent items (waterfall, mansion).

The proposal for landscaping will provide solutions to preserve and protect the image and atmosphere of the manor against harmful external factors that might alter the character of the historic and picturesque garden (Figure 10).

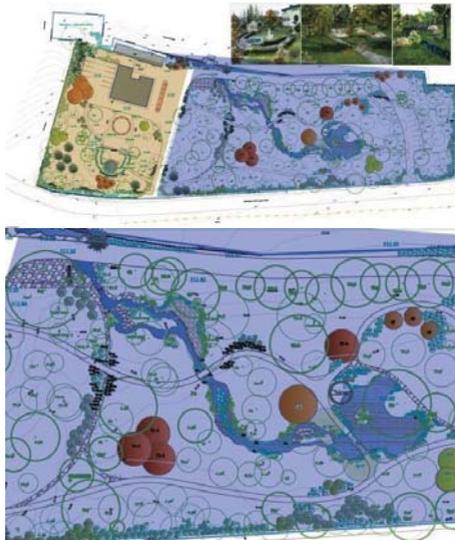


Fig. 10 Plan with the proposed design and detail over the forest garden area (own source)

CONCLUSIONS

Following the synthesis of analyzes it was revealed that the historical reference period to be taken into account in the garden landscape restoration approach is between nineteenth and twentieth centuries, a period in art history that is characterized by a combination of the two gardens reference styles (classic and romantic) and creating mixed style (or composite).

At the same time it is necessary to answer by landscaping restoration to all functional requirements of the new destination of the manor, adapted to current needs of modern society without altering the actual atmosphere, substance and character of valuable historical monument.

Pedo-climatic context favorable and presence in a state of emergency exotic plant specimens encourages the use of decorative species to create an authentic romantic atmosphere.

Auto and pedestrian circulation shall provide a maximum degree of accessibility and to serve the full potential of the area Oromolu landscape.

Landscaping proposal will solve all requirements and problems encountered so successfully to reconstruct the atmosphere of the early twentieth century gardens, and to fall in the current XXI century.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This research was conducted with support from the central bank, through a pilot project functional restructuring of historic properties.

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