

The Landscape Architecture Association of Montenegro

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In last couple of years I have been engaged in making contributions to the television show called "Letters from Herceg Novi." Herceg Novi is also called "the city of flowers and greenery," and through these contributions that attempt to explain and defend his name. Because of that there was shootings regarding city gardens, antiques and modern, the hotels parks, public parks, about different autochthonous and **alochthonous** plants that are located along the streets, squares and in the garden.

The show is carried by newly established a local TV station that has modest technical capabilities. Shooting is realized in summer period, it's based on advertising touristic season and it is mostly presenting on BN television. For each show (10 – 12 in summer period) presentation in duration from 3 to 5 minutes, and till now it was shouting 34 presentations. Here will be showed only parts from some presentations.

Before that we want to offer few basic things about city.

For significant and attractive place among the highest mountain Orjent 1895m and the entrance to one of the most beautiful bays in the world the Bay of Boka Kotorska is place where Herceg Novi is situated, and it is the youngest medieval buildings in the Adriatic.

Located at the 42°27' north latitude and 18 ° 33 'east longitude. Municipality Herceg Novi covering area of 235 km². Regarding last census in 2011 year, Herceg Novi has 30. 864 residents and includes 39 major and minor settlements. Above the town Orijen mountain is rising (1895m above sea level, known for its endemic plant species, recreational trails and skiing in the late spring months). Across town is located a peninsula Lustica, with its highest peak Obosnik (586 m). The entrance to the Bay is located between cape Ostro and Mirište and width is 2.900m.

Herceg Novi has a specific microclimate, which is caused by the southern exposition, closeness to the sea, limestone substratum and mountainous hinterland which prevents the breakthrough of cold air masses. Climate is Mediterranean: dry and warm summers and very soft winters. Herceg Novi has the average annual temperature of 16, 2 °C , and also around 200 sunny days per year. Sea temperature in summer period is around 24° C. Average annual precipitation is very high and is 1,930 mm/m². Characteristic winds are: westerly mistral wind that blows mainly in summer, wind (bura), north wind and the south wind, south wind blowing in the winter period.

First association when Herceg Novi is mentioned are „city of mimosas”, city of flowers”, “city of greenness”... Tourists and visitors enthusiastically speak about the lush greenery that is encountered at every step, about rare and exotic plants that are rarely found in this region. There are numerous descriptions of many writers who enthusiastically talk about the beauty of the city and its "gardens" smell of orange blossom, beauties of bougainvillea that climbs over facade of houses...

"Everywhere in and around it, can be find a wide variety of fruits, herbs and flowers that are hard to find together anywhere else, oranges, figs, dates, almonds, pepper tree, oleander, wisteria, mimosa, camellia, magnolia, aloes, cacti , laurel, cedar, cypress, palm, eucalyptus. Herceg Novi is a large botanical garden above the azure sea "Everywhere in and around it, can be found a wide variety of fruits, herbs and flowers that are hard to find together anywhere else: oranges, figs, dates, almonds, pepper tree, oleander, wisteria, mimosa, camellia, magnolia, aloes, cacti , laurel, cedar, cypress, palm, eucalyptus. Herceg Novi is a large botanical garden above the azure sea ... "(Dragan M. Jeremić, „Herceg Novom u čast“, iz predgovora za knjigu D. Kostića „Impresije – Viđenja Herceg Novog“)"

What's really behind these concepts? What is behind a lot of descriptions of the city as a "green oasis", "city of eternal flowers and greenery?"

The tradition of editing and processing of personal gardens was passing down through the generations. Sailors and traders were bringing from their trips a lot of different plants in order to keep their memories on

long journeys. There was a story that one major of the city from the early twenty century, Mr. Mirko Komnenović, asked every sailor to bring plants from their travels which will later on be planted and nurtured. Many of those plants could not be adapted because of the climate that is prevails in this regions, but however a big number of them survived and adapted to the environmental condition and they become an integral part of landscape. So in these days it is impossible to imagine picture without palm trees, lemon trees, orange trees, bougainvillea, also interesting is that agaves adapted very well, and quiet develop spontaneously – they are in nature as a part of natural vegetation (kobila, Mamula)

"This his plants ennoble a city and make that the entire city look very poetic, mighty stone is lost in it and becomes suddenly swaying, like that he look like green air, in the area constructed of rugged high mountains, gloomy, sad, and the sea, which is like a river crept up on their feet - it turns the city into an unusually pleasant oasis, which has exalted kinda enough." (D. Kostić "Impressions - visions of Herceg Novi ")

Way back in 1908. A group of wealthy citizens of Herceg Novi has decided to build hotel assets to be "the honor, decoration and beautiful favor of New - town." (D. Kostić „Impresije – viđenja Herceg Novog“) Buildings and traffic for foreigners in Herceg Novi" and they build the hotel "Boka", one of the first hotels in the area. Hotel had at that time "a hot bath and a central fuel". It started working before World War I and worked until the earthquake in 1979. Hotel which did not exist more than one century become the center of all cultural activities. Costumed balls, concerts in the part, parties, and meetings of various associations were organized in Hotel "Boka" A lot of loves were born there, but also some ended there. Around the pond is place where graduates were collecting to celebrate end of school, mothers to walk with their kids, in 1939 on international fairs in Paris and London, hotel earned the cold medal for hygiene, service and comfort

But thing that mostly attracted numerous visitors, tourists and travelers, was a beautiful park that that is modeled on fashionable hotels in France and Italian Riviera. Most of credits for landscaping decoration of the park is attributed to Mr. Mirko Komnenović, who was president of the Action Society and the Mayor of Herceg Novi, and minister in the government of the former Yugoslavia ...

The oldest written record about the park is from 1935. When "Bokeljska zora" announced an article published by the magazine "Naš vrt", Review of culture and for the entire gardening from Zagreb, under the title "Botanički vrh na jadraniu". The writer is a Mr. Vale Vouk, later on a professor at the University of Zagreb, founded the Arboretum in Trsteno. Author writes about this park as the most beautiful park in the Adriatic, and also in time of establishing it was precisely taking care regarding plants that will be adopted in environmental conditions, so plants are only "south and tropical", because of that there was variety of palms, sour and sweet oranges, tangerines, lemons, colorful oleanders ("the strongest collections in Europe") different cacti and agaves. It was listed as a very rare Casuarina equisetifolia. Also it is mentioned a large number of clubbers – bougainvillea that blooms here for entire ten months. As a great value it is mentioned the creation of the park, "spent a bargain" because the plants are procured in the nursery in Herceg Novi, which was one of the largest palm nursery in the former Yugoslavia.

Park became a model according to which a lot of other parks in the area were created. There is a beautiful story of how the three citizen of Dubrovnik come to Herceg Novi in order to ask Mirko Komnenović for help to create similar parks in Dubrovnik. Mirko offer every help, advice, seed and everything else, except for one thing. Those people from Dubrovnik were surprised because they did not understand what exactly they cannot get. Mirko explained to them " I will do everything, help in every way, but one thing I can do for you, I can not trasfer mild climate to Dubrovnik"

Residents of Herceg Novi and then also city authorities have realized long time ago that decorated city attracts tourists, so they are trying to beautify the city by investing in its construction and landscaping.

"Glas Boke" year 1935 in the article "Uređujmo and proljepšavajmo naša mijesta" talks about the need of cities Boke Kotorske in order to improve hygiene, traffic and esthetics, for the reason to develop tourism. Thus in one place it says: "... And what would happen if a pedestrian or a stranger, when passing through our place, found what he had dreamed and yearned and what would rise him up in a line of cultural, attractive towns, which perform honor to the people and the fatherland for and what would it blew fine line, privlačivih, cultural cities and towns, which do honor to the people and the fatherland! "

It started with establishing organizations for improving attractiveness in every place along the municipality, so there was organization for improving beauty of Igalo "Tamaris", organization for improving forest and trimming "Savina", and organization for trimming of Bijela "Pijavica". It looks like every step was planted, that was struggled for every inch in order to improve city look with green. Writer from this region

written: yes "... at certain times of the year, when the oranges and lemons are in flower, the people have even during the day to close the windows of their houses, because they were usually drunk, from the smell from their gardens and yards. "

Through the years, decisions were made for preserving vegetation and green fund, about developing the city, forming tourism funds from which will be taken reserves in order to buy seedlings which will later on be given to population to keep them planted in their "gardens" but especially along the streets.

In Herceg Novi, at the beginning of the twentieth century were built many villas with large "Giardini" (gardens). For each of these homes it was created a garden especially adapted to the terrain and location, and each is a unique experience. Among them is the house "kod dva lava" the street that connects the Old Town and Toplu, sometimes family Anteljević, today Villa Danila porodice Zatezalo.

The house was built in 1907 and garden was completed in 1909 in the French, Ground floors style. The orchestra still exists because the present owners, the family Zatezalo insisted on preserving the style.

The main entrance is from the street and near the house is element detail which this house make remembered. Large entrance gate by the street with two pillars on which there are figures of lions. So today in the Herceg Novi, used the phrase "kod dva lava " (at two lions)

From the gate there are long staircase leading colonnade of Korcula stone on both sides approach. The columns are connected wrought iron called "odrinom" on which is growing grapes and kiwi. "Portun," as it was called by its original owners, remains the same today as it was a century ago.

Around the house is a terrace with low decorative walls of brick and stone with PITARI of terracotta which were once planted čerošpanje or geraniums, corals, and today succulent plants. Terrace was made of red đuričkog stone. Even today, this same terrace around the house even though the stone faded after hundreds of years of exposure to all weather conditions.

At the main entrance of the house is still in the red bougainvillea with pink flowers that which arrived from Johannesburg and for which is believed to have flourished during the winter. In fact, a few years after she arrived from the southern hemisphere, the bougainvillea is actually flourished during the winter, until she slowly adapted to the seasons.

Palm trees are growing, it seems like always this area, they are popular and inevitable element of any small or large free space. They can be found on squares, parks, along roads, in private gardens, ... Today's image, or to say the modern cultural landscape, Herceg Novi is impossible to imagine without the presence of palm trees.

Regarding "arrival" palm trees to the Adriatic coast exist many theories: first palm by seamen who sailed and as a memory of the regions that are far away they and which they saw, then the first palm tree by the Turks, during their occupation and rule of the region .

The first mention of the palm trees in Herceg Novi from the seventeenth century in the writings of the Turkish traveler Evliya Çelebi, who in one of the articles states that: *" in the lower city, at the front of the house Zekrija - age is a tall date palms tree that rises skyward. In the town, on the coast of the creek Tople at home Hadži-Hasan-Age one is one wonderful dates tree, but I do not know whether it give any result. "*

In modern Herceg Novi there are several species of palms and but mostly there are four types of canary date palm, Washingtonia, high and low Palmetto, this shows that they are best acclimatized to the conditions and environment conditions and also show remarkable resilience to the negative impacts. Some individual types of other palm species can be found mainly in private gardens. Except for their decorative features, palm trees were planted especially because of their strong root system that improve connection of the land, which is of great importance in Herceg steep terrain.

Here we are again this year in discovering the secrets of flowers and greenery, as we like to point with pleasure.

In previous years we have been introducing you to some of our gardens (Giardini), with our streets and hotels, with the plants that decorate our facades, with very rare species of plants that are grown in our gardens and those and also with those that are usual kinds in our regions. This big richness of plants has been made with a big effort through the generations of our residents who have tried to make look of this city more more attractive to tourists, for guests, for passers-by and visitors, but also for the residents. All this hard work was generously supported by a mild climate that is gained in this area.

The richness of plant species grown in Herceg Novi best present data that show the latest research: in all green areas are cultivated over 1000 species of plants, including native and non-native species. Moreover this

figure is not final, because the study included only representative objects of architecture landscape. Number of plant species that are grown is likely to be much higher, because every, even the small one has its own garden of rare plants.

It is impossible to talk about one garden and not about another is very difficult because there are a lot in the Herceg Novi that is very difficult to say which is more beautiful, functional, or richer. Each of our gardens has something that is specific, each one is a reflection of their owners and their preference, each one is a mirror of their souls. It does not matter whether the garden is neat or built according to the rules of the profession, or simply being created as a collection of rare plants, whether it is a real holiday or recreation, or simply as an expression of wealth, such as antiques gardens that you saw, or emerged from the needs and uses such as plantations of mimosa and various citrus.

We come to the end of today's series.

This year also we have discovered the secrets of our gardens (djerdini)

We talked about lot of different things, about the plants that grow in our city about cacti, lagerstremijama, bamboo, and laurels and oleanders, which grow naturally in the area. We present you very rare flowering of agave, we walked through the Savinska Dubrava, we have demonstrated the formation of a new gardens, introduced you to some new and unusual plants.

We hope that with our contributions close you at least part of the plant world that are acquired in the Herceg Novi, as a great treasure that we have. We hope that we also reminded Novljane on some plants to think about preservation our greens, and nature conservation in general. In particular we hope that we have at least one viewer encouraged to think about planning his own đardina.