



COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Futuroropa

For a new vision of landscape and territory

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Landscape

Territory

Nature

Culture

Heritage

Human beings

Society

*Sustainable
development*

Ethics

Aesthetic

Inhabitants

Perception

Inspiration

Genius loci

*Public Space
and Landscape:
The Human Scale*





Prefaces

- Public space, **Maria José Festas** p. 3
 Public spaces and 'glocalised' landscapes, **Elias Bériatios** p. 3

Introduction

- Human scale, **Maguelonne Déjeant-Pons** p. 4

I. What public open space?

- Urban space, a true European heritage, **Giuseppe Fera** p. 6
 Urban landscape and quality of the living environment, **Maria Maddalena Alessandro** p. 8
 Public space and urban landscape, **Florencio Zoido Naranjo** p. 10
 Public spaces and closed landscapes, **Maria Linarejos Cruz Perez** p. 12
 Welcome to our city dear customer – On the commercialisation of public space,
Daniel Nilsson p. 14
 The people of the sun and the wind: the Sámi people, **Stefan Mikaelsson** p. 16
 Berlin-Ankara, a journey to people and open spaces, **Ellen Fetzer, Siri Frech** p. 18

II. Approaches

- Quality in urban open spaces in Norway,
Ellen Husaas, Liv Kirstine Mortensen, Kristine Omholt-Jensen, Magnhild Wie p. 20
 Open spaces in the Moscow Oblast, **Alexander Frolov, Konstantin Ananichev** p. 22
 Reconstruction of a public space in a city at the Arctic Circle: Rovaniemi,
Riitta Lönnström, Leena Ruokanen p. 24
 Public space in Bucharest, **Gheorghe Patrascu** p. 26
 Finding re-inspiration in Vilnius, **Alfredas Jomantas** p. 28
 Landscape in the border zone of natural and human factors: the Lake Sevan,
Ruzan Alaverdyan p. 30

III. Experiences, places

- The Baku Boulevard: the pride of the nation, **Faig Sadigov** p. 32
 Protection of historic streetscapes in Maltese Urban Conservation Areas,
Frans Mallia, Joseph Magro Conti, Anja Delia p. 36
 Inventory of squares in Portugal, **Carlos Dias Coelho** p. 38
 Two streets, one square in the Catalan Transfrontier Space Eurodistrict,
Gilles Planas, Bernat Llauredó Auquer p. 38
 Belgrade's 'Urban Pockets', **Nevena Vasiljevic** p. 40
 The Project of Heartlands Cornwall, **Scott James, John Fleet** p. 42
 The Park of the Planet Cities – an open space for realisation of creative industries
 and innovations in Tver, **Vyacheslav M. Bashilov, Vladimir I. Obratsov** p. 44
 A landscape project approach of the Corridor of the Imrahor Valley
 and the Eymir-Mogan Lakes in Ankara, **Ebru Alarslan, Tuba Sayan, Yasemin Tabar** p. 46
 An urban open green space of Belgrade: Topčider Park,
Biljana Filipovic, Dejana Lukic p. 50
 Public parks of the historic town of Cetinje, Montenegro, **Dobriča Vlahovic** p. 52
 Multifunctional green open space in the centre of Warsaw: Mokotowskie Field Park,
Magdalena Wolicka p. 54
 The Seveso and Meda Oak Wood (*Bosco delle Querce*): a public landscape space,
Giovanni Bana, Paolo Lassini, Massimo Donati, Massimiliano Fratter p. 56

IV. Elements of public space

- Facade colours in Europe: idealising the public space, **Denis Steinmetz** p. 58
 Landscape and architecture in continuum, **Pierre Litzler** p. 60
 'Crowning' fountains in Val-de-Travers, **Corinne Wacker** p. 62
 Trams – shaping an area's visual identity, **Ana-Maria Pop, Lelia Papp** p. 66
 Signs and symbols: Cosmothropos, a photography project to reveal the imprint
 of Space on public space, **Gérard Azoulay, Perrine Gamot** p. 68

V. Proposals, point of views, researches

- Liquidscapes: the 'Park of the Strait' of Messina, **Daniela Colafranceschi** p. 70
 Internal landscape in villages, **Patrice Collignon** p. 72
 Public goods from private land: the land owners' point of view, **Thierry de l'Escaille** p. 74
 Inclusive access to outdoor environments, **Catharine Ward Thompson** p. 76

Conclusion

- Open Space: time to 'leap the fence' again, **Richard Stiles** p. 78

- Texts of the Council of Europe** p. 80

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Public space

The increasing attention given to public space, both by experts and by civil society, justifies the decision to dedicate this issue of Futuropa to this theme.

Common greens, squares, streets, marketplaces, parks and gardens are easy to be identified as public spaces, usually considered in an urban setting, but we cannot forget that roads, footpaths, nature areas and in some countries coastal areas, for example, are also public spaces. This does not mean that all public spaces are “open spaces” – a library, a school, a concert hall or any other public facility are also public spaces.

Public space, being a place of free and open access, traditionally linked to social, cultural or economic exchanges, is increasingly gaining importance, even in political terms, as a component of everyday quality of life, especially in urban areas.

But as any other landscape, design and maintenance of public spaces has to face, nowadays, among other things, the increase in urbanisation – with opposite results in urban and in rural areas, the changes in the economy, in the way of life, in social and cultural behavior and expectations. In this new society, privately owned spaces although with areas with public use, such as shopping centers, often replace traditional public spaces. This cannot be ignored, either as an important

element of the landscape or as a factor to be considered by spatial planning.

While it is important to adequately manage existing public spaces in order to guarantee or improve their quality, we also need to think very seriously of the need to plan or design and create sustainable new public spaces, at different scales, adapted to the 21st century, its society and way of life.

These public spaces, planned, created and managed to answer developmental challenges we are facing today and that, while showing the changes and realities of this century, by their quality and character can contribute to the quality of life and social cohesion of the populations, raising a sense of ownership and becoming part of the identity of a place or a community.

The variety and number of contributions to this issue of Futuropa clearly shows the important role that public spaces play in relation to the landscape and to our quality of space, and why they are a factor to be considered in spatial planning, at the different levels and at different scales.



Maria José Festas

Chair of the 7th Council of Europe Conference of the European Landscape Convention

Public spaces and ‘glocalised’ landscapes

The 21st century undoubtedly holds significant perils and challenges in store, stemming from sweeping changes in the economic and social sphere which have impact whether directly and/or indirectly on space, man-made environment and consequently on landscape. On the other hand, global environmental change and related phenomena combined with accelerated urbanisation are ushering in dramatic changes in land uses in the countryside and cities. As a result of the urbanisation process, our planet has recently become ‘urban’ in its entirety. Urban areas are now in the majority, meaning that over 50% of the world’s population (and more than 80% of Europe’s population) lives in small and large cities or in even larger urban centres, metropolitan areas and megacities. Nowadays, while cities are becoming reshaped and transformed by the new post-industrial urban economies mainly based on culture, leisure and knowledge, new urban landscapes are rapidly emerging. In this process of landscape transformation two elements must be considered: the existence of built cultural heritage and the creation of innovative design of buildings and terrains, both enhancing *place identity* -with which the concept of landscape is so tightly bound up – and generating the so called *glocalised* landscapes (as a synthesis of *global – local*). This is why, in an era of increasing ‘*place identity*’ crisis, cultural heritage, with a *local* reference, combined with innovative design of space, with a *global* reference, appear to be major concerns aiming at improving urban landscapes and transforming them into unique places with a clear identity and authenticity. Within this new context and new built environment, open public spaces, as fundamental parameters of urban morphology and structure and therefore as places of urbanity and sociability ‘*par excellence*’, play an important role in the creation of these new species of landscapes.

A key question demanding an answer, is to what extent the valuable urban landscapes, with which Europe has been blessed, can be enhanced, in a rational and visionary manner, through the appropriate landscaping design of open public spaces which constitute the spatial framework closer to the inhabitants for their daytime life and activities. Because landscape, conceived as the ‘*culture*’ of space, finds its higher political and social expression in public spaces. Therefore a new effective and efficient management of public spaces in European cities needs to be initiated, studied and approached carefully if suitable actions and interventions are to be taken and made by those responsible by warrant of their position and their nature. Only thus, can a sustainable and better future be ensured, for the urban landscapes, the citizens and their quality of life, considered, not as a luxury but as a fundamental human right.

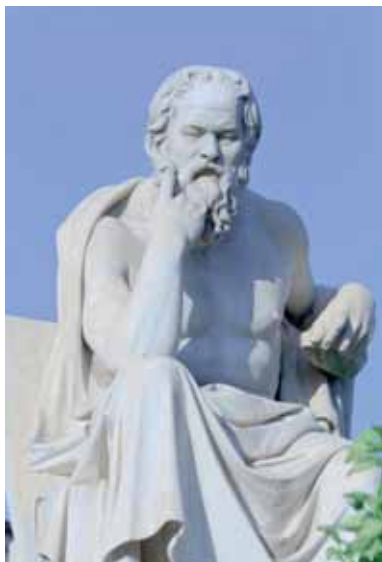
Dealing with public spaces in relation to landscape is an extremely interesting and useful topic to discuss, especially at the present time when social cohesion, public participation and human rights are endangered. As the documents of ‘*Guiding Principles for the Spatial Sustainable Development of the European Continent*’ and ‘*European Landscape Convention*’ state and recommend, spatial planning can considerably contribute in achieving the above objectives which must characterise contemporary democratic countries and societies and, more generally, the diachronic European culture and civilisation.



Elias Bériatos

Chair of the 16th Committee of Senior Officials of the Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Spatial/Regional Planning (CoE-CEMAT)

The Human scale



The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe addressed to its member States Recommendation No R (84) 2 on the European regional/spatial planning Charter¹, Recommendation No R (86) 11 on urban open space and Recommendation Rec. (2002) 1 on the Guiding principles for sustainable spatial development of the European Continent², and adopted the European Landscape Convention in 2000.

Comparison reading of these texts enables an understanding of the importance to give to the territory as a living space for human beings, as a vital factor in being and well-being of individuals and the community. Physical, mental and cultural activities of human beings require amongst other things spaces for breathing and be inspired, spaces to linger, to amble, to dream, to meet by intention or by chance. The Recommendation on the Guiding Principles thus calls for the “careful management of the urban ecosystem, particularly with regard to open and green spaces”.

The provision and use of public open space have an essential role in promoting social cohesion and in the vitality of urbanised spaces. There is little difference in the fundamental need for and the use of open space regardless of generations, age-groups or cultures. The Recommendation on urban open space considers that “one cannot talk of human rights without speaking of the rights of man in the built environment”, the carefully considered provision and use of space considered as being a strong element in sustaining these rights. It underlines the significance, value and role of open space, particularly of an informal or small-scale nature, which have often been neglected in spite of its contribution to the well-being of communities.

It is recommended that the governments of member States of the Council of Europe recognise and take into account the following considerations:

- towns are not only buildings: public space forms a fundamental part of the urban environment and of its historic heritage;

- open space covers a wide range of public and private areas both in historic towns and new communities and provides a framework for various activities that may change with time and use;
- open space is an essential part of the urban heritage, a strong element in the architectural and aesthetic form of a town, plays an important educational role, is ecologically significant, is important for social interaction and in fostering community development and is supportive of economic objectives and activities.

Considering that what is required above all is a change of attitude on the part of public authorities rather than necessarily an absolute increase in resources, it is recommended that the governments take steps to ensure that the securing, provision and management of open space are an integral part of urban development and in particular:

- to ensure that open space is adequately secured and protected;
- to encourage the provision of open space and in doing so to ensure that

it reflects the real needs of inhabitants, respects the existing character of the urban “grain”, uses all available resources, promotes social cohesion and results from adequate dialogue and co-ordination between all appropriate professionals, authorities and institutions;

– to manage and enhance open space through the identification and resolution of conflicts, the achievement and creation of accessibility and attractiveness, as well as the encouragement of appropriate levels of use.

The enjoyment of public open spaces contributes to the legitimate aspirations of inhabitants for an improvement in their quality of life, as well as to increased social cohesion, feelings of security and supports in this way the protection of the rights of man in his environment. Accessible space, whether definitively public or private is a “sociotope”, meeting point of human being. Not *res nullius* but *res communis*, it deserves all our attention.

With the adoption of the European Landscape Convention, the member States of the Council of Europe, have taken an important step acknowledging that the landscape is an essential part of the quality of life for people everywhere: in urban areas and in the countryside, in degraded areas as well as in areas of high quality, in areas recognised as being of outstanding beauty as well as everyday areas. All open public spaces are therefore concerned.

Believing that the landscape is a key element of individual and social well-being and that its protection, management and planning entail rights and responsibilities for everyone, the member States of the Council of Europe expressed the wish to respond to the aspirations of populations to benefit from high quality – land, aquatic and marine –, landscapes.

The Recommendation on the European Regional/Spatial Planning Charter underlines in the same manner that

“man and his well-being as well as his interaction with the environment” are the central concern of regional/spatial planning, its aims being to provide each individual with “an environment and quality of life conducive to the development of his personality in surroundings planned on a human scale”.

Although not exhaustive, the current issue of the Magazine *Futuropa* aims at reflecting on the importance of public open spaces for individual and social life. The experiences and points of view presented contribute to enriching the debate and to inciting actions and achievements.

Maguelonne Déjeant-Pons

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¹ Previously adopted by the Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for Spatial / Regional Planning (CEMAT).

² Also previously adopted by the CEMAT.

Urban space, a true European heritage

The city, stated Lewis Mumford, was born with the primary aim of encouraging interaction between individuals and institutions, and developing and disseminating human culture. In other words, the city has historically been a place of relationship and socialisation, and the structure and forms of urban space have responded to this primary function. In this sense we can say that urban space is a true typical European heritage. Throughout the history of our continent were created the economic, social and political conditions that have allowed cities to take those on characteristics so familiar to us in Europe: plazas, streets, arcades, galleries and gardens accessible to all.

The urban space of the European city is a unique heritage, the product of a society in which the inhabitants were citizens and not subjects; a old German medieval saying states “the air of the city sets us free” to point out the privileged conditions of the inhabitants of the city towards the rural population subject to the laws of feudalism. The hundreds of squares which make up the cities in Europe are the place of events and dramas which have marked the history of the population of Europe. They are also an extraordinary witness of urban architecture.

This historical and artistic heritage has not received throughout the years, the attention it deserves. Architectural history usually is usually more devoted to individual buildings, without considering public space, the context in which these building are. Is it possible to imagine Rome without Saint Peter’s Square, or Siena without the Piazza del Campo, or Madrid without the Plaza Real?

The implementation of the Recommendation of the Council of Europe on “Urban open space” requires foremost a cultural effort and research to reconstruct the history of what we might call “Architecture of public space” that Gordon Cullen defined as Townscape, the “Art of relationship”, an artistic – architectural composition whose elements are open space and individual buildings.



The “Mercati di Traiano” at the Roman Forum

For a very long historical period, from its origins until the beginning of the twentieth century, urban public space was conceived as a substantially enclosed space, whose irregular or geometric shape was determined by the disposition of buildings; the latter were designed and shaped so that they could adequately interact harmoniously with public open space.

The creation of public space in European cities was determined by the need to perform three basic functions: trade, religious ceremonies and, above all, the exercise of democracy. The core of many European cities often coincides with the Town hall square, the direct descendant of the Greek Agora, the original model of democratic public space.

In Greek “Agora” refers to both the assembly of citizens who gathered to take the political decisions and the place where they met. Pausanias claimed that a city could not be said that if it did not have an Agora where citizens could gather, discuss, and trade; usually generally surrounded by arcades (Stoà) and in the Hellenistic period assumed a regular geometric shape.

The Forum, in the Roman age, whose functions and architectural features were treated by Vitruvius in “De Architettura”, was the equivalent of the Agora in Greek cities. The “Roman Forum” went back to the days of the Republic and was the location of business activities as well as political events and trials. During the imperial period more Forums were added by different emperors (Augusto, Nerva, Traiano) to create an extraordinary, complex and articulated spatial system with double-height colonnades, exedras and stairways to mark the passage between the different spaces from one Forum to another.

In the Middle Ages deep changes occurred in the concept of public space. The private residential space changed from ancient Greek-Roman and Eastern traditions; the houses, once introverted and closed to the outside, became a productive organism open to the public space, consisting usually of three elements: shops and homes along a road and a back garden. As a consequence, even the roads assumed the function of a true public space and were treated as such in the municipal building regulations, with a great attention to decorum

and functionality. The squares in major cities were assigned to different functions: religious (the Piazza del Duomo), civil, or commercial (the market square). Conversely, smaller squares would each have multiple roles. Compared to the Greek Agora or the Roman Forum, the medieval square does not have a regular geometric shape. The buildings surrounding the square buildings define the morphology and play the role of the scene of the open space.

During the Renaissance, through the use of perspective and the opportunities it offered in terms of design and space control, the square became a body geometrically defined and prospectively controlled; great importance is given to proportions between the dimensions of the square and the height of buildings and the square is designed in a unified way to ensure a perfect integration between the different elements. During the Renaissance some of the most beautiful squares were designed: the Piazza della Santissima Annunziata in Florence by Brunelleschi or the Piazza del Campidoglio by Michelangelo in Rome.

The Baroque represents a great revolution for urban architecture; due to the multiplication of the perspective points of view and the creation of straight axes, the concept of urban space deeply changes. The city looks at itself; the various urban spaces visually relate to each other, generating a sense of movement, a new dynamic perception of urban space. This is the main characteristic of the Baroque urban architecture, a conception that transforms the urban space into a monumental and scenic scale, depriving it of its role as a human-scale relational space. The Baroque town design also extends its control even to building facades and the great straight axes create an extraordinary effect of monumentality, order and uniformity.

Even in the 19th century the concept of space relies on visions of the late Baroque. The same Haussmann's plan for Paris, with its alignments, its spectacular and monumental views, its scenes and landmarks, while modern for the general conception of the city and the adopted planning methodology, is still baroque in its spatial conception.



The Baroque perspective: a boulevard in Paris

Modern urban design disrupts the traditional way of conceiving public urban space. As Le Corbusier suggests, in the modern city historical elements such as the "rue corridor" and the square disappear. The city becomes a large open green space in which concrete and glass skyscrapers reflect the sunlight.

Giuseppe Fera

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The Piazza della Santissima Annunziata by F. Brunelleschi in Florence

Urban landscape and quality of the living

The most important innovation of the European Landscape Convention in the whole culture of landscape is to recognise the importance to the entire territory, including marine areas, of the values previously ascribed solely to specific areas singled out for their aesthetic, cultural or physical qualities.

Consequently, when a State ratifies the Convention it commits to the implementation of activities and measures for the protection, improvement and enhancement of the landscape, considered as all the places in which humans live and have lived, and which have provided them with experiences and knowledge and with their history as individuals and members of the community as a whole.

Landscapes are the settings for human memories, its stages, its movements and travels, on land and by sea. The larger and more concentrated movements have often been towards urban areas, from the village to the major city, where events and human relations are more intense.

It is the streets, the squares and the buildings associated over the years and centuries around an original core, gravitating within an urban zone which the population recognises as the "Centre", because of the human need to claim belonging to places and to find appropriate means apt for orientation within the system of stratified signs of spontaneous urban phenomena, or determined by an urban project, as in the "Cité de la Fondation".

The image of places as they are perceived today is the outcome of a series of small- or large-scale ethical and aesthetic choices, or even non-choices, which are stratified from the oldest forms of settlement right up to the present, owing to lack of planning or of political will; the plans have seldom been implemented in the same way as Haussmann's projects for Paris, or in Rome as the capital after the Italian unification.

There are more examples of plans which have partially or totally failed, where urban development was proceeded by combining residential areas without any policy on living spaces, but rather

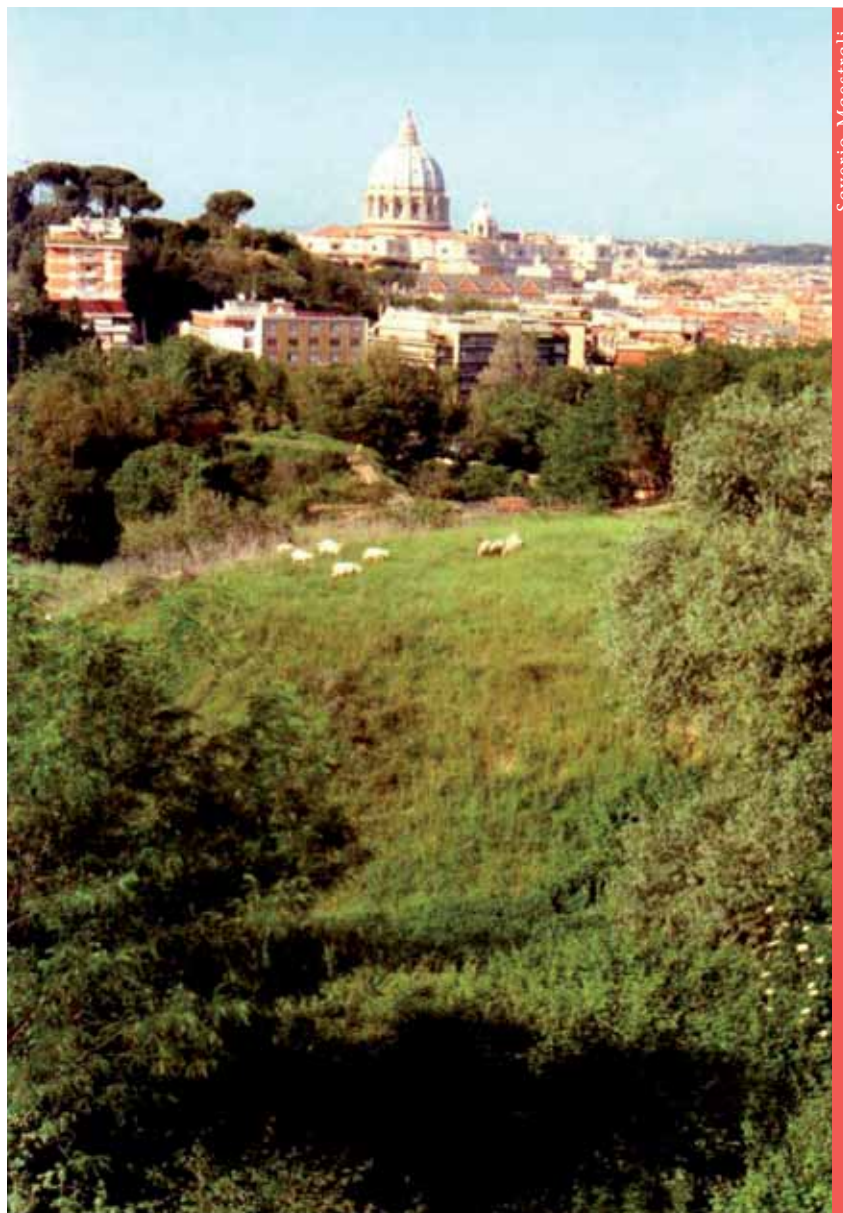
utilising urbanised areas as dictated by business and speculation.

Over the last 50 years this phenomenon has grown in inverse proportion to the architectural and urbanistic quality of the new creations.

In these contexts, to intervene by implementing the principles of the Convention involves considering the citizen above all, as a user of urban space, a concept which has been taking shape since ancient times, and was already quoted by Vitruvius in his "De

Architectura", stipulating that buildings must provide not only stability and usefulness (*firmitas, utilitas*) but also dignity, decency and elegance (*venustas*).

Centuries later, this principle was reiterated on an urban scale: in Biagio Rossetti's project for the expansion of the city of Ferrara (*Addizione Erculea*), initiated by Ercole d'Este at the end of the 1400s, green areas take on the function of offsetting the built-up areas. In order to create an urban landscape geared to promoting well-being, provision must be made for incorporating "green spaces".



Saverio Maestrali

Rome

g environment

A vision of the relationship between the individual and living environments as it has developed and evolved over the centuries has been powerfully reflected in the principles of the European Landscape Convention, securing each individual's right to enjoy landscape, including the urban landscape.

Applying the Convention therefore requires identifying and implementing measures to restore the relationship between citizens and their towns and cities, a commitment which has to be even stronger in the major cities, where the rhythms of life and the distances contribute greatly to the alienation and social disintegration phenomena.

This is a new conception of relations among city spaces, geared to developing a new *modus operandi* whereby technicians and specialists serve the population, not the reverse. This is the principle that guides the choice of projects, which must be shared with the population, inciting them to be involved in the decision-making concerning the use of land.

By playing an active role in the necessary changes, local communities take responsibility for the sustainability of projects which will affect their territories.

The authorities involved at all levels in land-use policies and the governmental

bodies must be committed to making the public aware of landscape values, by providing them with the necessary tools for taking on a leading role with full knowledge of their responsibilities.

In the new conception of the town, its outskirts and the suburban and peri-urban fringe, there are two crucial places for urban orientation with which populations must be able to identify because they are bound up with their historical identities (monuments and testimonies to local events and histories). These are decisive loci for the recognition of urban spaces, which are therefore vital for the integrated planning of urban fabric, and for a conception of the landscape that is coherent with the functional aspects of the town or city in which the individual constantly receives changing visual perceptions.

Free zones, whether enclosed or open, constitute a key resource for creating new relations among spaces, for repairing, "sewing" the fabric of urban spaces and restoring the quality of the relationship with natural environments. The botanical component, whether it is dominant or confined to aesthetic use, taking a "unity in diversity" approach, sends out messages in urban areas which are intrinsically positive and enhance quality of life for the population.

In his specialist doctoral thesis, the architect Marizio Pece, working with

the Italian Minister for Cultural Assets and Activities, has gone into the aforementioned aspects in depth, with particular reference to the city of Rome, recalling the specificities of this city, whose urban development has been disorganised, devoid of any forward-looking plan.

Rome does, however, have a profusion of green areas comprising historic parks, archaeological parks and extensive rural areas with agricultural activities which make up the traditional *Agro Romano* around the city, the plots of arable land extending right into the centre of the historic City.

The population expresses its appreciation of the measures to protect the green areas via their local committees and associations. The aforementioned thesis also highlights cases of projects implemented with local citizen involvement geared to improving green areas.

A recent example was the rehabilitation of a green area of archaeological and naturalistic interest, the *Parco di Tor Fiscale*, together with the *Parco dell'Appia*, which is now managed by a citizens' committee and has become a venue for events and social encounters. A website has been created providing a wealth of information on the Park (www.torredelfiscale.it).

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Minister for Cultural Assets and Activities
Rome, Italy

Public space and urban landscape

The European Landscape Convention clearly states that urban areas are landscape, both when they have outstanding properties and when they do not or are even degraded. This point of view has not always been shared by all.

For most people the notion of landscape is still linked to areas which are predominantly natural or agricultural. During the process of drafting the Convention the possibility of excluding urban landscapes was raised but this proposal was rejected as had it been admitted, the majority of Europeans would have been excluded from what I consider to be the main challenge of the Convention: making the landscape “a key element of individual and social well-being”.

But what is urban landscape? To date most theoretical, conceptual and methodological approaches to landscape have focused upon natural and agricultural areas. With a few notable but incomplete exceptions scientific references to the urban landscape concur with the expression “urban morphology”, “urban image” or even “city” without further specifications. It is evident that if dedication to landscape is to contribute something different to

the scientific consideration of reality, the term “urban landscape” cannot be used either synonymously with previous approaches or simply as a way of being “fashionable” without new arguments being put forward.

Therefore, how can urban landscapes be recognised, interpreted and governed? Along the same lines as the definition of landscape (without adjectives) set out in the Convention, “urban landscape” can be understood as “an ‘urbanised’ area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors”. It is true that the debate about what defines the city is endless and that currently we can distinguish at least three very distinct conditions with reference to urbanisation (the compact city, the peri-urbanisation pertaining to metropolitan areas and rural urbanisation resulting from the sprawl or spreading of urban elements into rural areas), which entail a similar number of basic types of urban landscape.

In this necessarily brief text only the urban landscapes of the compact city will be addressed as this represents the basic model of urbanisation in Europe

and a substantial part of its cities both in quantitative terms (surface and population) and in qualitative terms (including not only monumental historic centres, but also other sectors of the pre-industrial historic city, the peri-central nineteenth-century areas and many of the urban peripheries of the last century)¹.

Studies on urban landscapes at the Centre for Landscape and Territorial Studies of Andalusia, which were initiated with a project centred on the valuable array of small and medium cities in Andalusia within the framework of the Transnational Co-operation Programme Pays.Med.Urban, are being focused upon two priority issues concerning the notion of urban landscape: the overall urban image, or exterior urban landscape; and the urban scene, or interior urban landscape.

In both cases landscape character is taken to be a special combination of different features (the relationship between built-up and open spaces, distribution of volumes, textures and dominant colours and so on) and their assessment according to the values given by the local community and visitors.

The overall urban image, or exterior urban landscape, which has traditionally been appreciated in Europe since the late Middle Ages, is analysed on the basis of its overall composition, skyline and major landmarks, its facades and edges, its accesses and the visual sequences of the city from the outside.

The interior urban landscape, or urban scene, is defined as “the quality (environmental, functional and scenic) of open public space”. To understand and assess it, several features must be taken into account: the architecture immediately surrounding public spaces, their treatment and equipment, urban vegetation and the use (private or public) of these open spaces.

This approach to urban landscapes can be easily transferred to the instruments used for its governance; in the main, urban plans and management ordinances of the city, among which



Exterior urban landscape or overall urban image of the village of Gaucin, Malaga



Interior urban landscape; pedestrian square, Constantina, Sevilla. Spain

the valuable example of that passed by Barcelona in 1999, now used as a reference for other Spanish cities, should be highlighted.

The insight and assessment of many of the aspects included in this approach to urban landscape have traditionally been studied with reference to cities, but have rarely been included in a unified, cohesive vision linked closely to social perception. Perhaps the least studied aspect is the public use of urban spaces with a vision that goes beyond the merely utilitarian. This is perhaps the main contribution which

can be achieved by applying the notion of landscape as it is understood in the European Landscape Convention.

Florencio Zoido Naranjo

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¹ The most recent urban landscapes (metropolitan and of rural urbanisation) which are not considered here, are also very interesting from a social, scientific and technical point of view, but require their own theoretical, conceptual and methodological approach.

Public spaces and closed landscapes

Public spaces cultivate a peculiar form of landscape in which the leading role is held by the human being. However, are public spaces actually designed for the citizen? Do they facilitate high-quality social relations? Do they meet the expectations of society, or are they, on the contrary, designed under the diktat of technical and administrative authorities, which usually simply follow the specific dynamics of the market economy?

Looking back to public spaces in Antiquity, it seems obvious that the Greek agora and the Roman forum fulfilled the social function for which they were designed. In these specific cases the urban landscape adapts to the human scale. These are spaces in which the life of the community grows up and is affirmed. They are places which fully express the meaning and function of the city, ie they humanise individuals by involving them in a common project. Spatial organisation, buildings, individuals and the activities conducted in the public space form an indissoluble whole. All these elements forge its character, make it recognisable and distinguish it

from all other places. Many countries across the world are currently opting for this culture of open public spaces.

An urban landscape with these characteristics is supposed to valorise spatial resources rather than to threaten them. This requires harmony between the human being and the public space, conceived of as a framework for fostering social relations which, by that very fact, influences lifestyles and urban policy.

City centres are currently expanding very fast, to an extent unprecedented in human history. This involves socio-economic changes which are increasingly oriented towards globalisation. Under this process contemporary western culture is gaining a plethora of new global referents, and distorted public spaces are proliferating and turning into closed landscapes. At first sight we might think that they correspond to the concept of free spaces, embracing a huge range of public and private areas, both in historic cities and in new communities that provide a setting for various activities liable to change with time and spatial use. However, many of these places, despite

combining these characteristics, are the result of a studied, preconceived and well-thought-out type of development which can only produce a standardised landscape.

Let us take the example of a single hypermarket chain which is present in towns and cities, peripheral areas, mountain and lowland areas, enclosed valleys, coastal regions, regions with hot, humid or cold climates, all with the same structure and outward appearance. These installations completely change the territory in which they are established, eliminating its identifying features and eradicating its specific nature. The values decisive to a genuinely typical landscape are replaced with new standardised, uniform values which are the same everywhere and which dilute the landscape's identity. The human scale of traditional public places is replaced by a different, disproportionate scale based on commercial interests, with the clear aim of promoting consumption.

At all events, consumption and the related socio-economic and cultural



M. Linarejos Cruz Perez

Open public space designed as a meeting place for citizens, El Hedim Square, Meknès, Morocco

mechanisms trigger large-scale social recognition, so that this view of the landscape is totally accepted and appreciated. Consumption has a profound influence on contemporary culture, with repercussions in several fields, from the organisation and aesthetics of urban spaces and consequently their landscape, to social attitudes and approaches, through the appraisal of quality of life, progress and the specific assessment of the landscape.

Public spaces in major cities, which constitute a great deal of the everyday landscape for many people, have gradually turned into “purchasing centres” which emphatically impose their presence and organisational conditions, so much so that the simple fact of using the public space is converted into an act of consumerism. Historical centres, pedestrian areas, transport zones and plain urban streets are in fact being turned into shopping centres, with consumption as the sole activity. This spatial organisation defines everyday landscapes in which individual lives are lived. On the other hand, “quality” landscapes are preserved like fortresses, in places hardly affected by globalisation, which are converted into picturesque sites.

As food for thought, it might be interesting to monitor the evolution of the concept of public spaces, which were initially created as places of social interaction and which ended up as spaces occupied by large numbers of persons lacking any kind of mutual relationship who function as customers rather than citizens and merely serve the individual ritual of consumption.

Maria Linarejos Cruz Perez

*Spanish Institute of Historical Heritage
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Closed public space designed as a shopping centre, Madrid

M. Linarejos Cruz Perez

Welcome to our city dear customer – On the commercialisation of public space



B. A. Lundberg

The square has been a market place since the dawn of civilisation. Västerås, Sweden, Bengt

Currently, the commercialisation of cities is a burning issue in the urban debate. As a consequence of the fierce, global competition between cities and regions, an increasing number of rivals have taken the offensive path of trading with public spaces and promoting themselves in order to attract tourists as well as new inhabitants and economic investments. Commercial milieus are progressively taking over public spaces, and in some cases they have even become emblems of their cities.

Since the dawn of civilisation trade has been one of the main reasons for the development of towns and cities as well as the ever increasing attraction of the urban society. With the old town, privileges followed the right to pursue commerce inside the city walls, and the town square was the main forum for the economic activity. This marketplace appeared to be, and still is, a tenacious urban feature. In addition to its economic raison d'être, the square has other important functions, not at least as a place for social interaction, for meetings, whether spontaneous or pre-arranged, such as political events and concerts. Although we live in a digital society, squares and other

public spaces for physical meetings are still vital features of a democratic society. For thousands of years, the square has been closely intertwined with the emergence of democracy, yet the recent democratic movement in North Africa demonstrates the vitality of the square still in the 21st century struggle for democracy. For many people the Tahrir Square in Egypt has become the very symbol of the aspirations of the Arabic Spring.

Urbanity depends on high frequent and random meetings between people, and public places are guarantees that these can happen. Urban public spaces are defined as belonging to everybody and everyone is welcome to spend time there. They can be passively observed or actively used. The fact that they attract various social groups contributes to a better understanding and appreciation of differences. Private places, on the contrary, are controlled by one or several proprietors and have limited accessibility. There is also a third group, the semi-public spaces, which are open for everybody but impose some restrictions on access, such as an entrance fee or special opening hours, for example shopping malls.

Public places – new temples of consumption

Today, urban public places are challenged or undermined. Over the past several decades they have become highly commercialised and this process has already laid a hand on urban squares and other open spaces. Many public spaces have been replaced by private or semi-public buildings whose main purpose is to worship consumption. On the other hand, the existence of public spaces helps interaction between



B. A. Lundberg

Slussen area in Stockholm, Sweden. The current open space and the famous traffic-node were created in 1935. Due to physical deterioration of the structures, the area is facing an urgent need for redevelopment. In recent years, many different plans for a major redevelopment of Slussen have been proposed

people and creates a sense of belonging to an urban society. Unfortunately, commercialisation divides this society into smaller target groups, and eventually separates people from different social classes. The rich consumers tend to be more welcome because the current urban development is resolutely focused on materialism.

Privatisation – a threat to the soul of the public place?

One successful strategy to develop or shape new meeting places is to use cultural heritage, as sites with strong historical identities attract people. On the other hand, urban planning based on short-term economic considerations increases the risk for privatisation of common spaces and homogenisation of public space. Whatever the case, the historical context sooner or later becomes lost. In Sweden, one current trend is that each urban renewal project must bear its own costs. In order to survive financially, many spaces with commercial or another sort of exploitation potential have to be put on the market. This, in some cases, has led to passionate discussions and debates, such as the planning of the new Slussen area in Stockholm.

The negligence of public space, in order to give priority to commercial interests can have negative consequences for cities. One example of this is the town square Brotorget in the city of Bollnäs. It had been a meeting place for the inhabitants and tourists for decades. In 2007, it was bought by entrepreneurs who aimed to build a modern shopping mall, but construction work was postponed several times. The square became a large gravel plaza, a no-man's land in the middle of the city. The inhabitants were deprived of their most appreciated meeting place in exchange for the promise of more consumption, which even today has not yet been fulfilled. Their protests, however, resulted in a change in the situation – the City Council has now decided to repurchase the square.



Outdoor exhibition at Berzelii Park in Stockholm, Sweden

Cities are more than the sum of their buildings

The urban landscape is not only a composition of building blocks but also a matter of ideologies and stories materialised in the physical shape of the city. The objective is to create something that is durable in a long-term perspective but also adjustable. There are many good examples of changes that provide life and meaning to a common place. Malmö in the south of Sweden has been working strategically with the creation of urban meeting places where people can get together. One aim is focusing on integration as many of their inhabitants are foreigners. A large number of

immigrants have expressed their need for “places to spend time without paying a lot and without being forced to consume”.

It is, beyond doubt, vital to defend urban public spaces. In order to do this we need to acknowledge their past and be attentive to what is happening to them today as well as to be cautious with their future. After all, they guarantee that the city is here for everyone and everybody is welcome on equal terms.

Daniel Nilsson
National Heritage Board
Stockholm, Sweden



Street dancers at the public space in front of the church of Sacré-Cœur in Paris, France

The people of the sun and the wind: the



S. Mikaelsson

Nordic countries that affect the Sámi people, raises some concern when it comes to implementing the intentions mentioned in the preamble text in the European Landscape Convention: “Considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve a greater unity between its members for the purpose of safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are their common heritage, and that this aim is pursued in particular through agreements in the economic and social fields”.

These last years, establishments of roads, power lines, prospecting, mining, windmill parks, decreased minimum-age for clear cutting of forests, introduction of foreign tree species, etc, has all together created what is described as mono cultures and key habitat deserts especially in the eastern part of Norr and Vasterbotten. Our traditionally used lands and water have been fragment sized in a way that is difficult to understand, and to deal with.

We, the Sámi people, are the indigenous people of Sápmi. Our land is divided into four countries and stretches from northern Scandinavia all the way to the Kola Peninsula. Our people have lived here since time immemorial managing the lands and waters with great care and respect. Our culture is based on a life in which humans and all other living

The Sámi people have lived and occupied large parts of what is known as the Republic of Finland, the Kingdom of Norway, the Kingdom of Sweden and Northwest parts of Russian Federation, for so many years, that no one knows any time that was otherwise.

We Sámi name this area for Sápmi, our homeland.

At the funeral of Gustav Vasa in 1560, the heraldic symbol of the Västerbotten province was a reindeer described as “six-pointed stars of gold in a studded blue field was a running reindeer of pure silver with red details”, representing all the land west of the Gulf of Bothnia. The Västerbotten province at that time, extended beyond the Tornio River.

Even today, the running reindeer in silver surrounded by the 13 stars, is still the heraldic weapon for Norrbotten (with two reindeers) and Västerbotten (one larger reindeer) counties. In Sweden, performing reindeer husbandry is an exclusive privilege for the Sámi people and also granted by the European Union in Protocol 3 of the Treaty of Accession of Sweden to the European Union.

This historical background is necessary to have in order to be able to implement a convention that was developed and established in the end of the 20th Century. It will not be possible to

believe that the development in various human rights instruments and national law, have never happened. Sweden and Finland have been under the same king for more than 700 years and 13 kings have lived in turku/åbo. The countries do have a historical background that makes it easier to achieve a mutual future.

However taking into account the problems that have occurred when it comes to harmonising the various laws in the



S. Mikaelsson

Sámi people

beings are interrelated. We view nature as a soulful living being. Our view of nature stands in sharp contrast to the western view of nature. Only through deepened mutual understanding and increased co-operation can we create a common future.

Positive changes and essential technical means have also been introduced in modern times. All these changes together have strongly impacted us and our pattern of life. It is important that we distinguish innovations that affect our lives in a positive way from those innovations that make us increasingly dependent on the global economy and availability of cheap gas and oil.

Global warming and the escalating climate change has already changed everyday life for the Sámi people. The possibilities for the global market and actors with no ethical or social responsibility to intrude on Sámi traditionally territories have increased.

Management in line with landscape quality objectives also calls for education and training, including training for specialists, elected representatives and the technical staff of local, regional and national authorities, as well as school and university courses dealing with values attached to the landscape and its protection, management and planning. The Swedish Government ratified the European Landscape Convention in 2010. The Swedish National Heritage Board was then asked to convene a group of authorities to draw up proposals for how the work will be implemented.

The Sami Parliament would like to draw attention to the importance of a Sámi influence in efforts to implement the European Landscape Convention. The reindeer herding area in the Swedish Sápmi extends to over 40% of Sweden and includes mountains, forests,



S. Mikaelsson

marshes and water. This area represents our Sámi habitat, where the surrounding landscape, history, reindeer, language, natural resources and our place in this whole, is the basis and premises of our culture and our existence.

Stefan Mikaelsson

*President of the Sámi Parliament
General Assembly
Giron / Kiruna, Sweden
Stockholm, Sweden*

Berlin-Ankara, a journey to people and o

E. Fetzer and F. Frech



A square in Istanbul

On a sunny late summer morning in 2005 a group of four young people got on a train in Berlin Ostbahnhof, Germany. Their train journey had taken them via Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Belgrade, Sofia and Istanbul to Ankara in twelve days. There were three objects travelling with them: a chair, a table and a map. At each stop they asked local people about the open spaces that play a significant role in their everyday lives. These interviews took place on the sites proposed by the people they met, who usually came with their own chairs. Together with the travelling chair and the travelling table, the local chair formed a momentary meeting point where the secrets of the surrounding area could be revealed. The motivation for this journey was to get a better feeling for the relationship between European people and their open spaces and to raise awareness towards their everyday landscapes.

E. Fetzer and F. Frech



A square in Belgrade

Open spaces

In the course of this journey many different types of open spaces were introduced and carefully described by their “mental owners”. A railway bridge in Berlin is a belvedere, a small community park in the outskirts of Prague is the paradise of teenagers, a grass lane next to one of Vienna’s through roads is a perfect place to take a sun bath, a hill in Budapest that turns the city into a painting, a bench in the new town of Belgrade where a man remembers his pigeons, a hidden courtyard in Sofia brings people from all over the world together, and a hidden staircase in the heart of Istanbul is the place where young people invent their future.

It will never be possible to tell all the stories. But this journey was an attempt to find a framework in which at least some of these tales could become visible. This differs from a purely sociological approach in which a certain number of interviews would have been made in order to derive some qualitative data on the state of an urban area. Instead, this experimental journey aimed at capturing moments of communication, at documenting the encounter of the traveller with the resident and at carefully keeping their generous gifts: stories about a personal attachment to a place that is completely unknown to the travelling stranger.

On the other side there are the experts’ views: planners, politicians, and journalists. They would analyse, generalise, valorise in order to define and later implement some type of change. During this journey the travelling team always tried to meet local people who are not involved in any kind of policy-making or urban planning. The focus was on everyday people that policy-makers and planners usually claim to represent. A challenge is presented in that much of the value of a place is invisible, as these places have been kept in the minds of people for decades or even

E. Fetzler and F. Frech



A square in Prague

longer. Bearing this challenge in mind, this journey can be regarded as an experimental way of finding a method for communicating the invisible values of open spaces. This method is not yet fixed, but it is emerging. The experiment was followed by a journey across Romania in 2008 with similar encounters in visible and invisible places. More journeys will need to follow.

Attention is a scarce and expensive good in a society that has access to any kind of information at any time. Who cares about some overgrown stairs in Istanbul while everything else is just a stone thrown away? The value of the places encountered during this journey is based on their unintentional existence, which is the secret behind their magic and beauty. Like an old treasure waiting to be discovered. You will need to decipher an almost unreadable map

before it turns into dust. And yet, we will only be able to appreciate what we know. Like rare species in an intensively used environment these hidden values of open spaces might not be competitive in today’s media world. The path towards thoughtful and inclusive consideration of open space is not straight. It has crossroads, dead-ends and loops, like in Scheherazade’s tales. There is space for a chair in any place. Sit down. Take your time.

Ellen Fetzler

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Quality in urban open spaces in Norway

Most Europeans associate Norway with beautiful natural and cultural landscapes. The country also has over 900 towns and urban settlements, 90% of which have less than 5000 inhabitants.

Many of our towns and urban settlements are surrounded by magnificent landscapes, by the sea, a fjord or a river, or framed by mountains. As the surroundings are so attractive, there has been a tendency to pay less attention to the ordinary urban landscapes. In many cases the lack of beneficial, long-

term planning has resulted in urban sprawl and low-density development, with a landscape dominated by traffic and a lifestyle dictated by private cars. In some urban areas traffic, the lack of green spaces, and under-maintained urban open spaces has put further pressure on the environment. However, the interest in urban planning is growing, and most municipalities are actively promoting more attractive and environmentally sound development that improves the quality of life, population trends and business development.

Although urban development in Norway is mainly a municipal responsibility, the national authorities have been supporting municipal efforts for many years. The state engagement is mainly expressed in the provision of the Planning and Building Act, which governs sustainable land use, the quality of the physical environment and regional policy. Using the term “landscape”, in the sense defined by the European Landscape Convention, the Act explicitly refers to landscape quality and emphasises local autonomy and active local participation. The main instruments at the state’s disposal are legislation, national development programmes, regional development funds and other financial schemes, as well as expertise.

Guidelines for open and public spaces

As part of its new focus on the infrastructure and quality of urban open spaces, the Ministry of the Environment is drawing up national guidelines. The planning of common land has been protected by law since the 13th century. Marketplaces, streets, squares and parks make up the urban infrastructure for human activity, including social activity. People need a neighbourhood café, a playground, places to meet, go skating and sledding, play football or go for a walk.

All planning needs to address climate issues such as the greenhouse gas emissions. For example, walking, cycling and using public transport should be made more practical and attractive alternatives to driving a car.

We also have to adapt to the higher precipitation due to climate change. Surface water in public spaces can be used as a resource and result in improved design, more green spaces and greater biodiversity.

Urban planning is often uncoordinated and split up into specific areas such as roads, green structures, footpaths and cycle paths, squares and meeting places. The new guidelines will encourage planners to regard the urban structure as





a whole, as a hierarchy of public spaces and meeting places linked by routes for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers.

Architectural policy

“Architecture” is broadly defined in Norway, and covers all man-made environments and landscapes and the links between them. Thirteen ministries were involved in the work of developing the Government’s architecture policy document in 2009. Good architecture should express a common culture and identity, contribute to a high quality of life and provide attractive, functional and universally designed buildings and landscapes. It should contribute to the welfare, sustainability and value creation, and provide inspiration for protecting and enriching the environment.

The National Urban Environment Award

The National Urban Environment Award is intended to encourage sustainable urban development and environmentally friendly practices by drawing attention to examples of good practices. This annual award is given to the best town or settlement within a chosen theme. The theme for 2011 was open spaces and

meeting places, showing their importance as a framework for town life the actual location, and as a place for people of all ages and all walks of life to meet.

The winner of the 2011 award, the municipality of Ringeby, has 4540 inhabitants, 60% of the land is over 900 metres above sea level. Ringeby itself is a seat of municipal administration, and a commercial centre, founded in 1899, and built according to urban design principles. The Ringeby wooden medieval church (*stavkirke*) dates from 1220.

The municipal authorities have made it a priority to develop urban quality and pursue a proactive strategy for the provision of urban amenities. The town’s population decline has been reversed. A central park has been built, with a music pavilion, benches and an enclosed playground for children, which also functions as a meeting place for parents. The authorities have a clearly targeted strategy for preventing the establishment of external shopping malls and supporting speciality shops that give new life to old buildings and represent an alternative to large malls.

The winner of the National Urban Environment Award 2011 has pursued

a clear, coherent and forward-looking strategy, which encourages the active use of Ringeby’s urban open spaces in interaction with the inhabitants, politicians, administrative authorities and enthusiastic experts.

Ellen Husaas
Senior Advisor

Liv Kirstine Mortensen
Senior Advisor

Kristine Omholt-Jensen
Senior Advisor

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Ministry of the Environment
Oslo, Norway

Open space in the Moscow Oblast



G. Platova

The winter view of the city of Troitsk, Moscow region

The Moscow Oblast comprises territories adjacent to the City of Moscow, but not the city itself. There are 79 towns (15 with populations over 100,000) and 75 minor urban-type communities. The urban areas total 2,000 square kilometres (5% of the Oblast land).

Old traditions

Wood was the traditional construction material throughout central and northern areas of Russia. The reserves of timber were abundant and production was cheap, unlike that of stone. Hence, nearly all civil construction during the Middle Ages was executed in wood. Along with gold and gems, stone was reserved for churches and cathedrals. That resulted in the specific urban planning features typical of old Russian towns, compared to Western Europe, streets were broad and distances between buildings were very large, which was caused not by an abundance of land (though land was then an abundant reserve in central Russia) but by fire protection considerations.

Later, when Peter the Great, and his successors, introduced western construction standards and new types of dwellings and public buildings, wood gave way to stone and, mainly, to brick construction. Urban areas became denser, but spatial planning measures were provided by the government to prevent “crush jams”. Vast open areas were reserved under temporary and seasonal markets (fairs), religious and public festivities. Vast belts of pastures

and crop fields separated the cities from neighbouring wilderness. Every town had its large main square faced by the cathedral and municipal buildings. Later, in the 19th century, construction of railways led to the formation of additional central places with vast open areas: the square in front of the main railway station, always a beautiful building had to be large enough to serve as freight and passenger transfer between trains and carts.

In the Moscow Oblast, a traveller can see explicit examples of old urban construction in the historic cities of Dmitrov, Zvenigorod, Kolomna, Yegoryevsk among others.

The Soviet Period

Socialism with its centralised planning and vertically structured administration could not leave the urban pattern to develop on its own. At the present day it is a common fashion to criticise everything that comes from that time, but we have to remind ourselves that centralised urban planning had its benefits. New cities were founded, designed in compliance with the most advanced concepts of that time; many old ones were reshaped to meet residents’ changing demands. As everything belonged to the State it was free to allot land for boulevards, squares, public gardens, and specify distances between blocks and individual buildings. Good examples of Soviet urban planning may be found in Elektrostal, Korolyov, and Dubna, the “city of science” built on

the banks of the Volga. Unfortunately, insufficient attention was paid to old residential areas, and Russia is faced today with having to solve serious problems, such as the lack of housing, poor physical and social infrastructure, and obsolete communication.

New challenges

The problem of preserved open spaces is actually becoming vital even for medium and small urban communities. The main threat is posed by the uncontrolled and thoughtless construction of 1990s, when all drawbacks and violations were treated with indulgency. It was presumed that the “transition phase” of economic changes stipulated for fast commercial, industrial and dwelling construction aimed to meet people’s immediate needs. The consequences of that chaotic development can be seen today.

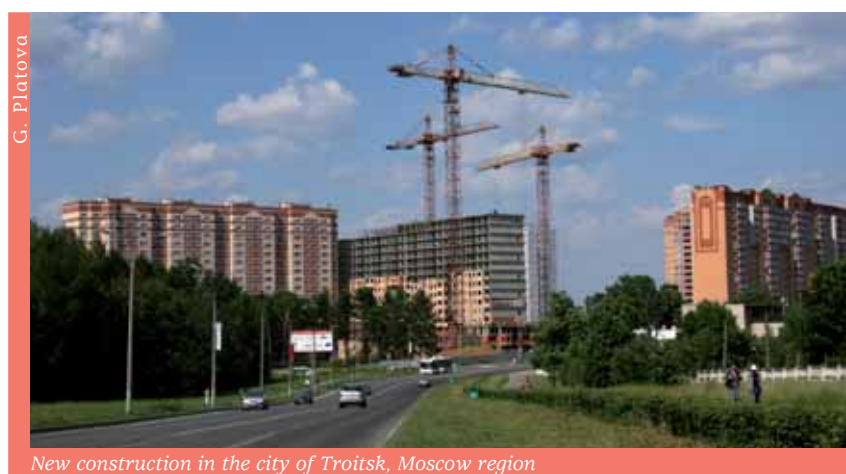
Commercial and expensive residential buildings concentrate in the most prestigious areas, i.e. historical centres and riverbanks where landscapes are most valuable and most vulnerable. The higher price of land in central areas stimulates concentrated spot construction where small open spaces are eliminated one after another in the name of fast profit. Large modern buildings destroy both vertical and spatial components of historical urban pattern; and decrease the aesthetic value of landscape and that of the objects of cultural and natural heritage. In small towns and villages located along major roads, newly built supermarkets and hotels form walls hiding settlements from travellers and claim to provide functions of centres of local culture and societal life.

Intense construction of seasonal dwellings, dachas and recreation facilities beyond the city limits destroys the traditional system of the protective measures described above. Vast open areas between inhabited areas, on one side, and forests and bogs, on the other, could give residents enough time to protect themselves from spring floods and summer fires. Human casualties brought by forest fires in 2010 resulted mainly from the lack of unconstructed open spaces between settlements and peat bogs and forests. Nature not only

becomes a source of potential trouble, but man as well, since any man-made disaster inevitably hurts wildlife too.

Lack of spatial planning knowledge and gaps in architectural traditions make some local authorities treat open spaces as empty unused areas. Sometimes, efforts by federal and regional powers are required to stop certain planned “developments”. In many cases, thoughtful policy should be constructed in order to enlighten local residents, unaware of the values of open spaces. Legal sanctions must be provided against populist demagogues, who try to contrast planned spatial development with momentary economic demands.

However, in spite of old problems and new challenges, much is being done in the Moscow Oblast to protect its open spaces. Just recently, a legal case was won against developers who tried to conduct construction within the territory of “Borodinskoye Field”, a national historical reserve, the site of the main battle of Napoleon’s army in 1812. Another major problem, which is currently being successfully solved, is a developmental concept for the city



G. Platova

New construction in the city of Troitsk, Moscow region

of Sergiyev Posad, an old historical location and major centre of Russian Orthodoxy.

Alexander Frolov

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G. Platova

View of the historical city of Rostov Veliky, Yaroslavl region

Reconstruction of a public space in a city

The city of Rovaniemi is located 400 kilometres from the Arctic Ocean at the Arctic Circle. It is situated at the confluence of two large rivers, the River Kemijoki and the River Ounasjoki, at the hill line. The area is scenically exceptional. Longitudinally the scenery opens widely. A great landscape can be seen in the open river valley which is surrounded by flood meadows. Due to the growth of the city, most of the fields of the shorelines have been developed. The city centre is situated on a flat area between the hills on the west side of the River Kemijoki. Rovaniemi belongs to the northern boreal zone and the forests are barren consisting mostly of pine. The hill scenery of the Ounasvaara hill is significant for the local identity.

From riverside settlement to urbanisation

The prehistory of Rovaniemi goes back at least 8000 years. There were settlements and diverse trade connections already in the Stone Age. The oldest permanent settlements are from the 11th and 12th centuries. Rovaniemi is the oldest settlement area in Finnish

Lapland besides the mouth areas of the River Tornio and the River Kemijoki. The Rovaniemi area had been in a joint use of game with the Norwegians for a long time before any permanent settlement appeared.

The building of the chapel in the 1630s determined the location of the city centre. The settlement slowly became more concentrated. Rovaniemi started to become the centre of regional administration, transport and trade due to the road which was built from Kemi to Rovaniemi. The city was situated in an important node of traffic which speeded up the development of economic growth and well-being in Rovaniemi at the end of the 19th century. Forestry brought sawmills to the area and trading became livelier. The famous market fair of Rovaniemi started. A dense population community was constituted in 1901 as the settlement, trade and industry grew. New obligations arose concerning administration and land use planning.

The first building code and plan were compiled in 1906. The railway was built

to reach Rovaniemi in 1909. A plan which followed a regular town plan steered the building and site layouts for decades. The longitudinal streets of the plan can still be seen in the city structure. Rovaniemi was established as a market town in 1929. Clear urban structures started to arise along with the city plan and stone buildings, and among other things functionalism started to show. The most famous of the above mentioned buildings is probably the Hotel Pohjanhovi which was built on the shore of the Rapid Ounaskoski.

The time for the lively developing city, new methods of construction and the city image remained short. The Second World War ended at the Lapin sota (Lapland War) in autumn 1944 invalidating the development. 90% of the 548 buildings of Rovaniemi were destroyed.

Reconstruction and the architect Alvar Aalto

The work of Alvar Aalto in Rovaniemi began in the ruins of a market town which had been destroyed during the



S. Saraste

The node of the Ounasjoki River and the Kemijoki River

at the Arctic Circle: Rovaniemi

war. Aalto had the main responsibility and command of the reconstruction planning work. He later became the most noted architect in Finland. As a starting point and idea for the whole reconstruction plan, Aalto considered Rovaniemi as the capital of Lapland and as the centre of traffic and transportation of northern Finland. Different traffic area reservations unite as a five branched area in the city plan entitled the Reindeer Antler Plan. In the plan all the important road lines and areas reserved for the railways are situated in the Reindeer Antlers. The streets were drawn with softer lines and buildings were designed as a cube-like structure, rather than long masses of buildings.

Aalto worked on the planning of the Rovaniemi library. He presented an idea of a wider administration and culture centre which would include not only the library but also a city hall and a theatre in the same block. The idea came true almost in the raw. The square that remains between the buildings divides into a paved civic square in front of the city hall and to a planted grass covered area between the library

and the theatre house Lappia. The Sculptor Kain Tapper designed an environmental work of art for the square. The sculpture "Vuorten synty" reflects the rise of Rovaniemi from the destruction of the war. The city hall, the library and the theatre formulate a monumental ensemble where each building reflects its own purpose of use. The administration and culture centre is an example of the goals of Alvar Aalto to create environments with strong influence. Public buildings situated close to each other have a stronger influence than separate buildings. The administration and culture buildings of Rovaniemi can be counted among the most remarkable design ensembles in Finnish national modern architecture.

Aalto took into consideration the special characteristics of Lapland and emphasised natural conditions in his planning. Natural light comes in from the high top windows of the library hall bringing light into the dark season of Lapland. Based on the reindeer figure two branches of the central park form the reindeer antlers, two branches outline the reindeer head and one its back. The sports field is

the eye of a reindeer. Streets with apartment buildings wind like reindeer paths forming the upper part of the crown of the antlers.

High buildings were considered competition to the wide river and open hill scenery and they were left out of the cityscape. A major challenge for modern town planning is to secure the historical layers of the city of the Arctic Circle. Children visiting the Santa in Rovaniemi hardly know that they are skating in a historical market place, in the nostril of a reindeer, designed by Alvar Aalto.

Riitta Lönnström

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S. Saraste

The library, the Lappia Theatre house and the sculpture

Public space in Bucharest

Romanian legislation in the field of urban planning and land arrangements was practically rewritten after the fall of communism, abandoning also a part of what was good in such legislation. Almost naturally, such actions were marked by the concern for avoiding the danger that the decision belonged exclusively and discretionarily to the authority of the state. The faulty approach of the relationship between urban planning and property, and a wrongly-understood freedom have often led to the replacement of the brutal “adjustment” process with schizophrenic accents from the 90’s with an uncontrolled development without a vision in many cases.

The capital city, Bucharest, is a powerful regional and national attraction pole, its position in the region offering the characteristics of a continental metropolitan city, a peripheral and yet dynamic pole that concentrates approximately 2,000,000 inhabitants (10% of the decreasing Romanian population and 22,8% of the national Gross Domestic Product).

A characteristic feature of the evolution of the city over the past 20 years, marked by the real-estate boom from 2004-2008 and the economic crisis after 2009, is the loss of the strategic approach, prevailing in general only the decisions favouring the immediate economic interest, in most cases the individual interest, in the sense of a wrongly-understood liberalism.

Under such circumstances, public areas have undergone a decaying process mainly caused by the spectacular increase in the number of vehicles and the irrational privatisation of the real estate fund (approximately 97% privatised at present as compared to 3% – 4% before 1990), which led to the appearance of an important number of owners unable to maintain the property, to real estate abandonment and speculation.

Due to a lack of parking places, an increase in traffic, and the tolerance of the police, sidewalks and public spaces and a large part of the historical centre have been invaded by vehicles, these

areas have thus lost their attractiveness due to the deterioration of the infrastructure and patrimony.

At the beginning of 2009, the General Department for Urban Development of the Bucharest Municipality decided to launch a plan with the aim of reorientating city development based on the principles of sustainable development, within the local specific framework that will materialise in the new urban general plan of Bucharest: a both strategic and operational urban documentation. To date, as a basis of this new Urban Plan, three important studies have been carried out, others are foreseen as an integral process of the execution of the plan: an assessment of the development of Bucharest for the period between 1990-2010, defining developmental directions from the standpoint of the reconciliation of public and private interests; and an integrated development plan for the centre of Bucharest; and an integrated development strategy of Bucharest and of its surrounding and influential areas (up to 2035).



Paula Craioveanu

The placement of a copy of the statue of King Carol I in Palatului Regal Square and the transformation of the adjacent area into a pedestrian one (the monument was destroyed during the communist era)



The stopping of the car traffic in the area of access to the Anglican Church

In order to achieve the Bucharest 2035 plan, four major strategic directions have been proposed:

- The creation of an administrative body at city level and of its areas of influence;
- The strengthening and revitalisation of the territorial pole system;
- The development of an efficient infrastructure system;
- The sustainable valorisation of natural and constructed heritage.

The integrated urban development plan for the central city zone aims for:

- The recovery of the urban identity of the centre;

- The recovery of the central area at the South of Dâmbovița River isolated by Ceaișescu's urban operation from 1980-1990;
- Long-term alternative means of transportation;
- An integrated parking system in the central zone;
- The recovery of public spaces;
- The urban regeneration of traditionally degraded neighbourhoods;
- The stimulation of economic activities.

As one can also see the recovery of public spaces and of the urban identity is at present a major concern of public authorities, materialised into a series of projects spaced out and prioritised for short, medium and long term and in var-

ious degrees of complexity and financing. Although achievements are still quite timid, they can be felt. The traffic and building infrastructure of the most representative part of the Historical Centre (approximately one quarter of it) has been completed and results can already be seen, the spectacular revitalisation of this area leading to the renovation of buildings by owners and the apparition of new businesses. The few properties the Municipality still owns in this area are also being rehabilitated as an example of good practice. Due to this conversion, some small squares have been recovered.

Medium-term complex projects make provisions for the rehabilitation of the most representative squares of the city: Universității Square, Unirii Square, Victoriei Square and Palatului Square. From a legal point of view, the work at Universității Square will be partially completed this year by the commissioning of an underground parking lot and the surface will be converted into a pedestrian area based on an international architecture competition.

Challenges are big, the urban surface is generous, and novel, although in a deplorable state in some places, the means are uncertain but the optimism of the small team of the present administration involved in urban development makes me believe that in a medium period of time the city will benefit from a generous public space of good quality and with personality.

Gheorghe Patrascu
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 Municipality of Bucharest
 Romania*

Finding reinspiration in Vilnius



S. Zabiela

Vilnius from the top of Bekešas Hill

The capital of Lithuania, Vilnius, is a city where until recently you could still pick wild strawberries on the hills near the Old Town, while surveying the domes and spires of the Baroque and Gothic churches or the remains of the old Castle. You might still be lucky enough to find strawberries in some places nearby, because Vilnius is surrounded with legends and myths, especially those relating to its foundation in the valley near the Vilnia, as well as the finest panoramas of the Old Town from the tomb of Gediminas, the Three Crosses and Bekešas Hill are, curiously, not overrun by tourists. Perhaps because these hills, which provide the best vantage points for observing the City, have not yet been brought into line with tourist demands, but this tranquillity will not go on for much longer, because there are more and more visitors every year, many of whom are interested in the landscape and historical parks. Vilnius and its surrounding area were a major attraction for centuries because of their nature, landscapes and harmony with the architectural heritage. The philosopher and art historian Mikalojaus Vorobjovas described Vilnius in 1940: there is no contradiction between the Vilnius landscape and the city itself. The city is a kind of fruit of nature, and nature is its womb, its receptacle, its natural context. This merger of architectural art with nature is sufficient to characterise the profoundly Lithuanian nature of Old Vilnius.

As the 21st century dawns, Vilnius, and notably its environments, have not lost any of their charm and scenic beauty. Nature is naturally present in Vilnius: the first park in Lithuania, known as the Bishops' Garden, was described in 1387. It should be remembered that Lithuania was the last European country to adopt Christianity (1251), and that the pagan tradition considered trees sacred and protected them. The first botanical garden Lithuania was created in 1781 by Jean-Emmanuel Gilibert at the then

Collegium Medicum at Vilnius University (today housed at 22 Didžioji Street). This friend of Jean-Jacques Rousseau's had created the Lyon Botanical Garden in France some time earlier. He was the first to describe Lithuanian flora in his five-volume work *Flora Lituanica*. Lithuania, Vilnius and its surrounding area, with their enchanting natural beauty, have been attracting creative artists for centuries, have been enriched by the creators of a man-made landscape, and are now a veritable treasure chest of landscapes and historical natural parks for its inhabitants and visitors.

The troubled history of Lithuania predestined it for having three capitals: Trakai, Vilnius and Kaunas, not counting Kernavė. Kernavė is now an archaeological site, a cultural reserve included, like the historical centre of Vilnius, on the Unesco World Heritage List. This cultural and commercial centre was important before the emergence of the Lithuania State, from the late Bronze Age to the 15th century. Nowadays, Kernavė attracts a great deal of tourism thanks to its five hill forts and its idyllic landscape redolent of the pagan era.

live in tight-knit communities in Trakai. They still serve up the traditional Karaite dish "kibinai" to visitors near the castle.

Tourists would be attracted to the environs of Trakai simply because of its extraordinary landscape, its 32 lakes and the Trakai national history park, which covers 8 200 hectares. However, in addition to the important cultural heritage of the Lithuanian Grand Duchy era, this area was particularly enriched with 19th-century parcs à l'anglaise designed by Edouard André, laid out every 10 km or so along a 25-km strip between Vilnius and Trakai. One of the most beautiful love stories which led to the French-style parks and the "domains of good taste" in 19th-century Lithuania was that between Felix Tyszkiewicz and his wife Antanina. After their wedding, the wealthy princely family, whose roots extend back to the Lithuanian Grand Duchy era, decided to build a villa at Palanga on the Baltic coast. The work was assigned to the Berlin architect Franz Schwechten, who completed the building in 1897 and advised the Count to call on the services of Edouard André, a world-renowned architect of the time



S. Zabiela

Villa in Trakų Vokė, 10 km from Vilnius

On the other side of Vilnius, barely 25 km away, in the middle of a lake, we find the stone and redbrick castle built by the Lithuanian Grand Duke Vytautas, and the first capital of Lithuania. The castle was partly rebuilt and restored in the 1950s. It is a monument to the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and its leaders, a territory stretching from the Baltic to the Black Sea, and the multicultural State spanning the 13th to the 18th centuries. The Grand Duchy's cultural heritage can be found in the current territory of Belarus and Ukraine. Arriving from Crimea with Vytautas over 600 years ago, the Karaites

working in Paris and throughout Europe. In 1879, this specialist in the creation of parks wrote a work entitled "The Art of Gardens: General Treaty on the composition of parks and gardens", which is still topical today. This was the beginning of several years of co-operation between Edouard André and the Tyszkiewicz family in Lithuania.

Edouard André also designed three other parks in Lithuania for Felix Tyszkiewicz's cousins, who lived near Vilnius. In Lithuania, already a mature architect at the zenith of his career and his art, Edouard André showed an amazing understand-

ing of the landscape and local topography which helped him harness them to the creation of his parks. In Palanga he singled out the combination of an ancient pine forest, a sea view and the Birutė legend. Legend has it that Birutė was worshipped by Lithuanian pagans as a goddess, revering her as the Virgin of Palanga. She had promised to preserve her virginity for the gods, but as fate would have it she became the wife of the Lithuanian sovereign Kęstutis. At Trakų Vokė, just a few kilometres from Vilnius, he chose the rolling countryside and the local man-made lakes for his work. In Lentvaris park fifteen kilometres from Vilnius, he created a park recounting the history of the art of parks and gardens, from the simple country garden to the most sophisticated landscape ever created by man, with artificial rocks, caves, water systems and appropriate flora. He integrated into the park the view from the upper part of the park on to a natural valley, at whose foot lay a lake, with scenic views a little further on. In Užutrakis, barely 30 km from Vilnius, on the far side of the lake where the castle of Vytautas the Great rises, he used the reservoirs and the lake to create an aquatic landscape with views of the romantic castle, which was already in ruins at the time.

While Užutrakis Park is already attracting visitors now that it has been completely restored, virtually all the sculptures having been returned to their rightful place, with the Jacques Cartiers, Josephines and other historical roses already diffusing their heady fragrances, Trakų Vokė and Lentvaris are still awaiting their rebirth.

One of the decisive factors which has facilitated a different interpretation and proper evaluation of the possibilities of the Lithuanian historic parks and landscapes has been the co-operation with the European Institute of Cultural Routes in Luxembourg. Ten years after Lithuania regained its independence, the Lithuanian Department of Cultural Heritage pondered what it should do with the almost 1 000 historical parks in the country, most of which had been abandoned or poorly maintained over the previous 50 years, apart from a few of them. How could they ensure that people realised their value? What was the place of Lithuanian historical parks in the overall context of European parks?

An international specialist team put together by the Institute based its working methods on the Council of Europe's Cultural Routes, thus enabling the



S. Zabieła

Tyszkiewicz family house in Palanga near the Baltic Sea and the Garden of Edouard André

Lithuanian cultural heritage specialists to rediscover and reassess their landscape and historical parks. Their main achievement was in fact to change people's viewpoints on historical parks and landscapes. While at the turn of the millennium the Lithuanian heritage protection professionals still had to evidence the fact that historical parks were just as valuable as buildings, palaces and churches after ten years' co-operation with the Institute, the parks and landscapes are now gradually becoming objects of prestige, symbols of quality and "fashion icons". The Council of Europe Cultural Routes Programme is an excellent instrument for international co-operation which has enabled the country to exploit European results in the field of interpreting cultural heritage and historical parks. In order to create the Cultural Route of Edouard André Parks in Lithuania, we have considered in detail the criteria used for European cultural routes and the values upheld by the Council of Europe. The last stage in this endeavour involved a study of the possibilities for restoring the Trakų Vokė Park, which has been submitted to the Lithuanian Ministry of Culture. We are hoping that the restoration of the Trakų Vokė Park will proceed favourably. A conference held in 2001 was attended by international specialists from France, Romania, the United Kingdom, Belgium and other countries. Officials from five Lithuanian ministries also participated, which was unprecedented in our country at the time. Between 2002 and 2010 there was a whole series of seminars and encounters, specialist visits by four young Lithuanian architects to European historical parks, work in the Trakų Vokė Park with the Florentine specialist in historical park restoration, Mariachiara Pozzana, a range of radio and TV programmes and broadcasts and documentary films, all shored up by an unshakeable faith in the power of the historical parks and landscapes. The character of Edouard André and his work galvanised all those involved, whatever their nationality or profession.

The eloquence and scenic beauty of the historical parks, the history of their creation, the diversity of the cultural heritage and its sources, and the variety of Lithuanian landscapes could serve as one of the main attractions and provide Lithuania with a tourist product in eastern Europe that would attract and interest people. We need only think of the attractions of western Lithuania: the 50-km strip along the Courland isthmus, with its white sand, its microclimate, unspoilt beaches, exceptional flora and fauna and its idyllic views from the dunes over the lagoon and the sea. The route continues with the Palanga park designed by Edouard André, the palace built by the Tyszkiewicz family, which has since 1963 housed the Amber Museum, the huge Japanese park and a wide range of cultural heritage assets in the surrounding area. To the south lie Vilnius, the three parks designed by Edouard André in the vicinity, which will hopefully soon be linked up to form the project "Cultural Route of Edouard André Parks in Lithuania", and the contemporary parks which have emerged over the last 20 years since independence: the Europe Park, a 55-hectare contemporary art park which houses a range of impressive sculptures (with works by Magdalena Abakanowicz, Sol Le Witt, Denis Oppenheim...), and the Grūtas park 120 km to the south, displaying sculptures and art from the Soviet era. This is a major tourist attraction for people wishing to discover our country and its landscapes. Furthermore, it is very much in line with the Council of Europe's values and the provisions of the European Landscape Convention. However, an enormous amount of work still lies ahead; our achievements so far are only the beginning, pointers to the future.

Alfредas Jomantas

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S. Zabieła

Europos Parkas created in 1991, work by Magdalena Abakanowicz, "Unknown growth space"

Landscape in the border zone of natural

According to the European Landscape Convention "Landscape" refers to an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.

It is essential to mention that the interaction of natural and human factors results in conflicts generating multiple problems, which are often difficult to solve. Solving these problems is generally much harder than if they had been prevented. The contradictions between the influence of the human factor and the necessity to preserve "open space" territories are particularly sharp, especially when the issue concerns sensitive and fragile ecosystems.

In Armenia, Lake Sevan and its watershed are highly characteristic of this phenomenon. The lake is the largest freshwater lake in Caucasus, and the level of water table is now about 1900 meters with a surface area of 1260 km².

The surrounding landscapes of high mountains, some as high as

3600 meters, give a special charm to the lake. It is an exceptional recreational resource created by nature, which preserves the natural balance of the whole watershed with its salutary influence.

Starting in the 1950s the natural environment of the lake was affected by human interference. One part of the water reserves was released for energy and irrigation purposes. As a result of the sharp reduction of water level (about 16 meters from its primary level) there was a real danger of ecosystem disturbance.

In order to manage the existing situation, the authorities of Armenia have in recent years undertaken some drastic measures. Water release from the lake was significantly decreased, the hydro complex Vorotan-Arpa-Sevan was built to direct the waters from rivers to the lake and as a result the water level started to rise.

According to the legislation, the water level of the lake should be raised to 1903.5 metres above sea level. This

level was calculated by comprehensive, scientific research and ensures the restoration of the ecological balance, the prevention of eutrophication processes and the re-emergence of biological resources.

In 2008 the Commission on issues of Lake Sevan adjacent to the President of the Republic of Armenia was established, the main function of which is the elaboration of measures connected with preservation, restoration, recreation, sustainable development and use of the lake ecosystem. The Commission, which consists of state authorities, parliamentarians, experienced professionals, representatives of Non-governmental organisations, has already developed a number of concrete measures concerning the solution of the above-mentioned issues. A wide range of activities concerning spatial planning and landscape, form a part of these measures, this includes the approval of special legal norms defining the peculiarities of land provision and construction in the lakeside territories of Sevan, including the elabora-

R. Alaverdyan



and human factors: the Lake Sevan

tion of landscape and spatial planning documents. Particularly noteworthy is the amendment, between 2010-2011, of the regional spatial plan for the lake reservoir and the detailed zoning plan for territories envisaged for construction in the central part of the lake (within the territory of National Park). Currently, issues on allocation of landscape and recreational systems, their harmonious correlation, the formation of urban development and landscape criteria are in a stage of elaboration.

I would like to mention some key aspects on the principles and aims of territorial planning in the lakeside of Sevan.

The main purpose is to create the necessary preconditions for the formation and sustainable development of a favourable bio-environment in the offshore territories of the lake, by applying spatial planning instruments.

The issues of urbanised environment formation are being considered as important ingredients of the ecosystem of the lake, aimed, on the one hand at ensuring the use of the country's unique recreational resource, and on the other hand providing the requirements of restoration, maintenance and recreation of the lake.

The existing landscapes of the central zone of the lake have been shaped by the forest layer creation over the open ground floated coats, where the existence of land area does not exceed 60 years. These landscapes are the result of changes in the natural conditions influenced by human activities.

The planning documents have been developed following the main principles defined by the European Landscape

Convention: hence each measure is directed to the foundation of an appropriate landscape quality. Attempts have been made to foresee and analyse the effects of landscape modifications, such as in the case of the implementation of planning measures. Subsequently, these measures have been corrected and approximated corresponding to the peculiarities of the territories.

Buffer zones of "landscape protection" which are not affected by construction are created between territories envisaged for active exploitation for recreational purposes. The aim is to preserve and to improve the natural landscapes, to recreate new landscapes out of those that are degraded, by restoring and extending the balance of green areas affected by deforestation in territories left under the water and in lakeside areas.

The mosaic landscapes formed by the sequence of modified and natural sections will aid to shift the load of extensive recreational use of the lakeside areas.

With regard to the construction sections, the planning solutions have been selected in harmony with their natural environment, taking into account the relief, the conditions of isolation, the direction and strength of winds and the structure of the existing coastal scheme. The planning of the territories has been implemented by considering the existing urban development, ecological, economic and other various links and is conditioned by the necessity of harmonious correlation between natural and urbanised environments.

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R. Alaverdyan

The Baku Boulevard: the pride of the nation

Azerbaijan is carrying out a purposeful policy intended to eliminate the current problems within the environmental sphere. This policy is one of the main components in the quest to achieve a sustainable development strategy, intended to reduce poverty and boost economic progress. The Republic of Azerbaijan pays special attention to its relations with the international communities of the United Nations, the European Union, the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, which play a fundamental role for countries that wish to achieve sustainable development and offers a forum for discussion and the solving of main issues in the field of environmental protection.

Since Azerbaijan's independence, the Republic has repeatedly approved the adherence to the international ideas of ecological safety and sustainable devel-

opment, and has signed the conclusive documents of the UN Conference on Environment and Development in 1992. Azerbaijan has also joined the important international Convention on Biology Diversity and Framework Convention on Global Climate Change, and has become an active participant of the process "The Environment for Europe". Azerbaijan is also fulfilling its obligations on other international agreements; among these agreements is the European Landscape Convention. Since 22 October 2003, we have been a signatory of the European Landscape Convention.

Taking this opportunity I would like to draw the reader's attention to some brief information on the state of protection of open spaces in the country, following the example of Baku Boulevard. Baku is one of the most beautiful cities in the world and is the capital city of

Azerbaijan. It is a major port located on the southern shores of the Absheron Peninsula on the western coast of the Caspian Sea. Baku City is situated at the merging point of Europe and Asia and is called the "Windy City". As the largest cultural centre in the country, Baku has both a rich local dramatic portfolio and an international repertoire. This interesting city has beautiful buildings and has a tradition of a specific building style based on the fusion of ancient eastern and modern western architecture.

Baku Boulevard (Azerbaijani: *Dənizkənarı Milli Park*) also known as the National Park, is an invaluable pearl in Baku, and is a mystifying example of our material culture, which combines historical and modern features and natural components. Baku Boulevard is a promenade that runs parallel to Baku's seafront. Its history dates back more than 100 years, to a time when Baku oil barons built



The view over Baku Boulevard

tion



The seafront before the Boulevard Park was built, with the Maiden's Tower in the background



Building the seafront that is now known as the SOCAR Circle



Baku Boulevard, attractions

their mansions along the Caspian shore and when the waterfront was artificially constructed bit by bit. The park is approximately 3 km x 750 m in size and is located on the southern coast of the Caspian Sea. It starts at the Palace of Hand Games and ends at Azadlig, Freedom Square.

The history of the Boulevard

Until the early 20th century, the centre of Baku city had mansions on one side and the seafront on the other, and no trees. In 1900, the Municipal Horticultural Commission of Baku decided to plant trees and shrubs along the seafront. Kazimir Skurevich, a Polish engineer, designed a 20 meter-wide embankment, using vegetation that would survive Baku's extremely hot, dry and gusty climate. Massive amounts of fertile soil were imported to improve the soil quality. The Mayor of the city, R. R. Hoven, supported by wealthy industrialists, passed a decree in the 1880s saying that all ships entering the Baku harbour from Iran had to bring fertile soil with them. In reality, this was a type of imposed tax or duty, in return for the right to use the harbour and load up with oil. Within a very short time, enough soil was deposited and the work started on the Boulevard.

The foundation of Baku Boulevard was laid down in 1909, after Mohammad Hasan Hajinski, Head of Baku's Municipal Construction Department made a speech in the Baku Duma (the equivalent of the Municipal Parliament),

suggesting the creation of a boulevard for leisure activities for the residents of the city. The 100th year anniversary of the Baku Boulevard was celebrated in 2009.

The park was intended to support the continued expansion of the city in the north, providing relaxation and recreation opportunities for the new middle classes to the west, and an escape from the rapidly increasing slum of the city centre, for those left behind. To select the best design for the Boulevard, Hajinski organised a contest among the architects in Baku. Adolph Eykler, a German architect who had also designed Baku's German Lutheran Church, was involved in the project. Work was completed in 1911.

The improved Boulevard stretched from what is now the State Oil Company of the Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR) Circle to the luxurious cinema, restaurant and the casino, known as "Phenomenon", designed by the Polish architect Joseph K. Ploshko (1912).

During the Soviet period, the casino was converted to a Children's Puppet Theatre, a function it still serves today. Subsequently, the Boulevard was extended up to the Port Arrival Station. In the 1980s, the region was mismanaged and neglected maintenance. The situation further deteriorated as the sea level began to rise, and many of the trees and shrubs in the park started dying due to the salinity of the water. A significant part of the Boulevard,

including the walking pier, the concrete quay and the yachts-clubs were flooded. As a result the reconstruction works raised the bottom terrace of the parkway a few meters. Today, the Caspian Sea is receding.

In 1936, the parachute tower was built and used for extreme activities. However, in the 1960s the tower turned into a weather forecasting station after a fatal accident, which led to an ultimate ban of parachuting from the tower. Even in the present day, the tower is considered a landmark on the Boulevard.

The Boulevard developed further after the construction of the Bahar and Mirvari cafes, a summer cinema and other leisure attractions during 1950-1960s. In 1970, the boulevard was further expanded to the east and to the west.

The most important and historical moment of the development of Baku Boulevard was the Decree of the President of Azerbaijan on 29 December 1998. Thanks to this decree, the Boulevard was given the status of a National Park, according to article 76 of the law on "Protection of Environment". This status was also useful in order to deal with the environmental problems of the Boulevard, such as cleaning oil pollution from oil platforms in the Caspian Sea.

Considering the historical and cultural value of the Boulevard, the President of Azerbaijan issued a decree on 10 January 2008. According to this decree, management of the Baku Boulevard was created within the Cabinet of the Ministries of Azerbaijan. The fact that the Boulevard has finally been given the status of National Park brings hope for the future of the Boulevard, and that it will gradually prove to be the vibrant park, it was originally intended to be when it was first constructed, more than a century ago.

Today's activities within Baku Boulevard and future steps

Baku Boulevard is the most popular place for residents of Baku and visitors of the city alike. Cool air and the expanse of the sea along the Boulevard attract visitors of the city. There is an attraction for all here, children will with pleasure pass time on a swing, and adults can slowly enjoy a walk along the avenues. The open-air café invites visitors to drink a fragrant cup of tea. Great pleasure can also be derived from

going on a boat wherefrom the whole majestic panorama of the city can be appreciated. In the middle of the sea near the new walking pier, lies an unusual fountain. A powerful jet of water rises high in the air, creating a multi-coloured rainbow for all to enjoy.

Along the Boulevard there are also numerous cinemas, clubs, showrooms, yacht clubs, as well as various statues and monuments.

Baku Boulevard is adorned by channels with crossing bridges. The residents of Baku named this corner of the Boulevard, Venice. The opening of a musical fountain, unique in its kind, took place in 2007. The staff of the of the Baku Boulevard Management includes gardeners, who look after the greenery as well as partake in landscape architecture such as shaping and cutting intricate figures out of bushes and trees. Recently some new kinds of ornamental plants have also been delivered from the Netherlands and several new green plants will be cultivated along Boulevard in the near future.

At present the planting areas of the Boulevard covers around 40 per cent of the total area. The park is becoming popular for dog walkers and of late, an international centre of Mugam (national folklore) has also been constructed within the Boulevard area.

In 2010, a multi-storied shopping centre named "Park Boulevard", a Baku Business centre and 5-D cinemas opened on the Baku Boulevard, making the boulevard even more attractive.

The Boulevard started to gain a new appearance with smoother pavements, greener lawns, quainter cafés, more impressive fountains and an overall cleaner Boulevard. This transformation



The international centre of Mugam within Baku Boulevard

is enjoyed by all, and hopes that there will provide a constancy and a continuity to the cleanliness and good service. Taking this into account and the importance of the Boulevard for the residents of Baku, the government has decided to expand the territory of Baku Boulevard. The project of expanding the Baku Boulevard aims to create more comfortable conditions for the residents of the capital city as well as offering visitors relaxation and sports in comfortable conditions on the Caspian seaside. The area of the Boulevard will expand dually, through the transfer of the old port from the centre of Baku to Alyat and the extension of Baku Boulevard to Flag Square. Necessary improvements are already underway.

It is necessary to note that the actions agreed for the development of the Baku Parkway correspond completely to the Landscape Convention, which clearly

indicates that "Each Party undertakes to integrate landscape into its regional and town planning policies and in its cultural, environmental, agricultural, social and economic policies, as well as in any other policies with possible direct or indirect impact on landscape".

The old photos used for this article are used at the courtesy of the National Archives of Photo and Cinema Documents.

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Protection of historic streetscapes in Maltese Urban Conservation Areas

Malta has a long history of human settlement, which is reflected in various architectural styles still visible in its historic centres, mainly: Medieval organic village development, Renaissance and Baroque periods, Neo-Classical (1714-1830), and British Colonial (1837-1910).

The need to protect the Islands' historical fabric was first formally recognised in the Antiquities Protection Act of 1925, whose approach centred on the identification and protection of individual historical 'monuments', later strengthened by the Structure Plan (1990) and planning legislation (1992 and 2010).

Currently, there are three types of protection for historic buildings and areas: classified buildings (protection of individual buildings of architectural value); street categorisation (hierarchy of protection for streets within Urban Conservation Areas); and Urban Conservation Areas (entire historic cores).

Urban Conservation Areas (UCAs)

An Urban Conservation Area is defined by the Structure Plan as "an area of special architectural or historic interest, the character and appearance of which is desirable to preserve or

enhance". Currently there are 63 areas designated as UCAs within Malta's and Gozo's 68 localities.

The first "village cores" (later called "UCAs") were designated relatively recently, as part of the delineation of the Temporary Provision Schemes (Development Zones) in 1988. The Structure Plan, Malta's principle land use policy document, formalised boundaries and policies for UCAs. The main aim of this strategy was to rehabilitate historic centres (problems include incompatible uses, materials, building heights, overdevelopment in private gardens), in order to help slow down the out-migration causing further development of undeveloped sites, retain traditional character, and attract new residents. In 1995, the "Development Control within UCAs Design Guidance" was issued, outlining details for rehabilitation and redevelopment of buildings as well as treatment of open spaces.

Street categorisation

By the early 2000s, a number of local studies on urban conservation had been carried out, which concluded that while UCAs needed to be totally protected, the mere application of a blanket protection was not efficient. Furthermore, placing

emphasis on the conservation of key historical monuments and buildings had proved inadequate to ensure economic and social regeneration of the historic cores. A "middle ground" was needed.

In line with the underlying principles of UCAs, the specification of character sub-areas followed a more territorial approach, aimed at valorising the local distinctive features of the area. The strategy involved the identification of areas within UCAs according to the collective significance of their respective properties and spaces for proposed zoning (character sub-areas).

A street categorisation exercise was first carried out for the locality of Sliema in 1997, following which a similar strategy was employed for the categorisation of all village cores of the smaller island of Gozo (included in the Gozo and Comino Local Plan 2006). Eventually, the exercise was extended to all other localities in Malta. An exception is the capital Valletta and the surrounding localities, mainly due to the fact that most of them are fortified towns and many buildings are planned. Therefore, the degree of protection of the area was deemed sufficient.

The procedure for the identification of character sub-areas involved:

- Documentation of all relevant facts about the areas, acquired at historical typological and urban planning level;
- Intensive surveys of all areas by a multi-disciplinary team including an urban planner, a conservation architect and a photographer.

Various issues related to townscape and streetscape, such as design, material, colour, texture, fittings, fixtures, street furniture, balconies, road surfacing and urban landscaping, were taken into account.

The Gozo example

Local Plan policies for development within UCAs follow a similar pattern for all areas. The regulations for Gozo, as outlined in the Gozo and Comino Local Plan, will be given as an example here.



Street Category A - Rabat, Gozo

The street hierarchy system follows a Grade A, B, C system. Different parameters govern the various categories, with Category A being the strictest, as follows:

Category A:

- No changes to facades of built fabric, ancillary open spaces and street alignment;
- Structural interventions to be limited to replacement of deteriorated components and removal of incompatible accretions;
- No additional floors.

Category B + /B:

- Minor alterations to facades (e.g. changes to apertures) and additional floors are permitted, provided traditional scale, proportions, fenestration,

materials, colours, textures are used;

- No complete replacement of facades.

Category C:

- Significant alterations or demolition of facades and construction of additional floors may be allowed provided that replacement building reflects surrounding context (as for alterations in B).

In case a building within these areas is otherwise protected or listed, the more restrictive policy prevails. It should be noted that street categorisation policies apply to the facades, as opposed to the entire buildings, which are additionally scheduled in case of valuable buildings. This means that for other buildings,



Street Category C

it is possible to redevelop the inside to cater for modern standards, while retaining the historic appearance of the streetscape.

Frans Mallia

*Assistant Director
Forward Planning Division*

Joseph Magro Conti

*Unit Manager
Heritage Planning Unit*

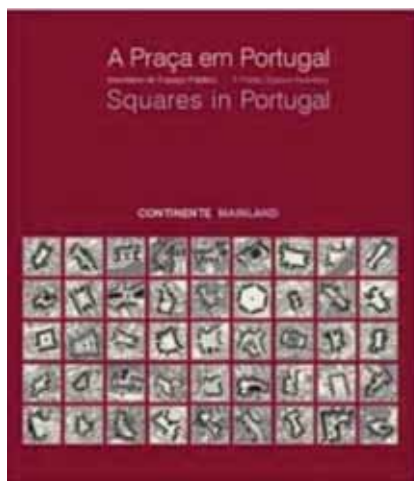
Anja Delia

*Senior Planning Officer
Malta Environment and Planning Authority
Floriana, Malta*



Street Category B +

Inventory of squares in Portugal



Portuguese squares display a very varied range of urban situations that are examples of great plastic quality, with their very own identifiable characteristics. They contribute towards the way we understand this urban feature in

a cultural area that has spread to several continents and which, in addition to its historical importance, may be a starting point for producing new exceptional urban spaces in our cities.

Following the tradition of treatises on urbanism, we took on the job of fact-finding, graphic restitution and illustrating the main examples of squares in Portugal, our intention being for our work to be a representative body of the diverse typology, the state of development, dimensions and uses of this particular type of public space.

The encyclopaedic objective of the work meant the examples studied had to be schematised in identical sheets, the aim being to characterise each one in the most synthetic way possible whilst maintaining a standard, and enabling it to be used as an instrument for practicing urbanism, as well as teaching it.

Carried out at the request of the Directorate General for Spatial Planning and Urban Development in Portugal, the study started as a pedagogic experiment conducted at the Faculty of Architecture of the Technical University of Lisbon. Its results were published in three volumes and a CD-Rom, presented as a portable exhibition kit, making it easily available to all those working on or interested in this subject.

Carlos Dias Coelho

Coordinator of the Study on squares in Portugal

Faculty of Architecture of the Technical University of Lisbon and

Directorate General for Spatial Planning and Urban Development of Portugal

Two streets, one square in the Catalan Transfrontier Space Eurodistrict



As part of the call for projects issued by the Common Fund of the Pyrénées-Orientales Department Council, the Catalan Town Planning Agency (AURCA) joined with the Private Foundation Gerona, University and Future (PPGUiF) to create a Forum to exchange interesting town-planning experiments and practices in the territory of the Catalan Transfrontier Space Eurodistrict.

This Eurodistrict comprises the Pyrénées-Orientales Department (northern Catalonia) and the province of Gerona, also including southern Cerdanya. It covers an area of 10 247 km², housing a population of almost 1 177 000 (2008 figures).

The methodology

There are two main goals: firstly, to develop transfrontier co-operation by organising exchanges of experience and knowledge between elected representatives and technicians on either side of the border, and secondly, to proclaim the importance of public space quality for the residents' living environment and thus clarify the need to act on this environment with sensitivity and finesse.

The Exchange Forum drew on a selection of 40 projects implemented over the last 20 years in the Eurodistrict (20 in the north and 20 in the south). They were identified by a pluridisciplinary

selection committee in accordance with three major categories: parks, gardens and other outside areas, urban squares, development of old town centres and redevelopment of the coast and sea-front. Each category comprises ten operations.

Selection criteria

Operations were selected on the basis of having properly adapted to the strengths and weaknesses of the sites where they were being implemented and having attempted to apply an appropriate functional and aesthetic response, respecting all the physical, patrimonial, cultural and social elements. These operations stood out for their capacity to create and regenerate the urban space without dominating it. The aim is to provide the city with something which it is lacking or is already latently there.

Even though the operations pinpointed vary widely, providing a multiplicity of responses, they all contain a main thread highlighted by the ambitions of the urban project managing teams vis-à-vis nuanced intervention on the public space, receptive to residents' requests and sensitive to the specific context of the site and the urban fabric surrounding it. In the light of the multiple challenges of sustainable development, these projects are also underpinned by a determination to adapt to expected future developments which will inevitably impact Catalan towns and villages.

Methodology

The Exchange Forum, which is both collegial and educational in nature, comprises three related strands:

- Two days of visits successfully conducted in the Gerona region and in the Pyrénées-Occidentales Department. These events were the subject of video reports, which may be consulted on the AURCA website (www.aurca.org). On each of the two days, five projects were visited, with a presentation by their urban managers (elected representatives and/or designers), in a for-



Study visit by elected representatives and technicians from the Catalan Transfrontier Area

mat permitting exchange between the stakeholders and the participants.

- A touring exhibition entitled "Two streets, one square/*Dos carrers, una plaça*" in Perpignan and Gerona, comprising 40 selected cities and open to the public. This exhibition has already attracted several hundred visitors.
- A compendium of interesting development projects in the Catalan transfrontier area has been published and extensively circulated among development and town planning institutions, stakeholders, technicians and elected representatives (It can be downloaded on the AURCA website under the section on Publications/Transfrontier studies).

Beyond a mere catalogue of good practices, the approach is intended to show how, in urban and rural municipalities, specific operations have proved particularly exemplary, addressing common problems and processes. This Exchange Forum is part of the preparation for a Transfrontier observatory of good

urban practices based on the values of Catalan heritages.

Transfrontier initiatives help highlight the strengths of each region in dealing with similar problems. In the North, the emphasis is on consultation with residents and local stakeholders, and a social perspective on space which transcends the project implementation zone. In southern Catalonia, we note a high degree of conceptualisation of projects and meticulous, pragmatic implementation concentrating on the actual project zone. These two approaches are essential and complementary, any action aiming at exemplarity should integrate both of them.

Gilles Planas

*Project co-ordinator in northern Catalonia
Pyrénées-Orientales*

Bernat Llauroadó Auquer

*Project co-ordinator in southern Catalonia
Province of Gerona and Cerdanya
Catalan Town Planning Agency
Toulouges, France*

Belgrade's 'Urban Pockets'

The Project Belgrade's 'Urban Pockets' was established in 2008 searching for knowledge and professional experience, with a desire to introduce landscape architecture to Belgrade's citizens. This project was launched by students of Belgrade University, Faculty of Forestry, Department of Landscape Architecture and Horticulture, in cooperation with university assistants. At the same time, Serbia also signed the European Landscape Convention, which offers new opportunities to promote the profession at all levels: local, regional and national. Following the basic principles of the European Landscape Convention, the Project Belgrade's 'Urban Pockets' focused on small urban areas, taking into account the landscape character, their protection and enhancement, and involving active participation of local communities.

This project has promoted the concept of landscape planning and design, as an instrument of spatial justice and listening to the voices of all stakeholders, to see how the quality of life may be affected by development decisions. It has further sought to regain initiative on matters of design and 'place-making',

which people might identify with and be proud of, in their localities with historical and cultural identity.

'Urban pockets' are small urban places, with major ecological, economic and social functions and potential. They all, often pass between buildings, they are derelict inner courtyards, atriiums and small parcels that currently do not have the appropriate and desired purpose. These places are mostly represented in central Belgrade municipalities, which incidentally have the lowest percentage of open green spaces.

The project identified and mapped potential 'urban pocket' locations, which involved looking at, listening to, and questioning the people who live, work and play in a particular space, in order to discover their needs and aspirations. This information is then used to create a common vision for this location.

Beside the participation of citizens, one of the main stages within the project was the involvement and correspondence with governmental authorities. The project proposal was sent to the

Office for Sustainable Development in the Government of the Republic of Serbia and as a project that was considered to support the principles of sustainable development was sent to local governments in several Belgrade municipalities.

Today, some of the 'urban pockets' projects are realised in the Belgrade Municipality Vracar, which is the first municipality that recognised the potential of this project. Additionally, the project was realised on the wider city level, and followed up the implementation projects in ten urban municipalities in over 15 locations.

The project was promoted at the Mikser festival, the largest regional festival of creativity, with strong emphasis on a multidisciplinary and multicultural approach. It took place at a breath-taking industrial complex on the Danube waterfront, only 700 metres from the heart of Belgrade. During five festival days in late May, Mikser was blurring the boundaries between disciplines and enhancing interaction between various fields of creativity, such as: design, art, architecture, environmental issues,



Branicevska Street

business, new media, music, film and theatre. This atmosphere corresponded to the concept of Project Belgrade's Urban Pockets. Students set up an exhibition entitled "We Redraw the City – We saw Belgrade's urban pockets within the Education Zone". The aim of the exhibition was to familiarise visitors with the content of the project and its positive effects, which can directly affect the improvement of city living conditions.

The setting of the exhibition consisted of two interconnected segments. As part of the Belgrade's 'Urban Pockets' project realisation, they aimed at several locations of Belgrade municipalities. The second segment was more interactive. The interaction was reflected in the possibility of exhibition visitors to redraw, or draw on blank sheets, their 'urban pocket' or how they wish them to be portrayed.

The Project Belgrade's 'Urban Pockets' proved a fruitful experience for all those who participated. Students gained invaluable experience by working with local authorities and local communities, having been faced with many problems related to administration, property rights, as well as problems concerning the status of the profession in society. Through this experience they learned a lot, and finally found a way to bring the complex profession of landscape architecture to Belgrade citizens. What is worth even more; to present what a landscape architect can and must do with the desire to achieve a sustainable urban development.

A great career lies in front of them. Wish them good luck!

Nevena Vasiljevic

*University of Belgrade, Faculty of Forestry
Department of Landscape Architecture
and Horticulture
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Belgrade's Urban Pockets

The Project of Heartlands Cornwall

Overall vision

Heartlands is a £35 million community led scheme to transform Cornwall's most derelict urban area into a truly inspirational cultural landscape. Cornwall Council has been awarded a £22.3 million grant from the Big Lottery's Living Landmarks programme and significant match funding from the Homes and Communities Agency, the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and contributions from the Council itself to deliver this incredible community vision. It was one of only three projects in the United Kingdom to receive grants under the Big Lottery Fund's Living Landmarks scheme, from over 350 applications across the country. Heartlands will create a unique setting for a range of activities that are essential for the area's social regeneration.

The Heartlands design philosophy has been one of responding to the historic and cultural situation of the site whilst integrating uplifting and sensitive features that will enable a Unesco World Heritage Site setting to be the foundation of a prosperous future for the local community. The landscape design and architectural design that has been undertaken has therefore been dual focussed on the historic sensitivities and community vision, the result of which is a mixed use development of international quality which works for local

families, businesses and visitors to this unique region of the United Kingdom.

Heartlands' 19 acre landscape will be a spectacular cultural playground offering year-round year round attractions for local people, tourists and business users. Exhibitions, gardens and newly commissioned artworks will interpret Cornwall's unique landscape, wildlife, culture and heritage.

Play and outdoor adventure

A newly created landscape will grow where there is now wasteland. Featuring one of the largest children's adventure areas in the South West, the Heartlands' offer also includes gardens, water features, fountains, and trails, exploring Cornwall's unique culture and offering entertainment and fun for all families. The design philosophy for this area has been led by local school children working with designers to produce a design themed around Cornish culture and legends.

Gardens and planting

Heartlands is a green project with its focus firmly on a sustainable future. The gardens and planting are carefully designed to reflect Cornwall's ecology but also the influence of the Cornish mining pioneers whose enterprising spirit took them around the world. Vibrant and exotic plant species from

South America, Australia and Africa will be planted to acknowledge this, alongside native plants, while traditional Cornish stone hedges will provide shelter.

Sustainable gardening methods, innovative rainwater recycling systems and community gardening projects using volunteers, will all be seen in action, and leafy outdoor classrooms, sculpture gardens and performance spaces will all play a part in the unique mix.

Arts, entertainment, and events

Heartlands will offer a packed programme of art exhibitions, festivals and music and theatre performances attracting visitors throughout the year.

Two outdoor spaces will accommodate performances and events for up to 4,000 people, while two new squares will hold farmer's markets and arts fairs. A series of adaptable indoor venues, including the 200 seat Heartlands Hall will host everything from regional business conferences to community group meetings and craft workshops.

Visitor Centre

Heartlands will be a gateway destination within the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape World Heritage Site. The visitor centre is housed in the Robinson's Shaft mine complex. An audio visual show will tell the story of Cornish ingenuity, past, present and future, capturing the essence of the County's unique geology and geography. The renovation and restoration of the structures, part of the Cornwall and West Devon World Heritage Site, have had a strong conservation approach throughout, whilst striving to enhance the environmental sustainability of the buildings. These challenges have produced a Building Research Establishment Assessment Method. Excellent development which is low carbon in use, by off-setting in excess of 70% of the carbon emissions through on-site renewable technologies including wind turbines, solar panels and a bio-mass heating system.





The Heartlands community-led philosophy and vision to transform a unique and historic site has resulted in an innovative and uplifting setting for the future prosperity of a community, acting as a catalyst for the wider regeneration and development of the area. Heartlands will soon be open to the public.

Scott James

*Programme Director Heartlands
Cornwall Council*

John Fleet

*Director of the Centre for
European Research within Cornwall (CERES)
Cornwall, United Kingdom*

The Park of the Planet Cities – an open space of creative industries and innovations in

The process of the role and growth of cities is one of the main tendencies of human development. Cities become the main instrument of steady development of human civilisation. Aspiration for the creation of a “green city”, open space for the realisation of creative industries and innovations should become the main element of such development.

One such opportunity is offered by the citizens’ diplomacy project the “Park of the Planet Cities”, prepared by the initiative group of architects and the spatial and strategic planning experts of Tver. It is a redevelopment project of Tver City centre in the natural hydro-park zone of T’maka, Lazur and Volga floodplains.

To implement this project, the reconstruction territory that has an area greater than 300 ha is restructured in a particular way. Special zones are selected and then distributed between investors from the twin cities; thereby the Park of the Planet Cities will be initiated, opening the project. Any city in any country in the world may take part in this project, but the project will start its work with twin cities.

The point of this project is that the city begins to develop as several independent prospective centres on the territo-

ries allocated to twin cities, that have their own character and development plan but at the same time share a common vision for long-term development of the city as a modern centre at an international level in the format of open space. This ideology can be described as “a circle of circles”.

The project is a new innovative approach in the urban strategy of cities reconstruction and landscape and parks designed, as 95% of the territory will be covered with parks and hydro parks. French, Bulgarian, Chinese, Hungarian, German, Finnish and other park zones will appear. They will reflect the unique style and special features of each country and at the same time they will represent business residences of each city partner of the project.

The rest of the territory will involve: business and information centres, trade and entertainment and sports complexes, museum and exhibition pavilions, cinema and concert halls, hotels and modern residential building.

The project offers a joint partnership in building and using the objects of the project property “Park of the Planet Cities” with the income divided equally between two sides.

In return a Tver residence (a Russian wooden palace “Russian Terem”) will be built in twin cities on the same conditions. Each participating city therefore will have 100% of property assets.

For a more successful realisation of the project the European conception of “open city” based on democracy of direct action needs to be adopted, where the process of administrative decision-making is open for participation of all citizens. This ideology stakes on social capital development of the city, and on citizens’ activity. Each citizen has a right and an opportunity to take part in the design and to take responsibility upon himself. Civil society institutions will search for the best people and ideas, for projects and development initiatives to be realised. Selection of such projects, ideas and people will take place at cities social forums and civil congresses.

The realisation of the project will allow integrating global town planning and creative landscaping ideas. It will make conditions for the realisation of creative industries and innovations. The modern European conception of “open city” will therefore be adopted, united with Tver historic and cultural heritage and also with real practice of Tver connections with twin cities within the scope of citizens’ diplomacy.

At the roundtable discussion “European cooperation for regional development” of IX All-Russia Forum of regions and cities strategists held in 2010, in Saint-Petersburg, the project idea “Park of the Planet Cities” was presented.



V. Bashilov & V. Obratsov

Space for realisation Tver, Russian Federation



V. Bashilov & V. Obraztsov

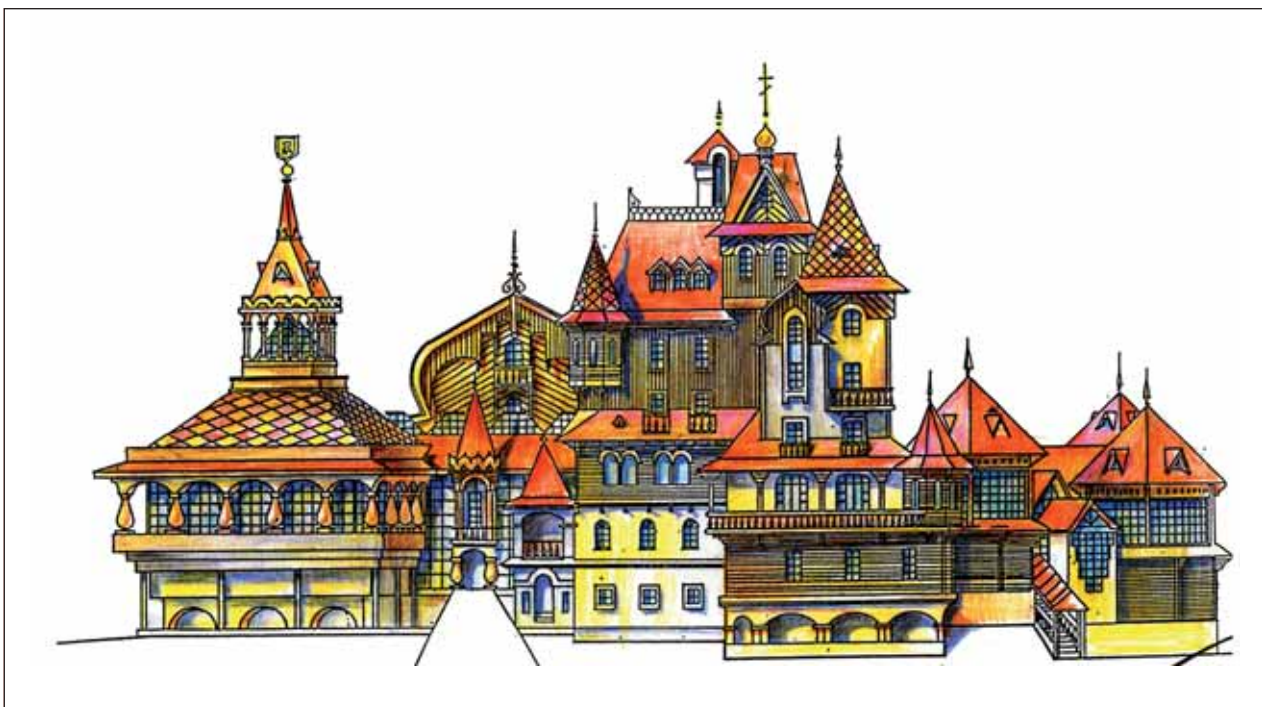
Every historical age has left to descendants its priceless cultural and architectural monuments, temples and palaces, parks and gardens, theatres and bridges. This is an opportunity to give our descendants the “Park of the Planet Cities” and doors are open for future international partners.

Vyacheslav M. Bashilov

Head of the Initiative group of architects and the spatial and strategic planning experts of Tver, Member of the Public Chamber of Tver, Member of the Russian Economic Developers Association (ASSET)

Vladimir I. Obraztsov

Member of the Initiative group of architects and the spatial and strategic planning experts of Tver, Architect of the project, Member of the Russian Union of Architects Tver, Russian Federation



V. Bashilov & V. Obraztsov

A landscape project approach of the Corridor of the Imrahor Valley and the Eymir-Mogan

Ankara is a landlocked city. However, it has various remarkable recreational facilities. The Corridor of the Imrahor Valley and Eymir-Mogan Lakes is one of the attractive open and green space areas in Ankara.

To provide a new recreational area to Ankara

Ankara is the capital of Turkey with approximately 4.7 million inhabitants. In view of the population and geographical position of Ankara, recreational areas provide for vital needs in the city. The Imrahor Valley with its beautiful scenery is located in its southeast part. The valley ending in the Eymir-Mogan Lakes offers a picturesque landscape.

The Imrahor Valley has a curvy shape, and spans approximately 8 kilometres. The Corridor of the Imrahor Valley and the Eymir-Mogan Lakes provide a remarkable urban recreational area in terms of natural beauty, water reservoir, air corridor and an area of biological diversity. Moreover, the whole region has an agricultural wealth as well as important historical and archaeological assets. The total area to benefit from the landscape project is 3526 hectares.

In Turkey, some misapplications have been experienced in the rehabilitation of water basins and valleys, such as cov-

ering and drainage making facilities. To comply with international instruments, the water basins and valleys are protected by agreed principles on efficient land use with a view to conserving their aesthetic and functional features. River basins and valleys in Ankara are prone to domestic and industrial pollution due to rapidly increasing population and uncontrolled urban growth. In this respect, the rehabilitation of the Corridor of the Imrahor Valley and the Eymir-Mogan Lakes can be presented as a good example of the conservation of natural resources and the upgrading of urban open spaces.

Relevant strategies need to be designed to integrate this area into other urban facilities of Ankara. The Corridor has been under conservation since the first spatial plan of Ankara in 1932. Although it has been earmarked as one of the green axes of Ankara by various master plans so far, unfortunately it is becoming difficult to prevent constructions in the face of increasing population and inclining demand for housing.

In this respect, designing a landscape project for the Corridor will provide opportunities of environmental conservation and completion of a green axis of Ankara. It stretches from the west to the south with various green areas, namely Murted Plain, the Hippodrome of

Ankara, the Municipal Olympic Games Area, the Ankara Sugar Factory Area, the Ataturk Forestry Farm, the Ankara Cultural Centre, the Park of Abdi Ipekci, the Park of Kurtulus, the 50th Year Park, and the Corridor of the Imrahor Valley and the Eymir-Mogan Lakes.

It is a significant recreational area as the final part of the green axis stretches from the west to the south. The Corridor will pose a valuable contribution to upgrade the standard of the ratio of green area per person in the metropolitan area. The area is exposed to pollution due to rapidly increasing population and construction. The lakes could also be in danger of dying away because of uncontrolled construction on aquifer zones, which cause an interruption to the water resources supplying them. A landscape project is required to generate sustainable policies and strategies in order to develop the Corridor and to provide natural conservation as well as to design an open green area.

The roles of the Geographical Information System and Remote Sensing technology

The Geographical Information System (GIS), which stores and manages spatial data, plays an important role in performing complex analyses, such as the management of economical, political, social and cultural resources. The system also integrates these resources for a specific purpose. In this respect, methods of GIS provide a useful tool in the preparation of the landscape project of the Corridor of Imrahor Valley and the Eymir-Mogan Lakes. In conjunction with this, the means of Remote Sensing (RS) prove useful in terms of preparation of various analyses and the implementation of the landscape project. The tools of GIS and RS provide opportunities for effective use of spatial data and interoperability of various data.



The Site of the Imrahor Valley and the Eymir-Mogan Lakes

Corridor and Lakes in Ankara

Bearing in mind the benefit of these tools, the Turkish Ministry of Public Works and Settlement in 2009, established a National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). After the completion of NSDI in Turkey, some basic documents, such as national land use maps, risk maps, and development plans will be produced to provide guidance to various planning projects, including landscape planning, and construction projects of different scales. In this respect, the landscape project of the Corridor will provide an example of the interoperability of GIS and RS technologies with the spatial data.

Proposal on how to prepare a landscape project

Multi Criteria Decision Analysis

The Corridor is rehabilitated with a focus on natural conservation and the provision of an open green area for the citizens of Ankara. The goal of the Multi Criteria Decision Analysis



The 3-D land modelling of the Corridor on the basis of the aerial photo

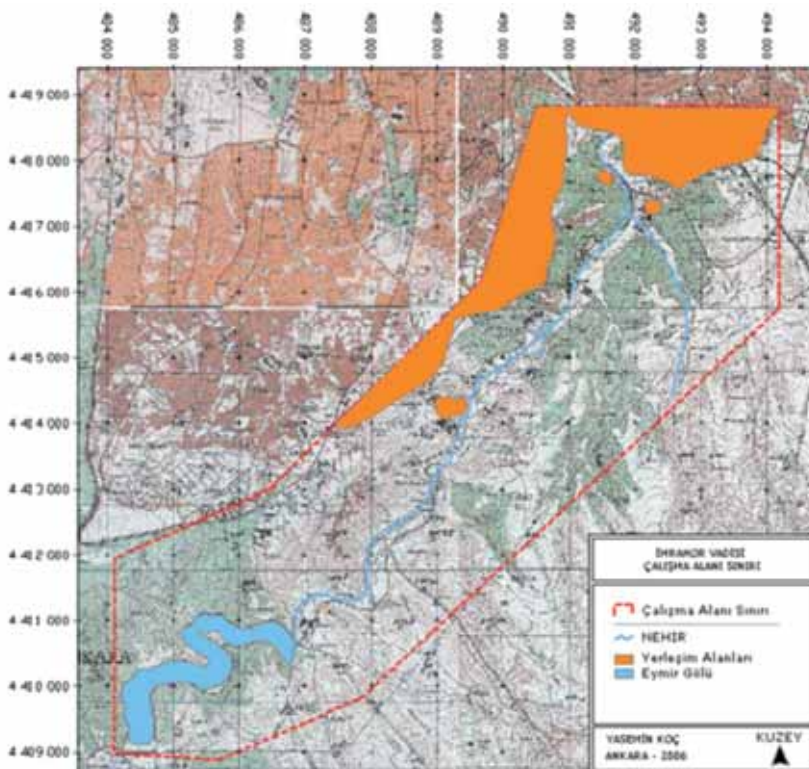
is to determine various recreational land uses by means of preparing a site analysis appropriate for each land use. To prepare a site analysis, a process is designed in the following stages: to set the criteria for the site analysis; to set relevant weights of the criteria; to scale

the weights from 0 to 1; to perform site analysis for each land use.

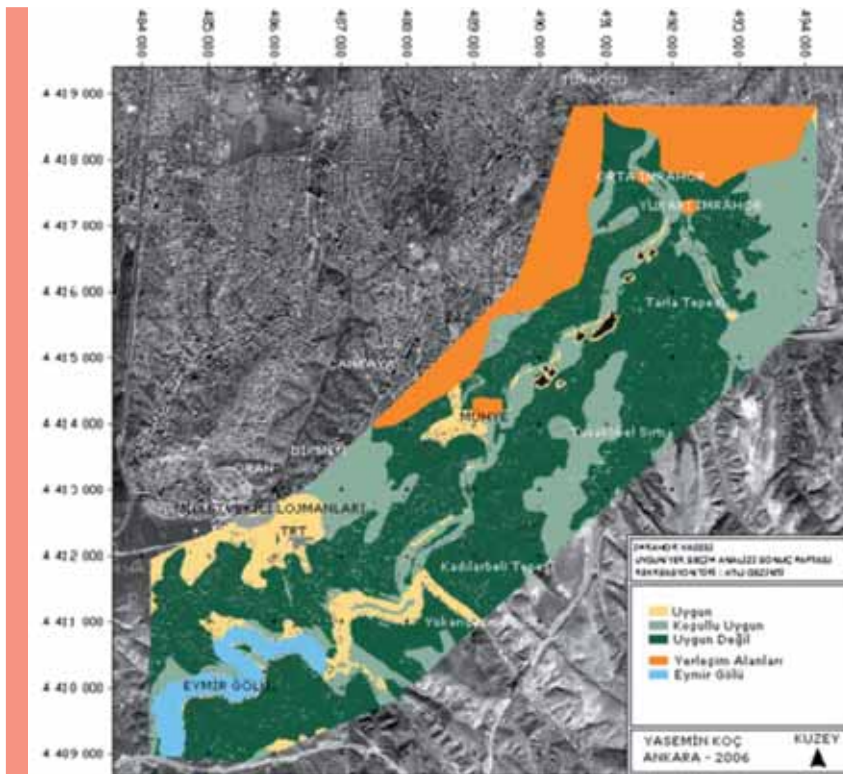
The relevant land uses are determined based on the experience of landscape architects. The geographical particularities of the Corridor are taken into consideration as main determinants of the criteria guided by the site analyses. The relevant weights of the criteria are set in accordance with the degree of importance by considering that the sum of total weights should be equal to one hundred. The method of setting the weights of criteria is to ask academics in the field of landscape planning for their scientific views and making a synthesis of these.

As a result of the Multi Criteria Decision Analysis, explained above, four different land uses were chosen among sixteen original propositions: an area for horseback riding, cycling paths, picnic areas and hobby gardens.

For each land use, a site analysis map is produced by means of GIS and RS. Each site analysis map shows the viability of the site, divided into three land use categories: namely appropriate, conditional appropriate and inappropriate zones. The conditional appropriate zones refer to the area needed for extra technical arrangement for a given land use.



The location of the Imrator Valley and the Eymir-Mogan Lakes



The site development of the Corridor as a result of the multi criteria decision analysis (Yellow: Appropriate zones light, Green: Conditional appropriate zones, Dark green: Inappropriate zones, Orange: Existing settlement areas)

Evaluation of problematic areas and opportunities

Focusing on the natural conservation and rehabilitation of the Corridor, the existing land use analysis covering data of environment, flora and fauna, climate, geology, topography, transportation, texture of property is prepared by means of GIS and RS.

As a result of the existing land use analysis, main problematic areas and opportunities to develop the Corridor are stated in the following:

Problematic areas and proposals for a solution

- Limited amount of feasible area due to the topological and geological disadvantages: The steep slope areas can be used for various recreational purposes. The method of terracing slopes could also provide some platforms, which are especially useful for hobby gardens. The basin of the Valley can be eligible for some agricultural facilities such as orchards and vineyards.
- Rural residential areas in the Corridor: The rural areas can be integrated into

the landscape project of the Corridor by nominating new functions such as tourism (pension houses), handicrafts (hand-knitting materials, carpet weaving, copper works), field sports (horse pick riding, rowing).

- Number of brickyards in the corridor: The removal of brickyards is strongly recommended because of their highly polluting features. The governmental incentives and expropriation could be taken into consideration.

Opportunities and proposed approaches

- The Corridor is encompassed by forested areas: The forest areas provide an opportunity to prevent construction around the Corridor. It facilitates the conservation of natural environment and increases the amount of green area per person in Ankara. Thus, the landscape project on the Corridor can easily be designed in accordance with the principles of sustainability and liveability.
- The flora of the Corridor is enriched by endemic species: the landscape project can be enriched by various recreational facilities through existing endemic species.

- The picturesque view of the Corridor is enhanced by lakes and ponds of various sizes: since Ankara is a landlocked city, the lakes and ponds might create various recreational facilities, such as walking paths, cafés and restaurants and cycling paths.

- The Corridor has numerous access points from main roads: numerous access points will induce many visitors to the Corridor. Thus, the attractiveness will be increased by the improvement of transportation routes to the Corridor.

- There is a limited constructed area in the Corridor: Due to limited constructed areas, the methods of expropriation and replacement are strongly recommended in terms of increasing the amount of open green areas available.

Integrated approach on landscape planning

The integrated approach on landscape planning is aimed at supporting projects by the relevant financial and administrative/organisational proposals. The model focused especially on the Eymir-Mogan Lakes, which were declared a Special Environmental Protected Area by the Decree of Cabinet of Ministers number 90/1117 of 22 October, 1990. The Special Environmental Protection Areas are rich in terms of natural, historical and cultural values and with biological and ecological assets in need of preservation. The Authority for the Protection of Special Areas is in charge of taking measures to solve the existing environmental problems, defining the principles for preservation and land use, developing the municipal spatial plans as well as ratifying these plans. Based on the Convention for protecting the Mediterranean against pollution, opened for signature in Barcelona in 1976, the Authority for the Protection of Special Areas was originally established after reports to the Prime-ministry in 1988. Since 1991, it reports to the Ministry of Environment and Forestry.

Local authorities are conceived to be the most effective administrative bodies in terms of implementation and monitoring of land use decisions. Local authorities, such as municipalities in Ankara should take into account:

- Efficient organisation and co-ordination: the municipalities are local

authorities that know the area and the texture of the property. Thus, they can easily contact the relevant citizens and organisations to provide co-ordination with a view to generate sustainable policies and land use decisions.

- Public participation: since the members of the municipal parliament are local citizens, public participation in the project as well as public control of the project will be easier.
- Sustainable land use decisions: the municipalities are the local authorities responsible for the preparation of spatial plans as well as landscape plans. Thus, they can easily integrate relevant land use decisions of the landscape project into other local spatial plans.

In terms of financial issues, the municipal budget will not be sufficient. Thus, a public-private partnership can be a good approach to finance the project. The interested firms can initiate a project, as a first-step investor, attracted by the management of the income-producing facilities located in the project area. Furthermore, it is also recommended to ask for the support from the central government.

After outlining some key issues about the organisation and financing of the project, the main objectives of the landscape planning are to design the relevant land use areas in the Corridor with a view to providing sustainable environmental resources and liveable urban environment for the citizens in Ankara, and to create the relevant land use activities to support the financing of the project.

In order to fulfil these objectives, the landscape plan is designed on the basis of principles, such as: the conservation of forests, woods, and reedy parts of lakes; the provision of harmonious building standards in the Corridor in terms of height, colour, and design with respect to the environment; clearing aquifer zones but not interrupting the sources of water to the lakes. In the light of these principles, the relevant land uses are designed in the landscape plan as follows: areas for restaurants, cafés, and motels; camping sites; picnic areas; areas for holiday houses; and areas for field and water sports.

Recreational and open green areas are vital necessities in Ankara, because of

its landlocked location. The Corridor of the Imrahor Valley and Eymir-Mogan Lakes is one of the oldest potential green areas. Highly exposed to urban pollution, it needs to be managed by a landscape project to provide environmental protection. Three different approaches and models to this, prepared by GIS and RS technologies have been presented. The main contribution of these technologies is a facilitation of data collection and processing. This produces reliable reference points in an area that works as a guide for better implementation of a project, as well as provides an opportunity for monitoring and auditing. Each model provides a solution in terms of natural conservation and fulfilment of necessary standards in regards to the urban green area to person quota. As a holistic approach, it is also possible to integrate those three models into one.

Ebru Alarslan

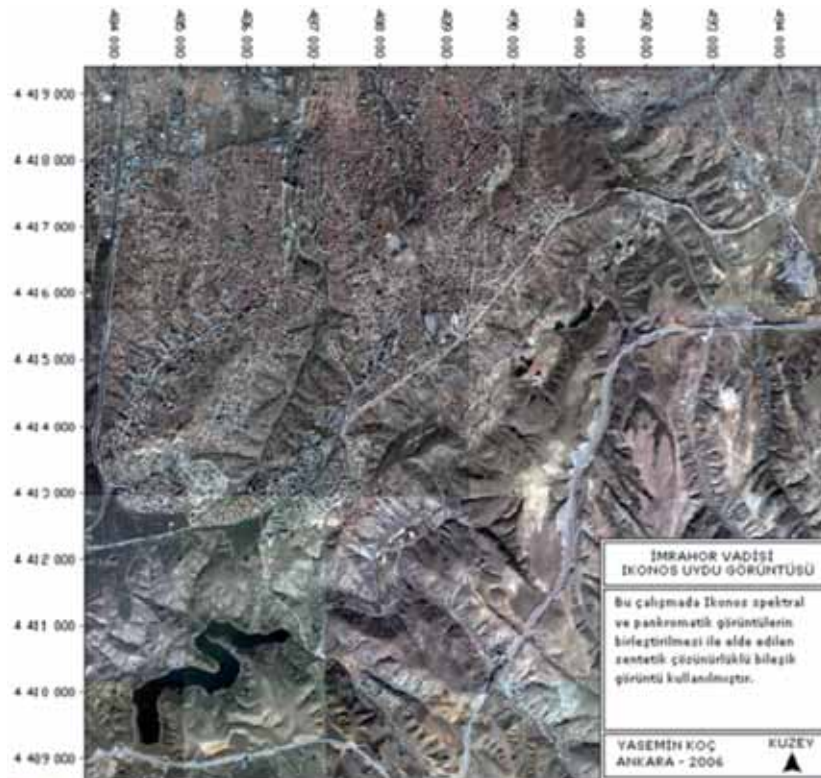
Division Chief, Ministry of Public Works and Settlement

Tuba Sayan

City Planner, Ministry of Public Works and Settlement

Yasemin Tabar

*Landscape Architect (Ms. GIS), Ministry of Public Works and Settlement
Ankara, Turkey*



*The analysis of existing land use and topography
(Synthesis of spectral and panchromatic images of Ikonos)*

An urban open green space of Belgrade:

Recognising the fact that towns are not only buildings and bearing in mind that open spaces form a fundamental part of the urban environment and an essential part of cultural heritage, we aim to present how the open space area in Belgrade, recognised as the oldest park “Topčider”, contributes to the improvement of life and the quality of its inhabitants in their built environment.

Belgrade is a city with an array of potential landscapes, geographically situated at the confluence of two rivers: the Sava and the Danube, and accompanied by an extraordinary blend of natural and cultural heritage in an urban environment.

Topčider is according to the Law on cultural property, recognised as of cultural value and is declared a Spatial Cultural-Historical Unit of Great Importance for Serbia. It consists of several zones: the Topčider Park zone, the Košutnjak forest zone, the Dedinje zone and the Royal Palace complex, the racetrack zone as well as the zone of rail and road corridors in the valley of the river.

The historical development of landscape is confined to the 19th and 20th centuries, but it is, nonetheless, tremendously important. This is due to the fact that landscape development started at the beginning of the restoration of the Serbian state, after Serbia received its autonomous status within the Ottoman Empire. In 1831, construction of the residential units of the Obrenović family began, with Miloš’s Palace and Topčider Park. At one time, the Palace held the Museum of Prince Miloš and Mihailo Obrenović, which in 1929 became the Forest and Hunting Museum. During the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the First Serbian Uprising (1954), the Museum dedicated to this historic event was open in the Palace.

The planting of plane trees (*Platanus acerifolia*), which are now located throughout the park, began in the spring of 1866. Today, there is a protected plane tree in front of Miloš’s Palace, which dates from this time and is one of the oldest and most beautiful plane trees in Europe.

The park is decorated with statues. The first statue set up as a park decoration, was a bronze statue entitled the “Reaper” (by Viennese sculptor Fidelis Kimmel, 1852). This great stone obelisk was raised in 1865, after the 50th celebration of the Second Serbian Uprising.

Court ensembles from nearby cities, typical for Central Europe, sought recreation in the natural, yet cultivated environment, which served as an example for Topčider complex, at the time of its appearance. The Park has been created in the “free” English style, which is characterised by winding paths, native species of trees and plants and the formulation of water mirrors. The abundance of natural water in this region, made it possible to set up several fountains.

By the end of 19th century, Topčider was recognised a recreational, historic and picnic area, providing the framework for various leisure activities that have changed with time. These changes became particularly ardent after 1894,



D. Lukic & B. Filipovic

Topčider Park

when a tramline from the city centre was implemented.

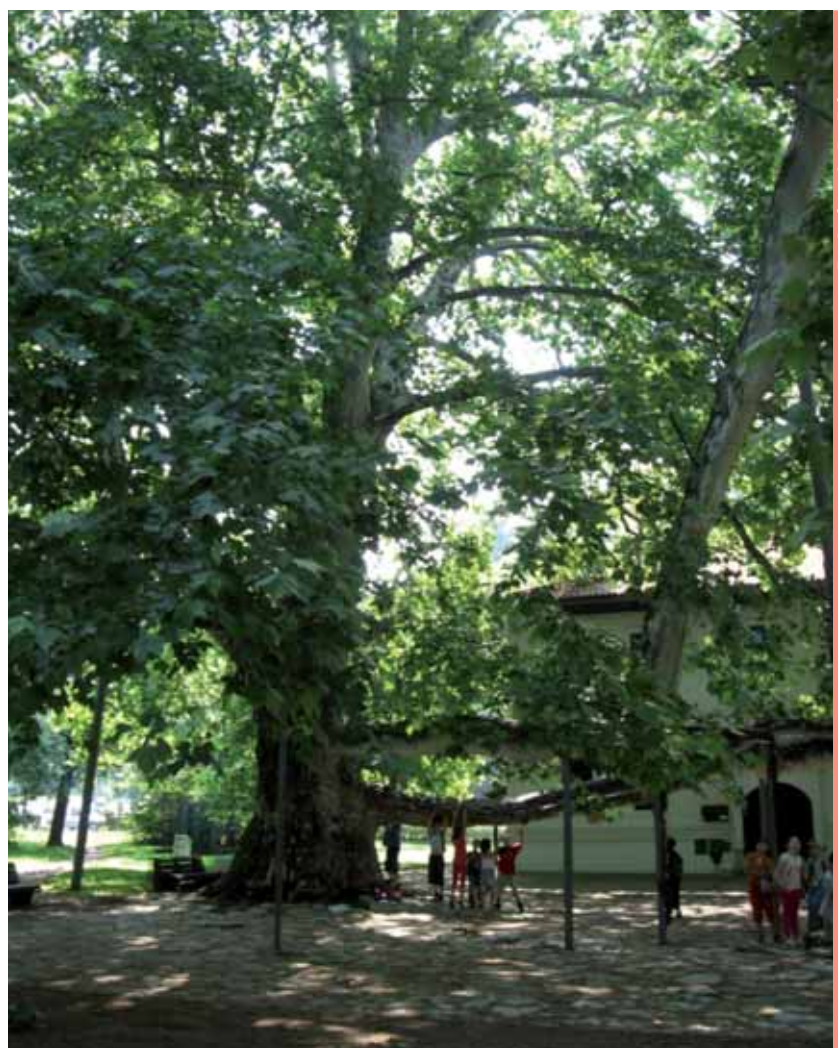
The railway, which passed through the valley, divided the valley forever. On the one side of the railway is the Košutnjak Forest, while on the other side the remaining residential complex of the Obrenović Dynasty, is located.

Errors in planning and the lack of coordination between different authorities create risks and unresolved conflict of use poses threats to the area. The picture of this urban open space is completely different in a photograph, than in reality. The birds singing, for example has been disrupted by the constant noise from surrounding roads.

Recalling that the European Landscape Convention emphasises visual experience, as well as other perceptions of landscapes (sounds and smells), we come to the conclusion that the urban and traffic development of this area poses an increasing threat to this landscape.

Managing urban open space means managing conflicts. These conflicts could be resolved at the stage of design and planning. "Planning for space should be conceived in such a way as to anticipate future needs of different user groups to enable them successfully to share the space with each other".

Observations by the Institute for Nature Conservation, state that the environmental degradation and negative impacts arising from the current management of this valuable urban open space of Belgrade require recommendations for immediate actions. This includes, firstly, the suspension of all road construction and/or development inside the park, by creating options or alternatives that would be an investment, providing sustained development benefits for long-term actions.



D. Lukic & B. Filipovic

Supported by the European Landscape Convention, Serbia will begin to cooperate on landscapes in a more efficient way and in accordance with the Law on Environmental Protection, the Law on Nature Protection, the Law on planning and Construction and the Law on Strategic Impact Assessment. Promoting close co-operation between all those concerned: politicians, engineers, architects, planners, and landscape architects must be a priority for

planning open spaces, both historically and naturally valuable, like Topčider Park.

Biljana Filipovic

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Dejana Lukic

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Public parks of the historic town of Cetinje,

Due to its geographic location, Montenegro belongs to the Central Mediterranean, or South-East Europe. Montenegro could well be called the hidden gem of the Mediterranean. Cetinje, the old royal capital of Montenegro, is designated as the former seat of the crown, and is located at the foot of Lovcen Mountain, at 42° 23' 27" northern geographic latitude and 18° 55' 45" east geographic length. It is situated in the karst field (Cetinje field), which extends 7 km², and is on average 671 m above sea level. By air it is 12 km from Adriatic Sea, and 15 km from Skadar Lake.

Cetinje, the old Royal Capital of Montenegro, has its own unique story to tell. Ivan Crnojevic, the last ruler of the powerful medieval state of Zeta, founded the town in the 15th century. Due to defence reasons, the capital was moved into the mountains. Cetinje is a city with a rich cultural and historic heritage. Many buildings in Cetinje date from the 19th century after the declaration of Montenegrin independence, when it was established as a European capital. The Montenegrin royal family lived in Cetinje until the 20th century, and their palace is one of the most important aspects of the town's cultural heritage. The town is renowned for its museums as well as its cultural and historical monuments, which have always made it appealing to visitors. The town's rich history, people and traditions, provides a link to the rest of the country and forms a larger picture. Its urban development, strongly connected with the development of Montenegrin history, has succeeded to produce a unique architectural entity, within a small space. This entity manages to reflect almost all eclectic styles from the end of 19th and the beginning of 20th century. Due to the fact that there was intensive urban development during the 19th century, which involved well-known European architects and builders of the time, the architectural structure of Cetinje was altered greatly. Originally a row of rural structures, typical of the traditional building style of this area, Cetinje became a settlement characterised by urbanity and eclectic architecture, with styles ranging from Neo-Romanesque, Neo-Baroque and Empire, to Art Nouveau and Cubist architecture. Royal palaces and embassy residences of the former Great Powers of Europe bear witness of the city's historical significance.

Due to the exceptional value of the urban agglomeration with its artistic and cultural and historical qualities of the individual monuments, Cetinje Historic Centre belongs to the First category cultural monuments, and is on the Tentative List of Nominations for the inscription of properties on the World Heritage list. Cetinje Historic Centre constitutes a collection of heritage of exceptional importance, which is characteristic for its harmonious unity of heterogeneous elements, individually protected monuments, parks and a regular urban matrix.

Cetinje, with 15,000 inhabitants, is the historical as well as effective capital of Montenegro. This is due to its authentic architecture and many historic buildings, monasteries, churches, museums and relics, which have awarded it the name "Museum City". The monastery in Cetinje, for example keeps precious relics in its treasury, including the relics of St. Peter of Cetinje, one of the most significant in Montenegrin history, and the first printed book of the South Slavs, namely the "Octoechos, the first voice", printed in 1494.

There are three Christian relics in Cetinje: at the Cetinje Monastery, the hand of Saint John the Baptist is kept, along with a piece of the True Cross on which Christ was crucified, the Icon of the Lady of Philermie is kept in the Blue Chapel of the Museum of Art of the National Museum of Montenegro, and is one of the most revered relics in the Christian world as well as a masterpiece of universal value.

Cetinje, in the heart of Montenegro, with its historical centre, takes up 58 ha, and comprises 33 ha dense urban fabric, a park complex and green landscape stretching 25 hectares, and is one of the important segments of its cultural heritage.

Many visitors to Cetinje particularly remember the parks with centuries-old vegetation. The architecture from the eighteenth and nineteenth century is sprinkled with rich greenery throughout this small town. In addition to preserved historical sites, Cetinje has two extremely valuable parks, which from time immemorial have been and remain the lungs of the city. The parks form a place where, shaded by ancient trees tourists can relax and enjoy recreation. "Njegošev Park"

and the "13 of July Park" are both part of a design, which is carefully regulated by the city's gardeners. They were built near the palace of King Nikola, between 1891 and 1894. The parks were created with different elements of garden design, thus "Court Park" or "Njegošev Park" was created in the French fashion, and "City Park" or "13 July" in the English fashion. The "Court Park" is located by the Blue Castle, the residence of the president of Montenegro. The Blue Castle, with its accompanying vegetation, is located at the border between "Njegos Park" and "13 July Park", making up a single entity in terms of spatial and landscape considerations. Together with Vladika's garden, the Summer Stage, the Old Stadium and the slopes of Eagle stone, the Blue Castle and the parks compose an integral component of the existing sites that make up the Historical Centre and are of great environmental value.

The layout of the Cetinje parks began shortly after the noted Austrian architect Camillo Sitte became renown in 1889 with the publication of his book "City Planning According to Artistic Principles". For Sitte, architecture was a process of culturisation. The desire for Europeanisation of the small Montenegrin capital imposed a new standard of aesthetic design for the city and urban behaviour. In order to design a way to make the city greener, they made use of the varieties of wood that existed in the area or were located nearby, which grew quickly, to meet the aesthetic criteria.

The two parks of Cetinje enjoy a double protection: as part of the Historic Core's cultural property, and as horticultural facilities. In accordance with the current categorisation of natural resources, they are now listed as natural monuments by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. "Njegošev Park" and "13 July Park", with their 7, 83 ha, are protected under the decree on nature protection, which includes horticultural facilities. In addition to their significant aesthetic value, they also have a strong cultural function.

"Njegošev Park" is the oldest park in the city. The formation of the park was conjoined with the construction of the new castle of King Nikola, in the latter half of the 19th century. Originally it was in free-style landscape. In 1891, Cetinje was supplied with water. During the early work on water

Montenegro

supply, only one line of trees was laid out by the court “garden”, composed mainly of evergreen trees. The purchase of “local trees (beech, aspen, lime for example) continued work on forming the Court gardens”, which was completed in 1895.

In the same year, on the land beneath the hotel Lokanda, which resembled a “common pasture” with rugged paths in the form of a spider web, an implementation project was implemented by Professor Philip Jergović, who foresaw the introduction to the park of “1340 various national forest trees, 368 trees: conifer different in height from 80 cm to 1 m, 82 cost trees or wild lime; 30 solitary trees, extraordinarily in some places gardens, 100 rose bushes, the lawn areas around the pavilions and fountains and the whole plot around 2400 acacia gardens. Under supervision of Professor Philip Kovacevic responsible for measuring and scheduling holes, said the planting of 92 trees purchased by Anton Ferati from Gorica”¹. An ice-skating rink is located, under the aspen tree slightly away from the monastery, which is managed by the city.

The parks of Cetinje were finally finished in 1910. At this point the Division of the National Economy, shared the lawful regulation of the municipal park, and ordered 1500 softwood trees, 50 sawmills chestnut trees, climbing roses, evergreen trees and ornamental shrubs and flowers of various sorts to be planted.

Today it is a public green area which has been reworked several times. The park is dominated by several types of trees, deciduous as well as conifer trees of large dimensions. Various reconstructions has been carried out and planned and unplanned planting and harvesting has occurred, leaving the present dense group of trees. For this reason, the foliage is now clustered, trees interfere with each other, and certain parts of the park look quite neglected.

Assessing the landscape is an essential starting point in appreciating the space as a whole, and thus the historic town of Cetinje must be seen with its immediate environment. According to the European Landscape Convention, the character of a landscape is the result of an interaction between natural and / or human factors. The Historical Centre of Cetinje in conjunc-

tion with the Cetinje fields and the Lovcen Mountains, as well as the mausoleum at the top of a hill, can be defined as a cultural landscape where man has formed the area, in an effort to enrich the environment and improve the living standards. This landscape is a union of historical, cultural and heritage factors, which have been adapted to people’s needs, creating a distinctive Cetinje landscape. As such it should be recognised, maintained and protected. This will be one of the main tasks of the heritage protection, regulated by the new Law on Cultural Property, and directed by the normative cultural landscape.

This is an area, to which every modern society should devote their full attention, especially given the globally disturbed ecological balance. Montenegro is a proclaimed ecological state, and has a desire to allow people to live in a much healthier, more beautiful and cleaner environment. The town itself is characterised by high quality vegetation consisting of parks, squares, green areas along the roads, avenues, and green spaces around public facilities. The total area of urban green space is about 25 ha. The long-term goal to achieve environmental standards is also related to the construction of a new landfill, which will enable the collection and recycling of solid waste. The modernisation of the sanitation network and the sewage treatment, which cleans water supplies, and the provision of adequate utility vehicles as well as storage containers for waste are all part of the project to achieve a better environment. Educational and promotional programs are not to be neglected, but will aid to raise environmental awareness among the population.

Montenegro, as a recently established independent state, is facing many challenges in regards to nature conservation. By bringing together and allying regional organisations, experts and policy makers, Montenegro is identifying roads of action. This will promote sustainable development of coasts and hinterland, while respecting the natural environment and complying with international conventions and standards. In 2008, Montenegro forwarded the alignment of environmental laws with international standards, including the directives of the European Union.

The values of the Cetinje Historic Centre in its broader context of the Cetinje plain and Mount Lovćen, with the Mausoleum



Cetinje 1895



Cetinje parks – the first hundred years

at its summit, can be defined as a distinct cultural landscape. The two National Parks Lake Skadar and Lovcen, opens up the possibility of other forms of tourism.

Today, the conservation of the parks of Cetinje, involves many parties such as: faculties of architecture in the country as well as in the region, NGOs, and the government program of Montenegro, “Cetinje-City of Culture 2010-2013”. The reconstruction and rehabilitation of the parks is a priority. The regeneration will be conducted in co-operation with the National Museum of Montenegro and the Republic Institute for Protection of Cultural Monuments in Cetinje. The coordinator of the project is the Minister of Culture of Montenegro.

The preservation of this environment is our obligation because of the diversity of Cetinje’s cultural heritage, which offers an insight into the history of this area as well as the wider region of Montenegro. The continuity and authenticity of cultural heritage, the power of history, and architectural, environmental and landscape values, together with the spirit of the former and current Royal Capital with its rich spiritual heritage, form a unity which makes Cetinje Historic Centre the core of Montenegrin historical and national identity, remembrance and existence.

Dobrila Vlahovic

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¹ Tatjana Jović, Urban development of Cetinje (1878-1918), Glasnik Narodnog muzeja Crne Gore, No 6, Cetinje 2010.

Multifunctional green open space in the ce

Warsaw is the largest city in Poland, functioning as a centre for scientific, cultural, political and economic life in Europe. One of the goals of the city's development direction is the growing importance of urban green areas as public open spaces. In Polish legislation, public space is defined in the Act on Spatial Planning and Development as "the area of special importance to meet the needs of residents, improve the quality of their lives and contributing to making social contacts due to its location and spatial and functional characteristics, as defined in the study of conditions and directions of spatial management".

Main characteristics of the Mokotowskie Field

One of the biggest green spaces in Warsaw is Mokotowskie Field, a park located near the centre of Warsaw, between the three districts: Mokotów, Ochota and the City Centre, with a total area of 68.54 hectares. The flora of the park include large grassy areas with isolated trees (39 ha), including lawns

resistant to trampling (in the eastern part), dense foliage with a predominance of lime, hornbeam, chestnut, maple, poplar trees and flower beds. Within Mokotowskie Fields the presence of 40 species of breeding birds has been noted (for example sparrow, nightingale, pheasant, woodpecker, chalet) and also various small mammals, such as squirrels.

History

Before World War II the Mokotowskie Field had a total of 200 ha and functioned as an airport. The pioneering flights of Zwirko and Wigura (the first Polish pilots) took place there. There was also a horseracing track in the park along with allotments and land parades. After World War II parcelling out the land started and the area turned into the city park Mokotowskie Field. Artificial ponds and paths were created, and trees and shrubs were planted. Within the park boundaries, the Central Statistical Office headquarters, the National Library and the Warsaw Technical University were built.

Events

Within the open city space of the Mokotowskie Field, various events have been organised over the past 10 years. The most famous of these is the annual Earth Day which highlights broad environmental issues. Among those participating is the General Directorate for Environmental Protection. This year's event was held on 8 May 2011 with the theme: "The Forest quite close to us". As part of this, the European Landscape Convention has been promoted in the context of the ecological education of society, highlighting the importance and diversity of forest landscapes. On the Earth Day event, other international conventions were also encouraged, which have their secretariats in General Directorate for Environmental Protection (the Ramsar Convention, the Bern Convention and the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Aquatic Warbler).

The Mokotowskie Field also hosts numerous sporting events (Capital Bike Tour "Mass of autism marathon relay race"), social events (e.g., Campaign for Conscious Parenting, Polish-Indian Friendship Day), artistic and cultural events (Juwenalia – annual concerts organized by universities and the International Street Art Festival). The park also has on-site pubs and restaurants, which are family-friendly, and also hosts concerts and artistic events.

Other functions

The Mokotowskie Field Park complex also serves as the climate creator, involving the formation of favourable air circulation in the city by reducing air temperature and the simultaneous increase in the moisture. But the most significant function is recreation, Warsaw residents can enjoy the park, relaxing on the grass, riding bicycles, roller-skating, playing with their dogs or simply walking.

Mokotowskie Field in relation to the European Landscape Convention

Mokotowskie Field is an example of multifunctional urban open space, which follows the European Landscape



Aleksander Iomczak, GDOS

Earth Day 2011. After a day of ecological awareness, participants could relax and enjoy making music in the middle of Mokotowskie Field

Centre of Warsaw: Mokotowskie Field Park



Małgorzata Opechowska, GDOŚ

Artificial pond in the central part of Mokotowskie Field

Convention. One of the actions that took place recently in the Park was the creation of an educational path devoted to Ryszard Kapuscinski, the famous Polish reporter and columnist, who died in 2007. The project is a joint action with Ochota District authorities, the National Library, the Institute of Journalism at Warsaw University and the Foundation for Change Bec. The path consists of 15 points, each of which refers to quotations from the works of Kapuscinski. The project is joint with landscape management in a small scale by establishing the path and in the same time encouraging people to familiarise themselves with Kapuscinski's work by freely accessing his quotations.

Management

Urban green spaces form an integral part of the town structure, by creating open public spaces, which serve urban residents in many different ways. Therefore, their proper management

is essential for further development and protection against degradation of common urban space. A spatial development plan has been established for Mokotowskie Field, which states that the park will be open to all and continue to be shaped as an assembly area of parks, greenery and the accompanying infrastructure, sports and services. The main principles as established in the plan aim to preserve and protect existing areas of the park and its facilities, maintaining links with the neighbouring green areas, urban park avenue development, so as to ensure continuity of the public space grid of the city (surrounding streets and squares, collision-free access for pedestrians) shaping the "green front park" from the surrounding public space, through the preservation and introduction of a border of green parkland in the form of a compact high massif of trees and shrubs.

The Mokotowskie Field Park will be a showcase of modern Warsaw, for

this reason good park management relating to the recommendations of the European Landscape Convention is so important, thus preserving the scenic landscape of the park while the multi-functional character is kept intact.

Magdalena Wolicka
General Directorate for
Environmental Protection
Department of Nature Conservation
Warsaw, Poland

The Seveso and Meda Oak Wood Park (Bosco delle Querce)

I am pleased to present two individual accounts of the birth and continued renewal of nature in the Seveso and Meda Oak Wood (*Bosco delle Querce*) as a practical expression of the possibility of re-creating the forest area which was completely destroyed after the major disaster in Seveso on 10 July 1976. Three European directives have been adopted with a view to preventing the future recurrence of such accidents.

The '2011 Summer University on the European Landscape Convention' was geared to show the young participants, who had not yet been born when the Seveso toxic cloud passed over, how human beings are capable of not only destroying but also re-creating a landscape, with respect for nature, biodiversity and natural laws for human quality of life.

Giovanni Bana

*President of the Il Nibbio Foundation (FEIN)
Summer University (UdE)*

On 10 July 1976 the Oak Wood Park, which currently covers over 40 hectares, was affected by a dioxin cloud released by a chemical plant. This was the worst environmental accident ever in Europe, an incident which left its mark on environmental legislation in Europe.

All the subsequent actions up to 1986 were adopted and co-ordinated by a special commissioner, first of all in the person of Antonio Spallino, lawyer and former Mayor of the City of Como, who led the operations during this major disaster, followed by Luigi Noè, engineer and former MEP. Both these politicians, men of high integrity who were keenly aware of the action needed, confronted a dramatic situation with courage and expertise, who consulted regularly the local population and institutions. The area was completely devastated, and all the polluted soil was shut away in two large hi-tech dumps.

Contrary to the wishes of some, it was decided that the 42 hectares which were affected would be used to create a major environmental area as a permanent natural compensation for the disaster, a memorial to what had occurred and a buffer zone for the two dumps. In 1984 work was carried out to cre-

ate an extensive tree-lined meadow of limited natural and landscape value. There were major technical difficulties in rooting the trees and grass because of low soil fertility, extra soil had to be brought in from the outside to raise the level by several centimetres. In 1985, the Commissioner decided to transfer the management of the area to the Regional Forestry Association, which had directed the initial work.

A group of young agronomists, foresters, experts and workers became involved in this undertaking, and now, after ten years, the whole area was redeveloped in consultation with the institutions and the population, and the group has set out the basis for the current landscape and environmental situation in the Oak Wood. They have been determined to constantly increase the level of biodiversity and landscape complexity, accurately defining the area for the benefit of the local population. Every year new trees and bushes are planted and small lakes created, the forest management strategy has been adapted and the population has been kept informed of all initiatives. Intensive and extensive techniques have been tried out with a view to renaturalising the most damaged sections.

In 1996 the area was inaugurated and protected under regional legislation prohibiting any change to its use. It was declared the Oak Wood "Experimentation Area" under the Framework Law on Regional Protected Areas 86/83. The level of biodiversity in 2003 was higher than that of the neighbouring Monza Park, which has centuries-old forests. In 2004, the area was entrusted to Seveso Town Hall, which has maintained the operational and technical support of the Regional Forestry Organisation (now the Regional Organisation for Agricultural and Forestry Services – ERSAF).

The Municipality has implemented a number of schemes, including a permanent exhibition, as the forest preserves the significance of the events of the past. The local population has now reappropriated the Oak Wood area and come to terms with an experience which was extremely difficult emotionally.

A section of the Oak Wood is now threatened by plans for a new motorway. We are hoping that this plan will be shelved, in tribute to the results obtained and the economic and human resources invested, as well as a mark of respect for the local population.

Paolo Lassini

*Director of Lombardy Region
and Director of the rehabilitation work
on the "Bosco delle Querce"
www.boscodellequerce.it*

The decision to plant a forest after the removal of the contaminated topsoil came as the result of public outcry in Seveso in the aftermath of the accident. Environmental and forest work began in 1984 and were completed two years later. Today the Wood is a symbolic place with a story to tell.

The Oak Wood of Seveso and Meda is a naturalistic area of anthropic origin located within an area that stretches from the Greater Milan metropolitan area to the pre-Alpine Lake District. The landscape features vast slopes of grass and trees with patches of shrubs on the hills surrounding Seveso and Meda. A naturally grown forest with a rich undergrowth completes the park whose naturalistic vocation only allows for limited access.

Through the years, thousands of trees and bushes were planted. Different plants were displayed quite regularly over the area, except for the hills located upon the two wide "basins" built to provide safe storage for the polluted material. Due to the poor soil depth, only shrub-type bushes were able to grow.

By 1998, there was over 45,000 trees and bushes in the Park, four times the amount of 1984, when the Oak Wood was started. In 2006, the Oak Wood was made a Regional Natural Park, thus contributing to the vital role the area has despite its limited surface, as for its natural element and biodiversity within the North Milanese area, which is extremely overbuilt.

The 1976 disaster made the people of Seveso more aware of environmental issues. In 2000 the Councils of Seveso, Meda, Cesano Maderno and Desio started the process of Local Agenda 21

co delle Querce): a public landscape space



pollution so as to ensure the safety of the local population. Three European Community directives concerning control of industrial risks are called the “Seveso Directives”, named after the town which endured so much back in 1976. Seveso has become a worldwide symbol of environmental protection.

Today, Seveso is the official nominee for the title of “Environmental City” in the context of Expo 2015, but the Oak Wood Park is “under attack” due to some project plans to use the soil of the park for building a new motorway, the “Pedemontana”. The entire Community (City Council, Associations...) believes that another solution is possible for saving the park (Pedemontana Company has asked 12 acres to build the highway) and for this reason it has been asked to change the project. The City Council has formalised the request to modernise the street which is actually present, without entering the park. The Community is waiting for an answer that could change the everyday life of a town that has already suffered after the accident on 10 July 1976.

Massimo Donati
Mayor of Seveso
Seveso, Italy

Massimiliano Fratter
Director of the Oak Forest Park
Seveso, Italy

for sustainable development. In 2001 the Council of Seveso with the “Laura Conti” Seveso Branch of Legambiente (an Italian non-profit environmental protection group) and the Fondazione Lombardia per l’Ambiente (established after the Seveso accident) began the historical-scientific research project called “The Bridge of Memory”. Its purpose was to reconstruct the chain of events

of the disaster of 10 July 1976. All documentation produced by the committees, which sprang up spontaneously in that period, was collected, studied and filed; it is now part of the public archives and is freely accessible.

The experience of Seveso started a new phase in policy-making which controls by rule of law all sources of

Facade colours in Europe: idealising the



D. Steinmetz

Augsburg, Germany: a trompe-l'œil city

Perfecting the image of towns, cities, villages and landscapes seems to be a major concern in most European countries. Most architectural sites which avoided the mass destruction of World War II and have managed to retain a homogeneous urban fabric are strongly gravitating towards an image whereby landscape and architectural developments conspire to produce an ideal picture.

In the historic districts of towns and cities, building facades establish discrete continuity from one edifice to the next, recovering the shapes and colours, and sometimes even the gilding, of their pre-industrial past. Modern elements are generally shunned, and cars barely tolerated; bars and restaurants and trendy shops occupy the ground floors of buildings, promoting the desired animation. Moreover, towns, having carried out rebuilding in line with modern precepts, are now seeking the means of making their living environments more attractive via development projects in which colour is geared to suggesting areas that correspond to old architectural styles. In the German city of Augsburg, for instance, the rows of buildings suggest a Baroque city because of the alternating curved and sawtooth gables, with faded colours and false cornice mouldings.

Built landscapes are also very carefully treated; close attention is paid to hamlets and villages painted in the colour of the surrounding stones, resembling telluric eruptions, and people are fascinated by fishing villages in which the multicoloured facades are reflected in the water, decorated with supposedly “timeless” materials and colours.

These sites owe their authenticity to the expression of identical procedures in which variety is not the same as com-

petition between residents but, on the contrary, equates with repetitive community practices.

According to the colourist Jacques Fillacier, the quality of public space in old towns and villages reflected a solidarity-based society which was not subjected to industry and consumerism: tradition gave individuals the freedom to create their environment: they painted their houses, wove their clothing and manufactured their commodities. This freedom was governed by a sense of aesthetic solidarity resulting in the beauty of our traditional villages and the charm of the embroidered costumes of our old provinces. This freedom has gone, because nowadays it is industry that creates, only allowing the individual to choose among the items which it offers.¹ In the same article, Jacques Fillacier accuses colour of being the main reason for the growing ugliness of villages: the irruption of materials, the democratisation of powerful polychromic resources have spattered them with colours... one single bright yellow house in the middle of a traditional village is enough to insult and destroy it.²

Although we might be surprised at a definition of freedom based on deprivation of resources and frustration of individual initiative, as if the society depicted was a herd acting from



D. Steinmetz

Burano, Italy: a gaudy fishing village

public space

instinct or imitation, this is a nostalgic, simplistic, sepia and grey tinted vision. In his book *Farbigkeit im Fachwerkbau*, Johannes Cramer demonstrates that the inhabitants of the Rhine region painted their houses using procedures which were often highly inventive, as soon as they could afford to purchase colouring agents.³ Lake Constance is surrounded by entire towns full of houses covered from top to bottom in multicoloured paintings, which the owners used to proudly display their wealth, in accordance with a tradition dating back to at least the Renaissance.

Today's multicoloured housing estates are also an expression of differences between neighbours. Since the colour of a painting scheme or rendering is no longer restrictive in terms of cost, anyone can indulge in the exhilaration of choosing whatever colour he likes. Obviously, passers-by may take offence at the lack of harmony between houses and demand measures to sort out this "cacophony of colours". In fact, the current debate on the colour of buildings involves two opposing approaches: one emphasises everyone's freedom to choose how his property should look, while the other advocates an organised system to which individuals must submit for the common weal. The contro-

versy is particularly difficult to settle as colour is seldom governed by legislation and is in any case subjective.

Many facade colour planning instruments are being developed, producing results which scarcely vary from one region to another. The plans are assigned to specialists, who are usually architects or artists who design façade colouring plans using restrictive colour ranges and setting out practical examples of their use, and who sometimes provide consultancy services. In some countries, such as Austria, which are particularly concerned with their tourist assets, full-scale commissions are set up comprising historians, architects, artists and elected representatives, which visit individual citizens who wish to renovate the facades of their houses in order to pinpoint the ideal colour for the (provisionally) perfect landscape image. In others, such as France, where colour is still viewed with some suspicion, painted coverings are systematically stripped in order to reinforce the image of the "bare stone" landscape.

Quite obviously, this conception of the public space no longer belongs to the population, but is the preserve of an outside commercial or tourist authority or artist as demiurge.

The local people are encouraged, or sometimes forced, to help build up their living environment in accordance with an image which reflects not their aspirations but those of the project manager, who monopolises both the work and "good taste". The trend is towards idealising built landscapes on the basis of a theme stemming from specific local features such as vineyards, the colour pink, fishing or half-timbering, using marketing techniques. This tautological system in which all the component parts correspond to a brand image, is dragging many towns and cities towards a caricatured image, or at best one that resembles a stage set.

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¹ Jacques Fillacier, «Nouvelle fonction sociale de la couleur», in *Recherche et application de la couleur dans ses rapports avec l'homme*, Panstwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe, Varsovie, 1969, p. 4.

² *Ibid.*, p. 6.

³ Johannes Cramer, *Farbigkeit im Fachwerkbau*, Deutscher Kunstverlag München, 1990.



Le Mans, France: a patiently constructed mediaeval framework

D. Steinmetz

Landscape and architecture in continuum

When tramline B was being constructed in 2000 in order to decongest the city centre and reduce pollution, the Strasbourg Urban Community commissioned a multimodal station (train, tram, car, bike) from the Anglo-Iraqi architect Zaha Hadid. The project comprises a car park, a railway station, a bike park, a small shopping area and a waiting area.

The architect proposes a specific investigation of space, determined by two major aspects which structure her approach: one concerns kinetics, the virtually obsessive consideration of the whole area of movement and motion, and other is topology, the constant concern for continual deformation of spaces, the quest for continuity. This makes the buildings emerge from a site, and architecture and landscape mingle together to give birth to a place.

The architect develops her ideas from an analysis, an interpretation of the programme and the context, in order

to ensure that the specific situation of each project is reflected in the architectonics. In the case of this multimodal station, the architect's challenge arises from the political and civic desire for the tram project: prioritising public transport over individual cars and transforming citizens' behaviour in their choice of how to get from point A to point B.

In a destructured urban peripheral landscape made up of commercial and business areas, residential areas, garden, apartment blocks, individual houses, car parks and railway lines, the design of this terminal is geared to structuring this composite situation by linking the existing structures into a continuous architectural ensemble, a spatial continuum in perpetual motion: the ground rises and falls, relief on which graphics are superimposed, and various traces combine to form fluid, indeterminate shapes. The walls are inclined and volumes are deformed, with the relay car park as

a vast black plateau with oblique white stripes on which cars park in staggered rows, reinforcing the impression of motionless motion. All these elements are designed and set out with an eye to structuring a territory and obtaining an unusual visual field, creating an exceptional locus: the entrance to a city.

The architect transforms this heterogeneous, banal peripheral place into a centre of gravity, of exchange between different modes of transport. Rather than distributing areas over a piece of ground, she seizes the context and certain programme elements to propose a transformation of this locus. The aim is to construct a preeminent space, a haven of artificial nature growing up from a compost constituted by the very nature of the site: where travel, movements, user flows, and also the fabric of the landscape (volumes and topography, areas of exchange, landscape lines and all the urban traces and graphics) constitute a fertile humus which makes the place so individual and real.



Agence Z. Hadid



Aerial view: Zaha Hadid, Multimodal terminus, Hoenheim-Nord tram station, Strasbourg – Plan of the stations

The point which the project makes with the energy of its architecture is that the tram is a force field, a vehicle for a new policy and vision of travel which is here expressed in architectural terms. This gravity-based architecture is a built metaphor for the idea of the Strasbourg tram project; as a centre of gravity for reorganising the city and its inhabitants' modes of transport and lifestyles.

Thus the site is transformed by the effect of this motive force. The area, which rises to reveal two car park levels, the inclined station, the curving road, the lines reorienting into an oblique strategy, objects (buildings, kiosks, bike shelter, benches, structures) which lean over, are the components of an architectural drama which consists in creating powerful volumes, marking the "magnetic attraction" whose centre is the station. An intensive design orders each line, each trace and organises each of the parking spaces by subjecting it to this original force of gravity. Looking at the plan, all the lines merge to create a synchronised whole. The architecture is constituted by this play on ground movements, spatial contortions, graphics and light. This creates a field of perceptions in the urban landscape, which in turn reveals the station as a kind of electromagnet attracting the perspectives of the site by "folding" the landscape. The aim is to produce a relief on the basis of these architectonics and to create a spatial continuum in which spaces, elements of the terminal located at different heights (car park, train platform, tram platform, and cycle and pedestrian paths) link up into a horizontal continuity. This mechanism involving the "folding" of spaces and horizontal concatenation points to a desire to create and promote a transformation of the architectural space.

This continuum creates a peculiar topos, setting the scene for a spectacular coup de théâtre: the dénouement of this drama is intended to improve Strasbourg civic life. This spatial proposition dramatises space: scenography whose architectonics make the car parks look like terraces in an amphitheatre, the tram station like the stage and the other elements like the wings where the action is being prepared, viz the actual tram rides. This arrange-

ment forges a permanent link among all the different parts (including the steeply sloping car parks, the train and tram platforms, the bus stops and the pedestrian and cycle paths) and makes way for a functional schema for continuous exchanges among the different means of locomotion. This scenario portrays and dramatises actions, gestures and the players of everyday life, and uses the architecture to give force and extraordinary meaning to an ordinary programme, transforming a non-place into a metaphorical space. In order to manifest this permanent coup de théâtre, the architect imbues the locus with a paradoxical spatial interplay based on the conversion and transposition:

- of stability into instability expressed by dynamics and free forms: the ground, walls, roof, structure, objects (benches, lights), and the various lines and traces are animated, put in motion;
- of instability into stability expressed by an organised geometry, and movements inscribed and controlled, as in a choreographic creation. The locality's dynamic elements, movements and travel linked to the different modes of transport and the various users are stabilised by the effect of geometry.



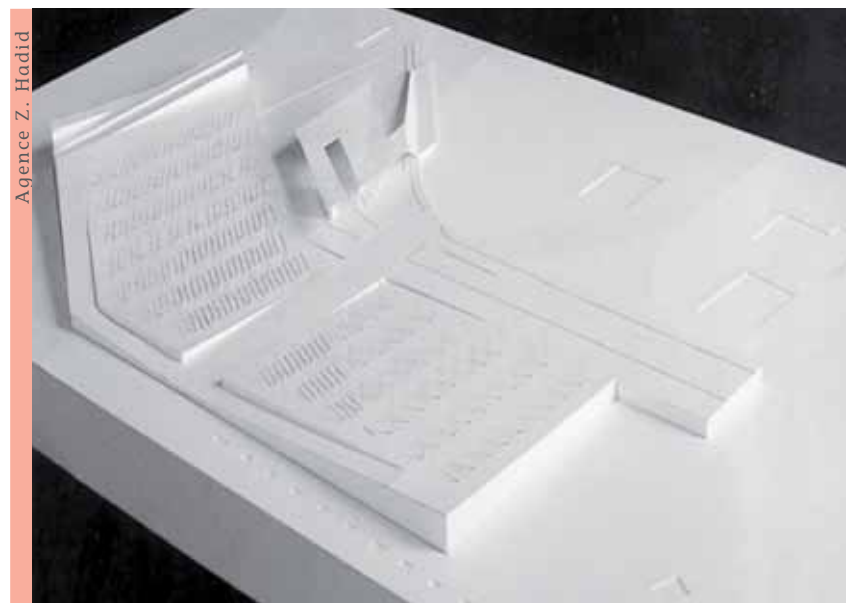
Agence Z. Hadid

Sketch for motion study

Zaha Hadid uses these architectonics to enshrine a veritable "poetry in motion" via the expression of spatial tensions. This architectural writing dramatises movements, configures modes of travel, composes fluxes with an eye to eliciting from our ordinary humdrum journeys a new urban symphony in order to instil magic into our everyday lives. She involves us in a mechanism, embeds us in a choreography which transforms and transposes dynamics, in a coup de théâtre by dint of rewriting our daily trips and dramatising them within a landscape and architectural continuum.

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Agence Z. Hadid

Project model

'Crowning' fountains in Val-de-Travers

On 12 September every year the inhabitants of Buttes, Môtiers and other clock-making villages in Val-de-Travers decorate their villages' public fountains. The Fountains Festival commemorates Neuchâtel Canton's entry into the Swiss Confederation in 1814. For the occasion, local schoolchildren, residents and associations decorate the fountains with highly original displays, turning them into veritable works of art when they are lit up by hundreds of candles on the evening of the Festival.

Landscape and fountains in Val de-Travers

Val-de-Travers is located halfway between the Jura high plateaus and the hilly vineyards along Neuchâtel lake. *Vallis transversa*, the "valley crossing the others", as indicated by the name given to the area by the Romans because of its transverse orientation vis-à-vis the Jura mountain ranges, links the Swiss Three Lakes region to France via Pontarlier. This clock-making and industrial valley is delimited by two mountainsides flanked by vertiginous fir tree forests in the lower reaches, with a narrow passage between the "la Clusette" cliffs and the "Creux du Van" white cliffs at the top. The Creux du Ban was also the first Swiss nature reserve, opened in 1876, protecting large fauna such as Alpine ibex, chamois, roe deer, brown hare and western capercaillie. At the western end of the valley, the Areuse spring gushes from the base of an enormous rock at a rate varying between 700 and 50 000 litres per second, depending on the season. The Areuse collects groundwater from the higher plateaus of the Brévine valley and the Lac des Taillères, as well as from the Doubs basin, embellishing the Val-de-Travers landscape with its numerous meanders over a twenty-kilometre stretch, at altitudes of mostly between 900 and 700 metres. Then, at Noiraigue, the river plunges

into a deep, wild and picturesque gorge before reaching Neuchâtel lake between Colombier and Coraillod.

With its seven villages and the small town of Fleurier, the Val-de-Travers forms a proto-urban ensemble. Most of the villages, lined with rows of large-windowed limestone houses, date back to the 18th and 19th centuries, a period which was also marked by the architecture of the Grands Collèges built in the Swiss national style. The Val-de-Travers villages have surprisingly wide streets and large numbers of octagonal, oval and oblong fountains. There is a fountain approximately every fifty metres in the villages, repeating their specific style of construction which varies only slightly from one village to the next. The fountains were often hewn from one large piece of white limestone by specialist stone-cutters. The whole population of the village or neighbourhood were involved in funding and transporting the fountains. Some of them have two basins, the first providing drinking water and the second being used as a trough. Sometimes there is a third basin which was used for other vital tasks such as laundering. The centres of the octagonal fountains contain columns topped with stone balls. The oblong fountains have obelisk-shaped pillars, with water pouring from bronze pipes stressing the fountain symbolism of vitality and health. Every fountain is unique, but their common style forges a cultural bond among all the villages in the valley.

The Val-de-Travers fountains are reference points in the public space. They are often located in the centre of the village or at strategic points in the public space, such as major crossroads. They are places where people pass every day, as well as prime areas for encounters and discussions. They were formerly the only sources of drinking

water for men and beasts, functioning as public washhouses and providing vital water supplies in the event of fire. Their sumptuousness, musicality and prolific water flow expressed the rural communes' shared ambition and desire to create enough fountains to serve the community. In the 19th century, when the industrialised areas and towns of Neuchâtel Canton began demanding more water, the rural communes were able to protect their vested rights of access to water from their public fountains. This means that the fountains are now the property of the communes, which ensure their upkeep.

The Fountains Festival

The preparations for the Fountains Festival begin in the week preceding 12 September every year. Children scour the countryside, rummaging in the forests for the moss on which to base their decorations and clay from the caves near the springs in the surrounding area. They also collect pebbles and straw from the fields around their villages, and vegetables, marrows, flowers and seasonal fruits from kitchen gardens and orchards. For the Festival, children also do the rounds in their village streets to collect a little money for the extra materials they need to install their decorations, sometimes planning them as much as a year in advance. Their decorations reflect such topical village events as weddings, football matches they have enjoyed, regardless of the final score, and imaginary subjects with fish, frogs, fairies and elves as the main protagonists. The decorations are set up during the afternoon of 12 September. The children are let off school for the occasion, and the adults help them with their fountain decorations. Everyone decorates the fountain closest to his home, with a total number of between ten and twelve per village taking part in the traditional festivities.

The activities are organised “on the grapevine”, and the Festival gets under way spontaneously, without committees or official launches.

At about 8 pm the village band starts off the procession in ceremonial uniform, led by the first-year children on floats pulled along by their dads. They are followed by older schoolchildren and local residents. The procession halts at each decorated fountain, flanked by the decorators, and the band plays a tune. The schoolchildren sing and the participants comment on the decorations and congratulate the artists. The procession continues right through the village, which is lit up for the occasion by the myriad candles on its fountains. The circuit ends at the main octagonal fountain in

the central square, where the children sing a last song, compete with actions. In fine weather the residents chat by the illuminated fountains and drink a glass of absinthe. Many of them get together in groups and set off to visit the other villages which have also created their own specific masterpieces.

Common creativity in an industrial region

The seven villages and the small town of Fleurier in the Val-de-Travers, which are linked up by roads lined with fruit and deciduous trees, share the same culture and history, namely that of the Swiss Jura clock-making industry. Introduced by Huguenot refugees after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, the clock-

making industry became rooted in this poor farming valley with its harsh climate, functioning as a seasonal activity during the long winter months. Whole families were involved in the work. With no need for expensive infrastructures, the farmers/craftsmen set up their workshops in their homes and sold their prestigious products to commercial travellers, who sold them on in France and Britain, and subsequently worldwide. Given its vulnerability to political events and unstable luxury item markets, the Val-de-Travers clock-making industry has undergone many crises and periods of radical restructuring. In the 19th century, the articulation of clock-making workshops as a manufacturing industry linked up the homeworkers into one single production line. In the 20th cen-



C. Wacker

The six Communes of Môtiers fountain about to be lit up for the evening procession during the Fountains Festival

ture, clock-making factories once again reorganised the division of labour in the valley's families and communes. For a whole generation they were able to fend off increasing international competition, initiated by clock-makers in Besançon and later Philadelphia in the United States, Poland and, most recently, modern China. Forced to specialise more and more, many clock-making families abandoned agriculture and ventured into full-time industrial work. This is why the Val-de-Travers landscape change at this time. The wheat fields were abandoned to make room for fodder crops and potatoes. Cyclical recessions in the clock-making trade have led to major population fluctuations, with newcomers moving into the houses of families departing the region. Since the government refused to reduce local taxes, clocks were sold by smuggling them across the border under cover of night. This is why the crafts villages, under the onslaught of foreign competition, counterfeit watches and export bans, are developing out proto-industrial outlets such as lace, produced in domestic workshops, and precision tools. At nightfall, occasional neon signs marked *L'Union* and *La boucherie sociale* on hotels and shops highlight the social dimension of the valley's industrialisation.

The two post-war periods in the 20th century brought new industries to Val-de-Travers: local asphalt mining to tarmac America's roads, manufacture of knitting machines exported to Italy, and high-precision instrument factories with Japanese names. New craft industries such as chocolate factories and absinthe distilleries also came in. They all combine to form a temporal

continuum from the proto-industrial era to the current post-industrial period. They are also attracting poets, writers and other intellectuals to Val-de-Travers. The changing decorative motifs used for the Fountains Festival bear witness to this phenomenon, but they also remain faithful to a common rebellious state of mind opposed to central power. Môtiers and Buttet are currently the last Neuchâtel communes to commemorate this canton's entry into the Swiss Confederation in 1814 on the corresponding date, namely 12 September. Other parts of the country celebrate 1 March 1848, when the Republic was proclaimed and a democratic regime established. The fact is that the inhabitants of Val-de-Travers commemorate the historic specificity of having been both Swiss citizens and subjects of the King of Prussia, and therefore having been governed by monarchical institutions, from 1814 to 1848.

The ambiguity of being an independent craft worker whose prosperity and economic survival depend on decisions taken in far-flung places worldwide and of being neither a full-time farmer in the high plateau regions nor a town-dweller in coastal industrial areas is reflected during the Fountains Festival by the widespread support shown for local initiative and creativity. By letting children lead the procession and placing youngsters in the midst of the masterpieces created, the Festival emphasises the villages' future, the spontaneous organisation of the event and the desire to bring newcomers in on the joint efforts. While the beautiful fountain creations recall the collective efforts of the communes in the past and their inhabitants' attachment to their built cultural herit-

age, the moss, straw, flower and fruit decorations bring the landscape into the centre of the arena, concentrating public attention on them on the day of the Festival. While respecting freedom of choice for the current themes of the decorations, moss as a traditional material for the fountain decorations, the date of the event and the whole running of the Festival express deep attachment to the continuity of tradition.

Water celebrated in the heart of the village

Every year, the traditional Val-de-Travers Fountains Festival, which is unique in Switzerland, enables participants to reinterpret their landscape anew, to share their viewpoints on their common current affairs and to forge new artistic links between the villages and the surrounding landscape. The Festival provides a taste of the population's present-day creativity, while at the same time evoking collective remembrance of the past and the importance of collective well-being in rural villages. With the sound of the bands and the children's singing, the taste of the traditional absinthe and the common experience of the procession around the decorated fountains in the public environment, the residents of Val-de-Travers each year promote the development of local culture, thus preserving the specific features of the "Cross-cutting" valley from generation to generation.

As the European Landscape Convention points out, landscape is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors. Protecting it requires the involvement and empowerment of all.

By identifying with the decorations on the public fountains and visiting them to the accompaniment of bands and children singing during the Fountains Festival, the inhabitants of Val-de-Travers revive this sense of commonality in the landscape and in public spaces shared by all generations.

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One of the fountains decorated for the Fountains Festival in Buttes features a wedding which had prompted mixed feelings

Trams – shaping an area’s visual identity



Track extension work, line 3, Montpellier, France

Historic complexes, archaeological sites, buildings of inestimable value, cycle paths, parks, advertisement hoardings, and terraces – all these things are components of public space. Local areas are assimilated, experienced and perceived in a certain way by their inhabitants. It is precisely for this reason that all objects or groups of objects distributed spatially in a chaotic or organised manner become symbols of a given space.

Public transport over time

The introduction of public transport, a symbol of urban vitality, was the result of the development and spread of urban space, the expansion of industry, population growth, increased quality of life and the need to create connections between different parts of the city and

between the city centre and the suburbs. As we will see, the two case-studies proposed in this contribution – Cluj-Napoca in Romania and Montpellier in France – underwent similar developments up to the end of the 19th century, when the first forms of horse-drawn transport appeared. When electric trams were introduced in France, public transport in Cluj-Napoca was at an intermediate stage – steam locomotives, the approved form of transport at the time, given the political context in Romania resulting from its involvement in the First World War. Half a century later (1987), electric trams were introduced.

The plan for Montpellier’s tram network includes seven lines, two of which are in service, one under construction and the others still at the planning stage. Of the two operational lines, Line 1, 15.8 kilometres in length, crosses the whole city from Mosson to Odysseum, while Line 2, 19 kilometres in length, links four outlying communities to Montpellier, from Saint-Jean de Védas to Jacou.

As regards the city of Cluj-Napoca, which lies on the river Someşul Mic, the tram network consists of three lines crossing part of the city and connecting with other means of transport (bus and trolleybus). The first line, number 100, links Unimet and Piaţa Gării stations, while the second line, number 101, runs between Clăbucet and Piaţa Gării stations, and the third line, number 102,

combines the routes of the first two lines. However, access to the districts served by the tram lines is cumbersome, the trams are dilapidated and journey times are longer than if using other means of transport.

Trams, more than a form of public transport

People are constantly on the move, using various means of transport (car, bicycle, bus, tram etc), and urban space is sometimes redistributed with no regard for local distinctiveness, citizens’ wishes or even the everyday landscape. But how can we redefine urban space? Initiatives by local players can change the “face” of an area. Empowerment of players takes on its full meaning here.

The Montpellier metropolitan area tram project has led to investment in urban and interurban transport infrastructure. The tram lines – the two already in service and the third one currently under construction – have been integrated with the landscape, being designed with due regard for the local topography (see the detours taken by the existing lines), the attractiveness of the areas passed through (shopping precincts, green areas, new neighbourhoods, such as Antigone, for example), and the need to ensure that all parts of the metropolitan area are interconnected. An extension of the tram network is planned with the building of Line 3, which will link Juvillac to Lattes and Pérols. Construction work proper is accompanied by landscaping of the line (platforms, green areas, stations). The novel feature of the existing network and also of the new line, 40 kilometres in length, is that the routes also allow for possible future lines of urban development, since they serve the “peripheries” of existing neighbourhoods.

With certain similarities, the Cluj-Napoca tram network is currently being modernised, a project launched by the city council in order to qualify for European funding for growth centres. More specifically, this is a scheme to develop urban transport within the Cluj metropolitan area along the Mănăştur-Piaţa Gării-Bd. Muncii route. It involves modernising two sections of line: the Mănăştur-Piaţa Gării section, with 11.49 kilometres



Track modernisation work, line 101, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

of new track, renewal of the road surface (630 m²), the building of 12 platforms, and the creation of green areas (1420 m²), and the Piața Gării-Bd. Muncii section, with the renewal of 14.18 kilometres of track, renewal of the road surface (1420 m²), 3 access ramps, and the creation of green areas (402 m²). The local authorities also plan to develop interurban transport to serve some of the suburbs, by building some 16 kilometres of new tram line to reach the neighbouring municipalities of Jucu and Gilău, a fairly ambitious project which would involve work to regulate the river Someșul Mic, in order to overcome the local topography, or integrated development scenarios in order to integrate transport infrastructure into a space currently defined by rapid and uncontrolled expansion of built-up areas, leaving little room for the construction of new transport routes (eg the municipality of Florești).

Over and above the goal of large-scale modernisation, account should be taken of the spatial imprint and the impact on local distinctiveness. The example of the Montpellier tram system shows how it has been possible to address this aspect, which is even reflected in the design of the tram cars: the outside of the tram cars on Line 1 is decorated in blue with white swallows, a concept which bears the mark of stylists Elizabeth Garouste and Mattia Bonetti, while the floral decoration of the tram cars on Line 2 is again inspired by Mattia Bonetti; both concepts refer to Montpellier's urban landscapes. Pursuing the same idea, the visual identity of the third line has been created by Christian Lacroix: the Mediterranean landscape proposed for the external design of the tram cars evokes the beauty of the villages through which the line passes.

Tram systems and the challenges of planning public space

The benefits which are generally expected from the use of trams, especially new tram cars and lines, are less pollution, urban renewal, preservation of the existing architectural heritage and the urban landscape, and increased quality of urban transport services. Where spatial planning is concerned, what are the main challenges in rela-

tion to public transport infrastructure? Consideration might be given to the following questions:

- the need for an integrated approach to space, in which each component is seen in terms of its connection with other components or with the whole;
- the possibility of achieving a personalised spatial imprint, whether we are talking about transport infrastructure, a group of buildings or other features of urban space;
- direct participation by local people, the main beneficiaries of the public service, who, unfortunately, are sometimes not informed until after the project has been completed;
- the need to provide for permanent connections with other existing means of transport.

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Tram, line 1, Montpellier, France



Tram, line 101, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Signs and symbols: Cosmothropos, a photo to reveal the imprint of Space on public



CNES

"Sunflower" Swimming Pool, Villeneuve d'Ascq

Space activities have highlighted the importance of Space in terms of observing and studying the universe of which humanity forms part. By a reversal of perspective, they also offer a vision of our planet. Our territory is analysed by various scientific tools which help to revolutionise understanding of our world. However, these tremendous research resources cannot capture the "sensitive" dimension of our environment which bears witness to our relationship with Space.

It was from this perspective that the Space Observatory, the cultural section of the French National Center for Spatial Studies (CNES), launched in 2012 the "Cosmothropos" project, a call for photographic contributions open to all, with the aim of creating the first participative inventory of human creations inspired by Space. The ultimate goal of this experimental project, designed in several stages, is to develop a model for cultural action in Europe.

In the first stage, placed under the patronage of the French Ministry of Culture and Communication, implementation of the project has been confined to French territory, with the aim of offering a new vision of the landscape through the eyes of those who walk in it. On the project's dedicated website, all the geolocated photos are

displayed on a map of French territory (www.cnesobservatoire-cosmothropos.fr). They show that Space has left a deep mark on our open space – on walls, shop fronts, street furniture and architecture in general. From official signs to the most unexpected landmarks, these myriad features mark out new paths.

Everyone is invited to participate in this amazing venture. During five months, the website offered people the opportunity to send in their own pictures and share them via the social networks. Space and photography enthusiasts and anyone with a feeling for the many different aspects of the project can play a part in identifying and observ-



CNES

The Cosmos bar, 33 rue Simphon, Paris 18^e

ography project space

ing the influence of Space in their own environment.

All visitors to the site can keep track of new developments in Cosmothropos: a month and a half after its launch, nearly 200 photos has been collected, of which a hundred have been published. A steering committee composed of figures from the space, cultural and social science fields will be organising discus-

sions based on the images collected and identifying themes which will form the basis for future developments.

Gérard Azoulay

*Head of the Space Observatory
National Centre for Space Research*

Perrine Gamot

*in charge of the Cosmothropos project
for the Space Observatory*



*Fresco portraying a cosmonaut,
rue des Pruniers, Paris 10^e*

CNES

Liquidscapes: the 'Park of the Strait' of I

Water is not all the same.

The sea, as well as the earth, make sense and meaning in relation to the geographies where they belong. The more distance that separates the coast decreases, the greater the degree of relationship that weaves between its banks. The Straits of the sea in this sense, are spaces of tension and of a very special relationship. As mobility has deeply transformed and expanded the concept of "public space" potentiating and enhancing the quality of urban collective recreation and interchangeable places of the city, so the same may happen for this large liquid square, the Strait of Messina.

The dense network of ferries and hydrofoils, of the trains loaded on ships, of the water crossed by cruise, military, fishing and tourist ships, impress the retina of those who travelled and travel this 'piece of sea', like it was a textile sewn between two coasts, by the thread of the trajectories that the territory held together. The landscapes of these Calabrian and Sicilian areas are land-

scapes seen from and by the sea. The fact that it is water seems to be just an accident, when in fact it is a vast square, a marina plain, a large park. The Strait of the Sea is a device to read, and the landscape that belongs to it.

The Strait of Messina is a device for interpretation of distinct cultural and social identities. A device of 'translation' and 'innovation' of a landscape that is not a traditional landscape, is not defined as such, it is not quite tangible, objective, or transmittable in the usual forms of communication, but a landscape that is fixed only by means of perception, sensation and feeling. Its edges indicate a discontinuity between two strips of land rather than an interruption. In this sense it is useful to see the Strait as a unique and non-traditional landscape, as an element that in itself has its own characteristics and specificities.

A landscape that is a mirror, which is opposite, calling the other side and is complemented with it though the 'link' of the sea. Finding a new and different 'mapping' of this geographical area can

become a design tool for new projects. Categories of perception, reading, and interpreting values, as the interaction between the place and the people who inhabit it, between the place and all those who cross it, may offer keys of interpretation of a design process.

The narration of the Strait of Messina, told, as was seen throughout the years of its Italian history, as a 'journey' and a 'space' at the same time, and about the thousand ways in which it was crossed and perceived. A landscape travelled, crossed, in the movements of very different speeds, and spins and returns the multiple scales of its territory, and the way to think of it, define it, and reinvent it.

The Strait of Messina was considered a 'united' area perhaps more by those who have travelled through it, rather than those it has lived its banks and its regions. The journeys and the crossings that make those perceive this piece of the sea as a unit. Were historical events, military strategies, naval operations, and commercial businesses to let us



D. Colafanceschi

Messina

see this Strait as 'positive' space and not 'negative': not what is between two opposite sides, but what holds them together, what binds the two shores and banks.

The Strait is a complex landscape, it is a cultural landscape, and it is a 'device'. The Strait is a park: the 'Park of the Strait'. Is being consolidated and is legitimising the idea of a unique area extended to the territory of Calabria and Sicily, overlooking the Strait, where cities, towns, small towns, conurbations, infrastructure, connote a single metropolitan system? It is precisely the system 'landscape' beginning from its sea which is the strongest 'link' of connection and common identity.

The term 'Park of the Strait' well expresses the attitude of this geographical area and the strong potential it offers, when thinking of its territory as a device of new meanings, as a subject capable of supporting new strategies and to generate new processes of qualification (or re-qualification) through the unconventional design of its landscape and that

part of the sea to which it belongs. The 'Park of the Strait' means the capacity that a portion of land has to restore meaning and quality, and, in parallel, trigger a more widespread recognition of its landscape as a cultural product, starting from areas that are hindering, interstitial, mixed, and neglected. Cities, suburbs, farmland, or uncultivated land and abandoned areas, belong and define a system that is unique: belonging to a single metropolitan network, to the same 'system landscape' where the sea is included.

They are evidently, the coastal landscapes, the waterfront, the urban waterfront, the linear fringe territories overlooking the sea a condition specific and characteristic of these geographies to make themselves spaces of meetings between entities. Are the cities with their marginal territories to weave a dialogue between banks, to build different structures and adaptability of expression? Is their landscape to define itself as a structure of a single system able to overcome and undo a clear-chronic dichotomy?

International law recognises the 'territorial sea', in a range of 12 miles away from the coast, then the "exclusive economic zones" which are those within 200 miles; and international waters, inland waterways, those interdicted, those of relevance... What is the right distance? What is, for the landscape, the area of relevance? How many meters from the coast are we still able to sustain and perceive those tensions that as wires we attack and anchor to the mainland? These wires must be able to read them and interpret them.

We must be able to define the margin of 'respect' of the water, the essential thickness to maintain a firm relationship with the territory. We must be able to measure, on values of quality and identity, the distance-but then the relationship-which from the sea; the water is still able to weave with the earth.

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D. Colafranceschi

Internal landscape in villages

Public spaces in villages are part of a larger ensemble, viz the “internal landscape”, a concept which transcends mere technical and urbanistic approaches. This concept of internal landscape, which the Ruralité-Environnement-Développement association has been developing and promoting for almost ten years now by means of frequent international exchanges, embraces all the elements noted by residents or passers-by moving through a village. It complements the usual concept of “rural landscape” as perceived from an outside vantage point encompassing the village and its surrounding landscape.

The “internal landscape” of a village can be seen from two angles:

- street space, with a wide range of components: roads and pathways; fronts and environs of buildings, with their house front decorations and yard areas: non-built plots, gardens and orchards, with their fences and low walls; natural elements such as streams, rivers, trees and vegetation; public amenities, street furniture, lighting;
- glimpses out of the village and transition areas to the countryside.

The urbanistic and real-estate strands of local rural development projects usually concentrate on control of land use, road infrastructures, integration of new buildings and preservation of the heritage characteristics of old buildings, rather than on the qualitative aspect of non-built areas. Internal landscape quality overall constitutes an important criterion for the resident’s or visitors’ perception of quality of life: it is the muse for the *genius loci*, so to speak.

These internal village landscapes are currently under constant pressure, whether the surrounding rural area is booming or in recession. In boom areas, especially those where property development is increasing the added value, densification is damaging the internal landscape with too many new buildings, often badly located or non-integrated, and heavier traffic in the public space. There is a strong temptation in such villages to gravitate towards an “urban” approach to spatial development, often with intensive metallisation of the public space.

In remote rural areas, the pressure on internal landscape quality mainly involves the negative aspect of buildings and spaces which are damaged or badly maintained, or even derelict.

At all events, the quality of public space development is a signal sent out by the local authorities to the population. At a time of increasing individualisation, it is important to stress the collective and comprehensive dimension of a quality living environment, with an eye to a long-term vision.

In rural areas, the benefits of proper development of public spaces are somewhat different from those expected in urban sites. Examples of such benefits include:

- integration into the environment in order to preserve the latter’s versatility and ensure a harmonious transition between public and private spaces. Given the multifunctionality of public spaces, they incorporate multimodal traffic flows, and their stopping points (bus shelters, public benches...), and play and leisure areas. They are currently attracting more and more new elements such as digital signposts and “designer” waste bins whose aesthetic appearance and “integratedness” provide planners with wide scope for innovation;
- integration into the spatiotemporal continuum in order to accommodate the various activities on the village calendar: markets, festivals and secular or religious events...;
- rurality, which must reflect the historic interrelation between nature and habitat. This dimension incorporates the space attributed to natural elements and also the whole area of qualitative enhancement of rurality, such as taking account of the agro-geographical features of the locality via the choice of materials, forms and botanical species. This concern does not, however, stand in the way of innovation or the contemporary conception of quality;
- a social dimension as an area for conviviality and collective information, which calls for attention to accessibility and user safety. It is also a public space to be used as a place of exchange and appropriation via citizen participation at the installation stage. Internal landscape, which is both in the public domain and in private ownership, is a *de facto* natu-



Courcelles (France): a green corridor

RED

ral medium for eliciting local participation demarches in terms of its development;

– a sustainable development showcase using durable technical functional elements, combining attention to detail with low maintenance costs. In this field, sobriety often guarantees sustainable functionality. From a broader angle, priority must also be given to low-energy street furniture, materials and services which are low in embodied energy and economic in overall energy.

Reasoned development of public spaces, regarded as an integral part of the internal landscape of villages, becomes totally relevant within a local development drive, owing both to its potential for motivating citizens and its importance in their everyday lives.

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Beau Cantan cultural centre

Florenville (Belgium): a place for living

Public goods from private land: the land

The world is undergoing a transition due to stronger demographic pressure, which is re-shaping our climatic, ecological and economic reality. This new reality results from a number of trends: population explosion, mushrooming urbanisation, market globalisation and changing lifestyles. Resource limitations are starting to show their effects on the global economy; today we talk about oil and minerals scarcity, but in the future we could see a scarcity of fertile soil, clean water and healthy air. In dealing with the world's major, interconnected challenges, food security and environmental security, land managers and their private land must be helped to better respond to these challenges.

A new paradigm is being adopted to try and better integrate the interaction between man's activities and nature. This is based on the concept of so-called ecosystem services. These are the benefits that people obtain from ecosystems, which include provisioning services, e.g. food and water, regulating services, e.g. floods and droughts, supporting services, e.g. soil formation, and cultural services, such as recreational, spiritual, and religious and other non-material benefits.

Europe's land is mostly privately owned and managed by farmers and foresters. Pervasive market failures arise from the fact that land management for farming or forestry purposes has the capacity to both conserve and enhance the environment or to harm it. With growing affluence, the demand of European society for environmental services has grown, as have the concerns of European society about their delivery. While there are well functioning, albeit imperfect markets for the food and fibre chain, there are no spontaneously occurring markets for environmental services. They are therefore not supplied to the extent that society would like. Quite naturally land managers will respond to the market signals for their food and other saleable outputs, and pay less attention to the impacts of their activities where there are no markets. As the reformed Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) incentivises market behaviours, European farmers increasingly focus on what allows them to earn an income, however producing farmed goods today does not really pay. The under-provision of these rural, environmental services is a classic, pervasive market failure and is extremely difficult to deal with. This is because measuring and quantifying

ecosystem services, and therefore public goods, is so complex. A new response is therefore needed. A constructive way to achieve this response is to view these market failures as public environmental services that can be delivered by suitably incentivised land managers.

But to that effect, it is necessary to make a clear definition of what we mean by ecosystem services and make an estimate of their value and the costs of delivering them. This then turns attention to the policy measures that can create the conditions and appropriate incentive structure for delivery of the services. If the demand for the environmental services can be effectively created, then private operators will step up to supply. The UN Millennium Ecosystem Assessment of the World Bank and UNEP indicates that 60% of ecosystem services are being degraded or used unsustainably. The ongoing study, the "Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity", suggests that the welfare losses from the loss of biodiversity from terrestrial systems is of the order of €50bn per year or about just under 1% of GDP, but could amount to €14 trillion or 7% of estimated GDP in 2050. The results of these studies, with all their uncertainties, suggest that the gross value of environmental services may well be of comparable order of magnitude as the value of conventionally measured goods and services in the economy. It is instructive to refer to the experience with the CAP, which has set the pace in establishing environmental conditions for farm support and offering payments for environmental service delivery. The latter are still a small share of total CAP support, and no effort has been made to calibrate rural development programmes on the basis of objective information about the demand for the services, their values, or the costs of their delivery. An exercise of systematically valuing environmental services and their delivery costs can play a useful role in reforming the CAP and better inform such future decisions.



owners' point of view

One of the possible approaches to reward the delivery of environmental public goods is to create the circumstances in which environmental services can be supplied through business-to-business transactions and to try simulating a market approach. There are several broad approaches to set this process in motion: cap and trade, floor and trade, offsets and contracts for services. Another possibility would be to find opportunities for private sector purchases of environmental services supplied by farmers and other land managers. These contracts for services already have operational examples. For instance, there are private water companies contracting with farmers or foresters in their catchments to manage their land in such a way as to reduce the costs of the environment. Besides looking at ways how to deliver these public goods, a key question is who should pay for them? Currently it is the European citizen who pays by suffering the consequences of the environmental market failures. The costs are large, but diffuse. Individuals cannot measure them, and do not know what to do about them. If all citizens are paying for environmental degradation, who should pay to reverse it: farmers, food and forest product consumers, or taxpayers? How could the costs be best distributed in order to incentivise the actions required?



In conclusion, European agriculture can indeed play an important role in producing public goods (i.e. increasing carbon sequestration, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving habitats for biodiversity). Pillar 1 remains a vital support instrument to meet the objectives of the CAP, and while the European Commission calls for further action to promote public goods by “greening” the CAP, it should focus on developing

appropriate policy instruments promoting the remuneration of ecosystem services. If that is not so, European Union institutions will miss an opportunity to help our planet.

Thierry de l’Escaille

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Inclusive access to outdoor environments

From the Roman Empire to the present day, the concept of *rus in urbe* (countryside in the city) has been an important touchstone for Europe's urban planners and designers in seeking to improve the quality of life of its citizens. In more recent history, the Garden City movement in Great Britain recognised the virtues of urban greenery and its importance for physical and mental health, social connectivity and higher life satisfaction. However, despite such outcomes remaining a vital goal for our increasingly diverse European cities, pressures on land availability and profitability and demands for urban densification mean that open space is being gradually squeezed out of the environments we have created for daily living and working. Since 2001, the Research Centre OPENspace has been committed to bringing inclusive access to urban green space back into the heart of place making, through providing the evidence for robust urban policymaking.

The urban places we use every day often present more hazards to health and wellbeing than benefits. Recent policy on regenerating brownfield land has provided us with a clear opportunity to redress the balance, though the demands of the development industry remain a challenge. It is within this context that the Research Centre has been engaging with urban residents to identify why getting outdoors matters and which attributes of open spaces most effectively support healthy attitudes and behaviour. Projects address the experience of disadvantaged groups; those most at risk of social exclusion and a reduced quality of life.

The Research Centre was established with a grant from the Scottish Higher Education Funding Council. Following the publication of literature reviews on health, well-being and open space and the use of public open space by teenagers and by black and minority ethnic

groups, our first major project, Inclusive Design for Getting Outdoors (DGO), was launched in 2003. The project is one of the most successful outcomes of the Extending Quality Life (EQUAL) programme funded by the United Kingdom Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council. Working with partners in the Universities of Salford and Warwick, we have built up a clear picture of why, and how often, older people go outdoors and what aspects of the environment help or hinder them in undertaking simple, everyday activities outside.

The project explores the concept of the transactional relationship between person and place: the idea that supportive open spaces can facilitate and encourage healthy behaviour on the part of the individual by helping them to do the things they would like to, both socially and physically. During the first phase of the research, we found that participants

C. Ward Thompson



Ward Thompson Image of the meadows in Edinburgh

who lived within 10 minutes' walk of a local urban green space were twice as likely to achieve the recommended levels of healthy walking (2.5 hours) per week as those who did not, and more than twice as likely to be satisfied with life. In general, people who felt supported by the design and maintenance of their local neighbourhood were around three times more likely to be in good health compared to those who did not. The three main reasons people gave for going out correspond with those given by other marginalised groups in the research achieved: to socialise, exercise and take in fresh air and nature, a chance to relax and mentally unwind.

The Research Centre organise an international conference to explore the study of inclusive environments. This coincided with involvement in a number of European projects, including two European Actions on Cooperation in Science and Technology on forestry (COST Actions 33 and 39). In the United Kingdom, the Centre's focus on knowledge exchange resulted in a commis-

sion from the national Department for Communities and Local Government to map existing research into public and green space, in order to help set priorities for the future.

The book made "Open Space People Space" won the Research Award at the United Kingdom Landscape Institute Biennial Awards. The contribution of the team to research within Scotland, was marked by commissions to develop a 'walkability' assessment tool for the Scottish Physical Activity Research Collaboration, and to evaluate the effectiveness of Forestry Commission Scotland's Woods in and Around Towns programme. In 2010, the publication of the Centre's second book coincided with the launch of findings from 'Community Green: using local spaces to tackle inequality and improve health', a study for the United Kingdom Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment surveying over 500 residents of high deprivation neighbourhoods. It found that, if people perceive the quality of their local green space to be good, they are more likely to report better health

and to be satisfied with their neighbourhood, and that people living in deprived urban areas view green space as a key service which, together with housing, health, education and policing, is one of the essentials in making a neighbourhood liveable.

We continue to work with policy makers at the highest level to address the needs of marginalised user groups in accessing the outdoor environment, with projects such as Green-Health funded by the Scottish Government to work with unemployed and deprived people living in towns and cities across Scotland. A Government's 'Good Places, Better Health Evaluation' Group, looks specifically at the salutogenic potential of place in order to advise the government accordingly.

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Open Space: time to 'leap the fence' again

The European Landscape Convention came into force in 2004. The Convention tells us that the landscape extends across the whole of the territory of a country, and makes it explicit that urban and peri-urban areas are as vital a part of that landscape as are natural and rural areas. The justification for this is clear: with more than three quarters of the '800 million Europeans' living in towns and cities, it is above all the urban landscape which is, to quote landscape architect Martha Schwartz, "...the canvas upon which we live our lives, join together as communities and build our cities".¹

As self-evident as the idea of the urban landscape might appear today, when the Council of Europe's Recommendations on Urban Open Space were published in 1986,² despite being built on the clear affirmation that "Towns are not only buildings: open space forms a fundamental part of the urban environment

and the historic heritage of a town." they contained barely a mention of the word 'landscape'.

Given the importance now afforded to the urban landscape by the European Landscape Convention, it would be expected that the guidelines on the implementation of the Convention would make amends for this apparent omission and make explicit reference to the treatment of urban and peri-urban landscapes. Yet, while there is one paragraph under the heading of landscape quality objectives, which makes passing mention of 'town approaches' and the 'urban fringe', there is no reference to 'open space'.³

The only way to make sense of this apparently contradictory situation is to realise that our concept of urban landscape is in the middle of an 'evolutionary spurt'. The terms 'open space' and 'urban landscape' refer to some-

what different concepts, but it makes as little sense to talk about the urban landscape but to make no mention of open space, as vice versa. However the terminological confusion does not end there. 'Green space' is a collective term frequently used in a similar context to refer to the totality of parks, gardens and other non-designed spaces dominated by vegetation in towns and cities.

But the urban landscape is more than just green space; it also includes streets and squares, for example, and another term encompassing streets and squares: the 'public realm' has recently become fashionable amongst architects and urban designers, however this much narrower in its reach and conception.

The title of a European Union funded project "UrbSpace, urban spaces: enhancing the attractiveness and quality of the urban environment", introduces yet another term, but in doing



Peripheral motorway, Vienna

so proposes a suitably broad definition: “Commonly, open spaces in urban areas are seen as individual ‘sites’ such as parks or squares, and looked at from this point of view they can take a wide variety of forms. In a broader sense, however, open space can also be considered as something wider and more all-encompassing, namely as the continuous matrix of all unbuilt land in urban areas – public parks as well as private gardens; urban streets as well as city squares. In this way it both links together individual spaces and flows around and between every building and structure, forming the context and surroundings of each one and connecting the inner city to the surrounding landscape. Indeed, urban space can even be thought of as extending to include all significant outdoor spaces which fall within the influence of the urban area, for example local recreation areas outside the city boundaries.”⁴

The idea of the “matrix of all unbuilt land in urban areas” comes much closer to an appropriately comprehensive concept, but even this still does not quite encompass the full scope of ‘urban landscape’. Landscapes also contain buildings. Indeed current approaches to landscape character assessment in rural areas even use the type of buildings in a landscape to help characterise them,

so they must have at least as important a role to play in defining urban landscapes. But even if we, possibly controversially, include the built fabric in our conception of urban landscape, this is still not enough to fully encompass the essence of the urban landscape.

The recommendations on the implementation of the Landscape Convention make it clear that: “landscape is not simply the sum of its constituent parts”. It is also about how they interact and combine, but it also comprises the meanings and values with which people imbue it: “landscape is an area as perceived by people...”. Operationalising the essential inclusion of ‘people’ into a physical conception of landscape represents a difficult challenge, but the incorporation of buildings into the concept of urban landscape could also be an important step in this direction, for the simple reason that buildings tend to be occupied by people.

Whatever route we select to broaden and operationalise our concept of the urban landscape, it would be good to reflect on the epitaph which Horace Walpole wrote for William Kent, one of the pioneers of the English Landscape School. Kent, said Walpole, “leapt the fence and saw all nature was a garden”. Surely it is now time for us to leap the

fence again and recognise that the entire city is landscape. This is an important challenge that the implementation of the European Landscape Convention has still to address.

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¹ Martha Schartz: ‘Urban planning needs green rethink’ (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7372184.stm>; Accessed 19 May 2011).

² Council of Europe: Recommendation No. R (86) 11 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on Urban Open Space.

³ Recommendation CM/Rec (2008)3 of the Committee of Ministers to Member States on the guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention.

⁴ UrbSpace Project: ‘Guidelines for Making Urban Space’ (http://www.urbanspaces.eu/files/JOINT_STRATEGY_makingSpace.pdf; accessed 19 May 2011).



COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Texts of the Council of Europe

1. Recommendation N° R (84) 2 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to member states on the European Regional/Spatial Planning Charter, adopted on 25 January 1984

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.b of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Recognising that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve a greater unity between its members for the purpose of safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are their common heritage and facilitating their economic and social progress;

Having regard to Consultative Assembly Resolution 687 (1979) on European regional planning;

Having regard to the opinion of the Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe on the preparation of a European Regional Planning Charter appended to its Resolution 113 (1980) on the progress of European integration;

Considering that regional/spatial planning is a tool which is important to the progress of European society and that closer international co-operation in this field is a valuable means of strengthening European identity;

Convinced that in order to achieve co-operation in this field it is necessary to analyse national, regional and local conceptions of regional/spatial planning with a view to the adoption of common principles (designed, in particular, to reduce regional disparities) and hence to the achievement of a better general conception of the use and organisation of space, the distribution of activities, environmental protection and the improvement of the quality of life;

Convinced that the radical changes which have occurred in the economic and social patterns of the European countries and in their relations with other parts of the world make it necessary to review the principles governing the organisation of space in order to ensure that they are not for-

mulated solely on the basis of short-term economic objectives without due consideration for social, cultural and environmental factors;

Considering that the objectives of regional/spatial planning necessitate new criteria for the choice of the direction in which technical progress is pursued and the use to which it is put, and that these criteria need to be in keeping with economic, social and environmental requirements;

Convinced that all European citizens should have the opportunity in an appropriate institutional framework to take part in the devising and implementation of all regional/spatial planning measures, Recommends that the governments of member states:

- a. base their national policies on the principles and objectives set out in the European Regional/Spatial Planning Charter prepared and adopted by the European Conference of Ministers responsible for Regional Planning and appended to this recommendation;
- b. ensure that the Charter is distributed as widely as possible among the public and among politicians at local, regional, national and international level.

Appendix to Recommendation No. R (84) 2

European Regional/Spatial Planning Charter

The concept of regional/spatial planning

Regional/spatial planning gives geographical expression to the economic, social, cultural and ecological policies of society.

It is at the same time a scientific discipline, an administrative technique and a policy developed as an interdisciplinary and comprehensive approach directed towards a balanced regional development and the physical organisation of space according to an overall strategy.

Its European dimension

Regional/spatial planning contributes to a better spatial organisation in Europe and

to the finding of solutions for problems which go beyond the national framework, and thus aims to create a feeling of common identity, having regard to North-South and East-West relations.

Its characteristics

Man and his well-being as well as his interaction with the environment are the central concern of regional/spatial planning, its aims being to provide each individual with an environment and quality of life conducive to the development of his personality in surroundings planned on a human scale.

Regional/spatial planning should be democratic, comprehensive, functional and orientated towards the longer term.

Democratic: it should be conducted in such a way as to ensure the participation of the people concerned and their political representatives,

Comprehensive: it should ensure the co-ordination of the various sectoral policies and integrate them in an overall approach,

Functional: it needs to take account of the existence of regional consciousness based on common values, culture and interests sometimes crossing administrative and territorial boundaries, while taking account of the institutional arrangements of the different countries,

Long-term it should analyse and take into consideration the long-term trends and developments of oriented: economic, social, cultural, ecological and environmental phenomena and interventions.

Its operation

Regional/spatial planning must take into consideration the existence of a multitude of individual and institutional decision-makers which influence the organisation of space, the uncertainty of all forecasting studies, the market pressures, the special features of administrative systems and the differing socio-economic and environmental conditions. It must

however strive to reconcile these influences in the most harmonious way possible.

The fundamental objectives

Regional/spatial planning seeks at one and the same time to achieve:

– *Balanced socio-economic development of the regions*

Taking into consideration the economic processes affecting Europe as a whole, the specific regional characteristics and the important role of development axes and communication networks, it should control the growth of regions which are congested or developing too fast, encourage the development of backward regions, and maintain or adapt the infrastructures that are essential to the stimulation of economic recovery in declining regions or those threatened with serious employment problems particularly through manpower migration at European level. Peripheral areas which have special requirements and structural potential for socio-economic rebalancing should be better linked with the industrial and economic centres of Europe.

– *Improvement of the quality of life*

It encourages improvement in the quality of everyday life, in respect of housing, work, culture, leisure or relationships within human communities, and the enhancement of the well-being of each individual through the creation of jobs and the provision of economic, social and cultural amenities which meet the aspirations of different sections of the population and which are sited in places where they will be used to the optimum.

– *Responsible management of natural resources and protection of the environment*

By promoting strategies to minimise conflicts between the growing demand for natural resources and the need to conserve them, it seeks to ensure responsible management of the environment, the resources of land, subsoil, air, water, energy resources, fauna and flora, paying special attention to areas

of natural beauty and to the cultural and architectural heritage.

– *Rational use of land*

In pursuit of the above defined objectives, it is concerned in particular with the location, organisation and development of large urban and industrial complexes, major infrastructures, and the protection of agricultural and forestry land. Every regional/spatial planning policy must be necessarily accompanied by a land-use policy in order to make it possible to achieve objectives which are in the public interest.

Implementation of regional/spatial planning objectives

The achievement of regional/spatial planning objectives is essentially a political matter.

Many private and public agencies contribute by their actions to developing and changing the organisation of space. Regional/spatial planning reflects the desire for interdisciplinary integration and co-ordination and for co-operation between the authorities involved:

– *It seeks co-ordination between the various sectors*

This effort for co-ordination concerns mainly the distribution of population, economic activities, habitat, public facilities, and power supplies; transport; water supply and purification; noise prevention and waste disposal; protection of the environment and of natural, historical, cultural assets and resources.

– *It facilitates co-ordination and co-operation between the various levels of decision-making and the equalisation of financial resources*

The various authorities involved in regional/spatial planning policy need to be given the power to take and carry out decisions, as well as adequate financial means. In order to ensure optimal co-ordination between local, regional, national and European levels, also as regards transfrontier co-operation, their action must always take into account any measures introduced or planned at the level above or below their own and, consequently, they must keep one another regularly informed.

At local level: co-ordination of local authority development plans, having regard to the essential interests of regional and national planning;

At regional level: the most appropriate level at which to pursue a regional/spatial planning policy, co-ordination between the regional authorities themselves and local and national authorities as well as between regions of neighbouring countries;

At national level: co-ordination of different regional/spatial planning policies and regional aid arrangements as well as harmonisation of the national and regional objectives;

At European level: co-ordination of regional/spatial planning policies in order to achieve objectives of European importance and general balanced development.

Public participation

Any regional/spatial planning policy, at whatever level, must be based on active citizen participation. It is essential that the citizen be informed clearly and in a comprehensive way at all stages of the planning process and in the framework of institutional structures and procedures.

Strengthening European co-operation

The European Conference of Ministers responsible for Regional Planning (CEMAT) constitutes the ideal political instrument for co-operation and initiative at European level.

– It will intensify relations with the bodies of the Council of Europe and the European Community, as well as with the relevant intergovernmental organisations. It will present regular progress reports on European co-operation in this field to the Parliamentary Assembly and the Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe.

– Besides organising and intensifying political co-operation between states, it will promote co-operation in the main technical planning fields such as long-range forecasting, regional sta-

tistics, cartography and terminology. It must acquire the scientific, administrative, technical and financial tools essential to the pursuit of its aims, in particular by drawing up a European regional planning concept.

The Ministers ask all institutions, administrations and organisations dealing with regional planning problems to have regard in their work to the contents of the Charter.

The Charter can be revised with a view to adapting it to the needs of European society.

The Ministers undertake to recommend to their respective governments that the principles and aims set forth in the Charter be taken into consideration and that the international co-operation be promoted with a view to achieving real European planning.

Appendix to the European Regional/Spatial Planning Charter

Specific objectives

All principles set down in the present Charter have already been developed in the work of the European Conference of Ministers responsible for Regional Planning on rural, urban, frontier, mountain and coastal areas and on islands.

Rural areas with a primarily agricultural function have a fundamental role to play. It is essential to create acceptable living conditions in the countryside, as regards all economic, social, cultural and ecological aspects as well as infrastructures and amenities, while distinguishing between underdeveloped and peripheral rural regions and those close to large conurbations.

In such areas the development of the urban framework, of social and economic structures and of transport must take account, in all spheres, of their specific functions and in particular of the conservation and management of the natural landscape.

Urban areas contribute greatly to the development of Europe and usually present the problem of controlling their growth.

A balanced urban structure requires the systematic implementation of plans for land use and the application of guidelines for the development of economic activities for the benefit of the living conditions of town dwellers.

Special attention should be paid to the improvement of living conditions, the promotion of public transport and to all measures to curb the excessive movement of population away from the town centres to the periphery.

The rehabilitation of the architectural heritage, monuments and sites must be an integral part of an overall town and country planning policy.

Frontier areas, more than all others, need a policy of co-ordination between states. The purpose of such a policy is to open up the frontiers and institute trans-frontier consultation and co-operation and joint use of infrastructure facilities. States should facilitate direct contacts between the regions and localities concerned in accordance with the European Outline Convention on Transfrontier Co-operation between Territorial Communities or Authorities in order to promote increasingly close contacts between the populations concerned.

In the frontier areas, no project which could have harmful consequences for the environment of neighbouring countries should be carried out without previous consultation of those states.

Mountain areas: In view of the importance of these areas for the ecological, economic, social, cultural and agricultural functions they fulfil and their value as depositories of natural resources, and of the many constraints from which they suffer in these fields of activity, spatial management policy must give special and suitable consideration to the preservation and development of mountain regions. Regions with structural weaknesses where living and working conditions have made little progress, particularly for historical reasons, or which could be left behind by changes in their economic base, need special assistance related to the disparities which exist between living and working conditions within the various states. Regions in decline: Specific policies should be developed in favour of regions where economic activity has strongly slowed down following industrial restructuring and ageing of their infrastructure and of their industrial equipment, very often monostructured. This situation is accelerated by the worldwide competition resulting from the new international division of labour.

Coastal areas and islands: The development of mass tourism and transport in

Europe and the industrialisation of coastal areas, islands and the sea, demand specific policies for these regions in order to ensure their balanced development and co-ordinated urbanisation, bearing in mind the requirements of environmental conservation and regional characteristics. Regard must be given to the specific role and functions of coastal areas in the land-sea relationship and of sea-transport possibilities.

2. Recommendation n° R (86) 11 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to member states on urban open space, adopted on 12 September 1986

The Committee of Ministers, under the terms of Article 15.b of the Statute of the Council of Europe, Considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve a greater unity between its members for the purpose of facilitating their economic and social progress;

Considering that this aim may be pursued by exchanging information and experience amongst member states on topics of common interest;

Considering that the Council of Europe has established, through its European Campaign for Urban Renaissance and subsequent work programme on urban policies, a valid platform facilitating such a discussion between urban administrations of its member states;

Noting that the urban policies work programme concentrates above all on the illustration of strategies and policies that help to afford a broader human dimension in towns;

Considering that part of the quality of the urban environment depends on the type, scale, scope, accessibility and availability of open and public space;

Bearing in mind the reports presented at and the results of the seminars held at Norrköping (1-4 June 1981) as part of the European Campaign for Urban Renaissance and at Durham (20-23 September 1983) devoted to a discussion of the provision and better use of open space in towns;

Considering therefore that it would be opportune to draw up a recommendation to governments on this subject, in the belief that it will pave the way for positive tangible results, of use and

value for the inhabitants of European towns;

Considering that what is required above all is a change of attitude on the part of public authorities rather than necessarily an absolute increase in resources;

Wishing in this recommendation to:

1. define open space, assert its values, identify the threats to it arising particularly from unresolved conflict of use;
2. indicate strategies for the provision, development and maintenance of open space;
3. underline the importance of co-operation, particularly at the local level in this respect,

Recommends that the governments of member states:

1. Recognise and take into account the following considerations:

- 1.1. Towns are not only buildings: open space forms a fundamental part of the urban environment and the historic heritage of a town;
- 1.2. Open space covers a wide range of public and private areas both in historic towns and new communities and provides a framework for various activities that may change with time and use;
- 1.3. Open space is an essential part of the urban heritage, a strong element in the architectural and aesthetic form of a town, plays an important educational role, is ecologically significant, is important for social interaction and in fostering community development and is supportive of economic objectives and activities;
- 1.4. The enjoyment of open space contributes to the legitimate aspirations of urban inhabitants for an improvement in their quality of life, as well as to increased social cohesion, feelings of security and supports in this way the protection of the rights of man in his built environment;
- 1.5. The significance of open space is partially reflected in current social patterns and urban planning practice;
- 1.6. Despite this realisation, there are still threats and risks to open space

arising from unresolved conflicts in use, errors in planning and lack of co-ordination between and with different authorities;

2. Take steps to ensure that the securing, provision and management of open space are an integral part of urban development and in particular:

- 2.1. To ensure that open space is adequately secured and protected;
- 2.2. To encourage the provision of open space and in so doing to ensure that it reflects the real needs of inhabitants, respects the existing character of the urban "grain", uses all available resources, promotes social cohesion and results from adequate dialogue and co-ordination between all appropriate professionals, authorities and institutions;
- 2.3. To manage and enhance open space through the identification and resolution of conflicts, the achievement and creation of accessibility and attractiveness and the encouragement of appropriate levels of use;

3. Accept that the securing, provision and management of open space should be based on a number of approaches and in particular:

- 3.1. Close co-ordination of national policies;
- 3.2. The recognition of the specific role of local authorities;
- 3.3. The encouragement as far as possible of community and neighbourhood-based schemes;
- 3.4. The encouragement of initiatives from the private sector and related agencies;
- 3.5. Significant emphasis on education and information;

4. In implementing this recommendation take into account the points, relating to paragraphs 1 to 3 above, set out in the appendix hereto.

Appendix to Recommendation No. R (86) 11

1.1. Towns are not only buildings: open space forms a fundamental part of the urban environment and the historic heritage of a town

Although in the past large areas of open space in towns, such as impressive public squares and parks, have been created and despite recent attention to other ideas, some stolen from the past, like the agora, forum, shopping malls and pedestrian zones, the significance, value and role of open space, particularly of an informal or small-scale nature, have often been neglected and its contribution to the well-being of a community ignored. It is all too easy to find places near our homes, work, schools, shops, where too little thought has been given to the commodity of space. Often it is too cramped or too big, uninviting and unfriendly, over-designed or under-designed, unsuitable or too restrictive.

Indeed there may not even be any and where it exists it is often seen as a leftover once all other development-housing, environmental, conservation has taken place. Little skill and money have been invested in open spaces, which receive residual budgets once housing, roads, car-parks, community facilities and services have been dealt with. Yet these spaces when properly planned provide the central "image" of a town. Even with existing green areas, public parks and squares, they have not always been conceived or their use planned in ways that promote their acceptance by urban residents.

This inattention or inadequate consideration is particularly regrettable since open space forms a fundamental part of the urban environment and the historic heritage of a town.

1.2. Open space covers a wide range of public and private areas both in historic towns and new communities and provides a framework for various activities that may change with time and use

Open space covers a wide range of private and public areas including public squares, parks, pedestrian and traffic-free areas, playgrounds, river banks, sports areas, railway concourses, boulevards and streets. In addition there is a large stock of unknown or neglected space, for example informal space often on a small scale, and often in between or behind buildings, and, in many industrial towns, under-used derelict land that could be recovered for the community. Open and public space is part of the network of a town built up gradually or suddenly, either deliberately or unwittingly. It is always, therefore, implicit

in our understanding of and concern for the town although it is not always explicit in planning efforts.

1.3. Open space is an essential part of the urban heritage, a strong element in the architectural and aesthetic form of a town, plays an important educational role, is ecologically significant, is important for social interaction and in fostering community development and is supportive of economic objectives and activities

Not only is open space a fundamental part of the urban heritage and a strong element in the architectural and aesthetic form of the built environment of a town but it also has a number of significant functions and values. It has an important educational role, facilitating through its use an understanding of and identification with the city; it is ecologically significant, not just in maintaining or bringing vegetation into urban areas but also in encouraging wild life and promoting understanding of nature; it is important for social interaction, the well-being of individuals, and plays a significant role in the development of a community and in the creation of community pride, and so helps reduce the inherent tension and conflict in deprived parts of urban areas in Europe; it has an important role in providing the recreational and leisure needs of a community and has, finally, an economic value in that environmental enhancement, in which the improvement of open space plays a major part, assists the economic revival of cities, not just through creating jobs but in increasing the attractiveness of a town as a place for business investment and sought-after residential areas.

1.4. The enjoyment of open space contributes to the legitimate aspirations of urban inhabitants for an improvement in their quality of life, as well as to increased social cohesion, feelings of security and supports in this way the protection of the rights of man in his built environment

Space, an essential and dominant part of the historic structure and contemporary physical fabric of towns, is important in providing and sustaining a broader human dimension to the built, living and working environment. It is a vital factor in the well-being of individuals and the community. Cultural activity and human well-being require amongst other things that we have space to lin-

ger, to amble, to meet by prior arrangement or by chance. Most of us recognise immediately those places where this purpose is served. One cannot talk of human rights without speaking of the rights of man in the built environment; the carefully considered provision and use of space is a strong element in sustaining these rights.

1.5. The significance of open space is partially reflected in current social patterns and urban planning practice

There has been recently a revival of interest in communal space. Rehabilitation policies have a major space component and have brought with them a better understanding of the concept and value of open space. People are more concerned with the value and quality of their environment and surroundings; social changes such as increased leisure and sport requirements underline the need for better and more open space. The value of open space in assuring a human dimension to towns is increasingly recognised. The merits of the street, of enclosed spaces not earmarked for specific purposes and therefore capable of being used for a wide variety of activities are being rediscovered. It is appreciated that the character of a town is largely expressed through its open space and that well-defined open spaces attract people and provide a necessary meeting place. Open space expresses the collective life of the city and acts as an element of social cohesion. It is a sort of public living-room for the locality.

Furthermore economic recession, unemployment and consequent reduced opportunity for out-of-town travel have increased the need for the provision and enhancement of space in local neighbourhoods, while at the same time making available additional manpower resources to deal with it.

1.6. Despite this realisation, there are still threats and risks to open space arising from unresolved conflicts in use, errors in planning and lack of co-ordination between and with different authorities

Despite the increased understanding of the significance of open space there are still threats, risks and deficiencies, for example: public space is often threatened by uncontrolled building and road development and much still remains to be done to limit the invasion of streets

and public areas by the motor car; there are often cases of conversion of open space for inappropriate use; in some historic towns there are real problems of excessive tourism usurping available space; in many towns there are problems of pollution, particularly by the dog population, in streets and other open spaces. There are often conflicts in the use of space between local needs and those of a wider community. The transformation of private areas into public space, in itself often a positive development, does not always ensure adequate public use and accessibility because of subsequent inappropriate or excessive regulation. Therefore, there is often a large gap between intended use and subsequent reality, mainly because provision of space is often based on false assumptions rather than on observed behaviour.

Finally, as suggested under 1.1, planning for open space is not explicit from the beginning but often considered as a left-over once other requirements have been fulfilled.

2.1. To ensure that existing open space is adequately secured and protected

Urban open space should be a forum for a continuous interplay of individual and commercial activities. This means that before all other investment, stock should be taken of existing resources and measures devised to protect them. Awareness of variety of uses in order to give adequate protection and security to existing urban open space in our European towns, it requires first that everything is done to encourage all those who are associated with the facility of urban space to try to understand more clearly what activities are actually going on in these areas. It is only by recognising the multifunctional demands that are placed upon specific places that those involved in urban development-sustaining, renewing, and new building-will know more confidently whether adequate protection is being given to our existing resources.

Role of surrounding buildings

New developments in towns have in some cases led to the loss of façades. Often single-use, individual buildings, set back in their own surroundings, have tended to replace traditional frontages. In order to remove a possible threat to the existing urban space by changes to its values and character, greater con-

sideration should be given to the retention or replacement of the buildings which help to define the boundaries of the space-rather than allowing their total loss. As with the provision of new areas of public open space the uses of the surrounding buildings are often crucial to the continued enjoyment of existing areas.

Better understanding of the significance of space

Urban development should seek to enhance existing urban space resources rather than threaten them. A closer understanding of the historic, architectural and social significance of individual urban open spaces and their relationship to each other-and to the wider urban area-will help to avoid "thoughtless destruction", or at best "insensitive handling" of these important aspects which both bring and harbour life in towns, so helping to ensure that streets, squares and other public spaces are recovered and secured as areas of personal interaction.

2.2. To encourage the provision of open space and in so doing to ensure that it reflects the real needs of inhabitants, respects the existing character of the urban fabric, uses all available resources, promotes social cohesion and results in adequate dialogue and co-ordination between all appropriate professionals and authorities and institutions

Reflection of real needs of inhabitants

Of paramount importance, the design and layout of new urban spaces should closely match the real needs of the community and reflect the patterns of behaviour of its residents.

This therefore requires close, often systematic, observation of the uses which a community makes of its existing urban space resources. It will require recognition and an understanding of their patterns of behaviour, including notions of responsibility, and that the subsequent design and development of those spaces should reflect such observations and hence avoid "overplanning".

Respect of the existing urban fabric

There should be a much greater awareness of the scale and nature of existing neighbourhoods and their character and urban tradition. This awareness is more

likely to lead to a greater understanding of the architectural and social "grain" of an area, and of towns and cities as a whole. It will help to ensure that the integration and provision of new areas of urban open space and their subsequent design and development are such that they respect the architectural character and quality of each location, both in scale and detail.

Use of all available resources, particularly old industrial land

In order to provide adequate and appropriate new areas of urban open space, it will be necessary at the outset to quantify and qualify all those existing areas of urban open space-both large and small-which represent the existing resources (2.1 above). At the same time, it will be important to examine the scope for reclaiming and reutilising under-used or derelict land. Particularly in older industrial areas-making sure that in recording under-use in regard to the "official" or "intended" land-use, there is not a failure to observe other, often informal, uses which could be supported or should be accommodated in any future plans for the area.

Promotion of social cohesion

The provision and use of urban space is a vital factor in promoting social cohesion and urban revival. External spaces are living places without ceilings and there is little difference in the fundamental need for and use of urban space between different generations, age-groups or ethnic groups. In trying to secure and sustain a quality of life in our European towns, it is possible to ensure that planning, creating and using open space becomes a joint community exercise and this is an important ingredient in establishing a network of satisfactory community relations. The use of public space can involve a sense of responsibility and through it create a sense of community pride.

2.3. To manage and enhance open space through the identification and resolution of conflicts, the achievement and creation of accessibility and attractiveness, and the encouragement of appropriate levels of use

Urban open space management is concerned with the location, design and organisation of spaces; control and maintenance; and enhancement. These are separate but closely related

processes, requiring a variety of skills and disciplines. It is possible through each of these management activities to achieve greater beneficial use of urban open space as a consequence of such intervention. Conversely, less successful management-poor siting, inappropriate design and detailing, over-regulation and casual or ineffective maintenance-can all lead to under-use of urban open space, its abuse and its transformation from safe to dangerous zone.

Managing urban open space is principally to do with managing conflicts. Conflicts are best "resolved" at the design and organising stage, where effort should be made to avoid the occurrence of conflicting demands and interests. Successful designs will enable many activities to take place simultaneously with little hindrance to each other and always with the opportunity for new activities and expression. Planning for space should be conceived in such a way as to anticipate future needs of different user groups to enable them successfully to share the space with each other. The value of open space should not be assessed purely in terms of the current fashions or functions it can fulfil but through its capacity to provide an overall framework for activities that can change with time or use.

Conflict: cars and pedestrians

One major source of conflict can be between motor vehicles and pedestrians. Cars are still the major users of space in many towns and civilised arrangements for the co-existence of people and motor vehicles are urgently required in many towns, notwithstanding the fact that some already have traffic-free streets. By allowing people to have greater priority in town streets and within most residential areas it will allow greater opportunity for personal encounter and interaction. The manager will need to utilise materials, surfaces and street furniture which help to "personalise" rather than "vehicularise" these urban spaces.

Conflict: historic open space

Conflict can occur in the use of historic urban spaces which form the setting of significant historic buildings-especially if there is little other urban open space or where alternative areas are strictly regulated. Successful management of urban open space will recognise that where regulation of historic sites is nec-

essary, perhaps in order to safeguard a particular function or the appearance of an area, measures should be taken to ensure that the area as a whole fulfils all the urban space requirements of those living and working in it.

Visual conflict

The scale and nature of a neighbourhood, and of the city as a whole, should be reflected in the public space provision. Lack of harmony in scale, character and a disregard for the urban tradition and the “tone” and “grain” of the surrounding neighbourhood can cause visual conflict which is likely to make an area forbidding. Large and bleak areas of open space too are likely to be as under-used as they are expensive. Cluttered or incoherent rather than diverse and detailed design can often cause disorientation and insecurity.

Accessibility: delineation of space

In locating, designing and detailing urban open space, it will be necessary to take into account the physical boundaries of the selected areas so as to ensure that adequate and appropriate access can be afforded and that the physical boundaries do not inhibit the use of the space provided. In the provision of new areas of space, it will be essential to achieve a sense of personal security as this can lead to a feeling of belonging and comfort for those who will use the area. The delineation of the new space may require new landscape and buildings to supplement those which already exist, and here, as with securing existing urban spaces, the particular uses of surrounding buildings and their diversity will often be crucial to the enjoyment of the space enclosed by them.

Accessibility: structured maintenance

Good maintenance is an important part of managing urban open space. Maintenance methods should respect the agreed and recognised purposes of the area. The upkeep of an area should not become a form of prohibition or a regulating control on behaviour, and should not in any way diminish or inhibit the accepted intention of the area.

Attractiveness: designs and materials

The choice of appropriate materials must ensure that in practical terms surfaces meet the specification required-

that they drain easily, do not cause a hazard to pedestrians and are stable. Over-design is often a threat to the comfort of an area, making places less attractive rather than more so, and increasing expenditure. Regard should always be given to detail and choice of materials. Casual consideration of such matters can frequently encourage acts of contempt and vandalism. Design materials may be used to set signals: different zones can thus be differently structured, given a different “feel”.

Attractiveness: respect for quality

Enhancement of urban spaces should be undertaken so as to make all places in towns attractive. The quality and not only the quantity of open space is important. Enhancing urban areas may require the introduction of trees and other vegetation as well as introducing colour, light and shade, which promotes “nature” and brings a habitat for wild life in urban areas.

Differentiated use

Where street furniture, parking materials, or planting become outworn and require replacement early attention should be given to this, and an understanding of the function and often multiple uses of these elements should ensure that such conformity is sustained. When managing, maintaining or enhancing urban spaces, it is important to recognise the multifunctional facility that is provided by walls and steps, seats and bollards, and when selecting or designing these components, or locating street lighting, consideration should be given to the varied purposes that street furniture can have.

2. Specific approaches

The provision and management of open space must be the result of a fruitful and credible dialogue on an equal footing between all concerned. This means not only should there be close co-ordination of national policies but also local authorities should consider it a priority to create and indeed allow others to create and respect public space in towns. Furthermore, success in the provision and maintenance of urban open space depends in the long term on the close involvement of residents in their own neighbourhoods and a healthy relationship between these community groups and local authorities. In a time of reduced public

expenditure, initiatives from the private sector, controlled in a sensitive and flexible way by local authorities, should be encouraged. In this way partnership between the local authority and the private sector can be established and nurtured. It is very important that a sustained long-term emphasis is placed on educational and information programmes in schools, through publications, radio and television, on the significance of policies for enhancement of the urban environment in general and provision and maintenance of open space in particular. Local authorities too can help to encourage public awareness of these issues.

2.1. Close co-ordination of national policies

In some countries legislation should be reviewed and sectoral policies of different administrations-for example, housing, social, environmental, transport, economic development agencies-should be co-ordinated to ensure the provision of the necessary quantity and quality of public space and its adaptability to future requirements and changes.

3.2. The recognition of the specific role of local authorities

Local authorities should consider it one of their priorities to create and encourage others to create and respect public space in towns. They also have a responsibility for controlling the use of open space in the interests of the community. Overregulation should be avoided as it can sometimes become unnecessarily restrictive, and actually impede otherwise intended accessibility and use. Local authorities have a responsibility for bringing back into use derelict or under-used land and encouraging others to take such action and promote close co-operation between all concerned with provision of space, including politicians, engineers, architects, planners, landscape architects and above all the community or neighbourhood in question.

3.3. The encouragement as far as possible of community and neighbourhood-based schemes

As far as possible, the creation and management of open space should be neighbourhood-based. Partnership between local authorities and community groups is invaluable in creating and maintaining open spaces so as

to promote a better awareness of and respect for the immediate environment of their neighbourhood. The direct involvement of residents has a self-policing effect on public space, helping to promote a sense of individual and collective responsibility and respect. This can be useful in combating vandalism and it can put to valuable use pools of unemployment.

3.4. *The encouragement of initiatives from the private sector and related agencies*

The traditional role of public, particularly local, authorities in providing all services and facilities has been modified in recent years given reduction in public expenditure and in some countries an increased involvement of alternative provision of such facilities, for example community and the private sector. Public/private partnerships have become an increasingly used vehicle for urban regeneration and urban environmental improvement including the provision of open space. Where such initiatives from the private sector and related agencies support similar objectives to those set out in this memorandum they can be encouraged by public authorities, with the latter of course maintaining an overall guidance for such developments.

3.5. *Significant emphasis on education and information*

One of the most important considerations is the long-term education and information of officials, architects, planners and all those whose decisions affect the quality of the urban environment, on the significance of open space. Above all programmes of stimulating greater awareness among the public as a whole, including schoolchildren, should be developed using methods such as town trails, interpretation centres, up-to-date audiovisual methods, attractive publications and the organisation of local meetings. Local authorities can invite young people to visit their offices. These visitors may be undertaking environmental education or studying for one of the related professional disciplines and practical experience of the day-to-day work of local authorities and other agencies can be mutually beneficial. Encouragement can also be given by local authorities to schools and other groups to make use of urban open space for a variety of activities including drama, music and dance. In turn this

can lead to a more confident and more assertive and perhaps more expressive use of urban open space.

Educational and practical experience with the support of local authorities and the other agencies can help to focus attention upon the visual damage that litter can bring to urban open space. Awareness of the quality and the importance of these areas and the feeling of personal association can help to overcome this problem.

3. Recommendation Rec. (2002) 1 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the CEMAT Guiding principles for sustainable spatial development of the European Continent, adopted on 30 January 2002

The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, under the terms of Article 15.b of the Statute of the Council of Europe,

Believing that social cohesion in Europe, which was defined as one of the main objectives of the Council of Europe by the heads of state and government of the member states of the Council of Europe at their Second Summit on 10 and 11 October 1997, has to be accompanied by sustainable spatial development policies that bring the social as well as the economic requirements to be met by the territory into line with its ecological and cultural functions;

Considering that one of the aims of the Council of Europe is to strengthen local and regional democracy in Europe by means of a territorially more balanced development of the European continent;

Considering that the Council of Europe is the European Organisation in which all the states of Europe can co-operate on an equal footing and that the European Conference of Ministers responsible for Regional Planning of the member states of the Council of Europe (Cemat) and its Committee constitute a suitable political body to contribute to the co-ordination of common, Europe-wide territorial development goals and strategies;

Convinced that the trans-European, interregional and transfrontier co-operation between states, regional authorities and local authorities in the sphere of spatial development has to be

strengthened, especially between the countries of west Europe and central and east Europe in order to ensure the social and territorial cohesion of the European continent as a whole;

Having regard to the legal texts existing at international level in the field of protection and management of the natural and cultural heritage, regional and spatial planning, local self-government and transfrontier co-operation, in particular the European Cultural Convention (Paris, 19 December 1954), the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern, 19 September 1979), the Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada, 3 October 1985), the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (revised) (Valletta, 16 January 1992), the European Outline Convention on Transfrontier Co-operation between Territorial Communities or Authorities (Madrid, 21 May 1980) and its additional protocols and the European Charter of Local Self-government (Strasbourg, 15 October 1985);

Taking into consideration the Recommendation (1984) 2 of the Committee of Ministers to the member states of the Council of Europe on the European Regional/Spatial Planning Charter (Torremolinos Charter);

Considering Recommendation No. R (2000) 1 of the Committee of Ministers to the member states of the Council of Europe on fostering transfrontier co-operation between territorial communities or authorities in the cultural field and Resolution (98) 4 of the Committee of Ministers on the cultural routes of the Council of Europe;

Considering the Guiding Principles for Sustainable Spatial Development of the European Continent as adopted by Resolution No. 1 on a ten-point programme for greater cohesion among the regions of Europe at the 12th Session of the European Conference of Ministers responsible for Regional Planning held in Hanover (Germany) on 7 and 8 September 2000 and as they appear in the appendix, to be:

- a major contribution for implementation of the strategy of social cohesion adopted at the Second Summit of Heads of State and Government of Council of Europe member states in 1997;

- a policy framework document which takes into account the relevant activities of the Council of Europe and its bodies, and in particular the work of its Parliamentary Assembly and its Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (CLRAE), in the field of continental spatial development policy and which could contribute to strengthen the European integration process by means of transfrontier, inter-regional and transnational co-operation;
- a coherent strategy for the integrated and regionally balanced development of our continent, while based on the principles of subsidiarity and reciprocity, strengthens competitiveness, co-operation and solidarity among local and regional authorities across borders, thereby making a contribution to democratic stability in Europe;

Recalling its decision of 7 February 2001 (740/9.1 – CM (2001)6) to take into consideration the Guiding Principles for Sustainable Spatial Development of the European Continent when giving its opinion on projects with a spatial impacts,

Recommends that the member states of the Council of Europe:

- use the Guiding Principles for Sustainable Spatial Development of the European Continent, as they appear in the Appendix, as a basis for planning and spatial development measures;
- implement these Guiding Principles in spatial development projects as appropriate;
- continue in establishing regional governmental and administrative bodies in order to facilitate better spatial integration of the various regions of Europe.

Appendix to Recommendation Rec (2002)1

Guiding principles for sustainable spatial development of the European Continent (Extracts)

...

V. Spatial development measures for different types of European regions

48. In addition to the principles related to a sustainable spatial development policy, more detailed spatial develop-

ment measures for European cultural landscapes as well as specific measures aimed at achieving a more regionally-balanced and sustainable development in the individual regions of Europe are proposed. These areas are characterised by their very nature by a high degree of diversity and partly overlap. The actors concerned have to decide which of the proposed measures should be taken with which level of priority in spatial development policy.

1. Landscapes

49. Europe is composed of a plurality of landscapes. They are a significant part of European heritage and a witness of the past and present relationships between man and his natural and built environments. Developments in production techniques in agriculture, forestry and industry and changes in town planning, transport, other types of infrastructure, tourism and leisure time behaviour are accelerating the transformation of European landscapes and can also have a negative impact on their quality and use. This not only concerns valuable natural landscapes, but applies generally to all types of cultural landscape, especially those that are an essential component of the urban environment.

50. Spatial development policy can contribute to protecting, managing and enhancing landscapes by adopting appropriate measures, in particular by organising better interactions between various sectoral policies with regard to their territorial impacts. Appropriate measures in the field of landscape protection include:

- the integration of landscape development into spatial planning as well as into sectoral policies such as those related to the economy, agriculture, infrastructure and urban development, culture, environment, social development, which all have direct or indirect effects on the development of landscapes;
- the examination and general assessment of landscapes, the analysis of their characteristics, of their ecosystems and of the forces and pressures transforming them; the definition and use of landscape quality objectives;
- the implementation of integrated policies aimed at simultaneously protecting, managing and planning landscapes;

- the consideration of landscape development in international programmes;
- stronger cross-border, transnational and interregional co-operation in the fields of landscape development, exchange of experience and research projects involving in particular local and regional authorities;
- the strengthening of the awareness of people, private organisations and territorial authorities of the value of landscapes, their economic significance, their evolution and the possibilities of conserving and improving them;
- stronger integration of landscape development into training programmes in various disciplines, and interdisciplinary training programmes.

2. Urban areas

51. In order to achieve the objective of polycentric development of the European settlement structure, further measures, in addition to strengthening economic potential, are proposed for achieving sustainable development in towns and cities. These include:

- developing strategies adapted to the local context and aimed at overcoming the effects of economic restructuring;
- controlling the expansion of urban areas (urban sprawl): limiting trends towards suburbanisation by increasing the supply of building land in towns and cities, activation of gap sites and use of space-saving building methods, developing building land near traffic nodes and railway stations, promoting inner urban development, raising the quality of living and housing conditions in urban areas, which includes the conservation of existing ecosystems and the creation of new green areas and biotopes;
- regenerating deprived neighbourhoods and producing a mix of activities and social groups within the urban structure, particularly in cities where areas of social exclusion are developing;
- carefully managing the urban ecosystem, particularly with regard to open and green spaces, water, energy, waste and noise;
- developing effective, but at the same time environmentally-friendly public

transport designed to contribute to sustainable mobility;

- establishing planning bodies across local authority boundaries between individual towns and communes to co ordinate the planning and implementation of measures;
- conserving and enhancing the cultural heritage;
- developing networks of towns.

52. The towns and cities in the new member states face special challenges, such as how to finance the construction of dwellings and how to maintain and improve the housing stock, especially reconstruction and the adjustment to new needs (increased car ownership, demand for architectural quality and increasing energy efficiency). New trends towards suburbanisation and segregation resulting from the backlog demand for home ownership can be countered by increasing the supply of building land in the agglomerations.

3. Rural areas

53. In order to achieve the independent development of the countryside as areas for living, carrying on economic and recreational activities and as physical regions, the following measures are proposed in addition to the principles:

- strengthening the spatial planning policy aimed at preserving a balance in the diversity of developments affecting rural areas (diversification of employment opportunities, changes in agricultural production, afforestation, tourism, nature protection);
- conserving and improving endogenous resources in rural areas with a view to diversifying the economic base and mobilising the local population and those involved in the economy;
- encouraging small and medium-sized towns as well as large villages to act as service suppliers for their rural hinterlands and as suitable locations for establishing small and medium sized enterprises;
- increasing the accessibility of rural areas, in particular small and medium-sized towns and large villages;
- improving the living conditions of the inhabitants of rural areas and increas-

ing their attractiveness for all population groups, for instance young people and retired people. This requires agricultural, forestry and mining enterprises to play an active role; conserving and further developing the natural and cultural heritage; repairing damage to the environment and establishing an adequate infrastructure and new services, in particular in the field of tourism;

- improving the supply and marketing of high quality regional agricultural, forestry and craft products from the countryside;
- encouraging farmers and foresters to adapt their land-use practices to local circumstances and contribute to preserving and restoring biological diversity and traditional landscapes; compensation may be paid where the needs of agriculture or forestry differ from those of nature protection and the conservation of the landscape;
- encouraging the creation of highly qualified job opportunities as part of the economic diversification process, in particular in developing employment opportunities outside agriculture through the use of new information and communications technologies.

54. In some Council of Europe member states a high proportion of the population still lives in the countryside. Effective rural development policies are required to prevent undesirable large-scale outward migration from these areas. The aim should be to diversify rural employment and establish new urban rural partnerships. To this end, processing industries and other employment generators, for example tourism, should be developed in the private sector. Rural lake districts and archipelago regions are confronted with similar problems and also require co-operation and the exchange of experience.

...

4. European Landscape Convention (Florence, 20 October 2000), Council of Europe STE n8 176

Preamble

The member States of the Council of Europe signatory hereto,

Considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve a greater unity

between its members for the purpose of safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are their common heritage, and that this aim is pursued in particular through agreements in the economic and social fields;

Concerned to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and the environment;

Noting that the landscape has an important public interest role in the cultural, ecological, environmental and social fields, and constitutes a resource favourable to economic activity and whose protection, management and planning can contribute to job creation;

Aware that the landscape contributes to the formation of local cultures and that it is a basic component of the European natural and cultural heritage, contributing to human well-being and consolidation of the European identity;

Acknowledging that the landscape is an important part of the quality of life for people everywhere: in urban areas and in the countryside, in degraded areas as well as in areas of high quality, in areas recognised as being of outstanding beauty as well as everyday areas;

Noting that developments in agriculture, forestry, industrial and mineral production techniques and in regional planning, town planning, transport, infrastructure, tourism and recreation and, at a more general level, changes in the world economy are in many cases accelerating the transformation of landscapes;

Wishing to respond to the public's wish to enjoy high quality landscapes and to play an active part in the development of landscapes;

Believing that the landscape is a key element of individual and social well-being and that its protection, management and planning entail rights and responsibilities for everyone;

Having regard to the legal texts existing at international level in the field of protection and management of the natural and cultural heritage, regional and spatial planning, local self government and transfrontier co-operation, in particular the Convention on the Conservation of European

Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern, 19 September 1979), the Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada, 3 October 1985), the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (revised) (Valletta, 16 January 1992), the European Outline Convention on Transfrontier Co-operation between Territorial Communities or Authorities (Madrid, 21 May 1980) and its additional protocols, the European Charter of Local Self-government (Strasbourg, 15 October 1985), the Convention on Biological Diversity (Rio, 5 June 1992), the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (Paris, 16 November 1972), and the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice on Environmental Matters (Aarhus, 25 June 1998);

Acknowledging that the quality and diversity of European landscapes constitute a common resource, and that it is important to co-operate towards its protection, management and planning;

Wishing to provide a new instrument devoted exclusively to the protection, management and planning of all landscapes in Europe,

Have agreed as follows:

Chapter I – General Provisions

Article 1 – Definitions

For the purposes of the Convention:

- a. “Landscape” means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors;
- b. “Landscape policy” means an expression by the competent public authorities of general principles, strategies and guidelines that permit the taking of specific measures aimed at the protection, management and planning of landscapes;
- c. “Landscape quality objective” means, for a specific landscape, the formulation by the competent public authorities of the aspirations of the public with regard to the landscape features of their surroundings;
- d. “Landscape protection” means actions to conserve and maintain the

significant or characteristic features of a landscape, justified by its heritage value derived from its natural configuration and/or from human activity;

- e. “Landscape management” means action, from a perspective of sustainable development, to ensure the regular upkeep of a landscape, so as to guide and harmonise changes which are brought about by social, economic and environmental processes;
- f. “Landscape planning” means strong forward-looking action to enhance, restore or create landscapes.

Article 2 – Scope

Subject to the provisions contained in Article 15, this Convention applies to the entire territory of the Parties and covers natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas. It includes land, inland water and marine areas. It concerns landscapes that might be considered outstanding as well as everyday or degraded landscapes.

Article 3 – Aims

The aims of this Convention are to promote landscape protection, management and planning, and to organise European co-operation on landscape issues.

Chapter II – National Measures

Article 4 – Division of responsibilities

Each Party shall implement this Convention, in particular Articles 5 and 6, according to its own division of powers, in conformity with its constitutional principles and administrative arrangements, and respecting the principle of subsidiarity, taking into account the European Charter of Local Self-government. Without derogating from the provisions of this Convention, each Party shall harmonise the implementation of this Convention with its own policies.

Article 5 – General measures

Each Party undertakes:

- a. to recognise landscapes in law as an essential component of people’s surroundings, an expression of the diversity of their shared cultural and natural heritage, and a foundation of their identity;

b. to establish and implement landscape policies aimed at landscape protection, management and planning through the adoption of the specific measures set out in Article 6;

c. to establish procedures for the participation of the general public, local and regional authorities, and other parties with an interest in the definition and implementation of the landscape policies mentioned in paragraph b above;

d. to integrate landscape into its regional and town planning policies and in its cultural, environmental, agricultural, social and economic policies, as well as in any other policies with possible direct or indirect impact on landscape.

Article 6 – Specific measures

A. Awareness-raising

Each Party undertakes to increase awareness among the civil society, private organisations, and public authorities of the value of landscapes, their role and changes to them.

B. Training and education

Each Party undertakes to promote:

- a. training for specialists in landscape appraisal and operations;
- b. multidisciplinary training programmes in landscape policy, protection, management and planning, for professionals in the private and public sectors and for associations concerned;
- c. school and university courses which, in the relevant subject areas, address the values attaching to landscapes and the issues raised by their protection, management and planning.

C. Identification and assessment

1. With the active participation of the interested parties, as stipulated in Article 5.c, and with a view to improving knowledge of its landscapes, each Party undertakes:

- i. to identify its own landscapes throughout its territory;
- ii. to analyse their characteristics and the forces and pressures transforming them;
- iii. to take note of changes;

b. to assess the landscapes thus identified, taking into account the particular values assigned to them by the interested parties and the population concerned.

2. These identification and assessment procedures shall be guided by the exchanges of experience and methodology, organised between the Parties at European level pursuant to Article 8.

D. Landscape quality objectives

Each Party undertakes to define landscape quality objectives for the landscapes identified and assessed, after public consultation in accordance with Article 5.c.

E. Implementation

To put landscape policies into effect, each Party undertakes to introduce instruments aimed at protecting, managing and/or planning the landscape.

Chapter III – European Co-operation

Article 7 – International policies and programmes

Parties undertake to co-operate in the consideration of the landscape dimension of international policies and programmes, and to recommend, where relevant, the inclusion in them of landscape considerations.

Article 8 – Mutual assistance and exchange of information

The Parties undertake to co-operate in order to enhance the effectiveness of measures taken under other articles of this Convention, and in particular:

- a. to render each other technical and scientific assistance in landscape matters through the pooling and exchange of experience, and the results of research projects;
- b. to promote the exchange of landscape specialists in particular for training and information purposes;
- c. to exchange information on all matters covered by the provisions of the Convention.

Article 9 – Transfrontier landscapes

The Parties shall encourage transfrontier co-operation on local and regional

level and, wherever necessary, prepare and implement joint landscape programmes.

Article 10 – Monitoring of the implementation of the Convention

1. Existing competent Committees of Experts set up under Article 17 of the Statute of the Council of Europe shall be designated by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to be responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Convention.
2. Following each meeting of the Committees of Experts, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe shall transmit a report on the work carried out and on the operation of the Convention to the Committee of Ministers.
3. The Committees of Experts shall propose to the Committee of Ministers the criteria for conferring and the rules governing the Landscape award of the Council of Europe.

Article 11 – Landscape award of the Council of Europe

1. The Landscape award of the Council of Europe is a distinction which may be conferred on local and regional authorities and their groupings that have instituted, as part of the landscape policy of a Party to this Convention, a policy or measures to protect, manage and/or plan their landscape, which have proved lastingly effective and can thus serve as an example to other territorial authorities in Europe. The distinction may be also conferred on non-governmental organisations having made particularly remarkable contributions to landscape protection, management or planning.
2. Applications for the Landscape award of the Council of Europe shall be submitted to the Committees of Experts mentioned in Article 10 by the Parties. Transfrontier local and regional authorities and groupings of local and regional authorities concerned, may apply provided that they jointly manage the landscape in question.
3. On proposals from the Committees of Experts mentioned in Article 10 the Committee of Ministers shall define

and publish the criteria for conferring the Landscape award of the Council of Europe, adopt the relevant rules and confer the Award.

4. The granting of the Landscape award of the Council of Europe is to encourage those receiving the award to ensure the sustainable protection, management and/or planning of the landscape areas concerned.

...

Done at Florence, this 20th day of October 2000, in English and in French, both texts being equally authentic, in a single copy which shall be deposited in the archives of the Council of Europe. The Secretary General of the Council of Europe shall transmit certified copies to each member State of the Council of Europe and to any State or to the European Community invited to accede to this Convention.

5. Recommendation CM/Rec(2008)3 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention, adopted on 6 February 2008

The Committee of Ministers,

Considering that the aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve greater unity between its members for the purpose of safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are their common heritage;

Having regard to the European Landscape Convention (ETS No. 176), adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 19 July 2000 and opened to member states for signature in Florence on 20 October 2000;

Concerned to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and the environment;

Noting that the landscape has an important public interest role in the cultural, ecological, environmental and social fields, and constitutes a resource favourable to economic activity whose protection, management and planning can contribute to job creation;

Aware that the landscape contributes to the formation of local cultures and that

it is a basic component of the European natural and cultural heritage, contributing to human well-being and consolidation of the European identity;

Acknowledging that the landscape is an important part of the quality of life for people everywhere: both in urban areas and in the countryside, in degraded areas and in areas of high quality, in areas recognised as being of outstanding beauty and in everyday areas;

Noting that developments in agriculture, forestry, industrial and mineral production techniques, and in regional planning, town planning, transport, infrastructure, tourism and recreation and, at a more general level, changes in the world economy, are in many cases accelerating the transformation of landscapes;

Wishing to respond to the public's wish to enjoy high-quality landscapes and to play an active part in the development of landscapes;

Believing that the landscape is a key element of individual and social well-being and that its protection, management and planning entail rights and responsibilities for everyone;

Acknowledging that the quality and diversity of European landscapes constitute a common resource, and that it is important to co-operate towards its protection, management and planning;

Considering the aims of the European Landscape Convention and wishing to encourage its implementation;

Considering the wish expressed by the Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention, held in Strasbourg on 22 and 23 March 2007, that the draft guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention, be forwarded via the relevant Committees to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe for adoption, in the form of a Committee of Ministers' recommendation to member states,

1. adopts the guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention as mentioned below;
2. recommends that the Parties to the convention take them into account and adopt them in the framework of their national policies.

Guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention (Extracts)

Introduction

This document contains a series of theoretical, methodological and practical guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention (hereinafter "the convention"). It is intended for parties to the convention who wish to draw up and implement a national landscape policy based on the convention.

It puts forward proposals taking account of advances and developments in the concept of landscape in Europe and of the diverse existing and practical experience in applying the convention.

The concept of landscape is undergoing a period of rapid and profound change accompanied by significant advances. Together with the documents relating to its implementation, the convention constitutes a genuine innovation compared with other international documents on cultural and natural heritage. It has already led to developments in numerous European states, irrespective of whether or not they have officially acceded to it, not only in their national and regional legislation but also at various administrative levels, as well as in methodological documents and experiments with active participatory landscape policies.

This situation has come about both in states which have long been active in this area and which have tried and tested landscape policies and instruments, and in states which are not yet at that stage. The convention is used as a benchmark by some countries to initiate a process of profound change in their landscape policies; for others it constitutes an opportunity to define their policy.

The guidelines and suggestions below are put forward with due regard for the freedom, and particularly the creativity, of the authorities of each state to draw up legal, operational, administrative and technical landscape-related instruments and are not legally binding. They avoid narrow or restrictive interpretations of the text of the convention or guidelines that have already been applied but have raised problems. The courses of action chosen by each state for the application of the convention will form a common resource useful to all other states.

Some general principles and provisions are presented below:

- the general principles are designed to provide guidance on some of the fundamental articles of the European Landscape Convention;
- the general provisions are intended to explain the foundations of the action to be taken at technical and operational level in order to promote, on the one hand, protection, management and planning according to landscape quality objectives (administrative and institutional questions) and, on the other, integration of the landscape dimension into all sectoral policies with landscape implications (criteria and instruments for implementing landscape policies).

The meetings of the Workshops of the Council of Europe on the Implementation of the European Landscape Convention have already carried out, and will continue, in-depth studies of useful themes as references for implementation of the convention.

The guidelines, with their appendices which are an integral part of them, are designed to facilitate the transposition of the provisions contained in the convention into national, regional and local regulations.

Part I – General principles

The general principles are designed to provide guidance on some of the fundamental articles of the European Landscape Convention.

I.1. Issues covered by the general principles

A. Consider the territory as a whole

The convention applies to the entire territory and covers natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas. It includes land, inland water and marine areas. It concerns landscapes that may be considered outstanding as well as everyday and degraded landscapes.

B. Recognise the fundamental role of knowledge

The identification, description and assessment of landscapes constitute the preliminary phase of any landscape policy. This involves an analysis of morphological, archaeological, historical, cul-

tural and natural characteristics and their interrelations, as well as an analysis of changes. The perception of landscape by the public should also be analysed from the viewpoint of both its historical development and its recent significance.

C. Promote awareness

Active public involvement means that specialised knowledge should be accessible to all, that is, it should be easily available, structured and presented in a way understandable even by non-specialists.

D. Define landscape strategies

Each administrative level (national, regional and local) should draw up specific and/or sectoral landscape strategies within the limits of its competences. These are based on the resources and institutions which, when co-ordinated in terms of space and time, allow policy implementation to be programmed. The various strategies should be linked by landscape quality objectives.

E. Integrate the landscape dimension in territorial policies

The landscape dimension should be included in the preparation of all spatial management policies, both general and sectoral, in order to lead to higher-quality protection, management or planning proposals.

F. Integrate landscape into sectoral policies

Landscape should be fully taken into account via appropriate procedures allowing systematic inclusion of the landscape dimension in all policies that influence the quality of a territory. Integration concerns both the various administrative bodies and departments on the same level (horizontal integration) and the various administrative bodies belonging to different levels (vertical integration).

G. Make use of public participation

All action taken to define, implement and monitor landscape policies should be preceded and accompanied by procedures for participation by members of the public and other relevant stakeholders, with the aim of enabling them to play an active role in formulating, implementing and monitoring landscape quality objectives.

H. Achieve landscape quality objectives

Every planning action or project should comply with landscape quality objectives. It should in particular improve landscape quality, or at least not bring about a decline. The effects of projects, whatever their scale, on landscape should therefore be evaluated and rules and instruments corresponding to those effects defined. Each planning action or project should not only match, but also be appropriate to the features of the places.

I. Develop mutual assistance and exchange of information

Information exchange, the circulation of theoretical, methodological and empirical ideas between landscape specialists and learning from these experiences are of fundamental importance in ensuring the social and territorial relevance of the European Landscape Convention and in achieving its objectives.

I.2. Definition of landscape

"For the purposes of the convention: a. 'Landscape' means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors." (Article 1 of the European Landscape Convention - Definitions)

"Subject to the provisions contained in Article 15, this convention applies to the entire territory of the Parties and covers natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas. It includes land, inland water and marine areas. It concerns landscapes that might be considered outstanding as well as everyday or degraded landscapes." (Article 2 of the European Landscape Convention - Scope)

The concept of landscape in the convention differs from the one that may be found in certain documents, which sees in landscape an "asset" (heritage concept of landscape) and assesses it (as "cultural", "natural" etc. landscape) by considering it as a part of physical space. This new concept expresses, on the contrary, the desire to confront, head-on and in a comprehensive way, the theme of the quality of the surroundings where people live; this is recognised as a precondition for individual and social well-being (understood in the physical, physiological, psychological and intellectual sense) and for sustainable development, as well as a resource conducive to economic activity.

Attention is focused on the territory as a whole, without distinguishing between the urban, peri-urban, rural and natural parts, or between parts that may be regarded as outstanding, everyday or degraded; it is not limited to cultural, artificial and natural elements: the landscape forms a whole whose constituent parts are considered simultaneously in their interrelations.

The concept of sustainable development is understood as fully integrating the environmental, cultural, social and economic dimensions in an overall and integrated fashion, that is, by applying them to the entire territory.

The sensory (visual, auditory, olfactory, tactile, taste) and emotional perception which a population has of its environment and recognition of the latter's diversity and special historical and cultural features are essential for the respect and safeguarding of the identity of the population itself and for individual enrichment and that of society as a whole. It implies recognition of the rights and responsibilities of populations to play an active role in the processes of acquiring knowledge, taking decisions and managing the quality of the places where they live. Public involvement in decisions to take action and in the implementation and management of such decisions over time is regarded not as a formal act but as an integral part of management, protection and planning procedures.

I.3. Legal recognition of landscape

"Each Party undertakes: a. to recognise landscapes in law as an essential component of people's surroundings, an expression of the diversity of their shared cultural and natural heritage, and a foundation of their identity;" (Article 5 of the European Landscape Convention - General measures)

The legal recognition of landscape implies rights and responsibilities on the part of all institutions and citizens of Europe towards their physical surroundings. The landscape in which they live is the result of many change-producing actions resulting from the activity of various stakeholders in territorial processes in highly varied ways and on differing scales of time and space. Such activities may be the outcome of action by public authorities in establishing a large-scale infrastructure or of individual action in a restricted space.

I.4. Landscape policies

“For the purposes of the convention: ... b.. ‘Landscape policy’ means an expression by the competent public authorities of general principles, strategies and guidelines that permit the taking of specific measures aimed at the protection, management and planning of landscapes;” (Article 1 of the European Landscape Convention – Definitions)

From the operational viewpoint, the convention presupposes:

- the drawing up of specific landscape policies and concurrently the systematic inclusion of the landscape dimension in all sectoral policies that have a direct or indirect influence on changes to the territory. Landscape is therefore not additional to other themes but is an integral part of them;
- a transition from a policy based only on protecting a territory’s features and parts recognised as outstanding to a policy based on the quality of all living surroundings, whether outstanding, everyday or degraded;
- a definition of and experience with new forms of collaboration between the various bodies and the various levels of administration;
- a new approach to observing and interpreting landscape, which should henceforth:
 - view the territory as a whole (and no longer just identify places to be protected);
 - include and combine several approaches simultaneously, linking ecological, archaeological, histori-

cal, cultural, perceptive and economic approaches;

- incorporate social and economic aspects.

I.5. Actions on landscape

The convention gives definitions of actions on landscape: protection, management and planning.

“For the purposes of the convention: ... d. ‘Landscape protection’ means actions to conserve and maintain the significant or characteristic features of a landscape, justified by its heritage value derived from its natural configuration and/or from human activity;” (Article 1 of the European Landscape Convention – Definitions)

The concept of protection includes the idea that landscape is subject to changes which, within certain limits, have to be accepted. Protective measures, which are currently being widely trialled, should not be designed to stop time or to restore natural or human-influenced characteristics that no longer exist; however, they may guide changes in sites in order to pass on their specific, material and immaterial features to future generations. A landscape’s characteristics depend on economic, social, ecological, cultural and historical factors, the origin of which often lies outside the sites concerned. Landscape protection should find the ways and means of acting, at an appropriate level, not only on the characteristics present at sites but also on external factors.

“For the purposes of the convention: ... e. ‘Landscape management’ means action, from a perspective of sustainable development, to ensure the regular upkeep of a landscape, so as to guide and harmonise changes which are brought about by social, eco-

nomic and environmental processes;” (Article 1 of the European Landscape Convention – Definitions)

Management of landscape is a continuing action aimed at influencing activities liable to modify landscape. It can be seen as a form of adaptive planning which itself evolves as societies transform their way of life, their development and surroundings. It can also be seen as a territorial project, which takes account of new social aspirations, anticipated changes in biophysical and cultural characteristics and access to natural resources.

“For the purposes of the convention: ... f. ‘Landscape planning’ means strong forward-looking action to enhance, restore or create landscapes.” (Article 1 of the European Landscape Convention – Definitions)

Landscape planning may be regarded in the same way as a territorial project and concerns forms of change that can anticipate new social needs by taking account of ongoing developments. It should also be consistent with sustainable development and allow for the ecological and economic processes that may occur in the medium and long terms. Planning also covers the rehabilitation of degraded land (mines, quarries, landfills, wasteland, etc.) so that they meet the stipulated landscape quality objectives.

Landscape action is a combination of protection, management and planning conducted over one and the same territory: certain parts and features can be protected, others, particularly processes, should be managed and still others should be intentionally adapted.

...





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The Council of Europe is an intergovernmental organisation founded in 1949 with its headquarters in Strasbourg, France. The statutes of the Organisation, which has 47 member states, mention that its aim is to achieve a greater unity between its members for the purpose of safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are their common heritage and facilitating their economic and social progress. The main objectives of the Organisation are to promote democracy, human rights and the rule of law and to seek common solutions to the main problems facing European society. It is active in promoting sustainable spatial development in line with Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the "Guiding principles for sustainable spatial development of the European Continent". The aim is to protect the life, the quality of life and well-being of Europeans taking into account landscape, cultural and natural values of the territory.

The Futuropa magazine, previously named Naturopa, has been published since 1968. It is intended to raise awareness among European citizens and decision-makers of the importance of sustainable development in Europe by focusing on its unique heritage.

The magazine is published in the two official languages of the Organisation: English and French.

In order to receive Futuropa or to obtain further information on the Council of Europe, please contact the National Agency or the Focal Point for your country (see list on <http://www.coe.int/futuropa>).