Landscape Views of Parks in Batumi Botanical Garden

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Abstract:
Batumi Botanical Garden is basically arranged according to the botanical-geographical principle. It consists of nine phytogeographical departments, three parks, plantations and nurseries. In floristic departments of the garden plant landscapes are structured in natural-geographical style and the plants are arranged in accordance with their phytogeographical regions of their origin. These phytogeographical departments are: North American, Mexican, South American, Australian, New Zealand, East Asian, Himalayan, Mediterranean and Transcaucasia humid subtropics. They are richly represented by landscape views.

Key words: glorious view, landscape, park, botanical garden.

Introduction:
Numerous nuances should be taken into consideration while creating artificial landscape objects. Comfortable and aesthetically perfect environment can be provided by means of natural resources (relief, water, vegetation) and architectural buildings (equipment) with the help of which it is reasonable to maintain the existing landscape as well as create artificial ones by projecting greenery planting system and recreational zones.

Unlike garden-park art, landscape architecture is a vast sphere. It comprises multi-componential organization of spatial environment of vivifying human actions.

One of the objectives of modern botanic gardens is not only to demonstrate the achievements of botanical sciences but to promote the awareness of population in the sphere of landscape architecture as well. It should become a model platform of various style gardens and compositions based on scientific background.

According to the classification of landscape expositions different gradations can be singled out. For example, we can meet the following types of expositions at botanical gardens: botanical, testing-selective, vegetation, botanic-geographical, ecological, landscape, historical-ethnic, decorative plants, monocultural, thematic, etc. (1)

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The plants arranged in the parks of the Batumi Botanical Garden (Lower Park, Upper Park and Seaside Park) belong to different geographical regions by their origin. Respectively, the landscape gardens are represented in various styles. From the recreational point of view, the floristic departments of the Garden mainly have scientific-visual-entertaining functions whereas the parks are distinguished by manifold recreation proceeding from their purpose.

Let us reconsider what the landscape design is. It is an art based on three main directions: 1. from engineering aspect – architecture,
planning and construction; 2. from biological aspect – botany and vegetation; 3. from location data aspect – history and purpose of the territory. To put it simply, landscape design is the practical action of beautifying and planting of the territory. Unlike gardening, the main objective of which is in agricultural direction (e.g. increase in harvest), landscape design is a more common and universal discipline. Its purpose is to combine beauty and infrastructure by creating harmonious grouping of urban forms with nature. Proper accomplishment of landscape design is clearly reflected in landscape views.

Materials and Methods:

Let us now discuss the parks of the Batumi Botanical Garden and their views. 1. The Lower Park was arranged by a French traveler and great lover of plants Mecheslav D’Alphonse. He wanted to create a so called “small Riviera” from exotic plants around his summer cottage. With this purpose he ordered rare decorative plants from the south of France: oleanders, palms, cypresses, cedars, pines, olives, holm oak trees and many others. The majority of the plant placed in the Garden date from D’Alphonse’s time and make great impression on viewers. The Lower Park begins from the main entrance of the Botanical Garden, close to the platform “Mtsvane Kontskhi” and the landscape views are spread in front of the visitors’ eyes right at the entrance. The alley of the *Magnolia Grandiflora* deserves special attention. 2. The territory of the Upper Park was the villa of Pavle Tatarinov, Russian traveler, geographer and botanist, from 1892. For years he conducted introduction of plants and his garden used to be called “acclimatization garden” or botanical garden. Besides the unique woody plants, P. Tatarinov paid great attention to agaves and various types of cactuses that made the garden more beautiful. The Upper Park begins from the so called “Mtsvane Kontskhi Pass”, presently the side from the faculty of Agriculture of the Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University, i.e. the second entrance, and borders with the Lower Park, South American floristic department and the so called flower parterre. The most distinguished landscape view in this park is the vicinities of the canaries date in front of the administration building. 3. The Seaside Park is named after its designer Giorgi Gabrichidze since 2012. It was created in 1950s. Until then the territory belonged to the North American phytogeographical floristic department. G. Gabrichidze decided to design the park in the French-regular style of landscape, with linear box-trees and flowerbeds. They are damaged today and need reconstruction. In comparison to the previous two parks, this one is more crowded with visitors as it is a more plain territory near the sea and contains picnic and camping places together with a café. The most distinguished landscape view in this park is the view with dwarf maples (3). 4. The Parterre, mistakenly called the central park sometimes, is the most colorful part of the Garden as here round the original lake and the vicinities the most beautiful flower and grass plants interchange throughout the year. Instead of the present-day Parterre there used to be the so called “soil orangery” earlier. After its deconstruction G. Gabrichidze designed a project according to which the Parterre was arranged in the French-regular style. Today this territory of the garden also is in need of reconstruction. The most distinguished view overlooks the lake in which the royal fern grows as a single island while colored fish swim under the splendid water-lily leaves.

Results and Discussion:

The discussion of the landscape views of the Batumi Botanical Garden gives a clear picture how the arrangement of the garden was conducted in the past years with great taste and perfect knowledge of plants. Certainly, for today we can critically assess the presence of some landscape views but the main thing is to maintain the existing plant resources as much as possible during the reconstruction process.

Conclusions:

The interest of different layers of population towards landscape architecture is growing day after day. It is necessary to direct this interest, especially the interest of the youth towards studying the highest quality gardens and park
and not only towards specialized exhibitions. In this context, the Batumi Botanical Garden, together with other directions, is the unique place for demonstration and teaching of landscape design.

References


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