The Situation of Teaching of Landscape Architecture in Georgia

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Abstract:

It is incredible to develop touristic and resort services in the country without forming relevant infrastructure, which means greening-arranging of surrounding nature, highways, streets, objects for relaxing and entertaining according to the international requirements, alongside with building high class hotels and developing service spheres. Greening-arranging of countries and settlements in highly artistic way is a rather difficult job, where the efforts of two qualified specialists – landscape architect and building architect’s should be united.

Key terms: Landscape Architecture, gardens

Introduction:

The tradition of creating the most beautiful gardens existed in Georgia from the ancient times. Trustworthy sources about the existence of feature gardens in Georgia which have been preserved up to present time are mainly found in the written documents of different time.

While greening-arranging territories, the experience of landscape architects and designers from different countries shouldn’t be followed blindly. The greening style should be created, which will be characteristic of local nature and culture and which will harmoniously combine with and strengthen natural beauty. In order to do greening and arrangement of living environment and correspondingly tourist-resort objects properly, it is necessary to have three components at least. They are: 1. the existence of the demand for greening-arrangement, client – private or juridical person; 2. the nursery of decorative plants, in which there will be the rich assortment of plants of different ages and modern technologies for plants’ growing. 3. A highly qualified specialist – landscape architect, who will perform the greening project in a high artistic way and provide its realization. And at last, there should exist qualified staff, who will be able further to take care of and exploit already created greening objects.

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There has existed a tendency (tradition) of creating the most beautiful gardens in Georgia since the ancient past. However, time passing and especially the numberless invasions of enemy destroyed numerous monuments of Georgian tangible culture. Reliable sources about feature gardens in old Georgia are found especially in the written documents of different time.

In this regard, the old Greek legend about Argonauts is especially interesting. It is conveyed in the poem “Argonautica” by Apollo Rodosseli and it was written in the third century B.C.

The notification of an old Greek traveller, the contemporary of Alexander the Great (IV century B.C.) is also important, that there are gardens in Ponto, which have the name of Iazoni.

Numerous material was found by Academician Ivane Javakhishvili, whose researches bring light to the various interesting aspects of Georgian feature gardening history (Mtskheta I-IV centuries; building of churches VI-VII centuries; X-XI centuries in Kutaisi, Bagrati Cathedral, Svetitskhoveli and Samtavro in Mtskheta, Bichvinta Cathedral Temple with a yard, Gelati Temple) and etc.

Notes about Georgian garden building in the first part of the XVIII century are included in
the work by Vakhushti Bagrationi “The description of the kingdom of Georgia”.

At the end of the XVIII century and at the beginning of the XIX century there were gardens of Sololaki, Seidabady, Ortachala and Krtsanisi in Tbilisi, which refers to the culture of Georgian garden building and large heritage. That’s the very reflection that landscape design in Georgia has roots characteristic of the certain areas and it is noted by historical travellers in Georgia (Marco Polo, XVIII century; Ambrogio Contarini, XVII century; John Charden XVII century; French botanist Joseph Pitton Tournefort, XVII century; abate Iosif Delaporte, XVIII century). They noticed that greening of Megrelian, Abkhazian, Imerian and Kakhetian yards differ from each other, also there’s difference in the plants assortment and infrastructure.

No doubt, the travellers’ interest towards Georgia was caused by its history, ancient culture and beautiful landscapes. In the latter we mean that in a very short period of time a man can bathe in the warm, caring sea, can see the glorious mountain views, fast rivers, waterfalls, wonderful nature, karstic caves; He can breathe the fresh air of mountains and caves; He can drink unique and rather various mineral waters; He can take medical baths; He can learn the ancient culture of the country, architectural and historical monuments, choreography and musical art; the ethnographic characteristics of different areas, folklore and cuisine. All these give hope that Georgia will be able to find a worthy place in the world touristic and resort industry in a very little time.

It is incredible to develop touristic and resort services in the country without forming relevant infrastructure, which means greening-arranging of surrounding nature, highways, streets, objects for relaxing and entertaining according to the international requirements, alongside with building high class hotels and developing service spheres.

While greening-arranging territories, the experience of landscape architects and designers from different countries shouldn’t be followed blindly. The greening style should be created, which will be characteristic of local nature and culture and which will harmoniously combine with and strengthen natural beauty. In order to do greening and arrangement of living environment and correspondingly tourist-resort objects properly, it is necessary to have three components at least. They are: 1. The existence of the demand for greening-arrangement, client – private or juridical person; 2. The nursery of decorative plants, in which there will be the rich assortment of plants of different ages and modern technologies for plants’ growing. 3. A highly qualified specialist – landscape architect, who will perform the greening project in a high artistic way and provide its realization. And at last, there should exist qualified staff, who will be able further to take care of and exploit already created greening objects.

At this stage we don’t pay attention to the first two main issues – greening-arranging and nurseries, because they are the requirements asked by time. Depending on employment, we are eager to show several opinions about preparing qualified staff in the field of landscape architecture. Nowadays, greenery work in the country is carried out by small LTD enterprises, which are basically created by amateurs, who don’t have special education or in the best case, the persons who have agronomic and forestry education. Cleaning and amenities services are responsible for supervising greening of towns, and their staff don’t have education in the field of landscape architecture.

In the former Soviet Union greenery building specialists were mainly prepared by institutes and academies of forestry directions. On the other hand, planning of open air territories, issues of greening-arrangement have been taught at the institutes of architectural and urban directions. Teaching of plants’ agrobiological issues is not performed here on an appropriate level. Landscape architecture, as a field of practical work and art, includes nature and art in itself. It is the art of creating alive, fictional work using natural components and minor architectural shapes, which is
changeable in time and space. Here the specialist should know: the natural landscapes of the territories, their biovariety, soils, climatic characteristics, the agrobiology of local and exotic plants and decorative features, ecological situation of the environment and its preservational ways, principles of planning and arranging of objects which are of different kinds and designations, laws of composition, vividness, perspectives, rhythms, proportion, harmony; He should properly learn historical heritage of gardenin-parking art, he should also have a good taste and imagination, a sense of moderation – in general he should be an artist.

So, as we can see, greening-arranging of countries and settlements in highly artistic way is a rather difficult job, where the efforts of two qualified specialists – landscape architect and building architect’s should be united.

The department of “Decorative Gardening” was established at the faculty of subtropical agriculture at the state subtropical agricultural institute of Georgia in 1952. It had been preparing specialists in this field with a qualification of “an engineer of greenery building” before it was called “Forestry, Gardening-parking Agriculture”.

At present this mentioned University is accessed to Akaki Tsereteli State University as an agricultural faculty for the purpose of reorganization. Four bachelor, six masters and three doctoral degree programs unfold there. Preparation of landscape specialists takes place at all three levels of educational programs. In the bachelors educational program it has the name of gardening-parking specialist, in the doctoral program – gardening-parking agriculture again, included in the doctoral program “Agronomy”. The qualification to be given in the baccalaureate is “the bachelor of agricultural sciences”, in MA – “the landscape architect” and in doctoral degree – “PhD of agricultural sciences”. All these mentioned programs of the faculty are performed by the department of landscape architecture together with other four departments.

Besides the mentioned educational programmes in the department of landscape architecture, professional programmes such as “Lumbermen” and “Gardener” (of decorative plants) are being implemented. At present two professional educational programmes such as “Landscape designer” (the fifth stage) and “Specialist of floristic design” (3th, 4th, 5th stages) are also developed. Six academic personnels work in the department. Among them there are four associate professors and two assistant professors.

Except for the objects of interesting practice (Kutaisi’s botanical garden, nursery agriculture on the Nikea street, educational-trial agriculture in the village Nosiri and Mukhiani, also nearly in the twenty sanatoriums of Tskalutbo), the students of all educational programmes’ levels are attracted by the newest computing program “Наш сад” Omega 6, by which greening project of any object can be created. The mentioned program gives the possibility of observing the project from the different points in three dimensions (3D), and it changes according to the wish of certain season, together with plants’ aging.

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