Abstract:

The most important stages of development of antique and early medieval landscape architecture of Azerbaijan were connected with the key moments of history of Caucasian Albania, its culture and art. The territory of Caucasian Albania stretched from Caucasus Minor and the bottom current of Kura and Araks rivers up to northeast spurs of the Caucasus Major Range. Albania was generously gifted with the nature: the favorable climate, the rich woods, fertile and well irrigated steppe and foothill open spaces, extensive winter and summer pastures. At the border of our era the public and landscape complex of the capital of antique Albania- Gabala was constructed. Its structures supply with the valuable information on landscape architecture and types of green plantings around pre-Christian temples. In the 2-3-rd centuries the Kilsadag round temple with an oval garden was erected. Vaulted coverings were applied as a rule, in landscape gardening architecture of early medieval Caucasian Albania (in garden constructions, protective canopies, pergolas, etc.). By analogy with the remained architectural monuments (Kilsadag, Kum, Lekit, etc.), it is possible to assume that freely standing groups of trees, application of a large number of groups of trees on the main part of the territory possessing high attendance were used more often in landscape gardening construction of the considered period. Study of the monuments of Caucasian Albania-Azerbaijan allows drawing a conclusion on achievements that country possessed in the field of green construction and landscape architecture. Steady traditions of local gardening of insignificant territories find the continuation in landscape construction. At the same time, the big regularity in landscape processing of the temple territories and skillful inclusion in a natural land relief could be seen. The gardens created around the temples and some other public constructions integrally supplemented natural qualities of the district and strengthened value of the specified constructions in environment.

Key Terms: Caucasian Albania, green plantings, landscape gardening construction, local gardening, temple.

Introduction:

Azerbaijan - a country with a rich architectural and landscape heritage, the origins of which go back to ancient times. It has long been located at the crossroads of important caravan routes leading from Asia to Europe. Strategic location, natural resources, favorable climate contributed to the landscapes of the area became the scene of historic events and often subject to change.

Discoveries in Azykh cave on the territory of Azerbaijan said that the Kura- Araz lowland and surrounding mountains Greater and Lesser Caucasus was one of the cradles of humanity, where the distant depths of history (about 1.5 million years ago) the infancy of ancient material culture people. Archaeological finds discovered in the cave people lived show first attempts to master the ancient human natural landscape of the region.

Results and Discussion:

Cave dwellings of the ancient people, organically linked with the landscape, were found in Azerbaijan is also near the city of Shusha, sat. Shikhli, Kechasker, Tahir, Kadir-dere, Dashsalahli, Damdzhilly and Chagmagly. Occurred about 60-50 thousand years ago, these shops belong to the Paleolithic open landscapes. The hilly areas of the region and their natural terrace mastered later: Shomu - Tepe , TepeAlikemek , IlanlyTeppe , Tepe mod p , GargalarTeppe and others are witnesses of ancient people stay here about 6-5 thousand years ago. Still later - about 2 thousand .e .mastering mountains of Azerbaijan, where there are the citadel and fortress city (citadel Vaykhir - Gyavur Gala , the walled city of Naryn and Oglan Gala -Gala ), dominating the landscape.

Special interest in unique architectural and landscape reserve Gobustan, where the samples were found megalithic architecture - houses , dolmen , places of worship , as well as
thousands of rock carvings, symbolic and pictorial signs from the Mesolithic, Neolithic, Chalcolithic and Bronze relating to XII–II millennium BC. e. We can assume that among the rock carvings of Gobustan probably have images of the first gardens and parks.

On the ground, the ancient Nakhichevan there were a number of forts and fortified cities built in the high remote mountains. One of these was located to the north of Kultepe (“Flower Hill”) on the right bank of the Dzhagrichaya, strength Chalhan Gala (III-II millennium BC. E.). Built on top of the mountain, where it intersects all of the available part of the slope. Interesting for architectural and landscape organization located on the left bank of the Nakhchivan citadel Vaykhir - Gyavur Gala (II-early I millennium BC. E.). the reconstruction of the citadel, has shown that it is a compact composition disposed on the top of the cliff, continuing the picturesque silhouette of the mountains. A similar architectural and landscape reception is also characteristic of the city-fortress Oglan Gala (II millennium BC. E.).

In the I millennium BC. e. Azerbaijan - Caspian, and Albania - there were many flourishing towns, mountain fortresses, castles and settlements built in perfect harmony with the natural environment. Temples in the era of fire-worship and zoroastrianism possessed untold wealth and they could well carry the desire to have gardens and temple complexes like the gardens of one of the centers of mazdaism, which was at that time the Median empire.

The most important stages in the development of ancient and early medieval landscape architecture of Azerbaijan have been associated with the key moments of the history of Albania, its culture and art. The territory of Caucasian Albania extended from the Lesser Caucasus and the lower reaches of the Kura and Araks rivers to the north-eastern spurs of the main Caucasus range (Figure 1). By the IV-III centuries. BC on the territory of Albania has had the class society and the state. In ancient times the city was known Kabalaka - Kabala, Mosega ,Albana , Sameh , Baruk and others. The uneven socio-economic development of different regions of the country and its population multibreeding is the reason that there existed different religions. Albanians worshiped the forces of nature - lightning, celestial bodies, mountain tops, land, water and natural lights.

We can only assume that the people living among the beautiful mountains, forests and water bodies, and worshiped the forces of nature could not be indifferent attitude to the landscape of reclaimed territory. Each fold is a relief, a source of water, every green array of population is taken into account when choosing places of settlement, location of parking and placement of religious symbols. Adoration of the forces of nature could not be without the recognition of the power of nature itself. Whole environment was perceived as a man of pristine nature, as a place where there is a struggle for life. Therefore, the relationship of people to nature expressed through the worship of the pagan cults.

During the antiquity in Albania there were sacred temple lands, led by priests. In these areas, built temples dedicated to the gods of the pantheon of Albanian, reported by ancient authors. Unfortunately, these reports are only scraps of information about the use and handling of land, horticultural and ornamental gardening. However, even on these limited data to judge the high skill of the ancient architects, as well as the birth of decorative horticulture in the region (Akxundov 1986).

Prerequisites of the development of landscape and geographic views of the Caucasus, in particular Albania, were created in ancient
times, in the writings of Strabo (I c. BC. E. - I c. District .E.), and the last major representative of ancient science Claudius Ptolemy (I-II c. BC. e.), with regard to local sources, covering the landscape features of Azerbaijan's I-VIII centuries. In this Albanian's work in the VIII. Moses Kalankatuyskiy "History of Albanians," in which he tries to light, not only the features of the history and settlement of the Albanian people, but also the natural landscape and other important information from the practice of gardening in every period - in the I, V in, VIII century.

Albania was generously endowed by nature - the favorable climate, rich forests, fertile and well-watered foothills and prairie spaces, extensive winter and summer pastures, minerals. In Albania, there were several soil-climatic zones, each of which facilitated the development of certain species of trees and shrubs, and consequently, of the types of gardens formations. Well-watered fertile tracts, and do not require artificial irrigation foothills, moist areas of sufficient rainfall zone were the main form of economy of the country - agriculture with its leading industries - field crop, and winemaking (Mamedov, 1986).

Horticulture and farming became widespread in the Kur -Araz lowlands and the Caspian. Albanian soil and yield of their obesity affects both the ancient and medieval authors. More Strabo noted that the Albanian plain watered better than the Babylonian and Egyptian rivers and other waters.

In the contrast in the foothill areas of the Kura-Araz lowlands and the Caspian gardening could not exist without irrigation. In Albania, was a complex and widely ramified irrigation systems (canals, kyagrizy, the network channels), which revealed the remains of the excavation and exploration in different parts of the country - in the Mil steppe (Gyaurarh), Mogan, in the Caspian region. Albania was famous for the unusual fertility of the vines, which is particularly marked by Strabo. He also pointed to the strong development of horticulture - grown fig tree (fig), pomegranate, cherry, citrus tree, peach, walnut, chestnut, walnut, olive trees. Arab historians - geographers also mentioned saffron, mulberry and len. Population was engaged as gardening - grew watermelons, pumpkins, small garden plots are often located in the gardens.

The nature of Albania conducive to the existence of "fertile fields", "many rivers and thick reeds." Availability of fertile land and a large number of rivers caused the development of horticulture in the country. The place name Girkan, can be found in various ancient and medieval sources. Currently, the "Hirkanian" called the remains of the ancient of the Tertiary period, covering the lowland and mountain slopes of Talysh. In this area, as a reference site (ironwood and other rare species), organized Girkan Reserve.

More detailed and accurate information about Azerbaijan in the IV century. Are given in a detailed work Albanian chronicler Moses Kalankatuyskiy "History of Albania". Here the names of areas close to the modern and sometimes even the same. He writes that the Albanian area of Ooty River Trtu (Tartar), and to the south of it are forests. These two facts: the name of the Tartar and the presence of forests correspond to reality, since at the present time to the south-east of the Tartar River located Sultanbud forest. According to M. Kalankatuyskiy, this country is known for dense forests and deep ravines. In the book the fact of the presence in Albania, many rivers, cold - atoms, mountains, fields and sources.

Describing Kur lowland of Azerbaijan, the author of "History of Albanian" informs that "in the fields, along the Kura grow many crops and grapes," here "cotton, mulberry, countless olive trees", grow barley, wheat, wine growing and gardening. The author notes that there are distinguished peasant pastoralists, peasants, farmers, gardeners and farmers. In a number of chapters of the book, we also find important information about the development of floriculture in the region.

Found during archaeological excavations in the temples and shrines of Baba Dervish, Sary - Tepe, Kultepe II, and the temples of Absheron peninsula, known primarily on the testimony of
ancient and medieval writers and rock drawings, are correlative small group of known landscape and buildings of religious architecture of ancient Azerbaijan. All of these facilities are successfully entered into terrain, often dominating it and the surrounding buildings. However, they are integrated with the natural environment, as it were growing out of the ground, rocks, cave formations and the depths of the sea.

On the turn of our era was built by archaeologists discovered the socio -landscape complex of the capital of ancient Albanian - Kabbalah. Its structure gives valuable information about the landscape architecture of pre-Christian temples, used building materials, and even the kinds of green spaces (pomegranate, fig, quince, etc.), clear signs of belonging to a pagan cult has a stone garden - rock garden first Mingechaur temple found in the most ancient layers settlements III-VII centuries (Figure 2). In the II-III centuries was built Kilsadagsky, the earliest in the Caucasian Albania. In the space-planning decisions it is traced the influence of Hellenistic architecture and landscape gardening art.

Analysis of the known to modern science and ancient monuments of Azerbaijan's ancient periods allows some conclusions about what the advancements in green building and landscape architecture met the country feudalism and Christianity, a variety of accommodation buildings completely preserved pre-Christian does not create a complete picture rock gardens, rock gardens. But on the basis of the available material was allocated two conventional landscape. The first group - the longitudinal tracks, includes a building with a rectangular plan and temple garden plots with one or more parties. To this group belong microlandscapes - rock gardens temple of Mithras in Baba Dervish and Sary-Tepe temple in Kultepe II, public buildings and landscape complex in Kabale, the first temple in Mingyachevire, etc. The second group - microlandscapes centric tracks - includes the area round and square in terms of structures with symmetrically local garden plantings, the evolution of which has led to the creation of green terraced fields.

In the stories of the early medieval Azerbaijani IV-VI centuries. Were the most significant, in spite of frequent wars, the economy and culture of a country is developing rapidly. The surviving buildings testify to the large-scale construction and a high level of skill architects. In landscape design are continued strong tradition of local gardening, small in size areas. However, there is a great regularity in the handling of landscape temple areas defined sophistication in the use of building materials and skilled inclusion in the natural terrain. Gardens created around the temples and other public buildings organically complement the natural qualities of the terrain and significantly increased the importance of these structures in the environment.

In the gardening architecture of the early medieval Azerbaijan, as a rule, applied vaulted cover (in garden buildings, shadow sheds, arbors, etc.). In Kazanchi, Eddie Kilsyth (Figure 3), Tsitsernavank palatial interior space and the earth's surface are made of horizontal rows parallel to the axis of the entrance. In Kedabek Mamrukh, in the Basilica of Kuma used a small boulder on a solution. The remains of a brick covering rock gardens have been preserved in the ruins Mamruhs Dzhalutsk and temples, as well as on the surrounding neighborhood areas. According to the outline of the curve are the most common semi-circular, torispherical and slightly arched vaults and arches. In landscape solution “architecture of the earth” we meet all of the same reasons that most of temple architecture, with the only difference being that they are much more modest and simple realization.
By analogy with preserved architectural monuments (Kilsadag (Figure 4), Kum (Figure 5), Lekit (Figure 6), etc.), we can assume that in gardening construction of the period often are used free-standing group of trees, the use of a large number of groups of trees on the main part of the territory, having high traffic areas, and therefore it was not appropriate for the entire period of the early Middle Ages is a tendency to reduce their number. Already in the VII century, their number is reduced to four or two in all garden areas.

Conclusions:

In conclusion should note that from the earliest times to the ancient period in Azerbaijan accumulated invaluable experience in landscape architecture. From the time of cave sites pebble culture to ritual gardens worshipers making its way art landscape organization habitable environment. Numerous proto-gardens proto-paks and distant past (including the gardens of the sun, the gardens of Fire, etc.) that carry the genetic code, which later will result in higher gardening skill. Landscape architecture of antiquity - it is the art of arranging rock gardens, rock gardens.

Landscape architecture of ancient and early medieval periods - it is unconditional gardening art.

References