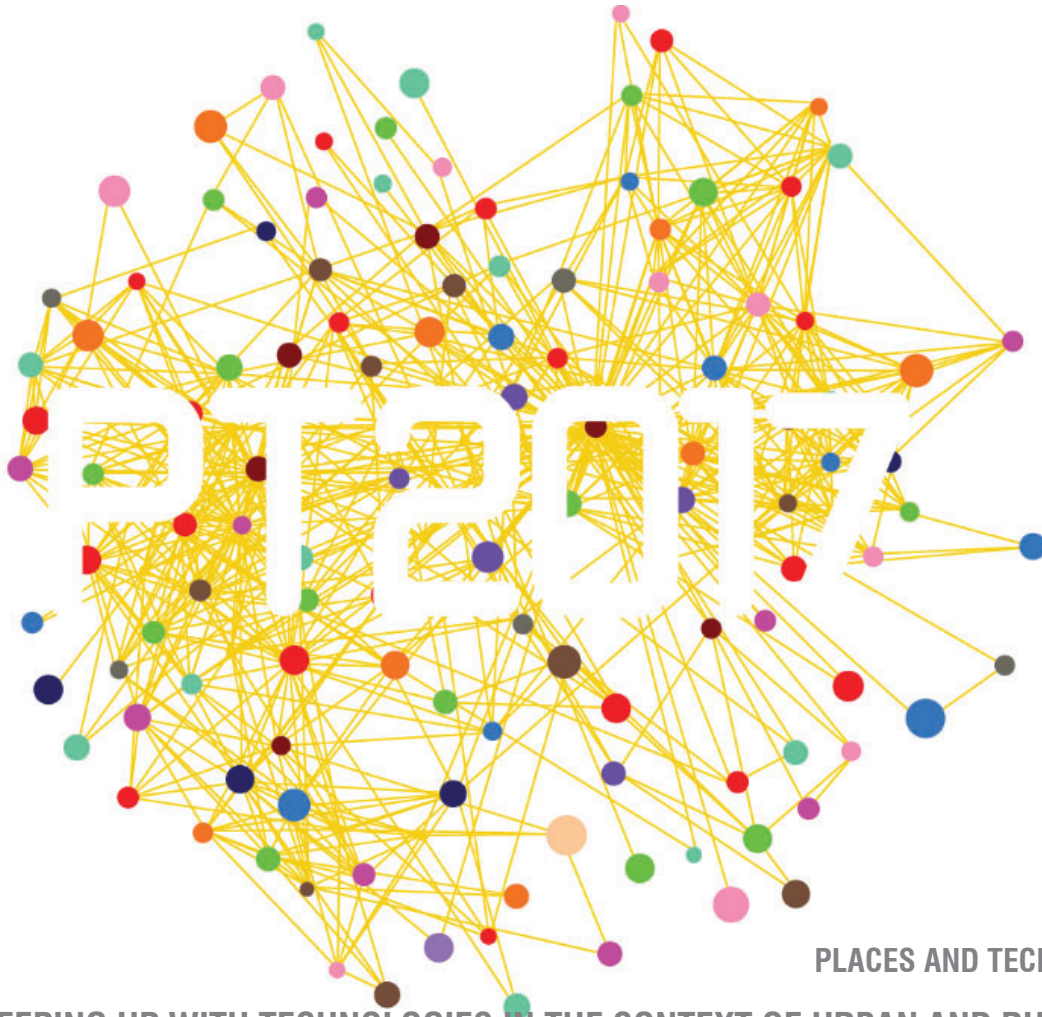


4th International Academic Conference



PLACES AND TECHNOLOGIES 2017
KEEPING UP WITH TECHNOLOGIES IN THE CONTEXT OF URBAN AND RURAL SYNERGY
Book of Conference Proceedings

Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, June, 08th - 09th, 2017

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PLACES AND TECHNOLOGIES 2017

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BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

BOOK OF PROCEEDINGS

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SYNERGY

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Editors:

Dženana Bijedić, Aleksandra Krstić-Furundžić, Mevludin Zečević



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THE ARCHITECTURE OF GARDEN AS NEW RECREATION FIELD OF EVERYDAY URBAN LIFE

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ABSTRACT

The paper explores possibilities of the implementation of the garden in the context of everyday urban life, as a new field of recreation and leisure activity, using the research by design method to investigate its potentials in the contemporary context. The paper is based on the results of student's research conducted on the academic course *Recreation - Contemporary Design Aspects*, as a part of the Master studies at the University of Belgrade Faculty of Architecture, within the main topic concerning relationship between open space and leisure time.

Referring to theoretical grounds, gardens represent minimal "universes", with the potential integration of various spaces and locations incompatible with each other. Gardens are fragments of nature, different and desirable within the urban everyday life, but also the bearers of ideas of the integration of landscape as the primary medium in the construction of urban area. On the other hand, the idea of recreation and leisure activities is guided by the human's desire to step out of everyday life, but at the same time, to stay closely linked with other life activities. By this means, recreation opens broad field for creative actions that could transform everyday urban life and refine its space. In this research, architecture is recognized as a tool for creative harmonization of diverse programs, forms and experiences of built and unbuilt, through the application and invention of new forms of recreational spaces and programs. Through the idea of recreation as a universal program recognized as a modern need, research by design opens new opportunities and explores diverse ways of new urban - natural synergy relying on the potentials of the single garden in contemporary context.

Keywords: recreation, garden, nature, architecture of leisure time

INTRODUCTION

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TOPIC III:
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AND PARTICIPATION

Analysis of the modern city and life in it, we observe phenomena that indicate defects of contemporary urban everyday life. Full built structure and consistency of sensitivity indicate the absence of the dynamics of space and experience. On the other hand, new leisure time activities appear as a need for negating daily routine. The need for new and different spaces and programs indicates a critical attitude of users towards the contemporary city and need to change it, transform it and improve life in it. The idea of the city changing imposes applications of the garden, as atypical space for the urban environment. The ambiance of nature returns spontaneity that the city lacks, opens fields of recreation and relaxation, and makes the more dynamic experience of the urban environment. Their flexibility allows the adaptation of unused fragments of the city space and creating of the complete balanced urban landscape, but also accepting and combining various programs and functions in the garden. This way, gardens as a critique of the city space and recreation as a critique of functions of the contemporary city become a creative field of new forms of spatial - program operations. A wide range of physical abilities of garden and forms of activity and passivity of leisure time belonging to recreation, open the possibility of their mutual combination and creative transformation of cities through new forms of architecture.

THE POTENTIALS OF THE GARDEN IN CONTEMPORARY URBAN CONTEXT

Analyzing the meaning and scope of the concept of the garden from the aspect of empirical and aesthetic theories, but also contemporary phenomenological theories, we recognize its modern potentials. Empirical and aesthetic theories of the 18th century interpreted garden as a recreational area with emphasized sensuality and experience (Whately, 1770). Describing ruin as an integral part of the romantic gardens, identified their ambiance and scenic character as the idea of spontaneous releasing nature that state of ruin symbolized, what distinguishes the importance of the natural environment for the function of recreation, relaxation, and spontaneity. On the other side, Michel Foucault characterized the phenomenon of the garden as a kind of heterotopia (Foucault, 1986), or place with nature differs from the environment. In the case of the garden, it refers to the ability to accept a variety of spaces and locations incompatible with each other. The garden is universal, overall heterotopia as the smallest fragment of the world and nature. Recognizing its timeless nature emphasizes the qualities of flexibility and compatibility of the garden with other areas and functions of the modern city.

The original meaning of the garden is primarily linked to the rural areas, where it is a dominant element of the space-functional rural unit. In contrast to villages, cities dominate by the built structure, which is the bearer of their function as well as their appearance. Modern theoretical approaches to analyzing the problems of the modern city, such as the built density, pollution and imbalance of natural and built structure, recognize the idea of the garden as the holder of restoring the balance of the cities of today. Garden as a fragment of the landscape has been recognized as an innovative factor in the urban landscape of desirable modern city (Waldheim, 2006). This approach emphasizes the idea of the city landscape that is equally constituted of the natural and artificial space-functional fragments. Open urban spaces thus become the operation field of different disciplines in order to overcome differences in polarity, such as built structures and natural landscapes (Pollak, 2006). Garden cultivation, as a potential function of the

redefinition of the city space, can be the holder of the idea of integration of the landscape as the primary medium in the construction of new urban space.

Based on the previously presented theoretical interpretation of the garden, it has a specific group of potentials for the modern urban environment. Ambient potentials are related to the colorful aesthetic and presence of nature that stimulates senses, emotions, and experience. Program potentials include a variety of functions related primarily to recreation and relaxation but also represents the connective field for other functions as a kind of universal heterotopia. The aforementioned character of heterotopia continues to the group of physical potentials, by the interpretation of the garden as a universal, adaptable space that connects disparate places and locations. As a fragment of nature, it is a suitable connective factor of the balanced urban landscape.

LEISURE ACTIVITIES AS NEED OF THE MODERN CITY

Contemporary context of the global connection transformed the modern city in the process of accelerated lifestyle, which ignores the diversity and sensuality. The dominant built structure, constructed as the bearer of such context, in an attempt to fill in and homogenize urban system, products separation and segregation, eliminating local specificity, individual needs and thus neglecting the individual spaces, social groups and subjects. This condition produces unbalanced built structure without sensuality and dynamism of experience and on the other hand a critical attitude of users noticeable on the expression of new needs, activities, and practices. Through the idea of recreation Lefebvre connects both identified problems, calling it a spontaneous criticism of everyday life (Lefebvre 1959). Considering that the world of recreation is created by man's desire to jump out of everyday life, besides its close connection with other domains of life, recreation realizes new possibilities in relation to them. In this way, recreation is established as a complex of activities and passivity, forms of sociability and communication which extend its scope and potential.

Relying on the Torkidsen's definition of recreation as an imprecise term that is related to the category or remaining and free time, it includes the operations taking place in the space of the specific features and realized through the experience (Torkidsen, 2005). By Interpretation of the meaning and purpose of recreation in modern conditions, we gain an idea of its scope and vagueness and conclude that its clear forms of expression are interdependent categories of free time and a specific place. According to that, its main purpose is to make the recreational experience. According to Williams, the perception and experience are the benefits of dealing with recreational activities and their value is only achieved in the correlation of activities and context (Williams, 1995). The value is realized as the physical, emotional or psychological reward of feeling that something is being done. Recreational experience is a state of mind which is the result of interaction between the participants in recreation and their real or imagined environment (Lee & Shafer, 2002). The range of this field extends in relation to the characteristics of the area where the activity takes place. This fact emphasizes the importance of spatial and environmental components, in relation to the aim of gaining the desired impression inside it. The significance of the spatial component Williams and Roggenbuck explain by the dependence



TOPIC III:
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AND PARTICIPATION

of the location that is related to functional use, and the ability of space to support desired recreational experiences (Williams & Roggenbuck, 1992). On the other hand, the identity of the place indicates the importance of the spatial context specifics. In this sense, the spatial component refers to an emotional and symbolic meaning of relation of people and recreation areas.

Beside experiential and physical, the functional context of recreation has an important role in the modern city. As a kind of criticism of the space segregation, recreation by Lefebvre is a form of assembly and connecting the city (Lefevre, 1996). As such, it includes sports, theater, cinema, fairs, collective games and other actions that activate spaces and connects actors. Assuming gatherings, artistic, spontaneous and spatially specific practices, it is a phenomenon that has a physical manifestation through spontaneous and direct practices (Živković, 2015), which connects the whole city by acting in fragments.

Based on the above interpretation of the meaning and scope of recreation in contemporary urban context, we get the idea of its flexibility in a physical, functional and experiential sense, depending on the parameters dictated by the environment. The potentials of this flexibility are precisely in the creative freedom of articulation of these parameters in order to achieve desired effects in modern city space. Achieved effects contribute to the dynamics of experience, activation of individual spaces and spontaneously connecting of city spaces.

ARCHITECTURE AS A TOOL FOR COMBINING OF THE BUILT AND NATURAL BY RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

According to the analyzed characteristics of the contemporary urban environment, we recognize the problems of spatial segregation and lack of sensuality. They manifest themselves in space through disrepair of some areas of the city and imbalance of built and natural structure. In contrast to physical manifestation, the experience of the city is characterized by a uniform and monotonous character. At the level of the user, on the one hand, the result is a *blasée* state (Simmel, 1948), and on the other spontaneous appearance of new activities as a critical reaction to the environment. There is a spontaneous need for dynamics of activities and experiences in the areas of free space and time, with the intention to jump out of everyday life. Recognizing the similarity of analyzed potentials of the garden and the aims of recreation, we establish a new field of spatial - program relations with the idea of contribution the urban everyday life.

Exploring innovative forms of recreation we find its new fields of contributions to the contemporary city. According to explored, gardening can become a new form of recreation in the city. On the other side, in relation to the perceived deficiencies of urban areas, the garden becomes broad of the city redefining. In this way, recreation and garden open up the possibility of creative combining, and architecture becomes a tool for implementation of their new forms into the system of the city. Architectural Design, as a creative method which connects spaces with their users, in this research has been recognized as a way of the realization of spatial manifestations of garden and recreation in an urban context. This way creates new forms defined as the architecture of leisure time, which would be analyzed on

student's research conducted on the academic course *Recreation - Contemporary Design Aspects*, as a part of the Master studies at the University of Belgrade Faculty of Architecture.

Architecture of leisure time

The attitude of some fragmented city spaces and recreational activities, established through the idea of the garden becomes the theme of research by design. Student's research conducted on the academic course *Recreation - Contemporary Design Aspects*, through this theme in a practical way, posted several important questions: treating abandoned fragments of the city, the role of nature in the city's everyday life, and the modern conception of recreation in the analysis of daily needs of the user. This way, the research establishes the aspects for recognizing the values of the garden as a recreational program - in relation to the general characteristics of the modern city area, as well as the specifics of individual spaces (table 1).

The benefits of research by design are precisely in the independence of the entrenched values and standards that make clear limits of spaces and functions in contemporary urban context, even though they naturally tend to be mixed and connected. Urban fluidity makes real confusion of activities that need to be spatially articulate. Creative approach, relying on the recognition of values of the observed local context in relation to the contemporary environment, developments, and trends, creates new image completely liberated. This process as such is the best way for consideration of the real situation, through new perspectives and visions. Combining of design methods and student's own interpretation of the given theme *architecture of leisure time*, they gave their views of some city spaces, which can be divided into 2 groups: garden as a way of reviving the individual fragments of the city and garden as a recreational program of housing in the urban everyday life.



**TOPIC III:
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AND PARTICIPATION**

Table 4: Garden as new recreation field of everyday urban life through architecture of leisure time

garden		potentials		recreation		ideas		Contribution (architecture of leisure time)
sensuality, ambiance, vividness (Whately, 1770)	→	stimulant relaxation and recreation	←	practice with the aim of recreational experiences (Torkidsen 2005)		experience as the aim of recreation (Williams 1995)	→	the dynamics of experience in the city
universal heterotopia (Foucault, 1986)	→	flexibility and adaptability to all areas and programs	←	a wide range of activities and passivities (Lefebvre 1959)	→	Combining spatial possibilities of the garden and leisure activities (Williams & Roggenbuck, 1992)	→	new forms of recreational activities
the fragmented structure as part of the landscape (Waldheim, 2006; Pollak, 2006)	→	fulfilling city voids	←	leisure activities act in fragments (Haydn & Temel, 2006; Bishop & Williams, 2012)		free spaces for free time (Lefevre, 1996)	→	engagement of neglected urban spaces and balanced city landscape
nature as a critique of the urban environment (Edensor, 2007)	→	balance to built structure	←	recreation as a critique of everyday urban life (Lefebvre 1959)		research of new spatial and functional forms (Williams, 1995)	→	innovative spatial and functional suggestions for urban everyday life transformation

Garden as a way of reviving the individual fragments of the city

Projects of this group are related to abandoned and neglected areas of the city, with the aim of their reviving through recreation. Projects represent recognizing the values of their state, which initiate implementation of recreational activities that best fit into the recognized space identity and specificity, historical and natural values, but also represent an adequate response to contemporary forms of use of the location. Garden as a modern way these spaces come to life, appears under the influence of experience of naturalness and spontaneity of empty urban spaces, as an exceptional value that should be used and emphasized. Besides reviving abandoned spaces of the city, the aim of these projects was also exploring new activities that belong to the leisure time and can be classified as recreational (Figure 1). On the one hand, plant cultivation and gardening represent new forms of recreation in the city. On the other hand, natural park ambiance of the garden is the place of peace in the crowd of the modern city and kind of criticism

of contemporary context, offering relaxation and enjoyment of nature as forms of leisure activities. The results of this research group are the activation of abandoned fragments of the city through activities initiated by contemporary needs of users, emphasizing the value of the specific areas in the city and their connection to the rest of the city landscape.

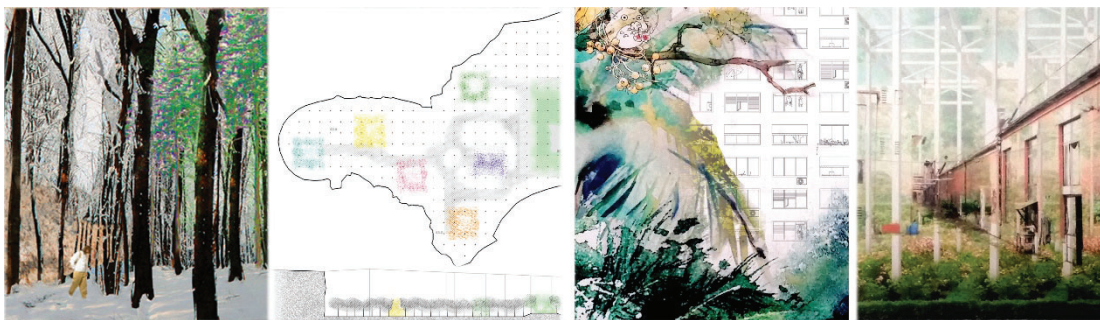


Figure 21: Stefan Gašparević, Orchard at the area of Summer Theatre Stage in Topčider (left), and Jelena Memarović, garden as a way of reviving abandoned industrial zone in Belgrade (right), student projects at *Recreation – Contemporary Design Aspects* class

Garden as recreational program of housing in the urban everyday life

These projects rely on the idea of the flexibility of the garden and recreation, and their fitting in other everyday functions and activities. Research is related to the study of family housing projects, with the idea of the garden as an extension of the house, and plant cultivation as a form of recreation. The study was primarily inspired by produced form of the family house, but also by deficiencies of modern urban context. Guided by the idea that outer space is an important part of the family house, students try to compensate the lack of natural components in the city. Designing the garden as an integral part of the housing project, living receives a natural character, tillage and gardening becomes an integral part of family daily activities, and life in the big city changes its own character. Freedom of designing the garden as orchard or vineyard crops as part of housing opens a creative view on the scope and importance of the natural surface in the metropolis as an atypical and innovative form of entertainment, recreation, and relaxation (Figure 2). As an integral part of housing, garden care becomes a form of active recreation of the family. On the other hand, the dominant natural environment as a new context for housing in the city represents a kind of deflection from today's conditions, means relaxation, rest and enjoy nature as part of the free time. In this way, the garden becomes an important element of family everyday life, an integral part of personal home space, but also the element of transformation the entire urban landscape.



TOPIC III:
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES AND PARTICIPATION



Figure 2: Aleksandra Milovanović, Vineyard as a recreational field of family housing in Belgrade (left), Ivana Nešić, Fields as space of entertainment and education in the city (central), and Stefani Poštić, Garden as part of family housing (right), student projects at *Recreation – Contemporary Design Aspects* class

CONCLUSIONS

Research of the potentials of the garden as new recreation field of everyday urban life opens issues related to the spatial and functional deficiencies of the modern city. Recognizing the problems of abandoned city spaces on one side, and the monotony of everyday life in the city on the other, research by architectural design becomes the creative method of transforming urban areas by responding to the daily needs of the user. Different from the studies that deal with the same subject through theory, research by design find a large number of solutions that can be implemented directly in a specific area. Using spatial and functional flexibility of the garden, on the process of architectural design on the academic course *Recreation - Contemporary Design Aspects*, it becomes a tool of space-functional improvement of life in the city. According to that, student research opened two topics: the garden as a way of reviving abandoned spaces, and garden as a recreational program of housing in the contemporary city. Analyzing the results of the projects based on these two topics, we derived conclusions about the importance of the garden potentials that can be noticeable on two levels: the larger urban scale and the level of the user.

Garden as a way of reviving abandoned spaces, on a larger urban scale promotes neglected places making them more attractive, allows increasing the number of green areas in the city, and contributes to the balance of built and unbuilt. At the level of the user, garden emphasizes the vividness of the experience of abandoned places and contributes to the dynamics of experience. As green city space, garden supports usual recreational activities, but also offers gardening as an innovative recreational program of the city. Through socializing, entertainment and relaxation, this program supports collective care for the common areas and closeness to them.

Garden as a recreational program of housing in the contemporary context, on a larger urban scale, changes the perception of city living, representing open space and nature as an essential part of housing. This way, the city gets pleasant features that were only characteristic for villages until now. At the level of the user, garden as part of the housing unit contributes to the comfort of everyday life, while garden cultivation becomes obligatory family activity.

Besides that, this activity, unexpected for an urban context, is also recreational, fun, and it promotes socialization of inhabitants.

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