

A Residential Landscape Design Model for the Durres Area

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Abstract

Landscape architecture is a relatively new discipline in Europe but virtually unknown in Albania before 1990. It has experienced rapid development during the last decade in our country. A residential landscape design model for a family house in Durres is presented. Durres stretches to the coordinates 41 ° 18 '40' north latitude to 19 ° 26 '21 "east longitude. The relief is mainly plain and hilly soft height up to 200 m above sea level. The aim of the paper is to present a residential design process and propose plant species and materials that can be used in residential landscape design for the Durres area.

Three site visits were carried out during the design process; during the first visit, a general survey of the place, climatic and soil conditions and a family interview were conducted. After analyzing this information, a design program was composed.

Two variants were presented, but the ecological idea was for the project to have a main road that starts from the gate to the main entrance of the house. We have proposed that beneficiaries can use these places at the same time as parking for one or two cars without having to carry out another asphalted parking lot instead of a portion of the green. The feedback of the family members was reflected and a master plan was prepared for this variant. The unity and harmony of the project are achieved by using species like *Cycas revoluta*, *Bougainvillea gabra*, and *Jasminum* spp. and by using typical construction materials of the area.

Keywords: Residential landscape, design, Mediterranean species.

1. Introduction

A space about 825 square meters positioned at 41 ° 18 '40' north latitude to 19 ° 26 '21 "east longitude and height up to 200m above sea level has been design. The relief is mainly plain and the climate is the Mediterranean.

Three important and unique aspects of each project bind those who deal with the design and development of residential landscapes: (1) the client, (2) the site, and (3) the home [1].

To realize a design project, it is very important to develop a system that takes into account the knowledge of landscape design following the steps of the design process. There are various opinions by the authors of landscape architecture about a method to help design a landscape with the beneficiary's involvement, and communication technology have been conducted.

Therefore, each site is distinct from the next because of its topography, views, vegetation, surrounding site conditions, and so on. Each client has his or her own set of attributes, desires, wishes, lifestyles, and so on that make each client special [1].

There are different descriptions in the literature regarding the landscape design process [2],[4],[1],[5]. Some of the authors propose some sequential steps a design process should follow. The differences among different authors may cause some confusion [7].

It is useful to bring in mind the saying of ancient Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu, "Some people consider it noble to have some method; others consider it equally noble to have no method. To have no method is bad. To be strictly to method is worse still. It is necessary at first to observe a strict rule, then to penetrate intelligently into all the transformations.

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The possession of method liberates us from the necessity of possessing method”.

Landscaping Project realization of a residential building in Durres pass in some preliminary stages:

- Agreement on the purpose and method of a design process
- Survey and analysis of the geographic information of the area covered under the project
- Creation and presentation of a design proposal
- Evaluation and modification of a design proposal, examination of an alternative [3].

Realization of residential landscape projects has not been very popular in Albania but has seen an increase in demand from people and therefore, there is a need for field specialists to fill this gap.

Moreover, green areas in Albania are under threat "The parks, in general, are threatened by the expansion of constructions and concrete, such as metastasis [6]... which makes urgently recommending a landscape design model for different areas of the country.

For the first time at the Agricultural University of Tirana, a master's program in Landscape Architecture has been certified which will assist in preparing specialists who will further develop this profession.

Three site visits were carried out during the design process; during the first visit, a general survey of the place and a family interview were conducted. An important part of the site was soil and climate evaluation.

At the end of our final Master plan of the green garden, we presented full projects accompanied by three-dimensional images.

The project idea for improving the landscape of this residential garden is made available for a family combining aesthetic, environmental and production aspects of the place.

2. Materials and Methods

The climatic-terrestrial conditions of Durres are average annual temperature of the air is 16 ° C, and 2 026 hours of sunshine per year. The average amount of rainfall is 963.4 mm per year or 116 days a year. Landscaping project realization of a residential building in Durres pass in some preliminary stages:

- Agreement on the purpose and method of a design process
- Survey and analysis of the geographic information of the area covered under the project
- Creation and presentation of a design proposal
- Evaluation and modification of a design proposal, examination of an alternative [3].

Three site visits were carried out during the design process; during a first visit, a general survey of the place and a family interview were done.

An imported part of site analyses is climate evaluation. A careful study was done in determining the sunny and shady areas of the garden and the angle with which the sun's ray's fall throughout the day. It is also successfully observed the outer facade of the house where will be the function of specific rooms and the time when they will be used during the day. After analyzing this information, a design program was composed. Based on the design plan a functional scheme and a preliminary design were prepared. Two functional scheme and the preliminary plan were discussed with family members during our second visit.

After we did all this work we presented them to the family and they choose the final projects.

For projecting the landscape of residencies building, the program "AutoCAD" has made possible the graphical representation of the different stages and presenting the constituent elements of the project through different figures, which gives a great opportunity to the appearance of the building and its elements by means of a symbolic representation of green components.

At the end of our final Master plan of the green garden, we presented full projects accompanied by three-dimensional images.

3-Results and discussions

The first idea was initially divided into several functional areas, keeping in mind the frugal use as concrete. It is realized in the project with a six-meter wide road, which starts from the main gate to the main entrance of the house. In the project was foresight one special place for parking on the right side of the house so the road at all times could be clear.



Figure 1. First functional idea

Children to play with skates, toys or games with different mobility during their leisure time can use this road. In addition, the wider space of six-meter road would create the opportunity to be exploited by guests on various occasions celebrating expectations because it is near the main residence.

The main disadvantage of this option is because it increased more cemented garden space at the expense of its space with greenery.

The second idea was without space for special parking. We proposed to beneficiaries that the road at the same time serves as parking for one or two cars.



Figure 2. Second functional idea

In addition, the project includes other deferent areas such as living area (room outside), the area behind the house etc.

Functional areas

This space is divided into several functional areas keeping in mind the frugal use as concrete because the main function of this "Country house" is contact with nature and departure from the stress and noise of the city.

Side borders are planned to be planted with, *Buxus sempervirens*, *Evonimus* spp. in order to make a visual limitation between the green grass and paved surface and serve as a physical barrier **Living area** (room outside): which is located on the right of the house near the house entrance in order to be functional. This space is planned to establish a "Belvedere". In this area, it is also planned to establish a "Barbecue place" which will be in function in different holidays that can be realized in nature.



Figure 3. Living area (room outside)

Near this area was established to plant "roses group" together in a triangular pattern with different colors in order to give color and flavor all the time. In this way, family and "Guests " will feel very well in this garden. They will always feel their good smell.

Also not far from these areas is a source of water where it is envisaged to establish a monumental piped which at the same time will be functional with water supply and serve as a structural element for the ornamental garden.

Area Mobility: the project is realized with a 6 m wide road that starts from the main gate to the main entrance of the house.

We have proposed that this place for beneficiaries will serve as parking for one or two cars.



Figure 4. Main road

Cycas revoluta rectangular surrounded by plants seasonal with all other forms of the road, "chamber outside", "Rose group" are suited to the "Cubist" form of the facade of the building residential.

With the request of the owner of the villa is planned to be planted a tree of the New Year, which will be positioned, near the living area. Realization of a floral border season near the house to give color to this part and among it is approximately in the middle was planned to be planted *Magniola grandiflora* this structural plant will give a wonderful view of the house



Figure 5. View from the house to the garden

The final idea and presentation

At the end of our final Master plan of the green garden, we presented full projects accompanied by three-dimensional images.

The project idea for improving the landscape of this residential garden is made available for a family combining aesthetic, environmental and production aspects of the place.

and the house is reflected in the windows creating an extraordinary sight.



Figure 6. The final idea

There are chosen components plant to suit a mild winter and rainy and hot summer and dry. Therefore, after collecting all the necessary information, we choose the suitable plants for this area.

The plants we chose are: *Cycas revolute*, *Bungavilea glabra*, *Jasminum sambac*, *Wisternium spp*, *Buxus sempreviren*, *Evonimus spp.*, *Libocedrus "decurrens"*, *Rosa spp.*, *Rhododendron spp*.

Landscape architect is recommended to follow the implementation of the project in all its components in order to not have changes while working for the realization of the landscape.

4. Conclusions and Recommendations

Successful landscaping project realization of a residential house in Durres it is recommended to go through this process:

Agreement on the purpose with project beneficiaries.

Survey and analysis of climatic and soil conditions of the area covered under the project.

Creation and presentation of a design proposal.

Two variants of design were presented, but the ecological idea was chosen to have a main road that

starts from the gate to the main entrance of the house, without special parking space.

Based on the Mediterranean climatic conditions of Durres were selected plants: *Cycas revolute*, *Bungavilea glabra*, *Jasminum sambac*, *Wisternium* spp., *Evonimus* spp., *Libocedrus* “*decurrens*”, *Rosa* spp., *Rhododendron* spp.ect.

Side borders are planned to be planted with, *Buxus semperviren*, *Evonimus* spp. in order to make a visual restriction between the green grass and the paved surface and serve as a physical barrier.

The selection of seasonal floral border in bold colors near the house is a good choice in the sunny Durres area.

Landscape architect is recommended to follow the implementation of the project in all its components in order not to change while working for the realization of the landscape.

5. References

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