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# THE ARCHITECTURE AND LANDSCAPE ORGANIZATION OF MEMORIALS TO PROMINENT PEOPLE: STUDY OF WATER FEATURES

## UKSZTAŁTOWANIE ARCHITEKTURY I KRAJOBRAZU POMNIKÓW WYBITNYCH OSÓB: BADANIE WŁAŚCIWOŚCI WODY

### ABSTRACT

The study of the relationship “the natural qualities of water – the naturally built environment – the psycho-emotional conditions of human beings” from the perspective of architectural and landscape organization is essential nowadays. By investigating modern monuments we identified the methods of landscaping and composition planning to create the appropriate environment to emotionally impact the persons dealing with grief, sadness and loss. The conducted analysis of modern memorials allowed us to explore the role of water as an important compositional element in the architectural and landscape organization of monument sites. We also identified different methods of modeling water and how they affect related emotional impressions in creating the urban social environment that would preserve the historical and cultural memory from generation to generation.

**Keywords:** architectural & landscape organization, memorials, water features, emotions, urban social environment, the cultural and historical inter-generational memories

### STRESZCZENIE

Zagadnienie „naturalne cechy wody – naturalne tereny zabudowy – psycho-emocjonalne zależności z ludźmi” z punktu widzenia ukształtowania architektury i krajobrazu jest niezbędne w dzisiejszych czasach. Badając współczesne pomniki wyznaczyliśmy metody planowania i kształtowania krajobrazu, w taki sposób, aby stworzyć odpowiedni nastrój, wywołując u ludzi poczucie żalu, smutku i straty. Przeprowadzone analizy współczesnych pomników pozwoliły nam odkrywać rolę wody, jako ważnego elementu kompozycyjnego w architektonicznej i krajobrazowej strukturze miejsc zabytkowych. Zidentyfikowano różne sposoby kształtowania wody, wraz z określeniem związku, jakie wrażenia emocjonalne wywierają one w tworzeniu miejskiego środowiska społecznego, które pozwoliłyby zachować pamięć historyczną i kulturę z pokolenia na pokolenie.

**Słowa kluczowe:** organizacje architektoniczne krajobrazowe, pomniki, elementy wodne, emocje, społeczno-miejskie środowisko, kulturowe i historyczne wspomnienia międzypokoleniowe

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The study of the relationship “the natural qualities of water – the naturally built environment – the psycho-emotional conditions of human beings” is about living in modern cities, and is also concerned with creating a social urban environment including preserving the cultural and historical inter-generational memories. One issue is related to architectural and landscape organization of the memorial sites. The person’s psycho-emotional conditions are extremely important when visiting the memorial sites. An architect creating such memorials should strive to build the desired conditions in order to perceive the monument, to transmit the pain of loss, sincere grief, gratitude and eternal memory for an individual and for the generation as a whole. Natural conditional of the site as well as particular elements of landscaping play an important role in planning the composition of memorials or monuments, along with the general idea and design.

Water has unique natural qualities, and is an important element in creating the right mood and ambience of memorial sites. Water, in particular, out of all major landscape components, is the most diverse and fluid one, and therefore agrees with the psycho-emotional state of a person experiencing grief and loss. Using water – such as the architecture of its various streams, states and surfaces – allows creating the environment that is well aligned with grief. Each memorial site targets to align the architectural landscape organization with sadness experienced by a person.

## 2. THE AIM OF RESEARCH

The aim of this research is to discover and identify the significance of water usage and its compositional qualities in creating of the memorials dedicated to prominent figures. It also studies the methods of using water as a landscaping component. It is to determine the ways to impact the person’s psycho-emotional state and to build the urban environment to preserve the inter-generational cultural memory.

## 3. STATE OF RESEARCH

«Emotional abilities» of water, its impact on human psyche have not been fully investigated. Let’s try to analyze the planning of memorials dedicated to prominent persons and figure out the role of water and its plasticity in the landscaping and architectural organization of such memorials.

## 4. DESCRIPTION OF MEMORIAL SITES

It is worth mentioning that water plays an important role in the planning solution of memorial sites dedicated to the memory of outstanding personalities and political leaders in many countries. Memorials are built in different functional areas of the city: at the central city squares, in parks, in a suburban area, etc. This is evidenced by the location of the memorial fountain in memory of Princess Diana Hyde Park in London, UK, (2003–04), the monument to President Kekkonen W. Park Hesperia in Helsinki, Finland (2000) and the garden memorial of the former Prime Minister of Lebanon Hariri in Beirut, Lebanon (2005–11). In each case, we found deep symbolic and individual landscape planning concepts.

### 4.1. Memorial for the Finnish president Urho Kekkonen, Helsinki, Finland, 2000

One example is the monument to Kekkonen, president of Finland from 1956 to 1982, was built in 2000 in Helsinki. Location of the memorial in front of the palace “Finland” in Central Park Hesperia along the coastline of the Gulf Tooloo is rather symbolic per se. “The choice of a drop shape for the shallow pond that figuratively reminds a big tear, accurately and deeply reflects the attitude of the people remembering with gratitude the man who has done much for the prosperity of the northern country”<sup>1</sup>. There is a powerful rock-granite stone with the inscription in the background of the drop-shaped pool which is lit by lamps in the shape of a hand, il. 1. A small artificial stream was created near Hall Finland. Bronze, water, granite – are the main materials that are connected in this monument on the background green planting park and the white facade of the palace “Finland”, one of the most outstanding works of Finnish architect Alvar Aalto. Precisely this art project by sculptor Pekka Jylha, was inscribed in the landscape, and was chosen by the public when the government decided to erect a monument to the three presidents of the countries. Kekkonen was the last one<sup>2</sup>.

### 4.2. Hariri Memorial Garden, Beirut, Lebanon, 2005–2011

In 2011 in Lebanon’s capital Beirut the work on creation of Hariri Memorial Garden, which pays the

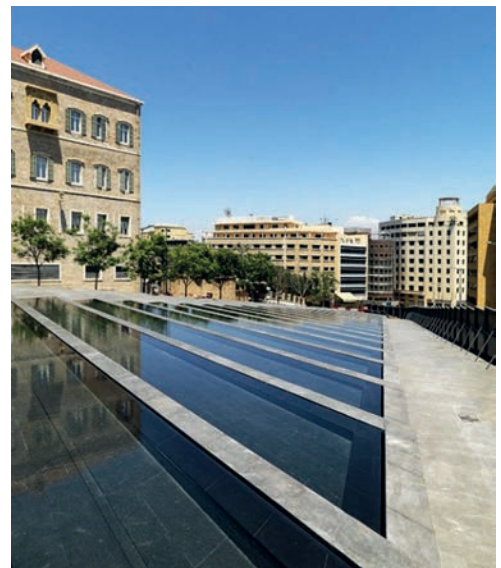
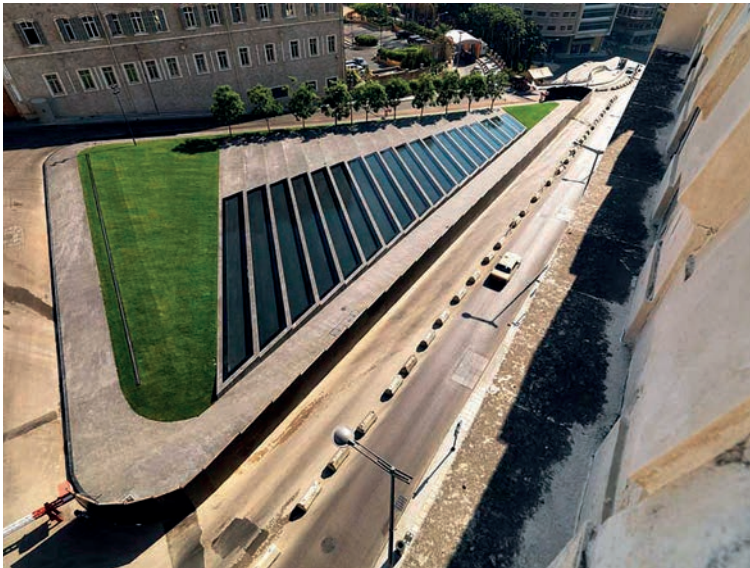
<sup>1</sup> Нефедов В. А., *Городской ландшафтный дизайн*. С.-Пт.: Любавич, р. 138.

<sup>2</sup> [https://fi.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urho\\_Kekkosen\\_muistomerkki\\_\(Helsinki\)](https://fi.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urho_Kekkosen_muistomerkki_(Helsinki))



Il. 1. Memoriał fińskiego prezydenta Urho Kekkonen, Helsinki, Finlandia, 2000. Zdjęcie z <http://wikimapia.org/2720502/Urho-Kekkonen-memorial>

Ill. 1. Memorial for the Finnish president Urho Kekkonen, Helsinki, Finland, 2000. Photos from <http://wikimapia.org/2720502/Urho-Kekkonen-memorial>



Il. 2. Ogród pamięci Hariri, Bejrut, Liban, 2005–2011. Fot. Matteo Piazza

Ill. 2. Hariri Memorial Garden, Beirut, Lebanon, 2005–2011. Photos by Matteo Piazza

tribute to ex-Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, has been completed.

The garden is located in front of the Government Palace in city center and symbolizes worship of memory of this historic figure. Hariri and 22 others were killed in a massive terrorist attack on February 14, 2005.

The main project's intent was to create a kind of public space, which could reflect the values of Rafik Hariri's historic figure, personify his vision and achievements, and eternalize his memory. Main leitmotif of this small memorial garden consists from composition of elongated planes of grey stone and

water mirrors, laid on a grass surface, step down towards the city il.<sup>23</sup>. A row of jacaranda trees marks the edge between the steps and the Government Palace's facade. Such modest and laconic design symbolizes, in essence, greatness of wise leader's heritage.

The project utilizes the limited, precisely selected palette of elements and materials, each charged with deep symbolic significance. "The steps symbolize the gradual rebuilding of Beirut and an open invitation to the city. The basalt stone planes symbolize grief,

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.azuremagazine.com/article/az-awards-of-merit-landscapetemporary-architecture/>





Il. 3 Memoriał Diany, Księżnej Walii, Londyn, UK, 2003–2004. Fot. Poter Gustafson i Liudmila Ruban

Ill. 3 The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fountain, London, UK, 2003–2004. Photos by Gustafson Poter and Ruban Liudmila

sobriety, and perseverance. The water mirrors symbolize life, purity, peace, and the immaterial. Grass symbolizes tenderness and compassion. The jacaranda trees symbolize joy, sorrow, hope, and through their cycle of birth and death, life's constant renewal."<sup>4</sup>

Landscape architect Vladimir Djurovic has managed to find an elegant, temperate planning solution, which unites simple stone plates with other natural elements: water, grass and trees. In a quite limited space in front of government building the laconic arrangement of simple flats, made of different natural structures, allowed creating a very impressive ensemble of demure grief and noble memory. Smooth water surface of stone basins with geometric shape makes an impression that the garden is located directly on water, as if it grows up from it, see pic 2. With its cascade of rectangular water basins, the Memorial, being exquisite and recollecting of memories without any ostentatiousness, became a very important element of city environment.

#### 4.3. The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fountain, London, UK, 2003–2004

The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fountain was erected in one of the London's central parks – Hyde Park in 2003–2004. The fountain is located in the southwest park's corner, just south of the Serpentine Lake and east of the Serpentine Gallery. The simplicity and elegance of its design symbolize qualities of openness and humanity of Lady Di. The fountain was designed by Kathryn Gustafson, an American landscape artist, il.3,<sup>5</sup>.

The 545 individual pieces of Cornish granite were coupled together into the irregular oval shape and represent the riverbed with water flowing from the highest point in two directions before meeting again at the bottom<sup>6</sup>. Water's motion path is designed so that the flow is constantly changing all over its state. «One side of the stream bed descends fairly smoothly to the downhill end of the oval with gentle ripples; the other side consists of a variety of steps, rills, curves, and other shapes so that the water plays in interesting ways as it flows to the tranquil pool at the bottom. The two sides were intended to show two sides of Diana's life: happy times and turmoil»<sup>7</sup>. Different methods of modeling water are made by various grooves and channels combined with air jets. «Sparkling, energetic effects include 'Swoosh', 'Steps' and 'Rock and Roll'», il. 4<sup>8</sup>. There are three bridges where one can cross the water to achieve the heard of monument. The water is constantly being refreshed and is drawn from London's water table.

The open glade at the lakeshore became the location of Memorial Fountain. Laconic idea to connect smooth shapes of granite, flowing water, grass lawns in and around the granite loop is only highlights and emphasizes the beauty of the park landscape. The main purpose of this unique Memorial to Diana, Princess of Wales, was to provide an opportunity for people who came to remember a popular princess plunge into the atmosphere of silent contemplation and quiet concentration.

<sup>4</sup> Jodidio Ph., *Landscape architecture now!* – Colonge: Taschen, p. 110

<sup>5</sup> Ibidem, p. 140 .

<sup>6</sup> Ibidem, p. 148

<sup>7</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diana,\\_Princess\\_of\\_Wales\\_Memorial\\_Fountain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diana,_Princess_of_Wales_Memorial_Fountain)

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.gustafson-porter.com/diana-princess-of-wales-memorial-fountain/>





Il. 4. Badania dynamiki i statyki wody na przykładzie Memoriału Diany, Księżnej Walii, Londyn, UK, 2003–2004. Fot. Liudmila Ruban

Il. 4. Study of water's dynamic and static states on the example of The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fountain, London, UK, 2003–2004. Photos by Ruban Liudmila

## 5. RESULTS

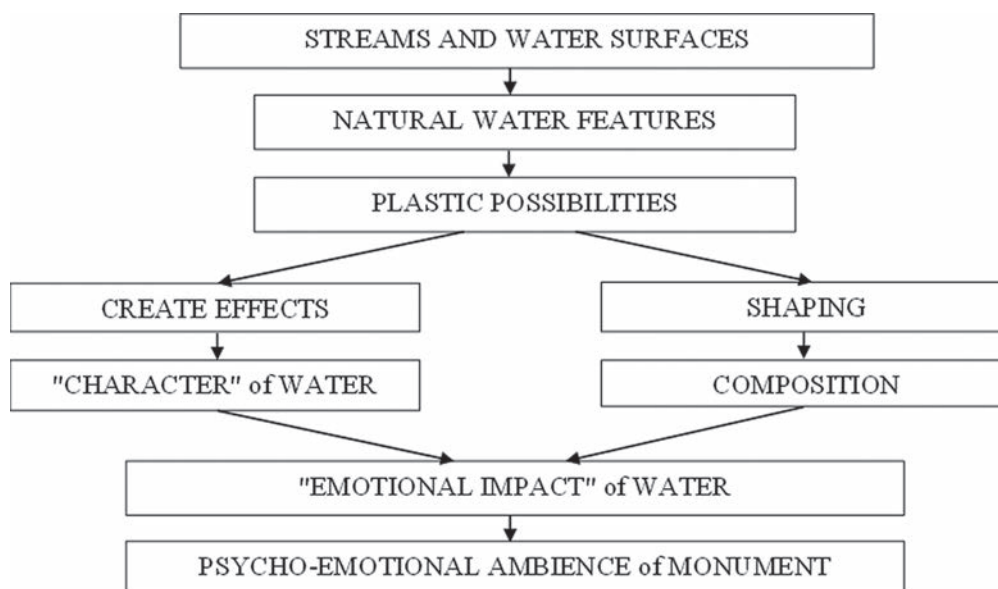
All investigated projects are different in their individuality and laconic architectural and composite solutions. They are characterized by moderation and reasonableness of the proposed means of aesthetic and artistic expression. They, also, are distinguished

by the symbolism of the individual components and materials, active ingredients of natural landscape, the unique properties of natural water.

The comparative characteristic monuments are presented in the table 1, which contains the results of the analysis of the water landscape element's role in the architectural and landscape organization of

№	Memorial	Placement, functional area	Modeling techniques	Compositional role	Characteristics of the water landscape elements				Other landscape elements	Emotions	Symbolic of artistic image	Created ambience
					source	state	basic characteristics of water used natural	decorative				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1	Memorial for the Finnish president Urho Kekkonen, Finland	The coastal area of the city	Enclosed pond	The composite element	Artificial	Statics	Smooth surface Transparency	Reflection; Light refraction	Rock Trees Lights	Grief Sorrow Tranquility Gratitude Good irony	Tear	Memory Gratitude Privacy Silent contemplation
2	Hariri Memorial Garden, Lebanon	Town Center	Cascade pools	One of the main elements	Artificial	Static	Smooth surface Transparency	Reflection	Grass Trees Stone surfaces	Grief Sorrow Feeling majestic memory	Purity, Spirituality	Demure grief Noble memory. Gratitude Greatness of fortitude Sunshine memories
3	The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fountain, Great Britain.	City Park	Circular closed flow	The main element	Artificial	Dynamics	Flowability	Variability of flow	Lawn Stone surface	Grief Sorrow Love Gratitude	Life Path	Sadness Tears Memory Silent contemplation Quiet concentration Humanity Continuous motion Pleasure/joy of communication





Il. 5. Diagram definicji „emocjonalnego oddziaływania” wody w kreowaniu memoriału (opr. L. Ruban)

Ill. 5. Diagram of the definition of water’s “emotional impact” in creating a memorial (by Ruban L.)

memorials and specifies main characteristics of using the natural properties of water and its design effects at the creation process.

The analyses shows that the unique form, memorable image and ambience of memorials could be create by active use of landscape compositional elements in general memorial’s planning idea. The natural elements of landscape environment dominate in planning of each monument, whereas the water sources and surfaces are the one of the main compositional elements of planning decisions.

The following methods of landscape design are applied for the creation of proper memorial ambience: the organization of artificial pond or stream, the inclusion the small architectural forms in the general ensemble, the design of light sources, the connection of various textures of natural materials, the use of specially selected plants and lawn parterres, etc.

The volume and plastic features of water as a “decorative architectural” material presented widely and varied. In the creation of monuments used such natural water’s features as fluidity, transparency, waviness, the variability of the state, the ability to reflect, refract light, etc. Using water allows the memorial to emotionally match the psyche of a visitor.

There are several compositional forms of water’s organization in the monuments such as: a circular closed flow, an enclosed pond, a cascade of pools with stagnant water. This is used as a dynamic flow in the form of artificial simulating stream well its static state, which is represented by ponds of different shapes (drop-shaped, rectangular, etc.), view il. 1,2,4.

The diagram below shows the definition of water’s “emotional impact” in creating an psycho-emotional ambience of memorial, il.5. It outlines the abilities of water’s shaping and effects to express memories and feeling of grief when creating the memorial sites.

The emotional ambience, which are achieved by means of landscape planning and design with water features in particular, are the following: the ambience of silent contemplation; restrained grief; memory outstanding personality; parental sorrow; sadness and longing, quiet concentration, gratitude, hope for the future.

The symbolism of water’s various use in the creation of memorials is as follows:

- with the tears associated separate drops, continuous water flow or the shape of the pond;
- with the infinity – the fluidity of the watercourse, the cascade of pools, the circular closed flow;
- with purity, repose and spirituality – static water surface of reservoir’s cascade;
- with lived live path – the alternation of water’s different states in closed flow.

## 6. SUMMARY

The aesthetic and emotional environment organization of memorials using water landscape elements are extremely varied, but the goal of using them is alone - to create an atmosphere of peace, everlasting remembrance and gratitude by laconic means.

It is dealt with individually selection of means and methods to identify the plastic properties of the water element in the composite relationship with other

landscape planning elements in each case. No doubt, such decisions will bring emotional comfort in everyday life, enriching the urban social environment, by the way of preserving and passing on the historical and cultural memory from generation to generation.

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