

Esthetic Quality of Landscape Space and its Estimation in Municipal Territorial Planning

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Ocena jakości
krajobrazu
w planowaniu
przestrzennym

Introduction

Urban and rural landscape space is formed by mutually functionally connected zones-

- in rural landscape – farmsteads, pastures, shelters for agricultural machinery, technological zone, housing having few storeys (floors), some vertical dominants (church spires, prominent old (ancient) trees, technological equipment), etc.
- In urban environment – dense building, transit communications, vertical dominants, colour, form (shape), building structure, green plantings etc.

The expressiveness of the visual image of the environment is affected by the environmental conformity of the architecture with the scale and proportion of the space (the height and density of building, the rhythm of the space (the intensity of ground cover, character of foot-paths etc.

The esthetic quality of landscape space (urban and rural environment) is the harmony or sustainability of both the functionality and the compositional image.

Problem formulation

The novelty of this paper – together with the confirmation of intensive territorial planning, the number of new detail planning increases. Locations of parcelling of new building with few storeys appear, the exist-

ing administrative centres extend, new recreation areas are formed. Therefore the principal view points, silhouette of new building, basic elements of silhouettes and composition in landscape – form (shape), rhythm, culmination, scale, colour, etc.

The expressiveness of view points may be stressed and reduced by ground... or alleys of tree plantings, creating side-scenes, background, etc. plan or front plan.

While introducing the harmony of esthetic quality into the creation of urban and rural landscape space in new detail planning, one must not forget the presence of the elements of nature relief, waters, meadows, forests, climate.

It is not enough to consider only the necessary restrictions of shelter belts in the new planning often related to the landscape space in rural municipal territories. In such cases the criterion of esthetic quality determining the location, proportion and form of distance, dominants or culmination are of great significance. Therefore the landscape space designed in the detail planning must raise the emotional potential while to find the way to the psychology of people using the landscape space.

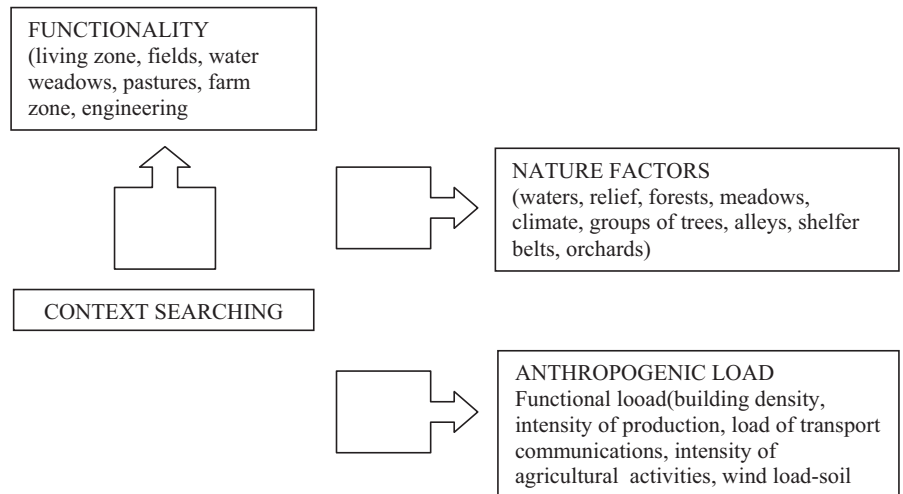
Up to the renewal of independence, with the totalitarian tendentiousness in the state economical development, an universally recognized aim of territorial planning was not taken into consideration – to promote the

Context searching of landscape

social and economical development of the territory of local self-government and to create a sustainable regional politics ensuring the environmental protection, national use of the territory and nature resources, protection of heritage relating to the history of civilization and creating preconditions for the formation of the network of infrastructure. Therefore

- the contradictions between the aims of the use of the territory and the tendencies of future development were not eliminated;
- there was discord between the aims of the economical development on one hand and the aims of the preservation of heritage relating to the history of civilization on the other hand.

At present the public opinion is that the countryside is not only the place of production, but also the place of life. There are several scales on the basis of the functional and compositional balance of rural landscape space. The largest of them is the territorial planning beginning with the process of investigation and is to some extent the system analysis for the principal condition creating the project. Nature and the structural features of the density of population characterize the space proportion, scale and traditions. It is connected with a specific estimation of historical, landscape and architectural factors.



The development of Zemgale region is connected with the integration process of the world. Its territory is connected with such projects as VIA Baltica, VIA Hanza as well as the transit of freight flows-Russia_ventspils which create a new, wider infrastructure. Therefore, of great importance will be the road beds, locations of road beds, view conlisses, background and principal view(sight) corridors in the compositional structure of landscape space.

While analyzing the existing and future transport scheme of the Strategic planning department of Transport Ministry and estimating the future situation in landscape, it is evident that the centre of Zemgale plain becomes a heavy transport centre. Therefore, the landscape space will have a larger load of transit network and the influence of visual informa-

tion will be subordinated to it. In this connection there will be several positive and negative aspects:

- while increasing the road network and transport intensity, the topicality of rural tourism increases;
- while increasing the number of roads and their load, ecological problems increase;
- a dense transit road network attaches an industrial wood to rural landscape. It is particularly dangerous to the centre of Zemgale plain in which the inherited disproportion of the collectivization period and the disappearance of harmony are dominant, it was created by the wide farmlands, cut out orchards, tree alleys and rows, straightened roads, brooks, ditches etc.

Results and discussion

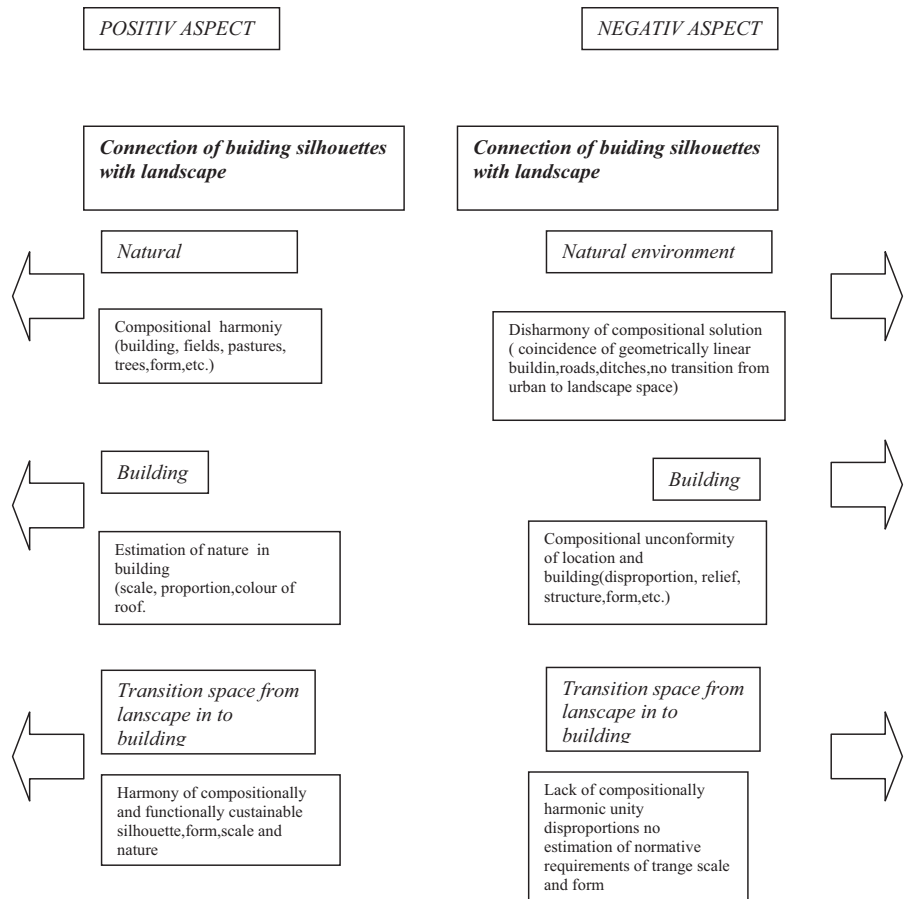
Because of the geopolitical location the „bridge position“between the west and the east is to be considered in the process of territorial planning in the centre of Zemgale region. At present the projects of pagasts development are to be revised as regards the functional structure, building scale, nature harmoy and solutions of ecological problems etc. of municipal centres as well as some communities.

Any of these criteria included in the territorial development plan of municipality, is connected with the architectonic spatial structure. It particularly regards there construction of old farmsteads and the creation of new ones having more or less historically traditional location in the landscape (orchards, tree rows as wind-breaks and as the accent of drīves, pole enclosures of pastures etc.).

As the investigations show, to search the development conception of landscape space is not of less significance, by estimating the historical contimity, regional features and the scale of environment.

The municipal territorial planning results influence the landscape compositional space connected with:

- *conformity of land use are, kind, composition and qulity to the specialization and task of produktion;*



- *compactness, configuration and location of land uses;*
- *advantage of land external borders.*

The basis of the formation of harmoviously development landscape space consists of 3 principal indicēs: function of economical activity, biological function and the provision of the esthetic quality of space.

A continuous system of the relations of man and environment is the basis of the changes mentioned, founded on several nature factors and criteria of antropogenic load. The sum of factors influence the functional and compositional development of the landscape space im which nature-society influence the common compositional structure of space at a certain economically

intensive activity in a definite course of time.

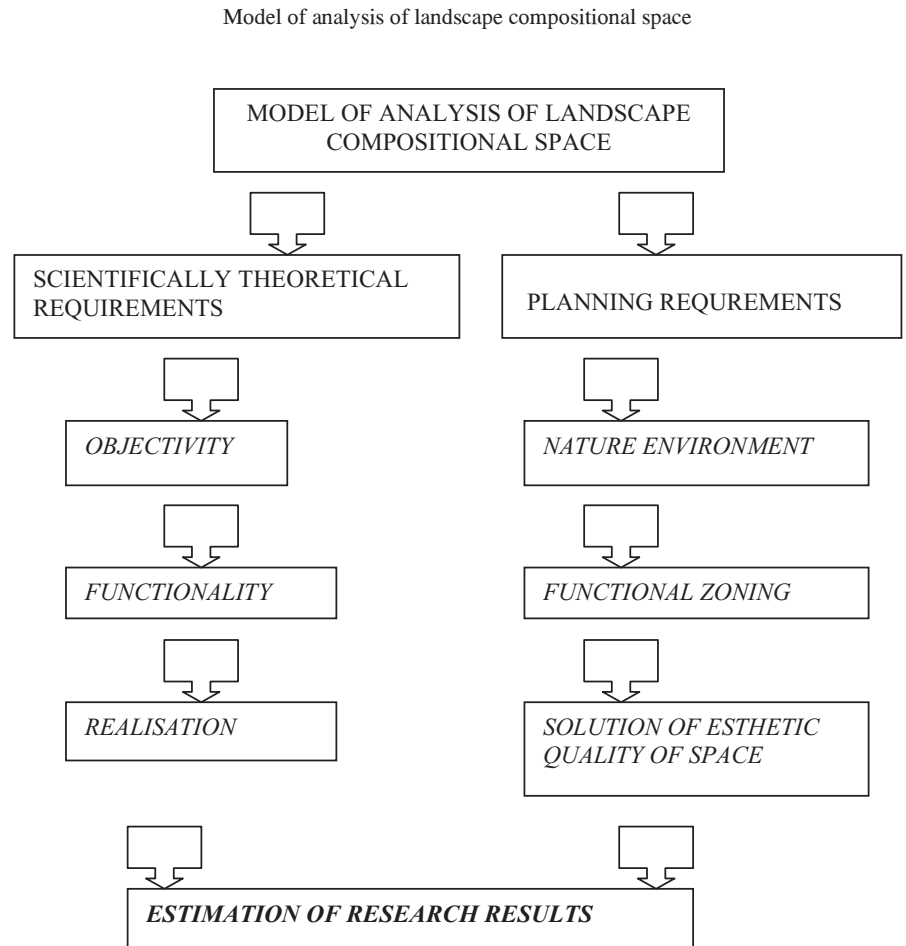
It is significant to estimate the investigation of features of *contextualism and synthesis*. The context reflects the interrelation of separate landscape elements as well as this of common landscape space, which is to be estimated during the present process of municipal territorial planning development.

The scale of landscape space determines the attitude of man towards it. The increase of scale unsettles the spatial context of architecture and landscape.

Nature factor is characterized by the conditions of the esthetic quality of economy, ecology and nature (relief, soil, multiformity of biotops, regeneration chances, proportions of space etc.) The factors of anthropogenic load are connected with the degree of employment, structure of space, social conditions and infrastructure (population density, transport, service, environment relating to the history of civilization, provision of working places etc.).

Conclusions

The process of the synthesis of landscape and architectural forms may be controlled the best by means of the territorial development plan in which the historical continuity of space, regional features, national identity and environmental scale are to be estimated. The visual image of



the environment and well-organized architectural spatial environment gives a more economical effect than the branches of traditional management.

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