

Transformation Process of Zemgale Region (Latvia) Rural Culture Landscape

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The rural space relating to the history of civilization is the central dimension in the spatially structural model of contemporary landscape which by tanning over the features of the historical image continues to develop feelings and emotions, and influences the manner (way) how our contemporary landscape is perceived and understood. In such a way the culture landscape is not dead ruins, but an active manifestation being a part of contemporary perception as any other landscape element.

Zemgale plain is regionally typical in the landscape of Latvia. The research work includes the aspects of landscape space viewed both historically and contemporarily on the ground of development regularities by drawing conclusions and forecasts.

There are several principal development stages of historical environment in the transformation process of the culture landscape space of Zemgale plain:

- 1) 16th – 17th centuries as the time of domination of nature elements in the landscape;
- 2) 18th early 20th centuries – intensive development of estate building;
- 3) 20-ies – 40ies of 20th century – as the process of land agrarian reform and reallocation of estate lands;
- 4) 50-ies – 80-ies of 20th century – connected with the dominant of the totalitarian social system, disregard of historical environment

and its dismantling, creating the disproportion of building esthetically low.

Unconformable to the national identity. The development of large farms, creating unusual huge and open landscape space, made Zemgale plain psychologically oppressing and uniform. Finally, the 90-ties brought the renewal of Latvia Republic by beginning a new land reform.

The process of genesis of rural landscape space is connected with the search for harmony and balance both in compositional expressiveness of space and its functions. It is of particular significance to evaluate (estimate) it in the context of the present territorial planning of pagasts which is the continuation of the land reform process. Rural culture landscape demands a similar attitude as it is with the cultural monuments, while working out regulations and rules for protection as regions nature parks, restricted areas etc. Therefore serious investigations are necessary in the sphere of the protection of rural landscape environment.

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