

STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION OF TRADITIONAL GARDEN FROM BOTOȘANI

STRUCTURA ȘI MODUL DE ORGANIZARE A GRĂDINII TRADIȚIONALE BOTOȘĂNENE

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Abstract. *At the basis of the traditional Romanian homestead configuration were, primarily, the functional principles of satisfying the human needs, but on the structure and its evolution have left their mark over time, many factors that led to the emergence of notable differences between Romanian households: from one region to another and even from one village to another within the same region. Geo-climatic factors, the occupation of the residents, social economic status, ethnic appearance and local tradition, the technical expertise of craftsmen, quality and quantity of materials used for construction, etc. decisively influenced the organization of homesteads on the Romanian territory. This paper presents the issues that concern traditional homestead structure from Botoșani, its mode of organization and makes an analysis of its evolution.*

Key words: *traditional homestead, utilitarian garden, typology*

Rezumat. *La baza configurării gospodăriei tradiționale românești au stat, în primul rând, principiile funcționale de satisfacere a nevoilor umane însă asupra structurii și evoluției sale și-au pus amprenta, de-a lungul timpului, o multitudine de factori ce au condus la apariția unor diferențe notabile între gospodăriile românești de la o regiune la alta și chiar de la un sat la altul, în cadrul aceleiași regiuni. Factorii geo-climatici, ocupațiile locuitorilor, starea social-economică, aspectul etnic, tradiția locală, nivelul de cunoștințe tehnice ale meșterilor populari, calitatea și cantitatea materialelor utilizate pentru construcție etc. au influențat decisiv modul de organizare al gospodăriilor pe teritoriul românesc. Lucrarea de față prezintă aceste aspecte ce vizează gospodăria tradițională botoșăneană, structura și modul său de organizare și face o analiză asupra evoluției sale.*

Cuvinte cheie: *gospodăria tradițională, gradina utilitară, tipologie*

INTRODUCTION

The structure and manner of organization of the traditional homestead of Botoșani region have been influenced, like those on the entire Romanian territory, by the geographical location, climate factors, occupations of the residents and their social-economic status. The mild relief that predominates in the area offers the viewer large perspectives in which the undisturbed nature reveals its absolute beauty (fig. 1 a, b, c).

Even from the ancient times, the main occupations of the residents of Botoșani area have been in agriculture and animal breeding. Fishing and

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beekeeping have been additional sources for the food and raw materials needed by the people in the area (Paveliuc-Olariu, 1983).

The traditional buildings destined for sheltering people and animals, from the studied area, are limited both as size and proportion, mainly as a consequence of the fact that wood is present in low quantities.

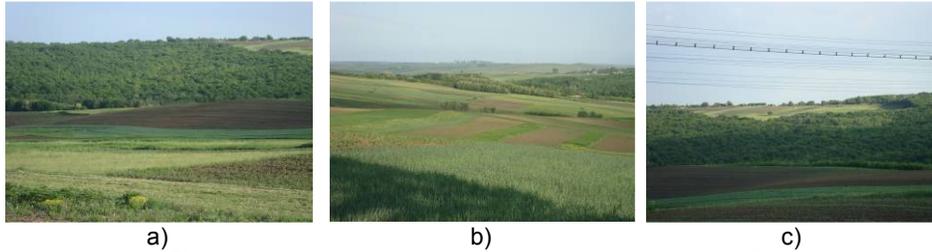


Fig. 1 - Natural background of the studied area (original):
a) Hudești area; b - c) Mlenăuți area

The purpose of this paper is the presentation of the main types of traditional Botoșani homesteads, with the analysis of some characteristic elements (structure and manner of organization of the homestead, assortment of flowering plants and their positioning etc.)

MATERIAL AND METHOD

In order to draw up this paper, a study has been made on some homesteads from the Botoșani area. The aspects targeted in the analysis carried out refer to: the shape of the lot and the positioning of buildings on the lot; the number, position, destination and size of the existent buildings; the manner the lot is divided; the particularity, shape, size and positioning of the garden within the lot.

The following research methods have been used: theoretic documentation, systematic observation, case study method, analysis and synthesis of the obtained data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The traditional homestead from the Botoșani area falls into the larger organization framework of Moldavian homesteads, which in turn presents common traits with those from the entire country.

Basically, the lot corresponding to the traditional homestead is divided into farmstead (barn or pound) and utilitarian garden behind the house.

The farmstead (barn or pound) is located in front of the estate, with an opening to the access road, including the actual yard, the buildings (house and homestead enclosures) and lay-outs with various destinations (such as the flower garden and mixed garden – flowers, vegetables, trees, aromatic plants etc.).

The utilitarian garden, located in the back of the lot, includes various cultures on surfaces larger than that in the farmstead: an area with potatoes, corn

and alfalfa; the vegetable garden – tomatoes, beans, cucumbers, cabbage and others, and a small orchard.

In the mentioned area there are several types of traditional peasant homesteads, the most common of which is that where the house is located in the middle of the yard, with its main entrance towards the road (fig. 2 a). In this case, the homestead enclosures (barn, chicken coop etc.) are located behind the house, parallel or perpendicular to it.

The land in front of the house is covered by a simple garden, only with flowers and vegetables, surrounded or not by a fence. The farmstead area is smaller, the area for the storage of hay or cobs being smaller. Behind the house, depending on the case, are located the outbuildings, the area for the storage of hay or cobs etc. The trees are planted around the house, the orchard being reduced in order to make more room for the other cultures (fig. 2 c).

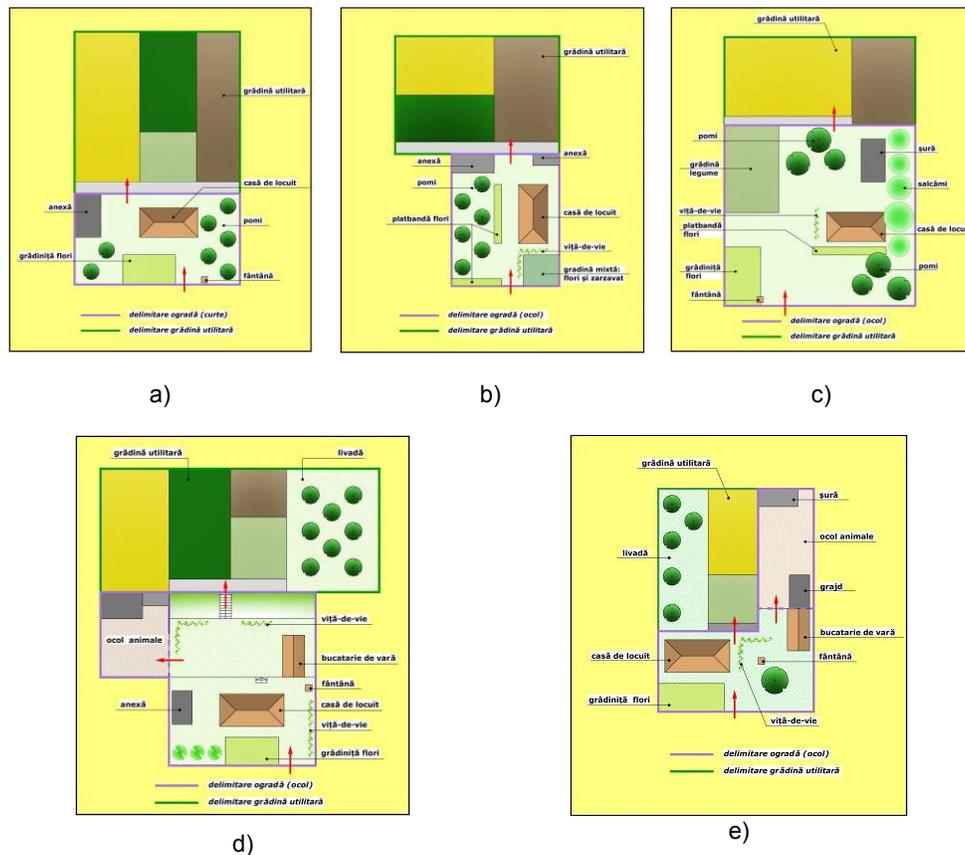


Fig. 2 - Organization layout for Botoșani homesteads: a - b) Cornești neighbourhood, Darabani city; c) George Coșbuc village, Gorbănești commune; d - e) Ivancăuți village, Pălăniș commune

Another type of homestead plan, less common, is that where the house is located perpendicular to the road, the enclosures being positioned either parallel to the plan of the house, or in line with it (fig. 2 b).

The plan of the newer homesteads has the house at its forefront, positioned with the front to the road, quite close to it, the area in front of it being destined for planting flowers. The enclosures are located behind the house, most often parallel to them. We note the presence of the summer kitchen (fig. 2 d). Also at the newer homesteads we notice the tendency to free the yard of buildings, keeping only the house and summer kitchen, the rest being grouped in the second plan of the property (fig. 2 e).

We also have cases where in the same yard there are two houses, for two generations. Usually, the older house, smaller, is located in the second plan of the allotment, and the newer, more spacious one, is located in front, closer to the road (Paveliuc-Olariu, 1983).

Of small size, the *flower garden* is ever present in traditional gardens from the Botoşani area.

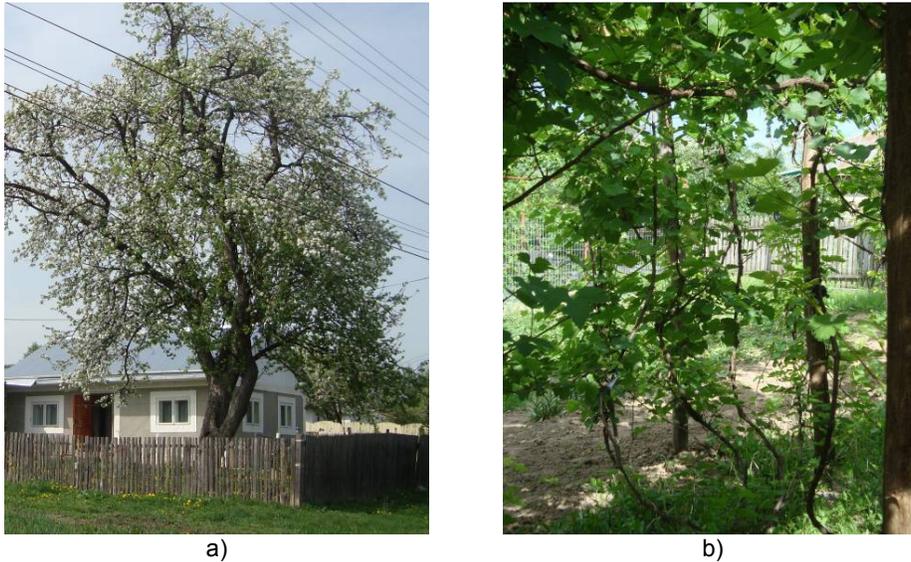
The flower species assortment that provides the basic scenery of traditional gardens is made up of a series of rustic “classical” perennial and semi-perennial plants such as: daffodils, tulip, columbine, poppy, peony, lily, phlox, sunflower, chrysanthemum, aster, dahlia, gladiolus, and several annual species such as: basil, Jasmine tobacco, calendulas, moon flower, etc. Besides these, shrubs such as jasmine, lilac, rose or lianas (clematis) come to complete the ornamental flower assortment used for the decoration of traditional gardens.



Fig. 3 (a, b) - Mixed garden – Corneşti neighbourhood, Darabani city (original)

In the garden in front of the house (an area reserved for “beauty”) vine and trees are always present. Some vine stalks and one or two trees give the traditional garden, besides its immediate usefulness, vertical accents or curtains that gain additional usefulness (shade, visual delimitation, creation of interest points etc. (fig. 4 a-b) and at the same time contribute to the defining of this type of garden. The combination of the above mentioned vegetal species in the rural

garden in a somewhat chance mixture, gives it a special appeal and at the same time, it can be considered as a defining characteristic of the traditional Romanian garden (Glăman and Mircea, 2003).



a)
b)
Fig. 4 - Other vegetal species in the traditional garden: a) Vârfu Câmpului village;
b) Cornești neighbourhood Darabani city (original)

The positioning manner of the ornamental species in the ground is not based on a preset plan or on certain compositional principles, this positioning being random, depending on the wish and skills of the housewife. Nevertheless we notice two tendencies in the way the flower species are positioned in the area of the garden, namely:

- *linear positioning* – manner of positioning that is often met in the studied area, as continuous border and small groups or isolated individuals from the same species, planted in line, either parallel to a side of the house, or the fence (towards the road or the access path), or perpendicular on it.



a)
b)
Fig. 5 (a, b) - Mixed gardens – linear positioning of flower plants
Cornești neighbourhood, Darabani city (original)

- *free positioning* – seen especially in case of the isolated specimens, located in the “free” areas in the garden.



a)



b)

Fig. 6 (a, b) - Mixed gardens – free positioning of flower species Cornești neighbourhood, Darabani city (original)

CONCLUSIONS

1. The relief, environment conditions and occupation of the residents have had a decisive role in the way the peasant homestead is organized.

2. In the areas where these factors are comparable, the homesteads basically present the same typology.

3. The flower garden, simple or mixed, is a distinct area within the homestead in the plane or hill regions and usually covers the forefront, having both a representation and embellishment purpose for the property.

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