

THE PLACE OF THE GARDEN IN THE ORGANISATION OF THE TRADITIONAL HOUSEHOLD OF BUCOVINA

LOCUL GRĂDINII ÎN ORGANIZAREA LOTULUI GOSPODĂRIEI TRADIȚIONALE BUCOVINENE

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Abstract: *The ethno-spacial typology of Bucovina's villages has lead to the occurrence of some differences among them, concerning the location of households on the ground, the location of the buildings and of course, the way the garden is organized. In the mountain areas, in the scattered households on unlevelled ground, the surface of the garden has been greatly reduced, leaving the natural beauty of the grasslands and forests fully express themselves. The traditional Bucovinean garden is a subject that has not been approached at a large scale, despite the interest it attracts at present. It can be studied both as location and organisation method within the lot, and at the level of the vegetal species used for decoration purposes, which in the end contribute to the creation of a definitive image. The present paper tries to synthesize some detailed scientific researches, being able to underline a traditional typology, which, if properly used and made public, would contribute to the resuscitation and spreading of ancestral traditions with cultural and social-economic benefits for these areas.*

Key words: traditional household, organization of the lot, utilitarian garden, typology

Rezumat: *Tipologia etno-spațială a satelor bucovinene a condus la apariția unor diferențe între acestea, în ceea ce privește amplasarea gospodăriilor în teren, poziționarea construcțiilor în cadrul acestora și, bineînțeles, modul de organizare al grădinii. În zona de munte, în gospodăriile răsfricate pe teren denivelat, spațiul grădinii s-a redus mult, lăsând frumusețea naturală a fânețelor și pădurilor să se exprime plenar. Grădina tradițională bucovineană constituie un subiect foarte puțin abordat, în pofida atracției și interesului pe care le exercită în prezent. Poate fi studiată atât ca amplasare și mod de organizare în cadrul lotului, cât și la nivelul gamei de specii vegetale folosite la decorare care, în final, contribuie la creionarea unei imagini definitorii. Lucrarea de față încearcă să sintetizeze câteva cercetări științifice amănunțite, ajungând la cristalizarea unei tipologii tradiționale care, dacă ar fi corect pusă în valoare și mediatizată, ar contribui la resuscitarea și răspândirea tradițiilor ancestrale cu beneficii atât culturale, cât și social-economice pentru aceste zone.*

Cuvinte cheie: gospodărie tradițională, organizarea lotului, grădină utilitară, tipologie

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INTRODUCTION

Bucovina, Romanian land, temporarily under foreign occupation during the centuries has carefully preserved its customs and traditions, accepting relatively few essential elements from the allogeous populations regarding living and the way the property is organized. The traditional Bucovinean household has been shaped up during the years, starting mainly from functional principals of satisfying the human needs, while at the same time adapting to the existent natural conditions. (<http://alexandrusenciuc.files.wordpress.com/2011/02/brosura-manastirea-humorului-peisaj-cultural.pdf>).

The ethno- spacial typology of the villages has lead to the occurrence of some differences among them, regarding the location of the households on the ground, the positioning of the buildings within them and, of course, the way the garden is organized. In the mountain area, in the households scattered on unlevelled grounds, the area of the garden has been largely reduced. Here, the natural beauty of the grasslands, forests and glades make the wish for additional aesthetical vegetal additions pale.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

To create this paper we have carried out a study on several households from different areas of Bucovina. To be able to draw up a pattern of the traditional garden, in the analysis carried out we have followed several aspects, namely: the shape of the lot and the locations of the buildings on the lot, the division of the lot, the position of the garden within it, the specifics of the garden, its shape and size, the species used and the way these are located.

As research methods we have used: theoretical documentation, systematic observance, case study method, analysis and synthesis of the obtained data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

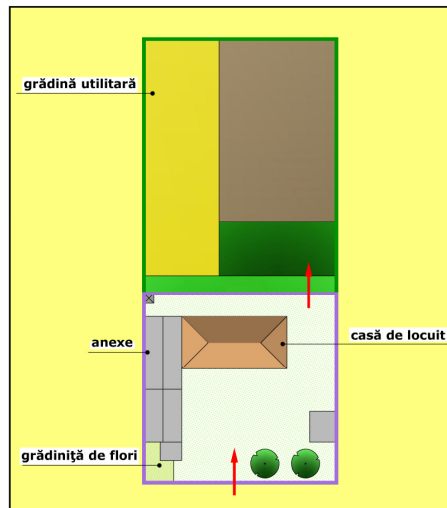
In general, *the lot corresponding to the traditional Bucovinean household* is divided into the *yard and utilitarian garden* behind the house, the connection between the two areas being made in various ways, depending on the area. (Glăman and Mircea, 2003).

The yard is located in front of the actual property, with opening to the access way, comprising in it the actual yard, the buildings (house and extensions) and setups with various destinations (such as the flower garden and the mixed garden – flowers, vegetables, trees, herbs, fruit bearing trees).

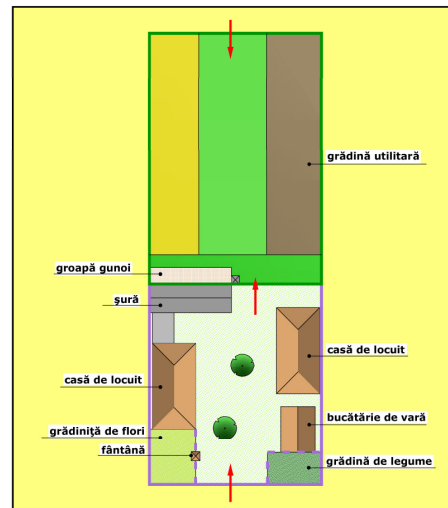
Utilitarian garden, located behind the lot, includes various cultures of larger size than that in the yard: an area with potatoes, corn and alfalfa; the vegetable garden – tomatoes, peas, beans, cucumbers, cabbage, and others, and sometimes a small orchard.

The connection between the two areas is made through an access way in the surrounding fence or through a built area (usually the bard) that has double access, thus facilitating the crossing from one part into the other (fig. 1).

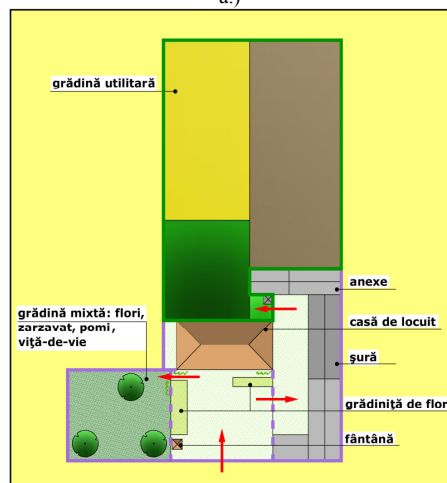
The flower garden is almost always present in the traditional Bucovinean household from the hill areas. Of small size, usually shaped as a rectangle, rarely of an irregular shape, it is positioned at the front, between the house and the road, and it is usually fenced so as to be protected against stamping (by man or animals). A larger surface between the house and the gate, usually involves the setup of a mixed garden with flowers and decorative trees, and herbs, vegetables, fruit trees and even vines. The flowers, depending on the location of the garden, are sometimes planted on lines (max. 50 cm high) that symmetrically or asymmetrically accompany an entrance alley, or, in case of older houses, in little bands located in front of the house, on both sides of the entrance porch. At the same time, there are areas setup with flowers and ornamental plants in the vicinity of the house, in front of windows.



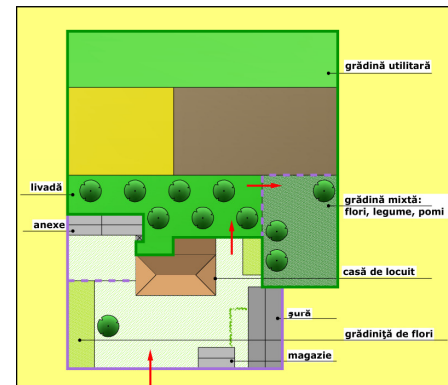
a.)



b.)



c.)



d.)

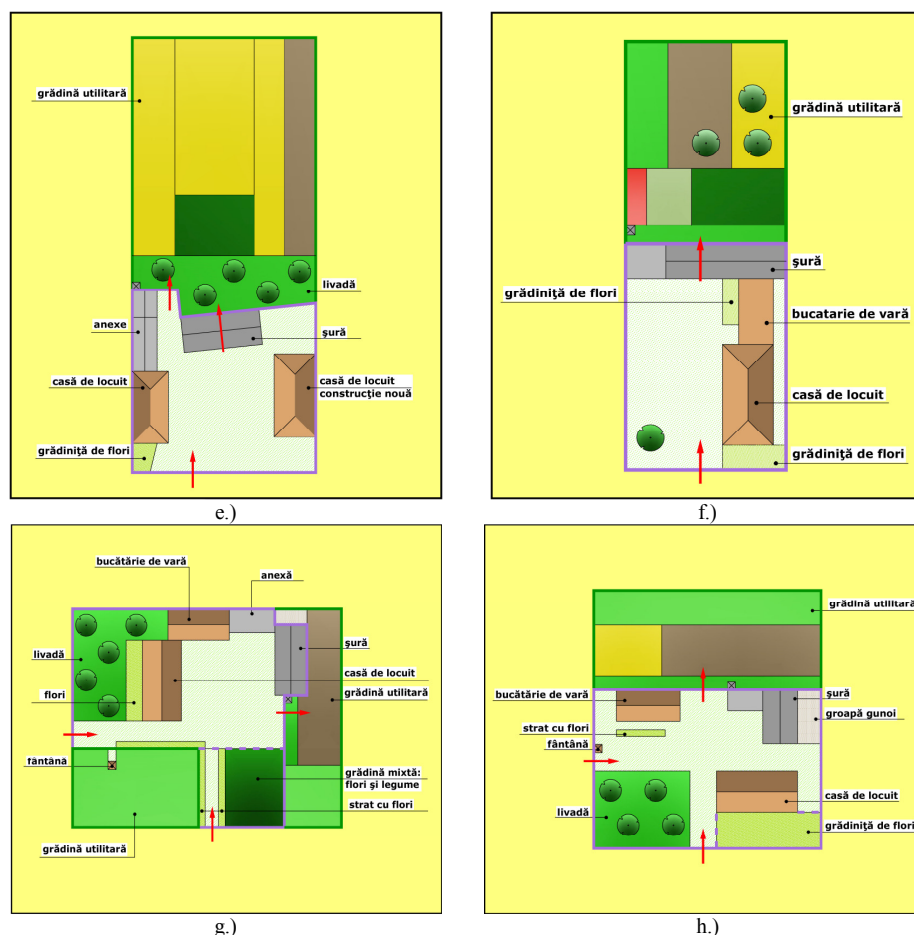


Fig. 1 - Organisation schemes for the Bucovinean households in hilled areas: a.) Grănicești commune; b.) Brăiești village; c.), d.) Humoreni village; e.) Slobozia Sucevei village; f.) Păltinoasa commune; g.), h.) Frasin city

With the flowers we can also see some decorative trees such as the lilac, rose, jasmine or lianas such as clematis, that come to complete the ornamental plants variety used for the decoration of traditional gardens

In order to obtain a complete overview we must also mention the tree species: - pear, apple, plum and nut trees located either grouped in small orchards, or individually, or in small groups in the yard or mixed gardens, as well as vines, even if this is rarely present in the Bucovinean garden.

The flower species in the traditional garden contains plants from the spontaneous flora (violets, primula, autumn crocus, and other) as well as perennial and annual cultivated species. Even if the variety of perennial plants are not very varied – the most often used are the tulip, daffodil, columbine, peony, lupine, lily, scarlet pimpernel, chrysanthemum, and aster – they are present in all Bucovinean gardens. These, together with the other ornamental species mentioned, lead to the structuring of the traditional Bucovinean garden. The semi-rustic species such as

the gladiola, dahlia, and the annual ones (Jasmine tobacco, sage, snapdragon, poppy, calendula, balsamine, zinnias, asters, morning glories) offer the area they cover a special note, through their colour, fragrance, through the shape and size of the flower, shaping up the garden nicely.

The positioning of the ornamental species on the plot does not follow a preset plan or composition principles, but is spontaneous, depending on the wish and skill of the home owners. There are however two tendencies that stand out in the positioning of the flower species within gardens, namely:

- **Free positioning**, especially for the small gardens (fig. 2), covered exclusively by small size flower and tree species;



Fig. 2 - Flower garden - Sobozia Sucevei village, Suceava district

- **Linear positioning**, both as continuous edging and in small groups, or isolated individuals from the same species, planted in a line, parallel to a side of the house, or along a walkway, or the access way, in case this is differentiated from the rest of the yard by some kind of finishing; this type of positioning is frequently met in mixed gardens (fig. 3), the flower edging being located in perimeters, bordering or separating vegetable rows.



Fig. 3 - Mixed garden – Marginea village. Suceava district

The beauty of these gardens is given by this mixture of flowers, vegetables, small trees, fruit bearing trees and vines, which can be considered a characteristic feature of the traditional Romanian garden. (Glăman and Mircea, 2003).

In the households scattered on mountain slopes (fig. 4-a.,b,c,d) we cannot talk about a garden concept, because its area is usually reduced to the minimum and sometimes it's missing altogether from the lot organisation scheme. (Cojocaru, 1983). There the background is provided by nature, pastures, and glades and not by cultivated species.

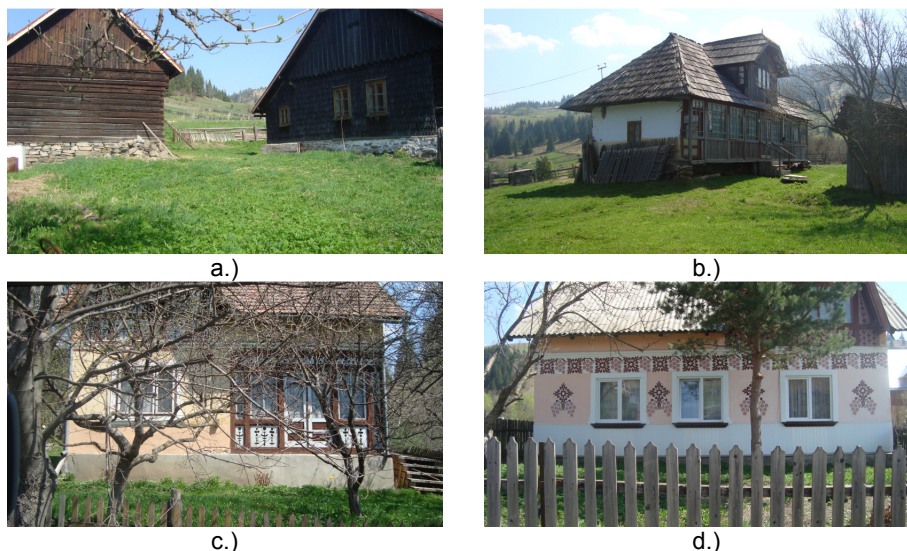


Fig. 4 - Traditional Bucovinean household from the mountain area a.) Valea Putnei village b.) Gura Negri village, c.) Argestru village , d.) Ciocanești village.

CONCLUSIONS

The traditional Bucovinean garden is a subject that hasn't been largely approached, despite the attraction and interest it draws at present. It can be studied both as positioning and organisational method within the lot and from the point of view of the vegetal species used for decoration purpose, which in the end contribute to the outline of a definitive image. The present paper tries to synthesize some detailed scientific researches, being able to underline a traditional typology, which, if properly used and made public, would contribute to the resuscitation and spreading of ancestral traditions with cultural and social-economic benefits for these areas.

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