

# THE FRUIT TREES – VEGETAL ELEMENTS WITH MULTIPLE VALUES OF THE RESIDENTIAL GARDENS

## POMII – ELEMENTE VEGETALE PLURIVALORICE ALE GRĂDINILOR REZIDENȚIALE

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**Abstract.** *The residential gardens from the urban or near the urban area represent a mirror of the civilisation and development degree of the inhabitants of a city or suburb, and the attention offered to the aesthetics and functionality of the natural and anthropical elements stretches over the general aspect. The fruit trees, along with the other vegetal elements, through their decorative and utilitarian nature are living organisms that can be modelled, generating not only the structure, but also the binding element of the landscape development. Comparing the two gardens, that within a city and that neighbouring a city, generate distinct landscape development typologies, and knowing these suggests applicative ideas and methods.*

**Key words:** residential gardens, urban orchard, landscape typologies

**Rezumat.** *Grădinile rezidențiale din spațiul urban sau peri-urban reprezintă oglinda gradului de civilizație și dezvoltare a locuitorilor din oraș și suburbii, iar atenția acordată esteticii și funcționalității elementelor naturale și antropice se răsfrânge asupra aspectului general. Pomii, împreună cu celelalte elemente vegetale, prin virtutea lor decorativă și utilitară, sunt organisme vii care se pot modela, generând atât structura, cât și liantul amenajării. Compararea celor două grădini, intra și peri-urbane, generează tipologii distincte de amenajare, iar cunoașterea acestora sugerează idei și modalități aplicative.*

**Cuvinte cheie:** grădini rezidențiale, livadă urbană, tipologii de amenajare

### INTRODUCTION

By analyzing the areas outside homes from the point of view of garden organization, and from the point of view of traditions and customs, and physical nature, we can determine the landscaping typology that differentiates intra and peri-urban gardens.

The extent of the areas, the neighbouring areas, the utilities, restriction, access, surroundings, classification of functions and last but not least the pollution level and own micro-climate are characteristics that define the two concept directions, with their similarities and differences.

### MATERIAL AND METHOD

To draw up this paper we have carried out a study on the evolution of private gardens over the last decade in intra- and peri-urban areas, analyzing the role of fruit

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### ***Utilities***

Both for intra-urban and peri-urban lots, the technical – urbanistic equipment are a natural necessity. The vegetal setup and furniture elements must take these equipments and norms into account. The size of the lots and the presence of public utility services – both above and underground – involve larger constraints in the inter-urban area than in the peri-urban area.

### ***Area microclimate and pollution level.***

In both types of gardens, these elements are manifested with subtle differences. It is a known fact that the area is more agglomerated and the street traffic more dense, the pollution degree is higher. Small areas, with higher surroundings and higher buildings have their micro-climate modified, as the dryness and pollution degree are higher.

### ***Utilitarian and decorative functions***

The garden, setup with care and passion, just like the home, represents the owner's "visit card". Following the fulfilment of functions of general nature, through the creation of distinct spaces or merged ones, that satisfy the needs of the family, are the main approach lines.

The fruit trees, together with the other vegetal elements, through their decorative and use virtues are live organisms that can be modelled, generating both the structure and the binder of the setup. Practically, the aspect of the trees in a setup, mainly result from the *directing of the tree top* thus "building" the garden "to be". Even if the treetop forms have different classification, the simplest is that that describe the degree of man's intervention: natural forms, semi natural forms and artistic (Lupescu, 2007).

The fruit trees, due to the flexibility of treetop direction, with evident aesthetic attributes can be used for multiple utility-constructive functions. The so call fruit-bearing fences may have a protection role, but also a physical or visual direction role. The directed trees or bushes bordering a semi-open or open area, may replace some furniture elements becoming green triforiums, such as green curtains or walls, used for the discrete intimation of spaces. We can create green curtains from more individual trees directed on a support or from one tree with umbrella-like top.

Intra- and peri-urban gardens can approach various styling categories and various aesthetical classification categories of fruit trees, following the fulfilment of a function or a set of functions. Far from being neglected, the traditional aspect of cultivating fruit bearing trees in gardens – an ancient wish of most owners-impose the offering of judicious and multifunctional solutions on the landscaper. The dual characteristic of the fruit trees, aesthetic and utilitarian, represents a "multiple value": one does not exclude the other, they are complementary.

Trees have own biological, technological and ecological characteristics, species and variety function, and from the landscaping point of view, and not only, one of the essential conditions is connected to the *health* of the plants. Maintaining it in normal parameters, for all plants used in landscaping, involves a significant effort, and here the owner has to deal with two important aspects: one

would be technical, connected to specific treatment schemes, and the second would be more of a psychological nature, that of the reticence regarding the use of chemical, polluting substances. Sometimes, the correct supply of this information by the specialist is omitted, so as to avoid this subject of a sensitive nature.

With the development of the peri-urban areas during the last decade, the approach tendencies for private landscape have known a great variety, but the lack of landscape culture has left its mark. In Romania, landscaping has been a field that has been largely neglected before 1989. Later on, the population has assimilated, rather chaotically and messy, bits of “inspirations” imported from the West. The economic profit of some companies in the field has largely contributed to implants of bad taste, since many of those involved in landscaping trading, planning and execution are not specialists, merely amateurs. The exotic elements, through interesting and of great aesthetical potential are often used “as a fashion”, and the result is an unsuccessful copy. Within this context, the fruit trees fall into the category of utilitarian plantations, located behind the yard. This is an approach that must be corrected using arguments of scientific and educational nature, by evidencing all the *virtues* of fruit trees.

Adopting some forms that are well trimmed, with a precise shape and reduced volume is indicated for the setup of intra-urban gardens, a solution suggested by more factors. The first one would be one of sensorial perception: if the number of individual trees is increased through rigorously controlled directing, the small place becomes more ample in composition than it really is. The second factor would be that that the city structure involves regulations, order, modulation, directed and supervised diversity, and the inter-urban gardens are extensions of the “street”. An exaggerated naturist approach can turn “natural” into “disorderly and untrimmed”.

Regarding the entire surface of a residential lot as a whole – buildings, garden, surrounding – we notice that the wooded vegetation is located at the middle level concerning the volume, between the high constructions and the low area of grass and trees. In the delimited space, divided by the surroundings and buildings, the wooded vegetation can build both the skeleton and the connection of the garden as a whole.

In intra-urban gardens, the space between the home and the surrounding usually being largely smaller than that in peri-urban gardens, the facade of the buildings may be used as a protection background of the wooded silhouettes. Thus, a “precious” exemplar can equally enhance the construction and the vegetal look of the vegetal level up to the level of the flowers of low bushes, with the intention that the profile be better distinguished. This type of landscapes are often met in intra-urban gardens, where the vegetation, significantly aesthetic, offers a protective buffer between the home and the street, or towards the neighbours, subjected to a possible pollution degree. Due to the restricted space, the number of used elements is quite low, and often “unique” trees are used.

On the other hand, peri-urban gardens offer more space, and the owners, mainly families with children, have other priorities. The garden is a place of rest,

socialization, a place for children's play. The garden becomes an element that draws more and more opposers of the throwaway society, such as the adepts of ecological food. The choice to plant a tree, made by the owner is the direct wish to appreciate its fruits, and the aesthetical factor, with expositional value falls into the background. Still, it is clear that in peri-urban gardens, the landscape horticulturist must take all conditions of the used species into account, biological, and aesthetical.

The horticultural development in Romania, with a vast tradition, offers many species and varieties of fruit trees, and the climate and soil conditions are usually favourable, with the reserve of some variations imposed by well-known biological and ecological particularities.

A healthy tree, for which the culture technology is respected, is full of flowers or fruit, and it offers shade and protection. We can say about it that it is a „nice” and „useful” tree, thus the two attributes, that of biological and aesthetical nature are entwined.

The peak of compositional refinement, reached in the horticultural field, as a last landmark, has been presented at the “World Horticulture Exhibition” Floriade 2012, Venlo, Holland (fig. 3, 4, 5, 6). These approaches eliminate barriers and offer solutions for the future.



**Fig. 3** - Landscape solution, Floriade 2012



**Fig. 4** - Relaxation area, Floriade 2012



**Fig. 5** - Fruit bearing fences in directed perspective, Floriade 2012



**Fig. 6** - Fruit trees in landscape compositions, Floriade 2012

## CONCLUSIONS

The place of trees today is not just in the orchard, conceptions have changed. Bringing them along other traditional aesthetical species, in a balanced and homogenous composition, is a new and courageous solution, of great effect and good taste in the end.

If tree growing will constantly and quickly develop its utilitarian side, landscape comes to evidence the aesthetics and functional, bringing a current and meritorious balance.

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