

## REHABILITATION OF A PRIVATE GARDEN IN VASLUI CITY USING CERAMIC MATERIALS

### REAMENAJAREA UNEI GRĂDINI PRIVATE ÎN ORAȘUL VASLUI UTILIZÂND MATERIALE CERAMICE

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#### **Abstract.**

*This paper briefly presents the evolution of the use of ceramic materials over time, two case studies and the solution for the redevelopment of a private garden in the city of Vaslui. As a preparatory stage of the landscaping project, an analysis of the existing situation of the site proposed for development was carried out. The zoning of the site and the images of the details of the proposed furnishings for each of the areas are presented, all of which constitute points of interest of the garden connected to each other with paths made of ceramic tiles.*

*The described landscaping can be a practical example of landscape analysis and design of a small private garden green space.*

**Key words:** ceramics, landscaping, private garden

#### **Rezumat.**

*Lucrarea de față prezintă pe scurt evoluția în timp a modalităților de utilizare a materialelor ceramice, două studii de caz, cât și soluția de reamenajare a unei grădini private din orașul Vaslui. Ca etapă pregătitoare amenajării s-a realizat o analiză a situației existente a sitului propus spre amenajare. Sunt prezentate zonificarea sitului și imaginile detaliilor de mobilare propuse pentru fiecare dintre zone, toate acestea constituind puncte de interes ale grădinii conectate între ele cu alei construite din plăci ceramice.*

*Amenajarea descrisă poate constitui un exemplu practic de analiză și proiectare peisageră a unui spațiu verde a unei grădini private mici.*

**Cuvinte cheie:** materiale ceramice, amenajare peisageră, grădină privată

## INTRODUCTION

People have been using bricks to build for thousands of years, dating back to around 7000 BC, making them some of the oldest known building materials. Created by mixing clay or mud with straw, bricks were then dried in the sun to make them harder and stronger.

Among the oldest evidence of these crafts are a series of ceramic objects and figurines found in central Europe, in southern Moravia, which includes our country.

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One of the most important artifacts found at the Dolni Vestonice site, dating back some 29000 to 25000 BC, is a well-preserved statuette of a female nude known as the 'Venus of Dolni Vestonice' [<https://www.historyofinformation.com/detail.php?entryid=2493>].

The Chinese potters were the first to produce high-temperature firings, gradually improving the techniques and composition used, achieving the highest quality of white, translucent porcelain shards during the Tang dynasty (618-907), whose quality, shapes and craftsmanship in the decoration impressed the European elite for a long period [<https://www.comuseum.com/ceramics/tang/>].

The emergence of European porcelain came at the beginning of the 18th century and led to an extremely rapid development of ceramic processing technologies due to the industrial revolution.

In order to ensure that production was as uniform and high quality as possible, each worker had to carry out a reduced number of operations so that production could fully meet the ever-increasing demands of the market. The advent of industrial production, however, meant a step backwards for traditional craftsmanship, as the working power of classical potters working in the traditional style cannot be compared with that of industrialized ceramics.

Today, ceramic art is considered one of the most dynamic art forms, with bold prospects for the future and in a process of broadening in terms of materials, processing and finishing methods, as well as artistic expressiveness [Hugues, et al., 2008].

The move towards nature is bringing ceramics back into the mainstream, as they are used in terraces, walkways, lawn paths and furniture areas. The wide range of patterns, colors and textures of ceramic derivatives offers homeowners, architects and landscape designers virtually limitless design possibilities.

Over time, the use of ceramics in landscaping has diversified, ranging from their use as pots or supports, to the realization of objects or accessories with aesthetic value in their own.

In landscaping, ceramic tiles are used in terraces, in the construction of brick barbecues and in planters. Regardless of the element to be built, the first step is to create a solid foundation suitable for the structure to be erected.

Paved walkways or driveways are some of the most important elements of a landscaping that can be paved with ceramic materials appropriate to the type of traffic and aesthetic style adopted. Depending on the surface area they occupy and their role in a garden, there are 3 types of walkways:

- Walkways;
- Transit paths;
- Easement paths.

Landscape design has recently developed various ideas about the actual construction of decorative walls and their function in the landscape. Designed to anchor the ground between the different levels of a slope, or when the ground is

unstable or sloping, walls have also gained their place in landscaped spaces because of the aesthetic benefits they bring.

Retaining walls are divided according to a number of characteristics: height, depth, materials used and the way they are erected - free-standing or in conjunction with existing adjacent structures. In terms of the materials used, the range of materials available is wide, from various types of brick, stone and concrete to gabion walls [DETAIL, 2007].

Other elements made of ceramic materials such as grills or fireplaces, arches, arbors, posts, planters, terraces, steps or even fences are also used in landscaping.

The garden to be landscaped within this project is located in the city of Vaslui, near Copou Park. Vaslui is the capital and largest city of the county of the same name, in Romania.

## **MATERIAL AND METHOD**

The main purpose of the present work is the redevelopment of a private garden in Vaslui. The aim of this work is to transform the space with the use of ceramic materials into a place suitable for relaxation and recreation as well as a perfect area to spend time with family and loved ones.

Thus, after the reorganization of the space, several elements were added in an attempt to make the most of the size of the plot.

An important stage in the redevelopment project was the pre-project documentation. This involved studying various redevelopment projects at different stages of the project.

In terms of the objectives of the work, the following requirements had to be met:

- The predominant use of ceramic materials in order to realize the built elements inside the garden;
- The realization of a terrace and a walkway linking the house to the landscaped areas;
- Realization of decorative structures.
- More efficient zoning and division of space within the garden;
- Removal of degraded elements and their replacement with new ones made of ceramic materials.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

With a surface area of approximately 250 square metres, the garden is entirely intended for future landscaping.

The land inside the garden is slightly uneven, which requires terracing in two areas, joined by a pathway that crosses the two areas of land. According to the data collected on site, the entrance to the garden is easily accessible and overlaps with the alleyway providing the entrance to the house.

As the interior design project had to aim at the most efficient division of the interior space, the rehabilitation and replacement of some degraded elements with ceramic elements as well as the realisation of dedicated areas with various functions, the most appropriate solution was the zoning of the entire space into 4 functional zones (Figure 1).



Fig. 1. Existing situation of the proposed garden

Zone I, or the garden entrance area, is the main access route, which provides a direct link from the street to the landscaped garden space, without the need to enter through the inside of the house (Figure 2.).

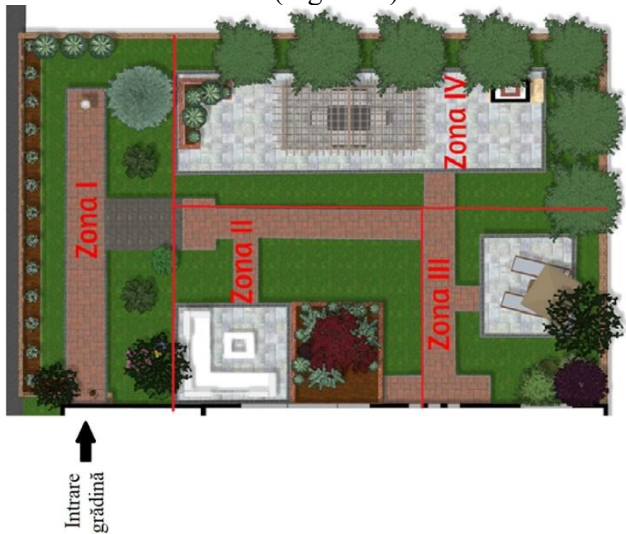


Fig. 2. General zoning (original)

The alley is the element that gives unity to the whole garden, with the birdbath, a structure with both a decorative and practical role, ending in the first area. As the difference in level between the two terraces is 75 centimetres, a set of 5 steps with a height of 15 centimetres each was chosen (Figure 3, right). The walkway was also widened so that at the point of intersection with the steps it reaches 2 metres.



**Fig. 3.** Garden entrance zone with one birds pond (original)

Zone II is the area of the garden furniture and is dedicated to relaxation and socialising, representing a quiet place with an ambient setting suitable for spending time with loved ones. The structure of the furniture is made of solid brick used in combination with wood and is positioned on its own tiled area of about 15 m<sup>2</sup>. (Figure 4, left)



**Fig. 4.** Seating area next to the fire pit and planted jardiniere (original)

Next to the furniture is the main planter, which is also the focal point of the garden. The centrepiece is an *Acer palmatum* 'Katsura' and a *Hibiscus syriacus* has been chosen next to it. The plant composition also includes *Juniperus horizontalis*, *Lavandula officinalis* and dwarf plant species such as *Thuja danica* 'Aurea', *Carex oshimensis* 'Evergold', *Berberis thunbergii atropurpurea* 'Nana' (Figure 4, right).

Area III is mainly for relaxing, with space for deckchairs. They are positioned on a 13 m<sup>2</sup> tiled terrace, which offers a panoramic view of the garden. The plant material in this area is *Betula utilis Jacquemontii*, *Salix caprea pendula*, *Betula Ccrimson Frost*, *Pyracantha coccinea*, *Hibiscus siriacus* and *Hidrangepa macrophylla* (Figure 5).





**Fig. 5.** Relaxation area with sun loungers (zone IV)

Area IV is the largest area, approximately 50 metres<sup>2</sup>, and includes the pergola and dining area. Also inside this area is the brick-built barbecue and at the opposite end of the pergola is the second, smaller planter. Aromatic plants such as *Rosmarinus officinalis*, *Lavandula officinalis* and *Salvia nemerosa* 'Marcus', as well as *Carex* sp. and *Festuca rubra* have been used to compose the composition inside the planter (Figure 6.).



**Fig. 6.** Dining area with pergola, barbecue and herb garden

## CONCLUSIONS

This paper presents a project for the redevelopment of a private garden in the city of Vaslui, using ceramic materials both in the realization of the paths and in the construction of garden furniture.

Clay soil, along with stone, were the first materials man began to work with. Unlike stone, which withstood the harsh weather, molded clay began to disintegrate, until people discovered the power of fire and clay became pottery, so the shapes created from this material began to stand the test of time.

The landscaping in the project was done in a mixed style, combining elements of both free landscape and geometric styles. The landscaping is based on an asymmetrical design with a part of the surface occupied only by lawn, a part occupied by free-style plant compositions, and a part occupied by furniture pieces mainly constructed of brick and ceramic plywood, in combination with stone and wood elements.

The zoning has been designed to meet the needs of the beneficiaries, ensuring good communication between all 4 zones through alleys.

Both the walkways and the brick-built pieces complement the landscaping and emphasize the vegetal elements, thus harmoniously creating an aesthetical, functional and sanogenic valuable space. The finalization of this project was based on the knowledge of the importance of ceramic materials and the stages and techniques of realization of the constructed pieces of furniture made of ceramic material.

The realization of this research work was possible, based on all the knowledge in the field of landscape architecture, accumulated by the co-author under the guidance of the first author, in the framework of the thesis for the completion of the Bachelor's degree at the Faculty of Horticulture of the University for Life Sciences of Iasi.

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