

# URBAN GREEN THE POTENTIAL OF CITY'S RESIDUAL AREAS

## VERDELE URBAN POTENȚIALUL ZONELOR URBANE REZIDUALE

*DUMITRAȘCU Aurora Irina*<sup>1</sup>, *NICA R.M.*<sup>1</sup>, *CORDUBAN C.G.*<sup>1</sup>

e-mail: [aura.irina.dumitrascu@gmail.com](mailto:aura.irina.dumitrascu@gmail.com)

**Abstract.** *Nowadays, the contemporary cities are evolving at an accelerated pace, aspect that brings forward new sets of problems to be dealt with. Among the most common urban issues we can identify the lack of high quality public spaces, insufficient parking spaces, and the presence of decommissioned (disused) industrial sites that fragment the overall appearance of the residential areas. Regarding the aforementioned issues, this paper will focus on the opportunity to provide potential directions of development for urban landscape through the increasing of green areas. As such, the existing residual urban spaces can provide a solid framework for future opportunities and the increasing of green areas per citizen can be applied for a sustainable urban recovery and reconversion.*

**Key words:** *urban green, urban rehabilitation, residual green space*

**Rezumat.** *La momentul actual, ansamblurile urbane evoluează în ritm alert, aspect care aduce în discuție noi seturi de probleme. Printre acestea putem identifica lipsa spațiilor publice de calitate, insuficiența locurilor de parcare și prezența siturilor industriale dezafectate, care fragmentează percepția unei imagini urbane unitare. Considerând aspectele menționate mai sus, această lucrare se va concentra asupra direcțiilor potențiale de dezvoltare ale peisajului urban, în special prin extinderea spațiilor verzi. Astfel, zonele urbane rezidențiale pot oferi un cadru benefic pentru viitoarele oportunități, iar suplimentarea suprafeței spațiilor verzi poate fi privită ca un proces sustenabil de reconversie urbană.*

**Cuvinte cheie:** *verdele urban, reabilitare urbană, spații verzi reziduale.*

## INTRODUCTION

Worldwide researches regarding the future trends in architecture and urban planning take into account aspects related to new space theories and establishing connections between architecture and related scientific fields such as computer science, artificial intelligence, landscaping, biology, philosophy etc., all of which are subordinated to the evolutions of technological and digital industries. Together with the progresses of exact science fields, the majority of traditional architectural concepts are redefined. The same is valid for the contemporary urbanism, which strives to develop new ways of living, highly dependent upon the environment component.

---

<sup>1</sup>„Gh. Asachi” Technical University of Iasi, Romania

There is a global need for identifying new solutions to the problems of housing, traffic and recreation, which can be devised only in relation to the social, psychological, artistic and scientific aspects. Thus, it can be stated that both architecture and urban planning cannot be conceived as ad-hoc processes, but as sciences that combine elements such as shape, space and color in an artwork.

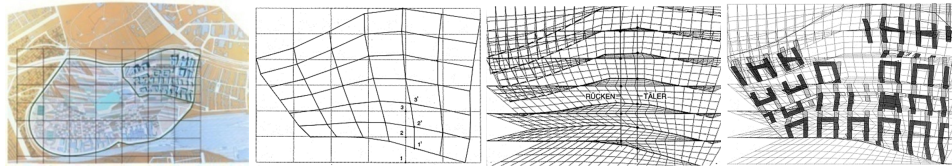
1. The concept of unitary urbanism, developed after 1950's, opposes the temporal assignation of cities, opposes assigning people to certain town places and encourages creativity related to the existing culture. This permanent transformation and reconstruction of the city in new temporal and spatial terms can be a precondition of social revolutions: it builds on the concept of "another city for another life" (Gausa, 2003).

2. The continuity of forms in the collective space is based on the fact that the city and its components often share a profound history, aspect to be observed through the contemporary continuity. Fundamentally, most contemporary cities do not promote new spatial forms, but reinvent the old ones in order to meet the current population's needs. (Krier, 1979)

## MATERIAL AND METHOD

### Contemporary trends in urban planning

The keywords that are intensely conveyed by international research in the fields of architecture and town planning are mostly related to various concepts such as: sustainability, digital design, new models of virtual realities, etc. As Mark Garcia was stating, "The spatial invisible, immaterial, dynamic, intangible, conceptual and virtual models constitute the future" (Garcia, 2009).



**Fig. 1** - Peter Eisenman, Rebstock Park, Frankfurt am Main - Germany 1990. The plan's evolution according to the grid's alteration

Thus, the architectural studios (Foreign Office Architects - FOA, Greg Lynn FORM, Reiser + Umemoto, OMA and UNStudio) began to develop increasingly more models operating at different scales.

New experiments with innovative materials test the possibility of achieving urban consistency without resorting to reproduction of the traditional cities structures (Peter Eisenman's plan for the park Rebstock 2001), (Fig.1)

Along with the green component, urban areas abound in artificial lights outlining the images around us. Urban lighting can be considered in a passive way, reflections as part of this complex scenario. Materials such as water, marble, wet floors, can create an interesting illumination of the urban atmosphere.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

### Urban rehabilitation through landscaping

Generally, when the problem of urban rehabilitation comes into discussion, there are multiple directions to be considered:

1. Preservation of historic cultural heritage;
2. Renovation of the public spaces (Preservation and protection of the existing markets and public gardens, the main purpose being to ensure a sustainable development of the city; designing new green spaces in order to increase the percentage of green areas per citizen; planting trees on the side streets; a better organization of the adjacent tree alignments in order to improve the ecological conditions of the residential areas and the urban microclimate);
3. Implementation of an integrated traffic concept;
4. Promoting the development of shopping streets and historic areas;
5. Expansion of the cultural and touristic offer;
6. Improvement of the education and social services;
7. Stimulation of the population's civic spirit. (Gehl, 2011)

In order to emphasize the potential of urban rehabilitation for residual spaces and their transformation into parks, there will be presented an analysis and a proposal that involves the area surrounding the Public Bath and the Turkish Bath from Iasi.

Following the study are identified a series of benefits for landscape rehabilitation:

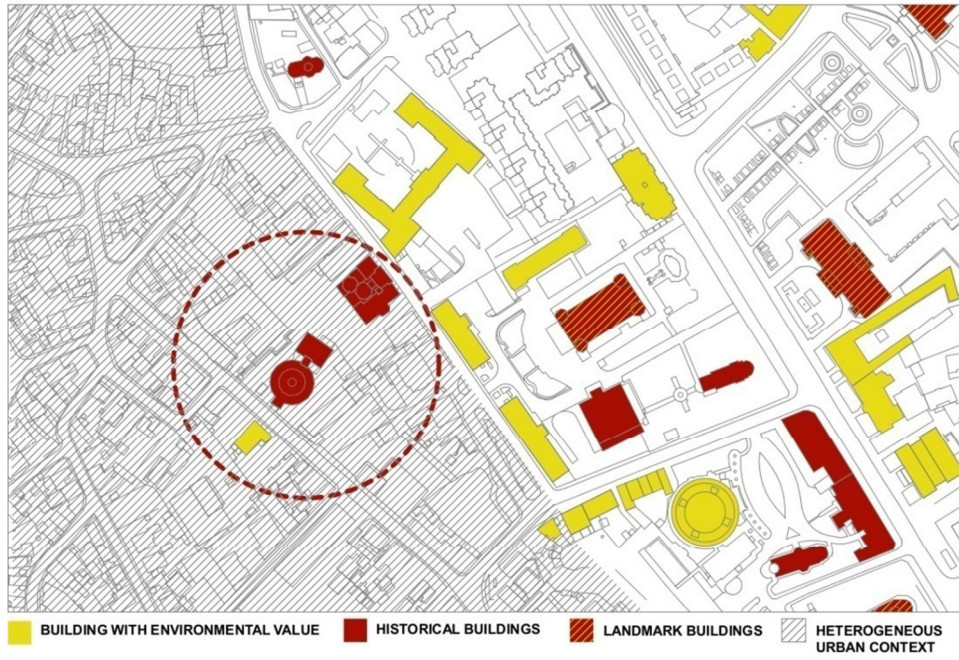
- proximity to the historical cultural centre of Iasi and its major pedestrian routes;
- the existence of landmark buildings in the area (Public Bath, Turkish Bath, Mitropolitan Cathedral, Rosnovanu Palace etc.) (fig. 2, fig.3);
- existence of an undeveloped interstitial space that offers a panoramic perspective over the city.

The main weaknesses of the site are:

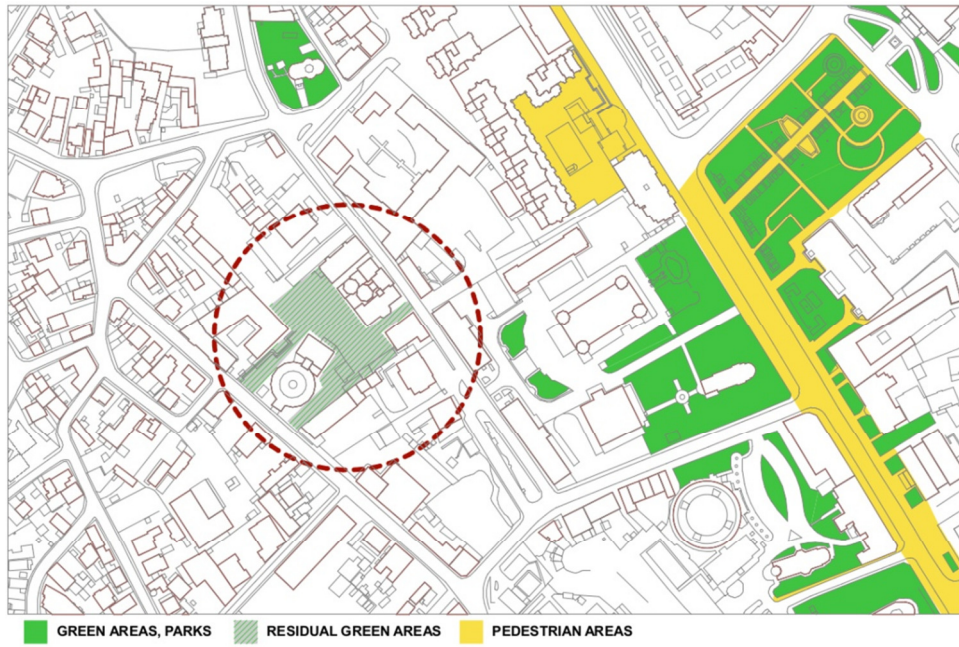
- the total lack of a landscape design;
- the area is flanked by blind walls pertaining to the surrounding buildings;
- the presence of improvised decrepit buildings (fig. 6).

After the urban analysis are underlined a series of opportunities, such as:

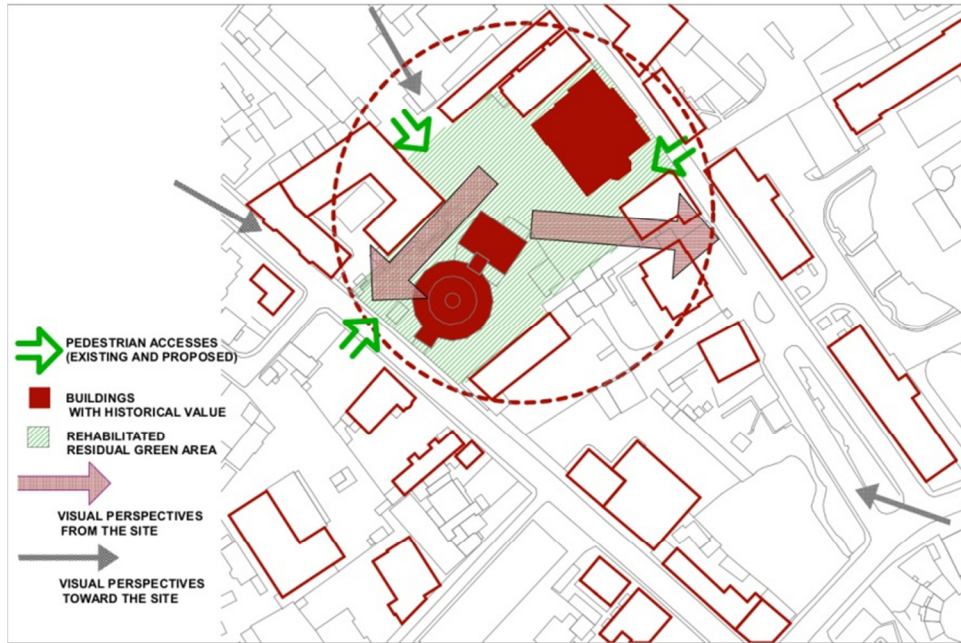
- the architectural and historical value of the buildings can be exploited by transforming the area into a polarizing landmark for the southern side of Sf. Andrei Street;
- designing of a park, with low costs, for its residents,
- a landscaping project that offers public spaces for different social and cultural activities, such as temporary exhibitions and an amphitheatre for movie projections and outdoor gatherings.



**Fig. 2 - Public Bath Park from Iași - Urban context**



**Fig. 3 - Public Bath Park from Iași - Pedestrian areas and parks analysis**



**Fig. 4 - Public Bath Park from Iași - Access points and visual perspectives**



**Fig.5 - Public Bath Park from Iași - Rehabilitation proposal**



**Fig.6** - Existent situation: Unfavorable images and potential visual perspectives

## CONCLUSIONS

1. Considering all the aforementioned topics, it can be argued that urban rehabilitation is an elaborate process, in which landscaping plays an important part. Among the objective causes that impose rehabilitation measures for the city, are the physical degradation (insalubrity and discomfort) and the moral degradation, due to the ever changing requirements and conditions of a social, economical, spiritual and functional nature.

2. The fundamental objective in urban rehabilitation is to maintain a balance between the old historical centers and the contemporary urban developments, especially from a functional standpoint.

## REFERENCES

1. **Garcia M., 2009** - *Prologue for a history, theory and future of patterns of architecture and spatial design*, Architectural Design, pp.30.
2. **Gausa M., Vicente G., Müller W., Soriano F., Porras F., Morales J., 2003** - *The Metapolis dictionary of advanced architecture. City, technology and society in the information age*, ACTAR, Barcelona.
3. **Gehl J., 2011** - *Viața între clădiri. Utilizările spațiului public*, Igloo Media, București.
4. **Krier R., 1979** - *Typological & morphological elements of the concept of urban space*, London, AD and Acroshaw Ltd.