

LANDSCAPE – ARCHITECTURAL PROPOSAL OF JANDURA PARK IN CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA: EXPERIENCE OF BILATERAL COOPERATION BETWEEN TWO UNIVERSITIES

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Abstract

In 2022, there was a possibility for the students of the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra (Slovakia) to participate at the Landscape – Architectural proposal of Jandura park in Canberra, together with the students from The University of Canberra (Australia). Jandura Park is situated nearby to the suburbs O'Connor and Turner. It is named after Mr Jan Jandura Puček, the first 'non-British man', who gain Australian Citizenship, at the first Australian citizenship ceremony at Canberra's Albert Hall on 3 February 1949. He was born in 1914 in Habovka, Orava region in Slovakia. The cooperation between 2 universities was initiated by The Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Canberra. After 3 months of discussions 10 landscape architectural proposals of the park have been prepared. The posters were presented in the park and at The Embassy of SR in Canberra.

Key words: green infrastructure, landscape architecture, urban parks, J. Jandura Puček

Introduction

Urban parks are great part of the green – blue infrastructure of the urban environment and offers several environmental and economic benefits, make contributions to the management of stormwater and support biodiversity in cities (Tóth, 2022). They are a valuable resource in designing sustainable cities (Dinep and Schwab, 2010). Urban parks serve also an education platform, social advantages, create a positive effect on physical and mental health (Čibík, et al., 2022; Dizdaroglu, 2022) and they are great places for everyday recreation and relaxation (Ball Scott, 2012; Supuka and Bihuňová, 2018).

Maintenance and preservation of social relations and meanings, which refer to diverse histories, values and relationship of contemporary population is defined by Low et al. (2005) as social sustainability.

Time-conscious urban design by Thwaites et al. (2007) consists of sets of environmental factors that can influence needs, satisfaction and raise environmental perception and evaluation. He named following environmental factors: diversity of people, diversity of functions, diversity of urban detail, social and physical accessibility and management and regulation of the spaces.

Tóth (2022) consider each green space element as a unique open space with its own values and qualities. Maksymenko et al. (2022) added that the establishment of the dialog with local population can not only modify the revitalisation of the space, but also can lead to more widespread use of nature-oriented practices in city parks. Site design decisions create the identity and function of the landscape proportion of the site with a program of sequenced zones. Planting design is a key to create contrasting spaces (Dinep and Schwab, 2010). Successful neighbourhood should meet longer – term needs - the cycle of the lifetime in addition to daily needs.

Some strategies for planning a sustainable urban park according to Dizdaroglu (2022) are: - Providing the green infrastructure, - Creating a place for people of all ages, - Building connected park systems within walking distance, - Implementing water and energy conservation practices, - Supporting and preserving biodiversity, - Environmental education, - Ensuring the long-term maintenance and management of the park,

Material and methods

The Embassy of Slovak Republic in Canberra has contacted the Faculty of Horticulture and Landscape Engineering SUA Nitra with the offer to cooperate with the University of Canberra (Australia) on Landscape architectural proposal of Jandura park in Canberra. The communication went through TEAMS application and due to different time zones, the suitable time schedule was agreed. Students and teachers used also MIRO application, which enable effective progress in creative and design process.

There have been applied methods as: terrain survey (done by students in Australia), review of the information about Jan Jandura Puček (done by Slovak students), on line discussions and presentations of the findings and ideas. At the end of the semester were final presentations of 10

landscape architectural proposals (5 done by students from Slovakia and 5 done by students from Australia).

Ján Jandura-Puček was born in 1914 in Habovka na Orava. He emigrated to Australia in 1939. He was 25 years old and worked as a woodcutter in eucalyptus forests. The situation in Czechoslovakia worsened, so he did not return to his wife, according to the original plan, but 10 years later his wife came to Canberra. Until 1949, Australian citizenship did not exist. Residents with permanent residence on this continent were British citizens. In 1949 the government finally decided to grant citizenship to the first non-British residents. They thus selected one person from each state and territory to be the first to be ceremoniously granted such citizenship. Ján Jandura was chosen as a representative of the Australian Capital Territory. He was even the first among those chosen to answer the question of what his previous citizenship was, briefly, in one word: "Czechoslovakian".

Results

Jandura park is situated in the middle of the city Canberra, following the Sullivan creek and at the same time it is part of the green belt of the city. There have been elaborated 5 landscape architectural designs by 5 groups of students on each side (Slovak and Australia). The topic, the main idea of the proposal was common for each group, but landscape-architectural design of the park was different. Students were focusing on the functional zoning of the park, suitable interconnection to the neighbourhood and existing communications and original equipment referring to the Slovak culture and nature. The key factor, which Slovak students wanted to work with was imageability – as it is defined by Lynch (2007, p. 131.): "the quality which gives a high probability of evoking a strong image in any given observer". The main ideas, which were elaborated were: TRANSI(T_S)TORY, CIRCLE OF LIFE, ARRIVAL IN RETROSPECT, THE JOURNEY FOR A BETTER LIFE and FROM SLOVAKIA TO AUSTRALIA.



Fig. 1: Proposal TRANSI(T-S)TORY (authors: Diškantová, Krajčovičová, Kriauciuniene, 2022)

TRANSI(T_S)TORY The design of Jandura Park is closely related to the natural environment of the area. The revitalization of the Sullivan Creek will ensure its function as a green corridor and better connections with the Lyneham Wetlands. The naturalized stream, as well as planted new trees and perennial beds, will provide more habitats for game and create conditions for greater biodiversity in the area. Proposed elements will be in a uniform style, decorated with Slovak folk art patterns. The traditional patterns are chosen from the Slovak village – Čičmany. These design elements will provide some educational moment encouraging curiosity and interest.



Fig. 2: Proposal THE JOURNEY FOR A BETTER LIFE (authors: Belinska, Bodor, Kováčová, 2022)

THE JOURNEY FOR A BETTER LIFE

Proposed revitalisation will bring more possibilities to enjoy the outdoor recreational activities for the inhabitants of Canberra. Park is divided into three zones: leisure and pleasure, education and transit. The most dominant element is the canal, situated in the middle of the park. Its concrete character is preserved, but from a functional and visual point of view, is improved. Canal banks are transformed into terraces, which can be used for sitting and relaxing. Proposed ponds could collect the water and improve the microclimate conditions of the park. At the terraces of water canal are placed small blocks with information about the first migrants from different countries, who have been given Australian citizenship, including their portraits and short personal description.

Discussion

Cultural diversity provides a way to evaluate cultural and social sustainability and it is one observable outcome of the continuity of human groups in culturally significant places (Low et.al. 2005). Thwaites et al. (2007) used the term “time-conscious urban design”, which is based on threefold concept merging architectural heritage preservation, ordinary old buildings’ preservation and multi-actorial change. The sense of place derives from the collaboration of three dimensions – the place, the experience of place and the meanings attributed to it. Ball Scott (2012) put emphases on the increasing longevity and increased percentage of older adults as a challenge for open space design.

One of the current trends in landscape architectural design, except the adaptation to climate changes, management of the rainfalls (Supuka and Biľuňová, 2018), applying new materials, inclusive design, different management of the open green spaces and increasing the biodiversity with flower meadows and fruit trees in the public open spaces (Biľuňová, et al., 2021). The sustainable design of urban parks is one of the most successful approaches in addressing the environmental problems of urban spaces (Dizdaroglu, 2022).

The similar inspirational concept as was used in above mentioned proposals (base on the life and work of famous person), was presented by Biľuňová, et.al. (2020) in the landscape architectural design of the city park in Martin, where a famous Slovak writer P.O.Hviezdoslav became the source of inspiration.

The main differences between Slovak and Australian students has appeared during the process of designing. All international groups have agreed at the main idea of the park, the main topic, but detailed elaboration was done separately. The Slovak students were more aimed at storytelling, their design was closely connected with the background and life of Jan Jandura, and traditions and folk culture in Slovakia. They have created several educational and informational zones in the park. On the other hand, the students from Canberra University were focusing on the vegetation design, revitalisation of the creek, with less emphases on J. Jandura and his background.

Conclusion

The international experience was great opportunity for students and for teachers. The discussions during the creative process and final presentations were fruitful and let to better understanding of the theoretical and practical skills of the students on both sites.

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Souhrn

V roce 2022 měli studenti Slovenské zemědělské univerzity v Nitře možnost zúčastnit se krajinářsko-architektonického návrhu parku Jandura v Canbeře společně se studenty z University of Canberra v Austrálii. Park je pojmenován po Jánú Jandurovi Pučkovi, prvním "ne-Britovi", který získal australské občanství a kterému bylo uděleno 3. února 1949 v canberrské Albert Hall. Narodil se v roce 1914 v Habovce na Oravě na Slovensku. Spolupráci mezi oběma univerzitami iniciovalo slovenské velvyslanectví v Canbeře. Po třech měsících diskusí bylo připraveno 10 krajinářských a architektonických návrhů parku (5 ze slovenské strany a 5 od studentů z Canberry). Konečné návrhy byly prezentovány v parku Jandura a na slovenském velvyslanectví v Canbeře.

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