

# HORTICULTURE AND LANDSCAPE DESIGN ALONG THE MAROS RIVER

## KERTKULTÚRA ÉS TÁJMŰVELÉS A MAROS MENTÉN

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ROMÁNIA  
ROMANIA

A SURVEY of the Transylvanian castle gardens was initiated by the Department of Landscape and Urban Design and the Department of Garden and Landscape Art within the Faculty of Landscape Architecture at the Corvinus University of Budapest in conjunction with the State Centre for the Conservation and Restoration of Historic Monuments in the fall of 2004, in order to explore and document the surviving Transylvanian historic garden remains and the missing chapters of garden history. Among the objectives of the research are to collect all historic material on Transylvanian castle gardens, survey and document current conditions, and where possible, help to save the gardens with their preservation or reconstruction.

From an architectural point of view it is often difficult to draw the line between a castle and a mansion. In line with this, castle gardens and mansion gardens were not differentiated in the study, also supported by the following arguments:

- during our research in the archives or on site we often found that the same buildings (or groups of buildings) were referred to by some as a castle, while by others as a mansion.
- considering the gardens, it is not rare that a smaller castle or mansion has (or had) a garden with similar or even more historic significance than those of larger, more representative castles.

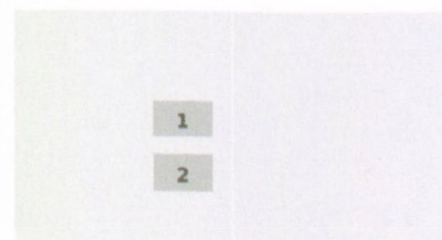
With regards to their contents, the

Transylvanian castle garden merges with the mansion garden, with little difference in their historic garden development. In the study, therefore, the term 'castle garden' is used primarily, but where the difference is obvious and even the various renowned authors use the same word, the term 'mansion garden' appears on occasion. During the research, the historic exploration and survey of 62 castle-garden complexes were completed.

The objective of the current work is to present the noble residence gardens of a narrower, geographically confined region along the Maros river, 37 from the explored sites are situated along the Maros river. The locations of the places in discussion are shown on the map.

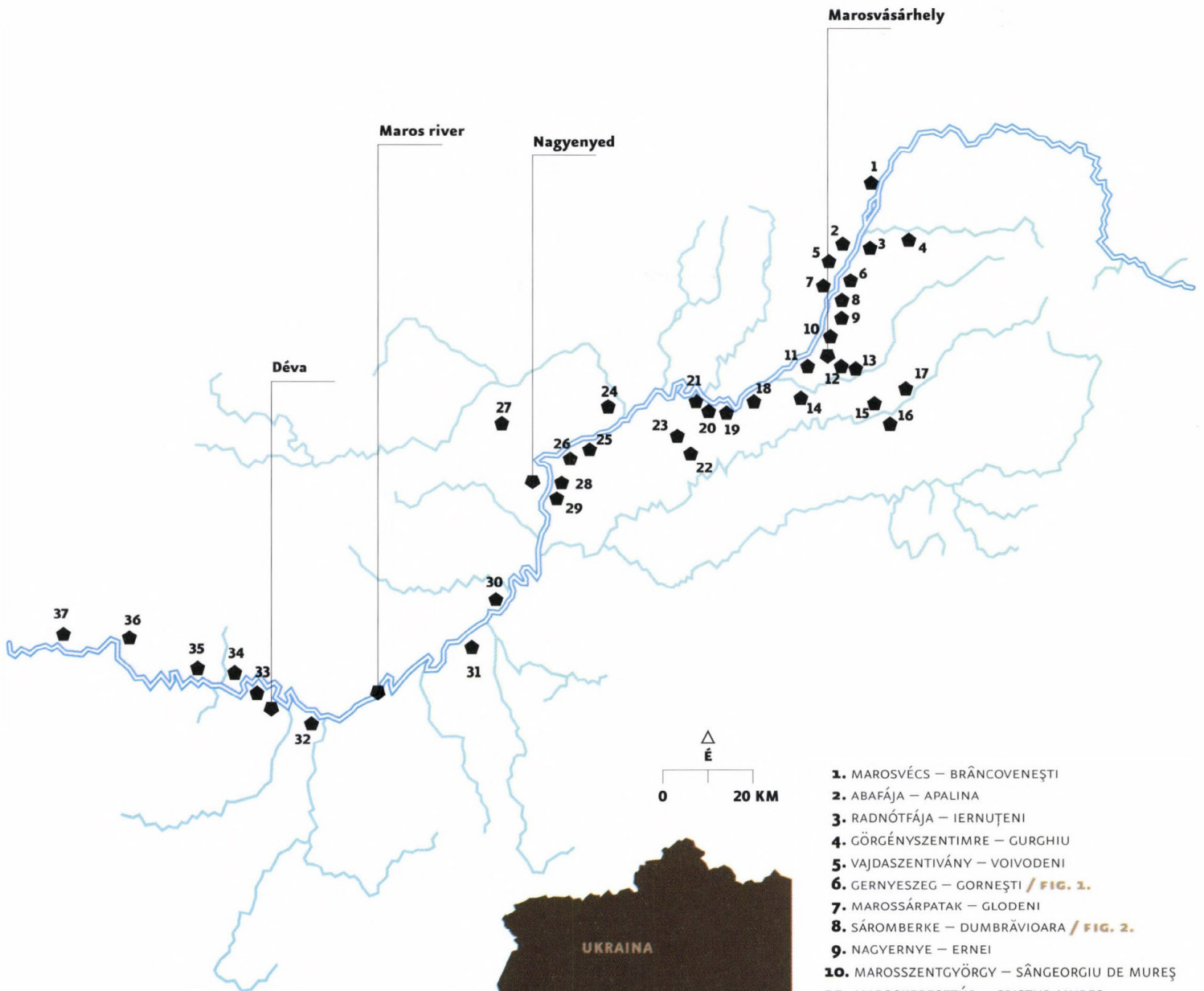
Certain sections of the river, spanning 876 km from its source to its mouth<sup>1</sup>, may be well differentiated both from a geographic and a social aspect. The exposition of our castle-garden research results unfolds downstream, along the various river sections and their affluents or creeks, presenting the more significant residence gardens discovered.

Considering the overall approach, it is important to note that the objective was not merely to conduct a historic exploration and survey of the various gardens. The historic garden (in our case castle garden) was not a simple ornamental garden, but rather an intrinsic part of the complex,



**Fig. 1.** The garden elevation of the Teleki castle (Gernyeszeg) with the park in 1857, made by Ludwig Rohbock  
SOURCE: ECSEDY ANNA (2003): HUSZADIK SZÁZADI SZERZEMÉNYEK A MAGYARORSZÁGI KERTEK BAROKK SZOBORANYAGÁBAN: SCHMIDT MIKSA KERTDEKORÁCIÓS TEVÉKENYSÉGE A „GERNYESZEGI SOROZAT” KAPCSÁN BUDAPEST, SZIE TK, THESIS PAPER

**Fig. 2.** The formal court of the Teleki castle (Sáromberke) in the first half of the 20th century with the Neo-Baroque building, behind which the trees peaking out suggest a rich dendrologic park with varied tree species on the bank of the Maros.  
SOURCE: KÖH PHOTO ARCHIVES

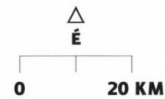


Marosvásárhely

Maros river

Nagyenyed

Déva



1. MAROSVÉCS – BRÂNCOVENEȘTI
2. ABAFÁJA – APALINA
3. RADNÓTFÁJA – IERNUTENI
4. GÖRGÉNYSZENTIMRE – GURGHIU
5. VAJDASZENTIVÁNY – VOIVODENI
6. GERNYESZEG – GORNEȘTI / FIG. 1.
7. MAROSSÁRPATAK – GLODENI
8. SÁROMBERKE – DUMBRĂVIOARA / FIG. 2.
9. NAGYERNYE – ERNEI
10. MAROSSZENTGYÖRGY – SÂNGEORGIU DE MUREȘ
11. MAROSKERESZTÚR – CRISTUR MUREȘ
12. KORONKA – CORUNKA
13. NYÁRÁDSZENTBENEDEK – MURGEȘTI
14. NAGYTEREMI – TIRIMIA
15. KELEMENTELKE – CĂLIMĂNEȘTI
16. SZENTDEMETER – DUMITRENI
17. ERDŐSZENTGYÖRGY – SÂNGEORGIU DE PĂDURE
18. KERELŐSZENTPÁL – SÂNPAUL / FIG. 3.
19. MAROSUGRA – OGRA
20. RADNÓT – IERNUT / FIG. 4.
21. KUTYFALVA – CUCI / FIG. 5.
22. MAGYARÓZD – OZD
23. MAGYARBÜKKÖS – BICHIȘ
24. ARANYOSGEREND – LUNCANI / FIG. 7.
25. MAROSÚJVÁR – OCNA MUREȘ / FIG. 6.
26. MAGYARCSESZTVE – CISTEU DE MUREȘ
27. TOROCKÓSZENTGYÖRGY – COLTEȘTI
28. CSOMBORD – CIUMBURD
29. MAROSSZENTKIRÁLY  
(ENYEDSZENTKIRÁLY) – SÂNCRAI
30. GYULAFEHÉRVÁR – ALBA IULIA
31. ALVINC – VINȚU DE JOS
32. PISKI (DÉDÁCS) – SIMERIA
33. MAROSNÉMETI – MINTIA
34. BRANYICSKA – BRĂNIȘÇA
35. MAROSILLYE – ILIA
36. ZÁM – ZAM
37. SOBORSIN – SĂVÂRȘIN

cultural-historic, ecologic and perhaps most importantly economic (estate) system. It is exactly due to this that the garden was operable and sustainable. Thus we are studying an ecological-technical system with significant historic and artistic content, which can only be interpreted holistically.

The recognition of the current conditions, often despite the lack of knowledge about its future use, calls for a complete historic restoration, even in those cases where the project would have to be completed in phases due to financial or other considerations.

The authors of the gardens attempted to create an ideological picture of the world. As given in the Florence Charter definition, historic gardens stand "as the expression of the direct affinity between civilisation and nature"<sup>2</sup>. "The baronial castle-park complexes can be viewed as model situations, where along the line of palace-castle-mansion-civilian house-peasant house the botanical and scientific elements of the model are democratically dispersed."<sup>3</sup>

The remains must and can only be interpreted together with the surrounding settlement and site for the full comprehension of their former significance and current value. According to this, the historic overview compiled based on archival and literary resources tries to give an accurate picture about the formation and development of the researched gardens. It deals with the garden's determining role in the creation of site character and settlement structure and investigates all those site-scale relationships which were considered as particularities during the creation of the castle garden, and which largely influenced the image of the small region that made up the castle's greater environment.

Evidently, the research pays close attention to family historic data, as in many cases they can directly be tied to the formation or remaking of the park, garden parts or elements. The presentation of the proprietor families is also important as they carry that conceptual and cultural background, which is essential for the formation of the genius loci and the identity of the site, as well as for the creation of the residence gardens. In several cases the proprietors shaped or directly influenced the formation of the gardens according to their own ideas. The owners of noble residences and gardens can be considered as landscape architects, as on several occasions they constructed and cultivated their own gardens, or even if they employed a gardener or an estate manager, they provided the ideas for development. Transylvanian aristocracy did not only use their countryside castles for hunting or resting, but in most cases they lived there all year round, and the family members used the estate intensively. The result of this personal presence in the case of Transylvanian castle-garden complexes is a more intimate relationship on the one hand between the proprietor and the garden or the estate, and on the other hand between the landowner and his "dependents". The first relationship topped by a diversified topographic scenery led to a more attractive, original, even intimate Transylvanian English garden, which aspects were lacking in the extensive Hungarian landscape gardens in the plains.<sup>4</sup>

Furthermore, it is important to mention the historic architectural details, as well as certain settlement structure characteristics, since the castle-garden complex, aside from being a unified whole, also organically fits into a given settlement structure and environment. The on-site assessment in all cases records the current conditions (drawings, manuals, GPS-coordinates, geodesic surveys, plant assessment, digital photos etc.), as well as the securable values found, so that it could serve as a condition report and comparative basis for any possible future reconstructions.

**1** Köpeczi B., Makkai L., Mócsy A., Szász Z. (1988): *Erdély története I-III*. Budapest, III.köt.1513

**2** In: Román A. (2002): *Karták könyve*, Budapest, 27.

**3** In: Szabó T. A. (2000): *Erdélyi történeti kertek egy biológus szemével* In: Galavics G. (2000): *Történeti kertek*, Budapest 75.

**4** Fekete A. (2006): *Erdélyi nemesi rezidencia-kertek I., 4D Tájépítészeti és Kertművészeti Folyóirat*, Budapest, 3. sz. 3-9.

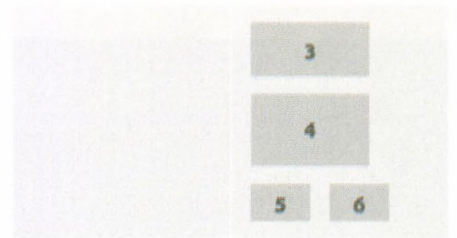
**5** *The financial supporters of the surveys done so far:*

*From Hungary the Corvinus University of Budapest Department of Landscape and Urban Design, the Department of Garden and Landscape Art, and the Department of Landscape Technology and Garden Techniques, the State Centre for the Conservation and Restoration of Historic Monuments, the Hungarian Scientific Research Fund (OTKA), the Imre Ormos Foundation; From Romania the Transylvania Trust Foundation for Historic Conservation, the Szentimrei Foundation of Kolozsvár, the municipal government of Gyulakuta, the Sapientia EMTE, and the Mikes family of Zabola*

*The list of landscape university students who participated in the surveys and research between 2004 and 2007:*

András Ildikó, András Anna, Bali Ágnes, Bardóczy Ilka Martina, Bechtold Ágnes, Bednárk Júlia, Bognár Emese Emília, Borsodi Zsófia, Böcs Beatrix, Brózik Zsófia, Dömötör Fanni, Fally Veronika, Fischer Márta, Gál Viktória, Garamvölgyi Ágnes Zsuzsanna, Havril Erika, Herr Hajnalka, Horváth Kinga, Jancsó Ágnes, Kékedi Andrea Zita, Kiss Márta, Klagyivik Mária, Koros András, Kulich Gábor, Leitner Enikő, Lénárt Eszter, Lukács Bettina, Magdo János, Mandula Gergely, Mlakár Vivien, Molnár Andrea, Molnár Katalin, Móricz Anna, Nagy Katalin, Nagy Kornélia, Németh Anna, Nusser Gabriella, Papp Szilvia, Péli Ágnes, Pócsik Judit, Pongrácz Péter, Rahnama Azadeh, Rónaszéki Katalin, Rónaszéki Réka, Sámi Eszter, Sárospataki Máté, Scheffler György, Simó Réka, Szabó Patrícia, Sziráki Lili, Tatai Zsombor, Terpó Veronika Zsuzsanna, Thurnay Dorotytya, Tikk Dóra, Tompos Petra, Tóth Erika, Tóth Eszter, Varga Eszter, Varga Tibor, Vidovszky Judit

*The list of university teachers who participated in the surveys and research: Imola Tar Geccséné, Anita Szabadics, Szabolcs Vajda, Albert Fekete*

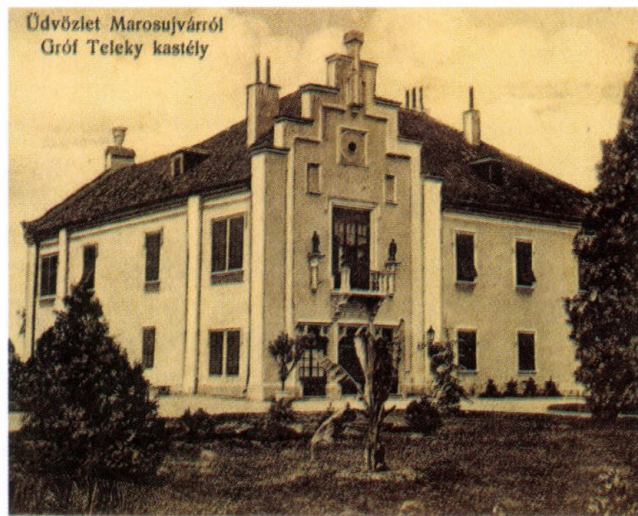


**Fig. 3.** The burial chapel of the Hallers (Kerelőszentpál), enclosed by a stone wall  
SOURCE: PICTURE TAKEN BY THE AUTHOR (2004)

**Fig. 4.** The castle of Radnót photographed from the eastern curve of the Maros River  
SOURCE: PICTURE TAKEN BY THE AUTHOR (2007)

**Fig. 5.** Main elevation of the Degenfeld castle (Kutyfalva) in a picture taken from the entrance road showing the current condition  
SOURCE PICTURE TAKEN BY THE AUTHOR (2006)

**Fig. 6.** The north (Maros side) elevation of the castle of Marosújvár at the beginning of the 20th Century  
SOURCE: KÖH PHOTO ARCHIVES





**Fig. 7.** The west wing of the Kemény castle in Aranyosgerend  
SOURCE: PICTURE TAKEN BY THE AUTHOR (2005)

The landscape architectural value and condition assessment is prepared with the help of geodesic base maps (cadastre maps, manuals etc.) It was an important step to determine and organize those assessment aspects, which are important characteristics and could become search-bases in the garden historic database. To begin, we took the basic historic monument assessment approaches used in Hungary, but some supplements and changes were necessary to accommodate local specifics. Important data about a given area were recorded on the assessment sheets from a historic, landscape, settlement structural and dendrologic point of view. The prime task was to determine the botanical, architectural and all unique landscape features.

The following theoretical work plan was established for the methodical exploration of the castles' garden art remains: preparation of the list of all possible sites, identification of research priority sites, conducting the historic exploration, condition survey and assessment of these priority sites, and compilation of their assessment documentation.

To determine the gardens' historic heritage value, we took into consideration the recommendations of the Research and Registration Department at the National Office of Cultural Heritage in Hungary as well as the viewpoints of the English Heritage Historic Parks and Gardens Advisory

Panel. According to these, we have primarily investigated the following:

- the historic value of the garden, which is measured once in terms of it being a surrounding site for a historic building, and secondly as a site with an immaterial conceptual reference (for instance tied to an important historic event or family.)
- the age of the garden, or the first date which demonstrably refers to an existing part of the complex.
- the inventiveness of the garden with reference to the garden's special artistic value (for instance it is a significant work of either the designer or the epoch.)
- the typical characteristics of the garden, to what extent it forms a basis for typology (or if the garden is the first of its type in the period.)
- the geographic context of the garden into which it is laid.

The methodology of the assessment can despite all conscientiousness be questioned. The work prepared so far was self-financed by the participating university students and teachers, since the little financial support<sup>5</sup> received could not even cover the expenses of getting to the site. Knowing this, the sacrifice made by the participating students and colleagues should especially be appreciated. The compilation of this work would not have been possible without their professional attitude as well as their generous and extensive help. I do thank all of them. ©

## MAROS MENTI KERTMŰVÉSZET

Fekete Albert

A még fennmaradt erdélyi kertművészeti emlékek és a kerttörténet hiányzó fejezeteinek felkutatása és dokumentálása céljából kezdeményezte 2004 őszén a Budapesti Corvinus Egyetem Tájépítészeti Karának Kert- és Településépítészeti Tanszéke a Kertművészeti Tanszék és az Állami Műemlékhelyreállítási és Restaurálási Központ közreműködésével az erdélyi kastélykertek felmérését. A kutatás célja Erdély kastélykertjeinek történeti anyagait összegyűjteni, a jelenlegi állapotokat felmérni, dokumentálni, és ahol reális esély van a megmentésre, ott szakmai segítséget nyújtani a kertek konzerválását, rekonstrukcióját illetően. A kutatás során 62 kastély-kert együttes történeti feltárása, felmérése történt meg.

A felmérések során nem pusztán az egyes kertek történeti feltárása, felmérése volt a cél, hiszen a történeti kert (jelen esetben a kastélykert) nem egyszerűen díszkert volt, hanem kiszakíthatatlan részét képezte egy összetett, kulturális-történeti, ökológiai és nem utolsósorban gazdasági (birtok) rendszernek. Éppen ez által volt/lehetett működőképes és fenntartható. Jelentős történelmi és művészeti töltettel bíró ökológiai-műszaki rendszert tanulmányozunk tehát, mely csak egységében tárgyalva értelmezhető.

A vizsgált kertek a történeti kertek Firenzei Kartájának értelmében „a civilizáció és a természet közötti szoros kapcsolat kifejezői”, alkotóik lehetősége szerint a világ idealizált képét próbálták segítségükkel megteremteni. „A főúri kastély-park együttesek olyan modellhelyzetnek tekinthetők, melyből a palota-kastély-udvarház-polgárház-parasztház vonalán a modell növényi és tudáselemei demokratikusan szóródtak.” Értelmeznünk is tehát a környező településsel és tájjal együtt kell és lehet ezeket az emlékeket, csak így érthetjük meg hajdani

jelentőségüket és jelenlegi értéküket. Ennek megfelelően, a fellelt levéltári és irodalmi források alapján összeállított történeti áttekintés igyekszik minél pontosabb képet adni a kutatott kertek kialakulására, fejlődésére vonatkozóan. Foglalkozik a kertek táj- és településjellegét és -szerkezetét meghatározó szerepével, és vizsgálja mindazokat a táji léptékű kapcsolatokat is, melyeket a kastélykert kialakításánál, mint adottságokat vettek figyelembe, és amelyek nagymértékben meghatározták a kutatott kastélyok tágabb környezetét képező kistájak arculatát.

Természetesen a kutatásban fontos szerepet játszanak a családtörténeti adatok is, hiszen ezek sok esetben közvetlenül csatolhatók a parkok, kertrészek vagy egyes kerti elemek kialakításához, átalakításához. A birtokos családok bemutatása azért is fontos, mert a hely szelleméhez, identitásának kialakításához és a rezidenciakertek létrehozásához szükséges szellemiség, kulturális töltet hordozói. Számos helyszín esetében a tulajdonosok saját elképzeléseik szerint alakították a kerteket, vagy közvetlenül befolyásolták ezek kialakítását. A nemesi rezidenciák és kertek tulajdonosai tehát bizonyos értelemben a műemlékek alkotóiként is számmon tarthatók.

Fontos része a felmérésnek továbbá az építészettörténeti részletek bemutatása, valamint egyes településszerkezeti adottságok ismertetése, hiszen a kastély-kert együttes amellett, hogy szétválaszthatatlan egységet képez, szervesen illeszkedik egy adott település szerkezetébe, a környező tájba.

A helyszíni felvételezés minden kert esetében pontosan rögzíti a jelenlegi állapotot (rajzok, manuálék, GPS-koordináták, geodéziai felmérések, növényfelmérés, digitális fotótár, stb.), a még fellelhető, menthető értékeket, így helyzetjelentésként és összehasonlítási alapként szolgálhat a jövőbeni rekonstrukcióra, bármikor kerüljön is arra sor.

## LITERATURE :

In: Román A. (2002): Karták könyve, Budapest, 27.

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