

DESIGNED LANDSCAPES IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC AND INTERNATIONAL PROJECT PEARLS OF THE LANDSCAPE

TÖRTÉNETI TÁJAK A CSEH KÖZTÁRSASÁGBAN ÉS A PEARLS OF THE LANDSCAPE NEMZETKÖZI PROJEKT

ELŐADÓ LECTURER:
DOC. ING. PAVEL ŠIMEK, PH.D

CSEHORSZÁG
CZECH REPUBLIC

THE FACULTY of Horticulture of Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry of Brno participates in an international project aiming to establish an international knowledge platform focused on the protection, management and overall promotion of historic gardens in the Visegrad countries. The project's main participant and co-ordinator is the Hungarian Corvinus University in Budapest (Associate Prof. László Kollányi). The project issues from the EU Local Agenda Directive that supports the establishing of specialised cultural networks.

This paper is based on the "Pearls of the Landscape" lecture that was held at a conference at Corvinus University in June 2008 as part of the aforementioned project. The aim of this lecture was to point out some of the specifics of designed landscapes, which relate to their reconstruction and management.

1. DESIGNED LANDSCAPES IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Designed landscapes and historic gardens represent a vital part of the cultural heritage of the Czech Republic. With respect to the existence of important designed landscape sites in the country it is necessary to create prerequisites for the protection of these cultural values – besides other reasons, also for their role as a source of information utilisable in many other scientific and practical fields. These topics are included in the present national policy, especially in the prepared concept of applied research and development of national identity and culture.

Landscape design and landscape culture represented one of the peaks of the country's high culture in the modern era. Within this sphere, technical and scientific fields merged – philosophy, literature, painting, sculpture, architecture, musical theory, etc. At the same time, its highest moments

also contained the longing for transcendence and metaphysical meaning. The intentionally-composed cultural landscapes (which form a substantial part of the Czech landscape) represent exceptionally-mature spatial structures, reflecting artistic and philosophical principles of landscape design at the time of their origin.

A still open problem of this day is the classification of designed landscapes by their importance. This issue was also tackled by the "Pearls of the Landscape" project. The project covered designed landscapes selected upon the opinions of 15 experts – landscape specialists from the National Institute for Monument Protection. The total number of sites recommended for listing as protected monuments reached up to 300, of which 110 were in the category of historic gardens and parks in need of listing (ŠIMEK, P., SALAŠOVÁ, A., 2008).



2. THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AND THE PROCESS OF RECONSTRUCTION PLANNING

The processes of planning reconstruction and management of historic designed landscapes vary in different EU countries. The basic parameters of this environment in the Czech Republic include the following facts:

- The issue of historic designed landscapes covers mainly the areas of legislation relating to construction law, nature protection, and cultural heritage protection. Often water management legislation is also relevant.
- Concrete projects relating to historic designed landscapes must be in accordance with sustainable development of the area and the process of local spatial planning. On the particular sites of the designed landscapes, many other interests in their use must be considered – e.g.

water management issues, building development or transport.

- The process of negotiating a project proposal can be very complicated and depends on the respective structure of the state administration. The core of many of the conflicts is the very narrow, top-down approach that is applied.
- Landscape architects have their own field of authorisation within the Czech Chamber of Architects. This fact particularly influences the quality of the project preparation. Project documentation standards are available that apply for all authorised architects.
- The existence of the project documentation standards prevents disputes on what must be contained in the baseline documentation or project stages. The standards also enable for the elimination of the requirements (often meaningless) of the procedure participants towards the investor or planner. ▶

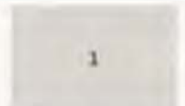


Fig. 1 The Podzámecká Zahrada landscape park in Kroměříž (Unesco heritage site) fulfils also many other functions, including water management. (PHOTO: PAVEL ŠIMEK)

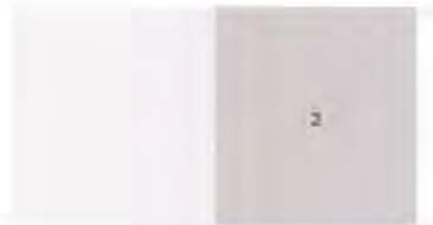


Fig. 2 Detail from the parterre of Květná Zahrada garden in Kroměříž as a part of GIS application (ARCHIVE OF ATELIER FLORART)

3. DESIGNED LANDSCAPES AND NATURE PROTECTION

The designed landscapes that originated in the present territory of the Czech Republic in the past centuries are truly unique. Often they were accomplished in special and exceptional natural conditions. Many of these biotopes, which are nowadays rare, were the results of onetime interventions (e.g. water management of river floodplains), but their evolution was possible only thanks to constant human activity (cultivation and garden art). Gradually, these objects were recognised as unique habitats and appeared also in the focus of nature protection bodies. Nature conservation is based on the existence of unique biotopes, which enable permanent existence of the landscape's rare biological fund. For further existence of these crucial landscape heritage sites it is necessary to study and

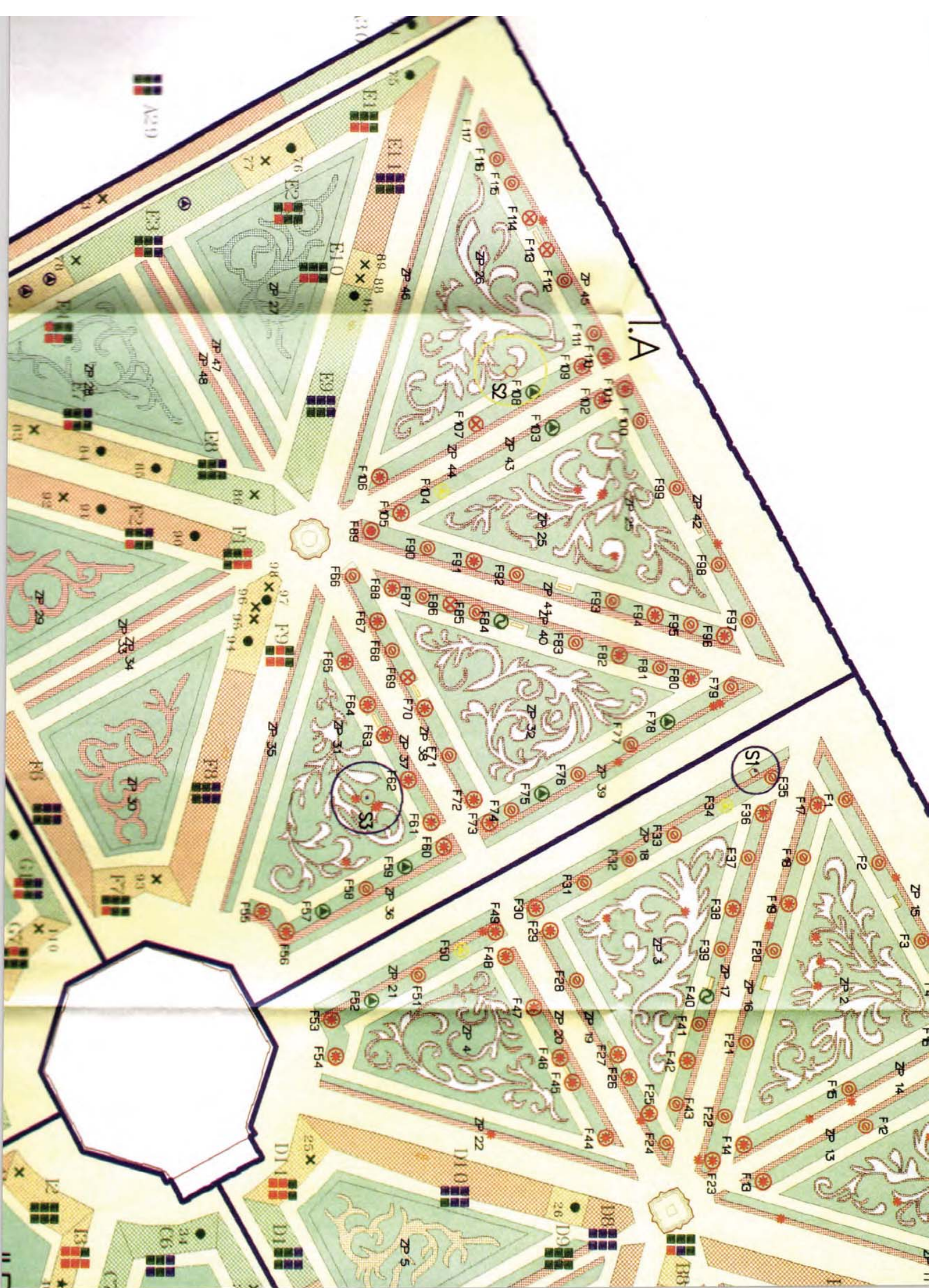
discuss many topics relating to heritage and nature conservation.

One of the most recent activities in this area was the joint project of three scientific institutes - Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry in Brno, Faculty of Horticulture in Lednice, The University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU), and the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra. The 2007 project was primarily aimed at the initiation of international scientific and expert discussion on contemporary national approaches to restoration and care of landscape heritage sites and their relation to nature conservation. From all project's results, I would like to highlight mainly those that closely relate to the "Pearls of the Landscape" project.

- The situation in individual countries varies - however, the issue of designed landscapes is not treated properly
- Current legislation creates potential conflicts detrimental to the

historic sites and makes appropriate solutions and courses of action impossible.

- It is necessary to enforce the professional participation on the administrative adjudications in all countries and on every level of decision
- Many conflicts arise in relationships to the legislation governing other areas, not only with nature protection and heritage conservation but also with water management and development.
- Conflicts arise not only from the legislative level but in gnoseological topics as well - and it is necessary to support scientific research in this field.
- Lack of financial resources for planning, implementation and maintenance for historic designed landscapes is characteristic of all participating countries.



A230

A

S1

S3

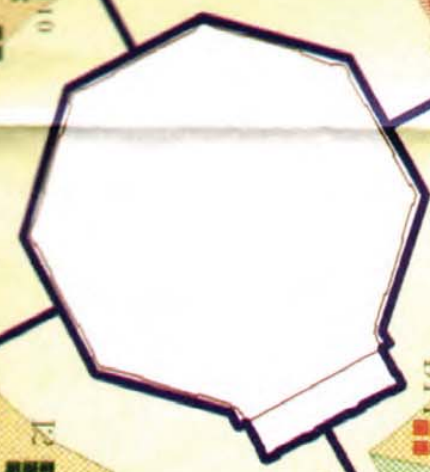




Fig. 3 Lednice chateau park (Unesco heritage site). The main vista in the park – recently damaged by the black cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) population (approximately 1000–1,500 birds). (PHOTO: PAVEL SIMEK)



4. USE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

There is no doubt that recent information technologies offer a great and original possibility for working with historic designed landscapes. This would be a topic for a separate paper or conference. GIS applications are nowadays common in the field of rendering complex information on the area, as well as for the processing of specific documents. These cover software and hardware sets and geographic data designated for efficient collection, storage, manipulation, analysis, and imaging of all forms of geographic information relating to the particular designed landscape. In particular, these are complex information systems of the heritage sites that contain data on vegetation and technical features in the garden, furniture, artworks, etc. This data serves to support the architect's work, as well as for the

presentation of the garden. Full digital rendering of the graphic part of the project documentation is standard. Producing spatial models of historic gardens, as well as virtual models of the gardens at particular periods represent endless challenges for our work.

How to teach and train university students in this discipline is another separate topic. The university training at the Lednice faculty takes place in three stages. The first stage covers the introduction to project digital rendering and various computer technologies for the landscape architect's work. Processing and exchange of data for project implementation follows – site surveying, analysis of aerial photographs, production of specialised drawings, etc. This also covers the creation of one's own library of feature application. The third level tackles the issue of 3D volume modelling and visualising.

An entire complex of issues deals with particular practised methods, and unlike the above described topics this is not determined by the national environment. It is understood that these topics cannot be resolved in this paper. In the end I would like to highlight the possibility of international co-operation issuing from the teaching tradition at the Faculty of Horticulture in Lednice, which is, in the national environment, called the "Lednice landscape architecture school".

©

TÖRTÉNETI TÁJAK A CSEH KÖZTÁRSASÁGBAN ÉS A PEARLS OF THE LANDSCAPE NEMZETKÖZI PROJEKT

Pavel Šimek

A történeti tájak és a kertek a cseh kulturális örökség élő részét képezik. Nyitott kérdés a történeti kertek jelentőségének, fontosságának értékelése, amit a „Pearls of the landscape” projekt is felvetett. 15 szakértő véleménye alapján 300 ajánlott védett objektumból végül 110 került kiválasztásra a történeti kertek kategóriájában. A tanulmány bemutatja a kertrekonstrukciós tervek készítésének és a kertek fenntartásának jellegzetességeit Csehországban. A történeti kertek létrejötté folyamatos emberi tevékenységnek köszönhető, azonban fokozatosan e kerteket értékes természeti élőhelyként ismerték el és a természetvédelem figyelmébe kerültek. A tanulmány bemutatja a történeti kertek fenntartásának, rekonstrukciójának kapcsolatát, konfliktusait a természetvédelmi szemlélettel, végül a szerző hangsúlyozza a GIS technikák fontosságát a kertrekonstrukciós munkák során.

LIST OF LITERATURE :

ŠIMEK P., SALAŠOVÁ A. a kol.:
Propagace památek zahradního
umění v programu „Perly krajiny.
In: Trendy a tradice 2008.
Lednice: ZF MZLU, 2008.
s.86-100.
ISBN 978-80-7399-510-2

LÁZNIČKA, V.: Kormorán velký
(Phalacrocorax carbo) a bobr
evropský (Castor fiber)
v krajinářském parku Lednice. .
In: Trendy a tradice 2008.
Lednice: ZF MZLU, 2008. s.35-42.
ISBN 978-80-7399-510-2