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# PREREQUISITES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF GREEN SYSTEMS IN BULGARIAN CITIES

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## ABSTRACT

Over the years, the regulatory framework related to the construction industry in Bulgaria has undergone a number of changes and gradually creates legal prerequisites for the construction of the green system in the settlements. All this, combined with the construction boom and the continuous migration of people to the big cities, leads to serious challenges that must be overcome over the years in order to be able to establish the specialty "Landscape Architecture" and justify the need for it for the quality of life in Bulgarian cities.

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## Disquision.

Among the most significant authors and researchers of the problems of the green system in Bulgarian cities we can mention: R. Robev, L. Stoychev, Y. Radoslavova, Y. Tangarov, D. Sugarev, P. Dobrev and of course A. Kovachev, who in their books and researches, and especially in their monograph "The Green System of Sofia. Urban Aspects" [1] unites a large part of the research and offers a contemporary large-scale reading of the public works in the city of Sofia.

In our country, the concept of "Green System" gained popularity in the middle of the last century, but for the first time it was normatively defined in the "Rules and Regulations for Planning of Settlements" from 1970 [2], where it is stated that "the green areas in the construction part of the settlement and the green areas in the peri-urban area are connected in a single green system, which participates in the construction of the general architectural and urban composition of the settlement and the near-city area".

Of course, in the literature we can find other definitions and formulations, but it seems that the shortest, clearest and most precise definition is given by L. Stoychev [3], in "Park and Landscape Architecture", according to which:

"The green system is a compositional set of green areas that connects the settlement organism with the natural environment and is a natural link between the settlement and the landscape."

Today, landscape architects are primarily concerned with the problems of the Green System, but indirectly in the planning and participate a number of other specialists from the full range of specialties involved in investment design and spatial planning, and even additional ones, such as statisticians, sociologists, urban planners, etc.

In the first years after the Liberation from Turkish slavery, there was a lack of trained personnel in our country, but the then statesmen and mayors were far-sighted and erudite enough not to underestimate the situation and at the cost of many efforts and difficulties, the foundations of the Bulgarian park planning, however, were laid by highly qualified specialists, from leading European schools. We cannot fail to mention:

- The Czech park builder Anton Novák, famous for the construction of the Schönbrunn and Belvedere palaces in Vienna, invited in 1881 by the mayor of Vienna. Varna, through the famous archaeologist Karel Škorpil, to build a city garden around the theater and a seaside park;

- The Swiss gardener Lucien Chevalas, invited by Prince Ferdinand I to build the Tsar Simeon Garden in the town of Svetlana. Plovdiv in the period 1981-1982, about which all European newspapers write with enthusiasm;

- The Bulgarian park builder Georgi Dukhtev, who graduated in 1909 in horticulture and park construction at the Institute of Park Construction and Floriculture in Eisburg, Austria. Creator of many parks in Sofia and the Sea Garden in Sofia. Burgas and long-time manager-gardener of the Municipality of Burgas;

- The Bulgarian park builder Georgi Petrov, who completed his education in Austria, built the Danube Park Vidin and is the author of most of the parks and gardens in the city.

Of course, for the park management in our country at that time, of great importance, as already mentioned, was the interest of Prince Ferdinand in nature, botany and gardening.

Much later, in the autumn of 1951, in connection with the growing need for public works in the cities in Bulgaria and in particular their landscaping, a new specialty known as "Green Urban Construction" was laid. This was done by Decree No. 511 of 8.10.1951 of the Presidium of the National Assembly (published in the newspaper "Proceedings of the Presidium of the National Assembly", issue 81 of 1951), according to which the then Faculty of Forestry of the SSA "P Dimitrov" decreed the opening of the specialty LANDSCAPING, which was later known in our country as Landscape Architecture [41]. According to the Decree, the specialty is regulated as a department at the Faculty of Forestry, which, along with the specialties in Forestry and Forest Industry, is entrusted with the organization of a new scientific direction. Merit for the opening of the specialty in the first place has a number of governing bodies in our country, which, realizing the need for specially trained personnel in landscaping of settlements, organize the training of specialists with higher qualifications. These are the Ministry of Public Utilities and Public Works (MCSB), the State Committee for Construction and Architecture (SCSA) and the then Committee for Science, Art and Culture (KNIK), which was in charge of higher education in Bulgaria.

Secondly, the merit for the opening of the specialty has the specialists and managers working in the system of communal services. These are the landscaping engineers - forestry engineers Yordan Trifonov and Emil Prokopiev from the Municipal Economy Department of the Ministry of Forestry and Forestry with head of the department Petar Bankov. A certain contribution to the opening of the specialty was also made by the Minister of the then Ministry of Communal Services and Public Works - the famous lawyer from Oryahovo and former member of the Regency Petar Kamenov. Especially significant assistance for the opening of the specialty has the then head of the Green Areas Department at the Sofia People's Council - Eng. forester Georgi Vasilev, later head of the Landscaping Department at MAB [4].

Thirdly, a special merit for the opening of the specialty has the then head of the Department of Higher Education at KNIK - LROF. Ivan Nenov, as well as prof. Atanas Ganchev from the Faculty of Forestry. who at that time was an adviser to the government [4].

Thus, with the assistance of these institutions and specialists, the need for the country to train personnel with higher education in garden and park construction was justified and their training was organized [4].

In the first years, 1951-1956, the specialty was called "Green Urban Construction". In the period 1956-1962, it was renamed "Landscaping of settlements". Later, 1962-1994, it was renamed again to "Landscaping", and on 14.09. 1994 year. acquired the current name "Landscape Architecture".

For 74 years (1951-2024) more than 2100 students have graduated in the specialty "Landscape Architecture" at the University of Forestry, and more than 50 of them have defended the educational and scientific degree of "Doctor" [6].

Since 2017, the Faculty of Architecture of UACEG has opened a specialty "Landscape Architecture and Landscape Planning" (LALP) with a period of study of 5 years, divided into 9 academic semesters and one diploma [7].

The preparation of students in landscape architecture provides knowledge and practical skills necessary for the formation of the spatial environment of the landscape and its compositional

principles. Landscape planning is an interdisciplinary activity related to a wide range of basic scientific fields such as: technical sciences, biology, geology, climatology, sociology, psychology, etc. It encompasses and synthesizes the scientific knowledge and experience of various specialists related to the construction of the immediate, physical environment of man, the ecologically oriented use of natural resources and the appropriate development of the economy.

Landscape architects have the practical opportunity to analyze, study, research, design and participate in the construction of territorial complexes with a specific appearance and image – urban, suburban and interurban landscapes, the park environment in urbanized and non-urbanized territories, as well as the individual ecological components and the relationships between them, binding them in unified green systems, applying the compositional principles for the volumetric and spatial construction of Mid. The landscape architect is realized at all stages of the investment research and design of a territorial and spatial nature.

The qualification "Master – Landscape Architect" provides the basis for full design capacity to provide design services and exercise author's and construction supervision [5], as well as for participation in expert councils at any level and expert practice in professional organizations and departments. The Master of Landscape Architecture is also an expert in the field of ecology and accompanying control in the field of spatial planning and a number of spatial activities.

### Conclusion.

Dynamic changes in every sphere of life lead to rapid changes in the professional sphere of people. Today we are witnessing disappearing professions and those that in a short time become essential for human life. Certainly, the profession of "Landscape Architect" can be defined as the profession of the future globally and nationally and in the context of global climate change it is becoming more and more important for the survival of humanity, but this also entails a number of challenges to the volume and content of the services provided. For the dynamic changes in each field, the development in the field of information technology plays a significant role. They optimize technological processes and are a powerful generator for the development of any area, including Landscape Architecture with all its branches and currents.

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