



World Science

e-ISSN: 2414-6404

Scholarly Publisher
RS Global Sp. z O.O.
ISNI: 0000 0004 8495 2390

Dolna 17, Warsaw,
Poland 00-773
+48 226 0 227 03
editorial_office@rsglobal.pl

ARTICLE TITLE ASPECTS OF THE PROFESSION "LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT" IN BULGARIA

ARTICLE INFO Rangelov Veselin. (2025) Aspects of The Profession "Landscape Architect" in Bulgaria. *World Science*. 1(87). doi: 10.31435/ws.1(87).2025.3369

DOI [https://doi.org/10.31435/ws.1\(87\).2025.3369](https://doi.org/10.31435/ws.1(87).2025.3369)

RECEIVED 18 February 2025

ACCEPTED 19 March 2025

PUBLISHED 29 March 2025

LICENSE



The article is licensed under a **Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License**.

© The author(s) 2025.

This article is published as open access under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY 4.0), allowing the author to retain copyright. The CC BY 4.0 License permits the content to be copied, adapted, displayed, distributed, republished, or reused for any purpose, including adaptation and commercial use, as long as proper attribution is provided.

ASPECTS OF THE PROFESSION "LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT" IN BULGARIA

Rangelov Veselin

University of Forestry, Sofia, Bulgaria

ABSTRACT

The dynamic changes in every aspect of the world around us lead to rapid changes in the professional sphere and people's lives. Today we are witnessing disappearing professions and those that in a short time become essential for human life and health. Certainly, the profession of "Landscape Architect" can be defined as the profession of the future and, in the context of global climate change, is becoming increasingly important for the survival of humanity, but this also brings with it a number of challenges to the volume and content of the services provided.

KEYWORDS

Landscape Architecture, Profession, Standards, Aspects

CITATION

Rangelov Veselin. (2025) Aspects of The Profession "Landscape Architect" in Bulgaria. *World Science*. 1(87). doi: 10.31435/ws.1(87).2025.3369

COPYRIGHT

© **The author(s) 2025**. This article is published as open access under the **Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY 4.0)**, allowing the author to retain copyright. The CC BY 4.0 License permits the content to be copied, adapted, displayed, distributed, republished, or reused for any purpose, including adaptation and commercial use, as long as proper attribution is provided.

For the dynamic changes in every sphere, the development in the field of information technologies plays a significant role. They optimize technological processes and are a powerful generator for the development of every field, including Landscape Architecture with all its branches and trends.

Today, the term "landscape architect" refers more to a collection of different professions that, in their synergistic relationship, give the appearance of contemporary landscape architecture. All of these sub-professions are becoming more comprehensive and, accordingly, more independent day by day, requiring their own set of competencies, and this also requires profiling the educational process so that it meets the new needs of the labor market.

With the amount of education received, a landscape architect can practice various professions:

- Administrator;
- Designer in the field of spatial planning;
- Designer in the field of investment design;
- Designer of irrigation systems;
- Technical manager in the field of park construction;
- Technical manager in the field of park maintenance;
- Manager for the maintenance of park sites;
- Project manager;
- Visualizer of park development and architectural projects;
- Builder of garden and park sites;
- Manufacturer of ornamental plants;
- Manufacturer of park equipment;
- Trader and supplier of ornamental plants;
- Researcher;
- Teacher, etc.

Today, new trends are gaining popularity, such as:

- BIM (Building informational modeling) - coordinator;
- AI operator (Artificial intelligence operator);
- AI visualizer (Artificial intelligence visual artist).

Which show that the profession of landscape architect is flexible and relevant in the context of modern technologies and the challenges facing man.

All of these variants of the profession "Landscape Architect" require a variety of competencies or a combination of at least several different ones. For example: the administrator needs solid knowledge in the field of regulations and legal relationships in the investment process and spatial planning. The designer, in addition to the administrator's competencies, must also have solid technical training, skills in the field of modern design, as well as knowledge of modern construction technologies. The builder, in addition to modern construction technologies, must know in detail the entire construction process, without requiring in-depth knowledge of the regulatory framework or modern design. All of the above require serious training in information technology, and in particular in BIM (Building Informational Modeling) [1]. The ornamental plant producer, on the other hand, requires quite different competencies from those listed above, and most importantly, in-depth knowledge of the morphology and physiology of plant species, as well as modern technologies for the production of planting material. Here design also plays an essential role, but in a completely different aspect than the one mentioned above. The marketer obviously needs to be prepared in the field of marketing and market economics. The researcher - to monitor and create modern theories and concepts on which the profession can base itself, and the teacher - to develop a pedagogical approach with which to introduce and build new staff, who will probably in the near future create prerequisites for even larger-scale development of the profession, and why not the creation of new sub-professions. This clearly shows that modern education in Landscape Architecture must be based on a minimum of two educational modules: one that provides fundamental knowledge and one that profiles the future specialist and provides him with all the necessary knowledge for realization in the relevant field. The educational system in our country also provides opportunities to implement a similar concept in Landscape Architecture education. Consciously or not, prerequisites for such profiling are also laid down in the regulatory framework (Art. 7 of the Law on the Chambers of Architects and Engineers in Investment Design):

"Art. 7. (Amended - SG, No. 79 of 2006) (1) (Supplemented - SG, No. 28 of 2009) Persons who have received diplomas from an accredited higher education institution with professional qualifications "architect", "landscape architect", "urban planner", "civil engineer" or "engineer" with an educational qualification degree of "master", possess limited design capacity and may provide design services in the field of spatial planning and investment design after their entry in the register of designers with limited design capacity in the relevant chamber." [2]

From this text it is clear that the professions Designer and Project Manager require a Master's degree. Quite logically, specialized master's degrees could be envisaged and required for other of the listed professions, but for some of them a bachelor's degree would be sufficient. Such differentiation would be useful not only for the labor market, but in any case would create the prerequisites for a more focused educational process that creates prepared personnel.

Globally, these processes are not new, and we have recently observed similar attempts in our country. For several years, specialties similar to "Landscape Architecture" [3] have appeared in other universities. Such are "Ornamental Plants and Landscape Design" [4] at the Agronomic University in Plovdiv with a bachelor's degree, which does not allow its graduates to acquire design qualifications at the Agricultural University of Plovdiv and, accordingly, cannot develop as designers. The specialty "Urban Studies" [5] at the University of Architecture, Construction and Geodesy is similar, which, on the one hand, claims to be active in the planning of urban spaces, and on the other hand, does not possess the necessary educational and qualification degree to acquire design qualifications. This is not the case with the recently opened specialty "Landscape Architecture and Landscape Planning" [3], which offers a master's degree program, but the name itself makes it clear that it is narrowly specialized in the field of landscape planning and has no claims to cover the rest of the spectrum of professions related to landscape architecture, with more biological aspects. This also leads to the question of whether the individual fields of study, provided with master's or bachelor's programs, should not be in different scientific fields, even within the same university - for example, whether at University of Forestry or any other higher education institution in our country there should be a single educational module of fundamental disciplines within 4 to 6

semesters, and then profiling, including by scientific field, with each higher education institution being able to assess for itself how many fields it can support and successfully accredit.

Currently, the profession of "landscape architect" is acquired after completing higher education in countries around the world, in our country it is mandatory to acquire a "Master's" educational and qualification degree. International institutions such as IFLA, as well as the exchange of information between universities and specialists, formulate similar requirements regarding the areas of study. This is especially true for accreditation, content and teaching staff. The principles, standards, evaluation, procedures and accreditation status formulated by IFLA are designed to guarantee a high level of education in the profession of "landscape architecture". In some countries, such as the USA, additional licensing is required after obtaining the educational qualification. The situation is similar in our country, where the Law on Chambers of Architects and Engineers in the Investment Process (Article 7 (1), (2), (3)) [4] requirements are set for licensing some of the services provided by the landscape architect, namely the design work. An additional condition for licensing is also set by the Cultural Heritage Act, and in particular Art. 164 and Art. 165 [6]:

“Art. 164. (1) (Supplemented - SG, issue 54 of 2011) The activities of conservation and restoration, as well as the adaptation of immovable cultural values, shall be carried out by persons or under the direct supervision of persons entered in the register under Art. 165.”

“Art. 165. (1) The Ministry of Culture shall establish and maintain a public register of persons who have the right to carry out conservation and restoration activities in the relevant area under the conditions and in accordance with the procedure determined by an ordinance of the Minister of Culture.”

The profession is also included in the International Classification of Occupations ISCO 88 under code 2141, and in the ISCO 08 code 2162 introduced by a European directive in 2011 for all member states of the European Union. In the USA, another classification of occupations is in effect, where "landscape architect" is listed with code O'Net code 17-1012.00. In Bulgaria, in addition to ISCO 08, there is also a "National Classification of Occupations and Positions" NCPA in effect since 2011 [7].

REFERENCES

1. Pereira, P. 2022. *BIM in Landscape Architecture: Scenarios, Possibilities and Breakthroughs*. [BIM para paisagismo: escenarios, posibilidades e avancados] 11 May 2020. ArchDaily. (Trans. Duduch, Tarsila) Accessed 3 Dec 2022. <<https://www.archdaily.com/938961/bim-in-landscape-architecture-scenarios-possibilities-and-breakthroughs>> ISSN 0719-8884
2. *LAW ON THE CHAMBERS OF ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS IN INVESTMENT DESIGN* Published in the State Gazette, issue 20 of 4 March 2003.
3. *Landscape architecture and landscape planning*. <https://uacg.bg/?p=87&l=1&id=26>
4. MK "Ornamental Plants and Landscape Design". <https://www.auplovdiv.bg/%D1%84%D0%B0%D0%BA%D1%83%D0%BB%D1%82%D0%B5%D1%82%D0%B8-%D0%B8-%D0%B4%D0%B5%D0%BF%D0%B0%D1%80%D1%82%D0%B0%D0%BC%D0%B5%D0%BD%D1%82%D0%B8%D0%BE-%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B7%D0%B0%D1%80%D0%BE-%D0%B3%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B0%D1%80%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B2%D0%BE/%D1%81%D0%BF%D0%B5%D1%86%D0%B8%D0%B0%D0%BB%D0%BD%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B8/%D0%BC%D0%BA-%D0%B4%D0%B5%D0%BA%D0%BE%D1%80%D0%B0%D1%82%D0%B8%D0%B2%D0%BD%D0%B8-%D1%80%D0%B0%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%B8%D1%8F-%D0%B8-%D0%BB%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%B4%D1%88%D0%B0%D1%84%D1%82%D0%B5%D0%BD-%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B0%D0%B9%D0%BD>
5. *Urbanism*. <https://uacg.bg/?p=184&m=2&l=1>
6. *LAW ON CULTURAL HERITAGE*. In force from 10.04.2009. Published in the State Gazette, issue 19 of 13 March 2009.
7. *National Classification of Occupations and Positions, 2011*. Publishing House "Labor and Law". ISBN: 978-954-608-178-0