



Original Article

# A New Concept of Landscape Design with Romanian Traditional Patterns Used for Green areas Increase and Preservation

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## Abstract

Romanian traditional art has been and will always be an essential interest for both Romanians and foreigners. Because of their attraction, the folk art patterns were met in various objects in peasant homes. Today, Romanian traditional patterns are used as inspiration in different arts in the entire world. The inspiration of using Romanian traditional art patterns in the art of gardening is not only an aesthetical factor, but also a functional factor, with special impact on the environment, by the contribution hereof to the increase of the number of green areas built and their conservation. Therefore, the aesthetic function shall play an important part in the process of leading Romanian public towards greening.

*Keywords:* Romanian traditional patterns, gardening, environment, conservation, greening

## 1. Introduction

The increase of urban agglomeration over the past decades has led to significant environmental changes, due to its deterioration.

Some of the major problems the majority of the large cities are facing nowadays are: traffic increase, air pollution, lack of residential buildings and waste increase, plus the dramatic reduction of green spaces due to their conversion into areas occupied by buildings (fig. 1, fig. 2). Green space decrease greatly accentuates the risks of urban ecology, with an immediate negative impact on their viability and sustainability, on the quality of life and the health of the population.

According to the World Health Organization, the green space norm is of minimum 50 m<sup>2</sup>/inhabitant.

At the level of urban area in the European Union cities, green areas standards are of minimum 26 square meters/inhabitant.

The green urban areas in Romania as compared to the rest of the European Union cities are much below the level hereof, with an average of 18 sqm/inhabitant [2].

This low average of green space per capita in urban areas is due to the problems we are facing, namely the replacement of the natural environment with the artificial one, composed of concrete, plastic and bottles.

One possibility which may improve urban issues is to attract people into plant growing by various means of interest.

Due to Romanians' and foreigners' fascination for Romanian traditional patterns, were proposed their use into green spaces.

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**Figure 1.** Urban pollution [8]



**Figure 2.** Urban Agglomeration [9]

## 2. Romanian folk art in ambiance - definitions

Folk art represents and defines the creation that is not part of classical and modern arts, but is generally included in traditional or domestic craftsmanship. Folk art works have anonymous origins and their authors do not have aesthetic or artistic studies.

The discovery of folk art phenomenon as a valuable part of culture is due to the development of art history science at the end of the nineteenth century [5, 7].

Romanian traditional art reflects Romanian culture from certain villages or regions. Romanian traditional art is represented by drawings illustrating geometric, zoomorphic or vegetable patterns.

The colors, shapes, lines create a unique pattern. Analyzing various Romanian art albums, can notice that ancient Romanians were passionate about colors.

The threads used to make all the decorative objects in their houses were vividly colored in red, green, blue and yellow. The area of origin of these artistic objects shall accurately define their origin. The colors, the shapes and the lines are all following a unique pattern [7].

## 3. Romanian traditional patterns in Landscape Architecture

The use of Romanian traditional patterns in landscape architecture is a performance in the evolution process in terms of the importance of green spaces creation, and of greening implicitly. For the design of such facilities must complying with the compositional design principles, similar to the embroideries, pieces of clothing, carpets, which use these patterns.

The compositional principles that define folk patterns are: rhythm, repetition, balance and color. Depending on the area of origin of the patterns the right colors shall be selected, complementary colors are the usually prevailing in folk art.

Besides colors, the choice of plant species is another important criterion, as not all plant species are suitable for such facilities. In general, the recommended species are: small flower species and species suitable to mowing (like borders or hedges). For a proper understanding, 5 categories of ornamental plant species suitable for this type of design were established, using the references from the floricultural and arboreal plants field, presented in tables 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Table 1. Annual flower plants

Species Latin name	Species Common name	Flowers/Inflorescences	Blossoming period
<i>Ageratum houstonianum</i>	Pufule	blue-gold, white, pink	VI-XI
<i>Alyssum maritimum</i>	Albi	white, purple	IV-XI
<i>Begonia semperflorens</i>	Begonie mic	pink, white and red	VI-X
<i>Lobelia erinus</i>	Lobelia	blue	VI-X
<i>Portulaca grandiflora</i>	Portulaca	pink, yellow, red, white	VI-X

Table 2. Biennial flower plants

Species Latin name	Species Common name	Flowers/Inflorescences	Blossoming period
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	B nu i	solitary/white, pink	III-VI
<i>Viola X wittrockiana</i>	Panselu	big/multicolored	III-VI

Table 3. Perennial flower plants

Species Latin name	Species Common name	Flowers/ Inflorescences	Blossoming period
<i>Galanthus nivalis</i>	Ghiocei	solitary, terminal/white	III-IV
<i>Gypsophila repens</i>	V lul miresei	small, white	VII-VIII
<i>Primula acaulis</i>	Primul	multicolored	III-V
<i>Primula auricula</i>	Primul	yellow	IV-V
<i>Sedum spurium</i>	Iarb gras	red, yellow	VII-VIII
<i>Sempervivum arachnoideum</i>	Urechelni	pink	VI-VIII

Table 4. Decorative flower plants cultivated for leaves

Species Latin name	Species Common name	Leaves	Flowers
<i>Alternanthera amoena</i>	Alternantera	lanceolatum/red	not decorative
<i>Cineraria maritima</i>	Cinerarie	pinnate sections, grey-white	capitula yellow
<i>Coleus blumei</i>	Urzicu	cordiforme	blue, purple, small
<i>Echeveria glauca</i>	E everia	spatulate	raceme

Table 5. Shrub plants

Species Latin name	Species Common name	Leaf color	Leaves
<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	Dracila	red purple	deciduous
<i>Buxus microphylla</i>	Buxus	variegate	persistent
<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Buxus	dark green	persistent
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Carpen	light green	deciduous
<i>Euonymus japonicus</i>	Euonymus	green	deciduous
<i>Forsythia intermedia</i>	Ploaia de aur	green	deciduous
<i>Hibiscus syriacus</i>	Hibiscus de gr din	light green	deciduous
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Laur de munte	dark green	persistent
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Lemn câinesc	green	semipersistent
<i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>	Mahonie	gray-green	deciduous
<i>Photinia fraseri</i>	Fotinie	light red	deciduous
<i>Spiraea salicifolia</i>	Cununiță	green	deciduous
<i>Spiraea x vanhouttei</i>	Cununi	green	deciduous
<i>Symphoricarpus sp</i>	Simforicarp	green	semipersistent
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Tisa	dark green	persistent

A model of park that uses Transylvanian folk patterns theme has been proposed for a park in Romania. 3D images of the surroundings thereof are shown below. The arrangement brings into attention

the popular patterns used by means of the vegetation and furniture, in the shape of stars, diamonds and rectangles, common in Romanian Transylvanian folk art.



**Figure 3.** Perspective of folk patterns [original]



**Figure 4.** Perspective of folk patterns [oral]

#### 4. Conclusions

The development of parks and gardens using Romanian folk patterns is a project of the future in Landscape Architecture.

Studies on the finding of the appropriate solutions in concept implementation are undergoing debates. The importance of folk patterns in Landscape Architecture also plays an important part in ecological and cultural terms.

This launch in Landscape Architecture is intended to attract people towards plant growing and national identification of Romanian artistic values.

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