A new public garden in Fabric Quarter Timisoara

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Abstract In the last years ecology is becoming more and more important as a subject of research. The European Union created new standards which assure the proper green surface that is necessary for towns and villages in accordance with the number of population. The town of Timisoara needs in the near future new parks and green squares in order to satisfy these demands. An important step in this direction is the creation of a new park in Fabric Quarter on a piece of land situated between the streets Lorena and Zurich. Besides its ecological importance the project assures higher life standards for the population of the region.

Key words Park, trees, Zurich street, Lorena Street, Timisoara, public garden

Near the eastern railway station of Timisoara between the streets Zurich and Lorena lies a green space which will soon become one of the town’s nice little parks. This will be an important event considering that nearby there are no parks in this part of the town and that people living in the surrounding streets need this green surface.

The piece of land had a special history. More than a hundred years ago it was part of a bigger domain, which became smaller and smaller as streets and buildings appeared around. In the end remained only the surface which can be seen today, and the owner of the land was the wealthy Kimml family. In one corner of the land can still be seen the Kimml family’s house decorated in Classic style a century and a half ago. It looks like a manor house and used to be surrounded by many old trees, some of which still exist. After 1945 the house became state property together with the land, and was used in different periods of time as kindergarten or club for the workers of the nearby factory. In time the building deteriorated and was restored recently by a new owner. It now looks as it did a hundred years ago, and is one of the nice buildings of the quarter. Half of the land was used to build a storehouse which after 1990 was demolished. The land was cleaned of the concrete slabs on which the storehouse stood and other rubble, and the town hall decided to create here a little park for the people living in the surrounding streets. The existing old trees were cleaned of their dried branches and young trees will be planted all around the place. This way the number of species of the park will grow creating a greater diversity. Though the young trees which will be planted need many years to develop to look as they do in the project, the existence of the old trees will assure a pleasant outlook of the park from the beginning. Between the old trees which luckily survived the last sixty years we must mention an enormous oak tree the age of which is probably at least a hundred and fifty years. This asset alone is enough to make of the green space a place worth visiting.

In the year 2006 a contest was organized for the third year students of the Landscape-design section of the Horticulture Faculty of Timisoara. The town hall rewarded with three prizes the students, and the first prize winner project is used now for the reconstruction of the green space. The students had the possibility to prove their knowledge in landscape design, their fantasy, and their capacity to recreate a destroyed piece of land which was neglected for so many years. The project which won the contest has many qualities which we must mention a balanced composition, interesting central parts, a good disposal of the vegetation, and a structure of alleys which help the visitor to reach every point of the park in short time. The composition has three important points, many lanes and paths, its winding alleys spread all over the 30 000 sq m of the park. There will be in the park a playground for children, flower groups, many benches along the alleys. In order to protect the park, the town hall decided to surround it with a transparent fence. The pavement of the alleys is made of red concrete stones. There are two entrances in the park, one from Lorena street the other from Zurich street. In the original plan existed three or four entrances, but the existence of the fence with only two entrances offers more safety. The existing old trees belong mostly to the Acer family, but there are also trees belonging to other species like: Quercus robur, Robinia pseudoacacia, Platanus acerifolia.

The young trees which will be planted belong to the following species: Acer platanoides, Acer pseudoplatanus, Aesculum hippocastanum, Betula pendula, Frasinus angustifolia, Magnolia kobus, Quercus rubra, Sophora japonica, Abies concolor,
Picea pungens Hoopsii, Pinus nigra, and many species of shrubs.

For the Fabric quarter of Timisoara the existence of a new little green space will be of great importance. Old people, people with little children, children from the neighbourhood will find in the near future a pleasant place to spend their time. It is important to extend the structure of green spaces of Timisoara in new areas not only for ecological reasons. It is also important that the old trees which were once part of the Kimml garden become now part of a well designed nice green space used by the local inhabitants.

**Results and Discussions**

Considering its dimensions the new park will not be very big, but its social importance is considerable for those who live in the neighbouring streets, especially people who live in blocks of flats and don’t have their own garden. A place which was neglected for such a long time being used in the past at best as a playground for children, and which contains some valuable trees will become an important place for the local population. The position of this piece of land assures protection from noise and pollution, being situated between two streets with a limited circulation in a residential area.

**Conclusions**

1. With the creation of a new park in an area between the streets Lorena and Zurich Timisoara gains a valuable new green space which ones was the beautiful garden of a villa.
2. For the inhabitants of the region normal urban conditions will be assured in accordance with present European standards.

**References**

PLAN OF THE ZURICH STREET PUBLIC GARDEN