

DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL AREAS IN CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

Study notion of cultural landscape that was raised in this dissertation has a long tradition. The interest of this subject matter has grown up recently in Poland. It was due to large investigative and applicable possibilities for cultural landscape research. It is all because of neglecting, for a period of above 50 years this sphere of activities, and as a result need of critical glance on Polish realities shaped in a post-war period as well as during the decade of dynamic constitutional and economic transformations. The works concerning formation of the rural areas landscapes are one of the ways to open science on aims and practical undertakings. They show directions, options of how to work on the areas of communes, likewise local plans of spatial farm implementing are helpful in the studies on influence of environment or plans of legal protection of terrains. The new pattern of the conduct is created, which is engaged in the processes of environmental changes. It has a large practical impact and a strong influence on reviving local matters and self-governance.

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Introduction

Cultural landscape is an effect of people's influence on environment that has been taking place for centuries. The results of these influences, more often harmful than harmonized with that environment, contributed to cultural and nature's disorder and resulted in degradation of scenery. The present condition of environment brought to making decision about the necessity of protection and as long as it is possible— reconstruction of past landscape. All implemented activities should have a complex and interdisciplinary character, which would combine both cultural and natural scenery.

The Earth's beauty is a subject matter of constant transformations caused by anthropological and natural processes. The majority of activities undertaken by man are the interference in the natural nature balance. Gradual transformation of our planet was to satisfy man's own needs. For thousands of years man has been destroying environment and therefore caused irreversible changes. People believe that nature should be their surrender and servant in order to profit from it, leaving behind the fact that nature's wealth is priceless and requires respect as well as protection. Environmental preservation lies in the interest of all of us, and not only us, but also future generations should have a chance to profit from the supplies of nature. Environmental protection is not tantamount with development or progress standstill. On the contrary - the optimum development is the one that takes care both of the man and his environment.



Sustainable ecological development

Therefore, there appeared a definition of eco- development, and simultaneously its notion of sustainable development. Through years both these terms have been modified, but the sense of it is still the same. Nowadays, sustainable development is recognized as a synonym of eco-development.

The key role of this idea is constant improvement of quality of people's lives all over the world. It should be done in such a way so as it would not endanger environment where we live and which would let future generations develop themselves without any limitations. An achievement of this aim may require various activities in different regions of the world, adequate to existing "local" conditions and problems. A common feature of creation a fully sustainable model of life, independently on the rest of the world requires implementation of these major areas:

- economic and equal division of profits,
- protection of natural and environmental supplies,
- social development

These three elements should co-operate with one another. The use of the strategy of sustainable development is a preventive activity in the range of environmental protection, which lets minimize negative results of man's activity.

According to the act from January 31st 1980, acting the principle of protection and formation of environment results in implementing the sustainable development rules:

- preserving the possibility of natural supplies reproduction,
- rational use of unrenovable supplies and replacing them with their substitutes,
- limiting harmfulness for environment and not crossing borders appointed by its resistance,
- preserving biological variety,
- ecological safety providences for all citizens,
- creating conditions for economic subjects to compete honestly in the access to limited supplies and possibility to get rid of pollution,
- it assures protection and rational formation of environment making the nationwide good and creates favorable conditions for citizens to profit from values of environment.

Sustainable development is to assure the highest possible quality of environment, simultaneously not braking economic and social man's development.

Contemporary village in order to function correctly and fulfill the criteria of sustainable development should fulfill many functions. The strategy of multifunctional development of the village started changes. Village used to be connected only with agricultural farm, soil gave work, income, better life conditions helped to have and bear family.

Today, the village became versatile, it means the one that is implemented into economic, social and cultural ties, it profits from educational institutions leading to its development, it takes over various modern functions, but in accordance with respect of its tradition.



The disorder of sustainability in environment

So as the sustainable development could function properly one should protect environment. The protection of environment means proper utilization of supplies and natural components, protection of wild plants, animals and natural complexes, likewise ecosystems in particular.

One of the fields that has an enormous influence on environment is an energetistic industry. The results of energetistic policies one feels as a process of global warming. Presence in the atmosphere of greenhouse gases from natural sources plays an important role in life of the Earth, the industrial gases emission however changes isolating properties of the atmosphere. Therefore, the governments of different states declare closing coal power stations and support initiatives concerning utilization of renewable fuels.

The energetic industry is not only pollution of the atmosphere, these are also spatial investments devastating cultural landscape. One of the leading examples of the investments relating to the energy transmission is the man's interference in nature. Not only do they destroy natural balance in environment, but they also ruin landscape. The buildings of the aerial distribution rooms of high tension are used to divide sent energy among individual recipients.

Around the devices of this type, there are electric and magnetical fields. Near the sources, there are horizontal levels of radiation. They are millions and even billions times larger than the background, which is in the microwave range. Electromagnetic field is harmful for the humans, as well as the whole surroundings causing biological changes such as inside the cell tissue or even a whole organism. Sometimes we even realize what consequences living or just being near such devices may cause. Nowadays, life without current technology, electronics would be impossible. The question is however whether there is any different solution and undertake certain actions in order to implement a more profitable not only for us but for environment as well the measure.

Environment landscape is destroyed not only by newly built buildings, but also all actions that are previously undertaken. So as the objects or buildings could appear, first of all you should shape the terrain under their building, cutting out many trees, bushes, destroying animals' habitation and also sometimes rare species of plants. All „invasive” activities transform environment, they entirely change landscape and undoubtedly natural harmony and sustainability.

Often we do not wonder over the consequences of our undertakings. Consciously – or not – we do not perceive that under certain circumstances natural processes begin to turn against us.

Not only should we notice our individual needs, but also the needs of whole nature owing to which the human existence is possible.

The alternatives for aggressive or even destructive solutions are for instance all investments in renewable sources of energy: modern, environmentally friendly technologies.

Modern solutions and technologies

One of the ways of preserving natural landscape beauty for future generations are the investments concerning the environment which would be connected with alternative for traditional sources of energy.

Renewable that is undrainable source of energy is mainly coming from the Sun, which is a common, direct source of all renewable supplies. Throughout a year the Sun delivers fifteen thousand times more energy than one-year-



consumption of atomic energy and mineral fuels.

Other unconventional and renewable sources of energy are wind energy, geothermal energy and geothermic energy, biogas, the energy of sea tides and sea waves, water energy or the energy of the biomass. Two, out of the mentioned sources belong to the most popular ways of the logging of gaining renewable energy in Poland.

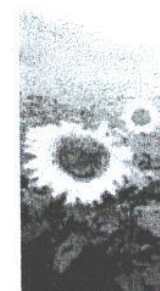
The influence of investments connected with use of unconventional sources of energy on cultural landscape, one may consider in two aspects.

The first aspect is a measurable aspect, which is supported with the results of monitoring. It is a positive influence of using such a form of gaining energy on the shape of environment. Unquestionable fact is a decrease of concentration of pollution- the side effect" of using of traditional fuels - in the atmosphere. Less emitted dusts means cleaner air and directly -better mood of its inhabitants, and better condition of environment.

The visual side of the investment is a second aspect - that is the way of adapting a certain investment in real conditions so as it was harmonized with a specific character of the region. People react conservatively when facing of modern activities. Sometimes they are not even aware of what such investments really bring into their everyday lives. The modernity of solutions identifies itself with urbanization of landscape, and it is associated with degradation. And but modernity does not mean implementing in scenery entirely separate from other surroundings forms, where lack of cohesion with a local character of the village will strikingly destroy and disturb it.

Every single device used for gaining alternative energy can be given such a shape that would correspond with environment or somehow will even increase its values. All stylizations are admissible e.g.: wind power plants into old traditional windmills with a use of invisible for the observer modern technology. The Sun collectors are shaped in such a way that they do not violate the appearance of the building, and often they are thought to be roof windows. Plants plantations are often used as biomass but very often this is the decoration of scenery as well. Necessary buildings which go with the investment may also be designed in such a way that they went with the landscape.

Cultural scenery is not only the village. So-called the green roofs are another example of modern solutions, which contribute to the municipal picture of cultural scenery. They are modern roof systems more and more commonly seen on blocks of flats or office buildings. Building the block of flats in the countryside would be an obvious misunderstanding, nevertheless the introduction of special country enclaves in a city draws large attention among the inhabitants of municipal agglomerations and it is highly desirable. The green roof is a specially designed construction of roof construction, enabling the designers sow it with plants such as: grass, moss, flowers, or even growing trees or bushes creating in this way something like shape of gardens. Green roofs are not the only municipal decoration of block scenery. They also create possibility for man to have close relations with nature. Such solution has got many different practical advantages: green roofs take over the part of the function of green terrains, they also absorb carbo-dioxide giving back oxygen. They also accumulate dust and different dirt. They store rainwater, by what they relieve sewage net and moisturize air. They are also the superb absorber of noise. Moreover, one may relax there perfectly. Building firms responsible for green roofs put more and more pressure on staining green roofs. Such spatial farm accommodating roof surface is a new value of the



city life.

Everything then depends on an appropriate approach to the subject, the opening oneself onto novelties and progress, and - proper for micro region arrangement of activities.

Every newly implemented element will not be the innovation for future generations, but it will function as left by ancestor's complex cultural scenery. Cultural landscape does not stagnate, but changes itself in the measure of time and passing further generations who create it. It is important when creating a current style of life follow proper direction, indicated somehow by those who were before us. Only by respecting our heritage and multiplying it properly we will not make any mistake.

Inhabitants activation

The role of social activity and participation in solving local problems has been in the center of interest for a long time. It has been included in many agricultural and-environmental programs all over the world, and recently also in Polish realities, which has been developing in Western Europe, and from 1992 also in Central and Eastern European countries. The Renovation of the Village movement is worth mentioning.

Not only is The Renovation of the Village a social movement based on ideological foundation, protecting the traditional values of the village, but durable process of formatting conditions of village life it puts pressure on modernity preserving tradition. It is also a method of versatile development of rural areas on the bases of subsidiary. Finally, at most it is an integrated and universal programme of a regional character. The programmes of renovation of the village are therefore a versatile conception of development of the countryside as its idea in which the social activity is a motor of creating and implementing a programme of development of rural areas.

Such programmes are initiated by the local authorities. This superior authority, however is to be an encouragement, an impulse to undertake the proceeding activities stimulation for local authorities to become more active. In order to do it one looks for local leaders and with their help activates local community. This process combines three elements: a method and the idea of development, an alternative for city life of the development, the idea of the development (alternative for the municipal life and healthy food. There is also a social movement (general commitment of inhabitants and associations in local life) these join in the process. This common engagement in these processes is a crucial factor of the project's success. If village inhabitants do not feel responsible for their surrounding, local activities that they arrange, scarcely nothing can be done to change the image of the countryside. The inhabitants know best their needs and problems and therefore, they should have their own initiative and seek for possibilities of gaining financial support and first of all the ideas for changes.

After Poland's accession to the European Union, local communities may implement and put into power projects financed by the Sector Operating Programme Restructure and Modernization of food sector and development of rural areas - Priority II Working 1, the Village Renovation and cultural heritage preservance. Within this working, one will be able to fulfill following aims:

- Increase of life and work standards in the country,
- Growth of the touristic and investment in attractiveness of the village,
- Fulfilling social and cultural needs,



- Development of local identity of the villagers and cultural heritage preservice.

All activities concerning rural areas' development are taken on various levels. They should be based on an idea of creating cultural landscape. There should be taken into account a rule of sustainable development of people's needs and environmental needs.

Evaluation

The protection of cultural landscape is a very wide problem. It is impossible to present it in narrow frames of the article. In the very dissertation general opinion on these problems have been mentioned, therefore they only give a general overview of environmental problem.

For several years the state has been undertaking numerous attempts of preserving nature and landscape. It took place without people's presence (meaning a society) and what we want to protect was created by those previous generations and therefore should be protected for people and with a maximum participation of the society. The aim of protection is our common, cultural heritage, which belongs to the nation, not to the authorities. In democratic societies there is an everlasting process of making people take active part in making special decisions. This process is highly delayed in Poland.

The main need is to change our mentality and make people aware of the fact that all activities as well as efforts to improve the quality of cultural landscape will be used by further generations. Proper and full protection is possible only with full agreement of societies, co-operation on the basis of solidarity and finally our own activities. Nobody will do it for us, and one has to realize that visible effects may appear after some time, but is not it worth it? One should not be afraid of modern solutions. Every new technology is to familiarize with itself, is to tame it and then implement it. It is of high importance to live in a picturesque cultural landscape.

Paraphrasing a spot that accompanied one of the local initiatives in Karkonosze- let's try to "Live uncommonly in an uncommon region".



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