

Abstract

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Documentation of historic gardens, parks and outdoor spaces with its built components and landscape constructions - A methodological investigation on systematics of appropriate means for the recording and portray of construction sites and elements in historic gardens, parks and cultural landscapes



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The Federal Republic of Germany holds huge number of cultural treasures e.g. monuments, historic works of art, paintings or sculptures. Also preserved outdoor spaces like gardens, parks and other parts of cultivated landscape areas contain an enormous amount of historic values which is not only bound to earth-works and landscape constructions with materials like wood, steel, brickwork or masonry but construction techniques of cultivating and pruning, too.

But the unique substance has decreased over the years by many causes - especially after the changes due to the German unification in the early nineties which lead to enforced building activities. To keep historic outdoor spaces and their built or vegetative elements, and to protect them from future changes, it is necessary to register and list all objects completely in an first regional survey and inventarisation record. This overview can give significant hints and data to select the most precious objects and seperate the less important or already nearly gone items.

For the Federal Republic of Germany is no systematics available which could help the gardenhistoric and scientific profession - in the following - to compile profound lists and documentations of historic or cultural outdoor spaces which follow charters of the European Council or ICOMOS. Neither is there any orientation to produce reports, measuring drawings and finally photographic recordings which show landscape architectures and their structural parts in open spaces in their constructional, conceptional and composed phenomenon. Methods and instruments can only be gained from traditional professions like historic building science or archaeology, but miss the more landscape orientated touch and need.

This investigation shows when, where and how gardens, parks and outdoor spaces have been documented in history. It was proofed by analysis of historic literature and plans that a broadly available technique for measuring drawings, conventional signs and coloration to produce functional descriptions of architectural structures, landscape constructions and surrounding spaces has been presented and practised by PENTHER in 1738 already. This was at least 40 years earlier than the use of this knowledge has been proofed in German countries before. The reference to an earlier use of 49 years could not finally be proofed for sure.

The methodological part of this dissertation names methods and instruments which are available for landscape architecture, historic garden monument research and planners today and how the process of documentary work can be divided into sensible steps to produce adequate results for computerbased investigations, inventories and documentations of different objects and elements in historic open spaces.

Having the historical development, literature, analysis of work procedures and practical experience at historic walls in Brandenburg/ Germany in mind, the documentary work on the cultural historic structure will begin with a precise and conscientious examination on the location which gains measured drawings in different scales and projections. Due to the complexity of historically grown and changed gardens, parks and outdoor spaces this analysis has to take many various aspects of investigation into consideration. The systematic proceeding, technical means and forms of documentation can orientate widely on conventional analysis of buildings, but have to be adapted to and extended with new data processing methods of examination, documentation and reception in the archives. The local examination works should be accompanied by archival research to get more information on the object. Here this opus shows that it is necessary to develop and use both new and creative methods of examination which fit the materials and avoid unnecessary interference into the historic substance. Some of long experienced methods of investigation are provided by archaeological practise and research on buildings.

All appropriate and used means for the documentation and portray of construction sites and elements in historic gardens, parks and cultural landscapes have to be chosen balanced and problem-orientated. A strict procedure for an equal usage of all methods at any cases of ancient substance in outdoor spaces can not be proclaimed by this work. Rather it is sensible to show a systematic and ordered way of orientation, how outdoor structures in historic gardens, parks or landscapes can be documented without any mistakes, omission and crude intervention into the substance.