



The subject of the research is developed around the historical gardens belonging to certain historical monuments, more exactly in relation with nobiliar palaces and manor houses in the Banat region. These gardens are chosen according to certain criteria that preserve even now the values of our cultural heritage both under visual and documentary aspects.

The aim of the thesis *Historical gardens of the Banat region* is the studying of a frequently met phenomenon both by specialists in the area and by common citizens, that is the loss of value of certain buildings and their environment that, at the moment of their construction used to have a special architectural value, but which in time have lost some of their value due to political, social and cultural changes.

Understanding the historical environment, time and social coordinates of theoretical and practical accumulation milestones of heritage are of particular interest for this study. At the same time emphasizing the contribution of the restorer architect, the choice and research of these historical gardens and the attempt to organize the documentary material is another aim of the study.

Gardens, mansions and castles are testimonies of the past. They feature a private and urban life at a high social, cultural and architectural level. The present work aims at investigating these currently existing landscape arrangements, as well as the main factors that led to their transformation. We wish to study the stages of "transformation" of these historical gardens and to present the original project as compared to their current state. The issue is dealt with both from its historical, architectural and social-cultural perspective.

### **The objectives of the research**

Presentation of the current situation compared to the original state and evolution of these historical gardens throughout history; Analysis of the historical gardens' situation with the help of detailed presentation of case studies, including their evolution over time.

### **Justification of the chosen theme**

The garden occupies a special place in terms of aesthetic experience. Although normally modern artistic concepts are related to the grandiose opera concepts of Richard Wagner and starting with the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, to a general approach to aesthetic experience, the sensory and spiritual challenge imposed by the surrounding environment over the capacity of knowledge and acceptance by man, is intensely manifested in landscape art.

The garden exercises an effect on people, and this effect can be caused by a certain significance with an almost as convincing power as a physical feature. This being a quality born from the combination of design, its aesthetics, the history and impressions of the place, it in fact creating the spirit of the place.

It is a proven fact that the existing historical monuments have been neglected in the last years, some constructions not even being classified as historical monuments, but they still exist and they are part of our daily life. At the moment of the reconstruction, restoration of these buildings it rarely happens that the landscape restoration receives a role of similar importance, especially in concordance with the actual doctrines of restoration, established by international documents<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Among the most relevant for the present study is the Florence Charter for historical gardens, ICOMOS, 1982.

If “to restore means to recover”, in order for us to be able to relate to the past in a more natural way, it is essential, that the restoration is understood from the perspective of the present and future, not merely subject to past.

We consider that architecture lives only together with its surrounding landscape, they collaborate and complete each other. The landscape, surrounding environment offers a special value for the buildings, a value that they could not have in an independent way.

We consider the present work as an expression of the necessity to study and research the previous patrimonial behaviors, to keep them and make use of them in the future.

The choice of the research theme is justified by the necessity to restore, or in the case of historical gardens rather to “recreate” understanding the monument in the totality of their aspects, identifying some of their relative truths. The intention of the present study is to present the historical and stylistic conditions for the evolution of these architectural and landscape arrangements, thus this study can be used as a documentation of their past and present situation.

At the moment of intentional creation, this differs from the naturally created landscapes, due to the attempt to perfect and due to the image it intends to represent. This way, at the moment of their destruction they become more visible, thus the impact of their destruction is much more accentuated as compared to a naturally created landscape, left to evolve in a natural way.

### **The target group**

The study is primarily addressed to architects, landscapists, and urbanists, to those who implement development, restoration and rehabilitation projects of these monuments but also to theorists. It is also addressed to administrators of civil parishes, county government offices, county councils and ministries.

As a result, the research study aims at contributing to a positive evolution of attitude towards the historical garden and not lastly towards the historical monument it belongs to. It is addressed to all directly and indirectly involved in the works related to the protection of cultural heritage as well as current and future beneficiaries of a well preserved inhabited environment.

### **Methodology and documentary sources**

The systematization of the study was realized taking into account in the first part the definitions of the basic notions of the study, such as landscape context and the context of cultural landscape, followed by the notion of the garden in general context and the notion of historical garden.

We have followed up with a short presentation of the situation of the researched historical gardens by specialists in the field, in the area of Transylvania and Banat, followed by my own research realized on case studies represented by existing historical gardens of the Romanian Banat, according to the List of Historical Monuments from the year 2010. This way, for each studied establishment, the analysis contained:

*General data* – where reference has been made on the construction period and the architectural style it belongs to. There have been introduced under historical aspects the owners, the aristocratic family and the domains held by them, the stages of construction realized according to the mentality of the period, exercised life-style etc. The general presentation being followed by a *Detailed description* – where the garden has been analytically studied with all its architectural, vegetational, topographical, ambient components, using both historical and literary

documents and sources, old topographical and cadastral references, as well as any other possible iconographic or photographic source.

The detailed documentation of the case studies has been realized considering the following criteria:

- Short history of the studied aristocratic domains and families
- The geographical situation of the locality
- Short history of the locality
- The castle's situation within the studied locality
- The local geographical features and presentation of major elements (the topography of the studied establishment, definition of basic elements, delimitation of the land according to the arrangement of vegetation)
- Access and access arrangements (localization and their description)
- Residence and the relation of residence with the exterior arrangements (description of the residence and its analysis according to the historical, stylistical aspects, level of degradation and interventions)
- Exterior landscape arrangement (description of vegetal landscape components, eventual disposal of landscape vegetation, pavement analysis, ledgering the ornamental or secondary objects and constructions that define the present landscape arrangement and along the evolution of the garden).

All case studies have been analyzed and researched according to the above mentioned criteria, all through their evolution up to the present, through the description of all activities participating in the change of situation from the moment of their construction. Their presentation and assessment from architectural and landscape point of view could be realized with the help of on-site research and the comparison of the present day situation to the documents identified during the research of archive sources and historical maps.

The present study has also extended over gardens not being classified as historical monuments, these belonging to monument buildings or buildings with the potential of being classified as monuments. These have been selected according to the following criteria: coherent style, actual physical state etc; analysis criteria such as: historical, stylistical analysis, interventions etc. and evaluation criteria of natural heritage such as valuable species or exceptional beauty of plants discovered on site; associate value, document value, testimonies, landscape-land relation etc.

### **Period of research and localization**



The identified case studies in the Banat area are uniform as far as the chosen program of the researched period is concerned.

The research period is delimited between the 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries and cover the territories between the Western Carpathians, Crişana and Romania's border with Serbia. The counties included in this study are: Timiș, Caraș Severin, Arad.

The case studies are primarily chosen as a result of studying the lists of historical monuments from Arad, Timiș and Caraș-Severin and according to the selection criteria mentioned at the presentation of the adopted methodology.

The study has been realized for the architectural complexes situated on the list of historical monuments, but also for the unclassified ones considered significantly valuable based on the traces remaining from the old landscape arrangements and taking into account their relationship to the aristocratic residence.

## **-CASE STUDIES-**

The researching and documenting of the historical gardens of the Banat region started in the first place with their research in old documents, books, articles and postcards. With the help of the information from the written documents such as personal documents of the aristocratic families kept in state archives but also in public online editions, specialty literature, articles, and monographies of localities we managed to trace a story of each aristocratic family in possession of a manor house, palace and the garden belonging to it.

The postcards collected by Horváth Hilda<sup>2</sup> and those discovered in state archives, in specialty book and on the specialty websites meant a significant visual testimony of the past that, besides the researched historical maps, have been of great help in a more exact understanding of the organization of the ambience vegetation and the gardens' situational planning.

Also, the information and the maps received from cadastral offices<sup>3</sup> have been of great use for me in the identification of the original situational plans of the garden and its evolution through time, depending on the case. Besides cadastral maps, military topographical maps<sup>4</sup>, the map of the Kingdom of Hungary<sup>5</sup> and the Map of Shooting Commandment<sup>6</sup> have offered me similar situational information in order to understand the evolution of localities and the studied establishments.

All these documents were at the basis of the research of nobiliary establishments, completed by on-site visits. We have visited over 40 establishments considered valuable, having a historical past, a remarkable architecture of landscape art at the moment of their construction according to the studied documents. Of all the visited establishments we have chosen 33 residences with parks and gardens belonging to them for a more profound study and research, 4 of which are situated in Caraş Severin County, 18 in Timiş County and 11 in Arad County. We haven't emphasized only the manors with parks classified as historical monuments, we were interested also in the rest of the manors, castles and residences with parks not classified as historical monuments, but in old times presenting testimonies of valuable landscape arrangements, specific to the period they were erected in.

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<sup>2</sup> Horváth Hilda - *Stílus, szellem, tradíció. A történelmi Magyarország kastélyai (Style, spirit, tradition. Castles of the historical Hungary)*, Várpalota, Szindbad Nonprofit Kft. – Trianon Múzeum Alapítvány, 2010 Cd

<sup>3</sup> Timiş Cadastral and Estate Evidence Office; Arad Cadastral and Estate Evidence Office

<sup>4</sup> Josephin Military Topographical Survey (in German *Josephinische Landesaufnahme*), also named as „*The First Military Survey*”- In the Banat Region, this survey has been performed between the years 1763-1787.

“*The Second Military Survey*” from the years 1806-1869 (Zweite oder Franziszeische Landesaufnahme) appeared at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, stimulated also by the wars against Napoleon.

“*The Third Military Survey*”, performed 1869-1887 (Franzisco-Josephinische Landesaufnahme or Dritte Landesaufnahme).

<sup>5</sup> Cadastral map issued between the years 1869-1887

<sup>6</sup> Maps completed for the entire Romanian territory in the period of the First World War, based on the Lambert projection system.



Fig. 1 map of the studied gardens in Caraș Severin, Arad and Timișoara counties.

The choice of these historical gardens was made according to the list of monuments<sup>7</sup> studied in Arad, Timiș and Caraș Severin counties, this way, according to the list there were identified 2 gardens classified as historical monuments belonging to aristocratic residences in Timiș County and 8 gardens classified as historical monuments in Arad County. These establishments are the following:

1. Banloc–Timiș–The park of the Banloc manor; 2. Lovrin–Timiș–The park of the Liphay manor; 3. Bulci–Arad–The park of the Mocsonyi castle; 4. Căpâlnaș–Arad–The park of the Teleki castle; 5. Fântânele–Arad–The park of the Kövér–Appel castle; 6. Macea–Arad–The park of the Csernovics–Macea castle; 7. Mocrea–Arad–The park of the Solymosy castle; 8. Odvoș–Arad–The park of the Konopi castle; 9. Petriș–Arad–The park of the Salbek castle; 10. Șofronea–Arad–The park of the Purgly castle.

The study has been extended over the gardens not classified as historical monuments, these being gardens belonging to monument buildings or with the potential of becoming monuments. These have been selected according to the following architectural criteria: coherent style, actual physical state etc.; historical criteria, such as: stylistical analysis, interventions etc. and also criteria of natural heritage assessment such as valuable species, of exceptional beauty, discovered on site; evolutionary, associative value, documental, memorial, relational, landscape-land value etc.

<sup>7</sup> List of historical monuments of Romania -2010-Ministry of Culture and National Heritage

These establishments being the following: 11.Carani-Timiş-Saurau Féger; 12.Rudna – Timiș – Nikolics residence; 13.Folea – Timiș – Beniczky residence; 14.Livezile –Timiș - Gyertyánffy residence; 15.Şag – Timiș – Rónay residence; 16.Zăgujeni – Caraş Severin - Jakabffy – Juhász castle; 17.Delineşti – Caraş Severin – Bródy residence; 18.Gherteniş-Caraş Severin- The park of the Hollósi manor; 19.Valeapai-Caraş Severin- The park of the Athanaszievich castle; 20.Comloşu Mare – Timiș – The park of the San Marco manor; 21.Sânnicolau Mare –Timiș – The park of the Nákó manor; 22.Foeni –Timiș- The park of the Mocsonyi manor; 23.Beregsau Mic-Timiş- The park of the Damaszkín István castle; 24.Cenei-Timiş-The park of the Uzbasich manor; 25.Giera-Timiş- The park of the Gyetyánffy István manor; 26.Grănicerii-Timiş- The park of the Csávossy castle; 27.Izvin-Timiş- The park of the Ottlik Péter manor; 28.Pesac-Timiş-The park of the Zichy manor; 29.Remetea Mare-Timiş- The park of the Ambrózy castle; 30.Şimand – Arad- The park of the Kintyig castle; 31.Aradul Nou-Arad- The park of the Nopcsa castle; 32.Zimandu Nou-Arad-The park of the Kintzig castle; 33.Murani-Timiş-The park of the Manaszý Barco manor.

Visiting these establishments was one of the most important steps of our research, as the examination of the present situation is just as important as the evolution over time of these establishments. However, in many cases what we could observe on the site had a negative and demoralizing impact, considering the actual state of these aristocratic residences and of the parks belonging to them... what still exists of them.

The majority of these manors and parks are left in an advanced state of degradation, most of them being deserted, few of them being functional, housing public functions, rarely private ones. The parks of the constructions classified as historical monuments in most cases have disappeared without any trace of landscape arrangement specific to the original. In the case of the parks classified as historical monuments the only testimonies that could be a reference point are elements of tall vegetation, trees of rare species that were kept in most gardens. As far as low or medium vegetation is concerned, or elements or landscape arrangements are no longer identifiable in most of the cases. These gardens have acquired the status of historical monument primarily due to the monument building they belong to, the personalities who played an important role in the erecting and arrangement of the given castle-garden complex, as well as the artistic composition and certain structural elements still existing on site and not lastly due to the vegetation mass that prove the original landscape character of the park.

Within the frames of our research we consider it necessary to make a short presentation of the localities and various essential aspects that influence the development in time of these establishments, getting to understand the placement of the castle, visual reference points and the types of vegetation used on site. We consider it essential to study the area from the standpoint of natural setting, of the flora and fauna in order to understand the vegetation landscape that has developed here.

It is known that besides the castle and the surrounding park itself they owned much more land around than it is shown at a first visit. Aristocratic domains generally owned about 10-15 hectares of land, used in agriculture by the peasants of the area, thus the aristocrats offering the community a possibility to survive and obtaining altogether a permanent maintenance of the domain. All these architectural and landscape elements, the construction itself, the castle together with the park and the surrounding domain offers the area a specific cultural landscape.

Visual reference points have always been important, but the placement of various architectural or landscape objects offered the landscape a unique image from case to case. Historical gardens have always been conceived in a way that they offered certain dominant

points of perspective in the landscape such as small constructions (chapels, burial vaults etc.), statues, or the orientation of the garden and castle relative to the village church was not done by chance.

The inspection of the establishments offered a clear vision about the actual situation of these manors, castles and parks. Their placement and complexity, even if were in accordance with the style of the era, having common architectural elements and arrangements, still their uniqueness could be identified in every establishment and locality in part.

In the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century in Banat the predomination of neoclassicist style can be observed. In the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the landscape art is characterized by mixed, eclectic manners, with the appearance of the landscape style. The parks from the Banat, besides their role to satisfy the esthetic and visual exigence, were very well adapted to the place, leading us in mind to the English parks of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. They are unique from domain to domain, from owner to owner, yet the adopted landscape architectural style is common, respecting the fashion of the given era.

The arrangement of the gardens specific to the 18<sup>th</sup> century was realized with certain characteristic compositional elements such as: arrangements of open floral spaces in front of the castles, in geometric shapes. However, behind the castle, along the main axis of the building, they placed the so called honor courtyard, realized in the style of French gardens. This is characterized by detachment from the rigorous geometrical planes, offering the garden a picturesque image, with a controlled naturalism. This era being followed by the landscape style, with a dendrological character, otherwise also characteristic to the researched area, which offers us a variety of possibilities of landscape and vegetal organization, finding some examples that we can admire even today.

### **Gardens classified as historical monuments**

The identified case studies have been shown to be uniform in terms of the chosen program, of the study period, which delineated between the 18<sup>th</sup> and the 21<sup>st</sup> century and covers the territories between the Western Carpathians and Crișana.

As a result of our research we can find that in the majority of the studied cases have not been made major changes to the historical buildings. The base construction remaining the castle, which presents itself in an identical form along time, without additions and expansions to the original situational plans and volume of the era. Minor changes to the constructed base can be noticed in studying historical maps, where one can observe the disappearance of secondary constructions in some cases and the appearance of other annexes.

The status of these castles varies from case to case. Castles, holding a constant function, such as in the case of the castles from Căpâlnaș, Mocrea, Macea and Șofronea present themselves to being in a continuous use, thus the maintenance of these castles is permanent. The rest of the castles are presented without any present functions, some even in an advanced state of degradation, such as the castles from Bulci and Odvoș.

Along the historical periods only smaller-sized establishments such as the establishment of the manor from Lovrin and even the Căpâlnaș, do not suffer any alterations concerning the extent of the domain as compared to the original. In the remaining inspected cases, there were made major changes to their layout as compared to the original footprint from the appearance of the castle and the park.

Few gardens present traces of the historical gardens of the era, their imprint being extinct, due to the events of historical periods and the transfer of these domains into different properties, later ending up in the hands of the state, which has significantly neglected the state of these castles and gardens. Thus, in addition to the degraded situation of the castle we can also talk about the disappearance of historical gardens, with only some old trees remaining, to represent the testimonies of a once abundant vegetation on the site. In most cases the tall vegetation has remained, but certainly this being in a wildered and unmaintained state. Medium and low vegetation that would prove the historical footprint of the garden can not be found in these establishments.

In some cases the alleys or traces of existing paths and alleys certify the existence of circulation in old times but they are visible only in the case of castles with a constant function over time and having a specific function, such as in the case of the castles from Mocrea and Căpâlnaș, both operating today as a psychiatric hospitals. This way, due to these existing functional locations and constructions, the destruction of these gardens proved to be slower, so some specific elements of the historical garden were kept and are still visible today. The inspection of the entire location in most cases was impossible, because even though some of them are functional and their gardens serve their indoor function, they are not fully maintained, some areas being inaccessible because of wild vegetation, which does not allow access and the complete visitation of the domain.

At some locations we are witnessing some changes and new additions of rearrangements of the garden of contemporary nature, which appear alongside the original-historical arrangements, and which have been partly made due to the functional needs of the interior of the castle that developed towards the exterior and less from a desire to achieve an impressive landscape arrangement, with the possibility of becoming historical arrangement in time, such as the case of Căpâlnaș, where this impact is not felt to be abusive, the vegetation's modifications being minimal. However, in case of the establishment of Șofronea, due to its function as a thermal bath in the old historical garden, the alterations have resulted in the deforestation of a significant area of the historical garden.

Few valuable architectural decorative objects can be retrieved of the original ones, they having been destroyed as a result of wars and the damages suffered over time. We have found the original flower trellises on the premises from Căpâlnaș and Bulci, as well as typical examples of fountains that are specific to the era, such as in the case of the castles at Banloc and Petriș, these being completed with delimitation elements of the establishment with specific gates, such as the monumental gates in the case of Banloc castle for example.

The studied castles and the gardens belonging to them were erected approximately in the same historical period, in a specific neoclassicist style, which is present also in the case of the gardens' arrangements. However, in the case of establishments with larger dimensions, besides the neoclassicist style present in the immediate vicinity of the castle, we can identify the extension of the park towards the landscape style such as in the case of the parks from Bulci, Petriș and Odvoș.

A special case is the garden of the Csekonics castle from Macea, which remains in a continuous maintenance, thanks to its function as a dendrological park, however the current originality of the historical garden is relative to be currently identified or in the case of a restoration, since it has suffered various changes in its situational plan, at the level of landscape arrangement over time. The establishment does not retain the original extent, it has grown in its surface then it has reduced, and due to these surface changes, a periodical rearrangement of the

park can also be felt over time. This way assigning a particular arrangement, studied in historical cadastral maps, the status of the original historical park is hard to define, since this park being in a continuous evolution along the time, it reached the status of a dendrological park only in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Gardens not classified as historical monuments**

Besides the parks of old times' noble castles there are also smaller aristocratic residences, protected and recognized monument-buildings of artistic value, or not recognized as monuments but with significant architectural value, where there are fewer tasks of environmental arrangement with relevance to the cultural landscape history of this region, and the architect shall proceed on the basis of similar principles to the studied castles and gardens, just at a different scale and with other accents.

In addition to the ten examples of gardens classified as historical monuments, in the area there are numerous studied architectural and landscape ensembles, whose current historical value is not to be neglected. These landscape artworks – gardens, parks – of local value, even if they don't fall into the category of historical gardens, where the landscape architecture does not reach the level of major artworks in landscape history of the era, yet through the material, through their vegetation fund and through certain preserved constructions or landscape elements, or due to historical testimonies, they can represent valuable visual and spatial elements. Also the diversity and age of the plants can stand for a treasure for the respective locality.

Within this study, in addition to studying the historical monument gardens, we were also interested in studying castles and manors with gardens holding a high monumental potential. This detail being important for understanding the general character of the arrangements adopted in the given period, it was also of great help for us to acquire complementary information in the case of gardens with the same owners. The choice of these gardens belonging to castles, manors and noble residences have been achieved following specific selection criteria, this way, these belonging to monumental constructions or with the potential of becoming a monument.

In total we have visited over 40 locations considered valuable having a historic past, a noticeable architecture or landscape art, according to the studied documents of the time of their construction. From all of these studied establishments I have chosen for study and research 33 mansions and gardens, 10 of which being classified as historical monuments and 23 ungraded, in Arad, Timiș and Caraș Severin. I chose these establishments with the wish and hope of discovering testimonies, which in bygone times have presented valuable architectural elements and arrangements with landscape value, specific to the period in which they were erected. The architectural value of the residence was the one that sparked the curiosity of a more thorough research and its surroundings.

As a result of the visit on the grounds, there have been identified 23 gardens ungraded as historic monuments belonging to certain aristocratic residences classified or not classified as historical monuments, 16 of Timis County, 4 of Caraș Severin County and 3 of Arad County. The gardens of the studied manors, some entirely extinct, others still holding valuable architectural and landscape elements, containing testimonial elements of the contemporary gardens, can be considered of a recognized historical significance, attested by documentary sources such as specialty books, articles or old postcards, which offer a more or less clear image about these ancient landscape arrangements.

Out of the number of the inspected gardens, namely 23 establishments, 16 were built before and between the years 1775 and 1830, which means a belonging to a narrower range for a historical and geographic area and historical period, also offering a typology for this area. Almost every domain formed a former property of renowned noble families, but presently in most cases these domains are currently held by unknown private owners or they are under the care of the Romanian state, thus being used by the local administration.

As a result of this study concerning the gardens ungraded as historical monuments, it was found that there are no landscape facilities that currently exist as compared to the garden's original, contemporary arrangement, as it could not be retrieved any vegetation arrangements, alleys, walkways or secondary constructions outside the mansion building, showing elements and traces of the original garden. This finding is valid for almost half of the cases studied, more exactly in 48% of ungraded gardens are situated in this stage.

We mention the most representative cases of this study, such as: the park of the Gyergyánffy castle in the locality of Livezile; the park of the Csávossy castle in the locality of Grănicerii; the park of the Mocsonyi castle from the locality of Foeni; the park of the Hollósi castle in the locality of Gherteniş; the park of the Damaszkín castle in the locality of Beregsau Mic and the Zichy manor in the locality of Pesac.

In most of the studied cases, the only testimony of the former original garden is the still existing tall vegetation, but in a state of advanced wildness, whose positions due to neglected stage of the vegetation doesn't necessarily stand for an adopted historic landscaping logics. The number of gardens in this situation rises approximately up to 36% of ungraded gardens and hold less than 50% landscape and vegetation elements according to the model of the contemporary garden. In this situation we can mention the following parks: the park of the Saurau Feger castle in the locality of Carani; the park of the Ronay castle in the locality of Şag; the park of the Bródy castle in the locality of Delineşti; the park of the Athanszievich castle in the locality of Valeapai; the park of the Nákó castle in the locality of Sânnicolau Mare.

Also in this category we can mention the establishments that appear to be home for various functions, where the existence of tall vegetation is undeniable, however there may appear other significant, contemporary arrangements as well, together with new constructions that influence and restructure certain areas of the establishment as compared to the original arrangement. Such examples are: the park of the Kintzig castle in the locality of Zimandu Nou; The park of the Ottlik Péter castle in the locality of Izvin; The park of the Uzbasich residence in the locality of Cenei.

16% of the studied gardens present vegetation elements and constructed elements according to the original model that still exists today. The most representative examples are presented to be as follow: The park of the Nikolics castle in the locality of Rudna; The park of the Beniczky castle in the locality of Folea; The park of the Jakabffy castle in the locality of Zagujeni; The park of the Ambrózy castle in the locality of Remetea Mare and the park of Manaszy Barco castle in the locality of Murani. These parks have retained the original structure of the establishment according to the original. Even if from the point of view of the vegetation each studied case presents more or less representative design changes, these still attest the presence of contemporary arrangements of the era, benefiting and preserving annex buildings, such as chapels of noble families, or attachments of other old household buildings.

This part of the present chapter intends to be inventory of gardens of manors and castles classified or not classified as historical monuments. The studying of these ungraded gardens was done in order to inventory and study of their current situation in comparison to the initial and

original situation. The research of these gardens have been performed by following the steps of research and study similar to the historically graded gardens. The classification of these ungraded gardens was done in accordance with criteria that have been defined as a result of the obtained information. Obviously, the discovered information about these gardens being significantly lower in terms of quantity, as compared to the case of gardens classified as historical monuments.

## **-CONCLUSIONS-**

The topic of the research has been developed around the historical gardens belonging to certain historical monuments, more specifically in relation to the castles and manors of noble families in the Banat region. Understanding the environment, time and social and historical coordinates of theoretical and practical milestones of patrimonial collections has presented a special interest of this study, thus the present work aimed at investigating these currently existing landscape arrangements, and the main factors that led to their transformation. We have studied the stages of transformation of these historical gardens as compared to their current state, the issue being dealt with both through historical, architectural perspective and from social-cultural point of view.

The present work intends to be able to contribute to the positive evolution of attitudes towards the historical garden and not lastly towards the historical monument it belongs to.

The object of this work was to analyze the current situation of the historical gardens of Banat with the help of detailed presentation of case studies where the current situation of historical gardens and their development over time has been documented. All the case studies have been analyzed and investigated in accordance with the adopted methodology and by describing all the activities that have taken part in modifying the original situation after the time of construction. Their presentation and evaluation from the landscape's point of view could be achieved with the help of on-site research and comparison of their state to the discovered documents using the research of archives and studied historical maps.

The identified case studies have proved to be uniform in terms of the chosen program, of the study period, which delineated between the 18<sup>th</sup> and the 21<sup>st</sup> century and covers the territories between the Western Carpathians and Crişana.

The study has been performed for the architectural complexes situated on the list of historical monuments, but also for the unclassified ones considered as being significantly valuable based on the traces remaining from the old landscape arrangements and taking into account their relationship to the aristocratic residence.

As a result of our research we can find that in the majority of the studied cases have not been made major changes to the historical buildings. The base construction remaining the castle (there are exceptions), which presents itself in an identical form along time, without additions and expansions to the original situational plans and volume of the era. Minor changes to the constructed base can be noticed in studying historical maps, where one can observe the disappearance of secondary constructions in some cases and the appearance of other annexes. The state of these castles varies from case to case. Castles and the parks belonging to them, holding a constant function, such as in the case of the castles from Căpâlnaş, Mocrea, Macea and Şofronea present themselves to being in a continuous use, thus the maintenance of these castles is permanent. The rest of the castles are presented without any present functions, some even in an advanced state of degradation, such as the castles from Bulci and Odvoş.

The accumulated historical documents present a secure basis for specialists in the field with a will to restore these parks, offering at the same time a free theme with the possibility to complete these information with further, more detailed researches.

In case of the studied gardens, not classified as historical monuments, some entirely extinct, others still holding valuable architectural and landscape elements, containing testimonial elements of the contemporary gardens, can be considered of a recognized historical significance, attested by documentary sources such as specialty books, articles or old postcards, which offer a more or less clear image about these ancient landscape arrangements.

The quantity of historical and actual information is significantly more reduced as compared to the case of graded gardens. Not in all studied cases were we able to gather sufficient information that would offer a secure basis for the restoration / rebuilding of the garden.

The chapter of the gardens not classified as historical monuments presents itself to be an inventory of the gardens of manors and castles graded or not graded as historical monuments. The studying of these gardens has been with the aim of evidencing and studying their actual situation as compared to their initial state. The research of these gardens has been done in detail, following the researching and studying steps similar to the gardens graded as historical gardens. The classification of these ungraded gardens has been performed according to criteria contoured as a result of the gathered information. Evidently, the discovered information about these gardens are significantly reduced from a quantitative standpoint as compared to the case of gardens classified as historical monuments.

Part of this study, concerning the ungraded historical gardens presents itself as an introduction to a set of themes with diverse possibilities of following completions. The realized inventory offers the possibility to further the research with the aim of keeping these existing values, with the hope of listing them as historical monuments in time. Unfortunately this possibility is very faint in case of the gardens that no longer exist, yet there definitely is a chance for the architecture of the castles and manors that presently are in an advanced state of degradation, but which present historical, memorial and architectural values of a remarkable quality.

Any project or intervention related to the rehabilitation of historic gardens is preceded by a historical research. The monumental value of the site is given by the ensemble of different historical layers that help us understand the message of the garden. New interventions must be further additions that increase the value of the architectural ensemble, and in the light of possible new information, permit the authentic restoration of the park. Thus, during the intervention of revitalization, decisions concerning the stylistic period to which the garden (or a part of the garden) is possible / allowed to return to, are always to be made based on the available information, taking into account the principle according to which it is not permitted the destruction of any element, dating from various historical periods in favor of presentation of another era.

The researched historical gardens in this study present historical documents attesting their existence and development, thus their restoration does not show any problems for specialists in the field. Within the research of the ten historical gardens in the Banat region, in most cases I have found significant documents. All these sources provide cartographic information, vintage images, memories and descriptions that offer a clearer view of the contemporary gardens. With the help of these documents a source of information extensive enough is offered to reconstruct the original historical garden, sadly only reduced to its current limits of their locations.

When formulating a restoration program of a historical park, there shall be taken into account of the known historical context, of the analogies of the Banat and Transylvania regions, of the landscaping tendencies in the era of the park's execution, as well as the new functions and destinations of the complex. In the view of a correct revitalization, it is important to rebuild the original spatial structures and proportions, respectively the former, unitary composition. This work, due to the accumulated information, presents itself to be a road start for the revitalization of these gardens. The loss of land, as it shows in some of the studied cases does not permit an authentic restoration from formal and structural standpoint, the surface being significantly reduced in most of the studied cases.

At the moment when we consider the significance of the garden, we should not neglect the tradition and innovation, experimentation and evolution that characterized several of the gardens. However this tradition, no matter how significant it may be, is often neglected when a too rigid conservational intervention is considered.

Flexibility is the key for the conservation of historical gardens and it is the only realistic answer to the unavoidable forces of change. For the conservers of gardens it is essential to understand the types of gardens and their behavior, which is significant in each case, even if it is from historical, botanical, artistic or any other reason, since gardens evolve in time, with different owners introducing their personal ideas, both formal and social that modify the aspect of the garden.

This doesn't only differ from Viollet-le-Duc's doctrine, who seeks rebuilding of a construction to an anterior, but real phase in its history, but also makes it more complicated for the garden, the landscape to be seen as one that has suffered a succession of phases and interventions all through its history. This way we ask ourselves how we could restore a garden that had gone through so many phases of change until it finally reached its current state.

The restoration this way needs to have a main goal of evoking the feeling of the gardens of the given era, protecting its still existing landscape, dendrological and architectural values. Rehabilitation techniques of historical gardens appear to be a different topic, just as complex as historical documentation. This way, the present study offers the possibility to develop the subject through a new study or though further completion of this work.

This study presents itself as an open topic, free for further completions both at the level of the researched and the presented documents and from the standpoint of the problematics of authenticity, followed by theories and possibilities of restoration, rebuilding and conservation of these historical gardens.