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## **GENESIS OF MENTAL PREFERENCES IN LANDSCAPE CONSTRUCTION OF HOMESTEAD LAND IN UKRAINE AND POLAND**

Аналізується вплив ментальних уподобань населення на особливості ландшафтного облаштування території в Україні та Польщі. Показано, що в останні десятиліття відбулися суттєві зміни в характері організації присадибного простору, розширився асортимент садивного матеріалу, частіше стали використовувати газони, живоплоти, бордюри, міксбордери. Спостерігається тенденція до уніфікації ландшафтного облаштування за європейськими зразками. Особливо це помітно в Польщі, де для цього існують організаційно-економічні та соціальні передумови. В Україні сучасне озеленення з використанням світового досвіду також має місце, але для багатьох верств населення воно недоступне. Показані ментальні відмінності в підходах до влаштування території присадибної ділянки. Звертається увага на необхідність збереження та розвитку національних особливостей під час ландшафтного будівництва.

**Ключові слова:** ландшафтне будівництво, озеленення, садивний матеріал, присадибна ділянка, бордюр, живопліт, міксбордери, розарій, рокарій, ментальні особливості, традиції, національна культура, глобалізація, генезис ментальних уподобань.

**Introduction.** Under modern conditions when globalization influences economics, politics and culture considerably, even landscaping and landscape construction, as a specific area of human activity, undergoes styles and methods unification and planting stock does not differ much in different countries with similar soil and climatic conditions. Nowadays lawns, hedges, decorative borders and mixboarders, rockeries are as popular in Northern America, Europe as in Ukraine. Yet, it is important for any culture to preserve, to highlight and to express artistically its national colour, appreciated not only in arts, literature and music but in arts of landscape as well.

A striking example of national culture representation is Japanese gardens which represents the Japanese mentality, their culture traditions, the world outlook philosophy and a place of a human in it. American, Chinese and Moresque gardens have been popularized widely thought peculiarities of soil and climatic conditions as well as national and mental preferences demand saving application of national landscape treasures and their usage in gardens and parks development and private houses landscaping.

**Analysis of recent research and publications.** Mental peculiarities of landscape construction in Ukraine were investigated by some scientists [1, 2, 3]. They have emphasized some differences in the world outlook and landscaping traditions in Ukraine and Western Europe. The Ukrainians construct their homestead land as a world multicolor model with all the places that provide and symbolize the completeness of existence, with the land fenced, west Europeans consider a fence to be the symbol of restricting a person and their homestead land content and configuration are monochrome and minimalist.

Public places in Ukraine are usually “no man’s”, they are often dirty and are a background while west Europeans consider public places as theirs, they are mostly tidy and are the centres of ethnic landscape. West Europeans landscaping and landscape constructions are characterized with configuration regularity, functionality, pragmatism, completeness, layout reasoning and well-grooming of landscape objects. A Ukrainian landscape construction are often unreasonably complicated, romantic, characterized with complicated configurations, work incompleteness, construction permanency and is of episodic, non-systemic character of care [4].

In 2011-2012 we studied the peculiarities of landscaping in Poland. The paper **aims** at comparing Ukrainian and Polish experience in landscaping and investigating mental peculiarities of landscape construction of the area. To achieve the aim the following tasks were to be fulfilled:

**Material and methods.** The basic methods applied in the course of the investigation were route survey, retrospective analysis of variety and age content of the plants, analysis of landscaping methods and landscape construction, making photos followed by the photos analysis.

**Results and discussions.** Ukraine and Poland have much in common uniting these countries. First, Ukraine had been a part of Rich Pospolyta for a long time that contributed to the cultures and traditions mutual penetration and formation of similar mental preferences. Secondly, a part of Poland, as well as that of Ukraine, has been a part of the Russian Empire and common border, legislation provided population settlement and cultural exchange, united different population stratum. Thirdly, communist

ideology and totalitarianism propagating puritanism have ruled for about 70 years in Ukraine and more than 40 years in Poland that has influenced culture and peculiarities of house and homestead land landscape construction. The ideology considered expensive decorative plants at homestead land area to be a vestiges of the communistic past.

Today Ukraine and Poland are neighbor states, oriented towards European values, with common borders, similar relief and climate, and their people are united with historic development and modern economy.

All this has influenced the forming of similar mentality, reflected in mental peculiarities of ethnic landscape construction including homestead areas.

Landscape construction of homestead areas did not differ much in Poland and Ukraine not long ago. Today homestead areas in Poland, especially those in east provinces, resemble Ukrainian houses surrounded with apple tree gardens. They are fenced, with small flower-beds which resembles most homestead areas in Poland 20-25 years ago. Such approach to homestead areas landscaping was caused not only by the national traditions and mental peculiarities, but by social and economic conditions. In the socialist Poland, as well as in Ukraine, a rural inhabitant has to provide his family with fruits, vegetables and berries grown in the homestead area and to sell part of the harvest to those who could not grow it. Nowadays Poland is a full value member of the EU and the majority of Poles are not engaged with farming as they buy everything in supermarkets. Poles decorate and landscape their homestead area as a recreation place. Dramatic change in landscaping traditions was caused by west orientation of the society, adopting practices of homestead areas landscaping from Germany and other European countries. Both ideological and organizational economic conditions arose for it. Hundreds of private decorative seed plots that borrowed rich planting stock and growing technologies from Europe in quite a short time owing to the state assistance. These plans became affordable for the majority of Poland population. Fruit trees were substituted with decorative trees and bushes, lawns and decorative pools were constructed in homestead areas.

Some changes are taking places in Ukraine as well, but the genesis of the Ukrainians' mentality flows more slowly. On one hand, a part of rich population having got acquainted with European experience in homestead areas landscaping implements it on professional level, involving the professionals to do project and landscape works. It should be mentioned that the level of homestead areas landscaping meets the highest requirements of the world level. But even modern objects are characterized with complicated configuration, multicolor landscape compositions, using fruit trees and bushes as elements of homestead areas landscaping, permanent adding and replanting plants by the owner who try to improve the landscapes created by professionals. Yet, the majority of rural dwellers in Ukraine are still involved in farming at their homestead areas and villas. It is fruit trees and gardens that are often the only means of subsistence for rural dwellers. This beauty has no sense without its benefits for these people. That is why mental approaches to homestead areas landscaping has not changed for most Ukrainians as they grow fruits and vegetables in their homestead areas and feed farm animals to survive. Perhaps, lawns, mixborders and rock gardens are the desired landscaping elements but they are still unaffordable for them.

Quite a big territory is allocated for homestead areas landscape in rural areas in Poland which allows using various planting stock and forming different landscape kinds.

As the analysis proves, most newly built houses in Poland have been landscaped in according with European traditions for decades and mental approaches have changed after political guidelines and social and economical changes. The basic kinds of plants used in Poland private homestead areas landscaping are hedges, mixborders, lawns, small groups of decorative plants and solitaires. According to our observations, homestead areas landscaping is done by the owners in most cases and they use small-size cheap material. It can be explained not only with affordability of cheap planting material and the owners' frugality, but with their desire to create their own "paradise" and to feel mental and aesthetic satisfied as well. The most popular material for hedge usually constructed at circumference of the area are different kinds and forms of coniferous plants: *Thuja occidentalis* "Smaragd", "Fastigiata", "Brabant", *Taxus baccata*, *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* "Alumi", *Juniperus communis* "Suesica", *Juniperus scopulorum* "Ski rocket". Sometimes hedges with several kinds or decorative forms occur which does not always look attractive and proves not a very successful experiment of the area owner.

Private houses homestead areas in Poland are landscaped with coniferous plants combining different forms of common spruce, Colorado spruce, Serbian spruce, junipers and cypresses and the owners get great decorative groups. As for leaf trees and bushes, exotic kinds and forms are used and rhododendrons, magnolias and roses are preferred. Groups and soliters surrounded with pine rinds or marble aggregate are often places in the lawns. Mixborders with decorative leaf forms of *Berberis ottavensis* “Supreba”, *Berberis tunbergery* “Atropurnerea”, “Maria”, “Aurea”, *Weigela gibrida* “Aureomarginata” and “Argenteomarginata”, *Swida alba* “Argenteomarginata” etc. are often constructed at the circumference. The regular adornment of mixborders are nice blooming rhododendrons, roses, hydrangea, spirea, weigela and heather bushes. Using transparent fences decorated with hedges, configuration simplification and functionality – renunciation of gardens and fruit orchards, wide use of relatively small-size cheap planting stock, lawns construction, monochromic compositions, hard coated paths, small architectural forms and pools are common tendencies of homestead areas landscape construction in Poland.

Using the abovementioned planting stock in Ukraine can not be denied but these plants are often imported from Europe including Poland. New approaches to homestead areas landscape construction as a place of relaxation, a sort of paradise on the earth are applied in Ukraine only partially, mainly by rich population. The Ukrainians, especially rich ones, fence their houses with high non-transparent fence, a fruit orchard as an element of landscape is saved and kept, the compositions are usually colorful due to both blooming trees and bushes, their decorative leaf forms and bright flower-beds. Lawns, as well as in Poland, is a dominant form of soil surface. Having abandoned to keep domestic animals at the homestead areas, rich Ukrainians keep poultry houses just for pleasure and keep peacocks, partridge, decorative hens and pigeons. A peculiar feature of Ukrainian homestead areas landscape is the permanent process of its regular improvement and reconstruction of the constructed layouts, new plants replanting. This is true for both multiform homestead areas and new orchards created in accordance with modern canons.

To sum it up, a comparative table of common and different features of homestead areas landscaping in Poland and Ukraine is given.

**Conclusions.** Thus, mental approached to homestead area landscape design have changed dramatically within the last 20-30 years in Poland. European values orientations, national horticulture development, favorable social and economic conditions allow to form a homestead area as a recreation zone and to give up gardening. Modern landscaping has become affordable and popular.

Table 1 – Peculiar features of homestead areas landscape design in Poland and Ukraine

Landscape design element	Ukraine	Poland
Fence	High, mostly non-transparent made of inert materials like concrete slab, stone, metal shape	Transparent, mostly grid with green fence of trees or bushes or twinned around with lianas
Gate	Owner's trademark, usually decorated with metal smithery, woodcarving etc.	Are of utilitarian purpose and do not differ much from other parts of the fence
Front garden	Small, often planted with fruit trees and bushes, sometimes with grass-seeded lawn, paths are bordered	Large and spacious, usually presented with mowed lawn with a flower bed or rosary, flower and trees composition close to the house
A house and utility rooms	Located close to a road, forming a living zone, often combined a utility one	A house is located remote at the area, utility zone is usually separated from the living one
Kinds of plants	Plants configuration is complicated, a garden and a kitchen-garden zones are present except a living and decorative one. Mixborders along the fence, rockeries and rosaries and flowerbeds are designed, depending on the area size, in modern gardens on the lawns	Simple functional plants, mainly hedges, borders, mixborders, soliters, lawns, sometimes rockeries and pools or trees and bushes groups framed with decorative sprinkle
Planting	Modern landscape design of new elite houses is done by the professionals according to individual projects, large-size planting stock used. Landscaping in rural areas is done by the owners who design fruit gardens with decorative elements inclusion	Landscaping in is mainly done by the owners, who form compositions step-by-step, in their own manner; small-size planting stock is used to form hedges and mixborders
Plants care and maintainance	Regular improvement, re-planning and re-planting	Plants are nor replanted, as a rule they are formed gradually
Outside area	No man's land, untidy, often encumbered with building materials	Considered to be someone's, tidy, attractive

Mental processes changes are slower in Ukraine, new houses are almost not being built in rural areas, only elite houses are being built in suburbs where European and world experience in landscape design is being implemented widely. Orchards and gardens, often a decorative one is an integral component of these houses.

Homestead areas are usually fenced with high fence, the public areas are mostly untidy. Social and economic, organizational and legislative background are essential for mass implementing of European and world experience in landscape design, but they there are not available in Ukraine now.

Another thing to be mentioned is that it is important to save national character and national peculiarities while implementing European and world experience in landscape design both in Poland and Ukraine.

Among such peculiarities in Ukraine are: an orchard, a decorative garden fenced with willow branches, national embroidery decorations, antiquities used as architecture forms, lawns of knotgrass, colourful mixborders made of mallows, decorative sunflowers, lupine, arrowwood etc. These elements are to express and accentuate the garden national character and spirit. Attempts to use pre-Christianity Slavic symbols in the gardens are worth considering.

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#### Генезис ментальных предпочтений ландшафтного обустройства приусадебной территории в Украине и Польше С.В. Роговский

Анализируется влияние ментальных предпочтений населения на особенности ландшафтного обустройства территории в Украине и Польше. Показано, что в последние десятилетия произошли существенные изменения в характере организации приусадебного пространства, расширился ассортимент посадочного материала, чаще стали использовать газоны, живые изгороди, бордюры, миксбордеры. Наблюдается тенденция к унификации ландшафтного обустройства по европейским образцам. Особенно это заметно в Польше, где для этого существуют организационно-экономические и социальные предпосылки. В Украине современное озеленение с использованием мирового опыта также имеет место, но для многих слоев населения оно недоступно. Показаны ментальные различия в подходах к устройству территории приусадебного участка. Обращается внимание на необходимость сохранения и развития национальных особенностей при ландшафтном строительстве.

**Ключевые слова:** ландшафтное строительство, озеленение, посадочный материал, приусадебный участок, бордюр, изгородь, миксбордер, розарий, рокарий, ментальные особенности, традиции, национальная культура, глобализация, генезис ментальных предпочтений.

#### Genesis of mental preferences in landscape construction of homestead land in Ukraine and Poland S. Rohovskiy

The paper deals with the analysis of people mental preferences in landscape construction in Ukraine and Poland. There has been shown that significant changes have taken place in the organization of homestead land; the planting stock range has been widened; lawns, hedges, decorative borders and mixboarders have been used more often The tendency to landscape construction unification in accordance with European models is observed. It is especially marked in Poland where different organizational, economic and social preconditions exist. Modern landscaping with the world experience application takes place in Ukraine as well but it is too expensive for most people. The paper shows mental differences in approaches to homestead land constructing. It points out the necessity of national features preservation and development in landscape constructing.

**Key words:** landscape constructing, landscaping, planting stock, homestead land, hedge, decorative border, mixborders, rosary, rockery, mental peculiarities, traditions, national culture, globalization, genesis of mental preferences.

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