

NATURE ELEMENTS IN THE CITY ENVIRONMENT OF LIEPĀJA

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Abstract

The forces of nature have always been admired by humans and affected their character. The proximity of water and the presence of nature create a spirit of freedom and independence. Over a period of several centuries the development of the city of Liepāja has been affected by a wide array of nearby water systems –the Baltic Sea, Liepāja and Tosmare lakes, Līva and Pērkone rivers. Pine woods at the seashore and the vastness of the sea are among the factors that influence the choice of location for living. By incorporating elements of nature in the city environment, it is possible to achieve a harmony between the natural and the man-made.

At the end of the 19th century Liepāja city experienced a period of an accelerated development. A city environment was created on the strip of land between the Baltic Sea and Liepāja lake, with a special emphasis on scenery. The layout of buildings was in a harmony with nature elements. The construction was composed as an ensemble. The magnificent and original greeneries together with the streets of the city created varied scenery, at the same time preserving the interrelations between large green areas, such as parks, gardens and squares. Buildings, cobblestone pavement, sidewalks and street greeneries together with city parks and squares created a unique ensemble of urban planning.

Nowadays a great attention should be paid to the special aspect of the city environment and the improvement of the life environment, which is not achievable without the presence of nature elements. The connection between nature elements and architecture of buildings is characteristic of the historic design of the city. By exploring the previous experience in qualitative and balanced design of the city environment, it is possible to continue these traditions, thereby enriching the experience itself. Such approach is a key to preserving the identity of the city.