

RESIDENTIAL OUTDOOR TERRITORY REVITALIZATION IN THE CITIES OF LATVIA

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The term “quality of living-space” is very common in Latvia. Before regaining independence in 1991 — during the period of the USSR, the minds of Latvian architects were preoccupied by the aesthetics of a healthy environment and spatial environment organizational issues. The economic situation of the time and the ideological tendencies towards a better future allowed considering the quality and aesthetics of the environment.¹ The construction period of high-rise residential buildings in Latvia dated from the late 1950s and successfully continued until the beginning of the 1990s. Today, however, this impressive building period has left a complex of problems. Consequently, the chosen theme on the post-Soviet multi-storey residential area courtyards in Latvia is topical and essential for the development of any urban environment. A modern multi-storey residential area courtyard is a sophisticated multi-functional space in the environment that is used by thousands of people on a daily basis. Unfortunately, in Latvia the major part of these territories has unsuccessful planning, which greatly affects the present condition in these territories. The projects constructed in the Soviet period today are no longer able to bear the great loads, since many aspects of the residential outdoors have changed.² The article discusses those Soviet period courtyards, which in recent years have experienced changes and improvements introduced by the residents of these courtyards in collaboration with the specialists of the respective fields.

Introduction

The importance of public space has been widely recognized, mainly from the perspective of improving the quality of life through a comfortable environment and abundant public life; enhancing the urban image through urban vitality; and urging economic development through investments which are attracted by a good image. Therefore, the changing nature of public space and the emergence of new public spaces can beautify the urban environment and make it pleasant to work,

and relax in for people.³ Modern multi-storey residential area courtyards in most cities of Latvia have been neglected. The major part of the cities is occupied by large residential areas built in the second half of the 20th century. Such multi-storey residential areas and their courtyards have not experienced any transformation or renovation in recent years. The present condition of courtyards does not correspond to modern requirements, which results in multiple problems with territorial planning, which, as a result, is not able

to provide functional exploitation possibilities for the residents; thus, the planning can be characterized as unsuccessful. At present, multi-storey residential areas develop unevenly, and there is a danger of stratification of several multi-storey residential areas. The main part of multi-storey residential areas does not correspond to the modern requirements of multi-functionality, and the residential fund is depleted.⁴ "Determining the affect of the environment on a human being, it is necessary to consider that full development of a person cannot be achieved with a passive perception of only one or another stimulus. Each stimulus becomes an essential personality developing factor only in case, if an organism is given a chance to react to this stimulus actively and productively..."⁵ The idea proposed by the famous American scientist René Dubos (late 1970s) perfectly characterizes the attitude of modern society towards a uniform environment, despite its absolute accordance with industrial methods and standards. Public spaces of living environments are an essential part of housing — it is an expansion of individual living environment in the outside territory. It is an environment where, through everyday routine, individuals expand the perception of their homes from an apartment to broader public spaces. Inhabitants actively exploit these territories, thus, privatizing the physical space that they consider to be their own.⁶ Consequently, an important issue is the opinions of residents of these analysed territories regarding the outdoor area, its aesthetic quality and further development.⁷ Based on the findings and the author's previous research on residential landscape quality in the cities of Latvia, recreation facilities in courtyards, problems of multifunctional territory utilization, solutions for exterior compositions, as well as research on correlations among foreign examples of functional solutions in courtyards that could be useful for transforming the Soviet- period courtyards, it is vital to

educate and actively involve residents of these territories, through scientific and practical activities, in the processes of gradual revitalization of the exterior of these residential spaces, in order to improve their aesthetic quality, safety, and functionality for everyone's use. The aim of this article is to acquire specific information and a summary of renovation activities that have occurred in recent years in these residential outdoor territories.

Material and methods

The study of the renovation processes and activities in the open residential territories that have taken place during recent years in Latvia was carried out in the period from November 2013 to May 2015. To achieve the aim, scientific research literature was studied, including the analysis of publications and electronic resources. The research process required acquisition of photographic images of the analysed courtyards from field specialists, i.e. landscape architects, who developed the concept of revitalization and participated in the redevelopment of these territories. According to the aim of the study relevant information was collected and analysed about the courtyards that have already been revitalized to a certain extent or that are planned to be redeveloped in stages in the coming years.

Consequently, based on practical experience and materials derived from the period of November 2013 to May 2015, the study analyses the courtyard examples in cities such as Riga and Jelgava, because these are the cities that have experienced the most significant changes over the last years, and where citizens and specialists have been actively involved in the development of smaller or larger construction projects, as well as reorganization and improvement of the open residential areas. To obtain the results, a monographic or descriptive method was applied, which was based on the scientific findings and specific processes found to have been applied in the renovation activities of the residential area.

Results and discussion

Territorial environment planning in Europe boomed within the framework of the regions in the middle of the 20th century. It was postulated as a complex of economic, engineering, ecological, sociological, and architectonic spatial planning measures that determines the most rational location of productive forces, their possible cooperation and perspective development, as well as optimally connected with the previously mentioned residential area development measures in a region, district, and housing estate.⁸ Problem issues connected with participation of art in the creation of architectonic environment became particularly topical exactly in the 1970s. The reasons for that are obviously hidden, on the one hand, in a still increasing industrial mass building amount that creates real residential space not just for us but for the next generations as well, but, on the other hand, in the awareness that the quality of spatial environment today cannot satisfy the ever increasing needs of the society.⁹ The fast-growing cities of the Latvian SSR mooted many serious problem issues, one of them being spatial organization of residential areas. The promoter on working out a building project observes the landscape as if from above, though sometimes what seems striking as very good on the model actually does not prove to be so, because each of these scales are dominated by their own spatial composition laws.¹⁰ In 1957, there was a turn from the building of separate houses to construction of big housing estates. Brick buildings were used in the first housing estate redevelopment in 1958–1960. Many of them were built according to Moscow's developed standard projects slightly adapting them to the local circumstances.¹¹ Spatial organisation of new residential urban regions, namely, the arrangement of buildings in the building scheme, proportions of building mass, organisation of residential courtyards inner communication, interconnection of buildings

and traffic main roads, as well as the absolute proportions of the buildings — these are the questions that emerged with the development of the new territories for the organisation of residential areas and redevelopment of the cities in general. Privatization of the residential fund and denationalization had also affected the problems of the large-scale residential areas.¹² The situation is characterized by the following features:

- the number of inhabitants and the total area of the residential fund are relatively settled, a slight decrease of the residential fund in the existing buildings has been observed on the account of ground floor apartments transformed into local service objects. Such a phenomenon in this research was established in many large-scale courtyards of the Baltic States; therefore, residential outdoor territory is exposed to more poly-functional pressure that degrades the landscape space of courtyards in general;
- free spaces between residential buildings — former greenery zones and children's playgrounds are often used with a commercial purpose. Increase of the number of motor vehicles creates conflict situations in the exploitation of the courtyard outdoor territory, dislodging the recreation function from it. In the privatization process dividing the region's territory in plots attached to privatised buildings, using courtyards both for motor vehicle parking lots arrangement, and building different kinds of service objects have taken place, therefore the basic idea of the regions' planner, based on Le Corbusier conception about large-scale residential areas enveloped in greenery, is disabled.¹³

Today such a housing development in many places is associated with unemployment and social exclusion. In the environment where the indigenous inhabitants of the city do not want to live immigrant families

could be found residing. Low-income households struggle here to maintain satisfactory environmental standards. The degradation process of the large-scale residential areas very soon after the end of the housing development period was promoted by many factors.¹⁴ Looking from the point of view of the modern urban planning theory one of large-scale residential environment development possibilities is functional differentiation of the courtyard space, whose resulting main task is a perception and exponentiation of its re-creativity potential. Danish urban planner Jan Gehl pointed out that there could be three main directions in the functional and aesthetic spectrum of the public outdoor territory: necessary activities, possible activities, and social activities. The recreation function by this division corresponds to the second category, where the processes of included functions are directly dependent on adequate outdoor territory conditions — “if there is a wish... and if one has time and the place allows”.¹⁵

Consequently, during the last years, in many of Latvia's cities renovation and rehabilitating activities have been carried out in residential courtyards with the support from local businesses and government. One example is the co-project “*Pagalmu Renesanse*” (Renaissance of Yards), carried out by the foundation “Riga 2014” and the Latvian Association of Landscape Architecture (LAAB), which was included in the European Capital of Culture Programme. The project “Renaissance of Yards” was created to encourage citizens to engage in the improvement of their living environment, and alongside with specialists — landscape architects and gardeners — to search for solutions and opportunities in order to build a modern, qualitative, and aesthetic courtyard environment. The aim of this project was to expand the concept of culture. This facilitated the involvement and participation of a wide circle of people in the cultural life environment,

promoting a responsible and creative attitude towards their immediate surroundings — the courtyard of their residential house, its renovation and maintenance. Project activities were designed as an educational complex of measures targeted at the residents of housing estates, aiming to involve them in a collective work, promoting their further participation and accountability for the common urban culture, because culture is not only art, music, and theatre — our culture on a daily basis is the environment in which we live in.¹⁶ Each courtyard of a multi-storey building is not only a shared living space of the house residents — it is also a piece of Riga's “fabric”. This “fabric” is made up of small patios in Pārdaugava and concealed courtyards of the Centre, exquisite front gardens of the Quiet centre, and spacious Riga housing estate courtyards. By rehabilitating these little “islands” in front of our homes, it is possible to improve the overall living environment of the city, to build these areas people-friendly, pleasant, harmonious and appropriate for the modern era. It is the residential area environment that represents a significant part of the exterior of Riga and a part of the everyday background of an individual's urban life. A majority of Riga's population is already aware that the current environment of residential neighbourhoods — with courtyards and their furnishings, roads, and infrastructure — does not meet the needs of modern people neither functionally nor aesthetically. Therefore, the project has encouraged the action “Yard from your window”, which took place in the summer of 2013 (3–10 July). The project addressed the urban residents and encouraged them to evaluate the current situation in their courtyards, suggesting not to acquiesce with it, and it encouraged them to initiate the transformation process of their courtyards themselves. (Figs. 1, 2)

During the research process, it was found out that the territory residents were greatly interested and very responsive in regard of



Fig. 1. The current situation in 55 Tērbatas Street, view from the sixth floor [Source: photo from Ilze Rukšāne's private archive, 2014]

the courtyard revitalization issue when the project “Renaissance of Yards” announced a proposal to collaborate with landscape architects and gardeners in order to plan the yard development. As a result, residents from different districts of Riga engaged in the process — mainly from the Centre, Ilģuciemis, Mežciems, Pļavnieki, etc. and in 2014 an active planning process began in 14 courtyards of Riga: 163 Maskavas Street, 6 Blaumaņa Street, 18 Ilūkstes Street, 7 Kazarmu Street, 3 Ilģuciema Street, 2, 4, 6 Gailezera Street / 31, 33, 37, 39, 41, 43, 43a S. Eizenšteina Street, 122k-2 Barona Street, 8 K-1 Kandavas Street, 6 Daudzeses Street, 20 Avotu Street, 5 Krasta Street, 6 Strēlnieku Street, 9, 11 Skujenes Street, 33 Miera Street. In the process of work, landscape architects, together with residents analysed the current situation and possible development plan variations of these courtyards. They suggested solutions and offered creative ideas for an environmental restoration of yards, developed



Fig. 2. The current situation in 268, K2, Maskavas Street Ķengarags, Riga, view from the second floor. [Source: photo from Anete Lesīte's private archive, 2012]



Fig. 3. The current situation in 163 Maskavas Street courtyard [Source: photo from Ilze Rukšāne's private archive, 2014]



Fig. 4. Deteriorated roads of 163 Maskavas Street courtyard. [Source: photo from Ilze Rukšāne's private archive, 2014]

plan sketches and design variations. They developed project ideas with specific solutions on the topographic plan, ensuring for all the work to be done through the step-by-step division as well as offered advice that coordinated the project with laws and regulations. In the process of analysis different solutions of concepts were established in these courtyards: 163 Maskavas Street, 8 Kandavas Street, 2, 4, 6 Gaiļezera Street, and 31, 33, 37, 39, 41, 43, 43a S. Eizenšteina Street.

Residential outdoor territory on 163 Maskavas Street: the courtyard landscape territory — 594 m², undetached courtyard, disorganized economic zones — waste container area, and a shed. Deteriorated courtyard surfaces: asphalt and lawn. Residents' suggestions on the courtyard improvement specifics:

to restrict road traffic across the yard, install sidewalks, tidy up the economic zones, create recreation areas (Figs. 3, 4).

The courtyard development concept was developed by landscape architect Ilze Rukšāne ("apdALPS" Ltd), with the participation of landscape architect Zane Cielava and courtyard revitalization initiator — resident of 163 Maskavas Street Dzintra Galiņa from the association "Aiviekstes ozols" (Aiviekste Oak). As a result, the courtyard development concept and motto were established: "There is no place like home — to feel at home in the courtyard — four courtyard rooms". The inspiration for the courtyard composition: planning of the building's second floor, where its mirror image is transferred to the yard space, accordingly increasing it in scale — coordinating to the



Fig. 5. Revitalization proposal master plan. [Source: material from project author "apdALPS" Ltd]



Fig. 6. The landscape service and utilities establishment in stages. [Source: material from project author "apdALPS" Ltd.], with the following designations: Stage 1 — 1.1. Construction of housing for waste containers; 1.2. Construction of support walls; 1.3. Construction of access road surface; 1.4. Planting climbing plants along the support walls and walls of the building; 1.5. Lawn installation, incorporating ground cover plants; Stage 2 — 2.1. Creating high beds and plantings; 2.2. Installation of gabion retaining walls and stair construction; 2.3. Terrain levelling, pavement construction, and lawn installation; Stage 3 — 3.1. Plantation of greenery in courtyard "rooms"; 3.2. Installation of playground equipment, garden furniture and bike shelter; 3.3. Construction of campfire pits; 3.4. Hedge planting along the fence.

sense of an open space and the proportional division of the courtyards.¹⁷ Multiple courtyard zones are established, where functional areas determine the land use and planned area-specific activities. Each one is characterized by different functions: “room” — the living/dining room, nursery, bedroom, library; and “economic zone” — entrance hall, pantry, and kitchen (Figs. 5, 6).

Courtyard in 8 Kandavas Street, k-1, land area comprises 1602 m², a residential building built in 1961, three floors with nine apartments. The land plot is surrounded from three sides by other apartment house

plots. The entrance in the courtyard is an unpaved dirt road. The front of the house has a green area, which is densely overgrown with unmanaged fruit trees (pear and plum) and berry shrubs, as well as some large-size trees (maple, linden, elm, cherry, rowan) and a number of old lilac bushes. The courtyard is now a “green” walk-through territory. The significant landscape elements of the courtyard are two magnificent oaks and one lime tree. The only landscape convenience element is a self-made bench around the courtyard’s main oak tree¹⁸ (Figs. 7, 8). The courtyard development concept was developed by landscape



Fig. 7. A view of the current situation looking at Kandavas Street.
[Source: photo from Inga Langenfelde’s private archive, 2014]



Fig. 8. A view of current situation looking from Kandavas Street.
[Source: photo from Inga Langenfelde’s private archive, 2014]



Fig. 9. Variations of the revitalization proposal master plan. [Source: material provided by the project author Inga Langenfelde, 2014]

architect Inga Langenfelde and courtyard initiator was 8 Kandavas Street, k-1, resident Dace Lubāne. Residents are interested in creating a modern, aesthetic living space with beautiful, decorative representative zones to eliminate the deteriorated elements that contribute to unauthorized persons' frequent transit or overall spending time in the courtyard territory.

The courtyard development concept and primary environment quality improvement works: to eliminate worthless shrubs, to tidy up and maintain the large trees with the help of a certified arborist, to create a physical demarcation for the living area (recreation and play function areas) of the courtyard to detach them from pedestrian traffic transit zones, to install decorative planting borders. For the courtyard conceptual solution variety see Figure 9.

In contrast, much more significant and in proportion much broader courtyards, for which a development concept was prepared, were the yards in 2, 4, 6 Gaiļezera Street and 31, 33, 37, 39, 41, 43, 43a S. Eizenšteina

Street. The area of this project consists of ten high-rise residential buildings, with the courtyard area ~19 580 m² and a population of ~1700. In this area, nine-storey residential buildings, outbuildings, public and private car parks are located. The territory has no distinct relief. Groups of trees are mainly located in the northern and western parts of the area next to building façades, walkways, and entrances of residential buildings. The existing pavement is worn out, uneven and with potholes. The children's playground equipment and landscaping elements are physically deteriorated and the number of parking spaces is insufficient (Fig. 10). The territory has insufficient lighting during the darker hours of the day. The courtyard area is divided into several properties, including the private properties that interfere with both the general development and management of the courtyard. The residents are interested in creating children's play areas, including a sports area for young people, arranging recreation areas with decorative plantings, and arranging a parking area with a set speed limit.¹⁹



Fig. 10. Research of the existing situation. [Source: photo from Ieva Kalniņa's private archive, 2014]

The courtyard concept intends to introduce new greenery areas, recreation areas, children's play and sports areas (Fig. 11).

In addition to the "Renaissance of Yards" activity, a broad spectrum of courtyard tidying, renovating and landscaping activities have been held for the last several years, organized by the Big Cleanup yard cleanup movement. Over the last years, in some cities of Latvia many courtyards have been organized and landscaped, engaging field specialists, students from the Landscape Architecture and Planning Programme of Latvia University of Agriculture, Riga Technical University Architecture Programme, RISEBA Architecture Programme and other citizens. After thoroughly exploring the existing territories, several citizen debates, and development of construction designs, these courtyards have been partly revitalized every year during Latvia's Big Cleanup day. For example, in the spring of 2015,

The courtyard development concept was developed by landscape architects Kristīne Dreija ("Veido Vidi" Ltd), and Ieva Kalniņa and the courtyard initiators — residents of 2 Gaīļezera Street — Biruta Kuļikova, 4 Gaīļezera Street — Ludmila Scerbana, and 31 S. Eizenšteina Street — Kristīne Vindela.



Fig. 11. Revitalization master plan proposal. [Source: material from the project author Kristīne Dreija, 2014]



Fig. 12. Installation works in the future playground area. [Source: photo from Una Īle's private archive, 2015]



Fig. 13. New playground area in 5. Kr. Barona Street 5, Jelgava. [Source: photo from Una Īle's private archive, 2015]

four courtyard makeovers took place in different cities — in Daugavpils, 14, 16, 16a Cēsu Street; in Jelgava, 5 Kr. Barona Street; in Vecpiebalga municipality on Alauksta Street 1; and in Riga, Garden Street 36 A.²⁰ Each courtyard's visual and technical condition is different, which is also affected by

a variety of people's expectations and the understanding of residential outdoor use in everyday life. For courtyard cleaning and improvement works from the Big Clean-up day see Figures 12 and 13.

In the further development of courtyards it is necessary to involve its inhabitants, who,



Fig. 14. Improvement works in 2, 2a, 4 Nameja Street. [Source: photo from Una Īle's private archive, 2013]



Fig. 15. Actively participating citizens in 2, 2a, 4 Nameja Street [Source: photo from Una Īle's private archive, 2013]

together with experts, would come to optimal solutions for the territory.²¹ A positive aspect established in the research is the fact that local businesses related to construction work, want to help clean up and improve the multi-storey residential area courtyards, providing new opportunities for area users. For example, since 2013, in the city of Jelgava, the Road Construction Company "Igate" has begun a gradual renovation process of courtyards, where, in collaboration with citizens and specialists, several courtyard areas are being improved, organized, landscaped and equipped with new elements (Figs. 14, 15).

Citizen expectations are versatile, but equally specific, which, by their engaging in the aforementioned activities, results in the improvement and change of the courtyard scenery, making the site more enjoyable and safe. The overwhelming disharmony of the environmental quality greatly affects the overall condition of the large-scale residential area courtyards in the analysed territory. Consequently, it is necessary to reconsider the further development processes that would significantly improve the quality level of the present landscape. Consequently, it is important to understand and organize the rational use of funds allocated to residential outdoor area revitalization according to modern planning requirements.

Conclusion

The major part of the territories does not measure up to modern multi-functional requirements and regulations; the aesthetic quality of these territories is very low. It is necessary to reconstruct and improve the green zones, to create relaxation and recreation space for inhabitants of any age group. It is also important to arrange the infrastructure of courtyards, in order to provide a safe and comfortable transmigration for every inhabitant of the territory. This would make the multi-storey residential area more

aesthetically attractive, and consequently will ensure the wellbeing and relaxation for the inhabitants.²² In order to provide harmoniously pleasant and valuable landscape solutions in the courtyards of large-scale residential areas, it is necessary to eliminate the topical problems. It is also advisable to integrate these territories into urban housing processes, improving their functional zoning, housing system, and technical solutions for landscape, plantings, and transport systems. An essential factor is the consideration of people's opinions, wishes, and interests in the process of reconstruction and rearrangement of the housing and exterior courtyards. It is necessary to diminish the effect of the degradation processes on the residential outdoor area, providing the residents with the information on the rational exploitation of the courtyard area. As a result, one of the main topical tasks in the large-scale residential area courtyards is to provide its inhabitants with such living conditions in the cities of Latvia that correspond to European standards of social and sanitary hygienic and aesthetic requirements. Thus, it is necessary to proceed with thorough exterior revitalization in the Latvian Soviet period large-scale residential area courtyards, taking into consideration the condition of housing, landscape equipment, the wear and tear of the area, infrastructure planning, quality of plantings, sunlight access, draughts and other important aspects that should be considered by any specialist.

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Par autori

Dr. arch. Una Īle kopš 2012. g. ir docente Latvijas Lauksaimniecības universitātes Vides un būvzinātņu fakultātes Ainavu arhitektūras un plānošanas katedrā. Docentes Unas Īles veiktajos pētījumos analizēta ainaviskās kvalitātes problemātika postsociālisma valstu lielmēroga dzīvojamajos rajonos, to iekškvartālos. Izpētīts 20. gadsimta 60.–80. gadu dzīvojamās ārtelpas funkcionālais plānojums un apstādījumu problemātika lielmēroga dzīvojamo iekškvartālu teritorijā. Apkopoti teorētiskie nosacījumi iekškvartālu plānošanā un izpētīta iekškvartālu telpas kvalitāte Baltijas jūras reģiona kontekstā, apkopojot ainaviskās kvalitātes ietekmējošos faktorus. Plaši analizētas iekškvartālu ainaviskās telpas attīstības tendences un apstādījumu funkcionālā struktūra, kā arī dzīvojamās ārtelpas sociāli ekonomiskais aspekts. Pētījumos iegūtie rezultāti, kas raksturo 20. gadsimta otrās puses iekškvartālu ainaviskās telpas kvalitāti Latvijas pilsētās, no teorētiskās atziņu bāzes integrēti vairākos iekškvartālu būvprojektos. Līdz ar to Una Īle vairākus gadus pēc kārtas kā mentore aktīvi ņēmusi dalību Lielās Talkas Pagalmu Sakopšanas projektā un SIA “Ceļu būvniecības sabiedrības “Igate”” pagalmu aktivitātē. Sadarbojoties ar aktivitāšu organizatoriem, kopīgiem spēkiem sakārtotas piecu iekškvartālu teritorijas: 2013. gadā S. Eizenšteina ielā 63, Rīgā, un Nameja ielā 2, 2a, 4, Jelgavā; 2014. gadā Grēdu ielā 1, Rīgā; 2015. gadā Lielajā ielā 8, 10, Kr. Barona ielā 5, Jelgavā, un Loka maģistrālē 7, 11, 13, 15, Jelgavā.

Unas Īles veiktie pētījuma rezultāti prezentēti gan starptautiskās, gan Latvijas mēroga zinātniski pētnieciskās konferencēs un semināros, kā arī vizītē pie Vācijas federālā prezidenta Joahima Gauka (*Joachim Gauck*) Pilsoņu svētkos, Berlīnē, Vācijā 2014. gadā. Docentei Unai Īlei ir LZP eksperta tiesības arhitektūras nozares ainavu arhitektūras apakšnozarē, viņa bijusi promocijas padomes sekretāre un šobrīd ir LLU Ainavu arhitektūras promocijas padomes locekle, Viļņas Ģedimina Tehniskās universitātes starptautiskā zinātnisko rakstu krājuma “*Science — Future of Lithuania*” redkolēģijas locekle, kā arī aktīva Latvijas ainavu arhitektūras biedrības biedre un kopš 2015. gada — Eiropas Ainavu arhitektūras skolu asociācijas komisijas locekle, kas ņēmusi dalību starptautisku zinātniski praktisku projektu realizēšanā.

DZĪVOJAMĀS ĀRTELPAŠ REVITALIZĀCIJA LATVIJAS PILSĒTĀS

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Anotācija

Atslēgvārdi: *pēcpadomju laika iekšpagalmi, dzīvojamās ārtelpas teritorijas revitalizācija*

Pētījums par dzīvojamās ārtelpas revitalizācijas procesiem un darbībām, kas notikušas pēdējos gados Latvijā, veikts laika posmā no 2013. gada novembra līdz 2015. gada maijam. Mērķa sasniegšanai izmantota zinātniski pētnieciskās literatūras — publikāciju un elektronisko resursu analīze. Pētījuma procesā iegūtas fotofiksācijas no analizētajiem iekšpagalmiem, speciālistiem — ainavu arhitektiem, kas izstrādājuši revitalizācijas koncepcijas un piedalījušies pagalmu labiekārtošanā. Atbilstoši pētījumā izvirzītajam mērķim apkopota un analizēta informācija par realizētajiem iekšpagalmiem, kas noteiktos apjomos revitalizēti vai plānoti revitalizēt pa posmiem turpmākajos gados. Balstoties uz praktisko pieredzi un iegūtajiem materiāliem laika posmā no 2013. gada novembra līdz 2015. gada maijam, pētījumā analizēti iekšpagalmu piemēri no Rīgas un Jelgavas, jo šajās pilsētās pēdējos gados notikušas redzamas pārmaiņas un ir vērojama aktīva iedzīvotāju vēlme un speciālistu piesaiste lielāku vai mazāku būvprojektu izstrādē, dzīvojamās ārtelpas sakārtošanā un labiekārtošanā. Iegūto rezultātu apkopošanai izmantota monogrāfiskā jeb aprakstošā metode, kas pamatojas uz pētījumā iegūtajām zinātniskajām atziņām un konstatētajiem procesiem dzīvojamās ārtelpas revitalizācijas procesos. Raksta autore secina, ka Latvijas padomju laika lielmēroga dzīvojamo rajonu iekškvartālos ir rūpīgi jāturpina dzīvojamās ārtelpas revitalizācija, ņemot vērā apbūves stāvokli un raksturu, labiekārtojuma aprīkojumu, nolietojumu, infrastruktūras plānojumu, apstādījumu esošo stāvokli, teritorijas izsauļojumu, caurvējus un citus nozīmīgus aspektus, kas jāievērtē jebkuram speciālistam.