

A RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPE DESIGN MODEL FOR NORTHERN ALBANIA

Zydi Teqja¹, Gjoke Vuksani²

¹Agricultural University of Tirana, Department of Horticulture and Landscape architecture,
Email: zteqja@gmail.com

Abstract

Landscape architecture has experienced rapid development during last decade in Albania. A residential landscape design model for a family house in Northern Albania is presented. A plot of 5000m², positioned at latitude 42°16'4.5'', longitude 20°2'49'' and elevation about 500 m above sea level has been designed. The aim of the paper is to present a residential design process and propose plant species and materials that can be used in residential landscape design for Northern Albania. Three site visits were accomplished during this process; during first visit a general survey of the place and a family interview were done. An imported part of site analyses was soil and climate evaluation. Two types of soil were verified in site. One is the original soil and the other is the soil brought in site from Valbona valley. Soil texture, organic matter and pH analyses were accomplished. Both types of soil represent problems for plant growth and as they seem to be complimentary an experiment was done to find the best mixer ratio of both soils. This experiment showed that in the soil mixer, the part of Valbona valley soil should be less than 50%. The thermal regime is characterized by mean annual minimum temperature about 6.5-7°C and mean annual maximum temperature of 16.5-17°C. Based on the mean value of absolute annual minimum temperature the site belongs to zone Plant Hardiness Zone 7. Annual precipitations are 1500-2000mm (around 200mm during summer time). After analyzing this information a design program was composed. The goal of this design program was to create a residential landscape master plan that would combine esthetic, environmental and production aspects of the place. Based on the design plan a functional scheme and a preliminary design were prepared. These were discussed with family members during our second site visit. This visit was combined with a Kosovo nurseries market survey. The feedback of the family members was reflected and a master plan was prepared. This master plan was presented during our third visit. The master plan is composed by family living space, playing space, fruit trees space, vineyard space, kitchen garden space, service space and mainly aesthetic spaces. The unity and harmony of the project and respect are achieved by using native species like *Picea abies*, *Forsythia europaea* and *Erica carnea* and by using typical construction materials and especially a collection of the rocks of the area.

Keywords: *Landscape, residential design, native species*