

THE ENGLISH GARDENS OF THE KÁROLYI COUNTS PALACES – FIRST RESULTS

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Abstract

This paper presents first results of the DOMUS scholarships projects on the Károlyi palace gardens in Hungary, Romania and Slovakia. The paper presents the motivation and the goal of the projects to analyze this cross-country heritage with its history up to preservation today. The gardens are presented in the wider historic context which includes English gardens in Hungary but also historic gardens which have to do with the history of Carei, from where the properties of the Károlyi counts spread over the Kingdom of Hungary after the century of Swabian immigration. The research questions and methods are presented, followed by first results. The methods were adapted for performing this study during the pandemic, when only few of the gardens were visited in the past, using comparative landscape architecture analysis. The results regard building a webpage which presents this approach, as well as an inventory of the gardens using existing databases. This inventory extends the proposal of the gardens to be studied from the project based on the main palace of the counts. Nevertheless, the history is shown for a few gardens which were also visited or exchange was done about them and which mainly belong to the main gardens of Károlyi palaces. Some of these gardens underwent several restorations connected with changes in the configuration throughout history. Restoration intervention used the European opportunities set by this cross-country heritage for funding. However, most gardens are English gardens, and thus they related to the Hungarian context set at the beginning. Although the inventory is larger than the main gardens set as target in the project and reported in earlier works, the other gardens are sometimes grouped in clusters around these. From these the ones around Nagymágocs are to be highlighted. The connect through their neighboring to Kiskunfélegyháza to the gardens in Coltău and to the history of 1848, and thus to the century of English gardens in Hungary.

Keywords: cross country landscape, historic gardens, conservation, database, English garden.

1. MOTIVATION AND GOAL

In 2020, the Le Notre Forum would have taken place in Bratislava (Le Notre organizer Dr. Ellen Fetzter, local organizer Dr. Attila Tóth) looking at the Austro-Slovak-Hungarian landscape, which is connected to the gardens of the Károlyi palaces in Romania. Instead, it was streamed online and the author participated. Former research to this includes an article about the dendrological garden of the Carei Palace [1] (Bostenaru Dan, 2013), which compares the Carei and Karlsruhe palace gardens in terms of cultural events. As in the preceding scholarship, aim of the research is to compare Swabian palace gardens not far from Karlsruhe with those of the Károlyi palaces. Mafra has a UNESCO baroque garden and palace built by a Swabian and thus related to this research. And also in Melk the architect of the Roman Catholic church in Carei designed the gardens. Franz Sebastian Rosenstingl also designed garden plans, which were not implemented, in Carei [2] (Fatsar, 2000). Melk is an important part of the Wachau UNESCO natural heritage, and the Melk monastery is represented at the Minieurope in Brussels.

The research goal is to present research on the analysis of the gardens in Hungary, in Romania and in Slovakia of the Károlyi counts. Apart from Hungary, the gardens of the Károlyis are located in present-day Romania and Slovakia.

The aim of the research is to compare the gardens with contemporary landscape or English gardens in the former area of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, i.e. Transylvania, present-day Slovakia (ex. Alsókorompa - Dolná Krupá, one of the most important to that time in Hungary) and Hungary, but not only there. The aim is to analyze their plans in relation to the theory of the English garden, as well as the restoration plans.

The English Garden began to develop in England in the 18th century, then in Europe, so the date coincides with the emergence of the Károlyi gardens after the political situation supported the spread of the Károlyi estates (in connection with the political moment of 1848). Their romantic character contrasts with the former Baroque garden, which was under French influence and was thus geometric. There are two gardens that are related to the history of Carei. Among the Transylvanian gardens, I would like to highlight the garden of the Teleki castle in Coltău, where the palace is currently being restored with European Union funding and the works will be completed this year. Hungarian national poet Sándor Petőfi spent his honeymoon there with Júlia Szendrei from Carei, but he also had a holiday before, with, so it is relevant. The son of Sándor Petőfi, Zoltán Petőfi, spent one year as a child in the Károlyi palace in Nagymágocs. Among the Austrian gardens, I would like to highlight the garden of the Melk Monastery, which is under UNESCO protection. Franz Sebastian Rosenstingl also performed architectural and painting work in Melk. The Baroque park in Melk is monumentally listed one of the most important in Europe and its study is historically relevant to the later English gardens, which are the subject of the research. It is similar to the case of Mafra, also a monastery, but also a palace, with its baroque garden (jardim do cerco), also under UNESCO protection, designed by a Swabian architect, Johann Friedrich Ludwig. Previous research regarded the other activities of Franz Sebastian Rosenstingl, in Vienna and in Carei. Many baroque gardens in Europe have also been converted into English gardens. Among this is the Károlyi garden in Budapest. Thus, in the framework of the research, new data about the field and subject (Carei and the Swabian versus Vienna influence) is brought.

The Hungarian scholarship provides access to archives and literature, as well as restoration plans (the Hungarian scholarship host is a Europa Nostra award winner

from the Transylvanian gardens). This scholarship is supplemented by the fact that, depending on the international health situation, visit to more gardens or pictures (photographs, archival drawings) and literature (for example, regarding the creation of English gardens in these countries for comparative analysis or monographs on the respective gardens, when available) will be researched to answer research questions, which lead to comparative analysis conducting an interview, a round table and a questionnaire research.

2. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Research questions that arise in the study of literature and archives, in the field work, in the preparation of the questionnaire, interview and round table, as well as in the comparative analysis:

- historical and social framework for the emergence of gardens and their further destiny, up to today's restoration or the need for restoration, protection and documentation, with the help of landscape architects, owners,
- geographical / topographic wide environment, international influences.

3. METHODOLOGY

The following methods are used:

- *Data collection and analysis methods:*

- Literature review on (English) gardens in the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy (Vienna, Bratislava, Transylvania) and on botanical gardens in Romania.
- Archive research (ex. Hungaricana, Hungarian National Archives, LArchiv in Vienna, NELA). Also creating a link to the parks' website and facebook page.
- Visiting exhibitions on the topic when the opportunity arises.
- I look for restoration plans on the offices side as well as by getting in contact with the authors.
- A questionnaire is being prepared. The questionnaire can be distributed through Le Notre / ECLAS European University Network to which our university adhered.
- conducting digital interviews (written or by computer conversation, ex. on Skype) with those who have analyzed and written about the gardens, or managed or restored them, or can report on education. I have already nailed a couple of target people for the interview (8 people including specialists from Germany, Austria, Hungary, Slovakia, Romania, as circle of interest: running networks, conferences, databases, historic sites).
- Arranging a round table with my Romanian colleagues, where I work, including landscape architecture instructors, which will also cover the topic, approach and expected results. The round table also uses the mentioned research questions and the results will be incorporated into a final monograph. If the health situation does not allow for a roundtable meeting, this will be done with the help conference software. The round table and the interviews cover both the domestic and the international aspects.
- Edit a story map of the gardens with a description.
- Comparative analysis of landscape architecture (similar to Banister Fletcher's "A history of architecture on the comparative method") between different gardens and between similar gardens in remote (Mafra) and adjacent (Vienna, Coltău) places. This is done on the basis of floor plans as well as perspective photographs (see [3] Popa, 2014 for a description of the method of photographic analysis), involving literature on the historical background.

- *Presentation methods (use of research results):*

- Making a monograph - main result.

- Create a website with google sites (Fig. 1)
- Conference participation.
- Writing articles.
- Digital publication: the Le Notre News reports already written, thus showing the place of gardens in Romanian landscape architecture.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

New palaces were created by the Károlyi counts in the 19th century, which is due, among other things, to the achievements of the in the 1848 revolution. Many of these palaces were designed by Miklós Ybl and are significant monuments. But the palace gardens also enhance the visitor experience. They are mostly English gardens and have been much restored. Previous to the 19th century Josef Bittheuser designed the architecture of the Károlyi count properties, and an intersection of these properties as in Fig. 2 with the database on historical gardens in East Central Europe [4] resulted in a number of gardens (Table 1).



Fig. 1. Website of the project done by author.

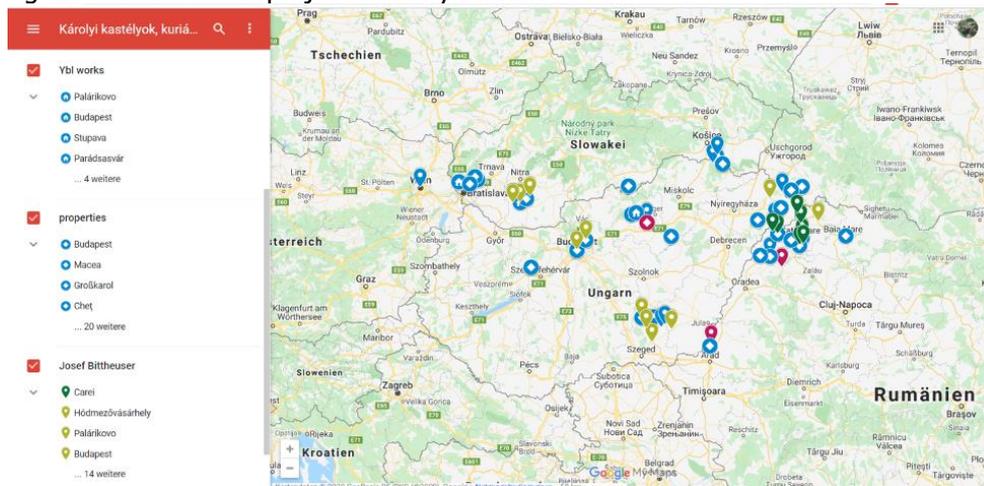


Fig. 2. Properties of the Károlyis and the architects of the palaces. Map by author.

Table 1. Károlyi gardens

No.	Locality with a Károlyi garden	Country	Notes
1	Bergsurány	HU	UA frontier
2	Nagymágocs	HU	Csongrád county
3	Nagyszénás	HU	Csongrád county
4	Derekegyház	HU	Csongrád county
5	Szegvár	HU	Csongrád county
6	Árpádhalom	HU	Csongrád county
7	Szentes	HU	Csongrád county
8	Geberjén	HU	RO frontier
9	Füzérradvány	HU	SK frontier
10	Lászlótanya	HU	SK frontier
11	Telkibánya	HU	SK frontier
12	Kökapu	HU	SK frontier
13	Fehérvárcsurgó	HU	
14	Fót	HU	Near Budapest
15	Budapest V	HU	
16	Iszkaszentgyörgy	HU	The only French garden in Hungary, designed 1900 by Schusstig
17	Kompolt	HU	
18	Nagykanizsa	HU	
19	Ostffyasszonyfa	HU	AT frontier
20	Parádsasvár	HU	
21	Parád	HU	
22	Nyirbátor	HU	
23	Fehérgyarmat	HU	
24	Poroszló	HU	
25	Tótmegyer	SK	
26	Stomfa	SK	
27	Modra	SK	
28	Sväty Jur	SK	
29	Balc	RO	
30	Carei	RO	
31	Macea	RO	
32	Ardud	RO	

Ardud, restored within the same programme mentioned in [1] has been visited (Fig. 3). The most important gardens are connected to the most important palaces and Sisa [5] gives an overview of their mecenases. Bostenaru and Fekete [6] gives an overview on the already visited gardens (Károlyi garden in Budapest Fig. 4, Carei Fig. 5, Fehérvárcsurgó Fig. 6, Fót, where photography was not allowed). Fehérvárcsurgó and Fót are relevant for the English connections as described also in Sisa [7] regarding English gardens in Hungary. Heinrich Koch (1781-1861), an Austrian landscape architect, was their designer, along with the Károlyi garden in Budapest. The one in Fehérvárcsurgó was redesigned 1911 by Johannes Hein. The

gardens in Fehérvár, Carei have been recently restored, while the Károlyi garden in 1996. The Károlyi garden maintains traces of Baroque and English garden elements in successive redesign.

It can be noticed that there are clusters of gardens in the same area, as in Csongrád county (around the most important one in Nagymágocs, Fig. 7) or in the Zemplén nature park area on the Eastern Slovak frontier. This will be later put in connection with the evolution of the properties of the counts from the historical book by Károlyi [8], which has been the basis of the map in Fig. 2 as well.

The gardens are open to different degrees to the public, mainly the important ones mentioned in the goal being accessible and the rest being seen by permit.

There is more literature on the Károlyi garden in Budapest (Fig. 4) (Boros et al [9], Nagy [10] the later on today's use) or on the Károlyi garden in Carei (Fig. 5) (Eke [11], Milea [12] [13]). Eke [11] wrote mainly on the baroque conversion of the castle. Milea [12] [13] identifies as author of the English garden in Carei, which replaced the baroque garden Vilmos Jámbor (1825 January 16. in Kishársány,– 1901 January 14. in Recsk), a renowned gardener, trained in England, after which also an arboretum has been named in Récs. Gardens in Transylvania which include those in Balc and Macea are covered by Fekete and Hodor [14] and Fekete [15], both based on a comprehensive research regarding these gardens which received among others the Europa Nostra prize, result of a research project to measure the gardens from which also the database looked in for Table 1 resulted. Fekete and Hodor [14] looked at literary descriptions of gardens and found that of Carei, while the other work also refers exactly to this one from the Károlyi gardens. The castles and palaces in Romania, not their gardens, were object also of the Monumente uitate project which started at the "Ion Mincu" University of Architecture and Urbanism and which has a database [16].



Fig. 3. Károlyi castle in Ardud. Photos by author.



Fig. 4. Károlyi garden in Budapest V: photo by the author and 3D view from google3D showing the relationship with the building.



Fig. 5. Károlyi palace garden in Carei: English garden part (left) and geometric part (right). On the bottom left the mentioned Florian statue and on the right a fountain brought from Venice. Photos by author.



Fig. 6. Károlyi palace garden in Fehérvársurgó: English garden part (left) and geometric part (right). Photos by author.



Fig. 7. English park with lake at the Nagymágocs Károlyi palace in Csongrád county. Photo: Dániel Bartók CC BY-SA 3.0.



Fig. 8. Natural protected area in the Füzérradvány park. Photo: R. Herczeg CC BY-SA 3.0. The combination of geometrical elements with the English garden is visible.

Kubista [17] wrote on the Károlyi garden in Palarikovo. This garden was first baroque, but then reconstructed in a classicist manner and finally in English style. Like in the case of Carei, there are geometric baroque remains in the entrance area which was thought as an annex of the castle, where also a Baroque church is neighbouring, which also bears similarities to Carei, namely to the fact that the baroque church there was designed by the landscape architect who also gave park alternatives (Franz Sebastian Rosenstingl). The goal of the research of Kubista [17] is exactly this, to look at the remains of the baroque under the English garden. Milea [12] [13] was rather looking at such remains cartographically.

Alföldi [18] wrote on the garden in Füzérradvány (Fig. 8), which has been designed by Franz Zinke (1874 in Židovice nad Labem – 1956 in Kéked). According to István Paszternák (written in social media) Zinke was trained as gardener, graduating 1902 in Vienna, and after Moravia and Vienna worked also several years in Hungary. He was recommended by prince Eszterházy to work for the Károlyi after having an aid job there, so he became 1906 (main works till 1913, other main works 1937-38) the main gardener of the Füzérradvány palace garden. Connection has been done so far to the administrators of the park via the FB page and even if the lockdown situation does not permit this park will be looked in detail in addition to the already visited ones. Füzérradvány is more than a garden, it is a natural protected area not far from the Tokaj mountains, and as such also geoheritage issues apply.

Cross garden comparisons may regard the dendrological heritage [19] (Fekete et al, 2014), the artistic elements such as sculptures [20] (Fekete and Sárospataki, 2015). The dendrological heritage refers to exotic plants as can be found in other parts of Romania as well (ex. Villa Golescu in Câmpulung). The dendrological heritage in Fekete et al [19] includes also Balc, Macea, Füzérradvány with notable such heritage. The exotic plants have to be seen in connection to the local heritage such as the acacia and the fauna specific for this area which is celebrated in the region. In the Károlyi garden in Carei Fekete and Sárospataki [20] identify the statue of Florian, which in the meantime found a place in front of the garden and of the hotel, reminding of the fire protection celebrated in Urziceni near Carei. A fountain was brought from Venice [12] [13] (Milea, 2013), both shown in Fig. 7. Venice fountains in Transylvanian castles, also in Bran, are a subject dealt with in a research in Rome by Ioana Filipescu [21].

5. CONCLUSIONS AND FURTHER WORK

The heritage of the Károlyi gardens is given by the patronage of a family of counts. Main influences are those of the English gardens, which replaced the Baroque gardens after the model of the gardens in Melk, which was tried out also for the Károlyi garden in Carei, but not implemented. There is only one French model geometric garden among them. Some researchers looked at the remains of the Baroque under the English garden with technical means (cartography, radar), while others looked at writings and artistic elements such as statues. It can be seen from Fig. 4 that the Károlyi garden in Budapest is small compared to the size of the building and as such it can be considered adjacent to the building as were the baroque parts in the others, while Fehérvárcsurgó and Carei are rather large gardens, where this still applies for a similarly small area near the palace, not to talk of Füzéradvány. In Fót only the former parterre, now neglected, could be seen, but the garden is larger. In case of Arad the original garden is not kept. In the future the plans will be also analysed. Turning back to the article by Bostenaru [1] in Karlsruhe the forest English style garden around the palace contrasts also with the geometric Baroque parterre in front of the palace which has been recently redesigned by Henri Bava (agence TER). The comparative research is at the beginning. Next steps will look at the wide literature on the garden in Budapest to see if such investigation has already been performed. It is also possible to apply for such investigations for a further Dumbarton Oaks project research.

Restoration of gardens and connections between gardens on the basis of their trans-frontier presence are a good ground for European research, but also implementation of documentation and restoration. It is an aim to do a database of the architects of the gardens and their restoration, currently missing.

In the wide frame of English gardens in this area of Central and Eastern Europe the influence of Capability Brown was notable and the gardens in Fót and Fehérvárcsurgó show it as previously researched.

Although some gardens have been already visited, this research was already presented. This paper presented a literature survey of the other gardens and an outlook to further research within the project. A next paper will present how the research questions are translated in questions for the zoom meeting and the interviews, to further facilitate comparative research.

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