

# Case Study: The Authenticity and Integrity Assessment of the Eleja and Remte Manor Parks

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**Abstract.** The analytically comparative approach of authenticity and integrity qualities has been applied in the case study of the Eleja and Remte manor parks aimed at raising awareness of the value of the cultural heritage on a local scale, using the historical evidence of the manor houses as the unifying element – the analogy of the property rights and architecturally artistic manifestations.

The case study example included data acquisition, processing and analysis, as well as the methods of the field case study, which included the evaluation of the current situation in nature, photo reportages and records in accordance with the proposed study principles and criteria. The field study took place by personally surveying the specific territories in the period from 2010 to 2012. On the basis of data acquisition, processing and analysis scientific theoretical provisions and international normative decisions in the assessment approaches of historical research and authenticity and integrity were used. With the help of the proposed approach in the case study example the principles of evaluation and awareness raising of the cultural heritage of the historic gardens and parks were analysed, which are essential for the sustainable development of the rural environment.

The study results of the historical evidence of the Eleja and Remte manor parks are divided into 7 development stages during the period from the 19th century to the 21st century. During this period, both manor parks experienced both the architecturally artistic quality boom, and decline in the impact of the political, social and economic factors. On the other hand, the authenticity degree of the Eleja and Remte manor parks is from minimum to maximum in almost all proposed positions, which can be explained by so far disorganized and unsystematic planning and work implementation activities not only on a local, but also on national scale. To ensure further preservation of the identified authenticity and integrity levels at an optimum level, conservation of architectonically artistic elements and structures and elaboration of the management plan is necessary.

**Key words:** authenticity, integrity, historic garden and park, assessment.

## Introduction

The quality of the historic gardens and parks, especially in the last few years, has been discussed through the understanding of terms ‘authenticity’ and ‘integrity’ in the research literature. The terms ‘authenticity’ and ‘integrity’ were established in accordance with the guidelines developed by the UNESCO *World Heritage Centre* in 2005 [28]. The term ‘authenticity’ was not an exclusive criterion, not even the keyword in the beginning of the history preservation movement [19, 1]. However, nowadays, especially in the last years, among researchers it becomes an increasingly more significant criterion and a measurement for any cultural and historical landscape and for the conservation techniques and value awareness of the existing elements and structure [20, 21–36; 6, 319–356; 9, 1–16]. From a more general viewpoint, the term „authenticity” includes ethics, emotional feelings, chances to keep and to take initiative in future, as well as creative aspects, including both education and aesthetics. It is one of the key words for the communication to action-oriented planning and management processes, linking the past with the future. The better authenticity understanding and its various dimensions, the more possible it is to act more diversely in the context of conservation, landscape and society. Authenticity is closely linked with the aspects

of history, correctness, perceptual clarity, dynamics, time flow, creativity, scale, object, or idea based strategies [6]. Authenticity assessments are complex [9, 1–16], and there is no united criteria system. Besides, it depends on the tangibility conception of authenticity that most directly relates to the historic gardens and parks. The *Nara Document on Authenticity* that was signed in 1994 defines the authenticity forms in the context of the world's and cultural heritage biodiversity [21], which must be used as the base for the historical and cultural landscape policy.

However, the term ‘integrity’ was applied earlier than the term ‘authenticity’ and its meaning is more related to the ability to maintain the physical and mental integrity over time [20, 23]. Integrity is defined as the measure for natural and/or cultural heritage wholeness and integrity [28, 22]. Integrity appears equivalent to the popularity of authenticity discussions in the scientific research community, but in most cases in the analytic approaches of the different and equivalent meanings of both terms [20, 21–36; 9, 1–16]. The authenticity and integrity assessment of the historic gardens and parks is essential from two aspects: (1) in the context of conservation, management and development and (2) in the context

of the cultural and natural heritage resource awareness and integration.

The artistic structure and elements identified in the cultural and historical landscapes are compared in the historical context, defining both individual elements and structures, and total authenticity and integrity of the landscape space. Consequently, in order the authenticity and the integrity assessment of the historic gardens and parks would be adequate, a thorough historical research of the landscape should be carried out. In the scientific research literature increasing attention is drawn to the research approaches of the historical evidence of the parks and gardens and several aspects have been accentuated that are particularly important for the research of the historic landscape. The research of the historical evidence of gardens and parks can be relatively divided into four following categories:

- 1) research is based on material or measurable units, where the garden and park consists of several separate elements: (1) buildings and land forms that relatively change and can be anticipated, (2) environmental factors such as seasonality and climatic conditions that are changing and reoccurring, (3) the vegetation, which is not only unexpected, but also dynamic [18, 146; 23];
- 2) research is based on the analytic study of the historical events and activities [25, 32; 11];
- 3) research is based on modern technological options, including gardens archaeology [5, 57–66];
- 4) research is based on joint research approaches borrowed from all the categories mentioned above [4, 27].

The order of the proposed research principles is based on the analytical study of the historical events, thereby gradually revealing historical evidences and discovering the understanding not only of the particularity of the physical elements and structure, but also the ideological context of it.

The aim of the research is to assess and analytically compare the authenticity and integrity degree of the Eleja and Remte manor parks. To achieve the aim, the following tasks were proposed:

- 1) research the historical evidences of the Eleja and Remte manor parks analytically comparing them;
- 2) carry out the authenticity and integrity assessment of the Eleja and Remte manor parks;
- 3) mutually compare the authenticity and integrity degrees of the Eleja and Remte manor parks.

Nowadays, the Eleja and Remte manor parks are located in different planning regions. Also, the architecturally artistic analogy without exploring the historical evidence is not visible. Archival materials of the Remte manor ensemble which are available at the Latvian State Historical Archives (hereinafter referred to as the LSHA) and at the Monument

Documentation Centre of the Latvian State Inspection for Heritage Protection (hereinafter referred to as the LSIHP) are limited. Whereas, the archival materials on the Eleja manor ensemble are plentiful in the same archives. The Eleja manor ensemble has been researched more extensively and appears several times in publications of I. M. Janelis [7, 8], I. Lancmanis [12, 13], D. Brugis [1] and J. Zilgalvis [26]. Particularly remarkable is the scientific action collective of the Rundale Palace, which under the guidance of I. Lancmanis have invested essential and immeasurable work to collect and study the historical materials of the Eleja manor house, collecting materials in one place from different Latvian archives and various places around the world for the purposes of the exhibition dedicated to the Eleja manor house in 1989 and the catalogue issued in 1992 [14]. On the other hand, the Remte manor ensemble is studied little, and the only available source that nowadays hints to former glory and wealth of the Remte manor park is the book 'The History of the Parish of Remte' by K. Tigers issued in 1934 [22], which is the basis for all the following studies and descriptions of the park [17, 31]. The materials documenting the planning of the historical situation of the Eleja manor ensemble is the Eleja manor ensemble plan of the 19<sup>th</sup> century [29], the park extension plan designed by G. Kufalts in 1905 [14, 108], the sketch of the Eleja manor ensemble made by Fred Medem in 1953 [14, 152] and the reconstruction drawing made by A. Celmalā and I. Driveika in 1989 [14, 82]. However, the materials documenting the historical situation of the Remte manor ensemble have been lost and only schematic park plan from 1993 made in the framework of inventory has been preserved [38]. Despite the fact that the archive materials, for example, park plans and detailed park element drawings are little available in Latvia, the illustrative material of the Remte manor house park is largely replaced by rich intangible heritage – stories, legends and other oral manifestations [16, 55–56; 24, 303–353], which have been collected and issued with the support of the Latvian State Culture Capital Foundation in 2004 and 2010. The life story of Latvian writer J. Jaunsudrābins is also linked with the history of the Remte manor house, as he worked in Remte at the end of 19<sup>th</sup> century and later worked and lived nearby at the Smukas manor house. Although the Remte manor park as a cultural monument during the period of the Soviet Union has been under the national defence since 1957 [38], which is nearly about 20 years longer than the Eleja manor park, which was placed under the national defence only in 1975 [41], the documental evidence in terms of the content of the Eleja manor house in the archive materials of the LSIHP Monument Documentation Centre are more abundant than the

documental evidence on the Remte manor house. This may be explained by the fact that since 1920 the Remte manor house has been under the guidance and management of the educational institution [22, 69], as well as by the fact that the Remte manor house is at geographically distant area away from the main state roads. Also, the oldest documents obtained from the LSIHP Monument Documentation Centre on the Remte manor house date back to 1923 with the correspondence on the swimming tower or Baden tower adherent to the Remte manor ensemble [39]. Whereas, documents on the Eleja manor house have survived from 1925. In these documents the issue on

restoration project and remains destiny of the Eleja manor palace dominate [34, 35]. The LSIHP archive materials point both to the objects particular to the Eleja manor park environmental and elements conservation efforts, and the use for different purposes, during the pre-war and the USSR period, as well as nowadays. A significant source is the manor park inventory issues or park descriptions [41, 38], which were implemented from 1991–1996 under the guidance of the LSIHP. These documents allow one to compare the existing park situation with the results of park study obtained approximately 20 years ago.







### The materials and methods

The characteristic features of the culturally and historically abundant, and thus highly valuable and unique landscape are manifested in the architectural and artistic output of the formative elements and structures [3, 49] and at the degree in which these values have been preserved until nowadays. Consequently, the values of the Eleja and Remte manor parks were determined by identifying the historical evidence and assessing their authenticity and integrity. Study approaches of both manor parks correspond to the historical evidence research process principles applied by British researchers D. Lambert, P. Goodchild and J. Roberts [11]. Whereas, the analytic comparisons have been drawn using the available archive materials, scientific and popular scientific sources, as well as area research studies during the study period. For the purposes of analytical research and comparison of the obtained data the theory by Tom Turner [23] and archive materials on both manor houses from the LSIHP Monument Documentation Centre resources and LSHA have been used. Yet, the authenticity and the integrity assessment is based on the scientific knowledge and theory assumptions [6, 10, 15, 19, 20, 21]. As a result, the authenticity and integrity degree assessment for the established criteria and evaluation matrix has been elaborated (see Table 1 below). The marking assigned

to each criterion is used in the cartographic material, which is reconstructed on the basis of the historical evidence study of both manor parks. The historical and the existing situation of the architectural and artistic elements and structures have been revealed in the compiled cartographic material. The historical elements, which in the current situation are no longer found and visually are not discernible in nature, have not been marked in the cartographic material. The construction volume and other elements that were placed in the park after the World War II are assigned a special mark. The degree of authenticity is determined for all composition elements in the architectural composition: relief, the vertical and the horizontal structure, vegetation and water bodies.

On the other hand, the integrity degree of the historic gardens and parks comparing with historical situation is evaluated regarding the territory's ownership and the architecturally compositional structure. The authenticity and integrity assessment reveals the historical evidence conservation degree of each park today, as well as determines the total value level of the parks. In the examples of the Eleja and Remte manor houses parallels can be drawn regarding the park development using the comparative analytic approach, thus reflecting the diversity of the cultural and historical heritage, the uniqueness and richness.

TABLE 1  
The characteristic and assigned marking of the authenticity assessment degree [Source: construction by the author]

No.	Authenticity degree	Characterization	Mark
1.	Very high (5 points)	Preserved in details, without stratification	
2.	High (4 points)	Preserved in details, with little stratification or changes	
3.	Medium (3 points)	Preserved in the amount, but lost in details	
4.	Low (2 points)	Preserved in the amount with the essential stratification or changes, which have been achieved by rebuilding or restoring the element	
5.	Very low (1 points)	Not preserved in volume, but the place has survived (e.g. remains)	
6.	-	New construction volume, brought into the park landscape after the WWI or the WWII	

## The results and discussion

The historical events of Latvia can be vividly noticed in the cultural and historical landscape, leaving various consequences of the rise and fall of political, social and economic situation. The architecturally artistic qualities of the Eleja and Remte manor parks were determined by various landscape development factors that historically have been divided into the following seven steps:

- 1) the prosperity phase of the Eleja and Remte manor houses in the beginning of 19<sup>th</sup> century under the governance of Baron von Medem's family. Brothers von Medems, Kristof Johan Friedrich also called Janno and Charles Johann Friedrich, when 22 and 23 years old, inherited both the Eleja and Remte manor houses together with other houses after the death of their father Johann Friedrich von Medem. [22, 126]. Both brothers were the main authorities, who determined the prosperity of the Eleja and Remte manor houses, according to the fashion trends of the time. Accordingly, both manor parks were created pursuant to the fashion trends and ways of thinking, which were based on the principles of English landscape style – bright romanticism manifestations, depicted through the liberal design of parks, convoluted line, the naturalness and memorial nature buildings;
- 2) the architecturally artistic contributions to the Eleja manor ensemble and the Remte manor park mellowness at the end of 19<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century is the last landscape quality peak until today. In connection with the Eleja manor house Georg Kufalt the main garden architect of Riga, is mentioned. He made the park expansion project by the order given by fon Medem, thus bringing into the landscape two new objects: Baron von Medem family graves and the pavilion or the rotunda. Up to the first quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century both the Eleja and Remte manor houses experienced 5 owners - all of them of the Medem family [14, 33; 22, 127–128];
- 3) in the 20<sup>th</sup> century essential changes occurred in the life of the Eleja and Remte manor houses, especially beginning with the house burning revolution in the 1905 when the nearly 100 years long management and prosperity years were destroyed in one moment. During the Manor House Burning Revolution, or the so-called Partisans' year, the Remte manor house ensemble suffered most substantially [2];
- 4) the damages suffered during the World War I caused significant architectural losses for both manor houses and its parks. In 1915, when Eleja became part of the front line and the Russian army pulled back, the Eleja manor castle was burnt down [14, 34] and in further years did not experience any revival;
- 5) in 1918 the Republic of Latvia was officially declared in a proclamation procedure. It was followed by the agrarian reform in 1920, consequently the manor lands were divided among Latvian citizens [8, 245]. The Remte palace was reconstructed according to the demands of an educational institution [30], despite the damages caused by double burning. At the same time, the walls of the Eleja castle were more damaged and beginning with 1925 designing and coordination works for the palace reconstruction as a school and a public house took place [34, 35, 32]. Unfortunately the reconstruction failed, and in 1993 it was decided to demolish the ruins [33]. Eight years later the destiny of the Eleja castle was decided several times as evidenced by the intense correspondence between the Monuments Board and the Eleja Board Council [36, 37]. All the events mentioned above left an impact to the scenic qualities of the manor parks. Small architectural forms, including commemorative elements, in the Eleja and Remte parks suffered from vandalism, and just in the beginning of 1930s, the Monuments Board started to identify their values;
- 6) if until the World War II both manor houses underwent a similar course of events, the WWII period completely broke the connection between the two estates. In 1945 the Soviet totalitarian regime brought new awareness and activities in relation to manor parks and their values. In case of the Remte manor park, it perfectly served to the needs of the school located in the castle. Most of the park management works were the responsibility of the Remte Forestry Office. Whereas, the destiny of the Eleja manor park was decided by the Eleja municipality board that in comparison with the Remte municipality Board was considerably more active. The documents available at the LSIHP Monument Documentation Centre suggest that that environment of the Eleja manor park was attractive to meet both cultural and sports activities [40];
- 7) since the renewal Latvian independence in 1990, the agrarian reform has been implemented, during which the former owners and their heirs were able to regain the land. If the Remte manor ensemble ownership was unquestionable and largely unchanged already from the first period of Latvian independence, the Eleja Manor ensemble, beginning with the second period of Latvian independence to the present day,

has experienced significant changes leaving consequences in the overall condition of the landscape. In less than 30 years the Eleja manor ensemble has been divided into 4 properties.

In a bit more than the last 100 years, both manor parks have survived major and minor significant changes, which clearly have not raised their cultural and historical value. Having performed the research of historical evidences of both manor parks and comparing the obtained results with the current situation, the architecturally artistic compositions – the degree of conservation of the elements and structures or the degree of authenticity and integrity has been determined. The authenticity and integrity assessment of the Eleja and Remte manor parks is graphically illustrated in Figures 1 and 2 below.

Over time, both manor parks both in the area as a whole and in details have preserved their original land form without significant changes. Unique minor changes associated with the relief have appeared because of the open-air stage brought into the Eleja manor park. Nor have all the artificially built

mounds survived on which the monuments were placed. As regards the authenticity comparison, the vertical structure of both parks is in an equal authenticity degree amplitude - from the disappeared park element to a very high authenticity degree. However, as regards the Remte manor park, the average indicator of the vertical structure authenticity is one unit higher than the Eleja manor park. Consequently, the vertical structure elements of the Eleja manor park are with a lower average level of authenticity. This is due to the main element of the Eleja manor castle ensemble – loss of the new and the old castle construction volume, as well as the disappearance of separate elements, for example, the ninepins pavilion and separate monuments. However, in this case, the comparison is quite relative, since there is no available remaining information on recreation elements of the Remte manor castle, as well as any other significant Medem's family monuments, which could be located in the park.

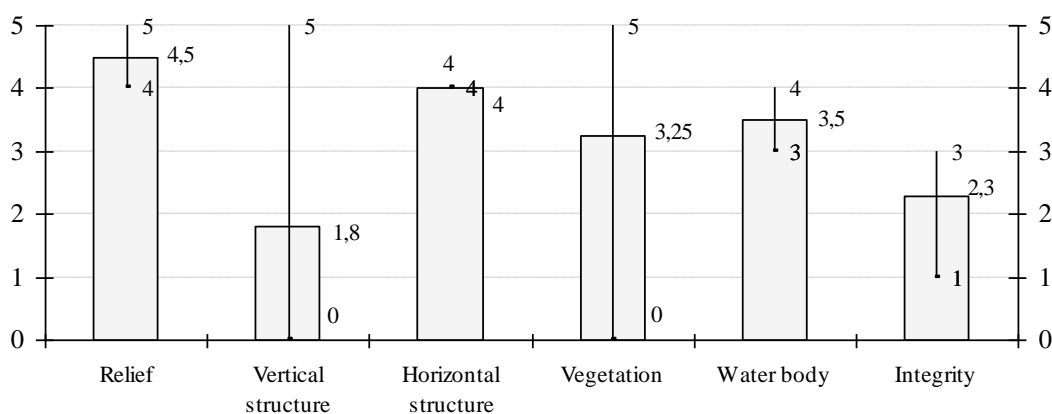


Fig. 1. Authenticity and integrity assessment of the Eleja manor park [Source: construction by the author]

Marks: 0-5 authenticity degree value scale, where 5 – very high; 4 – high; 3 – medium; 2 – low; 1 – very low; 0 – element has disappeared

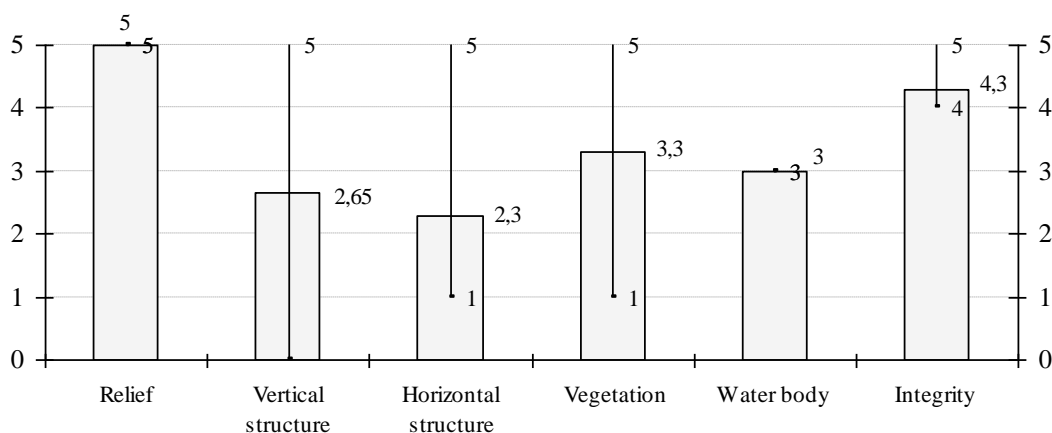


Fig. 2. Authenticity and integrity assessment of the Remte manor park [Source: construction by the author]

Marks: 0-5 authenticity degree value scale, where 5 – very high; 4 – high; 3 – medium; 2 – low; 1 – very low; 0 – element has disappeared

However, six vertical structure elements at the Eleja manor park and seven vertical structure elements at the Remte manor park have been assessed as with a very high and a high degree of authenticity. The very high authenticity degree has been assessed for the arched bridge of the Eleja manor park and the adjacent hollow stone, which is embedded in the boulder fence in D part. The hollow stone is an ancient worship place, which is consciously embedded into the fence and possibly was found in Eleja surroundings. Also, without any significant stratification, but with some losses the boulder fence with arches has remained. The tea pavilion also has a high authenticity degree, but it is fast losing its excellent values due to the atmosphere and the impact of vandalism. The same destiny has been observed for several vertical structure elements of the Remte manor park, which have survived without any stratification, therefore they have been assessed as with a high authenticity degree. Yet, in the current situation, no conservation works have been carried out, consequently, the unique value is gradually lost. The cave, the hunting tower with the ladders, as well as the love island has survived with a high authenticity degree in the Remte manor park. On the other hand, the degree of authenticity of the Remte manor park bridges is controversial, because

in the past few years their configuration has significantly changed, as illustrated in Figures 3 and 4 below.

The 19<sup>th</sup> century bridges mostly were with handrails on both sides, and at least one side. But in this case the newly set bridges with railings are typically massive which prevent to perceive the Love island itself. One of the most significant English landscape park elements – the pavilion or the rotunda – in both parks has significantly lost its values. Although these structures are separated by almost one century, both are in a nearly equivalent position, as it is illustrated in Figures 5 and 6 below.

If no conservation works for the Eleja manor park rotunda shall be carried out, unfortunately it will have the same fate as the Remte manor park pavilion. The horizontal structure of both manor parks has also been preserved at different authenticity degrees, but in this segment the area and roadway networks of the Eleja manor park are with a significantly higher degree of authenticity than the Remte manor park. This, in turn, can be explained by the regular landscape management of the Eleja manor park over the past 20 years, as well as the fact that the historical maps and plans of the road network planning of the Remte manor park are not known. As a result, the road network existing



Fig. 3. The Love island in the Remte manor park.  
Wooden bridges without railing in 2008  
[Source: photo by the author]



Fig. 4. The Love island in the Remte manor park.  
Wooden bridges set by the Latvian State Forests in 2012  
[Source: photo by the author]



Fig. 5. The pavilion or rotunda in the Eleja manor park in 2009 [Source: photo by the author]



Fig. 6. The pavilion or rotunda in the Eleja manor park in 2012  
[Source: photo by the author]

nowadays has been created with a logical connection between the vertical structure in the park. However, in terms of the track pavement quality, the Remte manor park is more accessible than the Eleja manor park, where the historic track network is visually clearly perceivable, yet it is not suitable for walks. The park track network that is neglected on a regular basis, quickly overgrows both with lower and higher vegetation groups. Nowadays, as regards the vegetation authenticity degree, both parks have suffered from non-professional collective works, as well as arbitrary tree cutting. The Remte manor park significantly suffered during the storm in 2010, when several large trees in the park territory were uprooted. In both parks the alleys have been preserved in a good quality - both the Remte manor chestnut alley, which is the main driveway to the manor castle, and the Eleja manor oak alley, located in the centre of the park in the view from the castle to the tea pavilion. In turn, the double lime-tree avenue once magnificent at the Eleja manor park, nowadays unfortunately is completely lost as a vegetative value. The orchards of both manor castles, located in both sides of the new castles, have been preserved as green areas with a few apple trees that were planted during the Soviet times.

## Conclusions

Comparing the scenic and architectonic transformations of the Eleja and Remte manor parks, it must be concluded that the parks of both manor houses are equally authentic in all architecturally compositional conditions. Though, it must be noted that authenticity is proportionate to the amount of the architectonic elements in each park individually. Also, the particularly high level of authenticity of some of the elements partially decreases the destruction of other elements. In order to preserve the authenticity qualities identified nowadays to a maximum degree and not to allow an on-going degradation and even destruction of the park elements and structures, a prompt strategic long-term plan for their conservation and management is necessary. The elaboration and implementation of the conservation and management plan can be

While, the park water elements are with a high authenticity degree in terms of their configuration; however, both manor parks have a water flow and circulation problems, which have occurred due to the occasional and non-professional care activities. Consequently, the two park ponds and canal systems are rusted and non-aesthetical, and they fail to fulfil the visually so important role of the English landscape park as a reflection.

Nowadays the public territory integrity in the aspect of both ownership and composition is very essential, as it allows implementing the development visions driven to one goal as well to escape from various conflict situations. The integrity degree of the Remte manor park, and thus the whole ensemble in the both mentioned aspects, is high and thus a smooth, coordinated park development has been ensured. However, the integrity degree of the Eleja manor park in both aspects is diametrically opposed to the Remte manor park situation. Nowadays the Eleja manor ensembles, including the territory of the Eleja manor park house extended in the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, are divided among 11 owners, which inevitably have caused the fragmentation of the composition.

carried out in several stages, beginning with the park structures and elements that are in need of prior conservation works. Although the Eleja manor park looks rather hopeless in terms of documentation, its popularity, active cultural life and nearly threefold increase of visitors during the last few years (in 1994 the Eleja manor park was visited by 3400 visitors, but in 2011 – around 8000) keep alive the hope that the core values of the park will be preserved and transferred to future generations as qualitative. Whereas, the Remte manor park, although slightly forgotten, is a potential object of regeneration of another English landscape park. In the case of both the Eleja and the Remte manor houses the historic parks are significant material and immaterial cultural and natural heritage, as well as the identity carriers of the local environment.

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**Kopsavilkums.** Autentiskuma un integritātes kvalitāšu analītiski salīdzinošā pieeja izmantota Elejas un Remtes muižu parku izpētes piemērā, ar nolūku aktualizēt kultūras un dabas mantojuma vērtības un nozīmību lokālā mērogā, par vienojošo aspektu izmantojot muižu parku vēsturiskās liecības – īpašumtiesību un arhitektoniski māksliniecisko izpausmju analogija. Šī pētījuma mērķis ir novērtēt un analītiski salīdzināt Elejas un Remtes muižu parku autentiskuma un integritātes pakāpi. Mērķa sasniegšanai izvirzīti sekojoši uzdevumi:

- 1) analītiski salīdzinot izpētīt Elejas un Remtes muižas parku vēsturiskās liecības;



- 2) veikt Elejas un Remtes muižas parku autentiskuma un integritātes novērtējumu;
- 3) savstarpēji salīdzināt Elejas un Remtes muižas parku autentiskuma un integritātes pakāpes.

Izpētes piemērs ietvēra datu ieguves, apstrādes un analīzes, kā arī lauku pētījumu metodes, kas ietvēra esošās situācijas novērtējumu dabā, foto fiksācijas un pierakstus atbilstoši izvirzītajiem izpētes principiem un kritērijiem. Vēsturisko liecību dati par Elejas un Remtes muižas parkiem iegūti no Latvijas valsts vēstures arhīva (LVVA), Valsts kultūras pieminekļu aizsardzības inspekcijas (VKPAI) dokumentācijas centra materiāliem un iepriekš veiktajiem pētījumiem I. Lancmaņa, D. Bruģa, I. M. Janeles, K. Tiģera u. c. autoru publikācijās un aprakstos. Iegūtie arhīva dati salīdzināti ar lauka pētījumos iegūtiem esošās situācijas datiem. Lauku pētījumi noritēja personīgi apsekojot konkrētās teritorijas no 2010.–2012. gadam. Teorētisko datu ieguves, apstrādes un analīzes pamatā izmantoti zinātniski pētnieciskie un starptautiskie normatīvie lēmumi vēsturisko liecību izpētes un autentiskuma un integritātes novērtējuma pieejās. Ar izvirzīto pieeju palīdzību izpētes piemērā analizēti vēsturisko dārzu un parku kultūras mantojuma apzināšanas un novērtēšanas principi, kas ir būtiski ilgtspējīgas lauku vides attīstībā.

Elejas un Remtes muižu parku vēsturisko liecību izpētes rezultāti iedalās 7 attīstības posmos laika periodā no 19. gs. līdz 21. gs. Šajā periodā abu muižu parki piedzīvo gan arhitektoniski māksliniecisko kvalitāšu uzplaukumu, gan kritumu politisko, sociālo un ekonomisko faktoru ietekmē. Savukārt, salīdzinot Elejas muižas parka un Remtes muižas parka ainaviskās un arhitektoniskās transformācijas, ir jāsecina, ka abu muižu parki ir vienlīdz autentiski visos arhitektoniski kompozicionālos nosacījumos. Elejas un Remtes muižu parku autentiskuma pakāpe ir no minimālās līdz maksimālai gandrīz visās izvirzītās pozīcijās, kas skaidrojams ar līdz šim neorganizētām, nesistemātiskām gan plānošanas, gan darbu realizācijas aktivitātēm ne tikai vietējā, bet arī nacionālā mērogā. Lai maksimāli saglabātu mūsdienās konstatētās augstās autentiskuma kvalitātes un nepieļautu turpmāku parka elementu un struktūru degradāciju un pat bojāeju, ir nekavējoties nepieciešams stratēģisks ilgtermiņa plāns to konservācijai un pārvaldībai. Konservācijas un pārvaldības plāna sastādīšanu un realizāciju var veikt vairākos posmos, sākot ar parku struktūrām un elementiem, kam ir nepieciešama prioritāri konservācijas darbi.