

Revitalization of the historical parks and gardens

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Introduction

Historical parks and gardens are very important historical resources which hold social, cultural and political historical evidence. They have been created to fulfill the requirements of fashion and the understanding of parks and gardens as recreational areas for the determined period of time. "As a direct correlation of expression among human and nature, gardens are obtaining a global significance and are a testimony of culture, style, period and the originality of an artist. The landscape of Latvia, with the development of Riga, countryside castles and manors, and small towns, has become abundant with historical gardens; continuous, professional maintenance and recognition of their value are most

important in their preservation. Historical gardens, parks and city garden areas are significant components of Latvian cultural heritage, which maintenance by the future generations is necessary to the interests of society of Latvia and Europe" [8].

Over time, historical territories might lose their characteristics due to changes of functions, new constructions or ecological issues.

As regards the preservation and maintenance of historical parks and gardens, usually terms such as restoration, renovation and reconstruction are used. These concepts involve activities which differ in their objectives and results though their everyday applications may overlap.

Historic Garden Options for the future

A regulation of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia No.112 "General Construction Regulations" defines:

Restoration – the renewal of the historic appearance of a structure on the basis of scientific research or historical information.

Renovation – the repair (capital repair) of a structure or a part thereof in order to renew the structure or a part thereof by changing the discarded support elements or constructions, as well as the introduction of targeted functional or technical improvements in the structure without changing the dimensions and function thereof.

Reconstruction – the rebuilding of a structure or a part thereof by changing the dimensions of the structure or a part thereof and changing or retaining the functions, or changing the functions without changing the dimensions [17].

Restoration of cultural monuments – the restoration of a cultural monument to its original shape and pattern, excluding hypothetical changes and considering historical strata [14].

Conservation of cultural monuments – the physical, chemical or constructional consolidation of the current condition of a cultural monument or a part of a cultural monument [14].

Regarding historical parks and gardens, the "Lexicon of garden and landscape architecture" by M. J. Vroom gives following the explanations, which mostly corresponds to the legislation of Latvia.

Object restoration is a complete renewal to the initial and original shape and appearance, or at least in concept to its initial and original shape and appearance. The methods of restoration are fully based on the respect to the original materials, archeological evidences, original project and authentic documents. During the restoration works, several basic principles are to be taken into account: current historical evidence cannot be destroyed, neither falsified nor create afresh, alienating from the truth and genuine shape and appearance. Intervention of any qualitative restoration is to be eradicated as much as possible except for any intervention based on a high respect to esthetic, historical and psychological honesty to a cultural heritage.

Renovation is the repairing and adjustment of buildings, parks and gardens to other necessities, involving new planning for some positions in comparison to the original one. The old greenery can be replaced; road surfacing and ponds or pools or other water reservoirs can undergo important repairing.

Reconstruction of parks and gardens is an extreme form of renovation or restoration – rebuilding and transformation. In the case of historical parks and gardens, they are transformed or planned anew, corresponding completely to the characteristics and original concepts to the location. Used materials and constructions have to encourage the artistry. Greenery has to be replaced if the current is no longer appropriate [11].

Doing research on what has occurred and what is occurring currently with historical parks and gardens in Latvia, in neighboring countries and in Western Europe, smaller or greater changes are recognized as necessary for the up-to-date use of these parks and gardens. Most common objects are being restored, renovated and reconstructed, though the majority are improved or repaired and supplemented with various functions and activities according to the understanding of what can be permitted within historical context.

This process might be called revitalization, or in medical terms reanimation. **Revitalization** is the functional activation of an old urban complex by adjusting it to a new public function. [18]

Revitalization of historical gardens has taken place already for a century, with manifestations both positive and negative. Formerly, there were approximately 2000 manors and half manors and approximately 800 various parks and gardens. The establishment of gardens in Latvia began in the 18th Century with characteristics influences from the Renaissance and Baroque periods, while the 19th Century gave way to scenic parks which are the so-called English Parks. In the beginning of the 19th Century, numerous parks and decorative gardens were created. This is completely understandable – the economy and households were recovering from the devastation of the Northern War and Great plague; Napoleon's incursion affected the landlords of the Baltic States just a little, and farmers' riots were too disorganized to distract landlords to maintain the beauty of their manors. [3] Parks from the beginning of the 19th Century include *Mežotnes, Cēsu Castle, Cīrava, Kazdanga, Durbe, Eleja, Tiņģere* and *Vandzene*.

The refinement of the trees took a place in the middle of the 19th Century, engaging more significant and even more scientific characteristics. [3] A great example is the *Skrīveri* manor park-arboretum. Dendrological parks were also built in the *Bornsminde* manor, *Jaungulbene, Stāmeriena* and *Vecgulbene, Asare, Lilezere*; with dendrological supplementation in the park of *Kazdanga*.

Elements of Romanticism became popular in the middle of the 19th Century – pavilions, grottos, artificial debris. Latvian parks were developed and implemented with trees of before-unseen leafage: beetling or weeping leafage or strictly vertical, pyramidal or column-type leafage. Aspirations to return to a regular planning of gardens was noticed in, for example, the *Zvārtava* and *Nordeķu* manor parks. The end of the 19th Century and the beginning of the 20th Century saw the creation of new parks and the reconstruction of existing ones. The *Bornsmine, Krāslava* and *Cēsu Castle* parks experienced such reconstruction. Georg Kufalt, the director of the Riga city gardens, who worked in

Riga as well as throughout Latvia and even abroad, had a great role in the creation of new parks. The historical manor gardens of Latvia experienced dramatic losses. In the beginnings of the 20th Century, nobility disappeared, and in 1920 agrarian reform saw the majority of the manors abandoned, turned over to the State, and divided and distributed among the farmers. The new Republic of Latvia needed administrative buildings, schools, agricultural schools, sanatoria and buildings for various associations and culture establishments. The former manor buildings were perfect for such requirements. [2] Meanwhile, unfortunately, the society lacked an understanding of the historical and cultural values and their usage. As regards to the parks, there was a general dismissal among the working people. The only interested persons were biologists and foresters, who evaluated the parks as objects of dendrological rarity. Many manor centers were given to educational establishments and organized as schools, technical colleges, and orphanages; parks became sports grounds. Smaller manors faced even worse fates – they became apartments; parks became orchards and gardens. After World War II, the condition of the parks turned even worse – trees were cut for fuel for army hospitals. During the war, many buildings were destroyed, and schools were overloaded, so manor buildings were adapted to the needs of schools. During the period of collectivization, or kolkhoz, manors were used as bureaus, so the nearest parks became parking for the kolkhoz machinery, and even stock-farms were built. If a manor was adapted to the requirements for establishing schools, then apartment buildings for teachers were built in the park; later, after the municipal economies developed, parks were dug up for the water supply and sewerage networks. Where parks were not destroyed completely, bandstands and dance platforms were constructed. Most commonly, parks were not maintained, and they overgrew with copse wood and self-sowing trees. Over time and with popular education, there was an effort to groom the parks and to clean the underwood. Significant mistakes were made – original bird nesting grounds and wildlife biotopes were destroyed.

Nowadays, the level of education and the standard of living permits travelling, getting acquainted with the historical and cultural heritage abroad, compare, evaluate and wish to have a high-quality environment for work and recreation; there still is a lack of understanding as to what is necessary and what is proper to create in a historical park. Quoting *I. Janelis*: “Does the center of the park have to be left empty and quiet as a museum hall at the entry of the week? Yes, definitely, because even initially it has been created for quiet,

contemplative walks, observation of the nature beauty, occasionally even for playing (not sports), but only for a small number of attendances.”[2] Unfortunately there is a point of view that an expensive parcel of land on which the park is located has to be made attractive by means of various activities which might bring material wealth. Nevertheless, a park as an artistic and social phenomenon requires life and a modern function, not an exaggeration with activities in it.

After researching revitalized historical parks and gardens in Latvia and in neighboring countries, we have divided them into 2 groups:

Complexes of parks with private, renovated manors and castles. These parks are in the best

Findings

1st group. One of the first parks to be revitalized, involving commercial, gnostic and entertaining functions, is the ***Bīriņu Castle Park***.

National heritage – *Bīriņu Castle* was built from 1857 till 1860 based on the project of Fredrick William Hess in the styles of Historicism Neo-Gothicism (it was rebuilt/reconstructed in the beginning of the 20th Century by the project of Rudolf Heinrich). In 1925, book manufacturers health insurance fund started to reconstruct *Bīriņu Castle* and inaugurated a sanatorium in which asthma and heart diseases were treated. *Bīriņu Castle* was again established as sanatorium after World War II. After the liquidation of the sanatorium in 1995, the castle was managed by “*Saule Bīriņu Pils*” Ltd. Today, there is a hotel with a large park which consists of several smaller ones. One of the most ancient is *Priežkalna Park*, with the tombs of Count Mellin’s family being built in 1819. Today, the charnel and the alley are the only ones still preserved. The beginning of the mourning alley has been outlined by a great and heavy gate. Much later *Mežaparks*, or the Park of Emily, was created simultaneously alongside the construction of the vary building of the castle (in the middle of 19th Century). The owner of the castle, August von Pistolkorss, created this spacious park as a present for his beautiful and beloved wife Emily. There are long, meandering airing trails which can nowadays be ridden by bicycle. Landscape Park is of smaller dimensions and embraces the castle from the stable of horses till the Gardener’s house hotel. At the borders are located the Garden of Birds, but at the very center of the park is the Oak of Love. The Regular Garden, located between the castle and the lake, was built on terraces with centered steps. On both sides of the garden are plantations of lindens, sheared in regular shapes. There is an arbor at the lake. There are several entertaining activities offered in the park: guided tours, horse riding, and bicycle and

condition, the owners being interested in their environmental qualities. These are public parks, and commercial services are offered.

Parks managed by a municipality. These parks do not perform fruitful, high-quality activities due to a lack of resources. Revitalization is based on a society’s goodwill and its understanding of needs and possibilities. In such cases, the parks are usually maintained with few and minor improvements, albeit with several exceptions. These are public parks.

Among all the parks and gardens which have experienced revitalization, we have chosen only a few which are considered to be the most typical and have the most recognizable characteristics

boat rentals; in the Regular Garden are concerts, marriage ceremonies, and other celebrations and festivals.

Dikļu Castle Park. *Dikļu Manor* is an ancient property of the von der Pahlen family. The history of *Dikļu Manor* was kept from the beginning of the 15th Century, when this property had been owned by Gotshulk von der Pahlen. The von der Pahlen family lorded for 300 years, after whom came Tiesenhausen and Baron von Volf.

The current building was built in 1896, when it was owned by Baron Paul von Volf. It is an impressive building in Neo-Baroque style with a mansard roof. In the ensemble of the castle, there is also a barn which is older than the castle itself – it was built at the end of the 18th Century in the style of late Classicism. Both in the castle and in the barn is a hotel with premises for various events. South of the castle is a pond, which is said to have had an oak floor in the basin. Behind the pond, *Mežaparks*, or Landscape Park, with an area of 20 ha, was created at the glens of the *Mazbriedes River*; approximately 20 exotic trees are planted here, among them The Great Linden (perimeter – 5 m).

Rūmene Manor. *Rūmene Manor* is located in the region of *Kandava*, at *Rūmene*, and was renovated in 2009. The Neo-Gothic *Rūmene Manor* house was built in 1876 by the architect Theodore Zeiler. The manor house is located on the hill, and its facade is connected with the park by a system of steps and terraces which lead to the pond with a heart-shaped island. This system of terraces is a great rarity in Latvia, and it can be considered one of the most prominent Neo-Renaissance constructions in Latvia. The landscape park of *Rūmene Manor* was planned by the landscape architect George Kufault. The area of this park is 7.8 ha, and it contains 364 species of sparse trees. Since 1957, park has been on the list of especially protected landscape features. *Rūmene Manor* is planned as a 5-star country residence for the Riga

hotel “Hotel Bergs” for recreation, events, banquets and conferences, with the possibility of overnight stays.

Mālpils Castle Manor. Its history began in 1760, when, under the supervision of Landrat Gustav von Toub, the *Mālpils* Manor house was built. During the governance of von Toub, the Romantic 22-ha manor park with airing trails, bridge of love and scenic ponds, was established. Today, it is a protected park of the landscapes of the 19th Century. In the park are both local and exotic species of trees and other plants, including for example spruce blue, Colorado spruce, the gray walnut, Hollandaise linden, and others. In 1905, *Mālpils* Manor burned down, and in 1907 the architect William Bockslaf began anew the planning works of *Mālpils* Manor, creating the building as it remains today. There is a monument to the founder of the manor, G. V. Toub, which was set after his death in 1775 and now renovated.

The territory of the manor and the park is groomed and equipped – new benches, cobbled paths, fountains, a pond and greenery are found throughout the territory. The inauguration of the renovated *Mālpils* Manor took place in December 12, 2008, which coincided with the 150th birthday of the architect of the manor, W. Bockslaf. In honor of this event, a sculpture of Bockslaf, by the well-known Latvian sculptor Gleb Panteleyev, was unveiled.

In **Lithuania**, too, there are several manors and castles which have undergone revitalization for adjustments to their tourism and recreational functions.

Taujena Manor, Ukmergė region, Lithuania. *Taujena* Manor was built in the middle of 16th Century. At the end of 18th Century, the owner of the manor was count Benediktas Marikonis, who married M. Radvilaite in 1785 and owned the manor as the dower. In 1802, the Classicism-style manor was based on the project of Pierre de Rossi, who created an English-style garden that remained the biggest garden in Lithuania between the world wars. The manor park has a landscape planning, little relief and a pond. The manor park was mentioned as far back as 1698; it is considered to have been created by Michael Boniface Masalkis. After the death of B. Marikonis, the manor was owned by the Radwills. In this period, deer and fallow-deer were let into the park, and swans and other birds settled in the park. Today, *Taujena* Manor is a center of agricultural tourism, entertainment and of various events and conferences, with a spruce park, ponds and recreational opportunities.



Fig.1. *Bīriņu* Castle Park
[Source: www.facebook.com].



Fig. 2. *Dikļu* Castle Park
[Source: www.panoramio.com, photo by Lemartin].



Fig. 3. Renovated *Rūmene* Manor
[Source: www.kulturaskarte.lv].



Fig. 4. *Rūmene* Manor terrace and renovated pergolas [Source: www.apollo.lv].



Fig. 5. Renovated *Mālpils* Manor Castle
[Source: photo by M. Strīkis].



Fig. 6. *Mālpils* Manor Park Pond with a fountain
[Source: photo by M. Strīkis].



Fig. 7. William Loudwig Bokslaf (1858-1945) sculpture
in *Mālpils* Manor Park (1858-1945),
author Gļebs Panteļejevs
[Source: www.redzet.lv].



Fig. 8. Renovated *Taujēna* Manor
[Source: turizmogidas.lt].



Fig. 9. The holistic perspective of *Taujēna*
manor and park [Source: taujenudivaras.lt].



Fig. 10. The main facade of *Taujēna* Manor
[Source: taujenudivaras.lt].



Fig. 11. Revitalized *Taujēna* Park
[Source: juodasisriksis.weebly.com].

Bistrampole Manor is located 14 km from *Panevezys*. The manor has persisted since the 15th Century. From the end of the 17th Century until 1940, the manor was owned by the Bistrama family. Later, the manor was nationalized and eventually left unattended. The Classicism-style castle was built in 1850. Ten buildings of the whole ensemble of the manor still exist, the majority of them renovated. Significant is the fact that Nobel laureate writer Henryk Sienkiewicz lived and worked in the manor while collecting materials for his historical trilogy *Flood*. For the renovation and adjustment to touristic functions, The EU Structural Funds provided assistance. The latest object is a stable of eight stalls, first opened in May 2013. The beginning of the creation of the park is about the beginnings of the 19th Century. It is a landscape park with tree ponds, a pavilion and bridges. The pavilion was constructed on a compositional axis in front of the main facade of the castle. A part of the park already has been renovated, including the pavilion. Approximately 400 m² is added dedicated flowerbed.

In **Estonia**, too, are impressive ensembles of manors which have engaged many new and modern functions.

Palmse Manor is one of the most magnificent manors in Estonia, located in the beautiful, nature-surrounded National Park *Lahem*. *Palmse* Manor – an open-air museum is the first fully renovated manor complex with parks, gardens and historical buildings in Estonia. In the 52-ha territory, there are more than 20 different buildings and constructions. During the 13th Century, there was a Cistercian monastery, yet later it became a property of the Baltic-German Pahlen family. The Pahlen family was in charge of the property from 1677 until 1923, when it was abandoned by the government. The renovation of the ensemble began in 1971 and was prolonged until 2004 with several interruptions. The manor castle, which was built in 1780, has been renovated completely to its genuine beauty and glory. The rest of the ensemble buildings have been renovated, assigning them to other functions. Today, there is a summer exhibition hall, a bodega, a hotel and a restaurant; Cavalier house is now the summer guest house as well as a souvenir and book store. From the sauna and café opens a great view to the lake. In the Palm house, there is a collection of exotic birds and fished. The park is full of old, sparse trees; there is a swan pond and pavilion.

Vihula Manor. The first documented written evidence of *Vihula* Manor, *Lahemaa* National Park, took a place in 1501. At that time, the manor was owned by Danish Baron Hans von Lode. In 1820, after the manor was devastated during the Great Northern War, it was bought by Alexander von Schubert. The majority of the buildings of the



Fig. 12. The holistic perspective of Taujena Park pond with Taujena Manor
[Source: photo by MariukasM, on Flickr].



Fig. 13. Renovated Bistrampolis Manor
[Source: www.bistrampolis.lt].



Fig. 14. Renovated Building of the Bistrampolis Manor complex [Source: www.bistrampolis.lt].



Fig. 15. The Bistrampolis Manor Park
[Source: www.turizmozinios.lt].

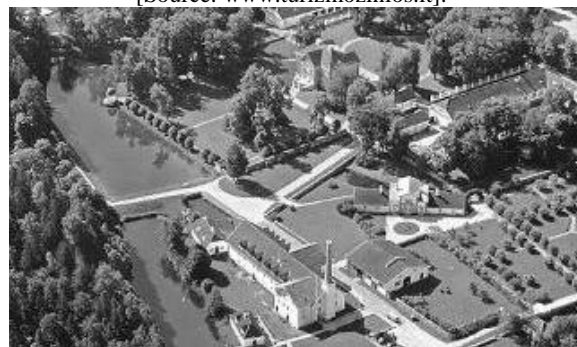


Fig. 16. Palmse Manor Ensemble in Estonia
[Source: www.aviastar.org].

manor ensemble were built between 1820 and 1840. The most important buildings were finished only in 1880. The Schubert family lived in the manor until 1940; they generally farmed and made spirits. From 1951 until 1982, the manor was a home for the elderly, but after a fire in 1982 the manor was handed over to the *Vira* collective farm. As of 1991, the owner of the manor is the *Vihula Mõis Corp.* In the ensemble of *Vihula Manor*, there are two main buildings and 25 other buildings and constructions. Currently, the overall area is 8000 m². A complete restoration of all the manor buildings took a place between 2008 and 2012. The objective was to restore and preserve its heritage and to protect the natural value as much as it is possible while assigning modern functions to the buildings and parks.

The overall area of the park is 47.49 ha. It was created in the English style of the middle of the 19th Century. One of the components of the park is a small river, *Mustoja*. The regular element of the garden is an oval honorary yard with a driveway which leads to the main building of the manor. Its symmetry is accented by two larches. The manor garden consists of a kitchen garden, an orchard and a flower garden. The “*Kaval-Ants*” garden was built around a small pond with a fountain and cascades.

The revitalized manor complex offers a wide choice of services: hotel and spa, sports and minigolf field, eco farm with domestic animals and pasture, horse farm, playground, market, and a walking area with bridges, an arbor, a pavilion of views and many other activities.

The destinies of the described manors and parks are in the hands of new owners. Hopefully, development will preserve the significance and importance of the heritage.

2nd group. These parks are run by municipalities or their enterprises. Manor buildings have been schools or other governmental establishments for several years.

Gaujiena Manor ensemble contains the castle, manor house, gardeners house, masonry-walled orchard, glass house, ice house, stable, cart house, the stable master's and horse driver's house, manor staff apartment and household buildings, brewer's house, beer cellars, and distillery. The central part of the manor's development area was formed at the end of the 18th Century, yet the castle was built between 1850 and 1860 in the style of late Classicism by the von Wulf family, later supplemented by a six-column portico. Since 1922, it is the *Gaujienas gymnasium*. Currently, in the former brewer's house, where composer Jāzeps Vītols lived from 1922 until 1944, is a memorial museum “*Anniņas*”.

The park is located on the banks of *Gauja*, encompassing the whole development of the manor ensemble. The park was built at the end of 19th Century and at the beginning of the 20th Century.



Fig. 17. Palmse Manor Castle
[Source: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Palmse_manor].



Fig. 18. Palmse Manor Landscape with Castle, Sauna and Rotunda [Source: www.gopalace.lv].



Fig. 19. Palmse Manor Palm House
[Source: www.panoramio.com].



Fig. 20. New greenery created in Palmse Manor
[Source: www.panoramio.com].

The protected area is of 17.4 ha. The park can be divided into three parts: The Upper Park, or the Yard, involves the main buildings of the manor, including the castle; the second part, the brewer's house, or "Anniņu" museum neighborhood, with a spring "Lauvasmutes," ponds and a choir platform; the third part is a territory between Gauja and its abrupt banks with romantic nature trails along the river.

Naukšēni Manor. The first documentation of Naukšēni Manor is related to the period of the Livonian order, around the year 1500, when the property was called "Schwarzenbrunn" (Black Springs) and owned by Jost Furstenberg, who is believed to be a relative of the order master William Furstenberg. During the Livonian War (1558-1582), the property was completely destroyed during the conquest of Ivan IV Grozny (Ivan The Terrible), so the manor was relocated to the Naukšēni hamlet owned by Furstenberg. At the end of the 16th century, at the Rūja River, the construction of Naukšēni Manor began. The current appearance of the manor house dates to 1843 and is a typical building in the empire style. The manor house, stables, barn, the clock house (or dairy), and the park are a national heritage. The park and the forested park occupy a 50-ha territory at the banks of the Rūja River. In 2005, the platform of the park was renovated to its genuine and historical appearance.

In the manor park, there are trees of rare occurrence such as cork trees, Siberian spruces, walnuts, cedars, European larch and silver maple/sugar maple. The construction of the decorative garden began at the end of the 17th Century, later being introduced as a landscape park. The territory between the castle and household buildings has a regular planning with sheared hedges, graveled paths, lawns, and groups of trees and bushes. The southwest part of the park has English planning with wide glades and prospect views. At far side of the forested park, on the banks of the Rūja, there is a hill fort, *Naukšēnu Kābele*.

During Latvian independence a boys' correctional institute (in the USSR, vocational secondary school) was established at the manor castle. Today, there is a social correction institution, "Naukšēni," in the renovated manor complex.

In the manor house, there is the Human Museum of *Naukšēni*, designed to collect and maintain materials about *Naukšēni* and to introduce guests to the interesting persons who once lived in the municipality of *Naukšēni*.



Fig. 21. The holistic perspective of Vihula manor
[Source: www.klint.envir.ee/eng/].



Fig. 22. The Vihula manor landscape
[Source: www.gopalace.lv/public/].



Fig. 23. Main buildings of Vihula Manor
[Source Flickr: Main Manor buildings in summer - Vihula Manor Country Club & Spa].



Fig. 24. Greenhouse and Flower Garden in Vihula Manor
[Source: Flickr: Vihula Manor garden - Vihula Manor Country Club & Spa].



Fig. 25. The most antique building of the Ensemble of the Manor is Watermill [Source: photo of cultural heritage monument of Estonia number 15970].



Fig. 29. The Portal of Gaujiena Manor Park [Source: www.fotoblog.lv].



Fig. 26. Gaujiena Castle – Gaujiena Gymnasium. [Source: www.fotoblog.lv].



Fig. 30. The Manor-house of *Naukšēni* Manor [Source: www.panoramio.com/photo/52975770].



Fig. 27. Memorial museum of Jāzeps Vītols "Anniņas" [Source: www.fotoblog.lv].



Fig. 31. The View of The Park from *Naukšēni* Manor-house [Source: www.vietas.lv].



Fig. 28. Open-air stage for Choir Celebrations in Gaujiena Park [Source: www.fotoblog.lv].



Fig. 32. Cheese Diary or Clock Tower of *Naukšēni* Manor [Source: www.latvia.travel/lv/nauksenu-muiza-ar-parku].

Burtnieki Manor Park. The building seen in the picture 34 is the *Burtnieki* Manor, which was built in the 17th Century on the foundation of the middle ages. It was a three-story Baroque building. It was not preserved until today, however. The building was destroyed in 1944, and after the war there were bureau and recreation centre buildings constructed on the remains of the former manor. The *Burtnieki* Manor Park, located in front of the manor house, is a national protected nature object. It was created at the *Burtnieku* Manor Castle, and it had a pond cascade (using moats of the former castle), a plantation of trees of a rare occurrence, uniformed granite block stairs, fountains, etc. The construction works were begun by the Shredder family around the year 1860. It occupied approximately 29.2 ha and had one of the most groomed parks among the countryside manor parks in Latvia with more than 70 different species of bushes and trees. In the park, there was an air bridge, constructed toward the end of the 19th Century, and a garden vase "Seasons". The park was fenced in by a brick wall with wrought iron gates. Further toward the castle ruins is a more spacious landscape park. Within the territory of the park, there was a platform built in the 1987 and two linden alleys, The Alley of Love and The Sigh Alley. There have been no evident changes made to the park in recent years, though it is groomed and with impressive flowerbeds. The owner and manager of the manor is the municipality of *Burtnieki*.

Pakrojo Manor, Lithuania. This manor is an example of the late-Classicism which is the greatest ensemble of 43 buildings in Lithuania, the ensemble having experienced different times. The oldest buildings in the manor are the tavern and the brewery. The majority of buildings in the manor were constructed at the end of the 18th Century and the beginning of the 19th Century. The latest owner of the manor was Julius Rop. The territory, including the living and constructions area, occupies 48.2 ha. The construction of the ensemble involves different types of stylistics. The owner of the manor is the Municipality of *Pakrojo*. Currently, the ensemble is being renovated to fulfill the requirements for varied tourism and recreation.

The central building in the manor complex is unique to Lithuania. It is a rectangular, two-story building with two porticoes. A six-column portico is located in the center of the main facade and two four-column porticoes in both end facades. The landscaped manor park, a structure that has been preserved until today, was created between 1850 and 1860. From one side, the territory is surrounded by the *Kruoja* River and its dam; from the other side, rubble-wall. In the park, there are about 26 species of trees, from which some are more

than 100 years old. Around the castle is a spacious lawn and gates which lead to the castle. It is said that these gates were purchased in Riga.

The ensemble of the manor is adorned with a unique arched bridge, renovated a few years ago, over the *Kruoja* River. This is the only bridge of its kind in Lithuania. It was built in 1821 from dolomite after a model of the Roman aqueducts. The bridge serves also as the dam to raise the pond.



Fig. 33. The renovated open-air stage of *Naukšēni* Park [Source: www.draugiem.lv/nauksenuestrade/].



Fig. 34. The Historical Image of *Burtnieki* Manor. [Source: www.letonika.lv; origin. National Library of Latvia].

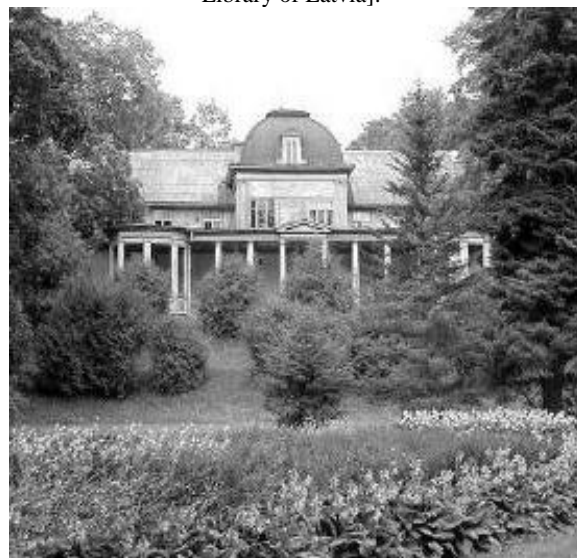


Fig. 35. The greenery of *Burtnieki* Manor is carefully maintained [Source: www.tripmondo.com].



Fig. 36. Renovated Stairs, which steps are made of monolithic Finland granite, which was carried to Latvia (Each step – 4.3 m length) [Source: www.tripmondo.com].



Fig. 37. The Ensemble of the Pokruojo Manor [Source: www.pakruojistic.lt/foto-galerija/pakruojo-dvaro-sodyba].



Fig. 38. The Central building of Pokruojo Manor – The Castle [Source: <http://alkas.lt/wp-content>].



Fig. 39. The Original Arch Bridge [Source: www.pakruojistic.lt].



Fig. 40. The Pokruojo Manor Park [Source: <http://lietuva.cc/pakruojo-dvaras/> <http://www.panoramio.com/photo/44121416>].

Conclusions

More than 100 years have passed since nobility ceased to exist in Latvia, and properties have had new owners and landlords who, for different reasons, could not, were unable to or were unwilling to maintain them, of course with exceptions. Investors in the manors have appeared in recent years, and they have renovated the buildings of the manor, establishing commercial entities, mainly hotels, conference halls, restaurants and other services. As parks are integral parts of manors, they have obtained a higher quality format. These improvements to the parks cannot be called restoration or reconstruction, yet there are cases of renovation. The majority of the parks, especially those which are managed by municipalities, are revitalized; yet revitalized not as an implementation of vivacity, but in terms of

maintenance of vitality. Through intensive investment, as the parks undergo maintenance and especially as the ponds undergo renovations, a number of recreational and decorative objects are placed in the parks. These include bridges, arbors, benches, etc.

In these cases, the issue of authenticity, or at least consideration of stylistics, is raised. The issue of authenticity is relevant also in the renovation of plantations. Comparing the results of revitalization of manor parks in Latvia to Estonian and Lithuanian manor parks, both private and municipality-managed objects, our neighboring countries present notably better results in renovation and exploitation. In this article, I have not taken a look at the results of the analyses of the greater castle parks and the most significant gardens and parks in cities, which is the objective of subsequent research.

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Kopsavilkums. Pētījumā par vēsturisko dārzu un parku revitalizāciju tika mēģināts atrast formulējumu tam, kas pašlaik notiek, vai noticis pirms dažiem gadiem Latvijas, Lietuvas un Igaunijas vēsturiskajos muižu parkos. Dažādas izmaiņas laika gaitā notikušas, taču paveiktais lielākoties neatbilst likumdošanā formulētajiem jēdzieniem restaurācija vai rekonstrukcija. Daļēji varētu uzskatīt, ka notikusi renovācija jeb atjaunošana. Latvijas muižu dārzu un parku vēsture ir bijusi ļoti nelabvēlīga, daudz kas ir zaudēts un vēl arvien līdzekļu trūkuma dēļ ir vāji konservēts. Lielākajā daļā vēsturisko dārzu un parku notikusi sakopšana, tas nozīmē, ka likvidēts liekais, kas radies laika gaitā. Dažviet ir pievienotas jauni, mūsdienīgai lietošanai paredzēti objekti, pārsvarā bērnu rotaļām paredzētas iekārtas. Jaunu funkciju piešķiršanu, nemainot plānojumu un uzbūvi, varētu nosaukt par atdzīvināšanu jeb revitalizāciju. Revitalizācija ir sena apbūves kompleksa (teritorijas) funkcionāla aktivizācija, pielāgojot to jaunai sabiedriskai funkcijai. Veicot pētījumu, konstatēts, ka vēsturisko muižu, kuru ēkas ir renovētas vai rekonstruētas, un kuras ir privātpašums, parkos ir ne tikai atjaunoti parku elementi, galvenokārt ceļu tīkls un dīķi, bet arī pievienoti jauni elementi-strūklakas, skulptūras, tiltiņi. Lielākā daļa muižu parku, kuru izmantošana nav saistīta ar komerciju nav guvuši vērā ņemamas izmaiņas, to revitalizācijas pakāpe ir tikai dzīvības uzturēšana, lai neaizietu bojā tas, kas vēl palicis. Ir arī izņēmumi, kuru labākie paraugi atspoguļoti rakstā. Salīdzinājumam veikta arī vairāku Lietuvas un Igaunijas vēsturisko, atjaunoto muižu un to parku apskate.