

Cultural-Historical Development of Landscape Space of Klein- Vielen

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Abstract. The landscape of the maritime lowland Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (Germany) is characterized by a slightly wavy terrain with advanced agricultural activities. There are several lakes around Neubrandenburg and the Neustrelitz area, the shores of which form a picturesque landscape that fostered the development of manor centres already in the 20th century due to the appearance of small rural villages around them. Within a distance of 7-10 km, several manor centres have been preserved in this area, which obviously can enhance successful development of the tourism infrastructure. That is especially true for cycling. The landscape space of the former manor Klein Vielen has been studied in detail, as well as its transformation processes taking place from the 18th century to the present time. The study presents not only the evaluation of relevant issues, but also offers scenarios for the development of the existing cultural -historical landscape space.

Keywords: cultural-historical landscape space, compositional axes, functionality, harmony, visual psycho-emotional highlight in landscape

One of the historical manor centres in the Mecklenburg -Vorpommern region is *Klein Vielen*, which has been studied in detail. The historical manor ensemble vividly reflects the building stylistics and development trends of the landscape space in the 19th century.

Assessing the current situation, this study focuses attention on the aim to recover the cultural-historical landscape space through the process of compositional synthesis based on the changed character of the buildings and the green landscape space [1; 2].

The tasks of this research study were:

- to analyse in detail the landscape space of the manor ensemble;
- to look for an overall compositional image of the cultural landscape space of the manor ensemble *Klein Vielen* for creating a unified whole;
- to study changes in the urban and nature bases (the terrain, trees, meadows and water bodies);
- to study relevant literature and to look into the current situation.

The topicality of this research study is based on the necessity of developing tourism infrastructure in the above historical region by promoting the restoration and functional recovery of its cultural values. Over the past 150 years, the transformation processes of the landscape space have impacted changes in both: the green landscape space and the architectural values in the visual, functional and compositional contexts.

Each landscape architect is acting in nature as a producer/director creating his/her own expression of functionality and composition of the landscape space. It applies to the creativity of architects in both: the 18th and 21st centuries [3; 4; 5].

In accordance with the historical research materials of the manor building centre, the map of

1797 shows the composition axis in the north-east (NE) direction.

At the northern end of the spatial axis of the landscape, the territory of the manor buildings (including the Master's house, stockyard in the backyard, stables, barns, servants' houses, manor pub, etc.) was developed; and in the southern section, a regular shaped park area was formed. When comparing the original map with the situation one hundred years later it can be seen that the park has been transformed to a landscape park, having lost its shapes of regular stylistics.

Approximately 200m south of the park, there were view lines facing the Klingenberg Hill with a distinguished elevation of its peak forming a powerful dominant of the view.

After 1850, at the top of the hill a chapel was built with a tree alley, about 100m long, which was leading to the sanctuary (by architect Fr. V. Buttel, 1796-1869). A new compositional axis was introduced into the landscape space, having a dominant inclined towards the existing axis of the ensemble of the manor buildings. Thus, in the middle of the 19th century, the process of transformation of the historical landscape space began.

When assessing and comparing the condition of the old buildings of *Klein Vielen* nowadays and in the pre-war period (the first half of the 20th century), it can be seen that the architectonic expression of the old buildings has changed. These differences can be seen clearly in the photograph fixation.

The red brick architecture has been preserved, however, the proportions of the historical windows and doorways have been lost. The same applies to the changes in the height of the eaves of the buildings. The small windows with tiny panes,

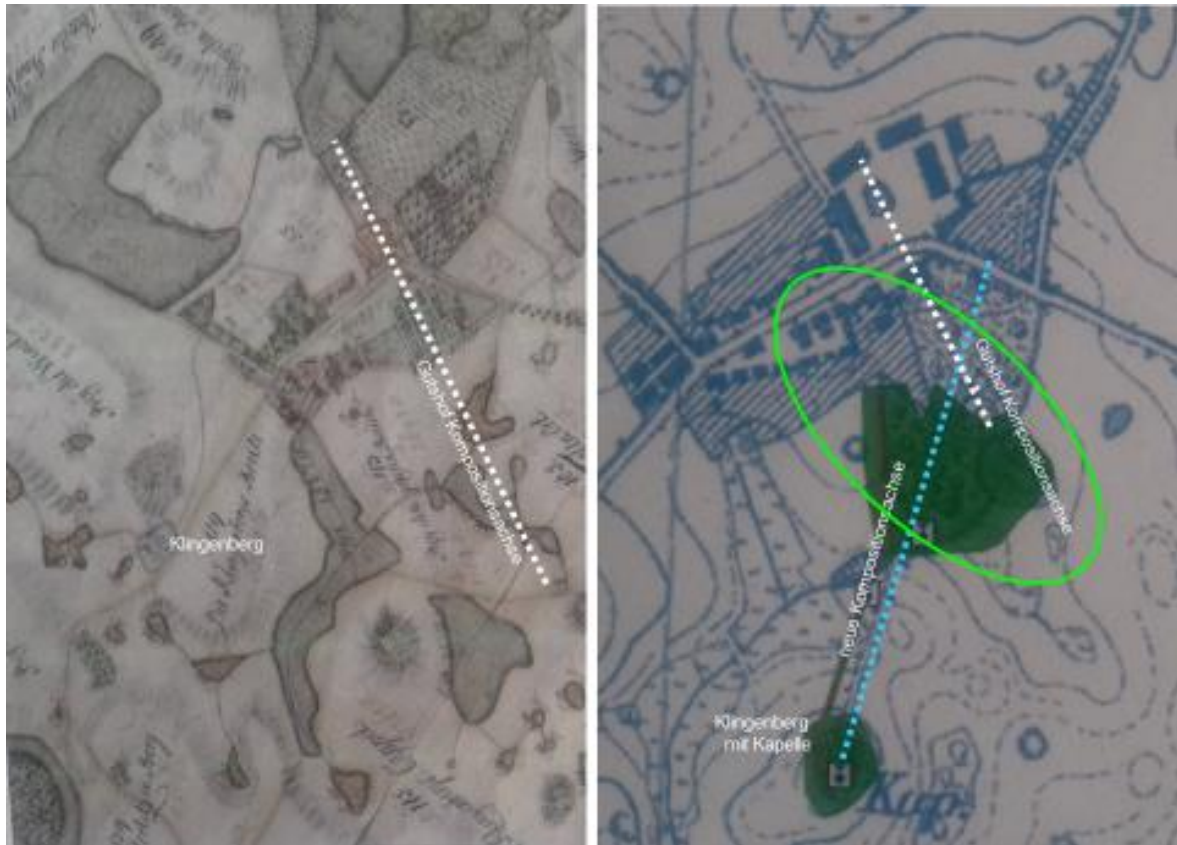


Fig. 1. Left: The Map of the Manor Klein Vielen Made in 1797 with a Park, Having a Regular Shape and a Distinctive Composition Axis. Right: The Plan Designed in the Beginning of the 20th Century: with a Landscape Park and a New Axis for Landscape Space Composition [author's drawing]

installed in the auxiliary buildings and servants' houses, have been transformed into large showcases as, in nowadays, they have been adapted to function as mansions.

One of the authentic outbuildings has retained its household character, having a pen for keeping poultry. The historic bed of the driveway and the large backyard has also been preserved. A very positive aspect is that, over the centuries, the area has not been built up, and the historic spatial structure, and its scale can be easily identified.

However, the authentic manor house, which was located in the southern section of the front yard, has disappeared, and it was replaced by a 2-storey residential building built in the 60s/70s of the 20th century. In the post-war period, the area of the historic park was divided into several sections for building mansions. In the far eastern section of the park there is an open-air stage with a large concrete floor for hosting events.

In the ancient park area of the manor two large grounds can be identified. Several old park trees, 70-100cm in diameter, have been preserved. At the intersection of other composition axes of the above mentioned park there is a high *Platanus acerifolia*. Probably, this tree served as a turning point at the intersection of the central axis and the new alley axis

when creating an alley towards the Klingenberg Hill. Symbolically, they represent two distinctive passages of time in the destiny of the family; the first one was related to the prosperity of the kin, and the second- to the tragedy of the family.

Having analysed the above materials, the author of this study offers her own version of the scenario solution for preserving the historical landscape space of the *Klein Vielen* manor, based on the search for a compromise between the historic and contemporary situations.

The proposal consists of 5 landscape spaces combined in a single compositional and philosophical space.

Landscape Space 1 includes the ensemble of the historical manor buildings and the park, the spatial scale of which is readable/ understandable at present.

The area of the manor buildings is the spatial compositional dominant of the landscape in terms of its scale and functionality.

In the post-war years, when new manors were built in the section of the old park, another structure was introduced. Consequently, it is not possible to recover the historical landscape space, and the search for synthesis of the space should be used enabling to perceive the historical scale.



Fig. 3. Linking the Five Landscape Spaces and Their Compositional Axes [author drawing]



Fig. 4. Hunting Castle Prillwitz. Sculptures in the Castle Park [photo by author, 2019]

of the hill peak. Of course, the building needs a lot of restoration work.

The Gothic and religious-symbolic 8-corner shape of the chapel remind of the family destiny, because the 8-corner layout perimeter forms 7 small rooms or premises, which serve as Memory Rooms for each child, and the eighth section of the chapel with the entrance gate is a symbolic place where the mother passed away together with the newborn baby.

The architectural design of the chapel, combined with the steep hill and the crowns of the giant trees, creates very powerful psycho-emotional feelings. The architecture, the foundation of nature, the tragedy of the human destiny, and the awareness of the values of the Christian world through the God, from generation to generation, culminate here.

Scenario of **Landscape Space 5** is based on the perimeter-placed lines in the southern part of the hill behind the chapel. They overlook the picturesque



Fig. 5. A Forged Metal Gate as a Border Between a Section of the Park and the Alley [photo by author, 2019]



Fig. 6. Park Areas and Flowering Shrubs [photo by author, 2019]



Fig. 7. In the park, the composition of the sunny and shading areas, the main view lines, recreation and activity zones should be considered. The same applies to the areas for the flowering shrubs and flower beds, their flowering time and coloring [photo by author, 2019]

rural landscape that is particularly attractive in autumn, where the agri-landscape is interdispersed with clusters of trees. The fields and meadows that serve for the herd form an impressive metaphor telling us that the continuation of the kin has not stopped and goes on by the God's blessing. The picturesque scenery of the nature, eternity, the language of architecture and faith in the God all help overcome the heaviest tragedy of the destiny.

A successful scenario choice of the five landscape spaces can make a strong contribution to the tourism infrastructure. Each of the landscape spaces requires an individual detailed solution in

terms of composition, functionality, and aesthetical-visual aspect. This applies particularly to the garden sculptures, which should be thematically subordinate to the scale of the manor buildings, the park and alley compositional axes, and the psycho-emotional expression.

The linking of the landscape spaces can be obtained by careful planning of trees, shrubs, and lower beds, taking into account the scale, shades and dendrological characteristics of the existing tree branches. The cultural landscape of the *Klein Vielen* manor presents a very strong potential for recovering its historical heritage in the Mecklenburgisches Vorpomeraden region.



Fig. 8. Assessment of Dendrological Characteristics of Trees in Different Seasons [photo by author, 2019]

Conclusions

The economic-political wave in the middle of the 20th century, after the World War 2, divided the European countries into two diverse systems of society. The totalitarian power shattered the economy and the cultural and historical landscape in the territory of the Eastern Europe, having destroyed brutally the environmental identities of several nations.

The alien wave of stagnation of collectivisation in rural areas reached not only the Baltic countries, but also East Germany. The described example of the *Pomeranian-Mecklenburg* neighbourhood, located near *Neubrandenburg*, shows that process vividly.

Being aware of the issues of the transformation processes in the cultural landscape of the rural areas of Latvia, it is possible to evaluate the anthropogenic load in the cultural area of East Germany which was detached from the roots of the German culture and history for half a century.

During that period of time, the Soviet totalitarian occupation power degraded the values of the cultural heritage accumulated since the middle of the 18th century in the Baltic countries, Poland and East Germany.

In the post-war years, the functionality and composition of the authentic historical structure of the *Klein-Vielen* manor were destroyed in the 1960s and 1970s due to the introduction of an alien building scale into the historical centre of the manor.

Also, in the post-war years, fast-growing poplars were planted in the park of the manor, and, nowadays, they have reached a huge height,

thus destroying the dendrological composition of the historic part of the park.

In the section of the park designed in the 1970s and 1980s, a heavy stage was built having a concrete floor. Such techniques of the totalitarian regime are found also in the sites of the cultural heritage of Latvia. Their purpose was to undermine and destroy the authentic objects and to replace them by a new scale and function symbolizing the victory of the socialist and political demagoguery over the cultural values accumulated by the occupied nations.

The historical sites of the rural areas of Latvia and East Germany show a very close similarity based on the Baltic-German stylistic trends prevailing in the architecture and art of manors built in the 18th century.

The 21st century, as the time of spiritual awakening of the Baltic countries and East Germany, came with a new wave of development. The intensive international cooperation for the recovery of the lost historical values at the levels of universities and municipalities shows evidence of that.

The scientific research of the buildings of the *Klein-Vielen* manor built in the 18th–19th centuries serves as a good example for mutual comparison of the trends of the Baltic German architecture and art during the period of development of manors in Latvia until World War 1.

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Kopsavilkums. Meklenburgas piejūras zemienes (*Meklenburgisches Seeplatten*) ainavtelpai ir raksturīgs viegli viļņots reljefs ar attīstītu lauksaimniecisko darbību. Ap Neubrandeburgu un Neustrelīcas teritoriju ir vairāki ezeri, kuru krasti veido gleznainu ainavu, kas vēsturiski ir piesaistījis muižu centru attīstību, veidojoties ap tiem jau 20. gs. nelieliem lauku ciematiņiem. Šajā teritorijā aptuveni 7–10 km distancējumā ir saglabājušies vairāki vēsturiskie muižu centri, kas nenoliedzami veicina spilgtu tūrisma infrastruktūras attīstību. Īpaši tas ir attiecināms uz velotūrismu. Detālāk tiek pētīta bijušās muižas *Klein Vielen* ainavtelpa un tās transformācijas procesi no 18. gs. līdz mūsdienām. Pētījums ietver problemātikas novērtējumu kultūrmantojuma saglabāšanā.

Pētījuma uzdevumi ir saistīti ar muižas ansambļa ainavtelpas detaļu analīzi; muižas kultūrainavtelpas kopējā kompozicionālā veidola izpēti; vēsturiskās apbūves un dabas pamatnes (reljefs, koki, pļavas, ūdens) transformācijas meklējumi.

Pētījuma aktualitāte ir balstīta uz tūrisma infrastruktūras piesaistes attīstības iespēju vēsturiskajam reģionam, veicinot kultūrvērtību restaurāciju un to funkcionālu atgūšanu. Austrumvācijas politiskā situācija pēckara gados ir nesusi transformācijas procesus, kas ietekmējuši gan zaļo ainavtelpu, gan arhitektoniskās vērtības – vizuālā, funkcionālā un kompozicionālā kontekstā.

Katrs ainavu arhitekts dabā darbojas kā kompetents režisors, scenogrāfs, radīdams laikmetam atbilstošu ainavtelpas izteiksmi funkcionalitātē un kompozīcijā. Tas ir attiecinams gan uz 18. gs., gan uz 21. gs. arhitektu radošās darbības laiku.

Atslēgvārdi: kultūrvēsturiskā ainavtelpa, kompozicionālās asis, funkcionalitāte, harmonija, vizuāli psihoemocionāls kāpinājums ainavā utt.