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Landscape design of a space for relaxation and reconnection with the natural environment in a rural garden in Bazoș, Timiș County

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Abstract: *The paper presents the landscape design for a 2,742 m² private garden in Bazoș (Recaș, Timiș County), conceived as a space for relaxation and reconnection with nature. Based on the site conditions (low plain, temperate-continental climate with sub-Mediterranean influences, chernozems with a high water table) and an inventory of the existing vegetation, the plot was divided into eight thematic sub-zones linked by paths: swimming pool, "The Mask", "Gentleman", rose garden, fire pit, ornamental pond, orchard with open-air cinema, and access and parking. An 18-stage execution sequence was set out, and the built elements, quantities and costs were estimated for each zone. The planting scheme comprises 62 taxa (1,310 plants), 900 m² of lawn and 252 m² of Japanese lawn, watered by a 10-zone automated irrigation system.*

Keywords: thematic zoning, water features, open-air cinema, automated irrigation, woody plant material, sustainability

• Introduction

Exposure to natural environments helps stress recovery and restores attention [1, 2], and water features add calming effects and a better microclimate [3]. Private gardens also contribute to biodiversity, microclimate regulation and stormwater management [4].

Modern landscape architecture treats the garden as a succession of sub-zones with their own identity, for rest, socialising, contemplation and sensory stimulation, held together by unity, balance and proportion [5]. The open-air cinema, born in the 1930s as the American drive-in, can be brought to the scale of a private garden as a social space. The aim was to design a relaxation and nature-connection garden in Bazoș based on thematic zoning, water and an open-air projection space.

• Material and method

The 2,742 m² site lies at 81 Timiș Street, Bazoș, about 20–25 km east of Timișoara in the Banat Plain, with a house under restoration and an outdoor cooking area. Mean annual temperature is 10.5–11 °C and precipitation 600–650 mm; the chernozems are fertile but temporarily waterlogged by the high water table. Ten fruit trees, a *Juglans nigra* and a young *Ginkgo biloba* were kept.

The work comprised a literature review, a topographic survey, the site, landscape, levels and planting plans with 3D renderings, dimensioning of the built elements in each zone, species selection [6], dimensioning of irrigation and drainage, and a cost estimate at Romanian market prices.

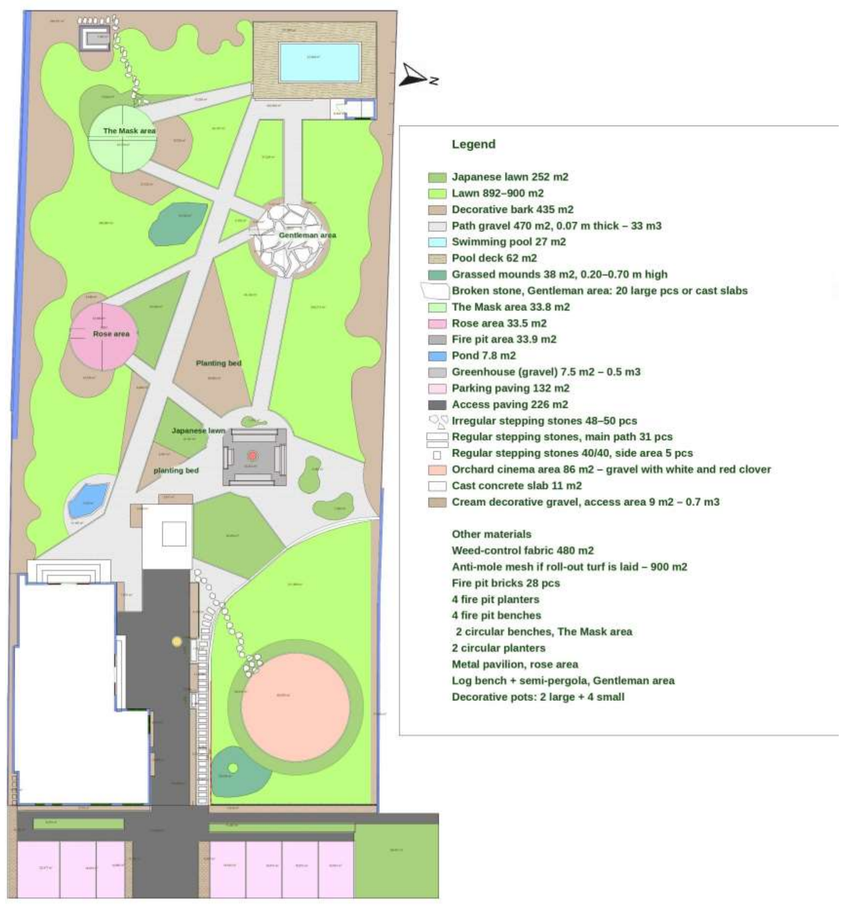


Figure 1. General landscape plan of the garden in Bazoș, with the legend of surfaces and materials

• Results and discussions

The plan (Figure 1) divides the plot into eight thematic zones linked by gravel paths (470 m²) that radiate from the central fire pit and open views to the focal points. Bark areas (435 m²), lawn (900 m²) and Japanese lawn (252 m²) connect the zones. Soil excavated for the pool and pond was reused for 38 m² of grassed mounds 0.20–0.70 m high.

"The Mask", with circular forms, is meant for contemplation, and the "Gentleman" area, framed by a *Prunus laurocerasus* hedge, offers a secluded resting place. The 7.8 m² pond has a biological filter, a UV lamp and aquatic plants, and the open-air cinema sits in the orchard on gravel with clover, around the existing fruit trees.

A longitudinal drain deals with the high water table. The 10-zone irrigation system has 3 sprinkler zones for the lawn, 6 drip zones for the beds (1,100 m of drip line) and a subsurface drip zone in the grassed parking, at about 14,000 lei in materials. The plant material is worth 97,881 lei (Table 1); conifers, including 108 *Cupressocyparis leylandii*, give structure and screening.

Table 1. Structure of the proposed plant material

Plant group	Taxa	Plants	Value (lei)
Perennials, aromatic plants, grasses	23	721	20,641
Shrubs (incl. roses and bamboo)	21	291	25,210
Conifers	10	255	37,480
Ornamental deciduous trees	8	43	14,550
Total	**62**	**1,310**	**97,881**

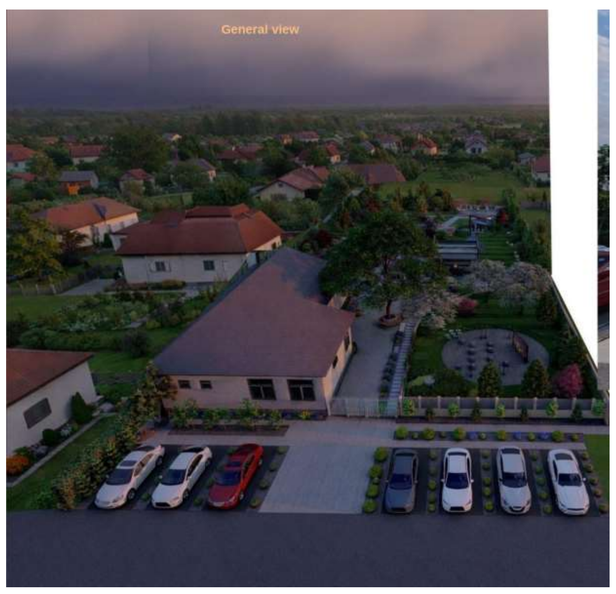


Figure 2. Overall view of the proposed design (3D rendering)

• Conclusions

Thematic zoning turned a 2,742 m² rural garden into a route of eight sub-zones with distinct functions, from contemplation to water recreation and open-air cinema.

Following the 18 execution stages with level checks is essential for drainage and stable built elements on a site with a high water table.

Reusing excavated soil, keeping the fruit trees, drip irrigation, clover and mulch reduce environmental impact and maintenance costs.

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