

Landscape aesthetics, design and designing as the components of landscape architecture and some issues of their teaching

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Recently, one of the most important fields of geographical sciences - landscape-ecological planning is rapidly developing in Georgia. Landscape-ecological research, according to Prof. N. Elizbarashvili's view, should be carried out in several interrelated stages, the most important of which are: landscape-ecological (general-geographical, landscape, socio-economic, ecological) analysis, i.e inventory and synthesis i.e evaluation. The analysis and synthesis of geographical phenomena and processes allows for geographical forecasting, evaluation of modern state of the landscapes, forms and scales of impact on them, sustainability, as well as its potential. The study of the real and diverse interconnections that exist between nature, farming and population is captured by the definition of landscape functions. The definition of landscape functions is the key issue of geography in general and in particular of geoecology, applied landscape sciences, landscape planning.

On the other hand, recently the study of cultural landscapes – cultural- natural territorial complexes of various ranks, has been rapidly developing in European countries and Georgia - not only in terms of material but also their spiritual values. The most important spiritual assimilation-aesthetic perception of reality in landscape sciences is often referred to as a landscape perception (in Latin perceptio - representation, perception) and is generally recognized as the "Fifth Dimension of Landscape" (N. Beruchashvili). The fields closely related to landscape perception are landscape aesthetics, landscape design and designing, landscape architecture.

As mentioned above, on the one hand, the main purpose of landscape-ecological planning is to define the functions of landscapes. On the other hand, after defining landscape-ecological planning and landscape functions, important works begin. These works include both arranging cultural landscapes of various ranks in terms of providing more material value (values), as well as arranging them in terms of aesthetics-beauty.

In contemporary university geographical literature in the courses on "landscape sciences", "anthropogenic landscape sciences", "geoecology" and others, the problems related to landscape aesthetics, landscape design and landscape architecture are usually not addressed. They are considered to be in the field of other sciences or even of arts. So they have to be under ruling by architects, designers, artists, not geographers.

We believe that a comprehensive study of natural and cultural landscapes moreover the proper landscape-ecological planning of cultural landscapes without a thorough understanding the landscape aesthetics, design, designing, landscape architecture, as well as the laws of perception is actually impossible

The report discusses landscape aesthetics, design and designing as essential components of landscape architecture and some of the issues of their teaching along with landscape-ecological planning in the specialties of geography and ecology.