



ANA SOPINA

SPATIAL PLANNING CRITERIA FOR RELATION ENHANCEMENT BETWEEN URBAN AND NATURAL LANDSCAPE IF THE EAST ADRIATIC COAST

PROSTORNOPLANSKI KRITERIJI ZA UNAPREĐENJE ODNOSA URBANOGA I PRIRODNOGA PEJSAŽA ISTOČNE JADRANSKE OBALE

ANA SOPINA (born in 1985 in Zagreb, Croatia) graduated in 2011 at the University of Zagreb Faculty of Architecture, where she is currently working as an assistant at the Department of Urban Planning, Spatial Planning, and Landscape Architecture.

Supervisor: Prof. Bojana Bojanic Obad Šćitaroci, Ph.D.

Members of the committee:

Prof. Sanja Gasparović, Ph.D. (president)

Assoc. Prof. Ana Mrda, Ph.D., MBA

Asst. Prof. Ilenia Pierantoni, Ph.D. (University of Camerino, Faculty of Architecture and Design 'Eduardo Vittoria')

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Book I – 333 pages, three parts in 9 chapters, 62 tables, 47 illustrations, 55 footnotes, and 341 bibl. units. Book II – Appendix has 263 pages, 7 research catalogues, 18 research tables, 13 illustrations, and 26 bibl. units.

The research phenomenon of the 'urban and natural landscape relation' testifies to 25 centuries of urban culture in the Mediterranean. It is a multidimensional changeability process that integrates spatial, temporal, and perception landscape characters, as well as functional and holistic principles fostered by the spatial planning perspective. The research is incited by the premise that urbanity has emerged from landscape, transforming and intertwining the natural with the cultural and urban landscape. The spatial conditions of extensive urban spread into natural resources indicate the disrupted urban and natural landscape relation that is further intensified in the Mediterranean and Adriatic Coast where cities are settled between natural elements of the sea and the mountain which limit spatial development and planning.

The identified theoretical research gap (research phenomenon is not systematically analysed within the scientific field of spatial planning), spatial condition (disrupted relation between urban and natural landscape), and related spatial planning challenges (missing criteria for enhancing the landscape relation) are responded to by research objectives, hypotheses, and expected scientific contributions. The research aims to investigate how spatial planning evaluates and guides the changeability process of the urban and natural landscape relation in the context of Adriatic coastal cities, towns, and settlements.

The methodological research approach integrates three research steps – theoretical analysis of the existing knowledge, spatial comparison of case studies with field research of landscape relation perception, and verification of spatial planning criteria for the enhancement of the landscape relation in spatial plans. These research steps are explored by seven research catalogues in establishing groups of criteria for evaluating and the enhancement of the landscape relation. The spatial planning research of the landscape relation has its methodological background in the *Heritage Urbanism* approach and the *Urbanscape Emanation*¹ concept in overlapping different perspectives and multiple landscape layers to plan the holistic balance between urban and natural landscape.

The research introduction (Chapter 1) presents the urban and natural landscape relation from the spatial planning perspective within the wider context of the comprehensive understanding of landscape. The state-of-the-art (Chapter 2) sets the theoretical framework by using the literature review in establishing the identity factors of urban and natural landscape as well as determining the research phenomenon from the spatial planning perspective. The theoretical research step is finalised by the systematisation of theory-based criteria for evaluating and planning the enhancement of the landscape relation (Chapter 3).

The spatial research is initiated in the wider Mediterranean scope of the landscape relation (Chapter 4) identified in twenty-six Mediterranean Overview Examples that are presented in the spatial research catalogue. The comparison of Mediterranean examples has resulted in identifying spatial criteria for evaluating the landscape relation that are applied to the landscape settings of the Adriatic Research Cases (Chapter 5). The thirty-six Adriatic cases are presented in the spatial research catalogue and compared to set types of local spatial landscape relations that are used as the criteria for selecting the three representative cases of Ancona, Italy; Rijeka, Croatia; and Budva, Montenegro. Perception of the landscape relation in field research of Representative Research Cases (Chapter 6) explores landscape representation through the field research catalogue and the perception research catalogue. The comparison of representative cases has resulted in establishing perception and identity criteria for evaluating the landscape relation.

Verifying the results of research synthesis on spatial planning documentation of representative cases (Chapter 7) is conducted on two historical and three contemporary spatial plans presented in the spatial planning research catalogue. The existing and missing spatial planning criteria confirm and update four groups of spatial, perception, identity, and spatial planning criteria for the enhancement of the landscape relation that reflect both the content of spatial plans and the spatial planning process.

Discussion on the scientific contributions and application of research results in scientific, professional, and educational domains of spatial planning (Chapter 8) bring structured responses to research problems. The theoretical contribution of determining the landscape relation and methodological contribution of a holistic approach to the theoretical, spatial, and spatial planning research of the landscape relation, are complemented by the contextual scientific contribution that promotes spatial planning as a tool for planning landscape transformations in making urban and natural conditions more holistic, resilient, and sustainable. The application of research results includes the addition to the general spatial planning method, use in preparation of spatial and landscape plans, and a complement to the existing system of protection and management of natural and cultural heritage from the spatial planning perspective.

Conclusion as the synthesis of the established research results (Chapter 9) involve twelve spatial planning criteria for the enhancement of the urban and natural landscape relation that promote constituents of landscape setting: spatial criteria of (i) administrative setting, (ii) geographical setting, (iii) continuity of historical setting, (iv) heritage setting; perception criteria of (v) interaction of anthropogenic and ecological networks, (vi) transformations of landscape setting, (vii) visual (scenic) setting, (viii) communications setting; identity criteria of (ix) identity setting, (x) vivacity setting, (xi) endogenous setting; and (xii) spatial planning setting. These spatial planning criteria advance resilient development, foster the quality of life in concordance with spatial planning goals of sustainability, and contribute to raising awareness of the multidimensional values found in every landscape.

¹ This research has been a part of the Urbanscape Emanation research project, carried out with the financial support of the University of Zagreb for the scientific and artistic research, conducted at the Faculty of Architecture, University of Zagreb. Until November 2023, the project has been led by prof. Bojana Bojanic Obad Šćitaroci, Ph.D. and since November 2023, it has been led by assist. prof. Tamara Zaninovic, Ph.D.