

## A SMALL PARK IN A BIG CITY: HOW AND WHY LANDSCAPE DESIGNERS CREATE CHAMBER GARDENS

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### ABSTRACT

Green space in an urban environment is one of the needs of a modern city dweller. But it is not easy to find a place for a full-fledged park in the downtown, especially in the middle of historical buildings or in the business center, where land is worth its weight in gold. Miniature green areas, allowing you to take a break from the city noise literally two steps from a busy street, usually occupy an area of no more than an acre - about 4,000 square meters. Despite their modest size, such mini-parks perform many functions: they are suitable for privacy and for business meetings in an informal setting, and often include a children's playground, art objects and other elements of urban improvement.

**Keywords:** urban environment, landscape design, pocket parks, theme garden, natural textures.

For decades, the world has been practicing the use of urban landscape design, while in our country this area is undeservedly deprived of attention. The role of specialists in this area is limited to creating landscapes on private plots. Cities continue to be built up without taking into account the introduction of landscape design.

Only when the development of territories for the needs of megacities is combined with the use of the method of ecological restoration and landscape design at a large-scale level, then designers will have the opportunity to leave the sphere of private small-scale construction and develop a modern city with a full-fledged natural design.  
[1]

Pocket parks, like the term pocket park itself, first appeared in the United States in the 1960s. Then the emergence of miniature public spaces became the authorities'

response to the nationwide urban crisis accompanied by unrest. Soon, the development of small areas attracted the attention of leading designers and artists, who learned to transform the voids on the site of demolished buildings into stylish recreational areas. A classic example is Paley Park (390 m<sup>2</sup>), opened in 1967 on the site of a demolished nightclub. [4]



### *Paley Park, New York*

The park is rightly considered one of the best public spaces in the United States. The walls of the adjacent buildings are covered with ivy, forming “vertical lawns”; between them there are rows of slender trees and ferns in tubs. For the comfort of visitors, marble tables are surrounded by airy chairs made of wire mesh. The back wall of the park is formed by an artificial waterfall, the noise of which masks the sounds of the city. [4]

Pocket parks have a number of advantages: they improve the ecology of the environment, regenerate neglected areas, provide residents with the opportunity to participate in the creation of the park, serve as social incubators, and improve the atmosphere in the area. Target audience of pocket parks: local residents and employees of organizations located in the neighborhood within 5-10 minute walking distance.

Such parks are located in areas with heavy pedestrian traffic and are a small transit point for citizens where they can stop, sit, relax and move on. They are created taking into account the interests and needs of urban communities and serve as their meeting and gathering places.

Pocket parks are the only option for creating new public spaces without major renovations. In urban areas, pocket parks are often part of urban regeneration plans and are included as a separate item in the city's greening program. Pocket parks are an effective and low-cost way to create public green spaces within the city fabric.

Therefore, more developed countries, primarily in Europe, began to concentrate the efforts of specialists not on creating "shelters from the city" in the form of private gardens outside the city, but on creating a full-fledged urban environment, and it is easy to find a place for arranging modern gardens there. There would only be a desire. Of course, for residents living outside the city in their low-rise cottages, creating their own gardens is not alien, and the tendencies of minimalism have not become rejected there. But a reflection of their real commitment to civilization became urban gardens as the personification of what is called a full life in the city with nature. Without running and standing in traffic jams in the direction of the treasured patch of "your" countryside nature in the kindergarten. Only for this purpose cities began to be built in a human way - with mini-gardens and mini-parks at every step - next to residential courtyards and in courtyards, on streets and squares. Even in city parks, the concept of a "theme garden" has become very common. Suffice it to recall the "series gardens" in one of the most famous parks of our time - **Parc André-Citroën in Paris**. [2]



This is one of the significant parks created at the end of the 20th century. It is part of an ultra-modern architectural ensemble. This is one of the significant parks created at the end of the 20th century. It is part of an ultra-modern architectural ensemble. At the entrance to the park, two large greenhouses, each 15 meters high, shelter orange trees, palm trees and a Mediterranean garden. The spacious central esplanade is planted with grass. Its artificial streams flow into the Seine, and there are squares on both sides. Between the greenhouses, there is a peristyle of fountains. Here the streams, shooting straight from the ground, change their height to the music. It's very spectacular. [3]

Citroen Park consists of many hotel thematic parts, which are united by one concept. In the center, there is a large rectangular lawn - the parterre. It is crossed by a straight path running diagonally through the entire park.



Thematic gardens stretch *Citroen Park bird's eye view along* one

side of the ground floor, and along the other, there is a canal with grottoes. Moving along the canal, visitors find themselves either in an open space or in a cool grotto. Along the way, there are modern sculptures: traces of bare feet running up a stone pillar.

There are only six thematic gardens stretching along the ground floor. All these compositions are enclosed in the same frames, but each garden room has its own unique and original design. They are named after colors: blue, green, orange, red, silver, gold. These gardens can be viewed both from the lower level and from the elevated gallery. [3]



In addition to them, the park has other themed gardens. The Garden of Metamorphosis represents the alchemical transformation of lead into gold. The Movement Garden is a cultivated virgin land where euonymus and rose bushes grow mixed with “weeds.” It’s cool in the Moss Garden.

Black Garden is located at the end of a straight diagonal road. Its area is 2 hectares. It is located in a low relief and is created from dark, mainly coniferous vegetation against a backdrop of dazzling white stone. Black tulips bloom here in spring. [3]

## Teardrop Park



(A unique natural oasis in New York, USA)

Teardrop Park is located on the territory of Battery Park City in the southwestern part of Manhattan. Surrounded by a residential complex of 4 high-rise buildings, the park is modest in size and has plenty of shade. The designers designed separate zones here, limited by volumetric plantings and natural

materials of large shapes and textures, which made it possible to create places for privacy even in such a limited space. The park was conceived primarily for children, so its entire structure and the natural materials used invite visitors to active movement and exploration.

Understanding the world around us is an important period of intensive development of a child. And when equipping sites in big cities, preference, first of all, is given to complex equipment and inventory, leaving no chance for plants. [5]



The park in question is designed to restore the disturbed balance, taking small city dwellers on a journey that requires dexterity, both mental and physical. The area's unusual topography, interactive fountains, natural stone and abundant vegetation help



in this endeavor.

The result of the work of the landscape architects of Teardrop Park is a unique natural oasis, intended not only for children, but also for visitors of any age and profession: students, office workers, residents of nearby houses. [5]

### **MFO Park, Zurich**

This stylish park inherited its name from the Swiss engineering company on the site of whose workshop it was located. The park resembles a greenhouse without glazing: it is a complex steel structure 17 meters high, entwined with plants. As a result, the space inside is filled with a play of light and shadow. Stairs lead to balconies and platforms at different levels, including a sun terrace with city views. The central part of the park is intended for cultural events such as film screenings, concerts and theatrical performances, and small quiet niches like opera boxes are hidden in the walls. The park has won numerous awards, including the Most Innovative Contemporary Park or Garden award from the European Garden Heritage Network. [4]



The centuries-old culture of arranging a complete environment for people in the city has resisted the desire of developers, no less powerful than ours, to make many people happy with the treasured square meters.

Only for those developers, such intentions, due to their civilization accumulated over centuries, did not come at the expense of nature. They were able to provide a person with a full-fledged environment with gardens and pedestrian promenades near his place of residence, they were able to displace cars from the territory of vital human interests, endowing the urban environment with that concept that has become so rare in our country - a full-fledged ecology.

Therefore, a radically different meaning is attached to the creation of gardens there - instead of the disunity and isolation of people, they preferred to create gardens for communication and interaction of people. Therefore, modern landscape design has become in demand there - old-fashioned, ceremonial and decoratively loaded compositions of expensive flowers and exotic plants are not suitable for living people.

We need an environment for free choice of activities in nature: who wants to lie quietly on the lawn, who wants to rest with a child in the shade or by the sandbox, who wants to play table tennis on the side...[1]

The garden for diversified development was able to unite people; they received an additional impetus for communication and diversified development of visitors. The turn towards active gardens required new planning solutions from landscape architects. And the technologies for creating such gardens have taken the path of maximizing the use of natural resources - perennial plants that do not need to be mowed, sustainable species of vegetation that retain their qualities throughout the year.

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