

THE METHOD OF EVALUATION OF PUBLIC SPACE IN THE VILLAGE OF RURAL SETTLEMENTS BANOV

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The work deals with the completion of the public spaces of the rural areas by operational improvement methodology of public space. The analyses which are contained in the methodology, are useful as a resource for the creating, respectively for the completion of the public spaces, there is analyzed the situation and development of rural areas of the countryside. Methodology deals with the evaluation and quality of particular areas, with the mapping of citizens' activities at these public areas. This type of methodology is useful for garden and landscape architects in the completion of existing public spaces. By this method, it can be found out how the area is living, what type of activities and functions are needed that it becomes attractive for visitors and citizens of rural areas.

Keywords: public space, countryside, street, people, activities

Introduction

Currently, global trends of increasing quality and culture of internal natural places are reflected in our conditions. Attention does not focus only to the centers, but also to the entire system of public urban areas (Kováč, 2003). Public rural areas relate to each of us. They are an important and indispensable element of any municipality. Unless they are working as they should, they promote social lives of citizens. On how these spaces look like in reality spaces depends on involvement of citizens and on their proactive approach, on their choice in elections and how they are involved in public affairs. It is the mirror of each municipality. In recent years, interest in public areas increases in the Slovak Republic. The reason of this interest can be seen in the changing lifestyle of modern society. On these spaces are placed There is a great demand to these areas and therefore, they become in the centre of many local politicians, experts, architects, urban planners.

People evaluate the municipality according to the quality of public spaces, according to the amount of opportunities that take place in these areas. Through these factors, they evaluate and perceive the countryside and life in it. It is very difficult to define the good public space in the village. On one hand, it can be a place with plenty of activities where different groups of people can find their place. Furthermore, it can be an area where we like to meet or where we spend our leisure time.

The term „public space“ is understood as external, publicly accessible open space where different types of activities are realized (organized and unorganized) of various groups and individual citizens. For example

:gardens and small parks, green spaces, spaces in housing estates, small squares, areas around public buildings. The term „public space“ comes from the English translation of „public space“ it is the space that is not private and it belongs to everyone. Equivalent of the English term „public space“ is the term „open space“. It is a phrase that is understood as a space that is not built-up with buildings and it replaces the natural environment (Goodall, 1987) The aim of the work verification of the methodology for operational improvement of public space (Šilhánková, 1996) in practice

Material and methods

Methodology of operational improvement of public space Vladimíra Šilhánková

It is a technique of field information collection, where the considerable data about the behavior of people are noticed into the pre-prepared forms on the basis of own observation.

Technique of mapping and behaviour is divided into 2 parts:

- Part Analysis of the nature and quality of the area,
- Evaluation and mapping of the activities.

This method can help to determine and define the actions of people in public areas. What type of human activities are realized there, which conditions are needed to enable activities that serve to revitalize area are detected by the analysis of these activities. According to the results, it is defined what kind of furniture should be used in the space (benches, litter bins, clocks, posters, etc.) and also the distribution of this furniture due to human activities and needs. Furthermore, we can find out the

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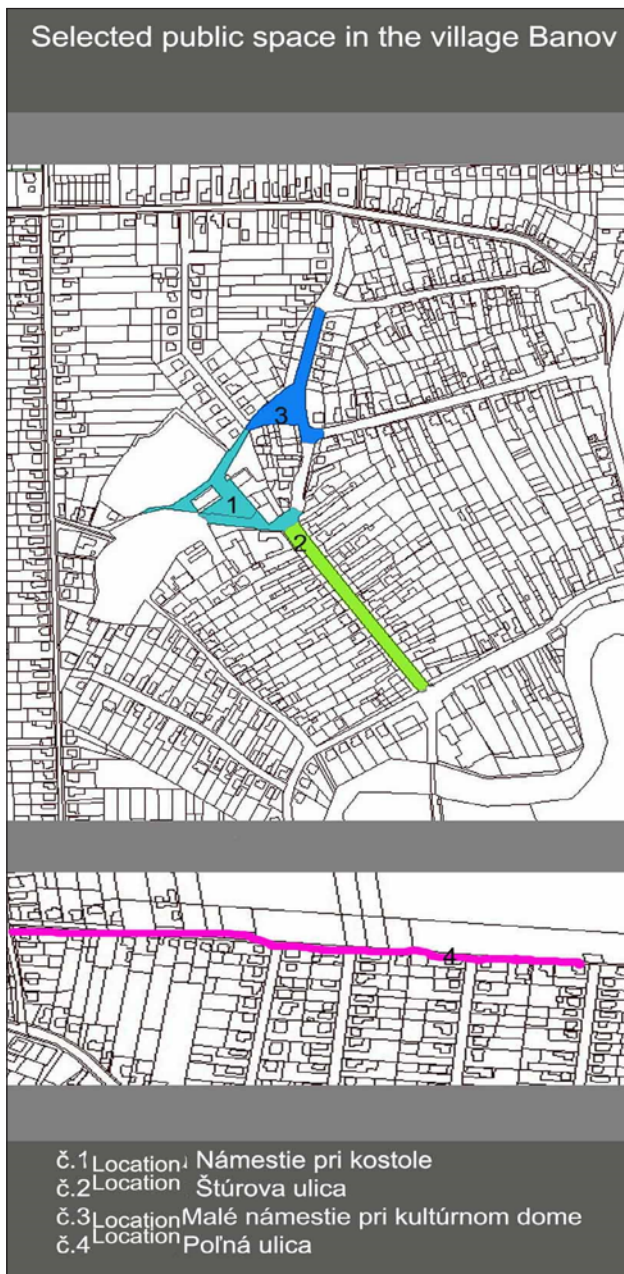


Figure 1

use and non-use of public space. Through the analysis of space in terms of its use by humans, we can find out which type of areas are attractive – visited by people and vice versa, which in turn are empty. It is determined by points in the study area are among the appealing – people visited and vice versa, which in turn are empty. According to the analysis of results, we can define the places which have to be re-equipped so that they become attractive to people again. Project preparation:

- Site selection Bánov.
- Selection of public spaces in the village of Banov.
 - Part 1 – Analysis of the nature and quality of the municipality of Banov.
 - Part 2 – Evaluation and mapping activities of municipality Banov.

Results and discussion

Site selection

The municipality of Banov is located in the Danube plain, between the city of Nové Zámky and Surany. The river Nitra flows through the village. The origin of population is Slovak. The first written information about village is from 1113. On the basis of territorial – administrative division Banov together with 61 other municipalities belongs to the district of Nové Zámky. Banov occupies an area of 1976 hectares and it belongs to the medium-sized villages of district Nove Zámky. It concentrates 3,731 of the population and significantly exceeds the average of communities in the district.

The selection of public spaces in the selected locations:

- Public space 1 the Church square.
- Public space 2 the Sturova Street.
- Public space 3 the small square at the community center.
- Public space 4 Poľná Street.

Collection and Processing of information

To the mapping of public spaces in Banov were used public areas: the Church square, the Small square at the community center, and Sturova Street. These public spaces are the most used public areas which are characterized by amenities, so their use is greater than the other locations. Based on the methodology we found that the activities taking place in the village of Banov are: shopping, talking, cycling, standing, sitting and other activities. Most of these activities were recorded in public places such as the Church Square, Small Square, the cultural center and Sturova Street.

The groups of young people used to meet at the public space Sturova Street during the summer months, where they devoted to various activities such as: cycling, skateboarding, roller-skating and sitting on the benches. During assessing of the public spaces some free spaces were located. It should invigorate these areas with other outdoor activities.

Based on the implementation of this methodology, we found that observation of public spaces, their assessment and gathering of information are important for garden and landscape architect. Based on this knowledge the architect can reshape area to articulate the functional and aesthetic properties and thereby create the perfect public space for which these characteristics are „functional and aesthetic“ and very important.

Methodology of operational improvement of public space has been carried out in the summer and autumn months. It is understandable that in these months the number of people entering and activities taking place in these places is higher:

PEOPLE + FUNCTIONAL SPACES + ATTRACTIVENESS OF AREA = AREA SUCCESS

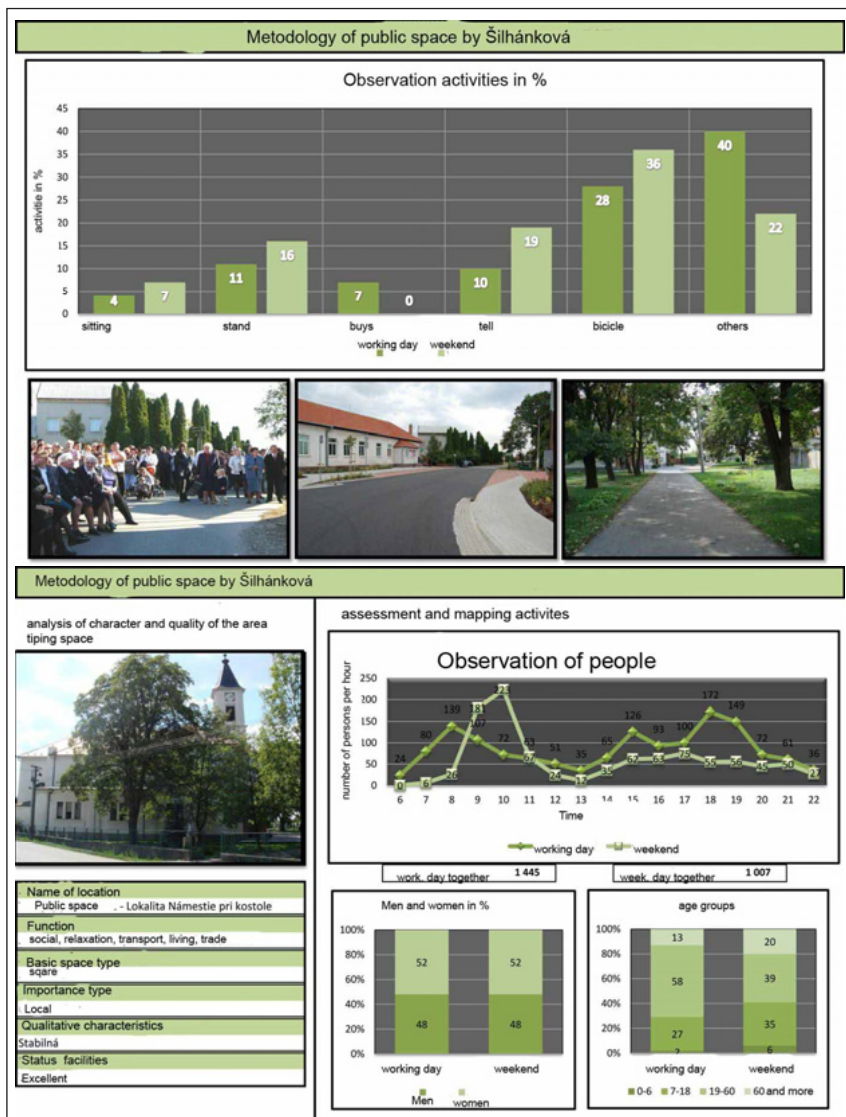


Figure 2 Sample collection and processing of information (Locality the church square)

Conclusion

Based on the development of methodologies we found which public spaces are attractive for people in the village Banov and which spaces need to shape and reshape to become more interesting and exploited for the citizens and visitors of the village. The village was reconstructed under the supervision of a landscape architect. We found that the reconstruction is on the

spot. This results in the appearance of the village. The village is in terms of attractiveness and aesthetic premises in good condition. It is necessary to strengthen the activities that take place in public places. Therefore, we propose a methodology based on evaluation of the following procedure:

- Develop active areas for young people because there is an evidence that young people aged

7–18 years use public spaces more than other people (Build multifunctional playgrounds, chestables, seating).

- Create spaces for the youngest in the form of playgrounds that are materially suited to the rural environment and shape the surface components of movables Poľná Street – create a reinforced communication, then build a trail to the standards and fitted the space greenery arrangement in the form of alleys.
- In this work was used a methodology that has been validated in public places in the village of Banov. These assessments that have been created provide an overview of the specific use or of possibly abandoned public spaces. The analyses show that public spaces could play an important role in creating, respectively reshaping towns and villages and improve the quality of the site.

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