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## THE PARK IN ST. YURI (ST. GEORGE) SQUARE – THE JEWEL IN THE EMERALD NECKLACE OF THE CITY OF LVIV

### SKWER NA PLACU ŚW. JURY – KLEJNOT W SZMARAGDOWYM NASZYJNIKU LWOWA

#### Abstract

The most valuable parks in Lviv were designed by the famous city gardener Arnold Röhring, who managed to combine in the art of landscape design the different styles of the turn of 20th century. If the large parks of the city are under state protection, the smaller ones designed as public gardens, boulevards, gardens near the villas are constantly being rebuilt and destroyed. The results of the study of the park in St. Yuri Square in Lviv give grounds for considering this park an authentic monument of landscape art of the end of the 19th century, where its compositional structure and state of rare old-growth species of trees and shrubs are well preserved.

*Keywords: Lviv parks, landscape design, public gardens, Arnold Röhring*

#### Streszczenie

Najcenniejsze parki we Lwowie zostały zaprojektowane przez słynnego ogrodnika miejskiego Arnoldda Röhringa, któremu udało się połączyć w sztuce projektowania krajobrazu różne style przełomu XIX i XX wieku. Jeśli duże parki miasta są pod ochroną państwa, mniejsze, zaprojektowane jako ogrody publiczne, skwery, bulwary, ogrody w pobliżu willi, stale są przebudowane i niszczone. Badania skweru na placu św. Jury we Lwowie dają podstawy do uznania go autentycznym zabytkiem sztuki krajobrazowej z końca XIX wieku, w którym struktura kompozycyjna i stan starodrzewu rzadkich gatunków są dobrze zachowane.

*Słowa kluczowe: parki Lwowa, projektowanie krajobrazu, ogrody publiczne, Arnold Röhring*

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## 1. Introduction

In connection with the growth of urbanization, the quality of life in large cities is increasingly determined by the degree of conservation of natural environment components, namely green spaces. The nature of urban green space changes under the influence of technogenic and anthropogenic impact, and the historic gardens and parks are becoming more vulnerable.

### 1.1. Urban development changes in the city of Lviv from the middle of the 19th to the early 20th century

In the second half of the 19th century, the slow territorial development of Lviv under Austrian rule accelerated. New development areas outside the city fortifications situated on the slopes of the Lviv basin along the main roads became prestigious for housing. The greenery design system – parks, boulevards, and squares that slowly move forwards on crop land that became part of the urban land in the process of secularization is formed at the same time. It also incorporated the post-industrial sites of the old brickyards, waste areas, and forests. The edges of the comb were crowned with numerous newly laid parks in the 1st third of the 19th century, most under the leadership of the Chief Gardener of the city Carl Bauer (the High Castle Park, redevelopment of the City park (previously the Jesuit's garden), and city promenades). The laying of the railway became an important city-forming factor from the 1860s. The western outskirts of the city, where the railway station was laid, became the focus of attraction of investment plans and started to be developed especially intensively<sup>1</sup>. Urban development of this part of the city continues with the incorporation of the vast new areas of villas and apartment buildings for rent – the Novyj Svit (Nowy Świat, New World) district with a network of boulevards, and the main public building became the imposing building of The Technical Academy (1873–1877 s., architect Julian Octavian Zacharievitch) [12, p. 170-181].

If we consider the spatio-temporal dynamics of the city green zone, we can see that throughout the 19th century together with the growth of city the green planting area also increases. In 1933 the area of parks and gardens amounted to 174.65 ha, and the total area of city gardens, parks and boulevards in the city of Lviv in 1948 amounted 256.8 ha. In them, more than 457 species, varieties and garden-decorative forms of angiosperm and 57 gymnosperm plants were collected and identified [13, p. 21-65]. In 2000, the area of green space has increased to 518 hectares. As of 2010, the area of all green spaces in the city in different categories was 33 286 hectares, including within the city – 4 419 hectares, or nearly 26% of the total area of the city [7, p. 332-338; 14, p. 417-423]. Unfortunately, comprehensive information on the species diversity of green spaces in the city today is absent, although it was studied in the 1980s. To date, considerable species diversity has been lost due to reckless management and a lack of ecological monitoring of green areas in the city.

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<sup>1</sup> Here traditionally housed the Church of St. George monastery, the manor of Metropolitan and Baroque gardens, the Church of St. Magdalene. The educational institution and the chapel of the order of the Sacré Cœur, the Carmelites monastery, and the Church of St. Elizabeth were founded there.

A characteristic feature of the landscape art of the 19th century was its mass character and versatility. A special feature is the development and typological differences of public gardens and parks. In European cities, together with broad city parks, squares, promenades and boulevards were laid lined with rows of trees, with places to relax. Parks started to appear in residential neighbourhoods as well together with factory-made, holiday, kids, sports, school, teaching, and recreation gardens and squares. The constant growth of public opinion expanded the palette of landscape solutions, the planned system of urban greenery and provided a framework for the protection and preservation of the natural environment.

### 1.2. The style of green space at the end of the 19th century – the beginning of the 20th century

The mid-nineteenth century was the next phase of change in garden design and stylistic changes in the design of gardens which led to the creation of the “naturalistic” style, also known as the calligraphy style, which is qualified as an environmentally-friendly movement. Its main goal was to create compositions based on natural elements, taking into account the surfaces of areas and natural vegetation. The composite structure of the calligraphic garden, according to its name, was very carefully planned in the form of wide arcs and circles. Composite nodes highlighted groups of trees and bushes. In the calligraphic garden the opposites of geometry were harmoniously combined in freedom and the beauty of nature, and human activity took second place. The existing elements of the landscape: ponds, groups of old trees, natural stones and the like were adapted into the general composition. The natural shape of tree crowns and colour played an important role. In addition to harmonious green spaces, ornamental trees and shrubs were also used. On the spreading carpets of grass, flower gardens and rare trees with beautiful foliage, or groups of linked trees were located. In the late 19th century a new direction in architecture called historicism was crystallized which was characterized by the use of a certain style of past epochs or a combination of elements of different styles. Landscape parks were enriched in composition and more floral planting with bold colours were introduced. Urban greenhouses supplied more and more products for more intense seasonal decorating of green spaces. A large selection of annuals, local and introduced, enabled the creation of floral arrangements every time of bizarre forms – flowerbeds of simple symmetrical shapes, flat compositions or compositions with different levels of plantings, subsequently – coloured ribbons and whimsical elements along the alleys. The contrast of colours became very important in compositions. The following secession style did not imitate nature, it modified it artistically. The gardens were full of vegetation, and the designers tried in small areas to plant as many different species and varieties as they could, and the main plant material was mostly perennial [2; 5].

## 2. The aim of research

To investigate and substantiate the value of the park in St. Yuri Square in the context of the development of landscape art in Lviv and the relationship of its characteristics with European culture.

### 3. The present state of research

#### 3.1. The activity of Arnold Röhring in Lviv

The large territorial parks of Lviv at the turn of the 20th century, which today occupy the status of nature monuments of local importance, are numerous described in the popular and scientific literature [4, p. 157-161]. The main role in the development of landscape architecture in Lviv and the region in this period belongs to the Chief Gardener (or the Inspector of City Parks) Arnold Röhring, who held this post for 30 years. He designed and laid all of the city's famous parks. The layout of these parks and the use of plant material combined the style features of the epoch at the turn of the century. In the 1970–1980s, reconstruction activities took place; the inventory of the city's green spaces was the especially valuable contribution of this period. However, there is much less information on smaller green areas, and especially on public gardens and villa gardens, and they, because of the condition of the plants, are the most under the threat of destruction.



Ill. 1. Anton Lange, *Jarmark pod Świętym Jerzym we Lwowie*, lithographed in Lviv workshop by Piller in the first half of the 1840s [22]

**The Stryiskyi Park (previous name: The Kilinski Park)**<sup>2</sup> (52 ha) was built in the years 1876–1879 on the former site of the 1st-Stryiskyi cemetery, which was closed in 1823. The edge in ancient times consisted of sandy hills, steep ravines and valleys. The Park consists of three differently planned parts, due to geomorphology areas: a forested part with a water

<sup>2</sup> In 1895 the monument to the hero-rebel Jan Kiliński – one of participants of the Polish uprising against Russia under the leadership of Tadeusz Kościuszko – was erected in the Stryjski Park. Hence, another name for the Stryiskyi Park is the Kilinski Park.

cascade and artificial castle ruins laid on a steep slope, a few gullies, shrouded serpentine trails, lower terrace formed around the pond with water birds, as well as a conservatory. The Park was characterized by large dendrological diversity: during the arrangement of the Park with picturesque groups some 40,000 trees and bushes were planted, including exotic species. In designing of the third part of the Park i.e. the upper terrace, which completed the establishment of the Park, Röring relied on the motives of the neo-classical compositions by the English architect Humphry Repton, enriched with the regular use of Baroque elements. In 1894 this terrace became the venue of a Grand Regional exhibition, where over a hundred pavilions in different historical styles were built, and the leitmotif of this project was the idea of progress – the exposition needed, as widely as possible, to reflect the success of the region in the social, economic and cultural spheres [3, p. 127-134]. The unifying element of the top of the stalls and Park area was wide tree-lined avenue – Corso. Stryiskyi Park was considered the most beautiful Parks in interwar Poland. Today there are more than 200 species of trees and shrubs, a greenhouse, a rock garden, sycamore and lime-tree alleys. Here one can find: red oak, tulip tree, magnolia trees, eastern white pine, Chinese lilac, Manchurian aralia, maidenhair tree, and others.

**The Lychakiv Park (previous name: The Glowacki Park)** (12.3 ha) was founded in 1894 in the north eastern hilly part of the city at the Lychakiv City customs post, where in the mid-nineteenth century, on the edge of the city there was waste land. The hills at this point were not wooded and there were strong winds. About 1884 the remains of the mill were dismantled, the sand and clay quarries were seeded, the paths that twisted along the ample slopes of ravines were landscaped, and the place began to be planted with trees, among which the most common are: Austrian pine, European birch, horse chestnut, maple trees, lime trees. The upper, level was arranged in a regular style.

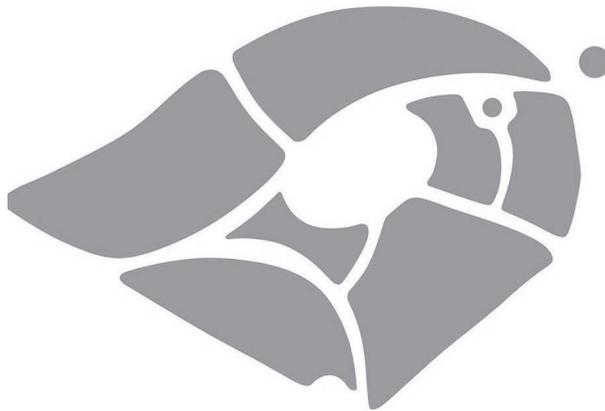


III. 2. Postcard depicting the square before 1914 [22]

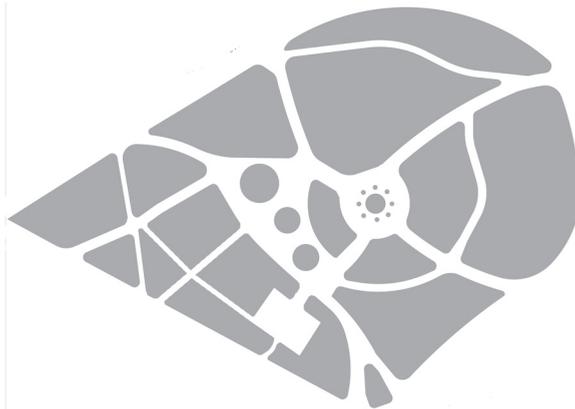
**The Zalizni vody Park (The Iron Water Park, previous name: The Narutowicz Park)** (19.5 ha) was laid out in 1894 (1905?) on the slopes of the ravine of the main river of the city – the Poltva river – and on two hills connected on the upper slopes by a flat

plateau. The Park includes access to marls, and this explains the emergence of numerous springs whose waters contain iron, which gave the name to the park. In the 19th century the Kaminsky pond was situated with a tavern, at the bottom of the park, where there are many water sources, as was the Franz Kratter German summer theatre. One of the springs was arranged with a well-room, the place became popular, and gradually the beech wildwood began to spontaneously turn into a recreational area. Then the city authorities decided to build a Park here. This was commissioned to Arnold Röhring, who did his best to preserve the natural landscape of the forest. It was also planned for the upper terrace to create a functional sanatorium “The Jordan Park”, but the decision was changed and in the designated area in 1938 construction began (arch. T. Wróbel) on “Nowy Lwów”. The main background of the Park, as before, is old beeches. Birch trees became the supplement to this background as well as hornbeam, larch, fir, pine, oak, poplar, willows, and other ornamental trees and shrubs. Most of the tracks traverse along the slopes or along the upper terrace of the park.

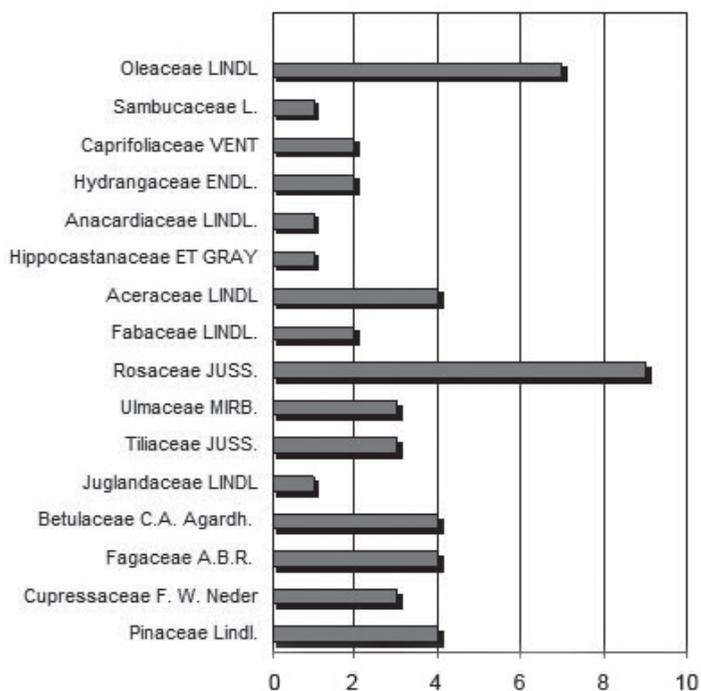
a)



b)



III. 3. Schemes of planning of the square, based on geodetic survey: a) 1923, b) 2015 [20]



III. 4. Quantitative distribution of kinds and varieties in accordance with classification on families (stocktaking H. Lukashchuk, 2015); classification of woody plants presented in accordance with the A. Takhtadzhyan [15]

The city gardener Arnold Röhring supervised the project and carried out other projects in the modern sense in reconstruction of the parks, squares, promenades in the central part of Lviv.

**The Ivan Franko Park (previous names: The Jesuits garden, The City garden, The Kościuszko Park).** Its territory is 11.6 ha, and is the oldest city park in Ukraine. The park was laid at the end of the 16th century by Lviv burgher Sholtz-Volfovitch and was later rented by the Jesuits Order. In 1773 it became the City Park. The lower terrace of the City park (The I. Franko Park) underwent alterations in the late 19th century and was decorated according to Röhring's project with fancy flower beds located symmetrically relative to the axis of the central entrance of the University. The entrance to the main picturesque alley is decorated with a large cast iron vase (1839) The Park is a monument of landscape art of local importance.

**The Liberty Avenue (the Hetman Valley (ramparts)).** After the dismantling of the old city walls and the final vaulting of the River Poltva and its banks at the end of 1880, the Hetman ramparts were reconstructed into two parallel streets on both sides of the river with the city promenade between them. In 1888-1890 under Röhring's direction it was expanded into a boulevard and decorated with flower beds and planted trees. Part of the avenue near St. Mary's Square (new Mickiewicz Square) was decorated by planting lilac trees, called "the florist salon". At the turn of the 20th century, with the construction of a new city theatre – the Opera House and the monument to King Jan III Sobieski, the prospect achieved its completed form.

**The Shevchenko Avenue (previous name: The Academic Avenue).** This composition of rounded “islands” – flower beds and gardens – was built on the site of the old bed of the Poltva, which flowed through the centre of the street by the end of the 19th century. In 1886 this part of the river was vaulted and in the 1890s the Chief City Gardener Arnold Röhring designed a new boulevard: low-growing trees and shrubs were planted here. Over time, the vegetation has changed and the avenue subsequently obtained a solid linear composition and was filled with plants and tall trees. The current look of the Shevchenko Avenue was achieved in 1997 when the very old Berlin poplars were uprooted and ball maples were planted there. Moreover, at one end of the avenue a monument to the 1<sup>st</sup> President of Ukraine Mykhaylo Hrushevskij was erected.

#### **4. The description of research: Stylistic analysis and evaluation of the cultural value of the park in the St. Yuri Square in Lviv**

The urban concept behind this park, which was laid at the end of the 19th century in St. Yuri Square, was to build a new identity and completion of the composition of the Novyj Svit (Nowy Swiat, New world) district. The planning combination of the previously laid gardens, such as the Technical Garden (at the Technical Academy – Lviv Polytechnic) and the garden of the Monastery of the Sacred Heart, as well as the proximity to the City garden (the Kościuszko Park) and the Metropolitan Gardens, created a public space<sup>3</sup>.

“The new park in St. Yuri Square became better. The trees grew like weeds, and with them lilac, jasmine and other bushes. During my youth, St. Yuri Square and the side streets were a favourite place for trials and rehearsals of Ukrainian students and of Ukrainian and Polish choirs, out of which the primary substratum of the first rank of Ukrainian and Polish choirs, singers and conductors grew in strength” [9, p. 223-224].

The Park is located South-West of the historical centre of Lviv sloping to the East, to the centre of the plateau of the ridge of the Central European watershed (309–315 m A. G. M.). The vegetation includes tree and shrub groups. For over 120 years it formed a stable ecosystem with a rich floral diversity, resistant to anthropogenic stress.

The area of St. Yuri Square, together with the park borders and the monument on the UNESCO World Heritage List<sup>4</sup> – the Metropolitan Cathedral of St. Yuri – which is determined by the status of the monument and use, as well as with educational buildings of the Lviv Polytechnic National University, and the residential buildings of Ustianovich Street that form a circle of regular users.

The park in St. Yuri Square is depicted on historical maps and plans of Lviv starting from 1900. The complex of green areas in St. Yuri Square has witnessed various phases of restructuring and redevelopment of the square and forms a valuable cultural landscape.

<sup>3</sup> For the first time the park in St. Yuri Square was mapped in 1900 (Source: *Plan Stołecznoego miasta królewskiego Lwowa*, 1900, [http://www.lvivcenter.org/uk/umd/map/?ci\\_mapid=128](http://www.lvivcenter.org/uk/umd/map/?ci_mapid=128)).

<sup>4</sup> World Heritage List: *L'viv – the Ensemble of the Historic Centre*, 865-002 – Ensemble of St. Yuri – the Dragonfighter Church, Ukraine 1998, [http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/865/multiple=1&unique\\_number=1632](http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/865/multiple=1&unique_number=1632).



Legend:



- trees



- bushes



- cut down



- in the reconstruction

III. 5. The dendrological plan of the park in the St. Yuri Square [21]

a)



b)



Ill. 6a, b. The park in St. Yuri Square (photo by H. Petryshyn, 2015)

Ordinary tree planting along the Lystopad Chyn Street (former Mickiewicz St.) began in the early 19th century together with laying of the prestigious street from the old town centre, which separated ownership of the Jesuits and the Basilians and was originally called “The Church of St. Yuri and Metropolitan chambers”. After the transfer of the St. Yuri fairs from under the walls of the Church in the 1860s to Bema Square (now Prince Sviatoslav Square) this square long stood in ruins. In 1897 the main City Gardener and master of landscape art Arnold Röhring planned and laid out the park in St. Yuri Square, which has survived to our time in a somewhat modified form.

The area of the park is 1.78 ha. It has undergone several reconstructions which were accompanied by some losses. In the 1970s<sup>5</sup>, the square was renovated and a circular flower bed and children's playground were added, and concrete was used for the curb elements. With time, losses accumulated: many beautifully blossoming bushes were lost, some floral arrangements were neglected, and improper care of trees caused the drying of certain types (e.g. holly maple). In 1990 the dendrological passport of the park was fulfilled. For this purpose an inventory of the park was conducted in St. Yuri Square authored by the architects T. Maksymyuk and S. Tupis. The data, however, have not been published<sup>6</sup>.

According to Ukrainian legislation, a “square = small garden (park)” is considered a well-maintained greened plot of land within built-up areas. The layout of the small garden includes lanes, playground, lawns, flower beds, separate groups of trees and bushes. The “squares = small garden (park)” are planned for short rests for pedestrians and decoration of the architectural ensemble. In Ukraine's normative-legal acts, a “square” is an ordered plot of green space area from 0.02 to 2.0 hectares, which is an element of the architectural and artistic design of settlements, intended for short-term rest of the population<sup>7</sup>. However, the methodological regulation enters into legal conflict with the regulatory classification, and if the park has an area less than 2 ha, it cannot claim the status of a monument of landscape art<sup>8</sup>.

To the end of 2014 the area had the status of the public park, a subordinate of the Galician district administration of Lviv. However, its stylistic and artistic value were not determined, it was not in State list in which the other buildings are in the category of protected monuments. The Security number of the monument is missing, there are no security board, security signs, and other information signs or labels. All this contributes to the lack of knowledge about the park.

#### **Inventory and assessment of the state of the trees in the Park of St. Yuri Square.**

An assessment of the green space in the form of inventory enables us to determine the biological and phytosanitary condition of woody plants, to assess the impact of anthropogenic factors on the state of green spaces, and to understand the changes occurring within the landscape<sup>9</sup>.

At the Department of Urban Planning and Urban Design of Lviv Polytechnic, during practice with students-masters of the “Landscape architecture” specialization, studies on the park in St. Yuri Square in Lviv were conducted in the summer of 2013.

**The aim of this work** was to conduct an inventory and assessment of existing tree plantings within the park. The overall condition of the park is satisfactory. The herbage is in excellent condition, the environmental surface of walkways is partially destroyed and washed out by rain runoff. The hardscape is represented by old design 1970s benches in the centre of the park and along the paths. There are almost no urns. The favourite children's playground in the style of stone fortifications requires restoration. In the centre the decorative old lantern is also preserved.

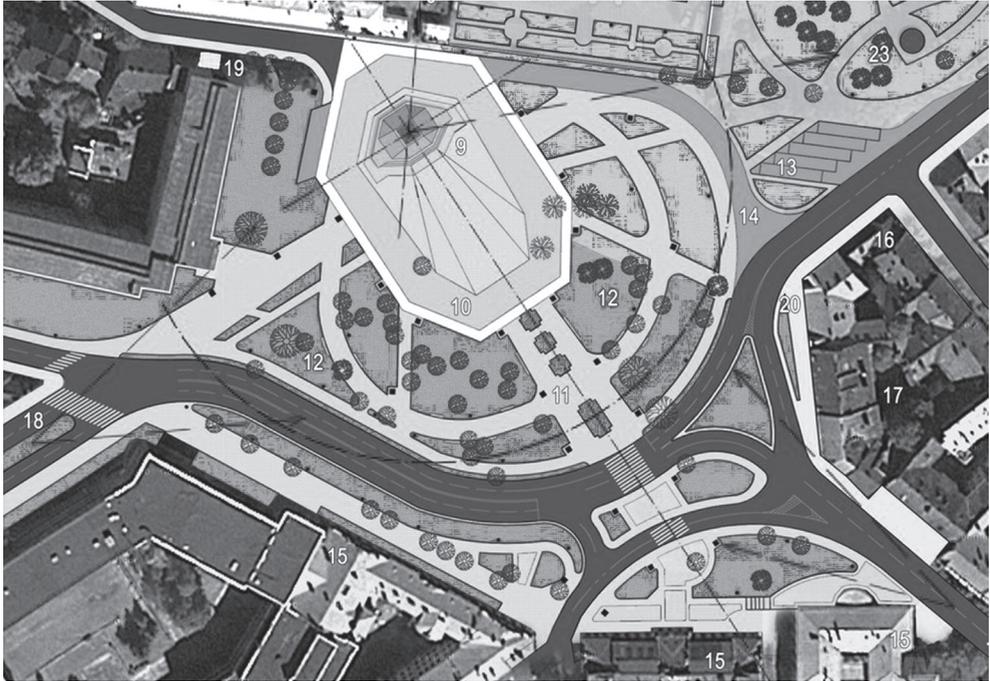
<sup>5</sup> After the construction of the Lviv Polytechnic Student's library, after the parks reconstruction project of the architects V. and I. Pavlov and V. Chertyk (Student's Design Bureau of Lviv Polytechnic).

<sup>6</sup> Student's Design Bureau of Lviv Polytechnic, which halted activities very soon.

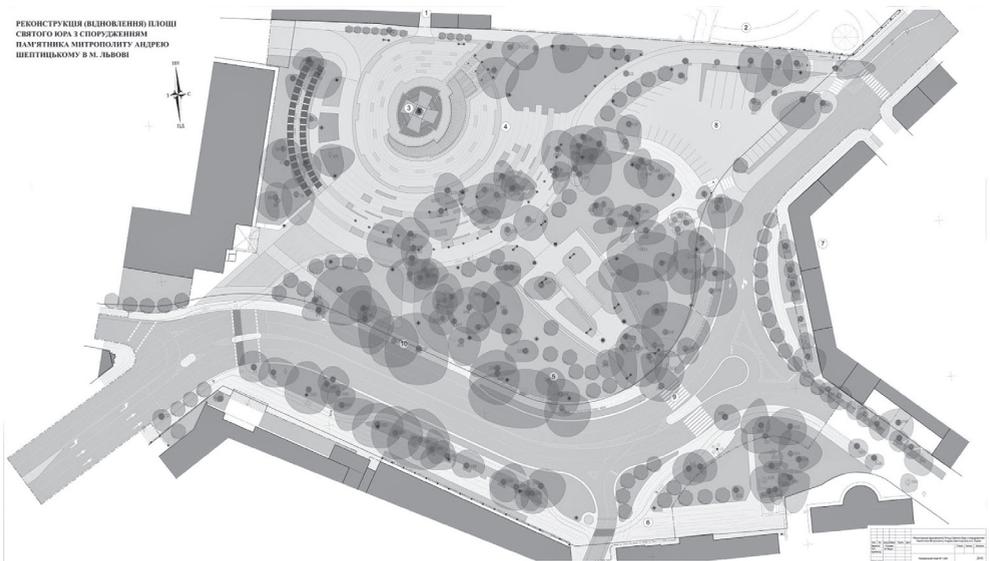
<sup>7</sup> The Ministry of Construction, Architecture and Housing and Public Utilities, Order “On approval of Rules of the maintenance of green spaces in settlements of Ukraine” dated: 10.04.2006, No. 105.

<sup>8</sup> The law of Ukraine On the protection of cultural heritage, dated: 8.06. 2000, # 1805-III.

<sup>9</sup> Instruction on technical inventory of green plantations in cities and other settlements of Ukraine. The order of the State Committee on Construction, Architecture and Housing Policy No. 226, from 24. 12.2011.



III. 7. The competition project for the “reconstruction” St. Yuri Square, 2014, Ukrdesigngroup [16]



III. 8. Amended project proposal for the “reconstruction” of St. Yuri Square, 2015, Ukrdesigngroup [18]

## 5. The results of research

The study identified a list of components for comprehensive improvement of the site

1. The planning scheme of the calligraphic-landscape style is preserved, which is in grouping of lawns with planted trees and bushes around a central round of herbage. The skill of Röhring was manifested in the skilful creation of scenic glades, where there are groups of trees of the first magnitude (30–40 m).
2. The park demonstrates the author's style of planting, i.e. that of Arnold Röhring, which was studied on the basis of a comparative analysis of cartographic material from his other park designs. The total number of coniferous trees – 37, deciduous trees – 146, deciduous shrubs – 51. Most of the trees in the park are old, ranging from 80 to 130 years, and they need protection and some “treatment”. Evaluation of the quality status of woody species within the parks in St. Yuri Square indicates that the largest number of trees is in satisfactory condition – 163, the number of trees and shrubs that are in good condition is 44 instances, and unsatisfactory – 27 individuals.
3. The park is the richest in species diversity (in terms of 1 ha) among the parks and large parks of the city: 50 species and varieties of trees and shrubs from 32 genera and 15 families [15].
4. Unlike other plantings in Lviv there is a large accumulation of old-growth trees, which range from years old. The oldest tree in the park is an English oak (d 95–99 cm), which is nearly 150 years old, in excellent condition. A group of old growth trees of the first magnitude (European larch, Austrian pine, Norway spruce) with well-developed crowns are the most decorative elements of the park. These species are the structure-forming species of the park. During the reconstruction in the 1970s an additional group of trees was planted: broad-leaved lime, Norwegian maple, Bosnian maple, black locust, and horse chestnut. Around the playground hedges were arranged which now need reconstruction. In the park there are practically no trees and bushes in the younger age group. Residents of the surrounding buildings are trying to solve this problem by planting individual species of shrubs and trees (e.g. common walnut).
5. The presented collection of rare species of woody plants includes some species which are unique among the city's parks. These are: flowering ash (*Fraxinus ornus* L.), European ash (*monoleaf*) (*Fraxinus excelsior* ‘*Monophylla*’), Amur lilac (*Syringa amurensis* Rupr); of the olive family (*Oleaceae*), oriental beech (*Fagus orientalis* Lipski) of the beech family (*Fagaceae*), American linden (*Tilia americana* L.) from the family of Linden (*Tiliaceae*). These species are found only in the collection of the Botanical garden of Lviv's National Ivan Franko University.
6. In the park a large number of introduced plants have been used – the number of trees of exotic species (24 species) represent almost 50% of the total species diversity of the park. They are classified as “Botanical monuments of nature”.

Evaluation of the quality status of woody species in the territory of the park in St. George's square indicates that the greatest number of trees are in satisfactory condition – 163 species. These are predominantly: Austrian pine, European larch, Norway spruce, large-leaved and small-leaved lime, horse chestnut, European ash, and others. Those in poor condition include species such as: European birch and ash-leaved maple. They are short-lived and require replanting of young specimens. The Bosnian maples in the centre of the park are in an unsatisfactory state. They have suffered from improper trimming and are infected by wood

decaying fungi. During the winter of 2014/2015 the frost killed a specimen of Rowan and two species of European larch. The bushes, which are physically damaged, are also in poor condition. The number of tree and shrub species that are in good condition is 44.

According to the results of a survey of the state of the planting of the park in St. Yuri Square, the following activities can be recommended:

- the conservation of the unique specimen, groups of rare old-growth tree species;
- the immediate measures are: pruning of small shoots and seedlings of trees, filling of the hollows in trees and repairing the physical damage to the trees, competent sanitary pruning of existing vegetation, and removal of dead wood<sup>10</sup>;
- enhancement of the decorative effect of the park thank to the inclusion into its composition of decorative deciduous shrubs and ornamental tree species.

Risks to the Object are possible from increasing anthropogenic stress.

A special threat to the conservation of the park is the redevelopment of St. Yuri Square into a grandiose memorial complex in connection with the project of erection of the monument to Metropolitan Andrew Sheptytsky, dedicated to the 150-anniversary of his birthday, which is on 29.07.2015.

In connection with the plan to erect a monument to Metropolitan Andrew Sheptytsky in St. Yuri Square, there is the problem of the actual destruction of the park, although there are several other project proposals that do not affect the territory of this green oasis in the UNESCO buffer zone. The situation demonstrates the lack of power needed to solve these issues taking into account the views of citizens, in particular those among the scientific community. In the face of this the deputies of the City Council, the city that has the lowest percentage of public spaces in the list of per capita among similar cities in Ukraine, presents the Square and the park to the Curia of the Lviv Archeparchy of the UGCC in St. Yuri Square in Lviv “for the service of the Church”<sup>11</sup>.

The conflict situation led to the withdrawal of the approval process of the project from the legal field. In terms of the All-Ukrainian competition to design a monument of Metropolitan Andrew Sheptytsky (announced 31.03.2010) the task has not been formulated for an holistic urban solution of the St. Yuri complex and adjoining areas and urban limits were not clearly defined for the installation of the monument. As a result the 1st place was not awarded to any of the projects, and the design by I. Kuzmak and M. Fedik (Ukrdesigngroup, Lviv), which took 2nd place (along with the design of O. Trofimenko and V. Didyuk in collaboration with M. Dzvонkovskii) needed substantial improvements. However, in the further design, the authors did not take into account the significance of the task and the complexity of its solution, and the jury’s decision in the second round of the All-Ukrainian competition was ignored.

Kuzmak and Fedik’s design contains a number of contradictions, both legislative and cultural. It has been presented at numerous public discussions – for example in the City Council, the Lviv Polytechnic (25.02.2014), the Lviv National Ivan Franko University (26.02.2014), the Ukrainian Catholic University (5.03.2014) and so on. The public and the experts indicated to the authors their violation of laws, regulations, and finally, a distortion

<sup>10</sup> Sanitary pruning was carried out under the supervision of experts H. Lukashchuk and S. Tupis: 23 of the trees in poor condition were eliminate, and 4 need to be treated. [http://zaxid.net/news/showNews.do?u\\_lvivskomu\\_skveri\\_svyatogo\\_yura\\_spilyuyut\\_dereva&objectId=1344909](http://zaxid.net/news/showNews.do?u_lvivskomu_skveri_svyatogo_yura_spilyuyut_dereva&objectId=1344909), online: 20.03.2015.

<sup>11</sup> 25.12.2014 during the extraordinary session of the Lviv City Council.

of the vision of the St. Yuri complex in Lviv. However, these comments were not taken into account leading to a number of violations that caused a wave of protests, public discussions, publications, and so on.

On the initiative of the public organization “Save St. Yuri Square” on 18th March 2015, four meetings of the Working group, with representatives of LGS, the Curia of the UGCC, the authors of the project, representatives of residents from the surrounding streets, Lviv Polytechnic, and activists was held. They attempted to find a compromise between the different visions of reconstruction of St. Yuri Square [20].

In analysing the project proposals of Ukrdesigngroup, we state the following:

- the area of St. Yuri was formed over the centuries as a crossroad on the watershed plateau, as the entrance to the cathedral, as a place for armed defence of the main entrance to the cathedral, and later, a market place, but it was always a “profanum” space, unlike the “sacrum” walled monastic complex;
- in the list of parks of the Halytskyi district of Lviv, which was approved by the decision of the Lviv City Council dated 26.01.2012 No. 1163 “On approval of the list and the boundaries of the squares of Halytskyi district of Lviv”, the park in St. Yuri square with an area of 1.6357 ha was listed as one that requires a moratorium on changing the land-use purpose;
- in the proposed project of Ukrdesigngroup called “reconstruction”, a full redevelopment of the area is offered including a change of directions of the streets. According to the project only 20% of the historic park in the St. Yuri Square is maintained, the rest disappears under pavement, driveways and parking lots, but it projects new decorative plantings, which should partially compensate for the total area of landscaping. The proposed plan displays a totalitarian megalomania and is contrary to the historically accepted construction logic the space surrounded by St. Yuri Church<sup>12</sup>.

The project included neither the natural significance of the park nor any threats that could be expected by implementing the project, Prof. V. Kucheriavyj stressed:

- ecological and phytocoenotic aspect. The planted park with an area of 1.7 ha is a natural and anthropogenic ecosystem in which the relationship of root systems and crowns of trees and shrubs are closely intertwined creating a specific phytocoenotic field. The violation of these relations by reducing the area of the planting and its subsequent liquefaction will inevitably lead to the gradual loss of the park ecosystem. Encirclement of the plantings with a dead underlying surface with its draining climate will lead to the dehydration of the remaining, according to the project, piece of land;
- the violation of the town planning principle of the continuity of urban green spaces, which in recent years, due to the existing corruption of power structures, is constantly being violated;
- the planting of the park plays an important hygienic role: it absorbs a considerable amount of toxic emissions, filters dust, reduces noise, saturates the surroundings with phytoncides, sweet smells, and light oxygen ions;
- in the plan designed by Röhring the park is purely recreational and not for transit, as the new project wants to change it into. The park provides what is called in the West the rest “at the threshold of the home”. The park today is a real holiday destination for residents

<sup>12</sup> An open letter of the Department of Urban Planning and Urban Design, National University Lviv Polytechnic, 26.12.2014, <https://www.kafedrambd.jimdo.com>.

of surrounding houses, students of the National University Lviv Polytechnic and pilgrims who visit St. Yuri Cathedral<sup>13</sup>.

## 6. Conclusions

Two figures in the development of landscape art in Lviv are significant, but their work is poorly understood – Carl Bauer and Arnold Röhring. The parks left by Röhring are particularly valuable. He managed to combine in the art of landscape design all the styles of the turn of the 20th century: a naturalistic, calligraphic, historicism and Art Nouveau. Although the large parks are under state protection, the smaller ones such as squares, boulevards, city gardens and villa gardens are constantly being rebuilt and destroyed.

Today in the world of urban planning practice, the city is perceived as a living organism which is characterized by a logic of construction, well-established regularities of space, the value of its individual elements, the layering of cultures and numerous legislative and regulatory prescriptions. One should add another – international legal standards – which were signed by Ukraine in the context of entering into the European space, including in the field of monument protection activities and sustainable development of settlements.

Conducted in 2013 the studies of the park in St. Yuri Square gives grounds for considering the park as an authentic monument of garden and park art of the end of the 19th century. There is reason to give it the status of a monument of landscape gardening art of local importance, since it was founded in 1897 by the Chief Gardener of Lviv Arnold Röhring in landscape style, and its compositional structure and condition is well preserved. Here old species of trees and shrubs are concentrated which are rare in Lviv.

The Department of Urban Development and Urban Design of the National University Lviv Polytechnic appealed to the City Council, and the Mayor of the City with a proposal to request the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine to grant the status of the monument of landscape gardening art of local importance to the park in the St. Yuri Square. With this we join together in saving this valuable natural monument, which is the contemporary of Metropolitan Andrew Sheptytsky and at the same time a type of environment that presents historical and artistic value to future generations.

The standoff continues<sup>14</sup>.

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<sup>13</sup> Dr. Sc., Ukrainian dendrologist, the ecologist, Prof. V. Kucheriavyj, the member of the International Federation of landscape architects (IFLA), National forestry University of Ukraine, the head of the Department of Ecology, Landscape Architecture and Landscape Management, presentation on 18.03.2015, <https://www.facebook.com/savesquare>.

<sup>14</sup> Page of the public charity organization “Save the Square of St. Yuri”, which declared mission: We advocate for a worthy commemoration of the life of Metropolitan Andrew Sheptytsky, erection of the statue to him and the restoration of the existing square <https://www.facebook.com/savesquare>.



Ill. 9. St. Yuri Square, 29.06.2015 [23]

### 7. In addition...

8.05.2015. The Executive Committee of Lviv City Council has decided to streamline St. Yuri Square, which will be the execution of the improvement works of St. Yuri Square: repairing the road surface and sidewalks in this square and in Ozarkevych St. with landscaping, reconditioning of the system of public transport, reconstruction of the Square's outdoor lighting, the renovation of water supply network in this area, and so on. We hope that the struggle for the search for a compromise in the setting of the monument to Metropolitan Andrew Sheptytsky will be implemented by a worthy perpetuation of this Figure and preserving the cultural heritage of the city.

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