

**WOODEN MATERIALS USED IN LANDSCAPE APPLICATION
IN CRAIOVA CITY**

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ABSTRACT

Wood is an important material of landscaping due to its physical, technological and mechanical properties. Wood has a lot of color, texture and form. These properties are making wood one of the most used materials in landscaping in Craiova city.

INTRODUCTION

During the history, wood materials have become an indispensable material for human life. (Amati M. 2016). Wood is a material compatible with nature, compatible with other building materials such stone, glasses, offering different texture. (Ahern J. 2007). Wood is one of the materials with best respond to the functions of urban green spaces. First of all, it integrates best, from an aesthetic point of view, alongside stone in urban landscaping projects. (Aybike Ayfer KARADAĞ et al. 2017). Since wood is a natural product, its dimension is limited in that its fibrous structural capacity to bear weight varies according to the fiber direction. Despite its widespread use, it had not been used in multi-storey and wide-span structures to the extent of reinforced concrete and steel structures commonly built after the industrial revolution. (Daniel K, Ternaux E. Materiology. 2009)

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The main purpose of this study was to reveal the current situation of using wood in the landscaping of Craiova city.

This study was conducted for Craiova area, located in Southwest of Romania (44°20'N, 23°49'E).

The landscaping in Craiova was visited. On this occasion, the inventory of the ornamental constructions made of wood (statues, benches, floors, pavilions, etc.) was carried out.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

There is no doubt that urban green areas provide added value to the urban environment. Therefore, green spaces should be the subject of well-thought-out planning in cities, so that their quantity, quality, type and distribution help to maximize the benefits they provide and, at the same time, contribute to the sustainable development of urban areas. (Catena and Catena 2008).

Urban furniture made by wood are aesthetic elements that make the spaces usable, pleasant and comfortable at university campuses with a high user population thereby making positive contributions to social life. It is important that urban furniture positioned to meet the demands of individuals in campuses such as acquiring knowledge, circulation control, comfort, entertainment and safety are evaluated with regard to spatial comfort and planting design. (Canan CENGİZ et al. 2018).

In the last decades, it has become more and more aware that forests are a huge treasure, as sought after and necessary as other sources of raw materials. Wood has been used since the earliest times of human existence, sharing with stone and clay the mission of being born from the first tools, the first homes and the first means of human defense. (Slonovschi A. 2019, Popescu O et. al. 2020)).

Currently, more and more emphasis is placed on the ecology of buildings, trying to minimize the effects of the construction of a building, on the environment, as well as concerns about the continuation and limitation of pollution and the replacement of materials, which involve a very complex and polluting process to obtain them with the so-called organic materials. In this context, wood is a natural, renewable building material (Maier Dorin, 2021).

According to the principles of composition for parks and gardens, there are a series of rules that must be followed, with a specific terminology: the center and the compositional head, the concordance of style, the presence of some unifying elements (which can also be the ingenious use of some materials: stone and/ or wood, mainly), harmony and contrast, visual balance, emphasis, symmetrical and asymmetrical compositions, etc. (Ciobota Rusu. 2017)

Wood is used in landscape art in three main states: as a decorative accessory, as a detail element of construction, and as a structural element. In all these aspects, wood creates originality and identity. Its role is to beautify and enrich the world of symbolic meanings of parks and gardens. (Pașcu Roxana 2021)

In Craiova, wood from parks and gardens has been used, in recent years, for the creation of street furniture and ornaments in these spaces or in smaller ones - street squares and roundabouts, for example. It is a practice that was resorted to mainly for aesthetic reasons, but also for educational reasons. It was an example of good practice in using end-of-life trees for clear purposes. And, at the same time, it gave an artistic coloring to the place.

Wood can be used in various types of constructions:

- *Arrangement of natural elements*: Strengthening the shores is required especially in the case of large lakes and flowing waters. Consolidation is also necessary for the various facilities on the shore: beach, wharf, buildings located at the water line. The banks are supported with different materials: concrete walls, inclined or vertical, wooden piles, etc. (Fig. 1)

- *Making pergolas*. Pergolas serve as a support for climbing plants, creating a vertical decoration and at the same time, a certain degree of shading. The pergolas presented above are unilateral (with a single row of posts). They make the transition between 2 elements framing a main view (on one side the stream) on the other the expanse of plants and lawn. Pergolas fit naturally into the landscape and suit relatively smaller spaces, where the built pillars have a heavy appearance. (Fig. 2).

- *Realizations of Japanese gajebo*. (Fig. 3)
- *Realizations of urban furniture (banks, chairs, swings for children, etc.)*(Fig. 5, 6)
- *Making Statues and sculptures*.(Fig. 4,7,8)



Fig. 1. The banks of the water gloss in the Alexandru Buia Botanical Garden from Craiova, reinforced with wooden pillars and reeds



Fig. 2. Wood pergolas in the Alexandru Buia Botanical Garden from Craiova



Fig. 3. Japanese gajebo



Fig. 4. Halloween Statues



Fig. 5. Wood banks



Fig. 6. Wood chair



Fig. 7, 8. Sculptures from dry trees in the Nicolae Romanescu Park in Craiova.

CONCLUSIONS

Wood is one of the materials that respond to the functions of urban green spaces, integrating best in urban landscaping projects alongside stone, from an aesthetic point of view.

Wood, unlike other building materials, is an organic material.

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