Gardens and parks from Kassel, Germany

Elena-Liliana Chelariu

University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, Faculty of Horticulture Iași, 3 Mihail Sadoveanu Alley, 700490 Iași, Romania, email: liliana_ch2001@yahoo.co.uk

Abstract

In Kassel area from Germany are some important locations from landscape design point of view. The first dates regarding parks and gardens from Kassel are mentioned in the 10th century. The most important park is Wilhelmshöhe which is situated around Wilhelmshöhe castle. The planning of this monumental garden was settled up by Giovanni Francesco Guierniero in 1701. Due to the insufficient financial resources in year 1718 only one third from this project was finalized. The garden was design in Baroque style, but later Wilhelm the IX transform the huge garden into an English landscape garden, but keeping the major elements of Baroque structure.

Key words: Baroque, gardens, history, parks, Wilhelmshöhe Castle.

Introduction

In many German towns appear gardens, but the great majority of them were private ones, and only at the beginning of XVII century were settled up the first public gardens. In XVII century is shaping the art of Baroque gardens, so Renaissance gardens suffer changes to became Baroque. First of all appears the expansion of decorative elements, art is involved, are introduced exotic elements, theatres feature, water is more and more used, plans are multiplicities, curve lines are more used, right lines are replaced with hemicycle compositions. Wilhelmshöhe Park from Kassel was designed in Baroque style, inspired by Italian Baroque, later being transformed in English style, keeping the important elements of Baroque structure. Another example of German Baroque architecture is Karlsaue Park, inspired by French Baroque.

Material and methods

In the present paper is studied the Kassel area from Germany were could be found Wilhelmshöhe Castle park, initially designed in Baroque style by the architect Giovanni Francesco Guierniero in 1701; Karlsaue Park and Orangery Palace.
Results and discussions
The park from Kassel was in the X century a royal court. The name of Kassel derives from Chassella or Chassalla, which means a stable house with stone foundation. The name comes from the Latin word “castellum”. Till far away in the south of Germany, to Bayern and Thüringen this expression is not common and only there is used the word „burg“(castle). This castle is mentioned for the first time by king Konrad. Around year 1000 is mentioned the name of “civitas” (150 years later is speaking about a real town) A great importance conquered Kassel Park in year 1008 when was given as a legacy by king Henrich II to his wife. In 1143, on the place where is the Wilhemshöhe Castle, was settled up Weißenstein monastery (White stone) by Augustine nuns. After the reform from 1527 the monastery was closed and in 1606 was replaced by count Moritz the Educated with a summer and hunting castle in a Renaissance style. He named this building Mauritiolum Leucopetraeum or Moritzheim. Almost at the same time was designed the castles’ garden and count Moritz built a cave at the upper part of parks’ ends. Now in this place is “Devils’ bridge” and “Pluto” cave. Count Moritz built, during Renaissance period, instead of Weißenstein monastery an “air” house, for relaxing, with a wonderful view over park “hills”. This was the first try for designing a park; Wilhelm the IX. (Kurprinz Wilhelm 1785-1821) doesn’t agree at all with French things, despite his father, but heritage his fathers’ joy of building. He created from the ancient monastery the well-know Wilhemshöhe. The French touch was replaced with an English one. Both “Devils’ bridge” and waterfalls are specific to English gardens. The lateral sides of Wilhemshöhe Castle (1786-1801) were created by du Ry, and the central part received a configuration which was kept also after Jussow returned from his trips to England. Mountain-park, as it is known today Wilhemshöhe Park from Kassel, is supposedly the largest in Europe and second largest park on a mountain slope in the world. The park contains the Hercules statue at its top end which is towering over the city and has become its symbol. Further the park contains loads of smaller features which are mainly fake Greek temples, fake medieval castles, and fake queries. Not fake though are the Rembrandts and Rubens paintings in the Schloss in the park. Various of the features such as the Cascades (below the Hercules statue), the fake waterfall and the fake Roman Aqueduct have their water supplies so tourists will move from feature to feature starting on the higher parts moving down-slope.
It is not often that art and nature are in such complete harmony as in Park Wilhelmshöhe. The hillside park ranks among the major creations of landscape design. The Wilhelmshöhe Berg Park is unique throughout the world. It covers an area of 240 hectares and extends to the Habichtswald nature reserve. Part of the park – 100 hectares – is also an official health resort. The park itself contains over 600 different types of trees and is regarded as Europe’s largest hillside park.

Karlsaue Park
The Aue Island, located on the east side of the formal royal city of Kassel and surrounded by the city of Fulda and the Auehang and Vorau meadowlands (now known as the Hessenkampfbahn) as well as the Siebenbergen Island prompted the Landgrave to redesign the area in the 16th century already. The Karlsaue Park has something for everyone: tranquil walkways, space for sport and games, the Orangery containing the marble bathroom for those interested in culture, a compact museum for astronomy and physics and unique vegetation and bird life for nature lovers. Since 1966 a unique planet footpath in the
Karlsaue Park turns a walk into a globetrotting experience for visitors as they follow a kind of “Map of the Universe” which portrays the size and distance of planets on a reduced scale of 1:1,000,000. Visitors get a better grasp of the inconceivable distances and differences in size of the planets visible from the Earth in relation to the Sun, making this a tangible and vivid experience.
The Sun is clearly marked and visible above the glass entrance of the museum in the centre of the Orangery. From here globetrotting visitors continue towards Mercury on the edge of the Karlswiese meadow, then on to Venus, both the size of a hazelnut, before reaching the Earth, roughly the size of a walnut. Further along the Karlsaue Avenue you come to Mars. Passing through the Eichenallee Avenue visitors reach Jupiter which appears as a golden sphere on the roof of the small temple on Swan Island in the Aue pond. Then Saturn comes, going past the Aue meadow followed by Uranus since 2002, both marking the end of the walk.

**Orangery Palace**

The palace-like Orangery is flanked by five avenues which spread out like a fan. The central pavilion offers a view of the three largest avenues: Mittelallee (Central Pathway), Küchengraben (the Kitchen Trench) and Hirschgraben (the Deer Trench). The main avenue takes visitors from the Orangery to the large basin comprising the Schwaneninsel (Swan Island) and the Kuppeltempel (Domed Temple). Siebenbergen Island rounds off the panorama with a magnificent array of trees and flowers. And there the Karlsaue Park ends.

**Conclusions**

Landgrave Karl had the Orangery Palace built between 1701 and 1710 at the point where the baroque avenues join the Karlsaue Park as both a summer residence and a place to keep his orange, lemon and bay trees in winter. With its winding paths, magnificent buildings and impressive fountains, Wilhelmshöhe Park is a harmonious blend of architecture and landscape. It started out as a Baroque garden, and was later transformed into an English style park.

![Picture 12. Orangery Palace](www.kassel-tourist.de)  
![Picture 13. Orangery Palace](Landgrave Karl (1654-1730))
References

www.flickr.com/photos
www.kassel-tourist.de
www.reflexstock.com
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kassel
www.wilhelmshohe.de/historisches.cfm