

The photo exhibition of the Garden Show, BUGA, as a way to teach landscape architecture to students

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ABSTRACT: In this article, the author shows how, through the photo exhibition of the Garden Show, BUGA (BUnDesGArtenschau), landscape architecture is taught to students. The study of landscapes involves a number of ways and methods. The study of the spaces of the exhibition is one of these methods. There are many people who view these exhibitions. Any of them could be students learning landscape architecture. The first section of the article presents photo exhibitions showing the Garden Show, BUGA organised by the author and held in various academic centres and galleries. The second section features a discussion of the exhibitions as places of education for students of various universities in different countries. In the third section of this article, the author presents the possibilities of teaching landscape architecture through these exhibitions. This experimental programme aims to educate students about the new building materials and technologies applied while shaping the space of the landscape.

INTRODUCTION

*The goal is not to be perfect.
The goal is just to be better than before.*

N. Pasricha [1]

It is highly important for people to feel enriched after studying or finishing a lecture or indeed after visiting an exhibition. It is most significant to learn constantly, to use every opportunity to improve one's qualifications. This is a necessity nowadays, when the amount of information increases at a rapid pace and a large part of it is needed in everyday life. Various expositions are the places where gaining knowledge is not only easy but also enjoyable. They can be held in closed spaces or outdoors. They can be monothematic or multithreaded. They can present studies of historical or contemporary objects. Photographic exhibitions can be included. A particular example is the photo exhibition of the Garden Show, BUGA (BUnDesGArtenschau), in the context of acquiring knowledge about landscape architecture.

Each exhibition, each photo triggers feelings and teaches the recipient to perceive the world for the first time. While watching the exhibition, the viewer *is better than before*. It is a kind of training: they see the contexts, the details and analyse them, trying to draw conclusions.

METHODOLOGY

Organising educational events for people of all ages is a common activity. In addition to the *school path*, i.e. nursery, kindergarten, school, 1st - 3rd cycle degree programmes - education runs along two more paths: the *family path* and the *general path*. Education through photography exhibitions can be counted among these.

The author of this article presented her photographic works in many foreign centres, including ENU (*L.N. Gumilov* Eurasian National University), Astana, Kazakhstan (Figure 2), Lviv, Ukraine and Poland - Jastrzębie, Kielce, Kraków, Nowy Sącz, Poznań and Wrocław (Figure 1).

The exhibitions have been organised since 2007 as part of scientific conferences (Lviv, Kraków [2]); as educational exhibitions for the 1st - 3rd cycle degree programme students (the *L.N. Gumilov* Eurasian National University), Belarusian National University, Cracow University of Technology [2], Wrocław and students of the Open University (The University of the Third Age), AGH University of Science and Technology in Kraków and the off-campus

educational centre in Jastrzębie and for all visitors in cultural centres (The Zieleniewscy Manor House in Kielce), public libraries (Public Library in Nowy Sącz) and hotels (Odyssey Hotel in Kielce). Some were dedicated to the Garden Show BUGA. The last of them are: *The Havel Region - Landscapes and Technologies*, photo exhibition, the Gil Gallery, Cracow University of Technology, 17 December 2015 -14 January 2016 [3]; *2015 BUGA Technology and Landscape - the Havel Region*, photo exhibition, Open University, AGH University of Science and Technology in Kraków, 30 Mickiewicz Avenue, Kraków, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Robotics, B2 Pavilion, room 110, 16 April 2016; *Water and Landscape, 2015 BUGA - the Havel Region*, photo exhibition, AGH University of Science and Technology - off-campus educational centre in Jastrzębie Zdrój - Wszechnica Edukacyjna UO, 07 April 2016; *Water Inspiration. 2013 IGS Hamburg - the World of Water*, photo exhibition, the *L.N. Gumilov* Eurasian National University, Faculty of Architecture and Building Construction, Department of Architecture, Astana, Kazakhstan, November 2016 [4].

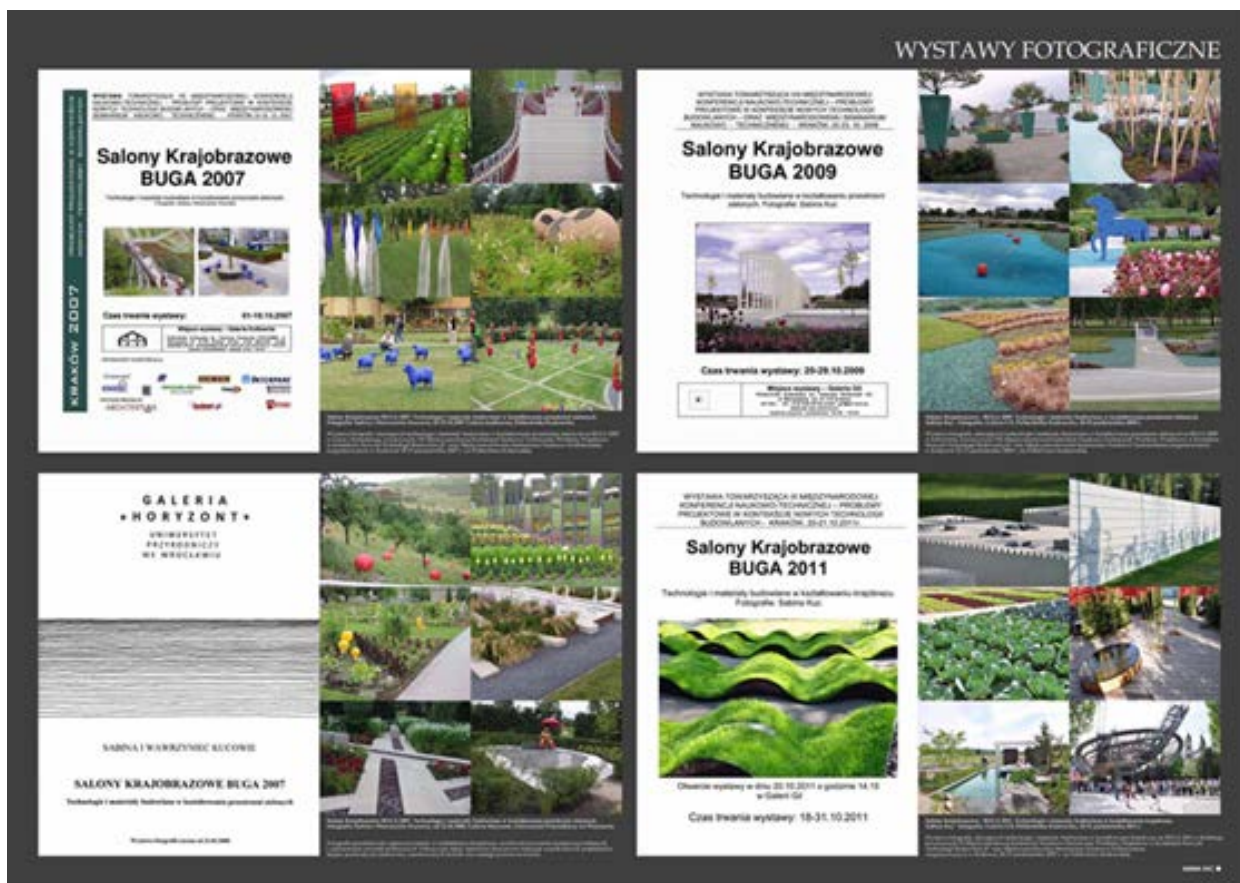


Figure 1: Photo exhibitions: *European Garden Show*. Author: Sabina Kuc. Cracow University of Technology at Warszawska Street, Kraków, Poland; a) to d) left (top) to right (bottom); a) Kotłownia Gallery 2007; b) and d) Gil Gallery 2009 and 2011; and at Wrocław University of Technology; c) Horyzont Gallery 2007 (Photographs by S. Kuc).



a)



b)

Figure 2: a) and b): Photo exhibition, *European Garden Show. My Point of View* (Европейские выставки ландшафтной архитектуры. Моя точка зрения), at the *L.N. Gumilov* Eurasian National University, Astana, Kazakhstan, 20 -26 April 2013. (Photographs by S. Kuc. [5].)

Several have been accompanied by lectures. They have emphasised the role that the Garden Show BUGA plays in the development of contemporary landscape architecture and how it influences the education of society in this field.

Many academics, at the same time being academic teachers, present their curricula dealing with teaching architects (and engineers more broadly) [6][7], or present models of teaching [1]. They present various methods of work, types of seminars and exercises used in curricula.

Discussed in this article is the role of the photo exhibition of the Garden Show BUGA as a way of (teaching), spreading knowledge about landscape architecture. Educating broad sections of society in this way shapes their tastes and landscape awareness. This article was presented at the 6th WIETE Mediterranean Seminar on Engineering and Technology Education in Athens in 2018.

THE PHOTO EXHIBITION AND EDUCATION

While preparing their exhibition, the organisers and creators of the Garden Show, BUGA photo exhibition must answer four questions: *Where?*, *How?*, *What?* and *Who?*

Where will the photo exhibition be?

How does the photo exhibition teach students landscape architecture?

What possibilities are presented?

Who is the recipient of the exhibition?

The answers to these questions are important for the educational process, the elements of which are the exhibitions.

Should a photo exhibition be held in a closed space of an exhibition hall, semi-open or open space? The place where the exhibition is organised determines how it is presented and received. An interesting solution is to present exhibitions in public spaces along pedestrian zones and city squares. Until now, the author has presented exhibitions only in exhibition halls. They are often preceded with a lecture, which facilitated their perception and allowed the viewer to look beyond the space of the exhibition into the space of landscape interiors presented in the photographs. These lectures were addressed to students of engineering and Master degree programmes as part of the courses conducted by the author at the Faculty of Architecture at Cracow University of Technology in the field of landscape architecture covering construction and water recreational facilities, and as part of the visiting professor programme for the students from ENU, Astana Kazakhstan and BNTU (Belarusian National Technical University), Minsk, Belarus.

They dealt with issues related to technologies used in landscape architecture and water compositions appearing at exhibitions. The lectures on the exhibitions were also addressed to students of the University of the Third Age as part of the exhibitions and classes conducted for seniors at the AGH Open University, Kraków, Poland. It is not only students of all degrees (Bachelor, Master, PhD and third age), universities and faculties that these exhibitions are addressed to, but the general public also.

These exhibitions present the ideas of construction, landscape architecture and ecology. They provide the possibility of taking part in a landscape exhibition: both in the open air and inside buildings. They also demonstrate creation and inspiration, i.e. the creation of material, construction and technology.

Describing compositions, presenting technologies and landscapes, teaches students how to combine materials with technological and aesthetic possibilities. They influence trends and tastes in landscape architecture. Photo exhibitions extend the tasks of the original Garden Show BUGA expositions.

TEACHING LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Thinking

Teaching architectural composition, construction and agrarian technology, as well as architectural thinking is the foundation of every architectural curriculum. Traditional and modern teaching methods, as well as didactic experiments, allow for the implementation of educational objectives. The use of photo exhibitions to teach students is such an experiment. Thinking about architectural space and its shaping is an art necessary to be mastered not only by students.

Everyone should take an active part in thinking about the landscape and its transformation. The landscape surrounding us - from landscape interiors on a small scale to the space of parks, cities and landscapes on the scale of a country, continent or the world - is dependent on each of its users. Therefore, thinking about it, and co-creating it, is so significant. An inspiration for thinking about it is a task fulfilled by photo exhibitions about BUGA exhibitions.

Photo exhibitions promote reflection on landscapes, including their unique beauty and the possibility for recreation in different scales and places (see Figure 3). They instruct on materials. Landscapes can be admired, contemplated and evaluated; a photo exhibition may be the only way to achieve this.



a)



b)

Figure 3: a) BUGA 2007, Gera, Germany (presented at *European Garden Show*, photo exhibition, the *L.N. Gumilov* Eurasian National University, Astana, Kazakhstan, 20-26 April 2013 [5]); b) XXI Century Garden, BUGA 2011, Schwerin, Germany (Presented at *Water Inspiration. 2013, Hamburg - World of Water*, photo exhibition, the *L. N. Gumilov* Eurasian National University, Faculty of Architecture and Building Construction, Astana, Kazakhstan, November, 2016 [4]) (Photographs by S. Kuc).

Composition

The photographs (Figure 4) show the exhibition in the surrounding landscape and urban scale compositions. The observer can trace the main arrangement and its individual elements. Reflections on the relationship between the author's idea and its implementation are extremely interesting.



a)



b)

Figure 4: a) 2013 IGS Hamburg, Germany (presented at *Water Inspiration. 2013 IGS Hamburg - World of Water*, photo exhibition at the *L. N. Gumilov* Eurasian National University, Faculty of Architecture and Building Construction, Astana, Kazakhstan, November, 2016 [4]; b) Photo exhibition, Sabina Kuc: *Havel Region - Landscapes and Technologies*, photo exhibition, Gil Gallery, CUT, 17 December 2015 -14 January 2016 [3] (Photographs by S. Kuc).

Photographs of thematic parts of exhibitions present the interpretation of a given topic. What goes unnoticed during the viewing of *in-situ* exhibitions becomes obvious with the commentary of the exhibition's author. The commentary can be a lecture during the opening of the exhibition, a direct verbal or written commentary, but also implicit in the light or the colour tone of a given photo.

The landscapes presented in the photographs are either the views of the whole or the views of individual landscape features or small landscapes. The photographs often add charm to a landscape. Additionally, photographs often expose deficiencies that are readily perceived. Photographs encourage the viewer to stop and reflect (see Figure 5).

Technologies

Photographs shown at exhibitions are presentations of technology. Thinking technologies are created with an ideal composition in which agrarian technologies will be the main element.

Technology and materials are visible in each photograph. They appear as a material and method for creating objects of landscape architecture. One can see materials with their colours and textures, as well as the combinations of materials and individual parts of objects.



a)



b)

Figure 5: a) *Real Landscape - the River Rhine*, BUGA 2011, Koblenz, Germany (presented at the European Garden Show, photo exhibition, at the *L.N. Gumilov* Eurasian National University, Astana, Kazakhstan, 20-26 April 2013 [5]); b) *Artificial (illusion) Landscape - River Canyon*, *World of Water*, 2013 IGS Hamburg, Germany (presented at *Water Inspiration. 2013 IGS Hamburg - World of Water*, photo exhibition at the *L.N. Gumilov* Eurasian National University, Faculty of Architecture and Building Construction, Astana, Kazakhstan, November, 2016 [4]) (Photographs by S. Kuc).

Yet, there is also another group of materials and technologies that are hidden. One can only see the effect of their application: an even path, a stable fountain or fresh green grass. These are constructions and agrarian technologies without, which many technical and aesthetic effects would not be possible (Figures 7 and 8).



a)



b)

Figure 6: a) Building technologies: Pergola - Brama, BUGA 2009, Schwerin, Germany (presented at photo exhibition, Sabina Kuc, *Building Materials and Technologies* at IBA IGS Exhibition at the *L.N. Gumilov* Eurasian National University, Astana, Kazakhstan, November, 2014 [8]); b) *Agriculture Technologies - Green Wall*, BUGA 2007, Gera, Germany, photo exhibition, *Technology and Innovation* at the Gil Gallery, Cracow University of Technology, Kraków, Poland, October, 2013 [2]. (Photographs by S.Kuc.)



a)



b)

Figure 7: a) *Building Technologies*, BUGA 2015, Havel Region, Optic Parc Rathenow, Germany (presented at photo exhibition, Sabina Kuc, *Havel Region - Landscapes and Technologies*, Gil Gallery, CUT, 17 December 2015 - 14 January 2016 [3]); b) Photo exhibition, Sabina Kuc, *Technologies and landscape*, at the *L.N. Gumilov* Eurasian National University, Astana, Kazakhstan, October 2015 [9] (Photographs by S. Kuc).

CONCLUSIONS

The aim of the article was to present the possibilities of disseminating knowledge about landscape architecture through the photo exhibition of the Garden Show BUGA (in particular the Garden Show BUGA). It concerns the composition, technology, and materials of the landscape.

Presentation of these exhibitions, both in public facilities (galleries, cultural centres, public libraries and hotels), as well as in academic centres (universities and their branches), has made this knowledge available to a wide audience, including students of different ages and in various university courses.

This way of education promotes an increase in pro-landscape awareness and shapes the tastes of society, of the first- and second-cycle degree programme or third age university students.

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