Historic Parks of Latvia

Guide Book of the Trip to Latvian Historic Parks

2011
LEGEND:
1. Karla Manor park
2. Anna Manor park
3. Mezotne Manor park
4. Rundale Palace park
5. Eleja Manor park
6. Jelgava Palace park
7. Remte Manor park
8. Smuku Manor park
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Historic Parks of Latvia

Kristine Dreija

Every landscape has its own story, which is given by architecture, stylistics, variety of plants, composition and other objects of environment. Finding us in this environment turns us back in time... But does it always happen? Is this the right time we should go back and is the concrete landscape telling us the most beautiful story of heritage?

How in Latvia is defined historic park
Riga Historical Centre Preservation and Protection Act "gives the following historical terminology explanation: it is a masterpiece of human creative spirit, demonstrating important interaction of human values over a given period or place in relation to the architecture or technology, monumental arts, town planning, landscape design, which directly or materially related to events, live traditions, artistic or literary works, that have a special universal value and which is not under the age of 25.

On the contrary, as the park we can call an environment that is man-made biotope using the natural resources and at that moment current stylistics, with the assistance of facilitation elements, creating recreational and aesthetic environment for the consumer.

What are Latvian historic parks, answering according definition?
In Latvia there are six types of historic parks:
1. National Parks, which is a nationally protected wide area with nationally significant natural formations and cultural treasures. In Latvia, totally are 4 national parks.
2. *Nature parks*, its cultural and historical values are suitable for society recreation and education. In Latvian totally are 22 nature parks.
3. *National Dendrological parks* - Arboretums, which mainly is composed of dendrological collections. In Latvia totally are 5 Arboretums.
4. *Botanical gardens*, which are designed for research purposes. In Latvia totally are two botanical gardens.
5. *Urban gardens*, which are vital urban green structure element.
6. *Latvian palaces and manor parks*, that historically are an integral part of palace and manor complexes. In Latvian are 265 palaces and manor parks.

**What is the Latvian nature and heritage protection policy?**
Part of these historic parks or elements inside there is protected by state. In Latvia are determined special protected natural areas, which aim is to protect and preserve natural diversity, to provide scientific researches and environmental monitoring and preserve the society recreation, education and instruction of important areas.
Specially protected nature areas divides into the nature reserves, national parks, nature parks, natural monuments, nature protected areas, protected landscape areas and biosphere reserves. Currently the specially protected natural areas in Latvia cover 8.6% of total national territory.
Also in Latvia are established nationally protected cultural monuments - they can be both a cultural and historical landscapes, and the defined areas, and objects have historical, scientific, artistic or other cultural value and which preservation corresponds to
the Latvian state and nation, as well as international interests.
State protected cultural monuments are divided into five categories: Archaeological, Urban, Architecture, Art and Historical monuments. Totally in Latvia are marked 8556 cultural monuments. Statistically most occupies the architectural monuments, including the manor house complexes and parks. But any of these categories is also given to historic park, because any of on object can be located in a historic park, thereby increasing the value of the site.
State protected cultural monuments grants and control the Latvian State Inspection for Heritage Protection (VKPAI). Cultural Heritage status is granted on the basis of its significance, which could be internationally significant, and regionally. There are national cultural monuments and local importance cultural monuments.
Specially protected natural areas protection and application regulations are issued by the Latvian Cabinet of Ministers and approved. There are regulated permitted and prohibited types of activities for the special protection areas.
For the cultural monuments are also issued protection rules by the Cabinet of Ministers that define the heritage protection area - in city 100m radius of the monument center and in the rural area 500 m from the monument site. Similarly, are developed cultural monument individual protection zone design methodology by the State Inspectorate for Heritage. This methodology has been approved in the 1993. It is quite general and for the moment really do not encourage either private owners or local interest in these individual areas development.
Step by step we understand the necessity for spruce landscape and rebirth of declined landscapes, but the prior solution is educating society in environmental matter. It is achievable only by exchanging information. The more spruced landscapes there will be the better opportunity for society will be to educate in field of spruced environment. The human by understanding the inmost essence of environment problem takes part in solving it himself, thereby forwarding declined environment improvements and its optimal further development.
### 1. Karla Manor Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cultural monument (No.)</th>
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*Fig. 1. Situation Plan of Karla Manor (1795)*
Annotation
In the 19th century in neighborhood of Karla developed rapidly. In accordance with the requirements of the fashion of his time, was set free planning landscape park, which covers a number of well-equipped forest compartments. Parks ieklāva senlejas lielākos iežu atsegumus un kraujas: Ainavu krauju, Ērgļu klinti, Gulbju iezi u.c. Relatively large areas were used for fruit and vegetable gardens.
In the 1871 applying the pub building in the Karl, set up a master gardener school. It was the first school of horticulture in the Baltic. Significantly, in the 1877 in the manor house or Karla was created one of the first and largest pomological gardens in the Baltic. Cultivated about 60 areas of land and for export needs were planted different plants – fruit trees, berry bushes, park avenue trees, decorative shrubs, roses, etc.. Every year, it was necessary to grow about 30,000 plants, the heralded annual output in the printed catalogue in the August.

Fig.2. View to Amata river valley (1795)
# 2. Anna Manor Park

<table>
<thead>
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<td>Private property</td>
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<tr>
<td>Home page</td>
<td><a href="http://www.annashotel.com">www.annashotel.com</a></td>
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</table>

**Legend:**
1. Manor house
2. Stable
3. Gardener’s house
4. Cattle-shed
5. Bailiff’s house
6. Ice cellar
7. Cellar
8. Manor Tavern

*Fig. 3. Situation Plan of Annas Manor (2010)*
Annotation
Manor Park (between the palace and the lakeside road) in comparison with buildings constructed in a very old-time style, but it does give the evidence of its existence from the middle of the 18th century, but just for an idea.
The author of the Anne manor garden is failed to find. In any event, the manor garden is both distant and lyrical views of the Wicked (Anna) lake, which could more belong to the Renaissance and the landscape garden, regularly planted and sheared lime passageways, which perfectly corresponds to the baroque tradition.
Quite different was the Forest Park. It is covered with dense plantation with fir-trees, nut trees and lilac. Fir-trees were planted also along the main roads of forest park.
Landlords cemetery in the forest park now is completely destroyed, except for well-healed small vinca, which is clearly the gardener planted.

Fig.4. The Main House of Anna Manor (1920)
### 3. Mezotne Palace Park

<table>
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</table>

**Legend:**

1. Palace  
2. Bailiff’s house  
3. Stable  
4. Estrade  
5. Pound  
6. Pavilion  
7. Pedestrian bridge  
8. River crossing place

*Fig. 5. Situation plan of Mezotne Palace Park*
Annotation
Mezotne Palace Park is one of the most beautiful and gardened English-style landscape parks in Latvian. It covers an area of 14 hectares, but a specially designed line of view, which allows you to enjoy a wide Zemgale, visually increases the area up to 50-60 ha. The park has three parts: the front yard, central part and the dense plantation with conifers. From Mezotne park architecture remained partially pavilion (Second quarter of the 19th century). Pavilion was built on a high boulder stone platform where the perimeter is enclosed by metal railings. Until nowadays, there is not survived still another neo-gothic revival pavilion, built around the same time. Both pavilion construction was not only significant architectural elements of the park, but also the early neo-gothic examples in Latvia.

Fig.6. Mezotne Palace (1936)
4. Rundale Palace Park

<table>
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<td>Museum; Tourism</td>
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<td>Owner</td>
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Fig. 7. Situation plan of Rundale Palace Ensemble (1734)
Rundale Palace Park is the most important baroque style French garden in the Baltic. The Park project architect Francesco Bartolomeo Rastrelli developed 1735th-1736th, and realized 1736th-1740th simultaneously with the construction of the castle. According to the project here established 10 hectares large regular garden with five radial avenues, which will continues into hunting forest park. In 1739 in the park was already planted 328 185 lindens, 5005 chestnuts and 1885 columbine, but in orchards - 95 pears, 155 apple trees, 40 plums and 20 cherry trees.

Park restoration began with the project development 1975-1977. In 1976 in the park cut overgrown trees, in the 1981 developed the first tracks, but in the 1984 planted the first avenue of lindens.

Fig.8. Rundale Palace and Park
## 5. Eleja Manor Park

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</table>

| Home page              | -                                    |

**Legend:**
1. Manor house ruins
2. Theatre house
3. Bailiff’s house
4. Tee house
5. Cemetery
6. Pavilion·Rotonda
7. Wall
8. Estrade

*Fig.9. G. Kufalt. Project plan of Eleja Manor (1905)*
Annotation
Eleja palace built by J.G.A.Berlitz project with George Kvarengi design, construction completed in 1810. The Landscape Park began to build before building of the palace. Eleja Manor Park Pavilion (In heritage list - tea house) is a national architectural monument (No.5202). The Pavilion is built in the beginning of 19th century from the boulders and red baked clay brick at the same time as manor-house. After the First World War the pavilion is no longer used. Despite the high losses and poor technical condition, the building is unique in Latvia as the sole this type classical style and the romantic construction building in the historic garden. The information gathered enables to restore building in the view it looks in the second part of the 19th century.

Fig.10. Eleja Manor (1900)
### 6. Jelgava Palace Park

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**Fig. 11. Plan of Old Jelgava Castle (end of 17th century)**

**Fig. 12. Aero photo of Jelgava Palace**
Annotation
The Palace Park started to construct in 1817. in place of the old castle walls. In the developed Park of the Island Park is developed romantic canals, bridges, castle building, Governor's Island. Growing some trees - two horse chestnuts, pyramidal oak, aspen gray. At the Riga road on the right side at Driksa river was Palace theatre building built in 1913 that was demolished after the Second World War. For the location of it shows a white decorative vase instead.

Fig.13. White Decorative Vase in Jelgava Palace Park

Fig.14. Jelgava Palace Park
### 7. Remte Manor Park

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**Legend:**

1. Big Stone
2. Floating Tower
3. Chestnut Alley
4. Old Castle
5. Manege House
6. Manor House

9. Tennis Court
10. Bear Hut
12. Fundament of Monument
13. Torture Chambers
14. Grotto
15. Love Oak
16. Love Island
17. Hunting Tover
19. Pavilion

*Fig. 15. Situation plan of Remte Manor*
Annotation
Remte manor landscape park (26 hectares) was created to build in 1800 and there were located both - the garden pavilion, and decorative columns, as well as other small garden architecture forms, according to a time of style and fashion requirements. Now in the complex contain Park with a Hunting tower, Love oak, Love island, Bear hut, Torture chambers and Floating tower. In the park has an interesting pond and canal system.

Fig.16. Remte Manor (1939)
8. Smuku Manor Park

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![Fig.17. Situation plan of Smuku Manor](image)
Annotation
The park once was 3.5 ha large, of which 2.9 ha was gorgeous landscaping park and 0.6 ha of forest stand type section with exotic tree species. In the Park have risen more than 34 different species and forms of plants. Of native species grown maple, hazel, European spindle, ash, oak, cherry, etc. Conversely, among non-native species, have grown Swedish mountain ash, European cedar pine, beech, thuya, poplar, and other rare trees.

Fig. 18. Smuku Manor
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>date</th>
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<td>Valmiera</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Kristine Vugule, Natalija Nitavska</td>
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Material Resources

2. Latvijas piju un muižu asociācija, 2010, Valsts aizsargājamo un nekustamo kultūras pieminekļu saraksts, [List of State Protected and Immovable Cultural Heritage], Available at: http://www.mantojums.lv/?cat=742&lang=lv
3. Latvijas Valsts kultūras pieminekļu aizsardzības inspekcija, 2010., Piju un muižu ansamblju registers, [Register of castles and Manor ensembles], Available at: www.pilis.lv
7. www.annashotel.com
8. www.botanika.lu.lv Botanical garden of Latvia University
9. www.gnp.lv Gauja National Park
10. www.karlamuiza.lv
11. www.kultura.lv Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia
12. www.llu.lv Latvia University of Agriculture
13. www.lvm.lv Latvia’s State Forests
14. www.mezotnespils.lv
15. www.rundale.net
16. www.smukumuiza.lv
17. www.zudusilatvija.lv Old illustrations of Latvia from 19th century