



## VILLAGE IN A PARKLAND LANDSCAPE

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### *Summary*

The article recalls an idea of a “village in a parkland landscape”, which was realised in the West European countries from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> until mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. An example of the concept realised on Polish soils was the estate in Turew, the property of general Dezydery Chłapowski. At present, the area of the former property is a part of the Landscape Park. The principles of “landscape management” determined by Chłapowski have been observed up to this day. This primarily refers to tree plantings and farming. The paper discusses legal acts which might be a tool for introducing new landscape projects planned for rural areas.

**Key words:** village, parkland landscape, spatial order, spatial planning, spatial arrangement plans

### INTRODUCTION

These days increasingly more attention is paid to a necessity of conscious designing of landscape in which the principles of spatial order would be observed. It refers both to urban and rural areas. The work recalls the idea of “a village in a parkland landscape” which was realized in the West European countries from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> until mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. However, nowadays in countries with high agrarian culture, the planners strive to create a model of ideal rural landscape guided by the principle of combining beauty with usefulness.

On Polish soils the concept of rebuilding and modernisation of the countryside was impossible to realise on a large scale. Only well-educated landowners could afford novel solutions, as they were less affected by the occupants’ restric-

tions. A positive example of an implemented model of “a village in a parkland landscape” was Turew, the estate owned by general Dezydery Chłapowski. It was situated in the Wielkopolskie province, at that time under Prussian partition.

Poland lost her independence when the World War II broke out and remained under the Nazi occupation for six years, whereas in 1945 it came under the Soviet influence. Until 1989 when Poland entered the way of socio-economic transformations, private agricultural holdings were tolerated by the government but Polish rural areas were stagnant. Farm buildings, public amenities, purchasing points and farm machinery bases were slowly erected in rural areas, but no rural landscape values were perceived. Only restoring and full respecting of ownership based on legal regulations concerning local self-governments gave the rural inhabitants an opportunity to decide about their surrounding landscape in which they desire to live, work and relax.

A descriptive method was applied in the presented article, based on the subject literature studies, existing legal acts and Author’s own experience gained from the investigations conducted in rural areas.

## **MODERNISATION PROCESS OF THE WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRYSIDE**

Process of West-European countryside modernisation, lasting from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century until the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century among others considered model of a village in a parkland landscape. Numerous publications addressed to a wide variety of readers were written at that time, bringing the readers closer to the issues of new farming methods and improving living standards in the country also owing to specially designed agricultural landscape. A classical book explaining the specificity of rural planning, buildings and rural architecture was the work of T. Sharp published in 1946 (Sharp 1946). On the other hand, D. Grigg in his publication precisely characterised modernisation process of the west European countryside (Grigg 1992). He enumerates the kinds of completed tasks of which the most important were:

- A reform of former land layouts was conducted, land consolidation and parcelling were performed. In this way agricultural lands were adjusted to new economic conditions and agricultural technologies.
- New agricultural lands were acquired and wastelands were managed.
- Rural buildings were set in order regarding the plan and architecture according to the local tradition. Regionalism was created not only in the architecture but also in the economy and culture owing to the autonomy of rural and urban communities. It should be remembered that in the twenties of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, dr Jaromir Stepanek conducted a survey about regionalism in Czechoslovakia. In result of his research

he formulated a basic principle that, *the more cultural the nation, the highest its unification but also bigger diversification.*

- New roads, bridges and farm buildings were constructed.
- A social infrastructure was created by building schools, pubs and shops, as well as technical infrastructure through laying water supply and sewer systems and telephone lines.
- Drainage channels were built, new water intakes, retention reservoirs and fish ponds. Protection zones of floodplains were created.
- Shelter belts were designed for cultivated areas, village and farm tree stands were set in order. New parks and tree-lined alleys were established.
- Historical rural architectural objects were put under protection, as well as rural planning systems and areas with exceptional natural and landscape values.
- Farming in many areas of the West European countries was “switched” from cereals to more profitable cultivation systems, like horticulture and vegetable production. New vineyards were set up.

During the discussed period, the process of countryside modernisation was conducted in many countries. In England, Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland “*villages in a parkland landscape*” were created. A majority had their own histories but scientific, conceptual and investment efforts of planners, designers and farmers, supported by local communities allowed to change the existing landscape. Aesthetically ordered rural space started to attract tourists.

## **RURAL LANDSCAPE MODEL BY GENERAL DEZYDERY CHŁAPOWSKI**

A model of ideal rural landscape was realised in practice by general Dezydery Chłapowski in the twenties of the 19<sup>th</sup> century at his estate Turew situated in the Wielkopolskie province, Kościan district. Dezydery Adam Chłapowski (1788-1879) was a landowner, a socio-economic activist and a general, participant of the Napoleon’s campaign. In 1818-1819 he lived in Great Britain where he deepened his practical knowledge in agriculture and forestry. After return to his native country he started a reorganisation and modernising of his property. In place of a three-field system he introduced crop rotation. Along his fields he established protective belts composed of trees and bushes. As the first in Poland he applied drainage using brushwood. He was the first landowner in Wielkopolska to use green manures and order the peasants working on his property to use iron ploughs. While aiming at an enrichment of the fodder base, he imported maize seeds from England. He imported dairy cows from Switzerland and initiated and sheep breeding for meat and wool, as well as developed horse breeding. He

built a sugar mill, a distillery, a brewery and an oil mill and enlarged his property by 11 thousand acres. He was guided by the principle of combining beauty and usefulness "while developing his property in economically active and profitable way and simultaneously with exquisite taste adorning the landscape with plants and ordering crops, he was making it a model area" (Kostołowski 1991). The landscape of the Turew surroundings was enriched with multitude of mid-field and border shrubbery and trees, tree lined alleys, windbreaks, wildlife parks, parks, orchards, etc. general Chłapowski developed and realised "*a model rural area*" as a consciously composed parkland landscape, where beauty and usefulness merge into one. Professor Janusz Bogdanowski named Turew "a village in a parkland landscape" and formulated main theses to be considered in potential works in other rural areas in Poland (Bogdanowski 1976). He thought that all rural areas have natural and landscape values which make possible their transformation into beautiful and useful parkland landscapes. The terrain of general Dezydery Chłapowski's property in Turew did not stand out either by the area relief, hydrography or land use structure, but owing to skilful management of agricultural acreage gained a better usefulness which brought better profits. At the same the "space" of the property became aesthetically ordered (spatial order). Turew was visited by landowners interested in extensive development of their properties. Let us remember that particularly mid-field shelter belts fulfil many functions, such as:

- Protect surface and ground waters against pollution, acting as natural filters.
- Lead to increase in water amount retained in the environment, i.e. decrease water deficit in the area threatened with it.
- Counteract water and wind erosion of soils.
- Provide an opportunity for protection of numerous plant, fungi and animal species.
- Protect crops against transport pollution

### **GENERAL DEZYDERY CHŁAPOWSKI LANDSCAPE PARK**

Currently the former Turew estate is situated in the centre of the General Dezydery Chłapowski Landscape Park. The palace houses the Centre for Agricultural and Forestry Environment Research, Polish Academy of Sciences. The park was established on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 1992 for protection of agricultural cultural landscape with well-preserved midfield shelterbelts network introduced in the twenties of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In the seventies of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the shelterbelts were put under protection and considered cultural good. New afforestations were introduced which influenced increase in biodiversity of plants and animals. The presence of over 800 plant species usually connected with agricultural crops was

registered, but also protected species of forest and shrub plants. The park agricultural landscape is diversified by meadows, balks, midfield ponds and wayside alleys. The park area is 17 200 ha. Still, agriculture is dominant. Ploughlands occupy 11 000 ha. Polish and foreign scientists, like Chłapowski, conduct research in agriculture, but use modern methods, technologies and techniques. These days General Dezydery Chłapowski Landscape Park is visited by numerous tourists attracted by the landscape and values of the natural environment, as well as many manor houses, palaces and rural parks.



Photo Krzysztof Kujawa [source: <http://szkola.interklasa.p/f1004/pl/park.htm>]

**Figure 1.** An alley among fields. An example of consciously developed parkland landscape .

## **THE CONCEPT OF A VILLAGE IN A PARKLAND LANDSCAPE ACCORDING TO AUGUST BOCHEŃSKI**

The concept of August Bocheński from the Cracow University of Technology refers to a village in a parkland landscape. It bases on a re-composition of rural areas management form, spoiled by dispersed buildings (Bocheński 1962;

Rzymkowski, A. Bocheński 1963). Using planning schemes, the author shows the way to design windbreak belts which should surround homesteads chaotically dispersed among fields. Regular planting of parallel tree and shrub belts along field boundaries with buildings hidden among them, would create bases of spatial order.

According to Marek Kowicki, Bocheński's idea might have a practical application if settlement models in rural areas were clearly diversified for farmer and non-farmer communities (Kowicki, 2014). Farmer homesteads dispersed among farmlands, immersed in midfield greenery and additionally furnished with their own windbreak and masking greenery would not cause a landscape disharmony. The farm and storage buildings, which are not aesthetic elements in composition and landscape, would be hidden. Currently August Bocheński's concept (originated 50 years ago!) should be applied to correct rural landscapes, where family residence complexes and not farm houses are becoming dominant among ploughlands. Together with a considerable percentage of non-farmer population appearance in the rural areas of Southern Poland, the conditions of the village in a parkland landscape idea realisation changed. Interdisciplinary studies should be conducted by architects, landscape architects and agricultural land surveyors to determine the idea of re-composition of the agricultural area distorted by dispersed buildings.



Photo Krzysztof Kujawa [source:<http://szkola.interklasa.p/f1004/pl/park.htm>]

**Figure 2.** Mid-field shelterbelts.

## Park Krajobrazowy im. gen. Dezyderya Chłapowskiego



[source: <http://szkola.interklasa.pl/fl004/pl/park.htm>]

Figure 3. General Dezydery Chłapowski Landscape Park

### THE IDEA OF SPATIAL ORDER

Spatial order is the most important postulate of spatial planning science. Spatial order was discussed in various aspects and dimensions. The assessment

of the outcomes of anthropogenic activity in space allowed to extend the concept of spatial order by environment protection and later by the idea of ecology (Podstawy planowania przestrzennego, 2010). Below are several definitions of spatial order.

J. Kołodziejcki thought that "the idea of spatial order is associated with planning and management of space and expresses an aspiration for harmony, ordering, proportion and balancing the human environment" (Kołodziejcki, 1995). J.M. Chmielewski writes that: "Spatial order is a target state of spatial management in which the areas of conflicts resulting from development processes have been reduced to a minimum and a harmoniously composed landscape has been achieved maintaining its local cultural and environmental identity" (Chmielewski, 2010). The definition of spatial order stated in the act on planning and spatial management is as follows: "spatial order should denote the spatial development which creates a harmonious whole and includes, as ordered relationships, all conditions and functional, socio-economic, environmental, cultural, compositional and aesthetic requirements" (Ustawa o planowaniu... 2003).

It should be noticed that general Dezydery Chłapowski, who developed his estate in terms of economy and regarding its composition and landscape did not know the above mentioned concepts. On the other hand, he referred to English patterns, confirming high reputation of English rural landscapes established already at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Thus we may say that contemporary notion of spatial order is close to the principle of "beauty and usefulness" which was realised in Turew.

## SPACE PLANNING STATES

The state of management is the result of spatial planning realisation. Identification of planning state of a terrain comes down to analysis of planning documentation prepared, binding and referring to the analysed terrain. The main planning documents, on the basis of which the state of the space may be identified are: feasibility study and directions of a district spatial management; local spatial management plan for a district and zoning permission. According to the degree of obligation of these acts and the results they bring, three states of special planning may be distinguished (Podstawy planowania przestrzennego... 2010; Współczesna waloryzacja przestrzeni... 2012).

The first, *basic state* is connected with making a study of land use conditions and direction in the analysed area. Because this document is obligatory for districts and covers the whole district area, it should be assumed that it introduces some basic arrangements over the whole district area, which are prerequisites for the use of its space and the functions it should fulfil.



Photo Krzysztof Kujawa [source: <http://szkola.interklasa.p/f1004/pl/park.htm>]

**Figure 4.** General Dezydery Chłapowski's palace – present view

The second, *desired state*, involves drawing up a local plan of the district spatial management on a fragment of its space. This plan is not an obligatory document and usually does not comprise the whole district area. It is an act of local law which may provide a basis for issuing a decision about building permission. No additional studies are necessary. The existence of obligatory spatial management plans is the most desired space planning state.

The third, *imposed state*, is when no spatial management plan has been drawn up for the analysed area. In such situation a zoning permission is necessary for full spatial management. The decision results in issuing a building permission. The analysis of existent planning documents is therefore necessary to determine space planning state.

In my opinion, existence of three planning states is a mistake in the art of planning. Imposed state is the most harmful. An official usually does not know the value of space, its landscape-cultural values, arrangement of land-transport network conditioned by the natural environment values. Quite often building permission may lead to a dispersed housing. It results in high expenditure on

technical infrastructure construction. Therefore, I think that obligatory preparation of spatial management plan for the whole district area, not only a fragment of it, might lead to functional and spatial solution which would allow to implement the idea of parkland landscape in rural areas.



Photo Krzysztof Kujawa [source: <http://szkola.interklasa.p/f1004/pl/park.htm>]

**Figure 5.** Land tillage in the area of the Landscape Park

## **AGRICULTURAL LAND ARRANGEMENT PLANS**

One of the essential and economic documents, strategic for complex development of a district should be agricultural land arrangement plan. So far, no law has been made which would standardise the obligatory drawing up of such plans. They should systematize the dependencies between various kinds of works, particularly connected with agricultural land arrangement in a district. It means that districts are in no way legally obliged to draw up such plans (Szczepaniak 2007). Agricultural land arrangement plan should characterise the state of rural areas development with particular regard to agricultural production area in

a district and present the scope of works targeting an improvement of unfavourable farming conditions.

A planning concept concerning the area of intensive farming should be logically cohesive with the strategy of district development and the study of land use conditions and directions of district development, but in the first place with the assumptions of the local spatial management plan (Nowe zadania planowania... 2008). It should be remembered that already in 1980 Zofia Więckiewicz pointed to the direct relationships between agricultural facilities and spatial planning in rural areas: "a complex arrangement of rural areas is an overall organisational-technical activity comprising designing and implementation of changes in the spatial and economic structure of a basic territorial unit, such as a village or commercial farm (...). The basis of such activity should be provided by the decisions and arrangements stated in the plans of socio-economic development and special management plans for districts" (Więckowicz 1980). Regretfully, it must be said that during the thirty five years which passed from the time the above statements were made, nothing has been done for the formal and legal connection of these two planning documents. Together they should determine the socio-economic and spatial-landscape structure of each village, which is the basic settlement unit of a district.

## CONCLUSION

In Poland agricultural land surveyors develop plans of agricultural land arrangement for rural areas. The main element of these projects, influencing ordering the agricultural space is land consolidation and exchange. On the other hand, architects and planners develop spatial management plans for districts. However, both professional groups do not cooperate. Many times it leads to conflicts and project divergences appearing in both planning documents.

The "ideal model of rural landscape" realized in Turwia in the twenties of the 19<sup>th</sup> century by general Dezydery Chłapowski allows to put forward a thesis that rural areas in Poland possess natural and landscape values which make possible their transformation into beautiful and useful parkland landscapes.

Currently the main obstacle to transforming the space of the Malopolska rural areas into a parkland landscape is dispersed housing. Too great distances between homestead buildings and houses of non-farmer population hinders application of spatial order principles.

Scientists and professionals in Poland focused on rural areas discuss the sustainable development and multifunctional rural development, complex management of rural areas regarding the land consolidation and exchanges, spatial management plans and agricultural land arrangement plans. There was a paper published about spatial order and the standards forming it (Małysa-Sulińska

2008). Still, anybody who knows Polish countryside, particularly the Malopolska area, knows how much remains to be done to improve and “clarify” the landscape of each settlement unit. Polish law is imperfect, but still a lot depends on the initiative of local communities. Each may improve living standards in their “small homeland” within widely understood autonomy. Activities of general Dezydery Chłapowski prove that it is possible.

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