Theses of the Ph.D. dissertation

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PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN OPEN SPACE DEVELOPMENT

The landscape architect-designer's role in the municipal participatory planning

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1 BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

In 2008, Tamás Dömötör carried out the first study of public involvement in landscape architectural design at the landscape scale. The past fifteen years of practice, implemented examples and the dynamically changing social and natural environment continuously reveal new research directions on the topic. The scale of the municipal open spaces addressed in my dissertation provides a different perspective on the problem, outlines new challenges for planners, and helps to develop a set of planning tools that can be effectively applied in public involvement. In my research, I examine the public involvement in municipal open space development and the role of the landscape architect-planner in this context, based on the literature collected and on international and domestic practice.

My aim is to ensure that all actors involved in public involvement are aware of their role, so that a long-term, community-shaping communication and planning process can be carried out in a clear framework, working together without overloading the community, in order to fulfil its development potential. If landscape architect planners assume their role, which my research has shown to be, in best case scenarios, not much more than in the case of a general planning task, then engagement and development processes can yield more benefits and achieve greater positive change in the life of a city.

My choice of topic was also influenced by my work experience.Between 2014 and 2017, I worked in the Urban Renewal Group of the Budapest Mayor's Office, mainly on the community-oriented TÉR_KÖZ project.Since 2017, I have been working for the Óbuda-Békásmegyer Urban Development Nonprofit Ltd. (hereinafter: ÓBVF Kft.), where public involvement and community planning are part of my daily work.

In my research, I examine the public involvement processes and their specificities related to the development of open spaces coordinated by municipalities, based on the practice in Hungary, and especially in Budapest, highlighting the challenges that landscape architects face in this field. I will also briefly discuss the role of the commissioning local authorities, but due to space constraints it will not be possible to present in detail the aspects of the other actors.

This research has two main objectives:

1. The first, to describe the specificities (regulation, tools, benefits, challenges, etc.) of public involvement processes in municipal open space development by comparing the literature and the real-life practice.
2. The second is to describe the role of landscape architect-designers in this context, pointing out which tasks are currently mandatory in Hungary and which are those that a designer must carry out in all circumstances, and which he can do on a case-by-case basis, depending on his commitment and workload. My aim is to point out what skills and attitudes a landscape architect-designer needs in order to be a facilitator rather than a hindrance in the public involvement process.

These two complex objectives are addressed in twelve research questions, along which the research process is structured (Table 1.).

Table 1. Objectives of the research

Objective			Research question	Results
I.	**Specificities of public involvement processes related to municipal open space developments**	**1**	What is the terminology used to describe public involvement?	**T1**
		2	Is the Arnstein ladder theory in line with current thinking and practice regarding the need for, and form of, involvement?	**T3, T2**
		3	Is public involvement a mandatory (regulated) duty for local authorities?	**PR3**
		4	What tools (other than community planning) can the municipality use to engage with the public on open space developments?	**T5**
		5	What are the benefits of public involvement?	**T4**
		6	What are the challenges and disadvantages of public involvement?	**T7**
		7	What is the role of local government in public involvement?	**T6, T7**
			What is the role of the landscape architect in public involvement?	
II.	**The role of the landscape architect-designer in public involvement in municipal open space development**	**8**	Which instruments of public involvement require the services of a landscape architect?	**T9, T7**
		9	What (additional) tasks does the landscape architect have when participating in public involvement?	**T10, T9**
		10	What landscape architecture mistakes can hinder the public involvement process?	**PR1**
		11	What (additional) skills does a landscape architect need to participate in public involvement?	**T8**
		12	Is there a need to integrate the practice of public involvement and the development of the minimum competences required for this into education?	**PR2**

2 MATERIALS AND METHODS

In my research, in addition to the literature review and synthesis, I used international and national case studies, expert (N=12) and other qualitative interviews (N=22) and a questionnaire for landscape architects (N=83) to explore the topic in depth and draw conclusions based on current domestic design practices.

Based on the field studies and the data collected from practical experience, I had the opportunity to theorise using the Grounded Theory (GT) method, which also describes my research attitude. It is a bottom-up method that extracts data and brings it to the level of theoretical abstraction in a circular, iterative way, by repeatedly examining the topic. Central to this is the principle of constant comparison, a process of comparisons that accompanies the research from interviewing to final theory building and scientific results.

In my research, I used the GT method to investigate domestic involvement practices. I based my research on questions I asked from experts in the field, with some additions. During the interviewing process, the series of questions was continuously developed and enriched, but in the end, I summarised the experiences and, based on the additional information gathered, I further expanded and refined the questions and asked them in the form of a questionnaire to a wider group of landscape architects. I compared the results with the experts' interviews in order to synthesise the practice and compare it with the literature gathered from the research questions. This was supplemented with case studies and other interviews, from which I was able to filter the results and draw conclusions.

3 RESULTS

Based on the literature, interviews with local experts, questionnaires completed by practising professionals, and case studies from Budapest and abroad, I examined the practice of public involvement in municipal open space development and identified its characteristics. I created a process model for public consultation and compared it with the process model for landscape architecture planning to create a landscape architecture planning task list to assist in engaging in public consultations. I have highlighted and further developed a matrix from the literature modelling a public involvement project based on five project phases and six toolkits, which can be used to schedule the public involvement process in advance, and thus can be a useful tool in the preparation, design and implementation phases, as well as during operation.

I have found that in the process of public involvement in open space development, the municipality should play the roles of initiator, promoter, financier, manager, decision-maker, regulator, implementer, operator and owner, so that the project can be successfully implemented with high quality through its cohesive and managerial activities. Their role covers all phases of the project and cannot be fully delegated to an external agent.

I have defined the role of the landscape designer in the public involvement processes related to open space development. The landscape architect designer should be involved in public consultation and community planning, but does not need to lead the process, generally a facilitator or a representative of the municipality should take over. He/she cannot perform the functions of designer and facilitator simultaneously, and should support the planning process with their expertise and technical material.

I have found that a landscape architect needs a total of seven additional competences to participate in public involvement processes: 1. facilitation (knowledge of social psychology), negotiation, teamwork/conflict

management (only needed if they are also involved in organising planning sessions); 2. leadership skills; 3. prioritisation; 4. professional authority; 5. knowledge of presentation techniques; 6. perseverance and 7. which was not mentioned in the literature but emerged in my research: openness.

Based on the Hungarian and international literature and practicing professionals' opinions, I have shown that the most important competence needed in public involvement, in the field of 21st century natural sciences as well as in the design of livable cities is the complex communication skill, and although communication skills are also a characteristic of the traditional designer profile, a Romanian research has shown that specific communication tools and techniques are also needed.

Therefore, communication and the ability to engage in dialogue are both important for designing a liveable city and a socially acceptable open space.

4 CONCLUSIONS AND PROPOSALS

The results raise more questions: there is room for further exploration of the relationship between climate protection and public involvement on the basis of the questionnaire; at the same time, there is a need for a more extensive discussion of the lessons learned from the material collected so far (interviews, questionnaire, case studies), which was not possible within the scope of this paper.

There is also a clear indication from research participants, which is also linked to the Arnstein ladder criticisms, that if there is continuous and transparent communication from the municipality, then community planning or pontok is not always necessary. However, a prerequisite for this is a thorough stakeholder analysis, the methodology of which needs to be researched and adapted to local practice.

In Hungary, public involvement in open space development has been slow to penetrate the public consciousness, but around the 2010s there was a sudden surge in popularity. As a result, there is still a shortage of trained professionals in the field of public involvement, as well as a lack of educational material and training on the tools, methodologies and the essence of public involvement. In order to develop professional knowledge adaptable to open space planning, education needs to be improved, with a focus on the teaching and development of skills related to public involvement. Finding ways to do this is a complex task, but coordination at European level is already underway. It would also be necessary for good practices to take root in Hungary. Local governments can be helped to develop their involvement and become inclusive institutions by first of all shaping their attitudes, providing financial incentives and only then by regulation. This can be achieved through national or metropolitan programmes, which require preliminary research.

The research also raised some specific questions, which I think are important to examine later:

a. How can public consultation be implemented so that it is truly representative? Is it possible to use the method of artificial group formation, such as the large-scale meetings organised by the Municipality of Budapest around certain themes, for small-scale open space developments?

b. Insufficient cooperation between developers and operators is one of the main obstacles to the success of open space developments. The possibilities of how this has been solved abroad and how it can be adapted in Hungary should be investigated.

c. In her doctoral research, Fruzsina Zelenák showed that complex open space developments contribute to place attachment. My research has shown that public involvement can also play an important role in the development of place attachment. It would be useful to investigate what kind of place attachment can be observed for point-based (non-complex) investments prepared with public involvement.

d. The feedback of public involvement processes is rarely audited. It would be worth examining how well the pontoks are achieving their objectives, whether local people like the development that has been implemented and whether they are actually seeing what was envisaged. The development of monitoring tools could also help subsequent consultation processes.

5 THESES

Thesis 1. The use of professional terminology.

I collected and clarified the professional concepts and definitions related to public involvement, and found that the application of the concepts used in the literature and in Hungarian practice differs; while in the literature three levels of involvement are distinguished, the professionals do not differentiate their activities according to the level of involvement and generally use the term "community planning", which can be misleading.

In the thesis I use the concepts of involvement in a three-level hierarchy: public involvement, participatory planning and community planning (Figure 1). The three levels are distinguished by the type of relationship between the stakeholders and the municipality: one-way in the case of involvement, reciprocal in the case of participation and cooperative in the case of community planning.

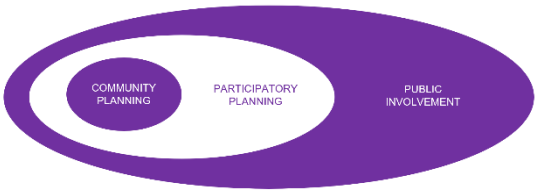

Figure 1. Hierarchy of concepts of public involvement (Horváth et al., 2018)

Statistical analysis of the expert interviews and the questionnaires completed by landscape architects shows that Hungarian landscape architects know only the lower (community planning) and the upper (public involvement) levels of involvement, but do not distinguish between terms in their use of the term, and only use the term 'community planning'. As this is the most widely known and used, it can be misleading and may be used at the expense of quality, as the term is applied to activities that do not actually represent a high level of participation. It would also be important for practising professionals to use a

term to denote an intermediate level, such as participatory planning or public consultation.

Thesis 2. Classification system related to the Arnstein ladder

Using Arnstein's ladder and related theories, I have created an objective analytical framework that classifies the processes of public involvement and their instruments into three groups according to the form of involvement: information, consultation (public/social consultation) and participation in decision-making. I have defined manipulation as a qualitative indicator that can characterise all forms of manifestation.

All theories should serve the purpose of modelling reality. Arnstein's ladder of participation establishes a qualitative order between the different stages (Arnstein, 1969), but in my studies (e.g. the systematisation of the involvement of the TÉR_KÖZ projects) I needed an approach that could categorise the forms and means of public involvement regardless of quality. In defining the concepts, I distinguished three levels of public involvement, the forms of manifestation being aligned with Figure 1 in Thesis 1, highlighted from the literature.

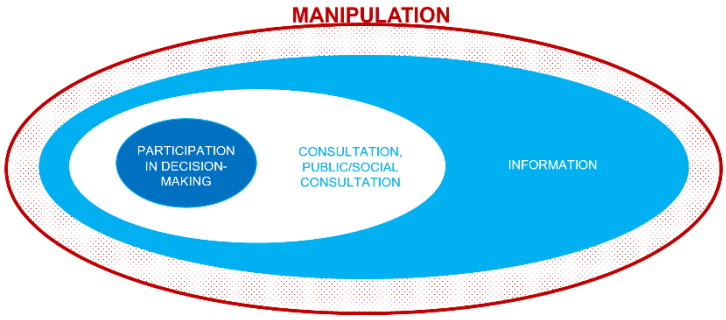

Figure 2. Grouping the instruments of public involvement

I consider Arnstein's eight steps, and one of the most important, manipulation, not as a form of involvement but as its quality. The presence of manipulation, and the classification system I have created, is shown in Figure 2, where

manipulation permeates all forms of representation: it can be present in the attitudes of the actors, in the process, in the means, in the situations. Since public involvement is driven by people, human error, which can easily turn a process into manipulation, cannot be completely eliminated, but it should not be ignored either.

Thesis 3. The need for community planning in open space developments
On the basis of Hungarian and international literature, as well as practical experiences, I have found that there is always a need for continuous, open communication in relation to open space developments, but involvement does not always need to reach the top level of the Arnstein ladder, community leadership.

I have substantiated this claim in three ways:

a. Among others, Desmond M. Connor, David Wilcox and John May, critics of the Arnstein ladder, argue that there is no difference between levels of participation: each can be valid in a given situation. (Connor, 1988; Wilcox, 1994; May, 2006)

b. This finding was confirmed by the interviewees who provided international case studies: Lisbeth Iversen highlighted the need for fair, honest and uninterrupted communication in local government (Iversen, 2023), and in her publication, information is the most commonly used tool as the basis of the co-creation triangle. Andrea Bazler, on the other hand, justified her insight by pointing out that projects without conflict tend to have low participation in community planning (Bazler, 2023)

c. There was a consensus between the local expert interviews (83%) and the questionnaire results (58%) that *"a simpler process or open communication is generally necessary, but for smaller projects that are not controversial for the public, a simpler process or open communication may be sufficient".*

Thesis 4. Benefits of public involvement

I have concluded that, according to Hungarian professionals and international literature, public involvement has a number of social benefits. I ranked these and found that the two most important benefits are that the landscape architect-designer learns during the process and that the stakeholders involved in the design process feel a greater sense of ownership of the development

I ranked the benefits found in the domestic and international literature according to their prevalence. I also developed rankings according to practitioners' perceptions by statistically analysing and comparing expert interviews and questionnaires completed by landscape architects. By juxtaposing the rankings according to the literature and the rankings according to the practitioners (Table 2, where the occurrence in the literature is indicated by black squares), I have made my findings that the two most important advantages are:

a. "V98. Local people will feel a greater sense of ownership of the development" if residents were involved, as this was ranked first in the list of experts and respondents and second in the literature. This correlates with thesis 5 of Fruzsina Zelenák's dissertation on place attachment, which states that "in the case of complex public open space renewal in residential areas" (she studied the Országbíró promenade, which was implemented through a well-organised public involvement process) "a significantly higher percentage of favourite places appear in the renewed open spaces". (Zelenák, 2018)As attachment to the regenerated public space is likely to be further enhanced by public involvement, it is worth considering this aspect prior to development and applying it in cases and places where there is a need to build attachment (e.g. in a segregated area or new development)

b. “V94. The landscape architect learns from it” was ranked first in the literature collection and third by the respondents to the questionnaire. For the experts, this statement only came in sixth place, but since they were allowed to give free answers, 8 out of 9 experts with a landscape architect’s degree make this comment: the designer gets a lot of useful information, all participants learn from it, a better informed plan is produced, etc.

Table 2. Benefits of public involvement in the literature and in practice

Benefits in order of practising professionals’ opinions	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
V98 Local people will feel a greater sense of ownership of the development	■		■	■	■	■	■	■			■
V93 Shaping mindsets: local people learn from it	■	■			■					■	■
V94 It’s a lesson for the landscape architect	■	■		■	■	■	■		■	■	■
V100 It has a community-building effect				■							
V96 If the community engagement process works well, you get a better plan	■			■		■		■		■	■
V97 Fewer public complaints following the planning process	■		■	■	■	■				■	■
V101 Strengthening the trust of locals in local government	■	■	■	■		■	■			■	
V95 Many opposing points of view meet and prevail in the plan (empathy building)	■	■		■		■	■			■	
V99 Maintenance will be easier (e.g. less vandalism, litter)	■						■				■
U1 Flow of information	■	■	■	■							
U2 Greater commitment from local government	■			■							
U3 Local interest organisations can raise awareness and broaden their social base	■										
U4 Contribute to the internal development of organisations and the integrated management of complex problems	■					■	■				
U5 Increasing civil activism, volunteering; contribution to democracy				■	■	■					
U6 Local government can form alliances with community leaders					■						
U7 Local communities can take real steps towards sustainable development							■				
U8 Participants feel useful									■		

Legend

Benefits considered important by experts:A – (Horváth et al., 2018);B – (Glass, 1979); C – (Ferreira et al., 2020); D – (Demeter, 2012); E – (Montréal Urban Ecology Centre et al., 2015); F – (Boda, 2008); G – (European Commission, 2014); H – (Keleg et al., 2022); I – (Miles et al., 1998); J – (Sanoff, 2006); K – (Thompson, 2003)

Thesis 5. The matrix of the public involvement process

From the literature, I have highlighted and further developed a matrix that can be used to describe, design and monitor the public involvement process of a project through the tools used in each project phase.

In a previous research, together with several colleagues, we have created six sets of tools for public involvement (publicity, organisation, plan-making, community action, social programmes, other inclusion tools) and compared them with four project phases borrowed from project management (origination, design, implementation, afterlife) to create a complex matrix that models the public involvement process of a development project: from project idea to the end of the guarantee period, to project closure. (Horváth et al., 2018) I implemented two further developments of the matrix:

a. During the research there was a lack of opportunity to model the operational period, the real "life" of the project, which further underlined the lack of cooperation between development and maintenance professionals in the field of open space development in general. The matrix, which includes the operation project phase and the monitoring toolkit, is intended to compensate for this lack (Table 3). Apart from these two additions, the matrix has not been modified because the engagement tools used during the operation phase fit well into the existing collection groups: for example, a green space adoption project can be classified as an urban regeneration programme.

b. The matrix can be used to compare the processes of several projects (e.g. to illustrate the division of labour between the landscape architect and the municipality in the two case studies).

Table 3. The matrix of the public involvement process (own edition) (Horváth et al., 2018)

		The birth of the project	Planning	Implementation	Afterlife	Maintenance
Tools for public involvement	**Public**					
	Flyer, newsletter					
	Posters, billboards					
	Publication					
	Website, Application					
	Social media					
	Film					
	Image building					
	Forum, workshop					
	Organisation					
	Bringing local forces together					
	Local project office					
	Local cooperation					
	Setting up an association					
	Community rules					
	Involvement of external experts					
	Making plan					
	Use of existing knowledge					
	Needs assessment					
	Residents' ideas competition					
	Design competition					
	On-site planning opportunity					
	Poll					
	Community involvement					
	Monitoring					
	Action					
	Testing, modelling					
	Community implementation					
	Sports event					
	Art events					
	Community events					
	Mobile equipment					
	Message boards					
	Programme					
	Urban education					

	Community - social programmes					
	Cultural programmes					
	Environmental programmes					
	Local history programmes					
	Urban regeneration programmes					

Thesis 6. Roles of local government

In the public involvement process of an open space development, the municipality should play the roles of initiator and/or promoter, financier, manager, decision-maker, regulator, implementer, operator, owner, so that the project can be successfully implemented with high quality through its continuous presence, preparation and management.

From the literature I have highlighted that in the process of public involvement the local government has to play six different roles: as an initiator, it has to support grassroots initiatives, as a financier it has to find resources, as a manager it has to control the project implementation, as a decision-maker it has to approve the plans, as a regulator it has to support the processes with legal instruments or if necessary to hinder them, as a implementer or operator it is responsible for the implementation and the long-term operation (Horváth et al, 2018) I have added to this the role of the owner, the municipality as the owner of public spaces is responsible for serving the public good.

In order for the involvement to be effective and for the results of the pontok to be realised, the post-construction and implementation phases are of particular importance, in which both the municipality and the landscape architect have a key role and responsibility. The case studies and the literature presented here have clearly shown that, although the municipality may be represented by the appointed facilitator or landscape architect during the public consultation, it cannot be replaced by a municipal department e.g. a delegated project officer, technical project manager, communication specialist, etc. (Figure 3), **who is present at all stages of the project and who**

represents the views expressed in the pontok (e.g. at construction co-operations and other consultations).

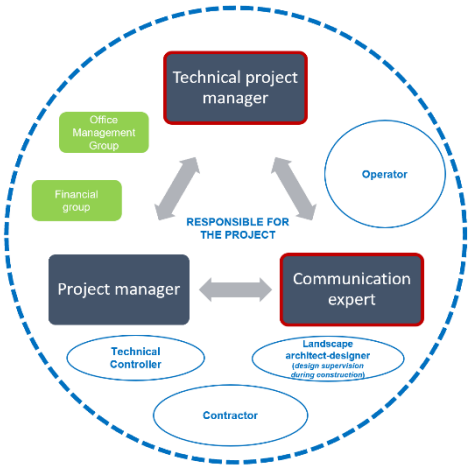

Figure 3. Organizational background for the implementation of an open space project

Thesis 7. The facilitator

I found that in the Hungarian municipal practice of open space development, there is a tendency that community planning is largely assisted by facilitators who do not have a landscape architect's degree, and it is becoming important that the facilitator is an independent actor who is not the same person as the designer.

The trend towards the emergence and importance of independent facilitators in practice in Hungary can be explained by the history of the study and the results of the expert interviews and landscape architecture questionnaires:

a. In Hungary, the first known public involvement in open space development was led by designers, e.g. the serious involvement process of the Országbíró promenade in District XIII, launched in 2011 (Péter Gábor, Sándor Bardóczi) or the community planning of Teleki Square in District VIII in 2013, which was linked to New Directions Landscape Architects Ltd. These processes were usually undertaken and managed by the designers on the basis

of foreign practices, through self-improvement, and mainly out of commitment and enthusiasm. The good practices of the 2010s on this topic have also attracted the attention of municipal leaders, and many of them have prioritised stakeholder involvement in open space development. The emergence of facilitators from other disciplines can be linked to this burgeoning period of public involvement, when the offices with more experience in involvement practices became overburdened (e.g. New Direction Landscape Architects Ltd.) and there were not enough designers to do the job, nor the possibility to train new professionals.

b. Based on the expert interviews and the questionnaire completed by the landscape architects, the second on the list of difficulties and challenges of public involvement was that "Without a good moderator/facilitator, it is easy to go wrong and fail (easy to get trapped in bad debate situations)". This confirms the assumption that independent facilitators have emerged and play an important role in practice in Hungary.

c. Experts and questionnaire respondents were asked which organisational structures community planning works well with, and they could tick more than one answer. Experts and respondents fully agreed that the facilitator could ultimately be "anyone", a municipal employee, a company employee or a landscape architect, but that this person must be an independent actor and not the same person as the designer (e.g. different people within the same office should take on different tasks). There was no consensus on which of the above solutions was the best: 92% of the experts would entrust the facilitation to the municipality, while the majority of the respondents (40%) preferred a different person within the design agency.

Thesis 8. Competences of a landscape architect-designer for public involvement

a) Based on the literature and practical experience, I found that landscape architects need a total of seven additional competences to participate in public involvement processes: 1. facilitation (which is only needed if they are also responsible for organising planning sessions, despite current practice); 2. leadership; 3. prioritisation; 4. professional authority; 5. knowledge of presentation techniques; 6. perseverance and 7. which was not mentioned in the literature but emerged during my research, openness.

b) I have identified that, according to Hungarian and international literature and practicing professionals, the most important landscape architecture competence is complex communication skills, which are as essential for public involvement (Dömötör, 2008), for 21st century science education (Hilton, National Research Council, 2010), as they are for designing livable cities (Yang et al., 2020).

I collected 30 landscape architect skills from the literature and found that 13 of them are related to community participatory planning, but only 6 of them are not related to the basic skills of landscape architects. I also used Grounded Theory to examine the views of practicing professionals, and found a new skill that is necessary for landscape architects designing for public involvement: openness. One of the additional 7 competencies is the skill of facilitation, which of course is only required if the designer is to undertake such a task.

In the synthesis of the Hungarian and international literature, only complex communication skills were identified in all the sources reviewed as being necessary for participation in public involvement.

Thesis 9. The role of the landscape architect in public involvement

I have concluded that, in Hungarian practice, the primary task of the landscape architect designer in the public involvement of open space development is landscape architectural design, but:

a. if necessary, they should provide material (e.g. text and images) to participating professionals (e.g. graphic designer, communication manager, project manager, marketing manager);

b. must participate in community planning sessions and speak when necessary;

c. can also take on a facilitating role, if the person is different than the designer (see Thesis 7.c.);

d. may have additional tasks (e.g. to prepare tools to support joint planning with stakeholders).

The case studies, together with expert interviews and questionnaires completed by landscape architects, yielded the following results:

a. there was consensus, based on expert interviews (8%) and questionnaire results (8%), that it is not a workable solution to have a landscape architect involved in all work processes (design, moderation, project management, communication and other tasks). Both the experts (67%) and the questionnaire respondents (37%) ranked the good attitude that *the landscape architect should "only be involved in the design tasks, and only provide material (e.g. text and images) to other professionals involved (e.g. graphic designer, communication, project manager, marketing) for the rest, if needed"* as the first priority.

b. based on the expert interviews (75%) and the questionnaire results (67%), there was consensus that *"The municipality and/or a facilitator (e.g. mediator, community developer) should organise and lead the community planning, but the designer should always be involved and speak up when necessary"*.

c. on the basis of the expert interviews and questionnaire results, there was also a consensus (everyone put it at the top of their list) that the most important additional task for the landscape architect in the process of public involvement is “More suitable on-site, pontoks”, and this was confirmed by the literature as well.

Thesis 10. The public consultation process and related landscape architecture tasks

With the help of scientific literature and practical experience, I have defined the process of public consultation and the (additional) tasks of the landscape architect-designer in the planning process. I found that the landscape architect’s primary task in open space development is landscape architectural design, but that they also have additional tasks in the public involvement process, mainly the preparation of technical material for design sessions and participation in the sessions.

Following the literature review, I have summarized the landscape architect’s tasks in landscape architectural design related to public consultation. Based on what I have seen in practice (case studies, interviews), I have compiled a corrected version of this table, which lists the landscape architect’s tasks in landscape architectural design for the public involvement process related to open space developments (Table 4.), highlighting those that are additional tasks, taking into account Thesis 7.c. that it is the designer’s choice whether to take on facilitator tasks, because basically they only need to participate in the process. In addition to the literature, the experts and case studies helped to compile the table. The questionnaire for landscape architects also included the question of what additional tasks the designer can expect, and therefore, comparing its results with the resulting list of tasks, it can be seen that practicing landscape architects think that participating in public involvement implies much more additional tasks than in reality.

Table 4. Description of the public consultation process and the related landscape architectural design tasks

Public consultation		Landscape architect's tasks, plans, documents during the public consultation (new tasks in bold)
(BFVT Kft. et al., 2021, p. 44; Dalányi, 1998, pp. 10–17; Ditzendy, 2016, p. 33; Jain, Polman, 2003, pp. 33–35; Magyar Építész Kamara, 2003, pp. 6–17; Montréal Urban Ecology Centre et al., 2015, pp. 16–44)		
Regular communication (online and in print) - local government	**1. Authorisation** (management interview, contracting)	Finding out the client's intentions; Entering into a design contract, **including the expected role in public involvement** - commissioning contract or **framework contract**
	2. Preparation, preliminary analysis (Preparation of the assessment of needs and stakeholder analysis)	Exploration of the site's characteristics and constraints, familiarisation with official and local government regulations, literature research
	3. Setting up a management group (selection of municipal actors, designers and other experts, first meeting)	Delegation of experts to the public involvement management group, **participation in the consultation**
	4. Stakeholder analysis (recommended to be carried out by the municipality due to familiarity with the area)	**Stakeholder analysis, stakeholder consultations - may participate under the guidance of the municipality**
	5. Communication about the project (online and in print or by a visit to the project launch)	
	6. Survey to assess preliminary opinions and public needs for the development (online (PPGIS or text-based) and/or face-to-face)	**Materials for the public survey**
	7. Collection of baseline data (preparation of planning occasions: pre-plans, utilities data, etc.)	Preparation of site inspections, identification of problems**; Pre-planning, planning tools for consultations**
	8. Setting up workgroups (optional - may be necessary if implemented in the context of community planning**)**	**Setting up working groups within the framework of community planning - may be led by the municipality**
	9. Prioritisation of development needs based on the results of the public survey, workshops and online consultation platforms (1 round of consultation - if no major conflicts emerged in the stakeholder analysis and there are few participants, the process can be completed, otherwise at least 3 rounds of consultation are recommended)	**Participation in the consultation and speaking up on technical issues, support; Creation of a planning programme with the municipality and participants**
	10. Defining a planning programme based on the results of the participatory activities, preparing a strategic/conceptual plan for the development of the area	Finalising the planning programme - in cooperation with the municipality; Preparing variations of the plan
	11. Presentation of development decision alternatives to stakeholders (round 2 consultation, plan versions)	Proposed concept plan, preliminary cost estimate; **participation in consultation and technical issues speaking up, support**
	12. Finalisation of a development strategy/concept plan for the area based on the results of the participatory activities	Preparation of a concept plan
	13. Presentation of the final concept plan to stakeholders (Round 3 consultation)	Concept plan, Updated preliminary cost estimate; **Participation in consultation and technical issues Speaking up, support**
	14. Finalising the design programme of the implementation plans based on feedback from the public, owners (municipalities), operators and related sectors	The authorisation procedures; The authorisation plan - Commissioning plan; Design cost estimate; Updated visual plans; Colour overview plan; Presentation to the municipality

	15. Preparation of open space and sectoral designs, Preparation of the budget	Complete implementation plan; Construction quantities; Cost estimate; Presentation to the municipality
	16. Presentation of final design plans to stakeholders (round 4 consultation - if major modifications were needed, these should be discussed (even several times), not just presented)	Execution Plan, Cost Estimate; **Participation in the consultation and raising technical issues, support**
	17. Informing the public about the implementation online, on information boards or in an organisational consultation on the spot (planned schedule, content, cost - optional Round 5 consultation)	Participation in the preparatory phase of the works (e.g. answering bidders' questions), P**articipation in consultation and technical issues, speaking up, support (optional, the municipality can do it on its own, does not concern planning issues)**
	18. Carrying out design work (continuous online contact with designers)	Operational management - Technical supervision; Financial supervision; Execution implementation plans; Technical handover - Handover supervision; Fault register (in cooperation with the municipality)
	19. Preparation of house rules (optional Round 6 consultation)	**Participation in the pontok and speaking out on technical issues, support (optional, the municipality can do it on its own, it does not concern planning issues)**
	20. Inauguration. Celebrating the results of the project	Opening of the renovated open space - the landscape architect can attend
	21. A post-construction public survey on the duration, quality and outcome of the works.	Collection of opinions from residents and operators; Detection of design errors

6 PRACTICAL RESULTS

Practical result 1. List of landscape architecture mistakes related to public involvement

I have defined the process of public involvement and the tasks of the landscape architect-designer. The flowchart is also a good tool for organising a pontok exercise, while the landscape architect's error list developed from the flowchart can be used to help in the planning process.

Based on literature and practice, I have collected the eleven most important mistakes that landscape architects can make to hinder the public involvement process. This list can help in the design process: lack of openness; use of overly technical language (jargon); inappropriate attitude of the designer towards the participants, e.g. patronising them, not taking into account that some are slower to understand the process; ambiguous, unexplained visual design, preconceptions (e.g. difficult to interpret for the layman); unreliability: promises made by the designer that cannot be kept; designer's adherence to their own concept, vision; lack of loyalty to the process and what was discussed, e.g. in its process, they do not professionally check the incoming opinions and proposals, but override the decisions taken together afterwards; the use of very direct models, which can lead to an overly controlled process (manipulation); the designer's ill-timed and inappropriate questions to the participants; the designer does not keep quiet when he should; imprecision: deviations from the deadlines set during the project process.

Practical result 2. Integration of public involvement in academic landscape architecture education

I have found that, in the context of the LED, LED2LEAP and OLA programmes, landscape architecture education in Hungary has launched pilot projects to integrate the theory and practice of public involvement.

Practitioners consider it important to include certain skills (e.g. communication, presentation skills, empathy, openness) in university education in an applied way and in a specific subject (e.g. theory and practice of communication).

The interviews with experts and practitioners suggested that, in order to integrate public participation in education, it might be necessary to develop not only undergraduate university courses but also specific vocational training (e.g. along the lines of the training for architects or urban planners, or possibly organised by private companies, as is the practice in Canada. (International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) Canada, 2024)

Public involvement planning as a specialisation cannot be implemented in undergraduate education, mainly due to the time available for training, but could be implemented in postgraduate education.

Practical result 3. Possibility to regulate

Based on the regulatory issues discussed in the literature review and the above, it can be stated that in the long term, in order to implement the Aarhus Convention at the level of open space development and to meet the needs of local communities in relation to public space development, the provisions of Decree 419/2021. (VII. 15.) (Hungarian Parliament, 2021), which also regulates the partnership related to settlement development, it would be advisable to lay down in a national legislation the conditions for the involvement and open communication related to open space development (when it is necessary, what tools should and can be used, etc.). But for legislation at national level to be effective and not simply a loophole detection exercise, programmes need to be launched with prior awareness-raising and financial incentives, training of professionals for involvement needs to be strengthened, and guidelines for implementing public involvement in open space development need to be included in lower-level legislation or strategy

documents on a pilot basis. As an initial step, following the example of the Metropolitan Municipality's Radó Dezső Plan, at municipal level each municipality should regulate involvement in its Green Infrastructure Development and Maintenance Action Plan or in its ordinances, according to its own possibilities, size and needs.

Practical result 4. Collection of doctoral dissertations

I examined the collection of doctoral dissertations in Hungary and found that there are several parallel databases, but they are less organized, therefore difficult to search and contain various errors (e.g., the doktori.hu site does not allow searching by subject; 8 of the dissertations in the field of landscape architecture from the Doctoral School of Landscape Architecture and Landscape Ecology are not listed in the official lists, only in the dissertation collection of Corvinus University).

A common problem with the content of doctoral theses is that theses that have not been accepted by the peer review committee appear both on the internet and in printed dissertations. However, since the dissertations do not include the opposition, errors are introduced into the scientific system that could have been avoided (e.g. someone refers to the unaccepted theses as new research results).

7 PUBLICATIONS CONNECTED TO THE RESEARCH TOPIC

Journal papers

Reith, A.; Szilágyi-Nagy, A.; Balogh, P. I.; Keresztes-Sipos, A.: Report of a Remote Participatory Design Process to Renew a Schoolyard During COVID-19. Journal Of Digital Landscape Architecture (2367-4253 2511-624X): 1 6 pp. 414-421 (2021) – Q2

Keresztes-Sipos, A.; Reith, A.; Fekete, A.; Balogh, P. I.: The role of municipalities and landscape architects in the public involvement processes related to green infrastructure developments. *Acta Universitatis Sapientiae Agriculture And Environment* (2065-748X 2068-2964): 13 1 pp. 113-124 (2021)

Adorján, A.; Fáczányi, Zs.; Sipos, A.: Sustainable Revitalization of brownfield possibilities of interim utilization in the form of urban community gardens. *Acta Universitatis Sapientiae, Agriculture and Environment 7* pp. 47-57. (2015)

Conference papers

Keresztes-Sipos, A.; Fekete, A.; Balogh, P. I.: A case study on the potential of public involvement in green space development, reflecting to Arnstein's ladder of citizen participation
In: Benedek, K.; Domokos, E.; Ványolós, E. (szerk.): Proceedings of the 6th Conference on Horticulture and Landscape Architecture in Transylvania : Landscape, Garden and Man - Professional Challenges of the Present and of the Near Future
Marosvásárhely, Románia: Universitatea Sapientia (2021), pp. 98-109

Keresztes-Sipos, A.; Szabó, P.: Lost in translation - How do "noises" in the landscape architectural communication of public green space projects affect the implementation of the principles of sustainability?
In: Bevk, T; Krošelj, M. (szerk.): Scales of change: Book of abstracts: Commemorating 50 years of Landscape Architacture study programme at Ljubljana, Slovenia: Universty of Ljubljana (2022) p. 32 p. 64.

Szabó, P.; Keresztes-Sipos, A.: Interactions between participatory design and climate-responsive design of public green spaces: Survey among practitioners
In: Dohnal, J.; Dohnalová, B. (szerk.): Labyrinth of the World – Landscape Crossroads: Book of Abstracts – Conference Guide ECLAS 2023
Brno, Csehország: Mendel University (2023) pp. 120-121 p. 169.

Fáczányi, Zs.; Keresztes-Sipos, A.: The Role of the Local Community at the Process of Urban Development
In: Fáczányi, Zs.; Sugár, V.; Hargitai, D. (szerk.): 1st Ybl Conference on the Built Environment – Book of Abstracts
Budapest, Magyarország: Óbudai Egyetem (2023) p. 164 p. 66.

Fáczányi, Zs.; Keresztes-Sipos, A.: Experiencing the Society Needs at the Development of Urban Green Spaces
In: Fáczányi, Zs.; Sugár, V.; Hargitai, D. (szerk.): 1st Ybl Conference on the Built Environment – Book of Abstracts
Budapest, Magyarország: Óbudai Egyetem (2023) p. 164 p. 40.

Book

HORVÁTH, D., KERESZTES-SIPOS, A., LUKÁCSHÁZI, G., AVAR, Z., VIRÁG, D. B., HÁMORI, P. (2018): *TÉR_KÖZ Budapest Navigátor: Kézikönyv a társadalmi bevonáshoz*. Budapest: Budapest Főváros Önkormányzata Főpolgármesteri Hivatal. 39 p.

Presentations

KERESZTES-SIPOS, A., FEKETE, A., BALOGH, P. I. (2021): A CASE STUDY ON THE POTENTIAL OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN GREEN SPACE DEVELOPMENT, REFLECTING TO ARNSTEIN'S LADDER OF CITIZEN PARTICIPATION. In: *6th Conference on Horticulture and Landscape Architecture in Transylvania*

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