

## **CAMPUS ORGANIZATION PECULIARITIES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS IN NICOSIA (REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS)**

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*The article is devoted to the investigations and analysis of greening and landscaping of University of Cyprus campus; to the comparative description campus greening of National Universities in Kyiv and University of Cyprus.*

***Campus, landscape and spatial organization, greening, three-dimensional structure, landscaping, functional zoning.***

**Introduction.** The earliest universities as centers of high knowledge were originated in Europe in the Middle Ages. The impetus for their appearance were a society needs in the development and improvement of existing knowledge about nature and the world in general. First, universities were only associations of teachers and students who rented a small room for lessons. Subsequently, the communities began to grow rapidly and as a result higher education institutions received permanent territories and buildings. Perhaps this is why the term “university” is associated with the Latin word “universitas”, which means an association of people who are studying [1].

During the long history of its existence, the oldest organization tradition of the higher education institutions areas, that except buildings includes architectural planning, planting and landscaping, are presented on the European universities territories. This is confirmed by research leading landscape architects and designers about the rating of the most beautiful campuses in the world [2]. According to them, the best university campuses are located in Europe, USA and China. This testifies the expediency of research on the foreign universities territories. In addition, our literature analysis showed insufficient research, related on landscaping and gardening peculiarities of higher education institutions territories in Ukraine. The relevance of the issue lies in the fact that educational environment is not only a social institution now. It is the means of

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culture education and the formation of the spiritual aspect of personality. Taking into consideration the fact that the educational institutions territories are not limited only by the walls of buildings, and almost always are surrounded by greened areas, it is very important to ensure their environmental, health and sanitary functions. Special significance is the decoration of the educational institutions territories, aimed at disclosing the ideological load and philosophical content of the object.

In 2013 we investigated the University of Cyprus (UCY) territories, located in the capital of the Republic of Cyprus - Nicosia. The study of the university territory is symbolic, because at the beginning of the first millennium BC, territory of the modern Republic of Cyprus was a part of the ancient civilization, which laid the grounds of philosophical, legal, political, artistic and scientific systems and became cultural and historical foundation of modern Europe. It was at that time when the first public educational institutions appeared around which famous philosophers (Zenon, Epicurus and others) laid the public gardens for conducting classes with students [3].

**The goal of our research** – the analysis of the University of Cyprus territory and the detected peculiarities in the campus planning and structure comparing with the National University territories of Kyiv. To achieve this goal, we have formulated the following tasks:

- to analyze the stylistic peculiarities and architectural and planning structure of the University of Cyprus buildings;
- to determine the peculiarities of the campus functional zoning;
- to assess the landscape and spatial organization of the campus;
- to identify the particular of campus planting.

**The object of research** – the University of Cyprus campus.

**Research methods.** The study consists of two stages: the first – realization field research and photofixation; the second – the processing of literature sources and analysis of obtained data.

**The research results.**

University of Cyprus was established in 1989, but in spite of the short history, University has received high praise from the international scientific community and is

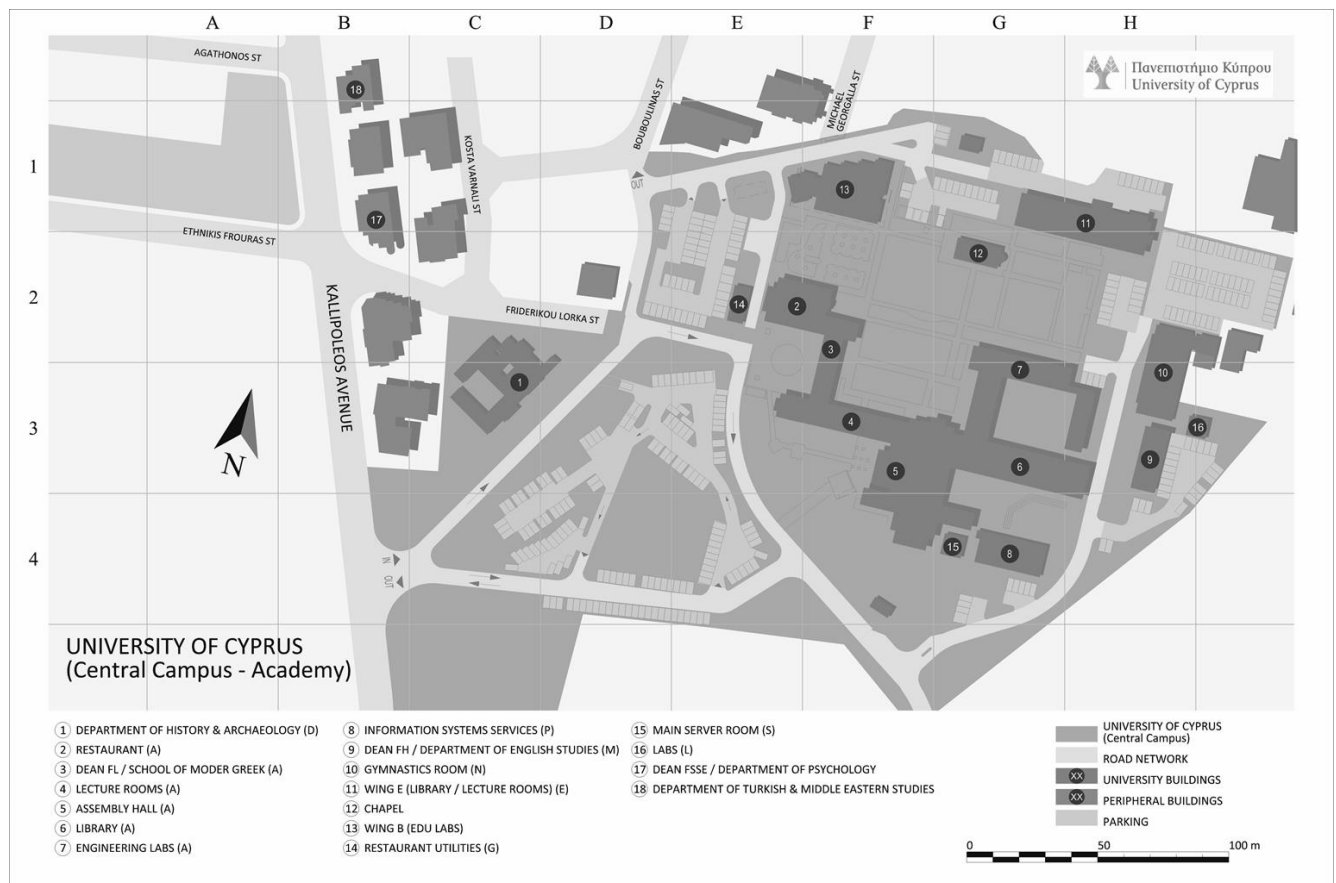
the most prestigious higher education institution in the country. University of Cyprus is a multi-educational, as architects, philosophers, chemists, molecular medicine doctors, lawyers, mathematicians, accountants, historians, teachers and translators are studying here [7]. This combination of directions is not a characteristic of universities in Ukraine, because in our country is dominated by highly specialized higher education institutions (agricultural, technical, medical, etc.).



Picture 1. University of Cyprus  
academic building

The total area of the University of Cyprus campus is 7.8 hectares. As a result of the field survey installed, the structure of the university complex includes 9 educational buildings and 6 administrative and commercial buildings. A planning structure of the building is gallery, which is a group of open terraces around inner courtyards (picture 1). This space-planning scheme building corresponds to environmental conditions of Cyprus, because it provides orientation of premises, which eliminates overheating and the need for through-ventilation. The walls of the buildings are painted white, window frames and doors painted in blue, which is a characteristic of Mediterranean style.

On the territory of the university complex there are the following functional zones: training zone - with buildings and territory adjacent to them; teaching and research zone; administrative and public zone; sports zone, which is located in the peripheral part of the campus; recreational and park zone, which occupies 64% of the total area; zone of engineering services, consisting of auxiliary and production premises (picture 2). It should be noted that the University of Cyprus is not limited to the central campus, because outside the city additional educational zones are created due to the fact that in previous years the areas for the future development of the institution were not reserved.



Picture 2. The general plan of the University of Cyprus campus

During the research were found several peculiarities of campus zoning, that are not used for university territories of Kyiv. It was established that in the university complex there is no residential zone of dormitories and hostels for teaching staff. In contrast, in Ukraine in most areas of national universities there are residential zones, that, besides dormitories, are located apartment buildings for teachers and service personnel and hotel for specialists for a short stay in university. Also at the University of Cyprus campus is located a chapel with the adjacent area and parking, as a result, we have singled out the sacral zone. In Ukraine, according to the State Building Codes [5, 6], on higher education institutions territories do not allocate sacral zones, instead, there are memorial areas with placed on them monumental architectural buildings – statues, obelisks and monuments of fame dedicated to the eminent scientists and important events in history. Such areas are usually placed on the central alleys either within campus park zones.

The peculiarity of the landscape and spatial model of the University of Cyprus campus is that the center of the composition is a courtyard, around which all functional

units of the territory are situated. This is a characteristic feature of the classic historic campus structure [4]. This interior pedestrian space organizes the overall structure of the university complex.

University of Cyprus educational buildings are surrounded by open and closed spaces. Open spaces are presented by glades and large parking in front of campuses, and closed - patios and terraces. The road network on campus is quite ramified and provides comfortable movement of visitors on foot and by car. In addition, roads and alleys on the campus territory perform the functions of compositional axis, organizing space and form of the general composition.

The analysis of the garden equipment and small architectural forms has installed that at the university complex territory are located many media supervisory agitation



Picture 3. Stand on the campus  
features of the campus buildings.

(stands), on with the information about driving directions to university buildings (picture 3). They help visitors to navigate seamlessly on territory with many buildings. In our opinion, an example of visitors traffic is advisable to adopt and use on the campus territories of Ukraine. Besides the stands, on the University of Cyprus campus are located gardening equipment for general use (benches, urns and fixtures), and construction of decorative destination (water fountains). Benches, urns and fixtures are made in the same style and with one materials, thanks to what they are the harmonious part of the territory. As for the fountains, they fully correspond the stylistic

As we have noted above, green areas take up most of the total campus area. The presence of large lawns is typical for the green areas where the furniture for a variety of open sessions, meetings and special university occasions is set (picture 4). Despite this, the lawn is in good condition (No weeds, project coverage is about 95%). We can therefore say that it is resistant to trampling due to herbs and have a high energy recovery loads. In comparison, the lawn areas of the National University buildings of Kyiv are in satisfactory condition. However, though some territories areas are with excellent lawn cover.



Picture 4. Lawn area for special occasions

It is necessary to notice that on the University of Cyprus territory were revealed areas that require an appropriate care. It is about rare fragments with neglected lawn, trees and shrubs. Preferably, they are located in remote parts of the territory.

Analyzing the campus greening, we have drawn are attention to the fact that the feature areas are low percentage of flower design relative to total area and the large number of plant species that grow naturally only in Cyprus. On campus by the number of dominated deciduous trees and shrubs. The most common such plants as *Olea europaea* L., *Pinus nigra* J.F.Arnold, *Platanus orientalis* L., *Phoenix dactylifera* L., *Washingtonia robusta* H.Wendl., and various cultivars *Laburnum anagyroides* Medik. and *Nerium oleander* L. (picture 5).



Picture 5. *Nerium oleander* L. on the campus territory

The courtyards are characterized by a high degree of landscaping, that are formed mainly of hedgerows and planting of single trees. In addition, quite often hedgerows are growing along paths and alleys. Most often they are made by exotic plants for our country – *Hibiscus syriacus* L., *Ficus benjamina* L. and *Rosmarinus officinalis* L., but often used widespread plant – *Thuja occidentalis* L. and *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* (A.Murray bis) Parl. (picture 6).



Picture 6. Hedgerows on the campus territories

**Conclusions.** The area of University of Cyprus greening territory is 64%, which is more than the recommended indicators (45-50 %), specified in State Building Codes of Ukraine.

The landscaping of European higher education institution (University of Cyprus in Nicosia) is not distinguished by originality to the overall concept and city gardening. Any distinguishing features (themed beds, symbolic plantings, memorials, etc.), which could serve for identification a university complex in general and some of its units, weren't found on the territory. This is typical for the areas of the National Universities buildings of Kyiv.

The analysis of zoning campus of the University of Cyprus shows educational, research, sports, recreation, engineering, administrative and sacral zones (according to State Building Codes of Ukraine, administrative and sacral zones are not envisaged on the higher education institutions territories).

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